

Montgomery County Board Minutes **For Tuesday, June 9, 2026 – 5:30 PM**

The following are minutes of a regular meeting of the Montgomery County Board held at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse in Hillsboro, Illinois, on Tuesday, June 9, 2026. The meeting was called to order by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson at 5:30 p.m.

Roll call was taken – 13 members present, 1 member absent.

Members Present: Russell Beason, Connie Beck, Rob Corso, Chris Daniels, Doug Donaldson, Keith Hancock, Mark Hughes, Jeremy Jones, Ethan Murzynski, Chad Ruppert, Roy Schieferdecker (took office at 5:33 p.m.), Patty Whitworth, Evan Young

Member Absent: Cody Gudgel

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Chairman Doug Donaldson.

Appointment of County Board members: Motion by Donaldson and second by Young to appoint Roy Schieferdecker to fill the vacancy in County Board District 7. All in favor, motion carried. The Oath of Office was administered by County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser.

Mileage and Per Diem Approval: Claims for mileage and per diem were read by County Clerk Leitheiser. Motion by Daniels and second by Jones to approve the mileage and per diem.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Corso, Daniels, Donaldson, Hancock, Hughes, Jones, Murzynski, Ruppert, Schieferdecker, Whitworth, Young. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of Previous County Board Meeting: Motion by Jones and second by Hughes to approve the minutes of the previous regular County Board meeting held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026. All in favor, motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Animal Control Report** – Tricia Papin was present for questions.
2. **Circuit Clerk's Report** – Daniel Robbins was present for questions and added Deputy Circuit Clerk Selena Brazel retired on June 1, 2026, after 19 years with the county.
3. **Coroner's Report** – Randy Leetham was not present.
4. **County Clerk and Recorder's Report** – Sandy Leitheiser was present for questions and reminded the board they will be commissioning Election Judges next month.
5. **Enterprise Zone Report** – Mike Plunkett was present for questions.
6. **EMA & EPA Reports** – Dan Hough was present for questions.
7. **Health Department Report** – Hugh Satterlee was present for questions.
8. **Highway Department Report** – Cody Greenwood was present for questions.
9. **Maintenance Superintendent Report** – Phil Ernst was present for questions.
10. **Probation Office Report** – Bane Ulrici was present for questions and thanked the County Board for their investment in the new specialty court facility, then thanked the Maintenance Department for their work on the building.
11. **Public Defender's Report** – Erin Mattson was not present.
12. **ROE – Monthly, Quarterly & Annual Reports** — Julie Wollerman was not present.
13. **Sheriff's Report** – Tyson Holshouser was not present.
14. **SOA Report** – Tysha Mullen was not present.
15. **State's Attorney Report** – Brian Shaw was not present.

16. Treasurer's Report – Nikki Lohman was present for questions and added property tax bills are in the mail.

17. VAC Report – Cassandra Hampton was not present.

APPROVAL OF ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by Hughes and second by Hancock to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

LIAISON REPORTS:

- **CEFS Board** — Beason reminded County Board members they would be asked to replace Shelby County with Effingham County as CIPT grant agent later in the meeting.
- **708 Board** – Murzynski reported the board met on Monday, June 8, 2026. The funding application period is now open.
- **ETSB / 911 Board** – No report.
- **Health Department** — Whitworth reported the board will meet in August to finalize budget requests.
- **IL Association of County Officials** — Hancock had nothing to report.
- **MCEDC** — Daniels said reports are in the board packets and were e-mailed.
- **Senior Citizens Board** — Daniels reported the last meeting was cancelled.
- **UCCI** – Corso reported the organization meets in Galena in July.
- **U of I** – Ruppert reported 4-H shows are coming up.
- **WCDC** – Jones reported the organization has been discussing budget reductions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Dan Mulch thanked the County Board for last month's Resolution Establishing A County-Wide Code of Conduct For Land Agents And Energy Project Representatives, noting that according to Pattern's 36-page lease agreement, leases must be recorded, yet none have been recorded since March 25, 2026. He said the map posted online by *Stop the Shoals* has had 60,000 views and stated that feedback from 90% of those who have responded are not interested in wind energy. He also said the wind project currently under construction in Macoupin County is 200MW whereas the proposed Pattern project in Montgomery County is 500MW, so our county could be faced with a much larger project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COORDINATING COMMITTEE: Given by County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson:

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Donaldson stated the committee reviewed Director Curt Watkins' Montgomery County Information Services Growth Report describing workload changes since 2020. Report recommendations, which include adding a qualified tech professional, were referred to the Finance & Budget Committee.
2. **EMA/EPA/911 Report Update/Approval:** **Motion by Donaldson and second by Jones to approve the American Environmental Grant Agreement. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 23, page 285).**
3. **IEPA Delegation IGA Update/Approval:** Donaldson said the County Board considered a new five-year delegation agreement with the IEPA which calls for annual state funding of \$75,726.08 beginning July 1, 2026. **Motion by Donaldson and second by**

Whitworth to approve the IEPA Delegation Intergovernmental Agreement. All in favor, motion carried.

4. **Rescind 2/10/26 CIPT Ordinance & IGA with Shelby County Update/Approval:** Motion by Donaldson and second by Ruppert to rescind the February 10, 2026, CIPT Ordinance with Shelby County. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Donaldson and second by Hughes to rescind the February 10, 2026, CIPT Intergovernmental Agreement with Shelby County. All in favor, motion carried.
5. **Recommend CIPT Ordinance & IGA with Effingham County Update/Approval:** Motion by Donaldson and second by Beason to approve the CIPT Ordinance with Effingham County. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Donaldson and second by Beck to approve the CIPT Intergovernmental Agreement with Effingham County. All in favor, motion carried. (For copies, see Resolution Book 23, pages 286-288).
6. **Committee & Liaison Assignments Update/Approval:** Motion by Donaldson and second by Jones to approve the amended committee & liaison assignments. Majority in favor, motion carried (Donaldson and Young voted against). (For copy, see Resolution Book 23, page 289).

DEVELOPMENT & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Chad Ruppert:

1. **MCEDC Update/Approval:** Ruppert reviewed the monthly MCEDC report describing meetings attended and program of work progress. He said Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath continues to work on a Strong Communities Grant, cell phone services, and, at the request of committee member Jeremy Jones, she will offer assistance to Waggoner promoting the Green Diamond Bike Trail. The corporation's FY2027 budget will be on next month's committee agenda.
2. **Animal Control Update/Approval:** The monthly report noted 12 dogs and 8 cats at the Animal Control facility, and Ruppert added DCEO grant work at the facility is complete.
3. **Heyl Royster Agreement for Wind & Solar Ordinance Review Update/Approval:** Ruppert stated the committee reviewed a proposed agreement with Heyl Royster. The proposed agreement provides services at an hourly rate ranging from \$200 to \$400 with no retainer required. Keyt has already furnished the county with draft model solar and wind ordinances based on the most recent legislation. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Murzynski to approve the Engagement Agreement with Heyl Royster. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **Small Biz Grant Update/Approval:** Ruppert said the committee will review applications for supplemental awards next month.
5. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Ruppert reported the first round of this grant will be complete when the supplemental Small Biz Grants have been awarded. Round 2 is two-thirds complete, and the Round 3 grant agreement is anticipated any day.
6. **The Shoals Renewables Update/Approval:** Ruppert noted according to the new county Resolution, contact information for land agents should have been filed within 30 days but has not been received to date. He said he is not satisfied with a recent statement he received from Pattern about the "Do Not Contact" list requirement **(For copy, see Resolution Book 23, pages 290-291)** and after meeting with the Pattern representatives

two weeks ago, he advised not meeting with them by oneself, since he felt like it was a court deposition. Ruppert stated he is disappointed in Pattern Energy to date because their words do not equal their actions.

7. **Elm Lawn Solar Update/Approval:** Ruppert stated Litchfield has decided to exercise its Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (EJT) authority over the project, so the public hearing scheduled for May 27, 2026, was subsequently cancelled. Assistant State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti attended the meeting virtually to say he has talked to legal representation for both Elm Lawn and the City of Litchfield and it is the county's position that Litchfield has the authority of this solar farm project.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Mark Hughes:

1. **Maintenance Report Update/Approval:** Hughes reported on the lengthy process the maintenance crew undertook to clear the sewer pipes at the Montgomery County Jail. After removing the blockage, it was discovered it had been caused by both mattress stuffing and rags being forced down the pipe.
2. **Historic Courthouse South Porch Lighting Update/Approval:** Hughes said the committee is exploring options to replace the lighting on the south porch of the Historic Courthouse and expects to have an estimate next month.
3. **Otis Elevator Surcharge Update/Approval:** Hughes stated Otis Elevator billed the county for a fuel and logistics surcharge totaling \$650. After reviewing the contract, Otis can implement a fuel and logistics surcharge according to the contract the county signed with them. Hughes said the committee will not recommend paying the bill until further information is acquired.
4. **127 N. Main Update/Approval:** Hughes reported two 36-inch ADA doors have been installed, and sewer work is anticipated to be complete within two weeks.

ROADS & BRIDGES COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairman Ethan Murzynski:

1. **Resolution 2026-07 appropriating funds for 50/50 culvert replacement on E. 17th Rd., Irving Township Update/Approval:** Murzynski presented a resolution and map for a 50/50 culvert replacement on East 17th road in Irving Township. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Young to approve Resolution 2026-07 to appropriate funds from the County Aid to Bridge Fund to pay one-half of an estimated \$80,000 project to replace the Culvert on East 17th Road in Irving Township. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 23, pages 292-293).**
2. **Plains Solar Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the concern that the entrance point may pose a safety concern will be addressed by installing a mirror during the construction phase. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Whitworth to approve the Plains Solar – Montgomery County Road Use Agreement. All in favor, motion carried. (For copy, see Resolution Book 23, pages 294-302).**
3. **Utility Permit Policy Update/Approval:** Murzynski stated the committee reviewed a template for right-of-way concerns published jointly by the Township Officials of Illinois, Illinois Farm Bureau, and Illinois Association of County Engineers. Murzynski said the countywide right-of-way procedure will be addressed by both the committee and full board next month.

4. **Secretary/Payroll Clerk Resignation Update/Approval:** Murzynski said the resignation of the front lobby secretary at the Highway Department had prompted the search for a replacement; however, after reevaluation, the remaining administrative staff person has now taken on both roles at the Highway Department.

FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT: Given by Committee Chairwoman Connie Beck:

1. **SOA Office Update/Approval:** Beck said the committee reviewed and discussed the report, and she noted new field assessor Larry Lemon has nearly completed coursework.
2. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** Beck reported a \$200,085 coal royalty payment in April and a total Coal Fund 375 balance of just over \$11 million.
3. **Circuit Clerk Audit Extension Update/Approval:** Beck said the committee discussed the need for extensions on audit deadlines. Audit reports should be presented in July. **Motion by Beck and second by Daniels to approve the Circuit Clerk Certification of County Board Extension for Completion of the Annual Audit. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **Taxing Body SAM/GATA Update/Approval:** Beck described a report by Montgomery County Board Assistant Administrator Lucas Nowlan about helping taxing bodies obtain SAM and GATA numbers to apply for grants online, as well as providing grant application and administration information. The committee discussed opportunities to provide grant writing and administration help to taxing bodies moving forward.
5. **Montgomery County Information Services Growth Report Update/Approval:** Beck stated the committee reviewed and discussed an Information Services Growth Report provided by Director Curt Watkins, along with the request for a new experienced employee as soon as possible. Beck said the committee asked Watkins to begin searching for a candidate; and if one is available this fiscal year, a budget adjustment may be required.
6. **FY2027 Budget/FY2025 Audit Update/Approval:** Beck deferred to County Treasurer Nikki Lohman, who warned the audit will probably reveal a General Fund deficit of around \$500,000 for FY2025, primarily due to an anticipated \$250,000 wind farm application permit from UKA Energy not filed after it was reported as revenue and \$450,000 in anticipated DCEO grant revenues left in the General Fund when they should have been transferred to the Grant Fund. Beck also reminded the board about requests for additional staff from the Sheriff's Office, Maintenance, and Information Services for next year's FY2027 Budget.
7. **Fund 375 Purchases Update/Approval:** **Motion by Beck and second by Hancock to approve Coal Fund 375 expenses of \$3,591.67 to Central Roofing; \$195 to Bridges Lock & Key; \$2,527.50 to Directional Boring; \$158.41 to Ace Hardware; \$15,405 to C&C Heating & Cooling; \$350 to Tanners Tints; \$69.98 to Uline; \$392.99 to Wayfair; \$5,884.28 to the Montgomery County Treasurer; \$7,396.38 to Roger Jennings; and \$3,549 to Tom Day. All in favor, motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF THE COMMITTEE REPORTS & MINUTES:

Motion by Hughes and second by Whitworth to approve the committee reports and minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SCHEDULE CHANGES:

1. The Montgomery County Fair Board has invited members of the County Board to join them on the Grandstand Stage for the fair's Opening Ceremony at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24, 2026 at the fairgrounds in Butler. Donaldson informed members they should bring their invitation for free admission and VIP parking.
2. Donaldson read a "Thank You" note from the family of late County Board member Bill Bergen.
3. Donaldson said this is the final meeting for County Board Assistant Administrator Lucas Nowlan, who will be headed to Israel for an archeological dig in a few weeks before beginning work toward a Master's degree in Biblical Archeology at Lipscomb University in Nashville. Attendees applauded Nowlan for his service to the county.

APPOINTMENTS:

1. **Motion by Donaldson and second by Jones to appoint Matthew Meisner to fill the commissioner vacancy on Harvel #2 Drainage District. All in favor, Motion carried.**
2. **Motion by Donaldson and second by Beck to appoint Diane Hampton to fill the commissioner vacancy on the Montgomery County Housing Authority Board. All in favor, Motion carried.**

PAY BILLS AND PAYROLL: Motion by Beason and second by Hughes to pay all approved bills and Payroll. ROLL CALL: Voting yes: Beason, Beck, Corso, Daniels, Donaldson, Hancock, Hughes, Jones, Murzynski, Ruppert, Schieferdecker, Whitworth, Young. All in favor, motion carried.

ADJOURN: The next regular full board meeting will be on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the County Board Room, Hillsboro, Illinois. Motion by Hughes and second by Murzynski to adjourn the Full Board Meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m. Minutes respectfully recorded and submitted by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.