



The Colfax Public Library Board February 17, 2026

Claudia Kressin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in person.

Attendance

- Members present: Nancy Baumgartner, Jeanne Herrick, Eve Suckow, Gary Stene, Abbie Hartung, and Library Director Lisa Bragg-Hurlburt
- Non-members present: none

Quorum: A quorum has been established.

Open meeting law: We are in certification of compliance with the open meeting law.

Approval of Agenda

- Gary Stene made a motion to accept the agenda. Jeanne Herrick seconded the motion. Unanimously approved by the board.

Approval of Minutes

- Gary Stene made a motion to approve the minutes of January 2026. Nancy Baumgartner seconded the motion. Unanimously approved by the Board.

Approval of Bills

- Nancy made a motion to approve the bills for January 2026. Jeanne Herrick seconded the approval. Unanimously approved by the Board.

Current Business

Lisa Bragg-Hurlburt reported for the director's report:

- Last month I applied for 3 grants. I've heard back from WPS that we did NOT get the grant for hotspots. We're still waiting on the Community Foundation of Dunn County and AnnMarie Foundation grants.
- I applied for 3 additional grants: \$3000 from Dollar General for Summer Reading; \$1000 from ALA's DPI Games and Learning grant to buy a Nintendo Switch and games; and \$3000 from Better World Books to re-supply our 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program.
- The Library received \$1800 in donations
- Kyle's Market provided us with \$300 groceries (at cost) for our Little Free Pantry. This was paid for through a grant from Woods Run and a \$200 donation from Nancy (Odom) M.
- Lisa is mentoring a librarian in training. She will start work in mid-March doing 8 hours a week. This will fulfill Cynthia Johnson's course-work requirements and she will be paid through

Northwood Technical College's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grant. She is considered their employee and is covered by their liability insurance.

- Redeemed Books out of Hugo, MN picked up our surplus deleted and donated books that were stored in basement. We are decluttering the basement for our March 14 Open House.
- Lisa went to a Public Properties meeting and a Village Board meeting recently because maintenance of the building was being discussed. Lisa will speak at the February 23rd Village Board meeting about Library space needs.

Gary Stene reported from the Village Board:

- Tony Christopherson from Elk Mound was involved in a study on EMT service, looking into whether municipal EMT services should be consolidated into a county-wide program to save money. Municipalities voted 14 to 10 not to proceed. Gary commented, "The village can't keep subsidizing the rescue squad."

Gary Stene reported from the County Board:

- The county is installing a new computer system and "it's consuming everyone."

Lisa read Melissa Seehaver's school report since she was unable to attend in person:

- Feb. 17 is a community and staff chance to listen to the three superintendent finalists and ask questions
- Feb. 18 guest speaker Tasha Schuh on "Building Resilience"
- March 2 One School, One Read- Family Night: Charlotte's Web was book chosen and weekly activities in January and February will culminate in a March 2 event. Fun activities, food and a Love & Logic presentation for parents by Chris Peterson
- March 2-6 Dress up days and literacy activities for READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK

Nancy Baumgartner reported from the Elevator Project that:

- In January 2026 another \$647.58 interest was earned on Elevator Savings; \$233,289.83 is in the bank.
- The Elevator Committee voted to recommend that the Village Board use \$1000 of Elevator savings interest to fund an updated Project Cost Estimate by Cedar Corps

Current Business:

- We talked about the Library's 2025 Annual Report. Lisa provided a chart and data analysis comparing 2024 and 2025, attached here. Circulation of physical materials went down, but circulation of e-materials went up. Village use of the library was the same percentage as last year: 40% of all checkouts. Program participation increased by 32% and reference questions, library visits, computer use, and WiFi use all went up.

Good news for the Village is that our financial request for 2027 will be same as last year: \$77,826. We are about \$4000 short of being able to pay for increase in staff wages, but that will be covered by donations, grant money, book sales, and copy money. So we should be in good shape for next year.

- We talked about the Harm Reduction vending machine idea further. Lisa read a letter that Library Board member Abbie Hartung forwarded (Abbie was not able to attend the meeting). Abbie wrote:

“While I agree it may ultimately be up to the Village Board to decide if the harm reduction vending machine is able to be placed in the hallway of the Municipal Building, I believe the Library Board should stand firmly behind a decision to install it. I believe that we should not fear public backlash for doing something that will help people, as these vending machines have been shown to have positive benefits for the communities they are placed in and are not associated with any adverse events (as demonstrated in this literature review by Johns Hopkins: <https://opiodprinciples.jhsph.edu/harm-reduction-vending-machines-what-are-they-and-do-they-work/>). As I’ve stated at previous meetings, the easiest argument to support the installation of this vending machine is that “harm reduction saves lives.” One of the main take-aways that has stuck with me from reading “How to be an Anti-Racist” by Ibram X. Kendi many years ago is that policy often precedes public opinion. Meaning that to promote a more inclusive world, often we must push for policy change *before* the public sentiment has changed, not the other way around. (An example of this would be legalizing same-sex marriage). Or, for this example, not waiting until we know that the majority of people will approve of the harm reduction vending machine before installing it, as it is the installation that will normalize harm reduction and positively influence public opinion. In summary, I support the installation of the harm-reduction vending machine in the Municipal Building, and support all product options being available.”

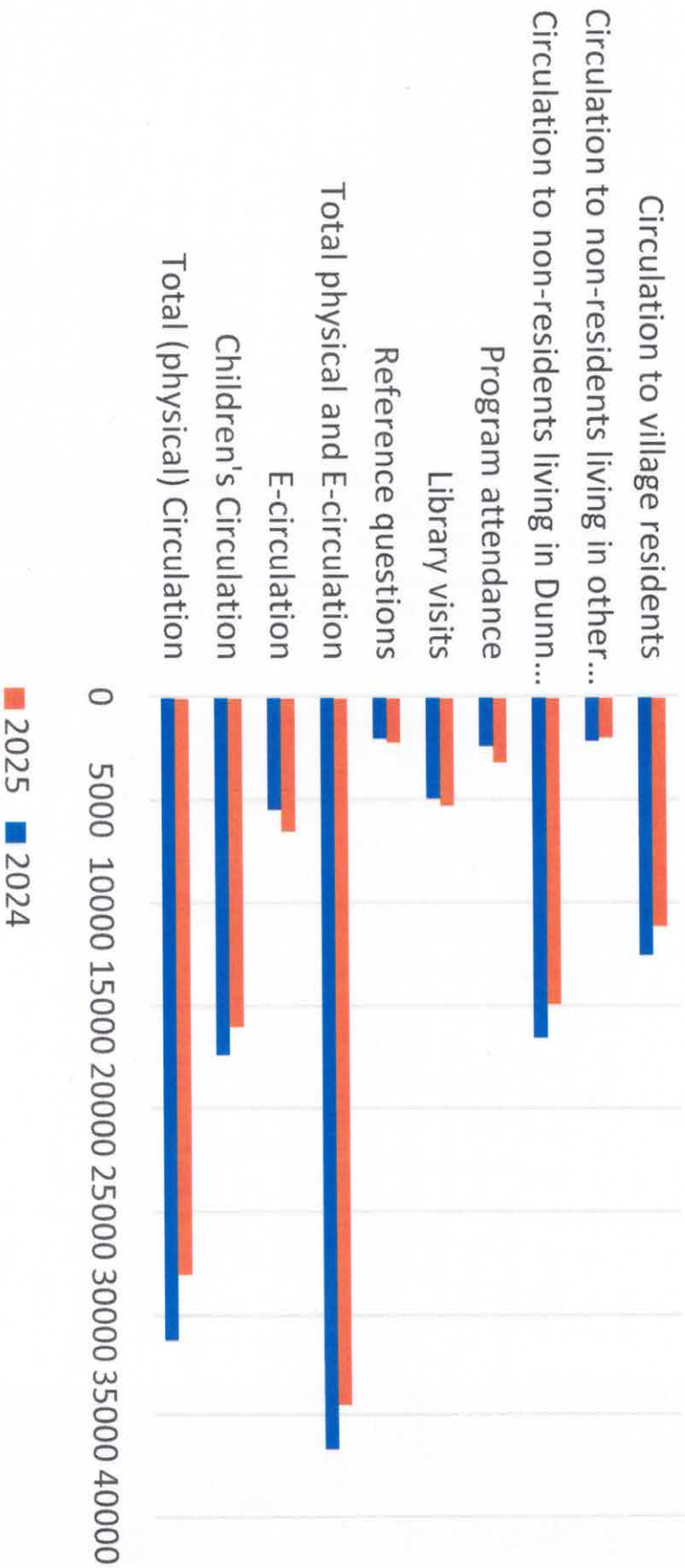
We had a general discussion about the vending machine idea and resolved to think it over and talk more next month.

Next Meeting: March 17, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.

Adjourn at 7:00 P.M.

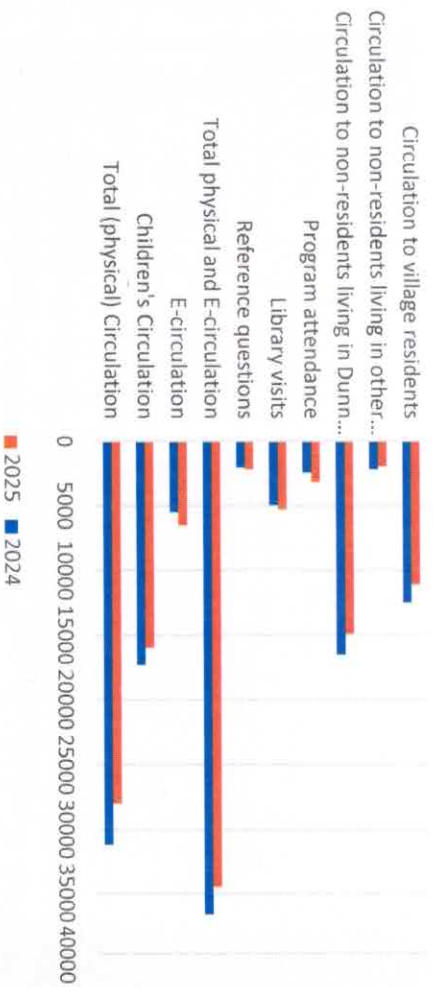
- Gary Stene made a motion to adjourn. Nancy Baumgartner seconded the motion. Unanimously approved by the Board.

Annual Report Comparison: 2024 and 2025



	2024	2025
Total (phys	31233	27994
Children's (17347	15957
E-circulatio	5469	6489
Total phys	36702	34483
Reference	2045	2190
Library visi	4921	5232
Program at	2415	3188
Circulation	16517	14892
Circulation	2180	1984
Circulation	12536	11118

Annual Report Comparison: 2024 and 2025



- Circulation of physical materials went down 10%
- E-Circulation went up 19%
- Children's circulation still accounts for about 57% of our total circulation
- Program attendance went up 32%
- There were also increases in library visits, computer use, Wi-fi use, and reference questions
- If you count physical checkouts and e-checkouts together, circulation went down 6%
- The number of programs we offered went up from 121 to 185
- The percentage of our circulation that comes from Village residents stayed the same- 40%
- Our cost of circ rose from \$5.49 in 2024 to \$7.00 in 2025
- Looking ahead to 2027, we should receive \$104,244 from Dunn County, \$77,826 from the Village, and \$97,222 from other counties (assuming they pay us back 70% of what they owe us, which is the legal minimum). That's \$191,792, only \$4096 less than our current budget of \$195,888 (which includes the extra \$21,012 the Village let the library have). So we are very close to having enough money to cover the pay increases next year without the Village having to pay anything extra. These figures don't include income we will get from grants, donations, books