

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, March 26, 2026

Members Present: Doug Donaldson, Ethan Murzynski, Connie Beck, Dr. Patty Whitworth

Members Absent: Mark Hughes, Chad Ruppert

Others Present: Mike Plunkett & Lucas Nowlan from County Board Administration, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, IS 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: IS Director Curt Watkins reported working on much of the same projects with the new phone system and computer replacements at the top of the list. He has also begun working on secure door access, and has been vigilant for cyber-attacks stemming from the conflict in Iran.
2. EMA/EPA Report Update/Approval: EMA/EPA/911 Director Dan Hough was not present.
3. HELP Safety Committee Update/Approval: Plunkett reported the committee has met, conducted building inspections, and is working on a Slip/Trip/Fall Policy and a Safe Lifting Policy.
4. Other Business: Chairman Donaldson anticipates an appointment for the County Board vacancy in District 7.

Development & Personnel Committee: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman

1. MCEDC Update/Approval: Kaitlyn Fath will be present for a presentation.
2. Animal Control Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
3. Hotel Tax Update/Approval: The committee will discuss Air BnBs in rural areas.
4. Surplus Property Disposition Update/Approval: The committee will consider declaring the Animal Control Ram pickup surplus property.
5. DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
6. Tourism Grant Application Review Update/Approval: The committee will review and recommend awards.
7. Site Selection Magazine Rankings Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
8. Small Biz Grant Follow-Up Update/Approval: Chairman Donaldson would like the committee to consider liens on grant recipients who have not met obligations.
9. County Starting Salary Update/Approval: The committee will review and make a recommendation.
10. Other Business: Pattern Energy and CO2 sequestration will also be on the agenda.

Buildings and Grounds: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman

1. Maintenance Report Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
2. Altorfer Generator Maintenance Update/Approval: Desiree Cleary will be at the committee meeting for a presentation.
3. Snow Blower Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
4. 127 N. Main Street Property Update/Approval: Chairman Donaldson anticipates a closing date in early April.

5. Other Business: Robbins said Courts Complex courtrooms need dusted, and Leitheiser said Historic Courthouse screens need replaced.

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman

1. Other Business: Committee Chair Murzynski said, due to current price volatility, the oil letting will likely be postponed. A Road Use Agreement may be ready for committee review.

Finance and Budget Committee: Connie Beck, Vice Chair

1. SOA Office Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
2. Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
3. Energy Bids Update/Approval: Plunkett anticipates a recommendation for power and gas bid awards.
4. Audit Presentation Update/Approval: Treasurer Lohman indicated the presentation will not occur in April.
5. Bruce Harris/Beacon Contract Update/Approval: Plunkett reported a meeting with Bruce Harris regarding the acquisition by Beacon and the contract with the county. Plunkett indicated that he and SOA Tysha Mullen asked for the county's Bruce Harris contract money to be refunded.
6. FY2027 Wage Changes & Starting Salary Update/Approval: The committee will recommend wage changes as the first step in the FY2027 budget process.
7. Fund 375 Purchases Update/Approval: The committee will review and make recommendations.
8. Other Business: Chairman Donaldson asked the committee to consider salary adjustments for certain county positions.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 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

5:03 p.m. Monday, April 6, 2026

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

Members Absent: Bill Bergen, Doug Donaldson

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, MCEDC Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, State's Attorney Brian Shaw, Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin

1. Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Chair Ruppert.
2. Public Comment: Committee Chair Ruppert reported he would allow public comments during the fifth agenda item.
3. MCEDC Update/Approval: MCEDC Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath reviewed her written report, highlighting information from the Central Illinois Economic Development Authority (CIEDA) on bond funding potential, and her work with the Center on Rural Innovation (CORI) study.
4. Animal Control Update/Approval: Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin reported 19 dogs/puppies and 10 cats/kittens. Adoption events are planned for April 18, May 1, and May 18. New fencing at the facility is complete, the new hire is now working, and the status of the incinerator will need studied.
5. Pattern Energy Update/Approval: Maggie Poteau, representing Pattern, read a statement about the Shoals 500MW hybrid wind and solar project, noting that the Shoals team will provide and update at the Tuesday, April 14, 2026 County Board meeting. Poteau said Pattern has an office in Raymond, is winding down land acquisition after a great deal of support, and is preparing to submit a siting permit application in 2027. She said the project has updated its website and established a Facebook page, welcomes open dialog and fact-based conversations, and she offered to collect questions for Pattern to answer. She also noted Pattern's \$10,000 donation toward a helipad in Raymond that will be dedicated on April 18. Dan Mulch referenced the letter he sent to Committee Chair Ruppert, said he is pleased with the progress of information, and asked Pattern to "keep it coming." He would like further information on the project footprint, number and type of turbine towers, as well as information on locations, density, and interconnect infrastructure. Mark Schweizer said although he produces power on his own farm with a 150-foot 15-watt turbine, he has not signed an agreement with Pattern because of the impact on neighbors and the fear of future problems, like the amount of concrete left in the ground. Heath Houck said his ground is in the transmission line area, but has never heard back from the company after requests for more information on pole type, height, and density, etc. He said the company has repeatedly spread misinformation about who has signed agreements. Jason Goby echoed those claims, and also questioned the footprint boundary map, standard lease term, and decommissioning. Ryan Bruntjen also echoed the concern of misinformation about who has signed lease agreements. Committee Chair Ruppert reported specific questions will be answered in the permitting process. He displayed a map with a legal disclaimer showing parcels with recorded lease agreements, cautioning that the map does not include legal descriptions or even necessarily signify tower locations. County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser described how information could be obtaining using free on-line land records searches.

6. CO2 Sequestration Update/Approval: The committee reviewed a March 25 email from the Coalition to Stop Co2 Pipelines to Chairman Donaldson about a plan by Elysian Carbon Management to store carbon dioxide in Montgomery County. The email said the coalition discovered the plan while checking the U.S. EPA's project tracker, and the committee will continue to monitor.
7. Hotel Tax Update/Approval: The committee continues to research the application of the county hotel-motel tax to AirBnBs in unincorporated Montgomery County.
8. Surplus Property Disposition Update/Approval: **Motion by Jones and second by Daniels to declare an Animal Control 2008 Ram 1500 as surplus property and advertise it for sale by sealed bid. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval: Documents have been filed to extend Phase II of the grant.
10. Tourism Grant Application Review Update/Approval: The committee reviewed and scored 12 Tourism Grant applications, with requests totaling \$11,750 for \$5,000 available funding. Scores were then mathematically adjusted for funds available with award amounts ranging from \$625 to \$225.
11. Site Selection Magazine Rankings Update/Approval: The committee reviewed news that Illinois ranked second nationwide for the fourth consecutive year in Site Selection Magazine's annual rankings of corporate relocation and expansion activity. Fath added the ranking emphasized the importance of marketing Montgomery County business sites.
12. Small Biz Grant Follow-Up Update/Approval: County Board Administration continues to follow up with previous grantees, and has applied to DCEO for approval to modify the Phase I grant for \$67,606 additional funds for Small Biz grants.
13. County Starting Salary Update/Approval: The committee reviewed Bushue HR policies for starting salary and merit-based increases, and asked County Board Administration to send them out to department heads. **Motion by Jones and second by Beason to recommend approval of Montgomery County Compensation Administration Program. All in favor, motion carried.**
14. Other Business: Committee Chair Ruppert tentatively set a public hearing for Elm Lawn Solar for 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 27, 2026 in the County Board Room at the Historic Courthouse. County reps will meet with the City of Litchfield about the application at 10 a.m. Friday, April 10, 2026 at Litchfield City Hall.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 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, April 7, 2026

Members Present: Mark Hughes, Connie Beck, Russell Beason, Keith Hancock, Evan Young, Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mike Plunkett and Lucas Nowlan of County Board Administration, Maintenance Director Phil Ernst, Sheriff Tyson Holshouser, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, EMA/EPA Director Dan Hough, Hillsboro Community and Economic Development Director Melissa Smith, Bob Schwander of Imagine Hillsboro, and Altorfer representative Desiree Cleary.

1. Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Sheriff Tyson Holshouser.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Maintenance Report Update/Approval: Maintenance Director Phil Ernst reviewed the 70 items on his report, including a concern that reverse osmosis water systems may lead to higher water bills. Additionally, Ernst reported that he had installed two eye-wash stations in the Courthouse Complex and completed 65 work orders during the past month.
4. America 250 Kickoff May 29 Update/Approval: Hillsboro Community and Economic Development Director Melissa Smith presented a proposed plan of events to celebrate the semiquincentennial anniversary of the founding of America, including lighting the Historic Courthouse, an address from the mayor of Hillsboro, a choir performance, and a reading of the Declaration of Independence by the DAR. Additionally, there will be food trucks, live music, veteran banners, and other opportunities for families. **Motion by Beason and second by Beck to approve the City of Hillsboro celebratory actions for the semiquincentennial anniversary of the founding of America. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. Imagine Hillsboro Flower Pot Request Update/Approval: Bob Schwander from Imagine Hillsboro requested permission to move the flower pots situated around the Historic Courthouse from the northeast corner to the southeast corner. The committee agreed that Imagine Hillsboro has done an amazing job with the upkeep of the flower beds, and agreed to allow Imagine Hillsboro to rearrange the flower pots.
6. Altorfer Generator Maintenance Update/Approval: Desiree Cleary, a representative of Altorfer Power Systems, presented a planned maintenance agreement for the generator at the Courthouse Complex for \$1,858. The proposed maintenance agreement for the Courthouse Complex primary generator will match the agreement already in place for the Jail generator and will expire in July of 2028. Additionally, Cleary also proposed extended warranties on the new Jail and Courthouse Complex generators. The extended warranty for the Courthouse Complex generator is a onetime fee of \$2,140, and the extended warranty for the Jail generator is a onetime fee of \$2,050. **Motion by Beason and second by Beck to recommend Altorfer Power System's planned maintenance agreement for the generator of the Courthouse Complex for \$1,858. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Beck and second by Hancock to recommend extended warranties on the Courthouse Complex generator for \$2,140 and the Montgomery County Jail generator for \$2,050. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. State of Illinois Office Space Request Update/Approval: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett reported that the State of Illinois had reached out to express interest in renting an office for an employee of the Illinois Department of Revenue. After the state made an onsite visit to inspect and measure the current county board chairman's office, the county was sent an offer to rent the office for \$11.73 a square foot a year. This would result in the monthly rent totaling to \$134.90 a month, or \$1,618.80 a

year. The committee agreed that this offer was too low, and instructed Plunkett to reach back out to the state to inquire if they are willing to increase their offer.

8. Snow Blower/Snow Blade Update/Approval: The committee reviewed proposals from Maintenance Director Phil Ernst to either purchase a new snow blower or modify the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office four-by-four to be fitted with a snow plow. Ernst presented several options on snow blowers ranging from 30 to 40 inches, as well as manual and hydraulic plow attachments for the four-by-four. The committee asked Ernst what he thought would be best, and Ernst replied that he believes that the greatest amount of work can be accomplished by modifying the four-by-four. **Motion by Hughes and second by Beck to recommend the purchase of a manual snow blade for \$1,379 to be attached to the Sheriffs four-by-four. Majority in favor, motion carried (Young voted against).**
9. 127 N. Main Street Property Update/Approval: The committee discussed options for the boring of a fiber optic cable to the newly acquired 127 North Main Street property. The proposed plan would have a fiber optic cable ran from the basement of the Courthouse Complex, under North Main Street, and into the basement of the 127 North Main property. Committee Chair Hughes reported that he is seeking bids, hoping to present them at next month's meetings.
10. Other Business: Maintenance Director Phil Ernst informed the committee on the several Coal Fund 375 voucher requests that will be presented at this month's Finance & Budget Committee meeting. These include repairing the Historic Courthouse's downspout after the latest storm for \$982.14, repair the roof to the transmitter shed for \$2,609, and Ameren LED lighting program to install energy efficient lightbulbs for \$17,977.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 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 Agenda

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

Date: Wednesday, April 8th, 2026

Time: 8:30 AM – County Highway Department

Members present: Ethan Murzynski, Patty Whitworth, Chad Ruppert, Keith Hancock, Rob Corso, Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: Bill Bergen

Other Present: County Engineer Cody Greenwood, Lucas Nowlan of County Board Admin, MCEDC Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath

1. **Public Comments:** None
2. **County 2026 MFT Oil Letting Update/Approval:** Due to the ongoing Iranian conflict continuing to impact the price of oil, Engineer Cody Greenwood reported that the Highway Department had decided to postpone the 2026 MFT Oil Letting until next month in hopes that prices will drop. Greenwood plans to advertise the oil letting throughout April, and hopes to receive and review bids at the May Roads & Bridges Committee meeting.
3. **Township 2026 MFT Oil Letting Update/Approval:** Using the same rationale due to the high price of oil, Engineer Greenwood reported on postponing the 2026 Township MFT oil letting until next month.
4. **Plains Solar Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** The developer of the Plains Solar project, a solar insulation located south of Witt Avenue and east of E. 14th Road, objected to some of the wording in the proposed road use agreement. Engineer Greenwood reported that he had forwarded the proposed revision to State's Attorney Brian Shaw, and he hopes to present an updated agreement next month.
5. **Heavy Equipment Shed Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reported that the heavy equipment shed is now being utilized. The only project yet to be completed is connecting the building to a gas line for heat.
6. **Other Items:** Engineer Greenwood reported that the summer maintenance season is about to commence; activities such as weeding, mowing, ditching, and patching pot holes have begun.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 a.m. Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett as deputized by the 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

8:30 a.m. Thursday, April 9, 2026

Members Present: Connie Beck, Rob Corso, Chris Daniels, Dr. Patty Whitworth, Evan Young, Members
Absent: Doug Donaldson

Others Present: Mike Plunkett & Lucas Nowlan of County Board Administration, Treasurer Nikki Lohman,
MCEDC Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath, SOA Tysha Mullen, Maintenance Director Phil Ernst,
Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Michael Skelton & Justin Heid of Tradition Energy (virtually)

1. Pledge of Allegiance: was led by committee member Corso.
2. Public Comment: None
3. SOA Office Update/Approval: In addition to written reports, SOA Tysha Mullen noted the Board of Review concluded hearings on Monday, April 6.
4. Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval: The committee noted a royalty payment of \$52,273.98 in February and a total Coal Fund balance of \$10.8 million. Treasurer Nikki Lohman said investments have since matured resulting in interest income increases.
5. Energy Bids Update/Approval: Michael Skelton and Justin Heid of Tradition Energy appeared virtually to explain electric and natural gas proposals. Their recommendation was to accept the proposal from Direct Energy for capacity pricing for 36 months (.0610 plus supplier cost), a slight increase, and from Direct Energy for fixed pricing for 36 months (\$4.479) at a slight decrease. **Motion by Young and second by Daniels to recommend the 36-month Direct Energy proposals for electricity and natural gas. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. Bruce Harris/Beacon Contract Update/Approval: Since Beacon has purchased Bruce Harris, the county is not switching to Bruce Harris for its GIS website. County Board Administration and the Supervisor of Assessments are negotiating over payments previously made to Bruce Harris.
7. FY2027 Wage Changes, Salary Adjustments & Starting Salary Update/Approval: The committee received information from the UCCI Salary Study as well as information on county Collective Bargaining Agreements for 2027 and requested time to review for a month.
8. Budget Hearing Dates/Times Update/Approval: The committee tentatively set budget hearings for Aug. 18-19, beginning at 8:30 a.m. each day.
9. Fund 375 Purchases Update/Approval: The committee reviewed requests. **Motion by Daniels and second by Whitworth to recommend approval of Buildings & Grounds vouchers from Fund 375. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Whitworth and second by Corso to recommend Montgomery County Sheriff's Office vouchers from Fund 375. All in favor, motion carried.**
10. Country Trustee Resolutions Update/Approval: The committee reviewed the potential transaction and question future use of the property. County Board Administration will research.
11. Other Business: Committee member Daniels, who also services as Hillsboro Township Supervisor, reported she is asking her board to approve a contract with the Montgomery County Supervisor of Assessments for services.

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

Motion to Adjourn by Daniels and second by Young. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.