

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

**8:30 a.m. Thursday, February 26, 2026**

Members Present: Doug Donaldson, Mark Hughes, Ethan Murzynski, Connie Beck for Andy Ritchie, Chad Ruppert, Dr. Patty Whitworth

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mike Plunkett and Lucas Nowlan of County Board Administration, Supervisor of Assessments Tysha Mullen, Engineer Cody Greenwood, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, IS Director Curt Watkins, 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 Watkins reported he has finished jury server upgrades, 911 flex-server migration, and replacing 911 PCs. His department continues to work on finishing court grant items, installing new PCs, phone system upgrades, and has begun bandwidth upgrades. Work on GIS transition to Bruce Harris, as well as remote DevNet access, has stalled due to the department's workload. Staffing solutions may be necessary.
2. Privacy Notice Policy Update/Approval: The committee reviewed the policy developed by Bushue HR and the county IS Department. **Motion by Murzynski and second by Ruppert to recommend approval of the Montgomery County Privacy Notice Policy. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. EMA/EPA Report Update/Approval: EMA/EPA Director Dan Hough was not present.
4. HELP Safety Committee Update/Approval: The new committee will first meet at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 10, in the County Board Room at the Historic Courthouse.
5. Other Business: None

Development & Personnel Committee: Chad Ruppert, Chairman

1. MCEDC Update/Approval: Kaitlyn Fath will be present for an update.
2. Animal Control Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
3. DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss. Committee Chair Ruppert anticipates the need for a Phase II extension request.
4. Tourism Grant Application Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
5. Wind and Solar Ordinance Update/Approval: The committee will review, discuss, and anticipates making a recommendation.
6. Battery Storage and Data Centers Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
7. CO2 Pipeline Eminent Domain Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
8. County Starting Salary Update/Approval: The committee continues to work with Bushue HR.
9. Other Business: A proposal for a survey and legal description of remaining county bike trail property will be on the agenda.

Buildings and Grounds: Mark Hughes, Chairman

1. Maintenance Report Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
2. Snow Blade for Side-by-Side Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss the request by Maintenance Director Phil Ernst.

3. Maintenance Agreements Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss requests by Maintenance Director Phil Ernst.
4. 127 N. Main Street Property Update/Approval: Committee Chairman Hughes reported another offer and counter-offer, but no agreement. The committee will review and discuss.
5. Other Business: None

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman

1. Elmore Solar Road Use Agreement Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
2. Other Business: Committee Chairman Murzynski and Engineer Greenwood anticipate agenda items for pipe culvert lettings and engineering agreements.

Finance and Budget Committee: Connie Beck, Vice Chairwoman

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. Special Service Area Ambulance Contracts Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss the Raymond-Harvel contract.
4. Circuit Clerk Audit Presentation Update/Approval: The presentation may not be ready.
5. IPRF Work Comp Premium Return Update/Approval: Treasurer Lohman reported as a result of the work of Chief Deputy Treasurer Trish Roemelin, the county received an \$11,500 premium refund.
6. Transfer of Tax Sale Certificate Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss the certificate assignment.
7. FY2027 Budget Process Update/Approval: The Treasurer and County Board Admin will have a process with dates ready for the committee to review.
8. Fund 375 Purchases Update/Approval: The committee will review and recommend.
9. Other Business: Treasurer Lohman reported she is changing the look of tax bills.

Motion to adjourn by Murzynski and second by Hughes. 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**  
**Development & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes**  
County Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Historic Courthouse  
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**5:00 p.m. Monday, March 2, 2026**

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

Members Absent: Doug Donaldson

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin, MCEDC Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Maggie Pateau of Pattern (virtually).

1. Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Chair Ruppert.
2. Public Comment: Dan Mulch of rural Raymond expressed concern about 100 wind turbines in the northern part of the county and lack of information from Pattern Energy. He said he believed the company was targeting absentee landlords and mis-reporting about who has signed leases.
3. MCEDC Update/Approval: Kaitlyn Fath reported on meetings she has attended, upcoming events including the planned Asarco site tour on Friday, March 6, and progress on her program of work.
4. Animal Control Update/Approval: Warden Papin reported 16 dogs and pups, including six that arrived in one day, as well as seven cats and kittens currently at the facility. She reported advertising to fill a staff vacancy and a rabies clinic planned for April 11. Fence work will begin soon, and she expressed satisfaction with the new former MCSO vehicle.
5. Green Diamond Bike Trail Parcel Legal Description Proposal Update/Approval: In order to complete the transfer of parcel 03-21-381-004 of the Green Diamond Bike Trail to the Village of Waggoner, survey work must be done, and the committee reviewed a proposal from Nail Land Surveying of Litchfield. **Motion by Bergen and second by Jones to recommend the agreement with Nail Land Surveying of Litchfield for an estimated \$3,000 to survey parcel 03-21-381-004. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval: County Board Administrator Plunkett reported requesting budget revisions for the first phase and a time extension to complete work funded by the second phase.
7. Tourism Grant Application Update/Approval: The committee reviewed the grant application and schedule to award the \$5,000 budgeted for FY2026. The committee will review applications at their April meeting.
8. Wind and Solar Ordinance Update/Approval: The committee reviewed proposed changes in the wind ordinance required by the Energy Omnibus bill signed by the Governor on Jan. 8, 2026. Proposed changes include a lower maximum fee cap, a requirement to conclude the public hearing within 60 days, an increase in the timeframe to start the project from one year to five years, and the removal of Fish & Wildlife Survey requirements. Committee Chair Ruppert said he will ask the County Board to take action in March. **Motion by Daniels and second by Beason to recommend changes to the Wind Ordinance. All in favor, motion carried.**

9. Battery Storage and Data Centers Update/Approval: The committee reviewed state legislation that allows a county to establish standards for energy storage systems only if they have a zoning ordinance, and reviewed the process of state legislation filed on Feb. 6, 2026 regarding data centers.
10. CO2 Pipeline Eminent Domain Update/Approval: The committee discussed a request to support Illinois SB2842 that would prohibit the use of eminent domain to install CO2 pipelines. **Motion by Daniels and second by Jones to recommend a resolution in support of Illinois SB2842. All in favor, motion carried.**
11. County Starting Salary Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert said he continues to work with Bushue HR with the goal of having a recommendation before FY2027 budget work begins.
12. Other Business: The committee reviewed information from Pattern Energy regarding aerial raptor nest surveys by helicopter scheduled for March 5-8.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Historic Courthouse  
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**8:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 3, 2026**

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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, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, EMA/EPA Director Dan Hough

1. Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Chairman Donaldson.
2. Public Comments: Brandi Lentz of MCR Realty Professionals, representing the owners of the 127 North Main Street property, addressed the committee to express her dissatisfaction with the apparent lack of transparency regarding the negotiations between the county and her client. She questioned why the county had submitted three offers below assessed value, and said the process has restricted other offers. She reminded the committee the seller had offered the property to the county before it was listed, and due to previous disagreements with the committee chair, she requested another board member be assigned to negotiations.
3. Maintenance Report Update/Approval: Maintenance Director Phil Ernst reviewed the 46 items on his report, including submitting and receiving the updated elevator certificates for all three elevators from the State Fire Marshall's office. Ernst reported that the incinerator near the Animal Control Facility was in need of repair. He said Rod Smith re-welded angle iron back on the front door of the incinerator, as well as re-mudded and re-lined the interior of the incinerator with fire brick. Cinric Painting reached out to establish a date range for the previously approved work on the County Board Room as well as the Historic Courthouse front porch (from April 15-30). Ernst reported his department completed 30 work orders during the past month.
4. Snow Blade for Side-by-Side Update/Approval: The committee reviewed a proposal from Maintenance Director Phil Ernst to modify the Sheriff's four-by-four to be used as a snow plow. The committee agreed that the current snow blower that Ernst is utilizing needs replaced, however they would like Ernst to look at a new snow blower option rather than modifying a four-by-four to be used as a snow plow. **Motion by Young and second by Beason to have Maintenance Director Phil Ernst search for a new snow blower to replace the current one. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. Maintenance Agreements Update/Approval: The committee reviewed two extended protection warranties for backup generators. The committee asked Ernst to reach out to a representative from Altorfer Power Systems to provide more information to the committee regarding these warranties. The committee also reviewed Planned Maintenance Agreements from Henson Robinson Company in Springfield to provide scheduled maintenance for the two Lochinvar Knight XL high efficiency boilers for \$1,895/year and the Daikin AGZ Chiller for \$2,000/year. **Motion by Beck and second by Beason to recommend the planned Maintenance Agreements for both the Daikin AGZ Chiller as well as the two Lochinaver Knight XL high efficiency boilers. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. 127 N. Main Street Property Update/Approval: **Motion by Beason and second by Young to go into closed session to discuss the progress on the property purchase negotiations at 8:57 a.m. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Beason and second by Beck to return to open session at 9:15 a.m. All in favor, motion carried.**

7. 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 Beck. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 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, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026      **Time:** 8:30 AM – County Highway Department

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

**Members Absent:** none

**Other Present:** County Engineer Cody Greenwood, Lucas Nowlan of County Board Administration

1. **Public Comments:** None

2. **Section 26-03115-00-BR – Butler Grove Twp. N. 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. Bridge Replacement Engineering Agreement Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood presented the committee with an engineering agreement from Hurst-Rosche Inc. to replace an existing wood deck bridge with a new drainage structure along with local channel improvements and associated roadway improvements on North 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Butler Grove Township. The bridge will be funded 80% by the Township Bridge Fund, with the remaining 20% coming from the local funds. The total project will not to exceed \$60,895.00. **Motion by Corso and second by Ruppert to recommend the engineering agreement for an estimated \$60,895.00 to replace the Bridge on North 15<sup>th</sup> Ave in Butler Grove Township. All in favor, motion carried.**

3. **2026 Pipe Culvert Letting Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reported that he had not received any bids for the 2026 Pipe Culvert Letting. Greenwood will research prices, and hopes to have an update next meeting.

4. **Resolution 2026-05 appropriating funds for 50/50 bridge pile repair on Red Bridge Tr., Hillsboro Township Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the resolution and map for a 50/50 bridge pile repair on Red Bridge Trail in Hillsboro Township. Engineer Greenwood noted the bridge is in a state of severe deterioration and is currently closed. The cost of the project is estimated at \$60,000 with Montgomery County responsible for half the cost and Hillsboro Township Road District responsible for the other half. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Bergen to recommend approval of Resolution 2026-05 to appropriate funds from the County Aid to Bridge Fund to pay one-half of an estimated \$60,000 project to repair bridge piles on Red Bridge Trail in Hillsboro Township. All in favor, motion carried (Murzynski abstained).**

5. **Elmore Solar Road Use Agreement Update/Approval:** The committee reviewed the road use agreement for Elmore Solar in Farmersville, CF Farmersville Solar. The agreement states CF Farmersville Solar has the right to use approximately one mile of Main Street (Mine Ave.) to access the proposed location during the construction of a solar farm in Farmersville. The agreement outlines size and location of the entrance culvert and entrance road, as well responsibilities regarding use and upkeep of the road. **Motion by Whitworth and second by**

**Hancock to recommend approval of the CF Farmersville Solar – Montgomery County Road Use Agreement. All in favor, motion carried.**

6. **Heavy Equipment Shed Update/Approval:** Engineer Greenwood reported that the Highway Department has officially moved out of the white block building, handing the keys over to EPA/EMA/911 Director Dan Hough. The Highway Department forces are continuing to move miscellaneous equipment into the new building. Engineer Greenwood notified the committee that he received two bids for spraying insulation in the attic of the new pole building, with the cost coming from his budget.
  
7. **Other Items:** Engineer Greenwood gave an update regarding his planned application for U.S. Representative Mary Miller’s Community Project Funding Grant. Because the funds for the grant are meant to be utilized for FY2027, Greenwood is shifting focuses to the already in-progress Walshville By-Pass project. Greenwood is hoping to submit the application in the next day or so, and is anticipating a letter of support will soon arrive from the Walshville Village Board.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Historic Courthouse  
#1 Courthouse Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049

**8:30 a.m. Thursday, March 5, 2026**

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

Members Absent: Doug Donaldson

Others Present: Mike Plunkett and Lucas Nowlan of County Board Administration, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, EMA/EPA/911 Director Dan Hough, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Development & Personnel Committee Chairman Chad Ruppert

1. Pledge of Allegiance: was led by committee member Evan Young.
2. Public Comment: None
3. SOA Office Update/Approval: The committee reviewed the report, noting 220 Disabled Exemptions and 645 Senior Exemptions received as of March 3. The report also noted an upcoming meeting with Bruce Harris, who has acquired Beacon.
4. Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval: Reports from Treasurer Lohman noted a January coal royalty payment of \$64,120.37 leaving a total Coal Fund balance of \$10.7 million.
5. Special Service Area Ambulance Contracts Update/Approval: The committee reviewed the FY2026 agreement with the Raymond-Harvel Area Ambulance Service. **Motion by Young and second by Daniels to recommend approval of the agreement between the Montgomery County Board and Raymond-Harvel Area Ambulance Service. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. Circuit Clerk Audit Presentation Update/Approval: The audit is not yet complete.
7. IPRF Work Comp Premium Return Update/Approval: After a Workers Comp audit by Chief Deputy Trish Roemelin, Treasurer Lohman reported a premium refund of \$11,444 from Illinois Public Risk Fund (IPRF).
8. Assignment of Tax Sale Certificate Update/Approval: The committee discussed the seldom-used process of the Assignment of Tax Sale Certificate, recommended in this case by the County Trustee. **Motion by Beck and second by Whitworth to recommend Assignment of Tax Sale Certificate of Purchase number 2023-00091 on parcel ID number 16-01-330-003 to Ryan Holland. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. A/P and Payroll Expense Request for Office 047 Update/Approval: County Clerk Leitheiser explained a request to take expenses for accounts payable and payroll checks, envelopes, and toner from the General Administrative budget in the General Fund rather than from the County Clerk and Treasurer budgets in the General Fund. Leitheiser said that, like copy paper and other items in the General Administrative budget, AP and payroll supplies are used on every office, and the continuing increase in costs for those supplies will run over budgeted expense lines in office budgets. The committee discussed taking the expenses from the "Other Expense" line item in the General Administrative budget this year and budgeting a separate line item in FY2027. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Daniels to recommend vouchers of \$353.52 to Quill for checks, \$690.08 to Quill for envelopes, and \$334.99 to Paragon Micro for MICR secure toner from line item 100-047-540.012 in the General Administrative budget. All in favor, motion carried.**

10. FY2027 Budget Process Update/Approval: The committee reviewed a schedule developed by County Board Administration and Treasurer Lohman setting out the FY2027 budget process schedule, beginning with setting wage changes and starting salaries in April, conducting budget hearings in August, and concluding with adopting the final budget in November. The committee agreed with the tentative schedule.
11. Fund 375 Purchases Update/Approval: The committee reviewed Coal Fund 375 vouchers to GTSi for a Sheriff's Office vehicle build and to Victory Lane Chrysler for an EMA vehicle. **Motion by Young and second by Whitworth to recommend paying the Coal Fund 375 vouchers. All in favor, motion carried.**
12. Other Business: Treasurer Lohman explained changes in the mobile home tax process, and anticipated changes in the appearance of real estate tax bills.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.