

COUNTY OF MENARD)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 9:00 AM at the Menard County Courthouse, 102 South Seventh Street, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Troy Cummings, Rich Brauer, Dalton Whitley, and Rod Riech were physically present. Commissioner Ed Whitcomb attended remotely. A quorum was present. County Coordinator Dara Worthington, County Clerk Marty Gum, and County Treasurer Molly Bettis were also physically present.

Commissioner Cummings served as Chair. Commissioner Whitley made a motion to allow Commissioner Whitcomb to attend the meeting remotely because of him being away for business. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Riech moved to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of the Regular Board Minutes and the Executive Session Minutes from April 14, 2026. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Whitcomb voting remotely.

Scheduled/Unscheduled Guests

Adam Pulley, Principal with CliftonLarsonAllen, was present to provide a final report on the FY23 audit for Menard County. Plans were made for moving forward with FY24 and FY25 in a timely manner.

Scheduled County Elected Officials & Staff

Zoning Administrator/Request for Board Action

John Redlingshafer, Counsel for Menard County as it relates to RCM Co-op's Special Use Permit Case #26-01SU, recommended that board actions relating to RCM be deferred for an additional week to allow the County and RCM to continue negotiations on special use conditions and a road use agreement. Counsel for RCM had no objection to the deferral, and the plan is for a special County Board meeting to be held in the afternoon or evening of Thursday, May 7.

In follow up to Mr. Redlingshafer's recommendation, Commissioner Brauer made a motion to table additional motions related to the proposed RCM project. Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Whitcomb voting remotely.

Zoning Administrator Crowe was in attendance and provided a brief update on the status of ENGIE.

County Engineer's Report/Request for Board Action

Resolution 10-26 – Appointment of Ivy Ingram-Havrilka as Menard County Road District #2 Clerk

Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve the appointment as proposed while Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Whitcomb voting remotely.

Engineer Dowd provided an update on his department's activities including Athens Blacktop, Montgomery Bridge, Pumphouse Bridge, the proposed Pike Creek Road Use Agreement, and new equipment.

Commissioner Brauer requested possible information on the stoplight in the City of Petersburg and parking on Oakland Avenue next to Jaycee Park.

Supervisor of Assessment's Report/Request for Board Action

Dawn Kelton was in attendance and reported that her office had officially moved to their new location at the Menard County Courthouse Annex and that they are working on the 2026 assessments.

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

Kolbe Huss was in attendance and provided his department's financials through March 2026 along with comparables for the previous two years. Huss noted that calls to date numbered 610, up slightly from the previous year. Huss reported that work will soon begin on the office building, the current year mowing and weed control contracts, and the proposed signage for the building.

County Sheriff's Report/Request for Board Action

Sheriff Mark Oller was in attendance. Oller reported that the current jail census was 12 inmates with two females and ten males and one hold being for Cass County. Oller provided an update on the employee who will soon be starting the academy.

County Treasurer's Report/Request for Board Action

Treasurer Molly Bettis was in attendance. Bettis reported on the various county elected officials' stipends. It was noted that the design of the property tax bills will be different this year due to new requirements per legislation. Bettis reported on the wEdge Program that makes tax bills available on-line as well as possible information to be made available on flyers to be included in the tax bill mailings.

County Clerk's Report/Request for Board Action

County Clerk Marty Gum was in attendance. Gum presented a liquor license for Josie's Nest for an event on May 9. Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve the liquor license and Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Whitcomb voting remotely.

County State's Attorney/Request for Board Action

State's Attorney Gwen Thomas was unable to attend because of her responsibilities in court as State's Attorney.

County Coordinator's Report/Requests for Board Action

Coordinator Dara Worthington was in attendance. Worthington requested that Executive Session minutes from October 21, 2025, and November 8, 2025, be opened. Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve the opening of the noted minutes while Commissioner Whitley seconded. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Whitcomb voting remotely.

Worthington presented a proposal from Menard Animal Protection for pursuit of a grant to purchase and finish out a portable shed to be used as a "Meet and Greet" for animal adoptions. It was the consensus of the commissioners that this be discussed at the next Public Building Study Group.

Updates were provided on the following: becoming a possible battery disposal site, Sunny Acres Nursing signage update, Senior Transportation driver opening, HOPE Trust July Conference, ICRMT Fall Conference, IDPH Sunny Acres Nursing Home complaints and results, UCCI Annual Conference attendance, and possible masonry work to be completed at Sunny Acres.

Individual Board of Commissioners' Reports/Requests for Board Action

Commissioner Whitley reported that Heritage would be contacting the county about health insurance rates.

Commissioner Cummings reported on the vacancies at Countryside Estates and possible landscaping plans needed for Sunny Acres. A brief discussion occurred regarding possibly entering into an agreement for project management services for renovations to be completed at Sunny Acres.

Other Scheduled Topics

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

Executive Session

There was no need for Executive Session.

Adjournment

Having no further business to go before the board, Commissioner Brauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 AM and Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Whitcomb voting remotely.

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