

COUNTY OF MENARD)
) S.S.
STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Thursday, October 30, 2025, at 9:00 AM at the Menard County Courthouse, 102 South Seventh Street, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Ed Whitcomb, Troy Cummings, Rich Brauer, and Dalton Whitley were physically present. A quorum was present. County Clerk Marty Gum, County Coordinator Dara Worthington, State's Attorney Gwen Thomas, and County Treasurer Molly Bettis were also physically present. As Acting Chair for the meeting, Ed Whitcomb called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Brauer made a motion for Commissioner Lott to be allowed to participate in the meeting remotely. Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Lott was present via phone.

Commissioner Whitley moved to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of the Regular Board Minutes and Executive Session Minutes from the October 21, 2025 and the monthly departmental expense reports for September 2025. Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Lott voting remotely.

Scheduled/Unscheduled Guests

Kayla Angeli, Administrator of Sunny Acres Nursing Home, introduced herself to the commissioners. Angeli reported that she had held the position since July.

Steven Hart, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Heritage Operations Group, was present to provide the FY26 budgets for both Sunny Acres Nursing Home and Countryside Estates. Robert Haerr, Senior Vice President of Facilities for Heritage Operations Group was also present to give an overview of the planned capital projects for each facility for the new fiscal year. Discussion ensued.

Scheduled County Elected Officials & Staff

County State's Attorney's Report/Request for Board Action

State's Attorney Gwen Thomas was in attendance and presented her budget plans for FY26.

County Zoning Administrator's Report/Request for Board Action

Zoning Administrator Joe Crowe was in attendance and presented a report on his department. An updated was provided on ENGIE, the Zoning Ordinance, Senate Bill

25, meetings for a Special Use Permit, and an upcoming joint/concurrent meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission for the purpose of discussing revisions to the zoning ordinance. A brief update was provided on the status of RCM.

Supervisor of Assessment's Report/Request of Board Action

Supervisor of Assessments Dawn Kelton was in attendance and presented her proposed FY26 budget and budget line items. Kelton noted that the change finder flyover would occur again in March. It was also reported that a candidate had stepped forward to sit for the Board of Review test and a request to be a testing site has been submitted to the Illinois Department of Revenue.

County Engineer's Report/Request for Board Action

Engineer Dowd was in attendance. Dowd requested approval a Contract with Hampton, Lenzini & Renwick for Completion of Underwater Inspections of Structures 065-3069, 065-3072, 065-3073 and 065-3077. Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve awarding of the contract. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Lott voting remotely.

Dowd provided an overview of his department's activities which included: Segment F of the Athens Blacktop, White's Crossing completion, status updates on Montgomery Bridge, Pump House Bridge, and Hubly Bridge, and bridge inspections.

Circuit Judge's Report/Request for Board Action

The Honorable Michael Atterberry was in attendance and presented his budget plans for FY26.

County EMS/EMA Chief's Report/Request for Board Action

Chief Huss was in attendance and provided an update on his department's activities. Huss reported that they were training on the new billing software and planned to go live on December 1, 2025.

County Sheriff's Report/Request for Board Action

Sheriff Mark Oller, Chief Deputy Ben Hollis, and Administrative Assistant Ann Gorman were in attendance. Sheriff Oller reported that the jail census currently stood at nine inmates. FY26 budget plans were presented and discussed for 001, 002, 012, 000, 026, 029, 054, 077, 058, and 017.

Commissioner Lott exited his remote meeting attendance at 10:50 AM.

County Treasurer's Report/Request for Board Action

County Treasurer Bettis was in attendance and gave a brief overview of her office activities noting in particular that the delinquent tax publication was out.

County Clerk's Report/Request for Board Action

County Clerk Marty Gum was in attendance. Gum reported that candidate filing ends November 3 and that several candidates had already submitted their petitions. Clerk Gym presented her FY26 budget proposals.

County Coordinator's Report/Requests for Board Action

Coordinator Dara Worthington was in attendance. Worthington presented the proposed FY26 budgets for 041, 011, and 040. She reported on the following: filing of the Menard County Cemetery Efficiency Committee Report, the need for an appointment to the Central Illinois Economic Development Authority Board, Animal Control in the City of Petersburg, progress reports for the courthouse annex, courthouse, and Sunny Acres Nursing Home, the need for a new intergovernmental agreement for Animal Control, and membership with the Illinois Association of County Board Members for FY26.

County Coroner/Menard County Fair President's/9-1-1 Reports/Requests for Board Action

Menard County Coroner/Menard County Fair President Ben Hollis was in attendance and presented proposed budgets for FY26 for both the Menard County Coroner and the Menard County Fair.

Circuit Clerk's Report/Request for Board Action

Circuit Clerk Elyse Waibel was in attendance and presented her proposed FY26 office budget.

Individual Board Members - Report/Requests for Board Action

Commissioner Whitley requested a follow up on the Oakford property he had inquired about at a previous meeting.

Acting Chair Whitcomb expressed his appreciation to staff who have worked hard on the proposed RCM project.

Other Scheduled Topics

Award of Menard County Farm Lease

Award of Menard County Farm Lease Bid. Commissioner Whitley made a motion to approve the bid from Greg and Steve Hoke. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Award of Sunny Acres Nursing Home Windows Bid. Commissioner Cummings made a motion to award the bid to the low bidder, Kelly Glass, Inc, with an allowable five percent contingency. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 28-25 – Appointment of 2026 Menard County Grand Jurors and Petit Jurors. Commissioner Cummings made a motion to approve the appointments. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as **Resolution 28-25**.

Discussion of Setting of Elected Officials Salaries. A brief discussion was held regarding the salaries of the commissioners, the impact on the commissioners as it relates to their terms/election, and the timeline for carrying that out.

Heritage Operations Group, LLC Contract Amendment - Tabled

Adjournment

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Brauer moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:18 PM. Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.