

COUNTY OF MENARD)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the Menard County Courthouse, 102 South Seventh Street, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Troy Cummings, Rich Brauer, Dalton Whitley, and Rod Riech were physically present. A quorum was present. County Clerk Marty Gum, State's Attorney Gwen Thomas, and County Coordinator Dara Worthington were physically present. County Board Chair Ed Whitcomb and Treasurer Molly Bettis were absent. In Chairperson Whitcomb's absence, Vice Chairperson, Commissioner Cummings served as Acting Chair.

Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of the minutes from July 30, 2026, Regular meeting minutes and Executive Session minutes. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Scheduled/Unscheduled Guests

Rick Snyder, Mayor of Petersburg, was present to address the board regarding the Menard County Animal Control Ordinance relating to vicious dogs. He is proposing a new intergovernmental agreement with the county that addresses the issue. Snyder noted that he had met with Terry O'Brien, DVM, Administrator of Menard County Animal Control to draft the proposed agreement. State's Attorney Gwen Thomas indicated that the animal control ordinance was in need of updating and that such an update should be the first course of action followed by meeting with the mayors and village board presidents of the different communities service to compile a new intergovernmental agreement for the provision of animal control services that is universal for all bodies. Chairperson Ed Whitcomb was recommended to work with Dr. O'Brien on the project. The final draft can then go before the commissioners for review.

Mayor Snyder requested input from the commissioners on the Petersburg stoplight.

Additionally, the Mayor inquired about future collaboration regarding waiver of fees for services.

Jacob Janssen with Snedeker Risk Management presented the FY27 insurance renewal package for completion and return. Janssen reported that FY27 health insurance rates should be voted upon by the executive board at their August 20 meeting. An invitation was presented to those present from the county to the Snedeker Fall Conference.

Scheduled County Elected Officials & Staff

County Engineer's Report/Request for Board Action

County Engineer Corey Dowd was physically in attendance.

Dowd reviewed his department's ongoing activities which included updates on the following: completion of oiling and chipping of county roads for the season, status of county bridge projects, the ENGIE Road Use Agreement, the Pike Creek Traffic Impact Study, and the progress with Athens Blacktop.

County Sheriff's Report/Request for Board Action

Sheriff Mark Oller was physically in attendance.

Sheriff Oller reported the current jail census at 12 males and one female inmate with two of the males being holds for Cass County and one male being held by Sangamon County.

County Treasurer's Report/Request for Board Action

In the absence of Treasurer Molly Bettis, Coordinator Worthington provided an update on the treasurer's department as provided by Bettis.

An audit update from CliftonLarsonAllen was shared with the commissioners.

County Clerk's Report/Request for Board Action

County Clerk Marty Gum was physically present.

Two liquor licenses were presented for approval for the following dates: August 29 and September 12. Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve both licenses and Commissioner Riech seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

County Clerk Gum gave a brief highlight of the information provided to and received from Bellwether relating to tax levies. Commissioners Whitley and Riech expressed interest in sitting in on a meeting with Bellwether to go over the county strategies for the upcoming year. Both Commissioners Cummings and Whitcomb should also plan to participate. Coordinator Worthington will work on scheduling the meeting.

Gum provided an update on the Vote By Mail letters that would be going out to voters.

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

State's Attorney Gwen Thomas was physically present.

Thomas discussed the current staffing in her office indicating that she now had two full-time employees.

County Coordinator's Report/Requests for Board Action

Coordinator Dara Worthington was physically in attendance.

The September 2026 payment voucher to Sangamon County Department of Public Health was presented for approval. Commissioner Whitley made a motion to approve payment and Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Worthington noted that the final payment for the current fiscal year would be made to the Regional Office of Education.

Executive session minutes for January 30, 2025, July 31, 2025, and June 27, 2024 were up for review. Commissioner Riech made a motion for the minutes to remain closed, as advised, and Commissioner Whitley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

An update was provided on the Public Building Study Group meeting, technical assistance from our insurance company, the FY27 budget as it relates to the Midwest CPI and possible raises, and IDPH survey results.

Individual Board of Commissioners' Reports/Requests for Board Action

Acting Chair Cummings reported on the renovations and related costs taking place at Sunny Acres Nursing Home.

Commissioner Whitley discussed the IT needs of the State's Attorney's office due to new staff. It was the consensus of the board that Thomas proceed with ordering a new computer in the current fiscal year and explore the options for additional storage for video footage.

Other Scheduled Topics

Resolution 23-26 – Menard County Fair Lease Extension - Tabled

Resolution 24-26 – Conveyance of County's Interest for Parcel 17-01-137-004 - Tabled

Discussion and Approval of Compensation for Board Appointed County Committee Members

After brief discussion, it was determined that this item should be further discussed at the next meeting.

Executive Session

Commissioner Brauer made a motion to enter Executive Session at 7:25 PM as allowed by 5 ILCS 120/2 (C)(11) - Litigation. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Having no further business to go before the board, Commissioner Brauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 PM and Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.