



**Carnegie Public Library of Steuben County  
Board of Trustees  
Minutes of the Feb. 9, 2026, Meeting**

President Gentry called meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Board members in attendance were Haley Billow, Jenn Craig, Laurie Gentry, Gay Kirkton, Jeanine Samuelson, Bert Schulz, and Sue Shollenberger. Also attending was Director Sonya Dorris.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Gay Kirkton offered, Jeanine Samuelson seconded, a motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting. The motion carried.

**Appropriations and Financial Reports**

Sonya Dorris presented the January appropriation and financial reports (copies attached).

Budget Status: Monthly spending was \$83,575. Following a discussion, Haley Billow moved to accept the reports, with Gay Kirkton seconding the motion, which was approved.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

- A. Sonya Dorris presented a draft Bad Debt policy. Libraries operate on a cash basis, but our annual financial report requires accounts receivable and accounts payable to be included. Accounts receivable would include all patron fees and fines that haven't been paid. Only a tiny fraction of them will ever be paid. The policy would write off old debts to create more realistic financial reports. Bert Schulz moved to approve the policy, Gay Kirkton seconded the motion, and the policy was approved.
- B. Salaries for 2026 were discussed. The matter was tabled until the March meeting.
- C. Sonya Dorris presented a proposal from Havel to replace two leaking pumps in the Carnegie basement. The board requested at least one proposal from another vendor.

**Public Comments:** None

**Director's Report**

Katy Ashbaugh has decided to retire.

Senate Bill 8 has passed the Senate and sent to the House. It is not a good bill for libraries.

Currently, if libraries propose a budget higher than the MLGQ (average growth quotient set annually by the state), the budget is sent for binding review to the fiscal body which for us is the County Council. There is a guardrail that allows for only a 10% maximum reduction. CPLSC has done this once to pay for the chiller project. We did not increase our tax rate or levy, just an appropriation to spend from our savings that was earmarked for the chiller.

SB8 as currently written, now requires binding review if libraries propose a budget at 50% of the MLGQ and removes completely the maximum reduction guardrail.

To avoid the potential for a devastating 100% budget reduction, libraries will only be able to grow at half the percentage as all other local government entities. For 2026 the MLGQ was 4%. If this bill were in effect, our budget could only increase by 1.99% without binding review.

The bill has been assigned to the House Ways and Means committee and has not yet been scheduled for a hearing in that committee.

We are shifting the adult nonfiction collection to make more space to display books and provide way finders to make browsing easier. We are also pulling romance books from general fiction into their own shelving location.

Next month the library will be hosting the Smithsonian Museum on Mainstreet *Voices & Votes* exhibit in conjunction with the city of Angola. It will open 3/28 and be here until May 10. Allison Daglow is heading up the project, and the library is providing the space.

Gay Kirkton moved to accept the report. Jeanine Samuelson offered a second, and the motion passed. Burt Shulz moved to adjourn the meeting with Sue Shollenberger offering a second, the motion carried.