

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

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 9:00 AM at the Menard County Courthouse, 102 South Seventh Street, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Ed Whitcomb, Troy Cummings, Rich Brauer, Dalton Whitley, and Rod Riech were physically present. A quorum was present. County Coordinator Dara Worthington, State’s Attorney Gwen Thomas, County Clerk Marty Gum, and County Treasurer Molly Bettis were also physically present.

Commissioner Brauer moved to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of the Regular Board Minutes and the Executive Session Minutes from February 26, 2026, the Special Meeting Minutes for RCM and the Special Meetings Minutes for ENGIE along with the monthly department expense reports from February 2026. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Scheduled/Unscheduled Guests**

There were no scheduled or unscheduled guests.

**Scheduled County Elected Officials & Staff**

**Menard County Zoning Administrator’s Report/Request for Board Action**

Zoning Administrator Joe Crowe was in attendance. He reported on his office activities since the last board meeting. A short discussion occurred regarding vegetation management with the ENGIE solar project, the decommissioning costs related to such a project, and when the permitting process was expected to begin.

Crowe noted that the public hearing scheduled for RCM had been postponed awaiting availability of county legal counsel and that the legal counsel for RCM had been notified of the postponement with assurances given that he would contact his clients.

The following was also reported: permitting should be requested soon for the Pike Creek project crossing the county line from Logan County, work for high-speed fiber optics service has entered the county, and the new office is working well with gratitude expressed for the new office and location.

**Menard County Supervisor of Assessments’ Report/Request for Board Action**

Assessor Dawn Kelton was in attendance and provided a report on her department’s activities. She reported that her new office furniture was in place with the movers scheduled to relocate items that need to be moved on April 6. The Supervisor of Assessment books are scheduled to roll to the Menard County Clerk on March 31. The office is awaiting the Changefinder report to learn of new unpermitted properties. Kelton

reported that her new employee had begun working part-time and noted that they will switch to full-time in July.

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

In Engineer Dowd's absence, Coordinator Worthington provided his written report of departmental activities.

Approval of Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Preliminary Engineering for Section 25-00071-00-PV (Gudgel Avenue). Commissioner Cummings made a motion to approve entering into the agreement and Commissioner Whitley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### **EMS/EMA Chief's Report/Request for Board Action**

Chief Huss indicated that fiscal reports would be made available at the next meeting. Huss provided an overview of possible work to be completed on the building, noting that all the work to be done was for areas that are original to the structure. A general update was provided on other departmental activities.

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

Sheriff Mark Oller was in attendance. Oller reported that the current jail census was at 11 inmates while it was also noted that the census had been at 15 earlier in the week. A report was provided on the annex work relating to landscaping and lettering. The courthouse truss work was discussed with the architect's report provided for the commissioners prior to the start of the meeting.

Discussion was held on a scheduled retirement within the department and the possible movement of an employee from corrections to the deputy following academy training. Oller noted that the number of employees will rise for a few months until the planned retirement takes effect. It was the consensus of the commissioners to move forward with the plan while addressing the collective bargaining agreement with a waiver, as needed.

Sheriff Oller reported on the current in-house training program for the deputies at the annex noting that the training will also be offered outside of the department at a contracted price.

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

Treasurer Molly Bettis was in attendance. Bettis reported on the following: the current audit (FY23) should soon be completed, mobile home collections end on April 15, Cresco funds update and a proposed meeting with surrounding counties, and the ARPA closeout. It was the consensus of the commissioners to close-out the ARPA bank

account and transfer the funds to the General Fund as allowable according to our contracted consultant with Bellwether

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

County Clerk Marty Gum was in attendance. Gum placed a request for a raffle license from the Lake Petersburg Association before the commissioners. Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve the license and Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Gum presented a liquor license from Hamilton's Catering before the commissioners. Commissioner Cummings made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Brauer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A brief overview of the recent primary election was provided with it noted that there was a 29.85% turnout of registered voters.

### **County State's Attorney/Request for Board Action**

State's Attorney Gwen Thomas was in attendance. Thomas provided a bio on the legal counsel recently secured for additional county services. Additionally, a copy of the Letter of Engagement was handed out. Thomas thanked the commissioners for the new office computers.

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

Coordinator Dara Worthington was in attendance. Worthington requested that payment be made to the Sangamon County Department of Public Health for the April Public Health Services. Commissioner Riech made a motion to approve the payment. Commissioner Brauer seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Worthington reported that the second installment of four will be paid to the Regional Office of Education. A request was made for Executive Session minutes from July 25, 2023, December 10, 2024, and June 10, 2025, to remain closed while Executive Session minutes from February 27, 2025 – Set A and August 28, 2025, be opened. Commissioner Whitley made a motion as recommended and Commissioner Riech seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The February 2026 Menard County Animal Control Report by community was provided to the commissioners.

Items also discussed were the ICRMT Annual Meeting & Proxy, the Snedeker Risk Management Client Appreciation Dinner, Azuga vehicle tracking, the FY24 & FY25 audits, the draft FY27 agreement for Public Health Services from Sangamon County, Ameren vegetation management, and the need for a driver for senior transportation.

### **Individual Board of Commissioners' Reports/Requests for Board Action**

Commissioner Cummings gave a report on the recent Sunny Acres Advisory Board meeting he attended. Commissioner Brauer encouraged commissioners to attend the upcoming UCCI Legislative Conference.

### **Other Scheduled Topics**

There were no other topics that were presented to the commissioners.

### **Executive Session**

At 10:20 AM, Commissioner Cummings made a motion to enter Executive Session as allowed by ILCS 120/2 (C)(11) Litigation. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Brauer moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 AM. Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.