COUNTY OF MENARD)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the Menard County Courthouse, 102 South Seventh Street, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Troy Cummings, Rich Brauer, Dalton Whitley, and Rod Riech were physically present. A quorum was present. County Clerk Marty Gum, State's Attorney Gwen Thomas, County Treasurer Molly Bettis, and County Coordinator Dara Worthington were physically present.

Commissioner Brauer made a motion to allow Commissioner Ed Whitcomb, who was away on business, to participate in the meeting remotely via phone. Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Acting Chair Cummings called the meeting to order. Commissioner Whitley made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of the Regular meeting minutes from the September 8, 2026 meeting and the August 2026 Department Expense Reports. Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Scheduled/Unscheduled Guests

Jacob Janssen, from Snedeker Risk Management was present to discuss the FY27 Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust insurance and HopeTrust renewals. Janssen provided a brief overview of the county's insurance history as it relates to the new offerings of win/hail and excess liability. Upon brief discussion, it was the consensus of the commissioners to retain the standard insurance coverage as contracted for in the past with the 25% downpayment and six additional installments.

Scheduled County Elected Officials & Staff

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

Chief Kolbe Huss was physically present and provided the most recent financials for his department. He briefed the commissioners on the results of having taken the billing in-house.

Chief Huss reviewed bids he had received for new gutters and downspouts for his office building. Upon reporting the bids received, it was the consensus of the board that Huss follow up with Long Run Gutter, who had the low bid.

The FY27 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan was presented to the commissioners. The five-year plan allows the county to receive FEMA funds in the event of a federally declared disaster. Huss reviewed the award and local match, noting that the local match can

also include in-kind service. It was the consensus of the commissioners to move forward with submission of the grant application.

County Zoning Administrator's Report/Request for Board Action

Zoning Administrator Joe Crowe was physically in attendance and provided an overview of contacts made to him from the Village of Greenview regarding a zoning issue. The commissioners agreed with Crowe that this was a matter for Greenview to handle since they oversee their own zoning department.

Crowe shared information he had on video gaming in unincorporated areas of the county noting that the State of Illinois statute was to be followed in this area.

Planning for the FY27 budget was shared along with a succession plan.

County Engineer's Report/Request for Board Action

County Engineer Corey Dowd was physically in attendance.

Dowd reviewed ongoing projects within the department which included: Athens Blacktop, Pumphouse Bridge, Price & Gudgel Bridges, the Greenview Solar project, Pike Creek Wind project, and striping of county roads. Dowd posed questions to the commissioners to better plan for the FY27 budget.

County Sheriff's Report/Request for Board Action

Sheriff Mark Oller was physically in attendance.

Oller reported that census at the jail was at 12 inmates (one female and 11 male) with three of the holds being for Cass County.

Sheriff Oller briefed the commissioners on the recent insurance walkthrough by the IPMG contractor.

New computers for FY27 and the cost associated with those computers was discussed by Oller. Commissioners directed him to budget for the computers, and they would review the cost and see how the budget comes together.

Line-item reimbursements were discussed as it relates to direction provided by the auditors. It was noted that the amount of reimbursement in question should guide whether to proceed with the same practice.

County Treasurer's Report/Request for Board Action

Treasurer Molly Bettis was physically in attendance.

Bettis noted the following to the commissioners: a full-time position for her office had been posted to the county website; 402 parcels remain with unpaid taxes with notices to go out soon, the proposed increase in fees charged to follow the county COLA for county employee wages, the FY27 Menard County Farm budget revenue projection, an overview of the FY26 financial performance by the county, the percent of the audit to be charged to Sunny Acres and Countryside Estates, and presentation of the FY27 911 budget.

County Clerk's Report/Request for Board Action

County Clerk Marty Gum was physically present.

Gum gave statistics on the upcoming election. A liquor license for an event on October 24, 2026, at Josie's Farm was presented to the commissioners. Commissioner Riech made a motion to approve the license and Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

State's Attorney Gwen Thomas was physically present.

An overview of the Fair Act was provided to the commissioners by Thomas.

County Coordinator's Report/Requests for Board Action

Coordinator Dara Worthington was physically in attendance.

The November 2026 monthly invoice for Sangamon County Department of Public Health was placed before the commissioners for payment. Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve payment and Commissioner Riech seconded the payment. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive session minutes from 06/10/2025, 07/25/2023, 02/26/2026, 03/26/2026, 09/10/2026, 10/08/2016, and 12/10/2024 B were presented to the board to remain closed while executive session minutes from 12/10/2024 A and 07/25/2023 were presented to be opened. Commissioner Whitcomb made a motion to approve the recommendation as presented. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Worthington reported on the following: HOPETrust Open Enrollment, departmental fees, credit card usage ordinance update, IMRF and part-time employees, FY24 audit update, FY27 truss work, courtroom remodel update, acceptance of the FY27 Menard County Annual Probation Plan by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, the Illinois Association of County Board Members membership fee for FY27, and recission of staffing violation by IDPH.

Individual Board of Commissioners' Reports/Requests for Board Action

Chairperson Whitcomb reiterated that everyone needed to plan for the FY27 budget to be passed at the November 10, 2026, meeting.

Other Scheduled Topics

Discussion and Approval of Nursing Home Management Agreement with Heritage Operations Group, LLC for a Three-Year Term Expiring November 30, 2029

After discussion of the current contract versus the draft presented as the renewal document, the commissioners directed State's Attorney Thomas to communicate to Heritage staff that the county could not enter into the proposed new agreement and that further negotiation needed to occur.

Resolution 32-26A – Conveyance of County's Interest for Parcel 05-11-400-007

Commissioner Whitley made a motion to approve the resolution as written. Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as **Resolution 32-26A**.

Resolution 33-26 – Reappointment of Kevin Thomas to the North Sangamon Lattimore Drainage District for a Three-Year Term Expiring the First Tuesday in September 2029

Commissioner Riech made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Whitcomb seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as **Resolution 33-26**.

Resolution 34-26 – Menard County, Illinois Property Tax Sales and Tax Sales Methodology - Tabled

Adjournment

Having no further business coming before them, Commissioner Whitcomb made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 PM. Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.