

COUNTY OF MENARD)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 9:00 AM at the Menard County Courthouse, 102 South Seventh Street, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Ed Whitcomb, Troy Cummings, Rich Brauer, Dalton Whitley, and Rod Riech were physically present. A quorum was present. County Clerk Marty Gum, State's Attorney Gwen Thomas, County Treasurer Molly Bettis, and County Coordinator Dara Worthington were physically present.

Commissioner Riech made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of the both the Regular meeting minutes and Executive Session minutes from the August 11, 2026 along with the July 2026 department expense reports. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Scheduled/Unscheduled Guests

Terri Casey, County Director of the Logan, Menard, and Sangamon Extension, was present to the 2025 Illinois Extension Impact Report for 2025. Ms. Casey also provided the commissioners with the FY27 tax levy request for the Extension. Menard County 4-H Coordinator Stacie Skelton was also present. Ms. Skelton announced that Menard County Board Chair Ed Whitcomb and his son, Jared Whitcomb had been inducted into the Illinois 4-H Hall of Fame.

Scheduled County Elected Officials & Staff

Zoning Administrator's Report/Request for Board Action

Zoning Administrator Joe Crowe was physically in attendance.

Crowe provided an update on his department's ongoing activities.

County Engineer's Report/Request for Board Action

County Engineer Corey Dowd was physically in attendance.

Resolution 23-26 – Requesting Consent for the Reappointment of the Incumbent as County Engineer

Commissioner Cummings made a motion to approve the resolution as presented and Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as **Resolution 23-26**.

Resolution 24-26 – Reappointing County Engineer

Commissioner Riech made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as **Resolution 24-26**.

Discussion and Approval of Road Use Agreement for Power Trust Farm with ENGIE

Commissioner Whitley made a motion to approve the road use agreement and Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as **Resolution 24-26**.

Engineer Dowd provided an overview of his department's activities which included notification that Athens Blacktop had reopened, the status of projects for Montgomery Bridge, Pumphouse Bridge, Gudel Bridge, and Price Bridge and the bridge bundling grants for Brown and Pinhook Bridges. Dowd reported on the summer oiling project for the county and road districts.

EMS/EMA Chief's Report/Request for Board Action

Chief Kolbe Huss was physically in attendance.

Chief Huss provided the commissioners with the monthly financials noting that things were going well after taking the billing in-house. Huss reported on the work being done on the office building, the commemorative sign and the new EMPG grant.

County Sheriff's Report/Request for Board Action

In Sheriff Oller's absence, Chief Deputy Ben Hollis was physically in attendance.

Hollis reported that census at the jail was at 14 inmates with two of the holds being for Cass County. Hollis gave a brief report on negotiations with Axon.

County Treasurer's Report/Request for Board Action

Treasurer Molly Bettis was physically in attendance.

Bettis provided an update on collections noting that the second installment due date was coming up. An overview of HB 4537 regarding Illinois Property Tax Sales was provided by Bettis with input from County Clerk Gum. It was agreed that further discussion would occur at the next board meeting along with possible passage of a resolution on the matter. An update was given on the FY24 audit.

County Clerk's Report/Request for Board Action

County Clerk Marty Gum was physically present.

Gum gave an update on the Vote by Mail mailing her office staff had done.

State's Attorney's Report/Request for Board Action

State's Attorney Gwen Thomas was physically present.

Thomas updated the commissioners on a conveyance action item coming up later on the agenda.

County Coordinator's Report/Requests for Board Action

Coordinator Dara Worthington was physically in attendance.

Worthington furnished updates on the meeting with the truss engineer, the upcoming Public Building Study Group meeting, the IPMG walkthrough and review, the Animal Control ordinance review, the meeting regarding tax levies, the proposed used truck for Sunny Acres, and updates to network security.

Individual Board of Commissioners' Reports/Requests for Board Action

Commissioner Cummings inquired about the status of property owners noted on the Beacon mapping.

Commissioner Whitley relayed that Heritage had proposed the hiring of a new position to provide employee recruitment and marketing. It was the consensus of the commissioners that this position not be added. A brief discussion was held on the proposed new agreement with Heritage for the management of Sunny Acres. It was determined that the discussion needed to continue.

Other Scheduled Topics

Resolution 25-26 – Conveyance of County's Interest for Parcel 05-14-208-005

Commissioner Whitley made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as **Resolution 25-26**.

Resolution 26-26 – Conveyance of County's Interest for Parcel 05-14-218-005

Commissioner Cummings made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as **Resolution 26-26**.

Resolution 27-26 – Conveyance of County's Interest for Parcel 011-24-406-141

Commissioner Whitley made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as **Resolution 27-26**.

Resolution 28-26 – Conveyance of County's Interest for Parcel 12-05-404-117

Commissioner Cummings made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as **Resolution 28-26**.

Resolution 29-26 – Conveyance of County's Interest for Parcel 15-01-400-021

Commissioner Riech made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as **Resolutuion 29-26**.

Resolution 30-26 – Conveyance of County's Interest for Parcel 16-06-347-002

Commissioner Whitley made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as **Resolution 30-26**.

Resolution 31-26 – Conveyance of County's Interest for Parcel 17-01-137-004

Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as **Resolution 31-26**.

Resolution 32-26 – Menard County Fair, Inc. Lease – Tabled

Discussion and Approval of Compensation for Board Appointed County Committee Members

It was the consensus of the board members this item be tabled so that further financial information could be compiled in order to make an informed financial decision.

Review and Discussion of Agreement with Heritage Operations Group, LLC

A brief discussion was entered into during the segment where Commissioner Whitley spoke.

Approval of 2027 HOPETrust Participating Employer Information Verification (PEIV) Form for Employee Health Insurance

Commissioner Riech made a motion to approve the PEIV as outlined with the same health insurance plans for 2027. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Having no further business coming before them, Commissioner Brauer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 AM. Commissioner Riech seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.