

COUNTY OF MENARD     )  
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STATE OF ILLINOIS     )

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at 9:00 AM 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, and County Treasurer Molly Bettis were also physically present. Commissioner Bob Lott was absent. Acting Chair for the meeting, Ed Whitcomb called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Cummings moved to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of the Regular Board Minutes from November 11, 2025 and the October 2025 monthly department expense reports. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Scheduled/Unscheduled Guests**

Karen Erchinger from Menard County Trails and Greenways was in attendance to make a presentation of a print of the Grist Mill on the Sangamon River at New Salem by Etta Ackerman. The Menard County Board of Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Ms. Erchinger and relayed that the print would be hung in the courthouse.

#### **Scheduled County Elected Officials & Staff**

#### **Circuit Clerk's Report/Request for Board Action**

Circuit Clerk Elyse Waibel was in attendance requesting an adjustment to her salary to that of the level of the newest elected official. Ms. Waibel provided an overview of situations in other counties where amendments have been made to the salary ordinances of elected officials and pointed out that stipends received from the State of Illinois should not be considered in determining salaries. The commissioners asked Ms. Waibel to consult with the State's Attorney and return to them with that requested information.

#### **County Zoning Administrator's Report/Request for Board Action**

Zoning Administrator Joe Crowe was in attendance. Mr. Crowe provided an overview of his department's ongoing activities including information on the upcoming public meeting regarding ENGIE, the new Menard County Zoning Ordinance, the recent Central Illinois Economic Development Authority meeting he attended, and RCM.

### **County Supervisor of Assessment's Report/Request for Board Action**

Supervisor of Assessments Dawn Kelton was in attendance and reported on the yearly field work, upcoming notices to be mailed, and the high equalization factors as a result of county real estate sales.

### **County Engineer's Report/Request for Board Action**

Engineer Dowd was in attendance. Dowd provided a brief overview of his department's activities.

### **County Sheriff's Report/Request for Board Action**

Sheriff Oller was in attendance and reported the current jail census being at four males and one female. Oller provided a quick update on projects with both the annex and courthouse.

### **County Treasurer's Report/Request for Board Action**

Treasurer Molly Bettis was in attendance reporting that the tax sale was being held that day with that sale consisting of 102 delinquent parcels. Bettis also provided an update on information learned at her recent county treasurer's conference and reported that the last of the requested information will be sent to the auditors this week.

### **County Clerk's Report/Request for Board Action**

County Clerk Gum was in attendance and reported on election information she had learned at her recent county clerk's conference. Gum reported that she will work on the county levies for the next meeting but that the commissioners should research seeking another firm to provide that service.

Gum presented four annual liquor licenses for review and approval. Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve the four noted licenses and Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **County Coordinator's Report/Requests for Board Action**

Coordinator Dara Worthington was in attendance. She provided a brief update on the following: FY26 payments for ICRMT and ROE, the amendment to the Heritage Operations Group agreement, the courthouse windows and finial, and a GATA update.

Worthington presented a request for matching funds from the county for a Farm to School Culinary grant from the Extension. It was the consensus of the commissioners to table the request until the following year due to lack of information and poor timing.

## **Individual Board of Commissioners' Reports/Requests for Board Action**

Commissioner Cummings complimented Treasurer Molly Bettis for the good job done on the FY26 budget.

## **Other Scheduled Topics**

**Ordinance 33-25** – Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Adoption – December 1, 2025 – November 30, 2026

Commissioner Cummings made a motion to adopt the proposed budget while Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as Ordinance 33-25.

**Resolution 34-25** – Repeal of Resolution 13-98 Adopting Comprehensive Amendment to the Zoning Code of Menard County and Adopting an Updated Comprehensive Amendment to the Zoning Code of Menard County

Commissioner Brauer made a motion to repeal the noted resolution and adopt the new updated Comprehensive Amendment to the Zoning Code of Menard County as presented. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as Resolution 34-25.

Setting New Rates for Sunny Acres Nursing Home and Countryside Estates – Effective 12/01/2025 for New Residents and 01/01/2026 for Current Residents

Commissioner Cummings made a motion to approve the rates as presented and Commissioners Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Resolution 35-25** – Participation in Service Program of Office of State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor

Commissioner Whitley made a motion to approve such participation. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as Resolution 35-25.

**Resolution 36-25** – Reappointment of Ben Hollis, David King, Mike Chandler, Jason Huffman, Mike Burg, and Neil Starkey to the ETSB for Three-Year Terms Expiring December 1, 2028

Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approved the noted appointments and Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as Resolution 36-25.

Approval to Enter into Consulting Agreement with Torricelli Lobby and Consulting –  
Tabled

Award of Bid for Sunny Acres Nursing Home Walk-In Freezer

Four bids were received for the outlined freezer with the low bid coming from AirMasters. Commissioner Brauer made a motion to award the contract to the low bidder, AirMasters. Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Executive Session**

Commissioner Whitley made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 10:29 AM for the purpose of discussing litigation as allowed by ILCS 120/2(c)(11). Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Whitley moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 AM. Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.