

COUNTY OF MENARD)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Thursday, July 30, 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 Clerk Marty Gum and County Coordinator Dara Worthington were physically present. County Treasurer Molly Bettis was absent.

Commissioner Whitley made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of the minutes from July 14, 2026, Regular meeting minutes and Executive Session minutes, along with the June 2026 monthly department expense reports. Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Scheduled/Unscheduled Guests

There were no guests.

Scheduled County Elected Officials & Staff

County Zoning Administrator's Report/Request for Board Action

Zoning Administrator Joe Crowe was physically in attendance.

ENGIE Decommissioning Agreement –

A brief overview was provided as it relates to how the cost of the decommissioning will be handled with it being noted that the agreement costs will be revisited every five years to determine the impact of inflation. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Whitley made a motion to approve the agreement as prepared by Andrew Keyt, our attorney, and Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried with four “ayes” and one “nay”.

Mr. Crowe provided an overview of the mid-year building report for the commissioners. He gave an update on office activities. Included in the discussion was the possibility of combining the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commissions. It was the consensus of the board members that the two committees remain independent of each other and that discussion continue on the appropriate compensation of all volunteers who serve on county committees at the next meeting.

Crowe brought up options for the county to pursue concerning derelict properties. Mr. Crowe will proceed with further exploration on options available to the board.

County Engineer's Report/Request for Board Action

County Engineer Corey Dowd was physically in attendance.

Dowd reviewed his department's ongoing activities which included updates on the status of county bridge projects, oiling, the ENGIE Road Use Agreement, the Pike Creek Traffic Impact Study, and Curtis Blacktop signage.

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

Chief Kolbe Huss was physically in attendance.

Huss presented an overview of his department noting that work had begun on repairs to the office building, the monthly financial report, an increase to the call volume, department signage, and the possibility of billing for refusals.

County Sheriff's Report/Request for Board Action

In Sheriff Oller's absence, Chief Deputy Ben Hollis was present.

Hollis reported that the jail currently held 18 inmates with two of those being Cass County holds. Discussion was held on the topic of flock cameras. Hollis reported on the progress on the county's new website.

County Treasurer's Report/Request for Board Action

In the absence of Treasurer Molly Bettis, Coordinator Worthington provided an update on the treasurer's department as provided by Bettis.

County Clerk's Report/Request for Board Action

County Clerk Marty Gum was physically present.

A short report was provided on voting equipment updates, vote by mail letters to go out, and the availability citizens have to opt out of voting by mail via responding to the letter.

Three liquor licenses were presented to the commissioners for approval for the following dates: September 5, 2026, September 12, 2026, and October 24, 2026. Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve the liquor licenses and Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

State's Attorney Gwen Thomas entered mid-meeting.

Thomas reported that she was preparing for the upcoming jury trials.

County Coordinator's Report/Requests for Board Action

Coordinator Dara Worthington was physically in attendance.

Worthington provided a brief synopsis of the situation with the courthouse truss indicating that the information will go before the Public Building Study Group at their next meeting. The following topics were highlighted for the commissioners: optional IRS business mileage rate, new Heritage agreement, flooring and common area RFPs have been let, and an audit update. The printout on the current status of the requests was provided for the board members.

Individual Board of Commissioners' Reports/Requests for Board Action

Commissioner Brauer remarked on the need for weeding at the different county properties.

Commissioner Whitley provided an overview of the recent Sunny Acres Advisory Board meeting.

Other Scheduled Topics

Resolution 20-26 – Establishing Closing Days for Menard County Courthouse for the Year 2027

Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 22-26 – Appointment of Alexander Wood as Trustee to the Old Salem Chautauqua Park Sanitary Board

Commissioner Whitley made a motion to approve the appointment and Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Commissioner Riech made a motion to enter Executive Session at 10:56 AM as allowed by 5 ILCS 120/2 (C)(11) - Litigation. Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion.

Adjournment

Having no further business to go before the board, Commissioner Brauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:07 AM and Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.