

COUNTY OF MENARD     )  
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STATE OF ILLINOIS     )

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Menard County Courthouse, 102 South Seventh Street, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Troy Cummings, Rich Brauer, and Dalton Whitley were present. A quorum was present. County Clerk Marty Gum, County Coordinator Dara Worthington, County Treasurer Molly Bettis, and States Attorney Gwen Thomas were also present. Chairperson Lott and Commissioner Whitcomb were absent. Acting Chair Cummings 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 April 24, 2025. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Scheduled/Unscheduled Guests**

Dave Bagot and Tim Gleason, pharmacists owning local pharmacies within Menard County, were both present to request that the commissioners sign letters to Senator McClure and Representative Rosenthal regarding Pharmacy Benefit Management reform. It was the consensus of the commissioners to sign and send the requested letters.

Mary Ballard was present, once again, to present her proposal for settlement of the Quick Take/Eminent Domain. Ms. Ballard reiterated what she would like to settle her case indicating that her biggest request was having her property returned to her. Her other requests for settlement were also discussed at length. It was relayed that the first court case had been held the previous week and that the next court case will be held after the next board meeting.

Louis Rogers was in attendance representing EMS Local 4622 for bargaining purposes. It was decided that the union needs to schedule a meeting with Bob Lott and Dalton Whitley to begin the process. Louis Rogers will email the most up to date collective bargaining agreement for comparison.

#### **County Sheriff Report/Requests for Board Action**

Sheriff Oller was in attendance and provided an update on his department's activities. That update included the current jail census with a total of seven inmates being held – six male and one female. One inmate is from Cass County. Sheriff Oller reported that the jail had recently been inspected by the Illinois Department of Corrections. A brief discussion occurred regarding that inspection. It was also reported that plans are progressing on the courthouse annex.

### **County Treasurer's Report/Requests for Board Action**

County Treasurer Molly Bettis was in attendance and provided an update on her department's activities. Bettis reminded the commissioners that mobile home taxes are due Thursday, May 15. It was noted that there are a total of 87 mobile homes within the county. Jacob Spring, auditor from CliftonLarsonAllen was present at the courthouse last week to search for and secure necessary documentation for the audit they are working on.

### **County Highway Report/Requests for Board Action**

Highway Engineer Corey Dowd was in attendance and updated the Board on current projects within his department.

Approval of Low Bid for Section 19 – 05117-00-RR (White's Crossing) – TABLED

Dowd indicated that there were two bidders for the potential project but that the original bid had gone out in 2019 and he needs to perform calculations for the present day. It was reported that a new employee will begin working at the department on June 2.

### **County Clerk's Report/Request for Board Action**

County Clerk Gum was in attendance and provided an update on her office activities. Clerk Gum requested approval for a Liquor License for an event being held at Josie's Nest on May 17. Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve the license and Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **States Attorney Report/Request for Board Action**

States Attorney Gwen Thomas was in attendance and provided an update on her office activities. Thomas reported that there were no jury trials on the docket for May, provided an update on the Eminent Domain legislation to be placed on the omnibus bill for passing by the end of this month, and secured the consensus of the commissioners for Illinois Department of Natural Resources employee Mark Alessi to apply for a Nuisance Animal Removal Permit.

### **County Coordinator's Report/Requests for Board Action**

Coordinator Dara Worthington was in attendance. Worthington reported that the June ICRMT bill has been processed for payment. Worthington requested that Executive Session minutes from October 29, 2022 and October 31, 2024 remain closed while minutes for May 28, 2019 be opened. Commissioner Whitley made a motion for that action to move forward. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Worthington provided updates on the following: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grant update, the bid being prepared by Joe Petty for electrical work at the Courthouse Annex, the status of the FY23 audit, departmental needs at the Annex, securing of contractors for the Annex work, the sewer lagoon bid for Sunny Acres Nursing Home, the Courthouse Annex bid for window replacement, the status of the courthouse truss project, work on the Sunny Acres dining room, the upcoming UCCI meeting, a needed appointment to Central Illinois Economic Development Authority, and the board room table. It was the consensus of the commissioners present that they would seek input from Chairperson Lott and Commissioner Whitcomb regarding the methodology to be used for selecting a contractor for the Annex.

### **Individual Board Members - Report/Requests for Board Action**

Commissioner Whitley reported on a problem with feral cats in Tallula as reported by a village resident. That current situation will be researched by the Coordinator.

A revised date for the Sunny Acres Nursing Home Advisory board meeting was shared.

### **Other Scheduled Topics**

Discussion & Approval of Management Services Agreement with Heritage Operations Group, LLC to be Effective June 1, 2025 – Tabled

**Resolution 10-25** – Reappointment of Terry Cutright to the Menard County Rescue Squad for a Three-Year Term Expiring the Second Monday in December 2027.

Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve this action and Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as **Resolution 10-25**.

### **Executive Session**

Commissioner Whitley made a motion to enter into Executive Session as allowed by 5 ILCS 120/2 (a)(11) & (5). Commissioner Brauer seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 7:17 PM.

### **Adjournment**

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Brauer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 PM. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.