

COUNTY OF MENARD)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Menard County Courthouse, 102 South Seventh Street, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Bob Lott, Troy Cummings, Rich Brauer, and Dalton Whitley were present. A quorum was present. County Coordinator Dara Worthington, County Clerk Martha “Marty” Gum, County Treasurer Molly Bettis, and States Attorney Gwen Thomas were also present. Commissioner Ed Whitcomb was absent.

Chairperson Lott called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Commissioner Brauer moved to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of the Regular Board Minutes from the March 27, 2025, meeting. Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Scheduled/Unscheduled Guests

Louis Rogers from the Menard County EMS Local 4622 was present along with EMS/EMA Chief Kolbe Huss. The purpose of Roger’s attendance was to address the board with items the union and/or Chief Huss would like to see changed within the current collective bargaining agreement. Those items included the following: Annual Wages, EMT Basis Stipend, On Call, Vacation, and Clothing and Uniforms. After lengthy discussion, this item was tabled for further discussion at the next board meeting.

Mary Ballard, a property owner along the Athens Blacktop, addressed the commissioners regarding her proposal to settle the Quick Take case which is slated to go to the courts.

County Highway Report/Requests for Board Action

Highway Engineer Corey Dowd was in attendance and updated the Board on current projects within his department. Within that overview, he provided information on: the Gudgel Bride Roadside Safety Test, Engle Street bridge, Prairie Power, Tower North, three new road commissioners, and the resignation of T.J. Stewart as a result of his election as Road Commissioner to Road District #5.

County Sheriff Report/Requests for Board Action

In Sherrif Mark Oller’s absence, Chief Deputy Ben Hollis was in attendance and updated the Board on current departmental activities. The current jail census is at three inmates. Talks have been initiated with the U.S. Marshall’s office again regarding possible housing and transporting of federal prisoners. An incentive for Marshal’s contracting with Menard County is the fact that they would utilize the new video court system that is being installed.

Chief Deputy Hollis provided a brief overview on the committee's search for a new website platform.

County Treasurer's Report/Requests for Board Action

County Treasurer Molly Bettis was in attendance and provided an update on her department's activities which included information regarding the collection of mobile home taxes, prepayment of property taxes, the audit conference call, and county investments. Treasurer Bettis relayed that the Illinois State Treasurer's office had contacted her regarding hosting an I-CASH event in Menard County. It is her intent to attempt to schedule something to be held at the courthouse during property tax collection.

County Clerk's Report/Request for Board Action

County Clerk Martha "Marty" Gum was in attendance and provided an update on her office activities which included statistics on the April Consolidated Election. Gum reported that the election had an 11.57% turnout and that her office is accepting vote by mail ballots until April 15.

States Attorney Report/Request for Board Action

States Attorney Gwen Thomas was in attendance and provided an update on her office activities. It was reported that Susan McDevitt had begun employment on March 31 and that Susan was becoming familiar with all aspects of the State's Attorney's office and Zoning Department.

County Coordinator's Report/Requests for Board Action

Coordinator Dara Worthington was in attendance. She requested that Executive Session minutes from 03/28/2024 and 09/26/2024 be opened while minutes from 09/12/2023, 03/14/2023, 09/10/2019, and 10/08/2019 remain closed. Commissioner Brauer made that motion and Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Worthington also provided the board with an update on the following: the status of the DCEO grant as it relates to the annex work, the treasurer preparing spreadsheets for the different projects which will be taking place and the different funding sources for payment of those projects, annex doors, meeting with Sangamon County Department of Public Health regarding Emergency Preparedness and Chief Huss's assistance with their department, additional signage ordered for Sunny Acres Nursing Home, painting to take place at Sunny Acres, Dan Ortgessen's role with work to be done at the annex, the new Sunny Acres website, IDPH letter, Illinois Department of Historic Preservation approval of courthouse dome work regardless of the fact no state funds will be utilized, and Public Building Study Group recommendations for work to be completed on the annex. Upon

brief discussion, it was noted that the decision is final regarding office locations at the annex.

Chief Deputy Hollis provided a brief review of some proposed projects and their estimated costs for the annex.

Individual Board Members - Report/Requests for Board Action

Chairperson Lott reported that he had spoken with Ben Hart of Heritage Operations Group regarding the letter that had previously been sent to him with new monthly proposed fees. Commissioner Lott requested that this item be placed on the next board agenda.

Other Scheduled Topics

Review and Award of Courthouse Dome Bid – Three bids were received for the cleaning and painting of the courthouse dome. Of the three bids, the low bid was submitted by Mid-Illinois Companies at \$77,996.00. Commissioner Brauer made a motion to accept the low bid of Mid-Illinois Companies and Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Commissioner Cummings made a motion to enter Executive Session for the purpose of litigation at 8:05 PM. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Brauer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 PM. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.