

BY-LAWS
Pine River Public Library District

I. Name

The Pine River Public Library District was formed by election in 1972. The district covers the same area as the Bayfield School District in La Plata County.

II. History

In 1930, six members of the Bayfield Study Club formed the first Board of Directors of the Bayfield Public Library. In 1934, the Board purchased the old bank building on Mill Street for \$1,500 and began raising money to furnish the building and buy books. The Library ran solely on the efforts of volunteers until 1941 when the Town Clerk was paid to also act as Town Librarian. In 1972 the Pine River Public Library District was formed and property tax revenues were available to fund operations and services, and in 1976, a full-time librarian was hired. The Library operated in the old bank building on Mill Street in Bayfield until it moved to its present location on Bayfield Center Drive in March 2004. In 2010, the Board of Trustees voted to expand the facility. The project started in July of 2012 and was completed in February 2013. A garden and outdoor learning area was also added during 2013. In February 2014, the Pine River Public Library was named "Best Small Library in America" by *Library Journal*. In 2017, the Library partnered with the Town of Bayfield to build the Bayfield Library Park on the Library's one-acre parcel to the west of the library. The park was 86% financed through Grants from GOCO and the Colorado Health Foundation and is maintained by the Town of Bayfield.

In 2018, the Library went to the District's voters for a 2.0 mill increase in property taxes to cover shortfalls in revenues due to increased operating costs and reduced production in oil and gas, this request failed.

In 2019, the Library went back to the District's voters for a 1.5 mill increase in property taxes and the issue passed bringing the total current mills to 4.0.

Today's 12,000 square foot Pine River Library is home to almost 40,000 items including books, audiobooks, public access computers, tablets, and a library of things. The library includes more than 80 public computers, a large community room, two smaller meeting rooms, a media hub, a children's imagination room, comfortable chairs for reading, and a large selection of books, magazines, audio and video materials, online databases, and downloadable media including audio, video, music, and e-books. Library staff also provide additional services such as: passport applications, notary services, hunting and fishing license applications, etc.

III. Responsibilities and Authorities of the Library Board of Trustees

The management and control of the library shall be vested in a board of not fewer than five or more than seven trustees. Appointees to the library board of trustees shall be chosen from the residents within the service area of the library.

The initial Trustees of the Pine River Public Library District were appointed by the La Plata County Commissioners.

1. A library trustee may be removed by a majority vote of the County Commissioners, but only upon showing of good cause as defined in, but not limited to, the bylaws adopted by the Board.
 - a. Trustees may be dismissed for missing three consecutive meetings or five within a year.
 - b. Trustees may be dismissed for just cause. "Cause shall mean any of the following that result in an adverse effect on the Library district: 1) Gross negligence or gross neglect; 2) commission of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, fraud, theft or dishonesty; 3) the willful violation of any law, rule or regulation (other than a traffic violation or similar offense); 4) an intentional failure to perform stated duties; or 5) a breach of fiduciary duty involving personal profit.
2. The Board shall recommend new trustees for appointment to the Board to the County Commissioners as terms of members expire. Trustee appointments shall be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the County Commissioners; if the Commissioners do not act within sixty days upon a recommendation it shall be considered a ratification of the appointment.

3. The Board shall identify qualified persons for membership on the board by contact with the general community, library patrons, Friends and other supporters of the library and shall make inquiry of these persons about interest and ability to serve on the Board if appointed.
4. Conflict of Interest. Any persons interested in serving on the Board must disclose any potential conflicts of interest prior to appointment to the Board. Upon appointment, member must recuse themselves from any Board business where there may exist a direct or indirect conflict of interest.
5. Each trustee shall serve for a three year term. No trustee shall serve more than three consecutive terms or a total of nine consecutive years.
6. A trustee shall not receive a salary or other compensation for services as a trustee, but necessary traveling and subsistence expenses actually incurred may be paid from the public library fund.
7. Each new member of the Board shall receive from the Director a complete orientation including a tour of the Library, a Trustee Manual, including copies of the Bylaws, Colorado Library Law, Colorado Public Library Standards, pertinent Board minutes and a briefing on issues and problems presently before the Board.
8. The officers of the board of trustees shall be President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer. Officers shall serve for a period of one year and be elected in March of each year.

IV. Powers and duties of board of trustees.

The board of trustees shall:

1. Adopt such bylaws, rules, and regulations for its own guidance and for the governance of the library, as it deems expedient. A copy of the bylaws shall be filed with the LaPlata County Commissioners and with the State Library. A map indicating the Pine River Public Library District's legal service area shall be filed with the State Library.
2. Have custody of all property of the library, including rooms or buildings constructed, leased, or set apart therefore.
3. Employ a director. The duties of the director shall include, but not be limited to: (I) Implementing the policies adopted by the board of trustees pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section; (II) Recommending individuals for permanent employment to the board of trustees; and (III) Performing all other acts necessary for the orderly and efficient management and control of the library
4. Submit annually a budget as required by law and certify to the legislative body of the governmental unit or units that the library serves the amount of the mill levy necessary to maintain and operate the library during the ensuing year; (e) (I) In county and municipal libraries, have exclusive control and spending authority over the disbursement of the library funds as appropriated by its legislative body, including all assets of the public library fund, as set forth in section 24-90-112 (2) (a); (II) In library districts, adopt a budget and make appropriations for the ensuing fiscal year as set forth in part 1 of article 1 of title 29, C.R.S., and have exclusive control and spending authority over the disbursement of library funds as set forth in section 24-90-112 (2) (a).
5. Accept such gifts of money or property for library purposes, as it deems expedient.
6. Hold and acquire land by gift, lease, or purchase for library purposes;
 - a. Lease, purchase, or erect any appropriate building for library purposes and acquire such other property as may be needed therefore;
 - b. Sell, assign, transfer, or convey any property of the library, whether real or personal, which may not be needed within the foreseeable future for any purpose authorized by law, upon such terms and conditions as it may approve, and lease any such property, pending sale thereof, under an agreement of lease, with or without an option to purchase the same. The board, prior to the conveyance of such property, shall make a finding that the property may not be needed

within the foreseeable future for library purposes, but no such finding shall be necessary if the property is sold or conveyed to a state agency or political subdivision of this state.

7. Borrow funds for library purposes by means of a contractual short-term loan when moneys are not currently available but will be in the future. Such loan shall not exceed the amount of immediately anticipated revenues, and such loan shall be liquidated within six months.
8. Authorize and pay for the bonding of persons entrusted with library funds.
9. Submit financial records for audit as required by state law.
 - a. The director shall prepare the accounting records for the auditor as soon after January 1 as possible.
 - b. The auditor will report to the Board of Trustees before the June meeting.
 - c. The audit will be filed with the State Auditor's Office before June 30.
10. Adopt a policy for the purchase of library materials and equipment on the recommendation of the director.
11. Hold title to property given to or for the use or benefit of the library, to be used according to the terms of the gift.
12. Do all other acts necessary for the orderly, efficient management and control of the library.
13. Have the authority to enter into contracts.
14. At the close of each year, the board of trustees will approve a report written by the Library Director to the La Plata County Commissioners (state report to Colorado State Library) showing the condition of its trust during the year, the sums of money expended, and the purposes of the expenditures. The report shall include such other statistics and information as the board of trustees deems of public interest and as may be requested by the state library. A copy of this report shall be filed with the state librarian.
15. The board of trustees allows nonresidents of the District to use the library's materials and equipment and make exchanges of books and other materials other libraries through the Colorado State Library programs.
16. The board of trustees has the right to request of LaPlata County Commissioners that an election be held to alter the maximum tax levied to support the public library district; pursuant to section 24-90-112.

V. Meetings

The Board of Trustees shall meet each month or as needed. Notice of meetings shall be published as required by the Colorado Open Meetings Act by posting on the bulletin board in the lobby of the library and on the library website no less than twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. The public place or places for posting such notice shall be designated annually at the Board's first regular meeting of each calendar year. The posting shall include a link to specific agenda information where possible.

The meetings shall be conducted by the presiding officer in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order and shall include time for public participation in the meetings, including public comment and questions. The presiding officer may set time limits for comment or questions.

No meetings of three or more Trustees shall be held except pursuant to posting of notice in accordance with the Colorado Open Meetings Act.

A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

From time to time the Board may go into executive session in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. Discussions that occur in such sessions are by their very nature confidential and shall not be discussed with persons not in attendance except Board members, the attorney for the district or the attorney handling the particular matter under discussion or unless authorized by the Board.

VI. System Membership

The Pine River Public Library District is a member of the Colorado Library Consortium (CLiC).

VII. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Board present and constituting a quorum at any scheduled board meeting if the amendment has been proposed at a prior board meeting and is listed in the notice of the meeting as an agenda item.

Adopted December 10, 2009
Revised November 10, 2011
Revised/Adopted October 2016
Revised January 2023
Adopted February 2023
Reviewed January 2025
Adopted March 2025

Lisa Isenberg, President

Date

Barbara Wickman, Vice-President

Date