

COUNTY OF MENARD)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Menard County Courthouse, 102 South Seventh Street, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Ed Whitcomb, Troy Cummings, Rich Brauer, and Dalton Whitley were physically present. A quorum was present. County Clerk Marty Gum, County Coordinator Dara Worthington, State's Attorney Gwen Thomas, and County Treasurer Molly Bettis were also present. As Acting Chair for the meeting, Ed Whitcomb called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Brauer made a motion for Commissioner Lott to be allowed to participate in the meeting remotely. Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Lott was present by phone.

Commissioner Cummings moved to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of the Regular Board Minutes and Executive Session Minutes from the September 9, 2025, and Regular Board Minutes from the Special Meeting on October 10, 2025 along with the monthly departmental expense reports for August 2025. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Scheduled/Unscheduled Guests

Dave Kunken, CEO of RCM Co-op
Doug Penrod, Board President of RCM
Craig Coil, The Development Consortium

CEO Dave Kunken provided a lengthy overview along with a PowerPoint presentation of plans for building a grain terminal on farm ground recently purchased within Menard County. As part of the expansion plan, a presentation was made by Craig Coil on Enterprise Zones and the various features of those zones to both businesses and taxing bodies. Co-op President provide an overview and input on the proposed project as well. Discussion ensued with the commissioners expressing the county's support for agriculture as outlined by the Comprehensive Plan and overall economic growth.

Harry Schirding provided words of support for this project.

A motion was made by Commissioner Brauer to table the topic for further discussion and consideration. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The guests exited the meeting upon conclusion of their portion of the meeting.

County Engineer's Report/Request for Board Action

Engineer Dowd was in attendance and provided an overview of his department's activities which included: ribbon cutting for the Sangamon Valley Trail, possible November letting for Segment F of Athens Blacktop, the opening of White's Crossing, and bridge information updates and inspections.

County Sheriff's Report/Request for Board Action

Sheriff Mark Oller was in attendance and reported that the current jail census included seven males.

County Treasurer's Report/Request for Board Action

County Treasurer Bettis was in attendance and gave a brief overview of her office activities. Bettis reported that the second distribution had been made and that delinquent notices had been mailed. The tax sale will be held on November 25 at 1:00 PM.

County Clerk's Report/Request for Board Action

County Clerk Marty Gum was in attendance and requested approval of a liquor license for Homestead on October 25. Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve the license and Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Gum reported that October 27 is the first day for a candidate to file for election.

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

State's Attorney Gwen Thomas was in attendance and reported there will be a November jury call and that a Grand Jury may be utilized.

County Coordinator's Report/Requests for Board Action

Coordinator Dara Worthington was in attendance. The November 2025 monthly payment to Sangamon County Department of Public Health was presented for payment. Commissioner Cummings made a motion to proceed with payment. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Worthington presented Executive Session minutes from 09/10/2025 and 09/12/2023 for opening and for minutes from 03/14/2023, 09/10/2019 and 10/08/2019 to remain closed. Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve the recommendation, and Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Topics presented included: the ICRMT payment schedule for FY26, approval of the FY26 Annual Probation Plan by the Administrative Office of the Courts, the upcoming farm bid, IDPH communications, progress reports on work within the courthouse, annex, and nursing home, recommendation for departmental fees to increase at the same rate as annual wage increases, Sangamon Valley Signs projects, records disposal, litigation against county elected officials within the state, and a pause to planned future projects.

Worthington provided information on bids submitted on installation of the new finial for the courthouse dome. It was the consensus of the commissioners to move forward with the low bid submitted by Johnco.

Sheriff Oller provided a brief update on plans for the courthouse windows installation, painting of the east and west entrances and HVAC work being done within the courthouse.

Chief Deputy was present to give an overview of the IT needs for the county as a result of relocating offices within the courthouse and to the courthouse annex. The proposed equipment and work to be done were reviewed and approved.

Individual Board Members - Report/Requests for Board Action

Commissioner Whitley made an inquiry to Zoning Administrator Crowe about a problematic property within Oakford.

Acting Chair Whitcomb expressed his appreciation to staff who have worked hard on the proposed RCM project.

Other Scheduled Topics

Approval of Menard County EMS Local 4622 Collective Bargaining Agreement
Commissioner Whitley made a motion to approval the final draft of the collective bargaining agreement. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 26-25 – Reappointment of JD Steward to the Menard County Board of Health for a Three-Year Term Expiring May 31, 2028. Commissioner Cummings made a motion to approve the reappointment. Commissioner Whitley seconded. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as Resolution 26-25.

Resolution 27-25 – Establishing Closing Days for the Menard County Courthouse for 2026. Commissioner Cummings made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

Discussion of Elected Officials Salaries – Tabled

Approval of Menard County Courthouse Truss- Phase Two – Upon review and discussion of the proposal and upon recommendation of the Public Building Study Group, Commissioner Whitley made a motion to move forward with Phase II of the project. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

Commissioner Cummings made a motion to enter Executive Session as allowed by (5 ILCS 120/2)(C)(1) Employee Compensation and (2) Collective Bargaining. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously at 8:30 PM.

Adjournment

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Cummings moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 PM. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.