

FORD COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

MONDAY, JUNE 8, 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, Illinois on Monday, June 8, 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, Randy Ferguson, Sarah Mussman, Tim Nuss, Tom McQuinn, Cindy Ihrke, Garrett Kerber, Lesley King, and Chairman Chase McCall. Greg Niewold and Vice Chairman Carson Vaughn were not present.

C. PROCLAMATION

Sheriff Johnson

D. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG AND INVOCATION

Chairman Chase McCall
Lesley King

E. APPROVAL OF THE BOARD AGENDA

-Mrs. Ihrke made the motion to amend the agenda by striking the word 'resolutions' from the second Highway agenda item and then to approve the agenda. Mr. Kerber seconded it.

Voice Vote – Carried

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Mr. Nuss made the motion to approve the **May 11, 2026 County Board Minutes**. Mrs. King seconded it.

Voice Vote – Carried

G. COMMUNICATIONS

- None

H. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

- Mr. Charles Mamlin, representing Ranger Power, provided an update on the company's project in Ford County. He stated that the company has secured sufficient leased land to support the proposed 300-megawatt project and has completed environmental studies to ensure there are no red flags. Mr. Mamlin indicated that the company is preparing a permit application in accordance with the Ford County ordinance. He also discussed other Illinois projects that have been successful and noted that Ranger Power takes pride in being actively involved in the communities where it operates. Mr. Mamlin provided contact information for anyone seeking additional information regarding the project.
- Mrs. Jill Duden, Regional Account Manager with Birth to Five, provided an over of the organization's work and commitment to family engagement. She explained that the organization continually assesses the needs of families and compares those needs to available resources and services. Birth to Five works to inform legislative and county officials of identified needs, promotes collective impact initiatives, and helps connect families with available resources. Mrs. Duden discussed the organization's councils, including the Action & Family Council, and noted that interest forms are currently being accepted for participation. Participants will be compensated for their involvement and emphasized the importance of hearing directly from families regarding their actual needs and challenges.
- Mr. Matthew Burns, Executive Director of the Greater Gibson Area Economic Alliance which serves Dix, Drummer, Peach Orchard, Sullivan townships. Mr. Burns stated that meetings were held throughout the area to identify community needs and priorities. Based on feedback received, the

organization developed several key areas of focus. He reported that efforts are currently underway to enhance downtown Gibson City and attract visitors to spend more time in the community. Mr. Burns also announced that a downtown branding campaign is expected to launch in the near future.

- Mrs. Anna Nunez, Public Affairs Specialist with the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Disaster Recovery, informed the Board that the Small Business Administration (SBA) has made low-interest federal disaster loans available to Illinois businesses and private nonprofits, including faith-based organizations, to assist with recovery from financial losses resulting from a declared disaster. Mrs. Nunez stated that on March 10, 2026, Ford County was declared a contiguous county under an Illinois disaster declaration and is therefore eligible only for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) through the SBA. She noted that the application deadline for these loans is January 11, 2027.
- Dave Kaeding, Ford County Sheriff's Chief Deputy and Ford County Fair Board Director addressed the Board regarding the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. Deputy Kaeding stated that the torch run would pass through Paxton on Thursday, June 11 around noon and would then proceed to Gibson City. He also provided information regarding the Ford County Fair, which is scheduled to take place June 13 through June 20. Deputy Kaeding noted that volunteers are needed to assist at the gates and encouraged interested individuals to sign up through the Ford County Fair website <https://www.fordcountyfair.org/>
- Ms. Kacie Claire addressed the Board regarding an upcoming rural mental health seminar. She stated the event will be held June 16, 2026, from 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. at the Kruse Center in Gibson City, Illinois. Ms. Claire noted that refreshments, raffle prizes, and educational resources will be available and encouraged community members to attend.

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

- Treasurer Taylor Burnett reported that the tax bills are currently in her office and will be mailed soon. She also discussed the ongoing issues with the payroll system (WIPFLI/isolve) and its inability to properly interface with Locis. Mrs. Burnett stated that a meeting has been scheduled with WIPFLI to address balancing concerns, noting that certain reports are currently inaccurate due to system issues. She also indicated that a meeting is setup to explore alternative software. Finance chair, Sarah Mussman, added that the bill from WIPFLI/isolve payroll had not been approved until issues are resolved. Mrs. Mussman also stated that these issues make it difficult to move forward with the budget process. Mrs. Mussman also further stated that a update for Locis, Version 8, is available. While it had not been explored previously, she indicated that upgrading to the new version may be a potential option.

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

- Mr. Ferguson made the motion to approve all submitted elected official and department head reports. Mr. Kerber seconded the motion. During discussion, it was noted that the Ford County Coroner's Report incorrectly reflected 15 deaths when the correct number was 18. Mr. Ferguson amended his motion to approve the reports with the correction to the Coroner's Report reflecting 18 deaths. Mr. Kerber seconded the motion.

Voice Vote – Carried

K. VERBAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

I. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Mr. Kerber made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-34 (Approving the job description for the Ford County Emergency Management Agency Coordinator). Mrs. Mussman seconded it.

Voice Vote – Carried

- Mr. Kerber made a motion to allow the Ford County Board to post the position of Ford County EMA coordinator to hire. Mr. Nuss seconded it.

Voice Vote – Carried

- Mr. Ferguson made a motion to **adopt Ordinance no. 26-33**. Mr. Nuss seconded it.

Voice Vote – Carried

- Mrs. King made a motion to **adopt Resolution 26-35 (Approving the re-appointment of Johnathan Powers to the Ford County Board of Review)**. Mrs. Ihrke seconded it.

Voice Vote – Carried

II. FARM COMMITTEE

No meeting.

III. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- No **ARPA** claims.
- Elson's Sanitary canceled a bill for \$645.00 – this check will be voided.
- Mrs. Mussman made a motion to approve all **Finance claims** from the Finance Committee for approval (omitting the Elson's Sanitary bill). Mr. Ferguson seconded it.

Roll call – Unanimous

IV. HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

- Mrs. Ihrke moved to **approve all claims recommended from the Highway Committee**. Mr. Ferguson seconded it.
- Mr. Kerber made a motion to approve petitions for aid for Drummer Township, Peach Orchard Township, Pella Township, and Dix Township. Mrs. Ihrke seconded it.

Roll call – Unanimous

Voice Vote – Unanimous

V. INSURANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- Mr. Kerber made a motion to approve **United Healthcare** as Ford County's health insurance provider, while retaining **Dearborn** for vision coverage, for the policy period of July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. Mr. McQuinn seconded it.

Roll call – Ayes – 7, Nays - 1, Abstain – 1
(Nays – S. Mussman, Abstain – G. May)

VI. SHERIFF'S COMMITTEE

- Mrs. Mussman moved to **approve all claims recommended in the Sheriff's Committee**. Mr. Ferguson seconded it.

Roll call – Ayes – 8, Absent – 1
(Absent – G. May)

VII. ZONING COMMITTEE

- Mr. Ferguson states the possibility of a meeting next month.

VIII. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

- Mr. Kerber moved to **approve all submitted committee meeting minutes**. Mr. Nuss seconded it.

Voice Vote – Unanimous

L. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

- I. 708 BOARD KING
- II. 9-1-1 NUSS
Next meeting will be May 17, 2026 7 P.M at the Paxton Fire Dept.
- III. CIRMA McCALL/C. VAUGHN/IHRKE
Next meeting in July
- IV. ECCA McCALL
- V. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FERGUSON/NUSS
- VI. EXTENSION MUSSMAN
Next meeting August 6, 2026
- VII. FORD COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT McCALL/NUSS
- VIII. MOBILE REGION 8 SHERIFF JOHNON/McCALL
- IX. REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION McCALL/C. VAUGHN
- X. UNION AFFIARS McCALL/McQUINN
- XI. WIA McCALL/NIEWOLD

M. OLD BUSINESS

N. NEW BUSINESS

O. ADJOURNMENT

- Mr. Ferguson moved to adjourn. Mr. Kerber seconded the motion.

Voice Vote – Carried

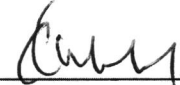
The meeting ended at 7:52 P.M.

P. PROCLAMATION

Sheriff Johnson

- The next monthly meeting of the Ford County Board will be held **July 13, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,
Kelsie Vaughn, Ford County Clerk & Recorder

APPROVED:  7/13/24