

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

8:30 a.m. Friday, December 26, 2025

Members Present: Doug Donaldson, Ethan Murzynski, Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert

Members Absent: Mark Hughes, Dr. Patty Whitworth

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, EMA/EPA Director Dan Hough, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, 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 was not present due to illness.
2. Privacy Notice Policy Update/Approval: Watkins will recommend policy revisions.
3. EMA/EPA Report Update/Approval: Director Dan Hough reported replacing the battery in the EMA vehicle. He anticipates advertising for bids for a new EMA vehicle; three trade-ins should help defray costs. He also reported beginning work as 911 Coordinator on Dec. 1, and receiving back-dated EPA grant reimbursements for over \$70,000.
4. Power Resource Adequacy Report Update/Approval: The committee reviewed a summary of the new, legally mandated report by the Illinois Power Agency, Illinois EPA, and Illinois Commerce Commission warning that Ameren's territory is expected to see power shortages beginning in 2031 and escalating sharply through 2035 due to surging demand and power plant retirements.
5. Safety Committee Update/Approval: A committee suggested by the Workers Comp insurance carrier will be formed, resulting in premium discounts.
6. FOIA Employee Update/Approval: The committee reviewed survey results from UCCI and will continue searching for possible solutions.
7. MCSO Vehicle Bid Opening Update/Approval: The committee reviewed the lone bid from Victory Lane Chrysler in Carlinville for two new Police Pursuit Dodge Durango vehicles. One bid was for \$39,062 including a \$6,000 trade-in; the other was for \$34,587 with a \$9,000 trade-in. Ruppert said he may ask the board to pull one trade-in for use by Animal Control.
8. Cemetery Grant Update/Approval: County Board Admin was notified Montgomery County did not get the grant. Chairman Donaldson thanked County Board Admin Assistant Lucas Nowlan for his work.
9. Other Business: County Clerk Leitheiser advised that 708 board positions need to be filled by appointment.

Development & Personnel Committee: Chad Ruppert, Chairman

1. MCEDC Update/Approval: The committee anticipates a report from Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath.
2. Animal Control Update/Approval: The committee anticipates a report from Warden Tricia Papin.
3. Enclosure, Eye Wash, and Fence Bids Update/Approval: The committee anticipates reviewing price quotes for DCEO grant expenses.
4. Telecommunicators Local 1084 Grievance Review Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert said the committee will review a grievance.
5. DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval: The application for third round funding was submitted by the Dec. 19 deadline.

6. Wind, Solar, and Battery Ordinances Update/Approval: The committee will review ordinances for necessary changes when state legislation is signed by the governor.
7. Montgomery First Community Engagement Update/Approval: The committee will review the proposed community benefits agreement.
8. County Starting Salary Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert will ask the committee to begin work on what he anticipates will be a long process.
9. Other Business: None

Buildings and Grounds: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman

1. Maintenance Report Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
2. 127 N. Main Street Property Update/Approval: The committee anticipates a proposal prepared by Chief Probation Officer Banee Ulrici.
3. DCEO County Board Room Grant Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss proposals for painting or staining.
4. County Farm Lease Update/Approval: The advertisement for a new lease agreement has been published.
5. Surplus Kohler Generator Update/Approval: If not needed by the new EMA facility, the generator will be surplus property.
6. Other Business: None

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman

1. Other Business: Committee Chair Murzynski anticipates updates on the Walshville bypass, engineering for the Nokomis bypass, and an update on the equipment shed.

Finance and Budget Committee: Andy Ritchie, Chairman

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. Montgomery County Fair Board Request Update/Approval: The committee anticipates a request to fund power upgrades.
4. 2026 IRS Mileage Rate Update/Approval: The IRS has yet to update its 2026 rate.
5. Treasurer's Office Copier Purchase Using Fund 375 Update/Approval: The committee will review a voucher from Fund 375.
6. Transfer Two Coal Rights Parcels from Trustee Sale Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
7. Other Business: Committee Chair Ritchie will ask the committee to consider a process for adjusting salaries of elected officials.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 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
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5:03 p.m. Monday, January 5, 2026

Members Present: Chad Ruppert, Bill Bergen, Chris Daniels (arrived at 5:25 p.m.), Russell Beason

Members Absent: Jeremy Jones, Doug Donaldson

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Sheriff Tyson Holshouser, Undersheriff Jeff Roach, Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, MCEDC Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath, Chase Wittich and Barrett LaChance of Summit Ridge Energy, Mike Young of Local 1084, Maggie Poteau of Pattern Energy (virtually)

1. Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Chair Chad Ruppert.
2. Public Comment: None
3. MCEDC Update/Approval: MCEDC Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath reported she has been working with Ameren on a property inventory, and her board has approved the use of Alpha Maps. She has also met with Jardogs, and has been working on tourism needs and cell service issues.
4. Animal Control Update/Approval: Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin reported three dogs and three cats at the facility, which was empty before the Christmas holiday. The facility began operating with new Saturday hours in 2026. Eight municipal animal control contracts expired at the end of November 2025, and both Papin and Committee Chair Ruppert reported calls from frustrated mayors. Ruppert said the issue will be addressed at the Mayors Meeting set for 5 p.m. Wednesday, January 28.
5. Enclosure, Eye Wash, and Fence Bids Update/Approval: The committee briefly reviewed three bids from one contractor and would like to see bids from at least one more. The item will remain on the agenda for next month.
6. DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval: County Board Administrator Plunkett reported the Phase 3 application was submitted by the Dec. 19, 2025 deadline. He has submitted quarterly reports for Phase 2 and was working on quarterly reports for Phase 1.
7. Wind, Solar, and Battery Ordinances Update/Approval: State legislation has yet to be signed into law by the governor. The item will remain on the agenda.
8. Montgomery First Community Engagement Update/Approval: The committee reviewed the proposed Community Benefits Agreement which includes a \$25,000 donation from Summit Ridge Energy to the SCI center in Litchfield. Local 1084 Business Agent Mike Young reported “positive dialog” with the developer. **Motion by Beason and second by Daniels to recommend approval of the Montgomery First Community Engagement Agreement with Summit Ridge Energy. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. County Starting Salary Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert said the item will remain on the agenda while job descriptions are gathered from department heads for potential salary classification by Bushue HR. County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser asked if union offices would be included, and Ruppert responded that topic will be part of the discussion at the Bushue meeting.

10. Telecommunicators Local 1084 Grievance Review Update/Approval: The committee reviewed information from Local 1084, the Montgomery County Sheriff, and Bushue HR regarding the grievance. Committee members expressed satisfaction with the decision made by the sheriff.

11. Other Business: Maggie Poteau, appearing virtually on behalf of Pattern Energy, reported land acquisition is nearly complete, and she anticipates the project will be moving into the permitting phase in early 2027.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:53 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
Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes
County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049**

8:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 6, 2026

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, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Chief Probation Officer Banee Ulrici, EMA/EPA Director Dan Hough (by telephone), real estate professionals Jenny Dunn and Brandi Lentz.

1. Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Chairman Doug Donaldson.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Maintenance Report Update/Approval: Maintenance Director Phil Ernst reviewed many of the 67 items on his report, including completing 56 work orders in December.
4. 127 N. Main Street Property Update/Approval: Committee Chair Hughes introduced Jenny Dunn, who furnished committee members with information, pointing out the building has a newer roof and had been moved from across the street. Committee member Young questioned why there were two real estate professionals present. Hughes said he had reached out to Jenny Dunn to represent the county as potential buyer because Brandi Lentz was representing the seller. Young said Hughes did not have the authority to employ Dunn, and Hughes disagreed. Chief Probation Officer Banee Ulrici presented a report on the potential use and cost of the building, noting that if purchased, the building would be used for Recovery Court that currently shares space with EMA. Her proposal estimated \$43,000 for updates to the building and an estimated operational cost of \$17,000 to \$18,000 per year. Circuit Clerk Robbins reported the court system and coroner are in favor of the plan, and Dan Hough, speaking as 708 Board Chairman, reported that Drug Court is at capacity in the space allowed for it, and his board would likely be willing to invest in the building purchase. The committee concluded the meeting with a walk-through of 127 N. Main Street, discussing pros and cons of the building and the applicability of its use for Recovery Court. Committee Chair Hughes set a special meeting for 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 13, in the County Board Room at the Historic Courthouse to consider a recommendation on the building.
5. DCEO County Board Room Grant Update/Approval: The committee reviewed two proposals from Cinric Painting, one for \$10,750 to re-stain and refinish the historic woodwork, handrails, judge's bench and decorative moldings in the County board room, and the other for \$7,600 to paint them. The committee expressed interest in staining rather than painting. The County Board has already committed \$4,023.85 of the \$10,000 DCEO grant to seat cushions, leaving \$5,976.15 available. Committee Chair Hughes asked the Circuit Clerk to check with the resident judge for funds to cover the nearly \$5,000 cost above grant funding.
6. County Farm Lease Update/Approval: Bids will be opened at next month's meeting, and those present will have the opportunity to increase their bids.

7. Surplus Kohler Generator Update/Approval: The former generator at the Courthouse Complex has been transported to the EMA building at the Highway Department for possible use there. EMA/EPA Director Dan Hough said he will check with Coroner Randy Leetham to see if the generator will meet the needs of his proposed morgue at that site. If the generator cannot be used there, the committee will consider declaring it surplus and selling it.

Motion by Hancock and second by Beason to enter closed session to discuss real estate acquisition at 9:10 a.m. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Beason and second by Hancock to return to open session at 9:25 a.m. All in favor, motion carried.

8. Other Business: None.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 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, January 7th, 2026

Time: 8:30 AM – County Highway Department

Members present: Ethan Murzynski, Bill Bergen, Chad Ruppert, Keith Hancock, Rob Corso, Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: Patty Whitworth

Other Present: County Engineer Cody Greenwood, Lucas Nowlan of County Board Administration, various township road commissioners

1. **Public Comments:** None
2. **2026 Township MFT Rock Letting Update/Approval:** Engineer Cody Greenwood opened and reviewed the bids for 2026 township MFT rock letting. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Hancock to accept the low bids as presented. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. **2026 County MFT Rock Letting Update/Approval:** Engineer Cody Greenwood opened and reviewed the bids for 2026 county MFT rock letting. **Motion by Hancock and second by Ruppert to accept the low bids as presented. All in Favor, motion carried.**
4. **Section 20-00144-00-FP – Walshville Trail Road Improvement Update/ Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reported that he received a preliminary engineering agreement for improvements on Walshville Trail, noting that he will soon send recommendations for revisions. Greenwood hopes the final draft will be submitted by the end of February with construction starting in 2027. However, depending on the of right-of-way access issue, construction may be pushed back to 2028.
5. **Nokomis Rd. (CH 7) Extension/Improvement Project Update/Approval:** The committee continued to discuss the possibility of allowing the existing county road (which runs through the City of Nokomis on E. Union Street) to be transferred to the city of Nokomis and improving the road to Route 16 to divert truck traffic from city streets. Engineer Greenwood reported that there was nothing new to report, but is actively inquiring about paths forward.
6. **Section 23-05122-00-PV – Fillmore Township E. 24th Road Improvement Project – Engineering Agreement Update/Approval:** Fillmore Consolidated Township received funding to improve Township East 24th Road, which routinely floods as it runs along a creek bottom. Engineer Greenwood reviewed the preliminary engineering agreement from Hurst-Rosche to raise the road bed. **Motion by Bergen and second by Corso to recommend approval of a preliminary engineering and construction engineering agreement with Hurst-Rosche for \$25,000 for East 24th Road improvements in Fillmore Consolidated Township. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. **Highway Department Site Development Engineering Agreement – Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood introduced a new site development project for the County Highway Department grounds. This project would consist of conducting a boundary and topographic survey and providing civil engineering services to support the development of the future Montgomery County Highway Department site. Particular detail will be given to analysis of storm water drainage to evaluate existing drainage patterns and features. The proposed site development plan would ensure the safe transfer of the County Highway's mineral storage deposits to the western side of the site, clearing the eastern half of the site for the new EMA storage area soon to be constructed in the old Wright building, as well as any future expansion of the Montgomery County Health Department. Engineer

Greenwood proposed an engineering agreement with WHKS for \$35,000 to carry out a boundary and topographic survey, as well as design engineering services. Engineer Greenwood will reach out to the Health Department to inquire if they would be willing to share a portion of the \$35,000 fee.

8. **Resolution 2026-02, Equipment Purchase with Highway Funds Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood introduced Resolution 2026-02 which proposes to purchase a 2027 Western Star 47X Tandem Dump Truck with snow plow and tailgate spreader for an amount not to exceed \$315,000.00. This resolution intends to replace the highway department's oldest truck, a 2003 International. The second oldest, a 2007 International, would then become a spare, with six newer trucks being used on the county's six snow routes. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Corso to recommend approval of Resolution 2026-02, Equipment Purchase with Highway Funds not to exceed \$315,000.00. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. **Resolution 2026-03, Equipment Purchase with Coal Funds Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood introduced Resolution 2026-03 which proposes to purchase a 2027 Western Star 47X Tandem Dump Truck with snow plow and tailgate spreader for an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00. **Motion by Hancock and second by Bergen to recommend approval of Resolution 2026-03, Equipment Purchase with Coal Funds not to exceed \$300,000.00. All in favor, motion carried.**
10. **Heavy Equipment Shed Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reported that they are planning on completing a list of jobs that need completed before the final payment is issued to the contractor.
11. **Other Items:** Engineer Greenwood reported that the Highway Department's energy consumption has gone down 54% in the last year since the installation of solar panels.

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

Motion by Corso, second by Murzynski to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 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, January 8, 2026

Members Present: Andy Ritchie, Connie Beck, Rob Corso, Chris Daniels, Evan Young

Members Absent: Dr. Patty Whitworth, Doug Donaldson

Others Present: Mike Plunkett & Lucas Nowlan from County Board Administration, MCEDC Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Supervisor of Assessments Tysha Mullen, Bev Seamon, Marti Benning and LeEllen Watson from the Montgomery County Fair Board

1. Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Chair Ritchie.
2. Public Comment: None
3. SOA Office Update/Approval: The committee reviewed the reports from the Supervisor of Assessments, GIS office, and Property Evaluation & Tax Advisors (PETA) consultants. SOA Mullen reminded the committee the PETA contract expires at the end of January.
4. Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval: The committee reviewed the reports indicating a November 2025 coal royalty payment of \$139,502.14 bringing the total coal royalties for FY2025 to \$1,793,822.50.
5. Montgomery County Fair Board Request Update/Approval: Bev Seamon was present from the Montgomery County Fair Board, along with Fair Board members Marti Benning and LeEllen Watson, to request \$67,700 for needed electrical upgrades at the County Fairgrounds. Seamon said electric service at the fairgrounds is in substandard shape, requiring the use of several EMA generators during the 2025 county fair. After learning the fair board was ineligible for DCEO grant funds, the fair board has begun several fundraisers including a gun raffle, has inquired into Ameren grants, and requested assistance from the Montgomery County Farm Bureau. Board members said fundraising is not likely to raise what is needed in time to complete the work before this year's fair, scheduled for June 24-28. **Motion by Young and second by Daniels to recommend donating \$30,000 from Coal Fund 375 to the Montgomery County Fair Board for electrical work. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. 2026 IRS Mileage Rate Update/Approval: The committee reviewed the 2026 business standard mileage rate of 72.5 cents per mile. **Motion by Daniels and second by Young to increase the Montgomery County mileage reimbursement rate to 72.5 cents per mile beginning Wednesday, January 14, 2026. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. Fund 375 Purchases Update/Approval: The committee discussed seven requests for payments from Fund 375, including three from the Sheriff's office, one from the Treasurer's office, one from Animal Control, one from the Highway Department, and one from the County Board for the Supervisor of Assessments office. The committee needed more information on the Animal Control request for \$9,000 in coal funds for a used Chevy Tahoe from the Sheriff's office, and was disinclined to approve a \$300,000 request for a second new truck for the Highway Department. **Motion by Young and second by Beck to recommend spending from Coal Fund 375 1) \$7,936.68 to Power DMS for the Sheriff's office subscription; 2) \$24,868.71 to Motorola Solutions for the Sheriff's office body cam storage; 3) \$9,891 to GTSi for Sheriff's office squad car equipment; 4) \$4,149 to Tom Day for a refurbished copier in the Treasurer's office; and 5) \$14,583 to Property Evaluation & Tax Advisors for SOA consultant contract. All in favor, motion carried.**

8. Transfer Two Coal Rights Parcels from Trustee Sale Update/Approval: The committee reviewed documentation for the two parcels. **Motion by Ritchie and second by Young to recommend transferring two coal rights parcels from the trustee sale. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. Elected Official Salary Process Update/Approval: The committee discussed setting salaries for elected officials based off a percentage of the Sheriff's salary, which is a percentage of the State's Attorney salary. Salaries must be set at least 180 days before the General Election. The committee will continue the discussion next month when Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins is present with details.
10. Other Business: Treasurer Lohman introduced Hope Peters of the Scheffel Boyle audit team. Committee member Evan Young reminded the committee of a potential building purchase. Committee Chair Ritchie informed the committee of his plans to not run for re-election and move out of the area to be near family. The committee thanked him for his leadership.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.