

FORD COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 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, March 9, 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: Randy Ferguson, Greg Niewold, Sarah Mussman, Tim Nuss, Garrett Kerber, Lesley King, Vice Chairman Carson Vaughn and Chairman McCall. Mr. May, Mrs. Vaughn, Mr. McQuinn, Mrs. C. Ihrke were not present.

C. PROCLAMATION:

Sheriff Johnson

D. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Chairman Chase McCall.

E. APPROVAL OF THE BOARD AGENDA:

- Mr. Kerber made the motion to accept the Agenda. Mrs. Mussman seconded it.

Voice Vote - Carried

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Mr. Nuss made the motion to approve the **FEBRUARY 9, 2026 County Board Minutes**. Mrs. King seconded it.

Voice Vote - Carried

G. COMMUNICATIONS:

H. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

- State's Attorney's Office Manager/Victim-Witness Coordinator Erika Kendrick spoke on behalf of Courage Connections stating they are taking referrals from Ford County.
- Kacie with the Ford Co. Farm Bureau is helping with the Ford Co. drainage district maps.
- Helen updated the board on behalf of Odette.
- Glenn with Ford Co. Public Health Dept. updated the board on monthly activities and stated they have a Narcan machine in front of the Health Dept. building now.

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

- EMA Whitebird went through his monthly report and some handouts he passed out.
- Chief Probation Officer Jennifer H. stated her office also has Narcan.

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

- Mr. Niewold made the motion to accept all submitted Elected Official/Dept. Head Reports. Mr. Kerber seconded it.

Voice Vote - Carried

K. VERBAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

I. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- Mrs. King made the motion to discuss approving the purchase of 12 Microsoft Surface Pro 11 tablets. Mrs. Mussman seconded it. After discussion, the board decided to use a Share drive file for digital packets instead.
- Mr. Nuss made a motion to **adopt Resolution 26 - 21 (Intergovernmental Agreement for use of the McLean Co. morgue facilities)**. Mr. Ferguson seconded it.

Voice Vote - Carried

II. FARM COMMITTEE:

- Mr. Niewold made a motion to discuss investing Farm account funds into a local bank laddered CD's, IL. funds or similar. Mr. Nuss seconded it. After discussion, Mr. Niewold found out the county currently does not have the capability to do this at this time.
- Mr. Niewold made a motion to discuss seeking bids for an operator to perform maintenance on County Farm #2 & #3 waterways and terraces. Mrs. Mussman seconded it. After discussion, bids will be opened at the May 2026 meeting.
- Mr. Niewold made a motion to accept a proposed bid from BCS not to exceed \$2,600.00 once the final invoice is complete for soil sampling on county farms #1 & #2 prior to 2026 planting season of each field. Mrs. Mussman seconded it. Voice Vote - Carried
- Mr. Niewold made a motion to discuss applying for Tax Exempt Status for Farm #3 pasture ground enrolled in USFWS Program. Mr. Nuss seconded it. After discussion, the board would like to look into this option more.
- Mr. Niewold made a motion to discuss having all 3 county farms appraised. Mr. Nuss seconded it. After discussion, decided to explore other options and hold off for now.

III. FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- Mrs. Mussman moved to **approve all Finance claims** recommended from the Finance Committee for approval. Mr. Niewold seconded it. Roll Call - Unanimous
- Mrs. Mussman stated the committee briefly spoke about the purchase of tablets.

IV. HIGHWAY COMMITTEE:

- Mr. Nuss moved to **approve all claims recommended from the Highway Committee.** Mrs. King seconded it. Roll Call - Unanimous
- Mr. Nuss made a motion to **adopt Resolution 26 - 22 (Low Bids for 2026 County & Twp. MFT Maintenance projects).** Mr. Kerber seconded it. Roll Call - Unanimous
- Mr. Nuss stated there will be a Rural Transportation met and they had good conversations, 3 counties attended. Mr. Niewold asked if more wealthier townships could share the wealth with less fortunate townships? Mr. Nuss stated he would look into it.

V. INSURANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Mrs. King will be calling a meeting soon.

VI. SHERIFF'S COMMITTEE:

- Mrs. Mussman moved to **approve all claims recommended in the Sheriff's Committee.** Mr. Nuss seconded it. Roll Call - Unanimous
- Mrs. Mussman stated the committee discussed EMA Whitebird's request for hiring a Deputy Coordinator/Dual Deputy Coordinator and allowing for EMA to destroy old Tier II documents. Mrs. Mussman asked EMA Whitebird to get the paperwork to Clerk & Recorder Frederick to be considered in May.

VII. ZONING COMMITTEE:

- Chairman McCall stated new laws go into effect June 1, 2026 & text amendments need to be done before Oct. 2026.

VIII. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:

- Mr. C. Vaughn moved to **approve all submitted committee meeting minutes.** Mr. Kerber seconded it. Voice Vote - Carried

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

- I. 708 BOARD KING
- Mrs. King stated they will meet in April.
- II. 9-1-1 NUSS
- Mr. Nuss stated the next meeting will be on Mar. 11, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. in Piper City at the Fire station.
- III. CIRMA McCALL/C. VAUGHN/IHRKE

- IV. ECCA McCall
 - Ken stated he is still at the old Ford Co. Jail Monday thru Thursday however he received active duty order and will soon need to leave. Clerk & Recorder Frederick thanked him for his service.
- V. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FERGUSON/NUSS/K. VAUGHN
- VI. EXTENSION MUSSMAN
 - Mrs. Mussman did not make the March meeting, the next meeting will be Aug. 6th.
- VII. FORD COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT. McCALL/NUSS
- VIII. MOBILE REGION 8 SHERIFF JOHNSON/McCALL
- IX. REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION McCALL/C. VAUGHN
 - Met last Monday, went over the Audit which had a clean finding.
- X. UNION AFFAIRS McCALL/McQUINN
- XI. WIA McCALL/NIEWOLD
 - Mr. McCall stated they will meet on March 11th for a quarterly meeting.

M. OLD BUSINESS:

- Mr. Nuss made a motion to discuss the purchase/disposal of the old copiers from Proven it. Mrs. King seconded it. Mr. McCall reminded everyone that Proven it would like \$5,900.00 to dispose of the old copiers or \$1,400.00 to own the old copiers outright. After discussion, Mr. Kerber made a motion to purchase and wipe the data not to exceed \$2,500.00. Mr. Nuss seconded it. Roll Call - Unanimous

N. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- At 7:18 P.M. Mr. C. Vaughn made a motion to enter into Executive Session - Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11) - Pending or Probable Litigation. Mrs. Mussman seconded it.
- At 7:31 P.M. Mr. Ferguson made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. C. Vaughn seconded it.

O. NEW BUSINESS:

- Mr. C. Vaughn made a motion to discuss the appointment of an Interim Ford Co. Treasurer. Mrs. Mussman seconded it. Mr. McCall discussed the process and stated he would like to hold a Special County Board Meeting on April 10, 2026 more details to come.
- Mr. Niewold discussed an email he received from SOA Bruens in regards to Ludlow Co-op Elevator and discussed some issues he had with her reply.
- State's Attorney Killian stated the bees are back.
- Mr. Nuss stated there will be a Ford County network zoom meeting and a ROSC meeting soon.

P. ADJOURNMENT:

- Mr. C. Vaughn moved to adjourn; Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion. Voice Vote - Carried
- The meeting ended at 7:57 P.M.

Q. PROCLAMATION:

- The next monthly meeting will be held on **Monday, April 13, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.** Sheriff Johnson

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Frederick, Ford County Clerk & Recorder

APPROVED: _____

FORD COUNTY BOARD MEETING

March 9, 2026

ROLL CALL Present = P Absent = A	BOARD MEMBER	FINANCE CLAIMS RECOMMENDED IN FINANCE COMMITTEE		HWY. CLAIMS RECOMMENDED IN HIGHWAY COMMITTEE		RES 26 - 20 LOW BIDS FOR MFT MAINTENANCE PROJ.		SHERIFF CLAIMS RECOMMENDED IN SHERIFF COMMITTEE		PURCHASE OF OLD COPIERS FROM PROVENT		YES		NO	
		YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
A	MAY, Gene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A	VAUGHN, Kelsie	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	FERGASON, Randy	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	NEWOLD, Greg	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	MUSSMAN, Sarah	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	NUSS, Tim	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
A	McQUINN, Tom	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A	IHRKE, Cindy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	KERBER, Garrett	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	KING, Lesley	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	VAUGHN, Carson (VC)	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	McCALL, Chase (CHAIRMAN)	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
RESULTS = PASSED OR FAILED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED	
		8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0	8	0

COUNTY CLERK: AMY FREDERICK