

# **FORD COUNTY BOARD MINUTES**

**MONDAY, APRIL 13, 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, April 13, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. The meeting was called to order by Ford County Vice Chairman Carson Vaughn.

## **B. ROLL CALL:**

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

## **C. PROCLAMATION:**

Sheriff Johnson

## **D. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:**

Vice Chairman Carson Vaughn

## **E. APPROVAL OF THE BOARD AGENDA:**

- Mrs. King made the motion to remove Discussion/Possible action on Ford County Employee Handbook under V. Insurance & Personnel and then to approve the agenda. Mr. Kerber seconded it.

Voice Vote - Carried

## **F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- Mr. Kerber made the motion to approve the **April 10, 2026 Special County Board Minutes**. Mr. Nuss seconded it.

Voice Vote - Carried

## **G. COMMUNICATIONS:**

- Clerk & Recorder Frederick thanked County Board members Mr. May & Mr. McQuinn and Franklin Jensen & Steve Niemann for their help on election night for a successful election on March 17, 2026.

## **H. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:**

- Glenn with Ford Co. Public Health Dept. updated the board on monthly activities.

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

- EMA Whitebird went through his monthly report.
- Ford Co. Engineer Alan explained how the MFT works.

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

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

Voice Vote - Carried

## **K. VERBAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **I. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

- Vice Chairman C. Vaughn stated the committee did not meet.

### **II. FARM COMMITTEE:**

- Mr. Niewold stated sealed bids are out for Farm #2 & #3 to be opened at the May County Board meeting.

### **III. FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

- Mr. Kerber moved to **approve all Finance claims** recommended from the Finance Committee for approval. Mrs. Mussman seconded it. Roll Call - Unanimous

- Mrs. Mussman made a motion to **adopt Resolution 26 - 24 (Establishing Compensation of the Ford County Clerk & Recorder)**. Mr. Niemann seconded it. Roll Call - Ayes - 7, Nays - 1, Abstain - 1 (Nays - C. Ihrke, Abstain - K. Vaughn)

- Mr. Niewold made a motion to **adopt Resolution 26 - 25 (Establishing Compensation of the Ford County Treasurer)**. Mrs. K. Vaughn seconded it. Roll Call - Ayes - 8, Nays - 1 (Nays - C. Ihrke)

**IV. HIGHWAY COMMITTEE:**

- Mr. Nuss moved to **approve all claims recommended from the Highway Committee.** Mrs. K. Vaughn seconded it.  
Roll Call - Unanimous
- Mr. Nuss made a motion to accept Low Bids for 2026 County & Twp. MFT Maintenance Projects.  
Mrs. C. Ihrke seconded it. Roll Call - Unanimous

**V. INSURANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

- Mrs. King stated she will be calling another meeting soon.

**VI. SHERIFF'S COMMITTEE:**

- Mrs. K. Vaughn moved to **approve all claims recommended in the Sheriff's Committee.** Mr. Nuss seconded it.  
Roll Call - Unanimous
- Mr. Nuss made a motion to accept a proposal from Lexipol Annual Law Enforcement Policy Manual & Daily Training Bulletins, Annual Corrections Policy Manuel. Mrs. Mussman seconded it.  
Roll Call - Unanimous
- Mrs. King made a motion to amend a resolution allowing the EMA Coordinator to hire two Deputy Coordinators at \$2,210.00 per year to **adopting Resolution 26 - 26 (Allowing the EMA Coordinator to hire one Deputy Coordinator at \$4,420.00 per year).** Mrs. C. Ihrke seconded it. Roll Call - Unanimous

**VII. ZONING COMMITTEE:**

- Mrs. C. Ihrke stated she attended a seminar on Data Centers.

**VIII. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:**

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

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

- I. 708 BOARD KING
- Mrs. King stated they will meet May 4, 2026 at noon in the Small Courtroom in the Courthouse.
- II. 9-1-1 NUSS
- Mr. Nuss asked for a moment of silence for Dennis Higgins, who was the Ford County 911 Director that passed away.  
Mr. Nuss stated the next meeting will be on May 13, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. in Gibson City at the Fire station.
- III. CIRMA McCALL/C. VAUGHN/IHRKE
- IV. ECCA McCall
- 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

**M. OLD BUSINESS:**

- Mr. Niewold made a motion for discussion regarding the application for Tax Exempt status for Farm #3 pasture ground enrolled in USFWS Program. Mrs. Mussman seconded it. After discussion, Mrs. C. Ihrke & Mr. Nuss would like to look into the program more.
- Mr. Niewold stated in the Finance meeting, former Treasurer Whitcome stated several spreadsheets have been created in order to fix payroll from Wipfli. Clerk & Recorder Frederick stated she just found out about the issues Friday, April 10, 2026 through the Finance Minutes and that due to former Treasurer Whitcome's absence, Clerk & Recorder Frederick has been able to fix issues so far but, will now work with Nominated Republican Treasurer candidate Taylor Burnett to fix new issues. Mr. Niewold asked if Clerk & Recorder Frederick knew that the old payroll system and the new payroll systems don't talk to each other? Clerk & Recorder Frederick responded the 2 systems were not supposed to talk, uploads are to be made from the new to the old system.

**N. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- There was no need to go into Executive Session.

**O. NEW BUSINESS:**

- Mrs. K. Vaughn made a motion to **adopt Resolution 26 - 27 (Appt. of Taylor Burnett as interim Ford County Treasurer)**. Mr. Nuss seconded it. Roll Call - Unanimous
- Mr. Nuss made a motion to **adopt Resolution 26 - 28 (Appt. of W. Manhart to Piper City Fire Protection Dist.)**. Mrs. King seconded it. Voice Vote - Carried
- Mrs. Mussman discussed issues on county property that need to be looked into. Chairman of the Public Building Commission Tom McQuinn stated that the Sheriff is the custodian of the Ford County property and the Public Building Commissioners will review the past year to determine what can be reimbursed to the county. Sheriff Johnson stated it may be difficult to pay in advance for some items with his current budget.

**P. ADJOURNMENT:**

- Mrs. K. Vaughn moved to adjourn; Mrs. Mussman seconded the motion.  
The meeting ended at 7:04 P.M. Voice Vote - Carried

**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**

**April 13, 2026**

ROLL CALL Present = P Absent = A	BOARD MEMBER	FINANCE CLAIMS RECOMMENDED IN FINANCE COMMITTEE		RES 26 - 24 EST. COMP. FOR FORD CO. CLERK & REC.		RES 26 - 25 EST. COMP. FOR FORD CO. TREASURER		HWY. CLAIMS RECOMMENDED IN HIGHWAY COMMITTEE		LOW BIDS FOR MFT		SHERIFF CLAIMS RECOMMENDED IN SHERIFF COMMITTEE		LEXIPOL PROPOSAL		RES 26 -26 AMND. ALLOW EMA TO HIRE ONE DEPUTY	
		YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
A	MAY, Gene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	VAUGHN, Kelsie	X		ABSTAIN	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
A	FERGASON, Randy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	NIEWOLD, Greg	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
P	MUSSMAN, Sarah	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
P	NUSS, Tim	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
P	McQUINN, Tom	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
P	IHRKE, Cindy	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
P	KERBER, Garrett	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
P	KING, Lesley	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
P	VAUGHN, Carson (VC)	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
A	McCALL, Chase (CHAIRMAN)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RESULTS = PASSED OR FAILED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED	
		9	0	7	MAY -1, ABSTAIN -1	8	1	9	0	9	0	9	0	9	0	9	0

COUNTY CLERK: AMY FREDERICK

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ROLL CALL Present = P Absent = A	BOARD MEMBER	RES 26 - 27 APPT OF TAYLOR BURNETT AS INTERIM TREAS.		RES 26 - 24 EST. COMP. FOR FORD CO. CLERK & REC.		RES 26 - 25 EST. COMP. FOR FORD CO. TREASURER		HWY. CLAIMS RECOMMENDED IN HIGHWAY COMMITTEE		LOW BIDS FOR MFT		SHERIFF CLAIMS RECOMMENDED IN SHERIFF COMMITTEE		LEXIPOL PROPOSAL		RES 26 -26 AMND. ALLOW EMA TO HIRE ONE DEPUTY	
		YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
A	MAY, Gene	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	VAUGHN, Kelsie	X															
A	FERGASON, Randy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	NIEWOLD, Greg	X															
P	MUSSMAN, Sarah	X															
P	NUSS, Tim	X															
P	McQUINN, Tom	X															
P	IHRKE, Cindy	X															
P	KERBER, Garrett	X															
P	KING, Lesley	X															
P	VAUGHN, Carson (VC)	X															
A	McCALL, Chase (CHAIRMAN)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RESULTS = PASSED OR FAILED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED	
		9	0														

COUNTY CLERK: AMY FREDERICK

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