CALL TO ORDER
Chair Sharon Ponder called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

In attendance: Board Chair Sharon Ponder, Vice Chair Leslie Wantland, Treasurer Chet Ivey, Secretary Anne Franklin, Trustee Lisa McGhee, and Trustee Debra Abernathy. Library employees in attendance: Director Kathryn Pillatzki, Assistant Director for Collection Development Jennifer Parrott, Business Manager Angela Millen, Financial Clerk Vanessa Dunn, Programming and Outreach Librarian Anna Cogdill, and Administrative Assistant Aimee Leavitt.

ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA
The Director requested that an item be added under New Business, regarding a budget amendment to account for an increase in funding from the Board of Commissioners.

● Motion by Leslie Wantland to accept the amended agenda, seconded by Lisa McGhee; motion approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
● Motion by Anne Franklin to accept the minutes of the February 5, 2024 regular meeting, seconded by Chet Ivey; motion approved.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT
The Director provided an update on staff and branch activities for February, 2024. HCLS staff hosted two days of training for youth services staff from all over Georgia on Feb. 1-2. There were 128 people in attendance. The Director served on the Ferst Books selection committee.

On Feb. 29 the Director presented a budget request to the BOC and county staff for Fiscal Year 2025:

  Priority 1: $121,500 to cover an increase in the employer portion of the State Health Benefit Plan.
  PRIORITY 2: $100,000 to cover increases in general operational costs caused by inflation and supply chain problems.
  PRIORITY 3: $173,484 to close the gap between the requested $2.00 an hour wage increase for hourly staff and the $1.14 an hour that was approved by the BOC in the FY24 Amended Budget.
The Director provided an update on Georgia Senate Bill 390, which has passed the Senate and is now before the House Higher Education Committee. If passed, the bill could have a significant impact on public library service in Georgia.

The McDonough library renovation continues on schedule. County Facilities Maintenance is coordinating with the Project Manager from Macallan Construction to complete HVAC upgrades at the same time the other work is underway.

- Motion by Chet Ivey to accept the director’s report, seconded by Lisa McGhee; motion approved.

**TREASURER’S FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Review of Budget Request submitted to the BOC for Fiscal Year 2025

This was included in the Director’s report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Appointment of Nominating Committee to propose a slate of officers to be voted on at the April meeting of the Library Board of Trustees.

Because four of the Trustees are officers, and the other two Trustees are relatively new to the Board, with the agreement of the members the Chair elected to accept nominations from the floor at the April meeting, to be voted on individually, instead of appointing a nominating committee. This is allowable under the HCLS Constitution and Bylaws.

Selection of wording for signage for the classroom space to be dedicated to Commissioner Gary Barham.

The Board had previously agreed that the new classroom in the McDonough library be named for the late District 5 Commissioner Gary Barham, who was instrumental in securing the local funds needed to qualify the library system for a Capital Outlay Grant from the State Legislature. The Director presented several options for the wording, and shared feedback from the staff. Several options were discussed.

- Motion by Debra Abernathy to name the new classroom space the Gary Barham Community Studio, seconded by Lisa McGhee; motion approved.
Adoption of budget amendment for FY24 to include added funding from BOC.

The Board of Commissioners voted to provide an additional $35,000 to the library system in December, 2023, to cover increased insurance costs, and another $179,000 in February 2024 to provide raises for hourly staff. The HCLS budget needed to be amended to account for these additional funds.

- Motion by Lisa McGhee to amend the HCLS budget for Fiscal Year 2024 to include the added funding from the BOC for a total increase of $214,500, seconded by Chet Ivey; motion approved.

Discussion of options for painting the children’s room of the McDonough Library

This item was for discussion only, and the Trustees opted to adjourn the meeting and conduct a site visit of the McDonough library renovation to provide more specific feedback.

CONFIRMATION OF THE NEXT MEETING DATE

The first Monday in April falls on April 1, when several Trustees have other commitments due to Henry County Schools spring break. It was suggested that the meeting be moved to Monday, April 8, 2024 at 5:30 PM in the administration meeting room of the McDonough library.

- Motion by Leslie Wantland to move the April 1, 2024 regular meeting to April 8, seconded by Anne Franklin, motion approved.

ADJOURNMENT

- Motion by Anne Franklin to adjourn the March 4, 2024 meeting, seconded by Chet Ivey; motion approved.