COUNTY OF MENARD )
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STATE OF ILLINOIS )

The Menard County Public Building Study Group (PBSG), an advisory board appointed by the Menard County Board of Commissioners, met on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at the Menard County Courthouse, 102 South Seventh Street, Petersburg. PBSG Members Dan Ortgessen, Joe Hemberger, and Steve Ozella were in attendance. Menard County Commissioner Rich Brauer, Menard County Engineer Corey Dowd, Menard County Sheriff Mark Oller, and Menard County Coordinator Dara Worthington were also in attendance.

PBSG Chair Ozella called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

PBSG Member Ortgessen made a motion to approve minutes from August 5, 2026. PBSG Member Hemberger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There were no citizens for public comment.

Discussion was held in the following areas:

Menard County Highway Department Shed FY27 Proposal –

Engineer Corey Dowd was present with a proposal for a new Highway Department Cold Storage Facility for the new fiscal year. An overview was provided on the problems with the current building being utilized and the rationale for the proposed demolition of the current storage building and replacement building as opposed to the demolition of the salt shed. Discussion ensued regarding size, foundation, electrical, lighting, kits vs. stick build, funding source, prevailing wage, etc. Dowd will put together a proposed plan based upon requested features and get that information to everyone via email.

Menard County Sheriff's Impound Shed FY27 Proposal –

Sheriff Mark Oller was present with some drawings prepared at his request by PBSG Member Ortgessen for the proposed impound shed to possibility be built on the lot located on Seventh and Monroe in Petersburg. Options for the structure were discussed. A rough figure was arrived upon for the structure and Sheriff Oller will look into acquiring a draftsman for the plan so that if board approved, the project can go out for bid.

Menard County Courthouse Projects –

An update was provided as follows:

The State's Attorney has moved into the former Sheriff's office.
Probation will be moving into the former State's Attorney's office the following day.
The Menard County Courthouse courtroom remodel was recommended to be moved to FY28 to allow for proper planning and funding. It was noted that Judge Atterberry should begin conversations with the county board in May or June of 2027 and that work within the full proposal should be prioritized.

Roof Truss Repair –

Coordinator Worthington reported that the final stage of the courthouse truss repair is scheduled to begin after the new fiscal year, which begins December 1, 2026. Architect Joe Petty has alerted Johnco, the materials are on hand, and the job is on their schedule.

Menard County Courthouse Annex Projects –

Sheriff Oller reported that Ann Gorman will be writing a newspaper article addressing the purchase, remodeling, and location of county offices within the building. The public will be invited to stop in. PBSG Member Ozella pointed out that the parking lot on the north side of the building should be addressed in the near future.

Sunny Acres Nursing Home –

Coordinator Worthington reported on the two projects that have been let for bids which are due towards the end of the month. It was noted that an alarm system for the laundry building was discussed with the insurance representative and Bob Haerr.

Other County Property Needs –

The condition of the current impound shed was discussed.

Having no further discussion, PBSG Member Ortgessen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and PBSG Member Hemberger seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dara Worthington