

FORD COUNTY BOARD SPECIFICALLY FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Finance Committee met on Friday, July 10, 2026, in the Sheriff's Boardroom of the Ford County Jail. Chair Sarah Mussman called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Clerk & Recorder, Kelsie Vaughn, administered roll call which showed the following committee members present: Greg Niewold, Carson Vaughn, and Chair Mrs. Mussman. Committee member Randy Ferguson was not present.

Others in attendance: Kasi Schwarz – Ford County Circuit Clerk, Pam Bruens – SOA, Dave Kaeding – Chief Sheriff Deputy, Jennifer Harrison – CMO, Alex Bromberek & Jerilynn – EMA, Gene May – County Board member District 1, Shannon Cornett – Judge's secretary.

Mr. Vaughn made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Mr. Niewold seconded the motion.

Voice Vote – Unanimous

Public comment: None

Mr. Niewold made a motion to send all submitted claims to the County Board for approval with the exception of WIPFLI/iSolve. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion.

Roll call – Unanimous

Mr. Niewold made a motion to send ARPA claims to the County Board for approval. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion.

Roll call – Unanimous

Mr. Vaughn made a motion to discuss preliminary budget discussion. Mr. Niewold seconded the motion. Mrs. Mussman began with reminding everyone that the presented budget is not final, it's preliminary, and these are the numbers she has been given by Department Heads. The budget presented today does not reflect cuts or any necessary adjustments. Tort transfers are not calculated. There is a potential for two wind farms which would generate \$100,000 in permit fees (the State of Illinois has capped permit fees at \$50,000). Mrs. Mussman then asked if Mr. Vaughn would amend his motion and include the second item under new business so both the preliminary budget and the Public Building Commission for budgeting purposes could be discussed together. Mr. Vaughn amended his motion to discuss both preliminary budget discussion and Public Building Commission for budgeting purposes. Mr. Niewold agreed and kept his second to that motion. Mrs. Mussman stated the importance of the Ford County Board and the Public Building Commission working collaboratively. Mrs. Mussman also states \$981,000 generated with \$1.8 million in expenses – essentially every \$1.00 spent needs another \$1.00 to cover – this is referenced from a four-year analysis on the Public Building Commission levied income

and expenses. Mrs. Mussman also added that the preliminary budget does not include the health insurance cost increase. The levy for extension was also questioned if the board could opt to levy those funds to keep in Ford County – contingent on statute and legality. Mrs. Mussman also states there are no longer ARPA funds so the county now covers those costs.

Mr. Vaughn made a motion to send the salary adjustments of the Public Defender, State's Attorney, and Sheriff pursuant to the cost-of-living adjustment to the full board for approval. Mr. Niewold seconded the motion.

Roll call – Unanimous

Old Business: None

Safety Report: None

Adjournment: Mr. Niewold the motion to adjourn. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion.

The meeting ended at 11:05 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelsie Vaughn
Ford County Clerk & Recorder

Approved:  7/13/26