

FORD COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The County Board of Ford County met pursuant to adjournment in the Ford County Board Room of the Ford County Jail in Paxton on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. The meeting was called to order by Ford County Chairman Chase McCall.

B. ROLL CALL:

The roll call showed the following board members in attendance: Gene May, Kelsie Vaughn, Randy Ferguson, Greg Niewold, Sarah Mussman, Tim Nuss, Tom McQuinn, Cindy Ihrke, Garett Kerber, Lesley King and Chairman Chase McCall. Vice Chairman Carson Vaughn was not present.

C. PROCLAMATION:

Sheriff Johnson

D. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Chairman Chase McCall.

E. APPROVAL OF THE BOARD AGENDA:

- Mr. Ferguson made the motion to accept the Agenda. Mr. Nuss seconded it.

Voice Vote - Carried

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Mrs. King made the motion to approve the December 8, 2025 County Board Minutes. Mr. Niewold seconded it.

Voice Vote - Carried

G. COMMUNICATIONS:

H. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

- Brandon G. spoke of concerns on assessments of Ford County property and road conditions
- Helen with Liheap attended on behalf of Odette and passed out flyers
- Glenn with Ford Co. Public Health Dept. updated the board on monthly activities

I. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ON FY 2026 BUDGET

- Mr. Ferguson made the motion to **adopt Resolution 26 - 09 (FY 2026 Ford Co. Budget)**.
Mr. Kerber seconded it.

Roll Call - Ayes - 6, Nays - 5

(Nays - Niewold, Mussman, McQuinn, C. Ihrke, King)

J. OPPORTUNITY FOR OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS/DEPT. HEADS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

- Chief Probation Officer Harrison spoke briefly on the promotion of Mallory Wolken to Senior Officer and that DUO Dog Marshall has now completed all of his certifications and under the age of one, and she stated they will be celebrating his 1st birthday soon.
- SOA Bruens spoke on Board of Review, receiving a Tentative 1.0 from the State of IL., a temporary person was hired and is paid by WIA to help her office and she spoke on training coming soon.
- EMA Whitebird went through his monthly report.

K. APPROVAL OF ALL SUBMITTED ELECTED OFFICIAL/DEPT. HEAD REPORTS:

- Mrs. C. Ihrke made the motion to accept all submitted Elected Official/Dept. Head Reports. Mr. McQuinn seconded it.

Voice Vote - Carried

L. VERBAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

I. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- Mr. Ferguson made the motion to **adopt Resolution 26 - 10 (Appt. of C. Nagle to Ford Co. Board of Review)**.
Mrs. King seconded it.

Voice Vote - Carried

II. FARM COMMITTEE:

- Mr. Niewold stated they would be meeting soon.

III. FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- Mrs. Mussman moved to approve all Finance claims recommended from the Finance Committee for approval. Mr. Ferguson seconded it. After discussion, Mrs. Mussman amended her motion to include a final claim from Leaf (previous copier financial company) for \$3,638.82. Mr. Ferguson seconded the amendment. Roll Call for the amendment was taken. Roll Call - Unanimous
- Mrs. Mussman then made the motion to **approve all Finance claims** including the Leaf claim. Mr. Ferguson seconded it. Roll Call - Unanimous
- Mrs. Mussman moved to **approve all ARPA claims recommended from the Finance Committee** for approval. Mr. Ferguson seconded it. Roll Call - Unanimous
- Mrs. Mussman moved to **approve all Sheriff claims recommended in the Finance Committee.** Mr. Ferguson seconded it. Roll Call - Unanimous
- Mrs. Mussman made the motion to adopt a Resolution Setting Per Diem for 2026. Mr. Niewold seconded it. After discussion, Mrs. Mussman amended her motion to remove the first "." (period) in the amount of seventy-two and one half cents. Mr. Niewold seconded the motion. Roll Call for the amendment was taken. Roll Call - Unanimous
- Mrs. Mussman made the motion to **adopt amended Resolution 26 - 11 (Setting Per Diem for 2026).** Mr. Niewold seconded it. Roll Call - Unanimous
- Mrs. Mussman made the motion to adopt a Resolution for FY 2026 U of I Home Extension Levy. Mrs. Vaughn seconded it. After discussion, Mr. Nuss made the motion to table the resolution until more information could be explained about the levy. Mr. Niewold seconded. Roll Call - Ayes - 9, Nays - 2 (Nays - Kerber & McCall)

IV. HIGHWAY COMMITTEE:

- Mr. Nuss moved to **approve all claims recommended from the Highway Committee.** Mrs. C. Ihrke seconded it. Roll Call - Unanimous
- Mr. Nuss made a motion to **adopt Resolution 26 - 12 (Engineering Service Agreement for bridge replacement 1540 E / 500 N).** Mrs. C. Ihrke seconded it. Roll Call - Unanimous
- Mr. Nuss made a motion to **adopt Resolution 26 - 13 (2026 NBIS Bridge Inspections & Program Management).** Mrs. C. Ihrke seconded it. Roll Call - Unanimous
- Mr. Nuss made a motion to **adopt Resolution 26 - 14 (Amending the Ford Co. Employee Handbook allowing Highway receive additional Personal Days Off).** Mrs. C. Ihrke seconded it. Roll Call - Unanimous
- Mr. Nuss & Mrs. C. Ihrke briefly spoke on the disappointment that rural transit is on hold due to State of IL. cutbacks and they are looking for other ways to help Ford Co. residents.

V. INSURANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Mrs. King will be calling a meeting soon.

VI. SHERIFF'S COMMITTEE:

- The meeting was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum. The Sheriff Committee claims were reviewed in Finance.

VII. ZONING COMMITTEE:

VIII. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:

- Mr. Ferguson moved to **approve all submitted committee meeting minutes.** Mr. Niewold seconded it.
Voice Vote - Carried

M. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS: (* = Chairman of that committee)

- I. 708 BOARD KING
- II. 9-1-1 NUSS
- **Mr. Nuss stated the next meeting will be on Jan. 14, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. in Gibson City at the Fire station.**
- III. CIRMA McCALL/C. VAUGHN/IHRKE
- IV. ECCA NUSS
- **Mr. McCall is still looking for a replacement for Mr. Nuss's spot.**
- V. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FERGUSON/NUSS/K. VAUGHN
- VI. EXTENSION MUSSMAN
- VII. FORD COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT. McCALL/NUSS
- VIII. MOBILE REGION 8 SHERIFF JOHNSON/McCALL
- IX. REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION McCALL/C. VAUGHN
- X. UNION AFFAIRS McCALL/McQUINN
- XI. WIA McCALL/NIEWOLD

N. OLD BUSINESS:

O. NEW BUSINESS:

- Mr. Nuss made a motion to **adopt Resolution 26 - 15 (Law Enforcement Services Contracts with Village of Piper City).** Mrs. Mussman seconded it. Voice Vote - Carried
- Mr. Nuss made a motion to **adopt Resolution 26 - 16 (Law Enforcement Services Contracts with Village of Sibley).** Mrs. Mussman seconded it. Voice Vote - Carried
- Mr. Nuss made a motion to **adopt Resolution 26 - 17 (Appt. of R. Buckner to the Sheriff's Merit Commission).** Mr. Ferguson seconded it. Voice Vote - Carried
- Mr. Ferguson made a motion to **adopt Resolution 26 - 18 (Adopting the Ford Co. EMA Donation Policy).** Mr. Kerber seconded it. Voice Vote - Carried
- Mr. Nuss state Ford Co. network panel meeting on January 14, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. via zoom.

P. ADJOURNMENT:

- Mr. McQuinn moved to adjourn; Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion.
The meeting ended at 7:49 P.M. Voice Vote - Carried

Q. PROCLAMATION:

- The next monthly meeting will be held on Monday, February 9, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. Sheriff Johnson

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Frederick, Ford County Clerk & Recorder

APPROVED: _____

FORD COUNTY BOARD MEETING

January 12, 2026

ROLL CALL Present = P Absent = A	BOARD MEMBER	RES. 26 - 09 ADOPTING FY 2026 BUDGET		AMENDING FINANCE CLAIMS RECOMMENDED IN FINANCE COMMITTEE		FINANCE CLAIMS RECOMMENDED IN FINANCE COMMITTEE		ARPA CLAIMS RECOMMENDED IN FINANCE COMMITTEE		SHERIFF CLAIMS RECOMMENDED IN FINANCE COMMITTEE		AMEND RES SETTING 2026 PER DIEM		ADOPT AMENDED RES 26 - 11 SETTING 2026 PER DIEM		TABLE U OF I HOME EXTENSION AGRMNT FOR FY 2026	
		YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
P	MAY, Gene	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	VAUGHN, Kelsie	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	FERGUSON, Randy	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	NIEWOLD, Greg		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	MUSSMAN, Sarah		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	NUSS, Tim	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	McQUINN, Tom		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	IHRKE, Cindy		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	KERBER, Garrett	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	KING, Lesley		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
A	VAUGHN, Carson (VC)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	McCALL, Chase (CHAIR)	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
RESULTS = PASSED OR FAILED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED	
		6	5	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0

COUNTY CLERK: AMY FREDERICK

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ROLL CALL Present = P Absent = A	BOARD MEMBER	RES 26 - 12 ENGR. SRVC. AGRMNT. FOR BRIDGE RPLC. 1540 E 500 N		RES 26 - 13 NBIS BRIDGE INSPCT. & PROG. MGMNT.		RES 26 - 14 AMND. FORD CO. EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK FOR HWY.		AMEND RES SETTING 2026 PER DIEM		ADOPT AMENDED RES 26 - 11 SETTING 2026 PER DIEM		TABLE U OF I HOME EXTENSION AGRMNT FOR FY 2026	
		YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
P	MAY, Gene	X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	VAUGHN, Kelsie	X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	FERGUSON, Randy	X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	NIEWOLD, Greg	X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	MUSSMAN, Sarah	X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	NUSS, Tim	X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	McQUINN, Tom	X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	IHRKE, Cindy	X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	KERBER, Garrett	X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	KING, Lesley	X		X		X		X		X		X	
A	VAUGHN, Carson (VC)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	McCALL, Chase (CHAIR)	X		X		X		X		X		X	
RESULTS = PASSED OR FAILED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED	
		11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0

COUNTY CLERK: AMY FREDERICK

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