

Regular Meeting
Board of Trustees of the Peru Public Library District
February 12, 2026
6:00 pm

Present: Jean Carter, Laurie Moss, Doug Olivero, Larry Sittler, Mike Watts, and Bo Windy, along with Director of Finance - Melissa Keegan and Library Director – Theresa (Resa) Mai.

Absent: Kent Maze

1. Called to order: President Doug Olivero called meeting to order at 6:00 pm this evening.
2. Changes to the agenda: No changes suggested or requested to the prepared agenda sent by e-mail to board members.
3. Public comments: No members of public attended and thus no comments offered.
4. Approval of minutes from January 8, 2026 meeting: Mike Watts moved to approve draft minutes from regular monthly meeting held on 8 January 2026, second given by Laurie Moss, and upon vote motion carried.
5. President's report: No separate report at this meeting by board president.
6. Correspondence:
 - a. Letter dated 16 January 2026 from Carnegie Corporation of New York sending grant funds check in celebration of 250 anniversary of United States and libraries as “cradles of democracy” to Peru Public Library, housed for many years in a building constructed through funding by Andrew Carnegie.
 - b. Thank-you letter from director and staff sent on 7 February 2026 to Carnegie Corporation expressing thanks on receipt of recent grant of funds given in celebration of 250 anniversary of United States and libraries constructed through funding by Andrew Carnegie.
 - c. Thank-you note from director and staff sent on 7 February 2026 to Marie, who upon retiring from library staff donated funds now used to purchase an Elkay water bottle fill station style drinking fountain and will soon be installed.
 - d. Letter sent on 12 February 2026 to Jeff Miller and family, informing them of a memorial gift from Dianna Denny made in memory of Julie Moss Miller.
 - e. LaSalle County Board of Review, pursuant to tax-payers complaints filed to their assessed property valuations, sent Peru Public Library 4 “2025 Board of Review Hearing Notice” forms all mailed 30 January 2026 and

stating hearings are scheduled on 2 March 2026 at 707 East Etna Road, Room 262, Ottawa, Illinois. Hearing for Complainant Trustee Tammy Jo Carus, Docket Number: 2025-209 for Property Identification Number (PIN) 17-09-207-014 is set for 9:00 am. Hearings for Complainant 37th Street, LLC, Docket Number: 2025-412 for Property Identification Numbers (PIN's) 17-04-305-000, 17-04-306-000, and 17-04-313-011 is set for 9:30 am.

7. Director's report:

- a. Writers at Westclox is an organized a book fair for 30 local authors from all genres held at Fire on Fifth, 300 5th Street, Peru, IL and library will have a table at the event scheduled for 14 March 2026.
 - b. As noted in correspondence the Elkay bottle fill water fountain purchased with gift from Marie, a retiring staff member, has arrived and will be installed.
 - c. Door chime to alert staff of people entering the building entering was: ordered, arrived, connected, and returned to Amazon for a refund after staff found it too distracting while working.
 - d. Director announced she will be presenting at the upcoming bi-annual convention of Public Library Association (PLA) during first week of April in Minneapolis, MN, a session on, "How to Collaborate within a Community between a Library and the local AM Radio Station." Accordingly, she also informed board members with itemized list of her expenses to attend PLA convention and available funds allocated in budget.
 - e. Shelves rearranged downstairs in youth room to give employees a better line of sight to doorway.
 - f. Donor recognition wall in front entrance. Bo Windy volunteered to be on a sub-committee to look into ideas.
 - g. Per Capita Grant paperwork filed and approved
 - h. Carnegie Foundation grant of \$10,000 has been received and staff ideas collected for items part of the forgoing grant could be used to purchase with itemized list included in "February 2026 – Director Report" (copy of which is included herewith and made a part hereof). Director shared that she had also learned of another \$25,000 grant Carnegie libraries can apply for and which is awarded only to small and rural libraries.
8. Prior meeting follow-up: Owl Program -- Bo Windy will give next program presentation on 18 March 2026. Staff Shirts -- Staff members polled as to willingness to wear staff shirts and style of shirt preferred.
9. Financial report: Director of Finance noted that the money on deposit in the pooled governmental Illinois Funds Account had average daily yield of 3.83% and to date 59% of fiscal year budget had been spend with library continuing to be very much "on track" with planned expenditures.

- a. Approve disbursements for February 2026. Motion made by Jean Carter to approve February 2026 disbursements, with second from Mike Watts, and with affirmative vote carried.
 - b. Accept financial report for February 2026. Motion made by Jean Carter for acceptance of February 2026 financial report, with second by Bo Windy, and with affirmative vote carried.
10. Executive session: No matters discussed needed closure of meeting.
11. Action and/or discussion items
 - a. Adopt revised FOIA policy. Policy updated to designate new director, Risa Mai as FOIA officer. Motion made by Jean Carter to adopt revised FOIA policy, with second from Mike Watts, and carried on an affirmative vote.
 - b. Public Library Association (PLA) convention attendance for Director Mai. Motion made by Jean Carter that the Peru Public Library would pay all travel costs and convention registration fees for Risa Mai to attend the upcoming convention in April 2026 of the Public Library Association (PLA) in Minneapolis, MN as specified in “February 2026 – Director Report” (copy of which, as previously stated, is included herewith). Needed second for motion came from Mike Watts and with affirmative vote motion carried.
 - c. Approval for spending a portion of Carnegie Foundation \$10,000 grant. An itemized list incorporated in the “February 2026 – Director Report” set forth 16 items a portion of the Carnegie grant funds could be used to purchase. For example, items for youth department, book easels, wagon, mobile sit/stand desk, etc. Some board members had questions about 2 of the items, a solar charging station and accompanying picnic table, with a discussion ensuing as to possible placement of them. Following aforesaid discussion, Jean Carter moved that a decision as to the \$3,724.00 cost for solar charging station and picnic table be tabled at this time and authorization be given for expenditure of \$2,111.64 from the grant funds be used to purchase the other items for the library as set forth in the “February 2026 – Director Report” (copy of which, as previously stated, is included herewith). Needed second for motion came from Laurie Moss and with affirmative vote motion carried.
12. Board Orientation: Director Risa Mai noted around 70% of libraries have received
FOIA requests for massive records with alternative demand for payment of \$750.
13. Adjournment. There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Submitted by Larry Sittler / Board Secretary