

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. Tuesday, August 18, and Wednesday, August 19, 2026

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

Members Absent: Doug Donaldson

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, plus elected officials and department heads during their appointed times.

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Chair Beck.

1. Public Comment: None.
2. FY2027 Budget Hearing Update/Approval: The committee reviewed budget proposals from Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, Chief Probation Officer Bane Ulrici, Sheriff Tyson Holshouser, Engineer Cody Greenwood, Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin, County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett. **Motion by Ruppert and second by Whitworth to recess for lunch at 12 noon. All in favor, motion carried.** After a lunch break, Committee Chair Beck called the meeting back to order at 12:30 p.m., and the committee reviewed budget proposals from IS Director Curt Watkins, Maintenance Director Phil Ernst, EMA/EPA/911 Director Dan Hough, State's Attorney Brian Shaw, VAC Superintendent Cassandra Hampton, SOA Tysha Mullen, Development & Personnel Committee Chair Chad Ruppert, and Plunkett on behalf of County Board Chairman Doug Donaldson.
3. Recess Until 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19 Update/Approval: **Motion by Young and second by Corso to recess for the day at 3:30 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.**
4. Resume FY2027 Budget Hearing Update/Approval: Committee Chair Beck called the meeting back to order at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19, with Corso, Daniels, Whitworth, Young, and Beck present. Committee Chair Beck led the Pledge of Allegiance. The committee reviewed budget proposals from Resident Judge Kit Hantla, Public Defender Erin Mattson, Coroner Randy Leetham, Health Department Administrator Hugh Satterlee, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, and County Board Administrator Plunkett for Senior Citizens. **Motion by Corso and second by Whitworth to recess for lunch at 11:10 a.m. All in favor, motion carried.** Committee Chair Beck recalled the meeting to order at 11:51 a.m. and in the General Fund, the committee discussed changes in Office 075, Office 043, Office 005, Office 030, and Office 020, as well as in Fund 327, Fund 365, and Fund 375. Further changes are pending regarding Property/Liability Insurance, Workers Comp Insurance, and Employee Health Insurance. Results of those changes may require further changes in Fund 375.
5. Other Business: Treasurer Lohman presented a tentative county levy predicting an 18.9% increase. The committee will discuss the levy and the possible need for a Truth in Taxation Hearing at their Thursday, Sept. 3, meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 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
Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes
County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049

8:30 a.m. Thursday, August 27, 2026

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

Members Absent: Chad Ruppert, Doug Donaldson

Others Present: County Board Admin Mike Plunkett, EMA/EPA/911 Director Dan Hough, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, IS Director Curt Watkins, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, Engineer Cody Greenwood

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Vice Chair Whitworth

Public Comments: None

Coordinating Committee: Patty Whitworth, Board Vice Chair

1. Information Systems Report Update/Approval: IS Director Curt Watkins reported security door work has been completed at the Courthouse Annex. His department is working on upgrades for land records work stations, phone system implementation, inventory, and e-citations. Phishing attempts remain high, and he is still looking for a candidate to fill the new position.
2. EMA/EPA Report Update/Approval: The committee reviewed Director Dan Hough's report, as well as a proposal from Hurst-Rosche to inspect the Cress Hill Tower for \$6,000. After debating the cost for the drone inspection, the proposal was forwarded to the Buildings & Grounds Committee for a recommendation.
3. Planning Commission Appointments Update/Approval: County Board Admin reported that according to county ordinance, Planning Commission members are to be appointed in December for terms that begin in February.
4. Zoning Consideration Update/Approval: Vice Chair Whitworth summarized the history of zoning discussions, and handed out a position paper from County Board member Russ Beason. The item will be on next month's agenda.
5. Other Business: None

Development & Personnel Committee: Mike Plunkett, County Board Admin

1. Animal Control Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
2. MCEDC Update/Approval: Kaitlyn Fath will present her monthly report.
3. Wind & Solar Ordinance Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert has requested updates from Attorney Andrew Keyt.
4. DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval: County Board Admin has been in contact with DCEO and is still awaiting a grant agreement.
5. Union Negotiation Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert is exchanging information and discussing a meeting schedule with Local 1084.
6. Pattern Energy Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
7. Other Business: County Board Admin reported a hearing from Elm Lawn Solar has been rescheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1.

Buildings and Grounds: Mark Hughes, Chairman

1. Maintenance Report Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
2. Animal Control Roof Report Update/Approval: The committee will review progress.
3. Historic Courthouse South Porch Lighting Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss proposals. Committee Chair Hughes would prefer work to begin after painting and repairs are completed.

4. 127 N. Main Update/Approval: The committee will discuss any issues.
5. Other Business: The Cress Hill Tower will be added to the committee agenda.

Roads and Bridges Committee: Ethan Murzynski, Chairman

1. Other Business: Committee Chair Murzynski anticipates his committee will review the County Engineer's report as well as an update on Red Bridge.

Finance and Budget Committee: Connie Beck, Chairwoman

1. Extension Budget Presentation Update/Approval: Sara Marten have a presentation for the committee.
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. Resolution Amending Fees and Assessments Collected by the Circuit Clerk Update/Approval: Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins anticipates a resolution will be ready for review and recommendation.
5. SpyGlass Proposal Update/Approval: County Board Admin will have a proposal for consideration.
6. FY2027 Budget Update/Approval: The committee will review and discuss.
7. FY2027 Estimated Tax Levy Update/Approval: The committee will discuss and recommend an estimated levy for County Board action.
8. FY2027 Truth in Taxation Hearing Update/Approval: The committee will discuss the need for a hearing and make a recommendation.
9. Fund 375 Purchases Update/Approval: The committee will review and make recommendations.
10. Other Business: None

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 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 31, 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, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, MCEDC Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath, Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Chair Ruppert.

1. Public Comments: None
2. Animal Control Update/Approval: Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin highlighted some of the calls for the past month, and noted eight dogs/pups and 18 cats/kittens at the facility.
3. MCEDC Update/Approval: MCEDC Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath reviewed her program of work, highlighting housing surveys, commercial site selection, tourism ads, the Hillsboro grant to provide utility and road access at the former Eagle Zinc site, and an Economic Development course she will be taking in October. Fath also reported the contract for clean-up work at Asarco should be awarded by the end of the year.
4. Wind & Solar Ordinance Update/Approval: The committee reviewed proposed new wind and solar ordinances. Regarding the proposed wind ordinance, Committee Chair Ruppert said he is awaiting answers to questions from Attorney Andrew Keyt about turbine density and highway setbacks. Committee member Jones requested County Board Admin ask Keyt whether Executive Order 14420, signed Aug. 26, should be addressed in both ordinances.
5. DCEO Energy Transition Grant Update/Approval: The committee reviewed emails from some of the most recent Small Biz Grant recipients. County Board Admin reported a grant agreement for the third round of DCEO Energy Transition Grant funding is still pending.
6. Union Negotiation Update/Approval: Committee Chair Ruppert intends to connect with the union later in the week.
7. Pattern Energy Update/Approval: Pattern has issued invitations to a field trip to a Mason County wind project on Sept. 2 and again on Dec. 10. Committee Chair Ruppert also referenced another potential wind project signing leases in the former UKA footprint.
8. Elm Lawn Solar Project Update/Approval: The Public Hearing for Elm Lawn Solar has been rescheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, in the County Board Room.
9. Other Business: None

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:51 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, September 1, 2026

Members Present: Connie Beck, Cody Gudgel, Keith Hancock, Roy Schieferdecker, Russ Beason, Mark Hughes

Members Absent: Doug Donaldson

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Maintenance Director Phil Ernst, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, EMA/EPA/911 Director Dan Hough, Chase Connor of Hurst-Rosche

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Chair Hughes.

1. Public Comments: None
2. Cress Hill Tower Inspection Agreement Update/Approval: Chase Connor of Hurst-Rosche described the scope of work proposed to inspect the Cress Hill Tower, including looking at each member and looking for missing connections and cracks with a drone, inspecting the steel thickness at the base, inspecting wires, anchor bolts, and observing for twisting and distortions. Committee member Beason said instead of spending \$6,000 on an inspection, he would prefer to begin the process of replacement. **Motion by Beason and second by Scheiferdecker to reject the Structural Visual Tower Inspection agreement with Hurst-Rosche. All in favor, motion carried.**
3. Maintenance Report Update/Approval: Maintenance Director Phil Ernst reviewed his report, including completing 30 work orders during the past month. Henson Robinson began boiler replacement work at the Historic Courthouse on Aug. 31, and Cinric began repair and painting work on the south porch at the Historic Courthouse on Sept. 1. Ernst was instructed during Budget Hearings to begin the process of replacing his work truck this fiscal year, and the committee concurred.
4. Animal Control Roof Report Update/Approval: Committee Chair Hughes reported the contractor has test-replaced some of the washers and long screws on the roof at the Animal Control Facility with positive results. The work will be completed when new vents arrive.
5. Historic Courthouse South Porch Lighting Update/Approval: Committee Chair Hughes said he would prefer the committee consider the matter when Cinric has completed their repair and painting work.
6. 127 N. Main Update/Approval: HRC has completed work repairing the porches and ramps. The committee has postponed considering a new concrete ramp.
7. Other Business: None

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

Motion to adjourn by Beason and second by Gudgel. 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, September 2nd, 2026

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

Members Absent: Doug Donaldson

Others Present: County Engineer Cody Greenwood, County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett

1. Public Comment: None
2. Update/Approval: None
3. Other Business:
 - a. Maintenance Report: The committee reviewed the monthly report.
 - b. Route 185 Closure Update: Engineer Greenwood reported paving began ahead of schedule on Sept. 1, and mine officials anticipate the highway will be reopened between Sept. 11-15.
 - c. Current Projects: The committee reviewed and discussed the list of current projects, including repair work on Red Bridge in Hillsboro Township. The bridge has been closed since Feb. 4 due to substantial piling deterioration. A 50/50 project with Hillsboro Township, county forces had to drain and dam the waterway, attach steel supports to deteriorated pilings, and replace concrete protection around the steel supports. Work should be finished and the bridge reopened after Labor Day.
 - d. Potential Future Projects: The committee reviewed and discussed potential future projects.
 - e. Funding/Levy/Budget Discussion: Engineer Greenwood gave a detailed description of how each of the Highway Department levies is used.

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

Motion to adjourn by Corso and second by Gudgel. 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
Finance & Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Sq. Hillsboro, IL 62049

8:30 a.m. Thursday, September 3, 2026

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

Members Absent: Doug Donaldson

Others Present: County Board Administrator Mike Plunkett, Maintenance Director Phil Ernst, EMA/EPA/911 Director Dan Hough, Undersheriff Jeff Roach, Chief Deputy Lance Weitekamp, Chris Watson and Jami Vazzi, Engineer Cody Greenwood, MCEDC Executive Director Kaitlyn Fath, Animal Control Warden Tricia Papin, Treasurer Nikki Lohman, County Clerk Sandy Leitheiser, SOA Tysha Mullen, Assistant State's Attorney Tim Tighe, Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins, IS Director Curt Watkins, Extension County Director Sara Marten, Brent Williams and Kevin Kern of Hope Trust

Pledge of Allegiance: was led by Committee Chair Beck.

1. Public Comment: None
2. Extension Budget Presentation Update/Approval: County Director Sara Marten described Extension work over the past year, which reached 5,403 people. She also shared the budget proposal, which requests the same \$157,000 levy as the previous year.
3. Hope Trust Presentation Update/Approval: Brent Williams and Kevin Kern of Hope Trust, a self-funded health insurance pool founded 15 years ago with four counties and now has 34 local government members, appeared before the committee. Williams and Kern described their plans, one of which includes waived co-pays and deductibles for in-network services, and includes \$20,000 life coverage. Treasurer Nikki Lohman reported Assured Partners is now anticipating a rate increase between 20% and 24% for the current Blue Cross coverage. Because county open enrollment is in October, the committee set a tentative joint special meeting with the Development & Personnel Committee for 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15, in the County Board Room.
3. SOA Office Update/Approval: The committee reviewed the report, and SOA Tysha Mullen was present for questions.
4. Capital Improvement & Coal Fund Reports Update/Approval: The committee noted a July coal Royalty payment of \$214,778 and a total Coal Fund 375 balance of \$10.9 million.
5. Resolution Amending Fees and Assessments Collected by the Circuit Clerk Update/Approval: The committee reviewed the resolution, requested by Circuit Clerk Daniel Robbins and required by new state statute. Robbins said the resolution has the approval of the Resident Judge and State's Attorney. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Corso to recommend approval of the Resolution Amending Fees and Assessments Collected by the Circuit Clerk. All in favor, motion carried.**
6. SpyGlass Proposal Update/Approval: The committee reviewed a proposal by SpyGlass to audit county voice, data, internet, cloud services, licensing and mobility for cost savings. IS Director Curt Watkins said he has been disinclined to engage SpyGlass in the past because the agreement gives the company authority to negotiate on the county's behalf.
7. FY2027 Budget Update/Approval: As part of a discussion that lasted for an hour and ten minutes, the committee made changes to the salaries line items in the Information Services General Fund Office 043, reduced General Fund Office 047 expenses to reflect a worst-case 24% increase in health insurance cost and move administrative fees to the Tort Fund, and increased General Fund Office 000

revenues by \$491,000 as a result of redistributing the tax levy. The result is a tentative anticipated General Fund deficit of \$437,000 with final health insurance and property/liability insurance premiums yet to be determined. The current draft budget has changes made during Budget Hearings highlighted in yellow and changes made during the September Finance & Budget Committee meeting highlighted in green. Further changes will be presented at the October County Board meeting, and the Finance & Budget Committee will recommend a final FY2027 budget in November.

8. FY2027 Estimated Tax Levy Update/Approval: The committee redistributed levy funds resulting in an increase in the Corporate General levy of \$491,918 but an overall decrease in the levy percentage from over 18% to 4.9% by decreasing levies for IMRF, Social Security, Liability Insurance, Unemployment Insurance, and Workers Comp. **Motion by Young and second by Ruppert to recommend an estimated FY2027 Tax Levy of \$6,580,750 for an increase of 4.9909%. All in favor, motion carried.**
9. FY2027 Truth in Taxation Hearing Update/Approval: None will be necessary.
10. Fund 375 Purchases Update/Approval: The committee reviewed two Fund 375 invoices for work completed at 127 N. Main Street, and two requests for Fund 375 expenses, one for \$18,167.58 to Hillsboro Electric for variable speed motor starters on chiller pumps and air handlers, and a request for up to \$50,000 for a new maintenance vehicle. **Motion by Whitworth and second by Daniels to recommend approval of Fund 375 vouchers of \$3,100 and \$2,919 to HRC, and a request to spend \$18,167.58 for variable speed motor starters. All in favor, motion carried. Motion by Whitworth and second by Corso to advertise for bids for a new maintenance truck from Fund 375. All in favor, motion carried.**
11. Other Business: The committee reviewed 13 parcels sold at the Trustee Sale, which will require County Board action. The committee asked Treasurer Lohman to gather more information on three potential buyers.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Mike Plunkett, as deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder Sandy Leitheiser.