

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, July 30, 2026

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

Members Absent: Chad Ruppert

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Engineer Cody Greenwood, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, EMA/EPA/911 Director Dan Hough, Sheriff Tyson Holshouser, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, IS Director Curt Watkins, MCEDC Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath

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 annex key fob work is nearly finished and phone system updates are waiting on work from the vendor. He has been maintaining back-up batteries, working on the FY2027 budget, and interviewing for a new position.
2. EMA/EPA Report Update/Approval: Director Dan Hough reported he has been working on the FY2027 budget, and volunteers have been in the field working on the commodity flow study. He reported National Weather Service engineers were not pleased with the condition of the Cress Hill Tower, which they estimated a cost of \$350,000 to \$400,000 to replace. Chairman Donaldson asked Hough to research grants, and asked County Board Administration to place the item on the Finance & Budget Committee agenda.
3. Sheriff's Office Intergovernmental Agreement Update/Approval: Sheriff Tyson Holshouser reported there have been no requests for consideration.
4. Review Closed Session Minutes Update/Approval: **Motion by Donaldson and second by Whitworth to recommend forever sealing Buildings & Grounds Committee Executive Session minutes from Jan. 6, 2026; Jan. 13, 2026; March 2, 2026; and May 5, 2026; and Full Board Executive Session minutes from Jan. 13, 2026; Feb. 10, 2026; March 10, 2026; and March 18, 2026. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. Planning Commission Appointments Update/Approval: The committee reviewed previous Planning Commission voting members whose terms expired between 2021 and 2025. County Board Admin will make contact to determine who is interested in a reappointment, and committee members will suggest potential replacements where needed.
6. Other Business: Chairman Donaldson reported learning on Monday, July 27, of Illinois Commerce Commission Notice of Inquiry 26-NOI-02, which solicited input from communities interested in hosting nuclear power production. The deadline for submission was May 25, but Donaldson requested County Board Admin to inquire whether an opportunity to submit still existed. County Board Admin learned on Tuesday, July 28, that the Illinois Commerce Commission would accept a submission from Montgomery County by Friday, July 31. The committee reviewed the Montgomery County submission, and Chairman Donaldson requested it be submitted that day, on Thursday, July 30. Chairman Donaldson also reported he would ask the Full Board to approve "A Resolution in Support of the Responsible Siting, Development and Operation of Nuclear Energy Facilities in Montgomery County, Illinois" at the Tuesday, Aug. 11, meeting.

Development & Personnel Committee: Doug Donaldson, Board Chairman

1. Small Biz Grant Update/Approval: The committee will meet with applicants and make recommendations.
2. Animal Control Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
3. MCEDC Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
4. MCEDC FY2027 Budget Update/Approval: The committee will discuss and make a recommendation.
5. Green Diamond Oil & Chip Update/Approval: The committee will discuss and make a recommendation.
6. Wind & Solar Ordinance Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
7. DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval: Chairman Donaldson reported learning earlier that morning DCEO had made a personnel change and misplaced some of Montgomery County's Phase III application. County Board Admin furnished the requested missing appendices.
8. Union Negotiation Update/Approval: Negotiations with Local 1084 representing two bargaining units in the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will begin in August.
9. Employee Handbook (NICU) Update/Approval: Bushue HR will provide any necessary new language.
10. Pattern Energy Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
11. Other Business: None.

Buildings and Grounds: Mark Hughes, Chairman

1. Maintenance Report Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
2. Animal Control Roof Report Update/Approval: Committee Chair Hughes reported the committee will discuss replacing washers where leaks are occurring.
3. Historic Courthouse South Porch Lighting Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss proposals.
4. 127 N. Main Update/Approval: The committee will discuss proposals for concrete ramps.
5. Outsource Mowing Services for FY2027 Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
6. Other Business: None.

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman

1. Other Business: Committee Chair Murzynski anticipates a light agenda because Engineer Cody Greenwood will be on vacation.

Finance and Budget Committee: Connie Beck, 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. FY2025 Audit Update/Approval: The committee will consider a recommendation to accept the FY2025 audit, and consider a recommendation to request proposals for the FY2026 audit.
4. IRS Mileage Rate Update/Approval: The committee will discuss and make a recommendation on adjusting the county mileage reimbursement based on the IRS adjustment.
5. Tax Sale Resolution Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
6. FY2027 Budget Process Update/Approval: The committee will prepare for Budget Hearings, set for Aug. 18-19.
7. FY2027 Tax Levy Discussion Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss whether Truth in Taxation hearings will be required.
8. Fund 375 Purchases Update/Approval: The committee will review and make recommendations.
9. Other Business: None.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 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, August 3, 2026

Members Present: Rob Corso, Chris Daniels, Roy Schieferdecker (at 5:09 p.m.), Russ Beason, Chad Ruppert

Members Absent: Jeremy Jones, Doug Donaldson

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, MCEDC Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath, Sheriff Tyson Holshouser, Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins.

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Chair Ruppert.

1. Public Comments: None
2. Small Biz Grant Update/Approval: The committee heard presentations from Roy Dunning of Aaron's, salon developer Samantha McFarlin, Matt Palazzolo of Palazzolo's Prime Provisions, Jeremy Walk of 413 Rental & Storage, Tammy Flowers of Fillmore General Store, Karen Hemken of Massage Therapy & Bodywork by Karen, Wayne and Tina Jansen of The Awning, and Danell Fogle of Briar Rose. The committee scored applications. **Motion by Beason and second by Corso to make Small Biz Grants as recommended. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. Animal Control Update/Approval: Warden Tricia Papin reported eight dogs and 18 cats at the facility, and also described two upcoming events.
4. MCEDC Update/Approval: MCEDC Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath reported progress on her program of work including new business consultations, the community calendar, and work on forming a Panhandle-area volunteer group. She participated in 13 meetings during the previous month.
5. MCEDC FY2027 Budget Update/Approval: The committee discussed the previous MCEDC request to increase county membership dues from \$15,000. The committee consensus was the county is getting value from its membership. After consultation with County Board Admin, Committee Chair Ruppert suggested contracting with MCEDC for community grant assistance and using the \$30,000 in Phase II of the DCEO grant. **Motion by Beason and second by Daniels to recommend a contract with MCEDC for community grant assistance using the \$30,000 in the DCEO Energy Transition Grant. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. Green Diamond Oil & Chip Update/Approval: **Motion by Beason and second by Daniels to amend the intergovernmental agreement to recommend payment to the Village of Waggoner of \$22,000 from Fund 375 to maintain the Green Diamond Bike Trail. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. Wind & Solar Ordinance Update/Approval: County Board Admin distributed draft wind and solar ordinance copies amended by Attorney Andrew Keyt with changes requested by the committee last month. Committee Chair Ruppert asked the committee to review the drafts before next month's meeting.
8. DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval: County Board Admin reported that DCEO has requested resubmission of several application items that have been lost at their level.

9. Union Negotiation Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert will begin discussions with Local 1084 before initial meetings are scheduled.
10. Employee Handbook (NICU) Update/Approval: Bushue HR will suggest language required by new legislation.
11. Pattern Energy Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert shared an email and response from Diogo Botelho of Pattern regarding recording leases and a do not call list. Botelho's response: "The statement previously provided to the county in regards to the 'Do Not Call' designation is an accurate representation of our process of contacting local landowners. We see having a 'Do Not Call' designation in our database, versus having a 'list,' as an apples-to-apples comparison. The end result is the same – we respect the landowner's wishes, and it is visible to all land agents and employees working on the project. We are following all applicable laws in regard to filing lease memos."
12. Elm Lawn Solar Project Update/Approval: County Board Admin shared an email from the Litchfield City Administrator that anticipates the city "waiving jurisdiction of review of the Elm Lawn Solar project."
13. Nuclear Energy Update/Approval: County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser and County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett explained the process that led to the nuclear energy submission to the Illinois Commerce Commission. The committee expressed support for nuclear energy.
14. Other Business: None

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 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, August 4, 2026

Members Present: Connie Beck, Keith Hancock, Roy Schieferdecker, Russ Beason, Mark Hughes, Doug Donaldson

Members Absent: Cody Gudgel

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

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Chair Hughes.

1. Public Comments: None
2. Maintenance Report Update/Approval: Maintenance Director Phil Ernst reviewed the 69 items on his report, including 51 work orders completed in July. HVAC, plumbing, and mowing issues were of concern.
3. Animal Control Roof Report Update/Approval: The committee reviewed proposals for work ranging from replacing screws and washers to completely replacing the roof. **Motion by Beck and second by Schieferdecker to recommend awarding the low proposal of \$5,990 to Sulco Buildings of Hillsboro to replace washers, screws, and cupolas on the roof of the Animal Control Facility. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. Historic Courthouse South Porch Lighting Update/Approval: The committee is awaiting quotes.
5. 127 N. Main Update/Approval: The committee reviewed three proposals to construct a concrete ramp on the north side of the building, ranging from \$15,000 to \$23,500. Because the low proposal was not in writing, the committee elected to await a written proposal before making a recommendation. The committee reviewed proposals from HRC for \$2,919 to repair the existing front ramp and back steps, and from Dan Heise Plumbing for \$1,038 to move an outside water tap and raise a clean-out. Chief Probation Officer Banee Ulrici reported with work still to be completed on flooring, security, and technology, she anticipates the project to run \$10,000 to \$20,000 over budget.
6. Outsource Mowing Services for FY2027 Update/Approval: Maintenance Director Ernst reported due to frequent mower issues, he has paid Seth Yount \$210/week for mowing services at the Historic Courthouse, Court Complex, and Montgomery County Jail. In comparison, he estimates his department's time costs \$305 for each mowing. **Motion by Beason and second by Beck to budget \$6,000 in FY2027 to outsource downtown mowing services. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. Other Business: None

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 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, August 5th, 2026

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

Members Absent: Cody Gudgel

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett

1. Public Comment: None
2. Update/Approval: None
3. Other Business: Committee Chair Murzynski reported Route 185 closure for repairs from mine subsidence began this week and will last for approximately six weeks. Traffic will be detoured on county highways. The committee reviewed the Detour Agreement in place from Oct. 11, 2022 along with \$3 million bond. Road repair costs for any damages to county roads will be submitted to Hillsboro Energy after the Route 185 repair is complete. Murzynski also reported the new tandem plow trucks are currently at Koenig Body & Equipment in Peoria and expected to be finished around mid-September. County Board Admin reported an oil-and-chip voucher to Louis Marsh for \$144,932.70 will need to be roll-called at Full Board because it exceeds the \$50,000 threshold. Committee member Young addressed the condition of township roads 14th and 7th that need repairs due to mine subsidence. Vice Chair Whitworth addressed the poor condition of Illinois Route 16 between Hillsboro and Litchfield and between Irving and Ohlman.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 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 Agenda
County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049

8:30 a.m. Thursday, August 6, 2026

Members Present: Rob Corso, Chris Daniels, Dr. Patty Whitworth, Chad Ruppert, Connie Beck

Members Absent: Evan Young, Doug Donaldson

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, EMA/EPA/911 Director Dan Hough, Maintenance Director Phil Ernst, Chief Probation Officer Banee Ulrici, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Supervisor of Assessments Tysha Mullen, Sheriff Tyson Holshouser, Undersheriff Jeff Roach, Chief Deputy Lance Weitekamp, MCEDC Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath, Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin, State's Attorney Brian Shaw, Assistant State's Attorney Tim Tighe

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Chair Beck

1. Public Comment: None
2. SOA Office Update/Approval: The committee reviewed and discussed.
3. Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval: The committee noted a June coal royalty payment of \$128,562.45 and a total Fund 375 balance of \$10.9 million.
4. FY2025 Audit Update/Approval: **Motion by Whitworth and second by Daniels to recommend approval of the FY2025 audit report. All in favor, motion carried.**
5. IRS Mileage Rate Update/Approval: The committee reviewed the IRS notice dated July 13 of an optional standard mileage rate increase for the second half of 2026 to 76 cents per mile. No action was taken.
6. Tax Sale Resolution Update/Approval: Treasurer Nikki Lohman described new Illinois tax sale law that allows previous owners to recover equity in property lost to taxes. The legislation allows counties to annually determine if they want to proceed with the Property Tax Sale including tax buyers, or omit that process and go directly to the County Trustee. State's Attorney Brian Shaw described the Property Tax Sale process and added the legislation allows for a two-year look-back for previous owners to recover equity. Lohman stated could apply to four parcels in Montgomery County. **Motion by Corso and second by Whitworth to recommend the Full Board approve a resolution using the Trustee Program to administer the statutory requirements established under Public Act 104-0553. All in favor, motion carried.**
7. FY2027 Budget Process Update/Approval: Treasurer Nikki Lohman has compiled budget requests and distributed a first draft FY2027 budget that, as requested, predicts a \$1.5 million general fund deficit including an anticipated \$1 million transfer from Fund 375. Driving factors include additional staffing requests and an anticipated 40% increase in employee health insurance costs. Committee Chair Beck asked the committee to thoroughly review the budget requests and be ready for some difficult decisions at Budget Hearings scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 18, and Wednesday, Aug. 19.
8. FY2027 Tax Levy Discussion Update/Approval: The committee also reviewed initial FY2027 levy requests, which predict a 7.5864% increase not including known increases for IMRF, Social Security, and insurance levies. The committee concluded a Truth in Taxation Hearing will likely be necessary.

9. Cress Hill Communications Tower Update/Approval: EMA/EPA/911 Director Dan Hough reported the National Weather Service has declined to place a weather radio on the Cress Hill tower due to the deteriorated condition of the 148-foot structure, essential for communications to 911, the Sheriff's Office, and Highway Department as well as the National Weather Service. Hough has secured cost estimates of \$300,000 to \$600,000 for a new 300-foot tower. The committee requested he continue to research prices and funding options.
10. Fund 375 Purchases Update/Approval: The committee reviewed Fund 375 vouchers and requests, once again debating the \$22,000 voucher to the Village of Waggoner for bike trail maintenance. The committee determined that Waggoner should contract for work needed on the trail and have bills up to \$22,000 submitted to County Board Administration for payment. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Corso to recommend payment of vouchers from Fund 375 of \$25.20 to Ace Hardware; \$4,936.67 to Hillsboro Electric; \$56.08 to Johnstone Supply; \$4,744.36 to Bondurant Plumbing; \$772.58 to Amazon; \$139.92 to Home Depot; \$1,402.04 to Jorn Sign Company; \$1,575 to Kirby Painting; \$3,649 to Tom Day; \$5,001.60 to Sutton Ford; \$4,995 to Dan Hough as reimbursement for vehicle equipment purchased from Midwest Aftermarket; \$8,802 from C&K Communications; and to approve requests for \$2,919 to HRC; and \$1,038 to Heise Plumbing. All in favor, motion carried.**
11. Other Business: State's Attorney Shaw introduced his new assistant Tim Tighe, who was welcomed and applauded by the committee. Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins described an amendment that will change some fees collected by his office, required by state statute. Chief Probation Officer Bane Ulrici told the committee she anticipates work at the new building will run \$10,000 to \$20,000 over the established \$100,000 budget.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.