

# Colfax Library Board Bylaws

## Article I Identification

This organization is the Board of Trustees of the Colfax Public Library, located in Colfax, Wisconsin, established by the Wisconsin municipality of Colfax, according to the provisions of Chapter 43 of the Wisconsin Statutes, and exercising the powers and assuming the duties granted to it under said statute.

## Article II Membership

**Section 1. Appointments and Terms of Office.** Appointments and terms of office are as provided by the relevant subsections of Wisconsin Statutes Sections 43.54 [for municipal and joint libraries], 43.57 [for county libraries], and 43.60 [for additional appointments by the county, based on the level of county funding].

**Section 2. Meeting Attendance.** Members shall be expected to attend all meetings except as they are prevented by a valid reason.

## Article III Officers

[**Note:** Wisconsin Statutes Section 43.54(2), requires the Board only to elect a president “and such other officers as they deem necessary.”]

[**Note:** Wisconsin Statutes Section 43.58(7), allows a library board to elect annually a “financial secretary” who may be given the authority to invest library gift, bequest, devise or endowment funds as permitted under Wisconsin Statutes Section 112.10. The library board must require a bond from the financial secretary to the library board of a dollar amount at least equal to the value of property held by the financial secretary. The bond must be in substantially the same form as the bond required from the treasurer of the municipality or county. By statute, the financial secretary must make an annual report to the Board showing in detail the amount, investment, income, and disbursements from the funds in his or her charge. The Board may wish to require, in the Bylaws, monthly or quarterly reports in addition to the annual report.]

**Section 1.** The officers shall be a president, a vice president, and a secretary, elected from among the appointed trustees at the annual meeting of the Board. No member shall hold more than one office at a time. No member shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office. Vacancies in office shall be filled by vote at the next regular meeting of the Board after the vacancy occurs.

**Section 2.** Officers shall serve a term of three years from the annual meeting at which they are elected and until their successors are duly elected.

**Section 3** Any Trustee may resign at any time by giving written notice to the President or Secretary. Such resignation shall be effective when the notice is delivered unless the notice specifies a future date, and unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective. The Library President will notify the Village President of the vacancy.

The Village Board President may remove a Trustee from the Board for any reason. The removal must be approved by a majority vote of the governing body, Wis. Stat. 17.13 (1), and a copy of the order for removal must be filed with the village clerk.

**Section 4.** The **Library Board President** shall preside at meetings of the Board, authorize calls for special meetings, appoint all committees, execute all documents authorized by the Board, and serve as an ex-officio voting member of all committees except the nominating committee.

**Section 5.** The vice president, in the event of the absence or disability of the president, or of a vacancy in that office, shall assume and perform the duties and functions of the president.

**Section 6.** The secretary shall keep true and accurate minutes of all meetings of the Board, shall issue notice of all regular and special meetings, and shall perform such other duties as are generally associated with the office of secretary. The library director or a member of the staff may be designated by the Board to perform any or all of the above duties.

**Section 7.** In lieu of a Treasurer, the Administrator Clerk/Treasurer, shall-sign all checks drawn on funds held by the library, sign all vouchers for disbursements from the library fund, and perform such duties as generally devolve upon the office. The Administrator Clerk/Treasurer shall be bonded in an amount as may be required by a resolution of the Board, and not less than the value of any property held by him or her. The Director shall make monthly reports to the Board showing in detail the amount and investment of, and income and disbursements from, the funds in his or her charge.

## **Article IV Meetings**

**Section 1. Regular Meetings.** The regular meetings shall be held each month, the date and hour to be set by the Board at its annual meeting.

**Section 2. Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting, which shall be for the purpose of the election of officers, shall be held at the time of the regular meeting in April of each year.

**Section 3. Agendas and Notices.** Meeting agendas and notices shall indicate the time, date, and place of the meeting and indicate all subject matters intended for consideration at the meeting. Agendas will be posted 24-hours in advance and posted at the following locations: Library, Post Office and the Colfax Laundry Mat.

**Section 4. Minutes.** Minutes of all meetings shall, at a minimum, indicate board members present, all items of business, all motions (except those that were withdrawn), and the result of all votes taken. Current board minutes shall be posted on a bulletin board in the library.

**Section 5. Special Meetings.** Special meetings may be called at the direction of the president, and shall be called at the written request of Library Board members, for the transaction of business as stated in the call for the meeting. Except in cases of emergency, at least 48 hours notice shall be given. In no case may less than two hours notice be given.

**Section 6. Quorum.** A quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting shall consist of 4 members of the Board present in person. [For municipal and joint libraries, see the requirements of **Wisconsin Statutes Section 43.54(1)(e)**].

**Section 7. Open Meetings Law Compliance.** All Board meetings and all committee meetings shall be held in compliance with Wisconsin's open meetings law (Wisconsin Statutes Sections 19.81 to 19.98). Each current agenda will contain "Citizen Comments" in which, each citizen attending will be given fifteen minutes to speak.

**Section 8. Parliamentary Authority.** The rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest revised edition [or *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* by Alice F. Sturgis], shall govern the parliamentary procedure of the meetings, in all cases in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any statutes applicable to this Board.

## **Article V Committees**

**Section 1. Standing Committees.** The following committees: **Capital Improvements, Personnel & Budget,** and **Special Committee** shall be appointed as needed by the president as the need arises after the annual meeting and shall make recommendations to the Board as pertinent to Board meeting agenda items. The President will also appoint committees as needed.

**Section 2.** No committee shall have other than advisory powers.

## **Article VI Duties of the Board of Trustees**

**Section 1.** Legal responsibility for the operation of the Colfax Public Library is vested in the Board of Trustees. Subject to state and federal law, the Board has the power and duty to determine rules and regulations governing library operations and services.

**Section 2.** The Board shall select, appoint and supervise a properly certified and competent library director, and determine the compensation of all library employees.

**Section 3.** The Board shall approve the budget and make sure that adequate funds are provided to finance the approved budget.

**Section 4.** The Board shall have exclusive control of the expenditure of all moneys collected, donated or appropriated for the library fund and shall audit and approve all library expenditures.

**Section 5.** The Board shall cooperate with other public officials and boards and maintain vital public relations.

**Section 6.** The Board shall approve the required annual report and the Library Director will submit the annual report to the Division for Libraries, Technology, and Community Learning, and the [city council, village board, town board, county board, and/or any other governing body].

## **Article VII Library Director**

The library director shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees and shall be responsible to the Board. The library director shall be considered the executive officer of the library under the direction and review of the Board, and subject to the policies established by the Board. The director shall act as technical advisor to the Board. The director shall be invited to attend all Board meetings (but may be excused from closed sessions) and shall have no vote.

## **Article VIII Conflict of Interest**

**Section 1.** Board members may not in their private capacity negotiate, bid for, or enter into a contract with the Colfax Public Library in which they have a direct or indirect financial interest.

**Section 2.** A board member shall withdraw from Board discussion, deliberation, and vote on any matter in which the Board member, an immediate family member, or an organization with which the Board member is associated has a substantial financial interest.

**Section 3.** A board member may not receive anything of value that could reasonably be expected to influence his or her vote or other official action.

## **Article IX General**

**Section 1.** An affirmative vote of the majority of all members of the Board present at the time shall be necessary to approve any action before the Board. The president may vote upon and may move or second a proposal before the Board.

**Section 2.** Any rule or resolution of the Board, whether contained in these bylaws or otherwise, may be suspended temporarily in connection with business at hand, but such suspension, to be valid, may be taken only at a meeting at which two-thirds (4) of the members of the Board are present and two-thirds of those present so approve.

**Section 3.** These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Board by majority vote of all members of the Board, provided written notice of the proposed amendment shall have been electronically sent to all members at least seven days prior to the meeting at which such action is proposed to be taken.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Colfax Public Library on

Amended by the Board of Trustees of the Colfax Public Library on

**Board Trustees:**

Krista Ottinger

Mark Halpin

Gary Stene

Lori Halpin

Nancy Baumgartner

Olivia Landon

Eve Suckow