

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, June 25, 2026

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

Members Absent: Mark Hughes

Others Present: Mike Plunkett and Lucas Nowlan of County Board Administration, Engineer Cody Greenwood, EMA/EPA/911 Director Dan Hough, IS Director Curt Watkins, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Sheriff Tyson Holshouser, Chief Deputy Lance Weitekamp

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Chairman Donaldson.

Public Comments: None

Coordinating Committee: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman

1. Information Systems Report Update/Approval: Director Curt Watkins continues to work on secure door access, phone system upgrades, replacing PCs, and finishing Cress Hill Tower building work. He reported the uptick in phishing emails has continued, and he is collecting applications for potential additional staff.
2. EMA/EPA Report Update/Approval: Director Dan Hough reported on an issue in Fillmore during which cattle were running at large. During the incident, message boards were borrowed from IDOT. He also provided mutual aid to Coles County after a tornado, and discussed a COAD meeting scheduled for that evening.
3. HELP Safety Committee Update/Approval: The committee reviewed a Return to Work Policy recommended by Bushue HR.
4. FOIA Bot Verification Update/Approval: The committee discussed recommendations from Bushue HR on verifying suspicious FOIA requests.
5. Other Business: Sheriff Holshouser discussed imminent changes in local law enforcement and potential staffing impacts.

Development & Personnel Committee: Chad Ruppert, Chairman

1. Animal Control Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
2. MCEDC Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
3. MCEDC FY2027 Budget Update/Approval: The committee will discuss an FY2027 budget recommendation.
4. Geronimo Power Update/Approval: A presentation is likely.
5. Small Biz Grant Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss new applicants.
6. Green Diamond Bike Trail Update/Approval: Remaining portions of the bike trail have now been deeded to the Village of Waggoner. The village would like the county to reconsider criteria for reimbursement for oil and chip.
7. Wind & Solar Ordinance Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss recommendations from legal counsel Andrew Keyt.
8. DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
9. Union Negotiation Schedule Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss a negotiation schedule and procedure.
10. Employee Handbook (NICU) Update/Approval: Bushue will recommend a necessary update.
11. Other Business: Committee Chair Ruppert requested Pattern Energy to be added to the agenda.

Buildings and Grounds: Doug Donaldson, County Board Chairman

1. Maintenance Report Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
2. Historic Courthouse Boiler Replacement Update/Approval: The committee will open and review bids.
3. Historic Courthouse South Porch Lighting Update/Approval: The committee will review cost estimates.
4. Otis Elevator Surcharge Update/Approval: The committee will review and make a recommendation.
5. 127 N. Main Update/Approval: Chairman Donaldson reported the plumber was at work.
6. Other Business: Committee member Ruppert asked the committee to consider signage for new county buildings.

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman

1. Other Business: Committee Chair Murzynski anticipates agenda items regarding a 50/50 pipe culvert replacement, bid results for a box culvert, and a Walshville Bypass update and engineering agreement.

Finance and Budget Committee: Connie Beck, Chairwoman

1. Audit Presentation Update/Approval: An audit presentation is anticipated.
2. SOA Office Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
3. Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
4. Tax Sale Resolution Update/Approval: A resolution will be required when new legislation becomes law.
5. Solar Federal Tax Credit Refund Update/Approval: The county has received the federal tax credit check.
6. Commission Election Judges Update/Approval: County Clerk Leitheiser will have lists for the committee to review and make a recommendation.
7. Fund 375 Purchases Update/Approval: The committee will review and make recommendations.
8. Other Business: None

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 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, July 6, 2026

Members Present: Rob Corso, Chris Daniels, Jeremy Jones, Roy Schieferdecker, Russ Beason, Chad Ruppert

Members Absent: Doug Donaldson

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, MCEDC Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath, Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin, Nokomis Community & Economic Development Fellow Audra Elam

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Chair Ruppert.

1. Public Comments: Nokomis Community & Economic Development Fellow Audra Elam described a small business competition the city is launching with a grand prize package that includes a building. The application period opens Aug. 1, and if successful, Nokomis is willing to share the program with other communities.
2. Animal Control Update/Approval: Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin reported her department responded to 37 calls in June and adopted out 15 animals the first week of July. The incinerator is inoperable, and Animal Control will consult with the Finance & Budget Committee for replacement options.
3. MCEDC Update/Approval: MCEDC Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath reviewed her report, noting EPA clean-up work at Asarco in Taylor Springs will likely begin with lakes and residential properties, but will include no local contractors for the first layer of work. She also reported on the IHDA Strong Communities grant application, meeting with Small Biz Grant recipients, tourism, the community calendar, cellular coverage, and the COAD project timeline.
4. MCEDC FY2027 Budget Update/Approval: The committee discussed the request by MCEDC to increase the \$15,000 contribution for FY2027 and perhaps moving the contribution from the General Fund to Fund 375. The committee will make a recommendation next month prior to August budget hearings.
5. Geronimo Power Update/Approval: Jack Haley will reschedule later this fall.
6. Small Biz Grant Update/Approval: The committee reviewed the status of seven Small Biz Grant recipients who have yet to open. One will not open and has repaid grant funds, one is deceased, and five continue to make progress toward opening. The committee also reviewed new applicants and will invite them to the August committee meeting.
7. Green Diamond Bike Trail Update/Approval: The committee reviewed the survey and transfer of remaining Green Diamond Bike Trail property to the Village of Waggoner, who has requested the \$22,000 payment for oil and chip promised as a reimbursement in the February 2025 intergovernmental agreement. After discussing the village's difficulty in paying for the oil and chip in advance, the committee recommended requesting the payment be made from Fund 375 this month. **Motion by Jones and second by Beason to amend the intergovernmental agreement to recommend payment to the Village of Waggoner of \$22,000 from Fund 375 to oil and chip the Green Diamond Bike Trail. All in favor, motion carried.**

8. Wind & Solar Ordinance Update/Approval: The committee reviewed proposed new wind and solar ordinances suggested by Attorney Andrew Keyt under contract. The proposed new ordinances are consistent with state and federal statutes, would add building permit requirements, require applicants to supply more information up front, and appear to give the County Board more decision-making criteria during the public hearing process. The committee requested adding language requiring leases to be recorded, requiring drainage district agreements, and requiring operating manual recommended setbacks.
9. DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval: With the award of the final Small Biz Grants, the county will close out Phase 1, Phase 2 is 73% complete, and a grant agreement for Phase 3 is anticipated in the next few weeks.
10. Union Negotiation Schedule Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert will meet with the union in August to exchange proposals and schedule negotiation meetings.
11. Employee Handbook (NICU) Update/Approval: The committee is awaiting required language changes from Bushue HR.
12. Pattern Energy Update/Approval: The committee reviewed the list of Pattern land agents filed in the County Clerk's office on June 25, 2026. Committee Chair Ruppert noted the filing was after the 30 days required by county resolution, and expressed disappointment no action has been taken on a required "do not contact" list. He also read a letter from county resident and landowner John Rundquist expressing frustration with the misinformation that he had signed a lease with Pattern.
13. Other Business: Committee Chair Ruppert asked County Board Administration to make contact with a developer who is making contacts in the former UKA project footprint.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 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, July 7, 2026

Members Present: Connie Beck, Keith Hancock, Roy Schieferdecker, Russ Beason

Members Absent: Cody Gudgel, Mark Hughes, Doug Donaldson

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Maintenance Director Phil Ernst, Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin, MCEDC Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Vice Chair Beason

1. Public Comments: None
2. Maintenance Report Update/Approval: Maintenance Director Phil Ernst reviewed the 77 items on his report, noting his department completed 64 work orders in June and worked several overtime hours.
3. Animal Control Roof Reseal Bid Proposal Update/Approval: The committee reviewed two proposals for around \$25,000 to reseal the leaking metal roof at Animal Control, as well as a proposal for approximately \$29,000 to reroof the building. The committee asked Maintenance Director Ernst to solicit bids to reroof the building.
4. Animal Control Incinerator Bid Proposal Update/Approval: The committee reviewed a proposal to replace the inoperable Animal Control incinerator for \$11,205 plus \$750 installation. **Motion by Beck and second by Schieferdecker to recommend Animal Control incinerator replacement for \$11,205 plus \$750 installation from Fund 375. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. Historic Courthouse Boiler Replacement Update/Approval: Committee Vice Chair Beason opened one bid for \$94,888 from Henson Robinson Company of Springfield to replace the inoperable boiler in the Historic Courthouse. \$78,050 of the cost will be reimbursed by the DCEO Energy Transition Grant. **Motion by Hancock and second by Beck to recommend awarding low bid of \$94,888 to Henson Robinson Company of Springfield to replace the Historic Courthouse boiler. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. Historic Courthouse South Porch Lighting Update/Approval: Maintenance Director Phil Ernst recommended putting off the lighting discussion until after Cinric completes repairs and painting.
7. Otis Elevator Surcharge Update/Approval: Maintenance Director Phil Ernst researched and paid the \$650 invoice.
8. Outdoor Picnic Table Update/Approval: The committee discussed replacing the picnic table on the north side of the Historic Courthouse with an 8-foot metal table with thermoplastic coating. The committee discussed funding options for the \$1,095 table including Building & Grounds funds, grant funds, and donating it themselves. County Board Admin will seek grant funding. **Motion by Beason and second by Beck to purchase 8-foot metal picnic table from Uline for \$1,095. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. Signage for County Buildings Update/Approval: The committee discussed uniform signage for new county buildings, but ultimately decided departments are responsible for making the purchases from their own budgets. The committee recommended using the County Seal in signage when possible.

10. 127 N. Main Update/Approval: The committee reviewed three proposals to replace the ramp and porch in front of the building ranging from \$65,000 to \$19,500. Both Maintenance Director Phil Ernst and Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins were confident the building would be ready for use at well under the \$100,000 budget. **Motion by Beason and second by Schieferdecker to recommend awarding the low bid of \$19,500 for ramp and porch replacement at 127 N. Main to RL Construction of Hillsboro. All in favor, motion carried.**

11. Other Business: The committee discussed the possibility of contracting for mowing services in the FY2027 budget, and would like the item to be on the August agenda.

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

Motion to adjourn by Beck and second by Schieferdecker. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:33 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, Montgomery County Highway Department
11159 IL Route 185, Hillsboro, IL 62049

8:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 8, 2026

Members Present: Rob Corso, Dr. Patty Whitworth, Evan Young, Keith Hancock, Ethan Murzynski

Members Absent: Cody Gudgel, Doug Donaldson

Others Present: Engineer Cody Greenwood, County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, EMA/EPA/911 Director Dan Hough, and Cory Chamberlain, Rick Allender, and Lindsey Jones of WHKS

1. Public Comment: None
2. Portable Changeable Message Signs Update/Approval: Engineer Cody Greenwood and EMA/EPA/911 Director Dan Hough presented a plan to make an FY2027 budget request for \$40,000 from Fund 375 for two portable changeable message signs. Greenwood said the signs are effective in controlling traffic during construction and emergency events, and messages can be changed remotely. Hough said his department requested remote signs from the state during the Fillmore cattle event, but they took a long time to arrive and could only be used on state right-of-way. The signs would also be useful to the Sheriff's Office.
3. Bid results for 50/50 culvert replacement (MCHD Project 1283) on E. 17th Rd., Irving Township Update/Approval: The committee reviewed two bids for a concrete box culvert to be delivered to the county and installed by the Highway Department on East 17th Road in Irving Township. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Hancock to recommend awarding the low bid of \$49,535.62 to JJ's Concrete Construction of Montgomery, IN, for a 50/50 culvert replacement in Irving Township. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. Resolution 2026-08 appropriating funds for 50/50 pipe culvert replacement (MCHD Project 1284) on Capps Ave., Nokomis Township Update/Approval: The committee reviewed the resolution and map for a 50/50 double-pipe culvert replacement on Capps Avenue just outside the City of Nokomis in Nokomis Township. **Motion by Young and second by Corso to recommend the resolution appropriating County Aid to Bridge Funds for a \$60,000 50/50 pipe culvert replacement in Nokomis Township. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. Resolution 2026-09 appropriating funds for 50/50 pipe culvert replacement (MCDH Project 1285) on N. 1st Ave., Walshville Township Update/Approval: The committee reviewed the resolution and map for a 50/50 pipe culvert replacement on North 1st Avenue in Walshville Township. **Motion by Young and second by Whitworth to recommend the resolution appropriating County Aid to Bridge Funds for an \$18,000 50/50 pipe culvert replacement in Irving Township. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. Section 20-00144-00-FP Walshville Tr. Road Improvement Engineering Agreement Update/Approval: Vice President Cory Chamberlain of WHKS in Springfield began an hour-long update and discussion of the estimated \$2.5 million Walshville Bypass project. Engineer Lindsey Jones of WHKS described the history of the current road alignment which forces traffic through sharp curves in the Village of Walshville resulting in road deterioration and numerous crashes. The proposed new bypass alignment chosen by the county would run south and east of the village with 11-foot lanes and 4-foot paved shoulders, requiring the purchase of 4.7 acres of current farmland, as well as the realignment of Eilert Trail and Hamby Lane. Engineer Rick Allender of WHKS said Phase I preliminary engineering work is nearly complete, and WHKS is requesting a contract for Phase II design engineering. Chamberlain estimated Phase III construction would begin in 2028. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Corso**

to recommend the Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement with WHKS of Springfield for the completion of Phase I preliminary engineering and Phase II design engineering for an amount not to exceed \$247,564 to be paid from the Federal Aid Matching Fund. All in favor, motion carried.

7. Other Business: None.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:51 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

Finance & Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

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

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

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

Members Absent: Chad Ruppert, Doug Donaldson

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Maintenance Director Phil Ernst, Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin, Undersheriff Jeff Roach, Chief Deputy Lance Weitekamp, MCEDC Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath, Robyn Klingler and Hope Peters of Scheffel Boyle, and Brian Redman, Dave Beal, and Walt Tarran of the Hazmat Team

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Chair Beck.

1. Public Comment: None
2. Audit Presentation Update/Approval: Robyn Klingler of Scheffel Boyle in Alton described the process and procedures used for the audit, noting “the cleanest opinion we can give.” The audit noted a positive \$1.5 million change in position from the previous fiscal year, including \$900,000 in Coal Fund 375. Findings included expenses exceeding budgeted amounts in some lines, the county does not prepare its own financials, and timing when federal ARPA grant funds were expensed.
3. SOA Office Update/Approval: The committee reviewed and discussed the report.
4. Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval: From the reports, the committee noted a May coal royalty payment of \$159,430.50 and a Coal Fund 375 balance of \$10.8 million.
5. HAZMAT Vehicle Update/Approval: David Beal from the Hazmat team presented a request for a \$40,000 four-year loan from the county to purchase a used 1996 truck with 30,000 miles that would replace both Hazmat trailers. The committee discussed the condition and need for the vehicle, as well as dwindling Coal Funds appropriated for FY2026 and the need for a Memorandum of Understanding. The committee ultimately requested the Hazmat team inquire if the truck could be acquired for a \$10,000 down payment with the remaining \$30,000 budgeted from Fund 375 in FY2027.
6. Tax Sale Resolution Update/Approval: Treasurer Nikki Lohman reported a resolution to change the tax sale and tax deed process will be required when legislation becomes law.
7. Solar Federal Tax Credit Refund Update/Approval: Treasurer Lohman reported a federal tax credit refund of \$151,075 for solar projects at the Health Department, Highway Department, and Senior Center.
8. Commission Election Judges Update/Approval: County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser reported the County Board will be asked to commission Election Judges at the July 9 meeting.
9. Sheriff’s Office Intergovernmental Agreement Update/Approval: Undersheriff Jeff Roach reported an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Nokomis is pending in rough draft form.
10. Fund 375 Purchases Update/Approval: The committee reviewed Fund 375 vouchers presented for approval, as well as requests for expenses from the fund. The committee rejected a \$22,000 voucher to the Village of Waggoner for oiling and chipping the Green Diamond Trail, voicing a preference to pay the contractor directly. **Motion by Daniels and second by Whitworth to recommend payment of**

vouchers from Fund 375 to Hillsboro Electric for \$2,189.50; Ace Hardware for \$224.49; Weiss Construction for \$5,550; Kirby Painting for \$1,250; Uline for \$8,504.06 and \$3,019.72; Advance Security Resources for \$200; RL Construction for \$19,500; Nail Land Surveying for \$3,000; Cullison & Vandever for \$100; and Truck Centers Inc. for \$173,712. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Whitworth and second by Young to recommend approval for Fund 375 expenditures of \$16,838 for the Historic Courthouse boiler in excess of grand funding, and \$11,955 to replace the Animal Control incinerator. All in favor, motion carried.

11. Other Business: The committee reviewed the salary adjustments for the State's Attorney, Public Defender, and Sheriff, based on a 4.1% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for the State's Attorney. Beginning July 1, 2026 the State's Attorney's salary will be \$176,830.31; the Public Defender's salary will be \$159,147.28; and the Sheriff's salary will be \$141,464.44.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.