

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING
OWOSSO CARNEGIE LIBRARY PROPERTY COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
Owosso City Hall

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: at 6:01 p.m. by Chairperson Horvath.

PRESENT: Ferweda, Harrington, Horvath, and Wilson

ABSENT: Brewer, Cook, and Teich

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Nathan Henne

GUEST: Bob Wessel, Vice President, Lenawee County Historical Society

AGENDA AND MINUTES APPROVAL:

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES BY HARRINGTON. SECONDED BY FERWEDA.

AYES ALL. MOTION CARRIED.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. Presentation — Lenawee County Museum (Adrian Carnegie Library)

Wessel described Adrian's 1909 Carnegie Library, which the city sold to the Historical Society for \$10 after it closed in 1975. It was converted to a museum for about \$300,000, and leftover funds created a trust now worth about \$1.2 million. The museum is volunteer-run, open Fridays and Saturdays, and costs about \$25,000–\$30,000 per year, funded by memberships, trust earnings, donations, and historic house plaques. Its main challenges are storage space and volunteer recruitment.

Members noted Adrian is comparable to Owosso but agreed a strong volunteer base is critical and cannot be created from scratch. No outside groups have come forward seeking the building.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Henne reported that the library's steam boiler control system has failed. The City will spend about \$35,000 to rebuild or replace it and obtain state certification before cold weather. Henne will meet with DPW next week, and Horvath will explore a Consumers Energy rebate.

Horvath noted a new state historic tax credit program has been announced and will gather details.

Henne reported that he asked the City Attorney to send letters to surviving Woodard family members regarding the quiet title proceedings in Circuit Court.

Henne reported that MEDC staff cuts eliminated the scheduled presenter and that he will contact Chuck Donaldson to confirm whether RRC technical assistance funds remain available.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY HARRINGTON. SECONDED BY FERWEDA.

MOTION CARRIED.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:40 P.M.