

**CACHE COUNTY
LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
October 23, 2025**

The Cache County Library Advisory Board convened in a regular session on October 23, 2025 at 4:00 PM at 15 North Main Street, Providence, UT 84321

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Library Board in Attendance:

Brandon Major – Citizen Representative
Mark Hurd – County Council
Natalie Darley – Citizen Representative
Jeanell Sealy – Providence City Council
Brynnan Sainsbury – Library Director

Members of the Library Board Absent:

Chelsi Kartchner – Citizen Representative
Lana Hanover – River Heights City Council

Others in Attendance:

George Daines – County Executive
Kathryn Beus – County Council
Curt Webb – Deputy County Executive
Kathleen Alder – Providence Mayor
Megan Izatt – Minutes
Erick Davis – Deputy Civil Attorney
Andrew Erickson – Policy Analyst
Jackie - Citizen

04:03:00

Call to Order

Major called the meeting to order.

#1 Discussion about the Future of the Library

Executive Daines explained his position on the library and provided a handout as well.

Committee and **Staff** discussed the cost of the library per household for the different libraries in the County, the county budget and how much was pulled from the general fund last year to cover the county deficit. Also discussed was the ability for Providence, Millville, and River Heights to possibly take over funding for the library, fundraising to

- 1 help support the library, and the realities of trying to combine and create a county wide
- 2 system.
- 3
- 4 **Adjourned.**

DRAFT

CACHE COUNTY BUDGET SITUATION

1. Cache County has been operating at a deficit for the last three years. Expenditures have exceeded revenues each year. In addition, ongoing expenses are increasing faster than ongoing revenue. The current budget situation is unsustainable.
2. Even the advertised property tax increase, if passed, will still leave the County operating at a deficit.
3. I campaigned for County Executive on the basis that I would address this budget problem. I was the only candidate who did so. I advised the convention delegates to select another candidate if they did not approve of my proposal to both reduce expenses and increase revenues (taxes!). A relatively slim majority of 54% voted for me.
4. I was appointed toward the end of the budget process. Proposed budgets were prepared and submitted by the departments before July.
5. I have assembled a budget team to examine all county expenditures. The team has met with all departments and is preparing a comprehensive list of recommendations. In some cases the recommendations include "reductions in force (personnel)," in others expenses are being postponed or being reduced. In some cases whole programs are being examined. The library budget recommendation is just one of many. The team is also considering revenue sources and how to increase them. Many budgets require a deeper study and analysis than can be done in the short time available to make these tentative recommendations to the County Council. The team will continue its activities after the 2026 budget is adopted.
6. My role is to make budget recommendations to the County Council. The County Council will decide whether to accept any, all or none of my budget recommendations. I have no authority to make the decisions—I am making recommendations.

LIBRARY RECOMMENDATION — October 15, 2025 Draft

The County Executive recommends to the County Council that Cache County cease operating the County Library. The direct cost of library service is approximately \$250,000 per year.

Summary: The continued support of the Cache County Library with general funds collected from all county taxpayers involves fairness and double taxation issues. 80% of the Cache County citizens are paying taxes to support the municipal libraries. Should these citizens be double taxed to support the remaining 20% of citizens not served by municipal libraries? Is this fair? It is noted that the 20% of citizens not served can purchase full access to all library services at any municipal library for the same cost as residents of that city pay in taxes for the library.

1. The Council will make the decision as to whether to continue or close the library. They can choose to hold public hearings on this issue. I welcome the public discussion. I will answer any questions about why I am making this recommendation.
2. I am personally in favor of public support for libraries generally.
3. The County librarian, Brynna Sainsbury, is well-trained and widely respected. She uses the limited resources she has very efficiently. The Library Board that oversees the County Library is composed of good people and they are providing appropriate oversight. My recommendation should not be viewed as suggesting any fault or failure of the librarian or the Board.
4. For many years Logan City and Cache County were partners in providing library service. The partnership was troubled. Logan often complained that the County was not paying its fair share. Their partnership ended in 1977.
5. In 2010, there was a public discussion about forming a county—wide library system with dedicated revenues. Eventually that issue was put up for a vote. The issues were vigorously debated. The citizens of Logan by a 66% majority voted in favor. The non-Logan citizens voted overwhelmingly against the proposal. It failed on a 52%-48% vote.
6. Considering that result and the issues raised in that election, some conclusions can be drawn. First, non-Logan citizens wanted to retain control over their own library services. Second, by their no votes, the non-Logan citizens determined that their library services would be decided on a city-by-city basis, not county-wide. Each city would be free to decide whether or not to have a library. The citizens wanted each city to be free to choose whether to tax their citizens to build and fund a municipal library.

7. Since that time, a number of new libraries have been built at significant cost. New libraries were built by Logan (\$19M), Hyrum (\$6.2M), and North Logan (\$5.2M). Smithfield spent \$1.1M to remodel their Carnegie-donated library facility.
8. In addition to these new libraries, the cities of Newton, Lewiston, Richmond and Mendon have and continue to operate small municipal libraries.
9. The annual operating costs of these larger municipal libraries are substantial: Logan (\$2.8M), North Logan (\$683,378), Hyrum (\$468,000), Smithfield (\$521,703). The smaller libraries have smaller operating costs: Newton (\$35,000), Richmond (\$115,000), Mendon (\$14,500), Lewiston (\$49,300). Each library raises additional needed funds through donations.
10. These operating costs do not include the substantial costs associated with the erection of the library facilities and a sinking fund for their eventual replacement. Those costs would be in the range of \$100+ per year per household.
11. The north libraries, Newton, Lewiston, Richmond, Mendon and Smithfield, have formed a consortium to provide their services to all citizens in their cities and more broadly to citizens living in their north area.
12. Wellsville and Nibley pay to Hyrum \$30 per household so their citizens have full access to the Hyrum library—total revenue to Hyrum is approximately \$104,000.
13. As a result of these arrangements, 80% of Cache County residents have full access to these municipal libraries at no direct cost to themselves because the city's general funds that come from tax revenue pay for the library. Citizens pay taxes to these cities to support these libraries.
14. In Cache County every elementary school, middle school and high school has its own library for its students, the cost of which is paid by the school districts. Utah State maintains an excellent library using university funds.
15. All libraries are open to walk-in use of their collections and services, including (usually free) access to meeting rooms. Most provide internet service free of charge. The only restriction to non-resident users is that they cannot check out books.
16. Approximately 20% of county residents do not have this full service (cannot check out books) unless they subscribe to a user fee similar to what municipal residents are paying through their property and sales taxes. They have limited access to the facilities of each municipal library (collections, story times, rooms, internet) but cannot check out books. This is referred to as limited access.

17. However, all cities do allow non-resident households full access to their municipal libraries with an annual user fee. The annual fee is based on an amount intended to match what taxes are paid by the municipal users.
18. The user fees charged for non-resident household memberships is: Logan (\$163), North Logan (\$135), Hyrum (\$75), Smithfield (\$50) and Mendon (\$40). Some of the smaller libraries do not charge anything: Richmond, Lewiston and Newton.
19. These operating expenses track with national estimates of library operating costs of between \$30-\$50 per capita.
20. Cache County has approximately 2.8 persons per household. This would indicate that the average household cost of providing library services would be between \$62 and \$140.
21. Of this 20% of the population not served by a municipal funded library, roughly two-thirds live in cities where the particular city has decided not to fund a municipal library (Providence, River Heights, Millville, Paradise and Hyde Park). The balance live in the unincorporated areas.
22. These five cities are relatively wealthy cities. The average market value of homes in those cities is significantly above average in comparison to the county averages.
23. The current Cache County Library is located in Providence, which adjoins both River Heights on the north and Millville on the south. Approximately 70% of users of the County Library live in those three cities.
24. Providence, Millville and River Heights do not fund the County Library.
25. Providence does rent to the county library its present location for \$1 per year. Cache County has remodeled the building into its current library configuration.
- 26. The Cache County Library is funded by the Cache County General Fund, collected from all county residents, 80% of whom are already funding their own municipal libraries.**
27. As previously stated, the 20% without full access to a municipal library can purchase full access to those municipal libraries for the same cost that users in each city are paying in taxes for their own full access. Actually, the 20% are getting a better deal because the access fees do not include the capital invested in the library buildings (new buildings since 2010—\$31.5M).
28. It is possible that Cache County would be willing to transfer all of its library (books, computers, shelves, everything) for \$1 to any party willing to continue its operation.