

**Montgomery County Board
Development & Personnel Committee
Hearing Minutes**

County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049

6:00 p.m. Thursday, May 22, 2025

Roll Call: **Members Present:** Chad Ruppert, Chris Daniels, Jeremy Jones, Russell Beason,

Members Absent: Bill Bergen, Doug Donaldson

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Buzz Becker of Pivot Energy, Kelsey Sidrys of Manhard Consulting

1. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was led by Committee Chair Ruppert.
2. **Identification of Application and Project Overview:** Committee Chair Ruppert said the purpose of the hearing is to discuss a proposed solar project to construct, operate, and maintain the CF IL Solar project throughout its useful life. CF IL Solar is a 2.6 MW AC, ground-mounted community solar array (the "Project") located on parcels 01-33-100-017 and 01-32-200-007, owned by the Donna Elmore Trust and Thomas R. Elmore Trust, in unincorporated Montgomery County. The proposed project will occupy approximately 15 acres of a 155-acre Parcel. Located on West Main Street west of Farmersville, the Project Area is currently cultivated cropland, surrounded by additional cultivated cropland to the north, east, and west, and a residential subdivision to the south. The application has been available for review in room 202 of the Historic Courthouse.
3. **Hearing Rules and Procedures Update/Approval:** Ruppert reviewed the rules and procedures for the hearing as printed on the hearing agenda, noting the hearing was being recorded.
4. **Presentation by Applicant:** After reviewing qualifications, Committee Chair Ruppert determined Buzz Becker of Pivot Energy an expert witness. Becker said Pivot, headquartered in Denver, has an office in Chicago and will be the owner and operator of the proposed community solar garden, which will provide discounts to participating Ameren customers. He described the project location on 15 acres north of Mine Avenue, surrounded by an ag-style fence. He also described the technology and equipment, design, construction and operation, decommissioning plan, site vegetation, the sheep grazing plan, community partnerships, the potential \$14,000 per year in property taxes, and a public engagement meeting in Farmersville hosted by Pivot Energy Project Developer Brittney Krebsbach on Oct. 22, 2024. Committee Chair Ruppert entered certified mail receipts of the public hearing notices into the record as Exhibit A.
5. **Questions for Applicant:** Committee members raised questions about the depth of the proposed vegetative screening, the location of the project on the property, monitoring, the size of the project, the panel source, the use of a local workforce in construction, season power generation, weather impacts, sound, drainage tile, and the location of the inverter. Public questions were raised about lighting, wildlife, surge protection, and taxes.
6. **Presentation by Independent Consultants for Montgomery County:** None

7. **Public Comment:** Toby Hobson said he owns a 22-year-old two-story home on the corner directly across Mine Avenue from the proposed project. Voicing concerns about the view, he described the project location as a poor choice due to its proximity to the 75-home subdivision. He said he believed the landowner has better location options, and raised concerns about the long-term maintenance of the drainage ditch, quality of the farm ground, and safety issues from any potential glare on a high-traffic road. He also expressed concerns about vegetative screening options and suggested moving the project 200 feet north and using corn as vegetative screening. Hobson also provided photos that were entered into evidence by Committee Chair Ruppert. Patty Hobson questioned the number and potential noise from grazing sheep, and was informed there would be 12-14 animals on the property for only a couple of weeks a year.
8. **Receipt of Written Comments Regarding the Application:** Committee Chair Ruppert read and entered a letter into the record from the Elmore family in support of the solar project.
9. **Closing Comments by Applicant:** Becker said he appreciated the collaborative discussions at the hearing.
10. **Date for Deliberation and Vote to Recommend/Deny Application Update/Approval:** The committee will deliberate and make a recommendation at their regularly scheduled meeting at 5 p.m. on Monday, June 30, 2025. Remaining issues to resolve include a noise study, glare report, tile map, road use agreement, SHPO clearance, soil study, and cooperation with the Hobsons regarding screening.
11. **Adjournment Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert determined there was no more evidence and closed the hearing. **Motion by Daniels and second by Jones to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board
Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes
County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049

8:30 a.m. Thursday, May 29, 2025

Roll Call: **Members Present:** Doug Donaldson, Mark Hughes, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Dr. Patty Whitworth **Members Absent:** None

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, 911 Director Ed Boyd, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, County Engineer Cody Greenwood, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, EMA/EPA Director Dan Hough, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell, Information Services Director Curt Watkins, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Sheriff Tyson Holshouser, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Chairman Donaldson.

Public Comments: None

Coordinating Committee: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman

1. **Information Systems Report Update/Approval:** Information Services Director Curt Watkins reported he has been completing court grant work, replacing PCs, performing server upgrades and data room restructuring, and preparing for the move to ArcGIS Pro. Cyber security updates are complete, however monthly training participation is down among employees.
2. **EMA Report Update/Approval:** EMA/EPA Director Dan Hough reported completing EMA training. He is in the process of hiring a deputy director and is planning a tabletop exercise for the Historic Courthouse this fall.
3. **911 Rave Alert System Update/Approval:** 911 Director Ed Boyd presented information on a Motorola Rave alert system to notify cell phones in a determined area about local emergencies, such as weather events, mass evacuations, boil orders, etc. The cost is \$26,500 covering five years, and the ETSB has determined it cannot make the expenditure. Dan Hough reported the 708 Board may be willing to help. Chairman Donaldson asked Boyd to present the plan at the scheduled July 30, 2025 Mayors Meeting.
4. **West Central Development Council/Job Center Board/CEO Board Update/Approval:** No update.
5. **Ad Hoc Committee to Address SB3455 Wooded Acreage Assessments Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson reported the committee will next meet on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 6 p.m. in the Courthouse Annex.
6. **Rules Committee Meeting Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson said he will set a date for the committee to meet to reexamine department head termination procedures.
7. **Sesquicentennial Banner from Tim Elliott Update/Approval:** County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett pointed out the 1971 Montgomery County Sesquicentennial Banner in the County Board Room, provided by Tim Elliott of Hillsboro. The committee expressed its gratitude.
8. **Other Business:** Chairman Donaldson reported a scheduled public protest on the Historic Courthouse grounds is set for 11 a.m. Sunday, June 8, 2025. He is also researching how new federal legislation addressed CO2. Plunkett gave an update on potential BEAD awards in Montgomery County, and Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus said there may need to be a few changes made to the IGA with North Litchfield Township.

Development & Personnel Committee: Chad Ruppert, Chairman

1. **Animal Control Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert said he has been working with Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin on potential fee updates.
2. **Scheduled Solar Hearings Update/Approval:** The committee will review the schedule for pending solar hearings.
3. **Litchfield Solar Update/Approval:** The committee will deliberate the application and make a recommendation.
4. **RDC IL N24th Solar Agreement with Hurst-Rosche Update/Approval:** The committee will review and make a recommendation.
5. **Atticus & Finch Solar Agreement with Hurst-Rosche Update/Approval:** The committee will review and make a recommendation.
6. **Small Biz Start-Up Grant Follow-Up Update/Approval:** Plunkett said he notified grant recipients of the grant report requirement.
7. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Chairman Donaldson has signed the Phase 2 grant agreement, and the Phase 3 NOFO was announced earlier in the week.
8. **Employee Handbook Update/Approval:** The full board has been reviewing for the past month and will be asked to act at their June meeting.
9. **Montgomery First Local Labor Initiative Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
10. **Secession Resolution Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
11. **Other Business:** Committee Chair Ruppert anticipates a request from UKA to extend the siting permit deadline to begin construction.

Buildings and Grounds: Mark Hughes, Chairman

1. **Maintenance Report Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
2. **Alpha Controls Presentation (Brad Smith) Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Hughes said the committee will hear and discuss a presentation on HVAC controls.
3. **Elevator Maintenance Contract Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Hughes said the committee would like to review the current elevator maintenance contract in light of the 10-week elevator shutdown.
4. **Generator Pad Bids Update/Approval:** The committee will review and make a recommendation.
5. **Other Business:** Committee Chair Hughes said Diakin is still fine-tuning the new chiller at the Montgomery County Courts Complex.

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman

1. **Resolution Appropriating Funds for Engineer Salary Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Murzynski said the resolution has finally been presented by the state, and the committee will review and make a recommendation.
2. **Building Construction Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
3. **Other Business:** Committee Chair Murzynski asked for an update on the Walshville Bypass. Vice Chair Whitworth relayed Walshville Mayor Joy McDonald's gratitude over county installation of village paving repairs. Engineer Cody Greenwood also anticipates two township bridge lettings, and reported work on the intersection of Coffeen Road and Seven Sisters Avenue will begin on June 2.

Finance and Budget Committee: Andy Ritchie, Chairman

1. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
2. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** The committee will review and discuss.
3. **Audit Report Update/Approval:** After a 30-day review, the county board will vote on acceptance of the report.

4. **MCSO K9 Squad Box Update/Approval:** Sheriff Tyson Holshouser reported a deputy is attending K9 training to replace the soon-to-be retiring K9. He anticipates using special funds to purchase a K9 box for the deputy's squad vehicle.
5. **County Solar Project Update/Approval:** The committee will continue to review and make a recommendation.
6. **Non-Union & Part-Time Salary FY2026 Salary Increases Update/Approval:** The committee will continue to review and make a recommendation.
7. **Pre-Paid Vendor List Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ritchie reported the State's Attorney is reviewing.
8. **Other Business:** Treasurer Lohman presented credit card request forms, and provided a travel voucher that will require a roll call vote.

Appointments: None

Motion to adjourn by Hughes and second by Murzynski. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board
Development & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes
County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049

5:00 p.m. Monday, June 2, 2025

Roll Call: **Members Present:** Chad Ruppert, Bill Bergen, Chris Daniels, Jeremy Jones, Russell Beason, Doug Donaldson **Members Absent:** None

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, County Board member Connie Beck, Kayleigh Furth of Carson Power, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin, MCEDC Executive Director Bill Montgomery

1. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was led by Committee Chair Ruppert.
2. **Public Comment:** Dave Green of Barnett addressed the committee over Animal Control concerns, specifically an incident in April in which a neighbor's pit bull got loose and bit someone on his property requiring stitches for the victim. He said he was told the animal would not be returned, but Animal Control did nothing other than confine the animal for 10 days. He said the incident was the second time the pit bull has bitten someone on his property; the first was Jan. 29, 2024. Committee Chair Ruppert took Green's telephone number and the address where the offending dog is housed.
3. **Animal Control Update/Approval:** Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin reported 18 dogs and 15 cats currently at the facility, and all have been vaccinated for rabies. She said the new mower and cremains processor are working well, and is planning a rabies and microchip clinic in July.
4. **Scheduled Solar Hearings Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Ruppert reminded the committee of solar siting permit public hearings set for Monday, June 23, at 6 p.m. for RDC IL N24th Solar near Harvel, and on Monday, July 7, at 6 p.m. for Atticus Solar and Finch Solar on Route 127, both in the County Board Room at the Historic Courthouse. A hearing date for an application received earlier in the day from Montgomery Ellinger Solar on Route 16 east of Litchfield has yet to be determined.
5. **Litchfield Solar Update/Approval:** Project Developer Kayleigh Furth of Carson Power was present and reviewed information she had provided the committee which was requested at the April 28, 2025 public hearing. She reviewed the drain tile survey map, option to purchase, fence detail, conversations with South Litchfield Drainage District #1, an email from the Litchfield Airport Authority expressing no objections, conversations with non-participating neighbor Dee Leitschuh regarding the preference of no landscaping to the north, and correspondence with the Illinois Department of Transportation. Leitschuh said she has spoken to other drainage district officers who would prefer to meet when the spring planting season is completed. Committee Chair Ruppert said he would work on language for siting permit conditions regarding drainage tile, vegetative screening, and IDOT approval. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Jones to recommend siting approval for Litchfield Solar with conditions. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **RDC IL N24th Solar Agreement with Hurst-Rosche Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed the standard agreement with Hurst-Rosche.
7. **Atticus & Finch Solar Agreement with Hurst-Rosche Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed the standard agreement with Hurst-Rosche. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Daniels to recommend approval of agreements with Hurst-Rosche for independent review of RDC IL N24th Solar, Atticus Solar, and Finch Solar, each for a not-to-exceed fee of \$3,500. All in favor, motion carried.**
8. **Small Biz Start-Up Grant Follow-Up Update/Approval:** County Board Administrator Plunkett sent a letter to Small Biz Start-Up Grant recipients who have not yet submitted final grant reports. Many have since responded and some new businesses have yet to open. The committee will continue to monitor their progress.

9. **DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval:** Plunkett reported the Phase II grant agreement has been signed by the county and is awaiting state signatures. Phase III has been announced, and County Board Administration has been in contact with Dan Rogers of First Due Consulting for grant writing services.
10. **Employee Handbook Update/Approval:** Since presentation to the full board in May, Committee Chair Ruppert said the only change to the proposed new Employee Handbook is the introduction of language that mirrors changes made by the County Board to the Montgomery County Travel Ordinance last month. **Motion by Jones and second by Daniels to recommend final approval of the Montgomery County Employee Handbook, effective upon passage. All in favor, motion carried.**
11. **Montgomery First Local Labor Initiative Update/Approval:** Committee members discussed the proposed downward adjustment numbers of 5% up to a maximum of \$20,000 local business adjustment. The committee would like to continue researching those numbers and give the State's Attorney an opportunity to offer legal advice.
12. **Virden Wind Extension Application Update/Approval:** New UKA representative Chad Macy has indicated to County Board Administration that the Virden Wind project will move forward, however the Montgomery County Wind Ordinance requires construction to begin within one year of siting approval, which was granted by the County Board on June 11, 2024. Per County Board permit conditions, UKA has requested an extension to December 31, 2026. Committee Chair Ruppert said he would like to speak to Macy himself before considering a longer term extension, and suggested recommending an extension to September 30, 2025 in the meantime. **Motion by Jones and second by Beason to recommend a resolution extending the construction deadline for Virden Wind Energy to September 30, 2025. All in favor, motion carried.**
13. **Secession Resolution Update/Approval:** Committee member Jeremy Jones asked for the County Board to consider an advisory referendum on the 2026 spring Primary Election ballot that would seek voter opinion about separating from Cook County to form a new state with other Illinois counties. The committee reviewed proposed ballot language from the State's Attorney. Jones said he would like Montgomery County to join 30-some other counties in passing the measure to send a message to the upper part of the state. Chairman Donaldson reminded the committee to consider the over \$1 million in downtown revitalization grants awarded to Hillsboro and Nokomis by the governor in April, and Committee Chair Ruppert pointed out the \$3.6 million in DCEO grants awarded to Montgomery County over the past two years. **Motion by Jones and second by Bergen to table the Secession Resolution until next month. All in favor, motion carried.**
14. **Other Business:** None

Motion to pay the bills by Beason and second by Daniels. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn by Beason and second by Jones. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes

County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049

8:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Roll Call: **Members Present:** Mark Hughes, Connie Beck, Russell Beason, Keith Hancock, Evan Young, Doug Donaldson **Members Absent:** None

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Maintenance Director Phil Ernst, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell

1. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was led by Committee Chair Hughes.
2. **Public Comments:** None
3. **Maintenance Report Update/Approval:** Maintenance Director Phil Ernst said his department responded to 51 work orders in May. He reviewed items on his report, including work on the Animal Control pressure washer, the new chiller installed at the Courts Complex on May 9, and new guttering on the Historic Courthouse porch. He has asked Cinric for a quote to patch and paint the front porch of the Historic Courthouse, and provided the committee with documentation of over 100 calls and texts to Otis Elevator while the Historic Courthouse elevator was inoperable for two and a half months.
4. **Alpha Controls Presentation Update/Approval:** Energy Solutions Advisor Brad Smith of Alpha Controls of Springfield, along with Project Manager David Kleckler and Senior Design Engineer Jeff Miller, made a presentation to the committee about the company's energy savings solutions using software and artificial intelligence. Smith said Alpha would need 24 months of utility bills to score county buildings on energy efficiency, and then search for funding sources to help offset upfront costs. The committee will continue to discuss the proposal.
5. **Elevator Maintenance Contract Update/Approval:** Committee Chair Hughes expressed frustration with the elevator contract in light of the recent 10-week shut-down, but still needs to discuss the issue with the State's Attorney. The item will be on next month's agenda.
6. **Generator Pad Bids Update/Approval:** The matter will be considered next month when the DCEO grant agreement for Phase II is signed and executed.
7. **Other Business:** Maintenance Director Ernst asked about window cleaning and was instructed to solicit quotes.

Motion to pay the bills by Beason and second by Hancock. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn by Beason and second by Beck. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board

Roads & Bridges Committee Meeting Minutes

Conference Room, County Highway Dept.
11159 IL Rte 185, Hillsboro, IL 62049

Date: Wednesday, June 4th, 2025

Time: 8:30 AM – County Highway Department

Members present: Ethan Murzynski, Bill Bergen, Patty Whitworth, Keith Hancock, Rob Corso,

Members Absent: Chad Ruppert, Doug Donaldson

Other Present: County Engineer Cody Greenwood, County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Bev Seamon

1. **Public Comments:** None
2. **Bid Opening for Section 23-01134-00-BR Audubon Twp White Settlement Trail Bridge Replacement Update/Approval:** County Engineer Cody Greenwood opened sealed bids from C-Hill Civil Contractors of Campbell Hill, Stutz Excavating of Alton, and Yamnitz & Associates of Fieldon, and Bev Seamon tabulated results. Representatives from all three bidders were present. Bids ranged from \$350,000 to \$412,021.45. The project will be 80% township funded and 20% county funded. **Motion by Bergen and second by Whitworth to recommend awarding the apparent low bid of \$350,000 to Yamnitz & Associates of Fielden for Section 23-01134-00-BR Audubon Township White Settlement Trail Bridge Replacement. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **Bid Opening for Section 23-18119-00-BR Witt Twp E. 22nd Rd. Bridge Replacement Update/Approval:** County Engineer Cody Greenwood opened sealed bids from C-Hill Civil Contractors of Campbell Hill, Stutz Excavating of Alton, and Yamnitz & Associates of Fieldon, and Bev Seamon tabulated results. Representatives from all three bidders were present. Bids ranged from \$350,000 to \$428,670.56. The project will be 80% township funded and 20% county funded. **Motion by Bergen and second by Whitworth to recommend awarding the apparent low bid of \$350,000 to Yamnitz & Associates of Fielden for Section 23-18119-00-BR Witt Township East 22nd Road Bridge Replacement. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. **Walshville Trail Improvement Project Update/Approval:** County Engineer Greenwood reported engineers at WHKS are working on the project development report, which includes identifying existing drainage patterns and side street tie-ins. Construction remains on schedule to begin in 2026 or 2027.
5. **Coffeen Rd/Seven Sisters Ave. Intersection Project Update/Approval:** County Engineer Greenwood reported the intersection was closed and work began on Monday, June 2, 2025. The contract calls for 30 working days, but Greenwood anticipated the closure to remain in effect for 2-3 weeks, depending upon weather.
6. **Resolution 2025-6 appropriating funds for the payment of the County Engineer's Salary for 2025 Update/Approval:** Committee members reviewed minimum recommended County Engineer salaries provided by the Illinois Department of Transportation, which increased 10% over last year. By participating in the program, 50% of the County Engineer's salary is reimbursed; the remaining 50% is paid through MFT funds. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Hancock to enter executive session at 8:56 a.m. to discuss personnel matters. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Hancock and second by Bergen to return to open session at 9:12 a.m. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Hancock and second by Bergen to recommend increasing the County Engineer's salary by 10% to \$132,255.75 effective December 1, 2024. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Other Items:** Engineer Greenwood reported roofing material should be delivered next week for the building under construction, and Plunkett reported UKA rep Chad Macy has indicated the Virden Wind project will move forward.

Motion by Corso, second by Whitworth to Pay Bills. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Hancock, second by Bergen to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk and Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.

Montgomery County Board
Finance & Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049

8:33 a.m. Thursday, June 5, 2025

Roll Call: Members Present: Andy Ritchie, Connie Beck, Rob Corso, Chris Daniels, Dr. Patty Whitworth, Evan Young **Members Absent:** Doug Donaldson
Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Supervisor of Assessments Kendra Niehaus, Sheriff Tyson Holshouser, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Hillsboro Community Planner Sarah McConnell, State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance:** was led by committee member Evan Young.
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **SOA Report Update/Approval:** Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus reviewed the items on her monthly report, noting the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) approved with North Litchfield Township required some small corrections. State's Attorney Affrunti will make the required corrections and present the agreement to Chairman Donaldson for his signature. Niehaus also pointed out since the East Fork-Grisham-Walshville MTA has signed an assessment agreement with an assessor, the contract with the county should be voided according to State's Attorney Affrunti. The action will be on the full board agenda.
4. **Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the reports provided by Treasurer Lohman showing coal royalty payments of \$142,936.05 in March and \$185,258.38 in April, both received in April. The payments bring the total Coal Fund balance to \$10,608,855.87.
5. **DevNet Contract Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed a new contract with DevNet for five years beginning August 1, 2025 for \$45,868.57 per year, payable quarterly. County Clerk Leitheiser spoke positively regarding DevNet's services. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Beck to recommend approval of a five-year contract with DevNet beginning August 1, 2025, for \$45,868.57 per year. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. **Convey Parcel 15-05-228-007 in Litchfield to Donna M. Hemken Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed and discussed the resolution to transfer the Litchfield parcel at 817 W. Sargent Street sold by the trustee. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to convey parcel 15-05-228-007 in the City of Litchfield to Donna M. Hemken. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Audit Report Update/Approval:** The committee discussed the audit report under review since presentation at the April County Board meeting. **Motion by Daniels and second by Beck to approve the FY2024 Audit Report. All in favor, motion carried.**
8. **MCSO K9 Squad Box Update/Approval:** Sheriff Tyson Holshouser reported the current K-9 is a year from retirement, and his department is making plans for a new K-9 to be trained and assigned to a deputy. Upgrades to that deputy's squad vehicle will have to be made to handle the K-9, and State's Attorney Andrew Affrunti agreed to pay the estimated \$10,550 cost from his Forfeiture Fund. The deputy will be reimbursed the \$2,100 for a doghouse concrete kennel pad poured at his residence.

9. **County Solar Project Update/Approval:** Cost estimates are still being developed, so the committee will discuss the matter at their July meeting.
10. **Non-Union & Part-Time Salary FY2026 Salary Increases Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman distributed a spreadsheet with FY2025 county employee salaries, collective bargaining agreement (CBA) raises for FY2026, and potential raises of varying percentages and dollar amounts. **Motion by Young and second by Whitworth to first decide whether to recommend raises based on a percentage or flat amount. All in favor, motion carried.** Whitworth said she favored a percentage-based raise as being most fair to the bulk of employees and taking into account varying job responsibilities. Corso added that since the County Board will be determining salary line items and not individual salaries, a percentage would be easier to determine. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Corso to base raises on a percentage rather than a flat amount. All in favor, motion carried (Young voted against).** At the request of Committee Chair Ritchie, the committee determined the Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2025 was 2.5%. Young said recommended raises should be at least 3% and made a motion to recommend 4% raises; that motion died for lack of a second. **Motion by Daniels and second by Whitworth was amended to recommend 5.5% non-union and part-time salary increases for FY2026. ROLL CALL: Voting yes: Beck, Corso, Daniels, Whitworth, Young, Ritchie. All in favor, motion carried.**
11. **Pre-Paid Vendor List Update/Approval:** Continuing a discussion that began at the May committee meeting, State's Attorney Affrunti said he has researched statutory authority for each special fund and has no issue with removing them from the Pre-Approved Vendor List, per audit recommendations. Affrunti, Plunkett, Lohman and Leitheiser will meet prior to next month's committee meeting to review special funds on the Pre-Paid Vendor list for potential removal. The committee will also discuss a process to voucher special fund expenses such as citing statute on the "County Board Approved Signature" line, and a process by which the County Board will review special fund vouchers.
12. **Travel Voucher Roll Call Update/Approval:** Treasurer Lohman explained that since sales tax pushed the hotel expense slightly over the GSA approved amount, no roll call vote was needed.
13. **County Grocery Occupation Sales Tax Ordinance Update/Approval:** The committee debated the opportunity afforded by state statute to impose a 1% Grocery Occupation Sales Tax, and adamantly voiced no intent to do so.
14. **Other Business:** Plunkett relayed a message from County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson that the Montgomery County Farm Bureau had asked the board to participate in a project to seal and re-stripe the Farm Bureau parking lot, frequently used by the county. Chairman Donaldson suggested paying half of the \$4,200 cost, and Committee Chair Ritchie requested the item to be placed on the full board agenda. Treasurer Lohman noted estimating EAV in planning future budgets encourages taxing bodies to maximize their levies. With the committee's consent, she and Supervisor of Assessments Niehaus will no longer estimate EAV.

Motion to pay the bills and payroll by Ritchie and second by Beck. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn by Beck and second by Whitworth. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.