

**Putnam County Library
Board of Trustees Minutes
August 11, 2026**

Board of Trustees members in attendance: Diane Duncan; Chair, Bryan Payne; Vice-Chair, Pat Phillips; Treasurer, Drew Binkley, Maryleigh Bucher, Gail Myers, Daniel Rader IV
Putnam County Library staff in attendance: Kathryn Wisinger; Director, Brian Page, Carol Teeters

Falling Water Regional Library staff in attendance: Matthew Kirby

- I. Call to Order: Board Chair Diane Duncan called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Mrs. Myers requested that two items be added to the agenda: the policy manual and the website policy page. Mr. Rader noted that any additions to the agenda are normally submitted to the Library Director in advance so that all Board members have an opportunity to review the materials. Mrs. Myers responded that adding items is not prohibited by the rules. Chair Duncan agreed but stated that, for discussion to proceed, all Board members should have copies of the materials available at the meeting. Mrs. Myers indicated that was acceptable. Library Director Wisinger added that items should be emailed to her for inclusion on the agenda.
- II. Approval of Minutes: Pat Phillips moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Danny Rader and approved unanimously.
- III. Approval of Treasurer's Report: Library Director Wisinger presented the Treasurer's Report. She presented the 2025-2026 fiscal year end numbers, noting that the PCL ended the year in a very favorable financial condition. The budget was managed conservatively throughout the year, as it was anticipated that the fund balance would need to be used in the current fiscal year to assist with costs associated with the Cookeville Library expansion. Director Wisinger provided a thorough analysis of the 2025-2026 fiscal year. At the conclusion of the FY 25-26 review, Mrs. Myers reiterated Director Wisinger's comment that the cost of the audit increases annually, and asked how often the Board changed accountants. Mr. Rader replied that the Board does not as it is difficult to find an accountant to complete the audit as historically it is not work that is highly sought after. Director Wisinger added that the library utilizes the services of the same accountant that completes the county audit. Director Wisinger then moved to the current fiscal year noting that there is less flexibility in the FY 26-27 budget and it will be a tighter fiscal year as budget requests were limited to only what was needed to meet library payroll and increased utility costs. She noted that a bill was received for professional fees from the attorney. Mrs. Bucher acknowledged that she contacted the attorney to ask questions related to Tennessee obscenity laws. Mr. Rader stated that if Board members have legal questions that a request for information should be brought to the attention of the Board who will then authorize that expenditure. Bryan Payne moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Drew Binkley and approved unanimously.
- IV. Public Comment: Before opening public comment, Mrs. Duncan reminded those assembled that when recognized they are to announce their first and last name and that each would have three minutes to speak with public comment not to exceed thirty minutes. The following individuals were recognized: Stacye Choate, David Funk, Sara Kruszka, Lettie Collier, Monica Cason, Connie Bellamy, Sherry Butler, Breanna Ortner, Gene Mullins, Lloyd Bucher, Dana Siefer, Bobby Young, Brittany Gooch, Daniel Whitehead, Jaime Linder, Matthew Smith, and Charlie Mullins
- V. Old Business: None

VI.

VII. New Business:

- A. Hotspot and Chromebook Policy: All Board members were provided with a copy of the policy for review. It was noted that there are 44 hotspots available and that 53 were replaced last year. The chrome books were purchased with a grant and are not replaced as they are lost or damaged. There are 4 chrome books remaining. Discussion ensued. As no changes were necessary, Maryleigh Bucher moved to renew the policy as presented, seconded by Bryan Payne and approved unanimously.
- B. Removal of Harry Ingle; Addition of Diane Duncan to One Bank account: Danny Rader moved to remove Harry Ingle from the One Bank account and add Diane Duncan, seconded by Pat Phillips and approved unanimously.

VIII. PCLS Director Report and Branch Report: Director Wisinger began by thanking everyone in attendance for their care and concern for the library and the well-being of the children of Putnam County, values the entire community shares. She stated that no pornography is available at the Putnam County Library and that the library is not in violation of any state or federal obscenity laws. She recently met with State Librarian & Archivist Jaime Ritter and Falling Water Regional Library Director Matthew Kirby. Mr. Ritter praised the Putnam County Library for its high-quality work, adherence to applicable policies and laws, and compliance with the terms of the Library Services Agreement, to which the Reconsideration of Materials policy is tied. As evidence of this compliance, he cited the library's \$2 million grant and the ongoing construction of the library expansion. Director Wisinger emphasized that the library is policy-driven. Books are placed on the shelves according to professional collection development standards, including Library of Congress standards. A clearly defined policy provides a safe, transparent, and accountable process for addressing differing points of view. The reconsideration policy ensures every citizen can be heard and is the only fully transparent method for handling such matters involving public and taxpayer resources. She reiterated the importance of all citizens following established policies and announced that the reconsideration policy will be posted on the library website for easy public access. A community member recently submitted a Request for Reconsideration form for the book *It's Perfectly Normal*. After meeting with the citizen and reviewing the book, staff relocated it to the Young Adult Family Resource section. A letter notifying the patron of the decision was sent. Director Wisinger noted that the Young Adult section is located upstairs and is separate from the Children's Department. Mrs. Myers asked why, after the book had been discussed for several months, the Director had not informed the public that a form exists and offered to show them how to complete it after the meeting, rather than allowing repeated complaints without directing people to the proper procedure. Director Wisinger responded that she had made repeated efforts to explain the existence of the form and the policy, including posting the information on the library's Facebook page. Mrs. Myers stated that this was not what she had heard from the public. Bryan Payne noted that the process had been explained several times at Board meetings. Mrs. Myers replied that the information was not on the website. Mrs. Bucher suggested that it would benefit the Board and staff to define the terms "pornography" and "obscenity" according to Tennessee state law and incorporate those legal definitions into the policy. Doing so would eliminate subjectivity and make the evaluation process fully objective. Director Wisinger reiterated that the Putnam County Library complies with all state and federal obscenity laws and that this is already addressed in the policy. Director Wisinger then continued her report.

- The expansion project remains on track, as does the capital project to renovate the parking lot. Construction inevitably creates growing pains, and complaints during such projects are common and unavoidable. Recent heavy rains caused flooding downstairs that saturated a section of carpet. In addition, the air conditioner failed, leaving the Children's Department hot and humid. Once the air conditioner is repaired, the carpet will be cleaned. It was noted that neither of these problems were directly related to the construction. The parking lot capital project is expected to begin as soon as the expansion construction is complete. The Board expressed appreciation to Michael Hafner for his work on the pollinator garden.
- IX. Falling Water River Regional Library Report: Matthew Kirby reported that the Library Services agreement has been signed and approved. First quarter funding is now available and the spending deadline is December 31, 2027. The annual Trustee Workshop will be held September 24, 2026 at the Art Circle Library in Crossville.
- X. Friends of the Putnam County Library Report: No Report
- XI. Adjournment: Board President Diane Duncan attempted to adjourn the meeting, however Mrs. Myers renewed her desire to discuss the policy manual and website policy page. Director Wisinger stated that those items would be added to the September agenda. Mr. Rader noted that according to Roberts' Rules a motion and a second should be obtained, and a vote conducted to add items to the agenda. He further stated that the Open Meetings law changed on July 1, 2026 and that agenda items could no longer be added unless it is an emergency item. Mrs. Myers continued that she would like a copy of the bylaws and the policy manual noting that the Board is tasked with creating policy. She acknowledged that she had received several emails containing policies, but that she would like a printed manual. Director Wisinger stated that she had emailed all policies that were not on the website. Mrs. Myers requested that all policies and procedures be printed and provided to her, and that these also be added to the website. Director Wisinger agreed to print the requested information and provide it to Mrs. Myers and Mrs. Bucher. The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.