



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES: Future of the Library January 24, 2026

BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING

A Special Meeting of the Peru Public Library Board of Trustees was held in the Psi Iota Xi Room of the Peru Public Library on Saturday, January 24, 2026. The meeting began at 10:00 am.

ATTENDEES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Regine Brindle, Denise Gornto, Alison Paul, and Genell Taylor

MEMBER ABSENCES: Stacy Mize and Leslie Murphy

STAFF PRESENT: Director, Maryann Farnham and Assistant Director, Michelle Spangler

MINUTES

The Library Board of Trustees met to discuss the future goals of the Peru Public Library and possible ideas that could be implemented to meet those future objectives. The meeting began with discussion about property tax from 2025. Ideas for future projects included:

- Digitization of microfilm and newspapers
- Adult Services
- Cards for the County
- Tech for the meeting rooms
- Possible building expansion and how do we fund everything needed after purchase
- Additional staffing
- Director's office and basement storage upgrades
- Notice board in more of a high traffic area
- Put in writing how we are going to decide staff increases every year. Cost of Living Increases? Longevity Increases?
- Lock in a non-resident fee for the next 3 years
- Promote free services and market the library to try to get county people interested
- Renew patron cards who purchased a non-resident card since January 2025 first when we get the NICF funds
- Put NICF funds in a different bank than PNC or Beacon. The NICF funds will have its own line item in our budget
- Possibly hire an outreach staff member
- Questions for the consultant provided by NICF
- Patron services for the future
- Digital signage throughout the library
- Update some of the security cameras that don't have sound
- Resurface the parking lot
- Remove west side outside steps and put outside seating in its place
- Finish the adult floor and reference windows

- Consider repainting inside the building and repair the east meeting room plaster
- HVAC unit

After discussing the ideas, the following items were made priorities that can be completed in the near future:

Building

- Install the door to the basement steps to create more storage
- Director's Office upgrade
- Upgrade a few of the security cameras
- Put technology throughout the library
- Quote for parking lot
- Quote for upstairs windows
- HVACI

Staffing

- Hire two part time workers to help with extra county patrons and prioritize putting money towards staffing in the budget
- Bring the COLA and longevity pay discussion to the full Board

NICE

- Find out what sort of reporting we need to give the NICF
- Questions to ask the consultant and what is expected of the library in this process

The special meeting was adjourned at 2:11 pm.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Michelle Spangler, Assistant Director

SECRETARY APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(Signature and Date)

Gennell Taylor, Peru Public Library Board of Trustees Secretary