

Upon conclusion of lengthy discussion, Zoning Administrator Joe Crowe presented his recommendation for consideration of the Special Use Permit to be returned to the Zoning Board of Appeals with special conditions to be further deliberated.

Commissioner Whitley made a motion to return Special Use Permit 26-01 to the Menard County Zoning Board of Appeals for further consideration. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Scheduled County Elected Officials & Staff

County Engineer's Report/Request for Board Action

Engineer Dowd was in attendance and provided an overview of his department's ongoing activities which included information on Price and Gudgeon bridges, equipment maintenance, progress with the Brown and Pinhook bridge state application, the Ameren gas substation, the Pike Creek Road Use Agreement, and updates on the new broom and truck. Dowd expressed his appreciation of the good working relationship Menard County has with the Cass County Highway Department.

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

Chief Huss was in attendance and provided the commissioners with a January Income Statement reflecting the income for the first calendar month of 2026 with in-house billing in comparison to that same month for 2025 and 2024. Huss reported that the transition has gone well.

Approval to Enter into One-Year Cardiac Monitor Preventative Maintenance Agreement

Chief Huss explained the request to the commissioners. Upon completion of that discussion, Commissioner Cummings made a motion to approve entering into the one-year agreement. Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

County Sheriff's Report/Request for Board Action

Sheriff Oller was in attendance and reported the current jail census being at four male inmates and one female inmate with one of the male inmates being housed for Cass County. Oller gave a brief overview of work being completed on the courthouse and annex.

Commissioner Whitley thanked the Sheriff's office for their work on a case of recovering personal property.

County Treasurer's Report/Request for Board Action

Treasurer Molly Bettis was in attendance. Bettis presented a progress report on the FY23 audit noting that the auditors should be moving into the next year after the audit passes through a review team and an external review team. CLA indicated that the next audit will start in a couple of months and be more streamlined.

County Clerk's Report/Request for Board Action

County Clerk Gum was in attendance. Clerk Gum reported on the election noting that Early Voting started after a delay and that office staff were working on sending out Vote by Mail ballots.

County State's Attorney/Request for Board Action

State's Attorney Gwen Thomas was in attendance. A presentation was made on quotes for two new office desktop computers. It was the consensus of the board to move forward with the purchases.

A brief update was provided on communication received from Greg Andrews regarding the proposed VAC and the possibilities within delivering those services to veterans.

Ms. Thomas informed the commissioners that her office was faced with a number of issues which were civil in nature resulting in her resources being stretched thin. Thomas recommended consideration be given to enlisting the services of a special prosecutor for these issues. An explanation was provided on how an agreement for such services would work. It was the consensus of the commissioner to proceed with securing representation.

County Coordinator's Report/Requests for Board Action

Coordinator Dara Worthington was in attendance. Worthington presented the March 2026 invoice for the provision of Public Health Services for board approval. Commissioner Cummings made a motion to approve payment. Commissioner Brauer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session minutes from January 30, 2025, July 31, 2025, and June 27, 2024, were presented to the commissioners with the recommendation they remain closed while minutes from July 9, 2024, were recommended to be opened. Commissioner Whitley made a motion for such action as recommended. Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A brief overview was provided on the following: the county's new website, IDPH Survey, workers' compensation audit progress, Menard County Senior Transportation numbers, the January Animal Control Community reports, the 2026 Menard County Board of

Commissioner Oversight Committee appointments, and the upcoming spring electronics recycling event.

County Coroner's Report/Request for Board Action

County Coroner Ben Hollis was in attendance. Hollis reported that the McLean County Coroners' office had initiated a new requirement that the Menard County enter into a contract for their services. Hollis will have the State's Attorney review the contract before bringing it before the board for approval.

Individual Board of Commissioners' Reports/Requests for Board Action

Commissioner Brauer provided an update on the Menard County Board of Health meeting he had attended.

Commissioner Whitley reported on the recent 911 meeting as it related to the county's radio survey.

Commissioner Whitcomb thanked Zoning Administrator Joe Crowe, County Engineer Corey Dowd, State's Attorney Gwen Thomas, and County Coordinator Dara Worthington for their extra time and effort put forth on behalf of the county.

Other Scheduled Topics

Ordinance 07-26 – Setting of Elected Officials' Salaries – Menard County Clerk & Recorder, Menard County Treasurer and Menard County Circuit Clerk Effective December 1, 2025

It was noted that this ordinance amends the previous two ordinances affecting the noted salaries and that new ordinances will be presented later in the spring. Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve the amendment to the ordinances and Commissioner Whitley seconded. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as Ordinance 07-26.

Resolution 08-26 – Reappointment of Steve Smith to the Tallula Community Fire Protection District for a Three-Year Term Expiring the First Monday in May 2029

Commissioner Cummings made a motion to approve the resolution as presented and Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as Resolution 08-26.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Adjournment

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Brauer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 PM. Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.