

COUNTY OF MENARD)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the Menard County Courthouse, 102 South Seventh Street, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Ed Whitcomb, Troy Cummings, 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 Cummings made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of the Regular meeting minutes from the August 27, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Scheduled/Unscheduled Guests

Robert Haerr, Senior Vice President of Facilities for Heritage Operations Group, was present to report the results of the two bid openings. Mr. Haerr reported that there were two bids received for flooring at Sunny Acres Nursing Home and one bid for the common area renovation. Upon discussion, it was determined that the flooring be put out to bid again and that the renovation project be broken down into two different projects and re-bid. Both bids were tabled with new bids to be taken first to the Public Building Study Group for review.

Scheduled County Elected Officials & Staff

County Engineer's Report/Request for Board Action

County Engineer Corey Dowd was physically in attendance.

Approval of Contract with WHKS, Inc. for Hydraulic Analysis Review for the Pike Creek Wind Farm

Commissioner Whitley made a motion to approve the contract which was noted as being 100% reimbursable. Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Contract with Hutchinson Engineering for Transportation Impact Analysis Review for the Menard 1 Solar Project.

Commissioner Riech made a motion to approve the contract, which again, was noted as being 100% reimbursable, and Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Engineer Dowd provided an update on departmental projects. Dowd also provide the commissioners with a rough financial report on the Athens Blacktops projects A – F.

Resolution 23-26 – Requesting Consent for the Reappointment of the Incumbent as County Engineer

County Sheriff's Report/Request for Board Action

Sheriff Mark Oller was physically in attendance.

Oller reported that census at the jail was at nine inmates with two of the holds being for Cass County.

County Treasurer's Report/Request for Board Action

Treasurer Molly Bettis was physically in attendance.

Bettis, along with County Clerk Marty Gum, provided the commissioners with an overview of the current method being utilized for the tax sales versus the proposed method to be used if it's outsourced. It was noted that a resolution will need to be passed to adopt the new method, the savings as a result of the new method and the fact that mobile home tax sales will remain with the county.

County Clerk's Report/Request for Board Action

County Clerk Marty Gum was physically present.

Gum gave an update on the public's response to the Vote by Mail mailing her office staff had done.

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

State's Attorney Gwen Thomas was physically present.

Thomas reported that her office would soon be moving within the courthouse.

County Coordinator's Report/Requests for Board Action

Coordinator Dara Worthington was physically in attendance.

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

Updates were provided on the employee flu clinic, the Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$16,141.92 received, the IIIB Transportation for Menard County Senior Transportation grant received in the amount of \$14,496.00, the FY24 audit update, the scheduled insurance walkthrough, updating of the animal control ordinance, and possible scheduling of a board meeting dedicated to the FY27 budget.

Individual Board of Commissioners' Reports/Requests for Board Action

Commissioner Whitley discussed the budgeting for volunteer committee members and the animal control ordinance update. Whitley also requested an accounting of the costs associated with renovating the apartment recently vacated at Countryside Estates.

Commissioner Cummings requested an update on status Beacon maps as it relates to transparency of information on property owners.

Other Scheduled Topics

Approval of Menard County Courthouse Truss Project Change

A brief overview was provided on the recent meeting with the engineer, Jeff Bane, noting that it was the consensus of the two Public Building Study Group members present to proceed with the work, which was noted as being the last jacking. Upon further discussion, Commissioner Cummings made a motion to proceed with the work and Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of FY27/28 Intergovernmental Agreement with Sangamon County Department of Public Health

State's Attorney Thomas reviewed the changes made to the new agreement which related to the Midwest CPI impacting the cost. Commissioner Whitley made a motion to approve the agreement as noted and Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Award of Bid for Sunny Acres Nursing Home Common Area – Tabled

Award of Bid for Sunny Acres Nursing Home Flooring – Tabled

Resolution 32-26 – Reappointment of David Evers to the Grove Creek Drainage District for a Three-Year Term Expiring the First Tuesday in September 2029

Commissioner Cummings made a motion to approve the appointment and Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as **Resolution 32-26**.

Resolution 33-26 – Menard County Fair, Inc. Lease Extension - Tabled

Review and Discussion of Agreement with Heritage Operations Group, LLC

State's Attorney Thomas provided a brief overview of the changes noted between the new proposed agreement and the current agreement in place. Discussion ensued.

Approval of Compensation of Various County Board Appointed Volunteers

It was the consensus of the commissioners that information on the proposed rates for the volunteers be shared with the Emergency Telephone Systems Board and Sunny Acres to allow for possible budgeting if they chose to follow suit. Commissioner Whitley made a motion to approve the compensation as noted and Commissioner Cummings seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Having no further business coming before them, Commissioner Cummings made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM. Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.