

FORD COUNTY BOARD MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 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, Illinois on Monday, July 13, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. The meeting was called to order by the Ford County Board Chairman, Chase McCall.

B. ROLL CALL

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

C. PROCLAMATION

Chief Deputy Sheriff Kaeding

D. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG AND INVOCATION

Chairman Chase McCall
Lesley King

E. APPROVAL OF THE BOARD AGENDA

Mr. McQuinn made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Mr. Nuss seconded the motion.

Voice Vote – Carried

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. King made a motion to approve the **June 8, 2026 County Board minutes**. Mr. Nuss seconded the motion.

Voice Vote – Carried

G. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman McCall informed the board of the passing of Bud Otto, former Ford County Board member. Chairman McCall publicly thanked Mr. Otto for his service and many years of dedication to the Ford County Board and wishes his family well.

H. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None

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

Kelsie Vaughn, Ford County Clerk & Recorder, stated things were going well. She is happy to be in office and is open to suggestion.

Jennifer Harrison, CMO/Director Ford County Probation & Court Services, informed the board that she has submitted her annual plan for probation and everything seems okay.

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

Mrs. Ihrke made a motion to approve all submitted elected official and department head reports. Mr. Niewold seconded the motion.

Voice Vote – Carried

K. VERBAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

L. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. McQuinn made a motion to **adopt Resolution 26-36 (Appointing Alex Bromberek as Ford County EMA Coordinator)** Mrs. Mussman seconded the motion.

Discussion: Chairman McCall stated that there were 3 applicants. Mr. Bromberek was the best applicant based on qualifications, experience, and has done a great job the past 2 months with significant weather events and the Ford County Fair.

Roll Call – Unanimous

Mrs. Ihrke made a motion to **adopt Resolution 26-37 (Re-Appointing Jeff Lattz to the Ford County Public Building Commission)** Mr. Nuss seconded the motion. No discussion.

Roll Call –Unanimous

Mr. Niewold made a motion to **adopt Resolution 26-38 (Appointing Dominic Brackenhoff to the Ford County Board, District 1, to fill a vacancy)** Mrs. Mussman seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mrs. Ihrke questioned filling the vacancy until November 30th, 2026, but once Mr. Brackenhoff is sworn in, the seat opens back up. Chairman McCall explained that the Ford County Republicans are searching for a candidate for the ballot. The candidate must file by **August 26th, 2026**. If the Ford County Republicans do not find a candidate, the County Board can appoint one.

Roll Call –Unanimous

Mrs. Mussman made a motion to allow the Ford County Board to declare a vacancy on the Ford County Board, effective July 9th, 2026. Mrs. King seconded the motion.

Discussion: Garrett Kerber, Ford County Board member – District 3, has resigned from the Ford County Board effective July 9th, 2026. Mr. Kerber and his family have moved out of state.

Roll Call -Unanimous

II. FARM COMMITTEE

No meeting. Mr. Niewold, chair of the Farm Committee, informed the Board that as of Friday, July 10th, 2026, the tenant of the County Farms was sent a notice that the 2nd installment of the lease has not yet been paid and a 2% penalty has been added in accordance with the lease terms. Property taxes also remain unpaid; however the first installment is not due until July 31, 2026. Lien letters have been provided to all local elevators.

III. FINANCE

Mrs. Mussman made a motion to approve all claims, including APRA claims, with the exception of the WIPFLI payroll claim. Mr. Niewold seconded the motion.

Discussion: This will be invoice number 2 that has not been paid to WIPFLI due to not yet having a solution to payroll. The Clerk, The Clerk's Chief Deputy, and the Treasurer are working on a solution but do not have the situation rectified. Therefore, the finance committee voted not to pay the bill until there is a final solution. WIPFLI is aware the finance committee has voted not to pay. Payroll has not been balanced since December 2025. New software has been explored, but we cannot move forward until we fix the issue at hand – Ford County cannot go into a new program with an unbalanced budget.

Roll Call –Unanimous

Mr. Niewold made a motion to combine preliminary budget discussion and Public Building commission for budgeting purposes items for **discussion only**. Mrs. Ihrke seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mrs. Mussman, finance chair, went over the preliminary budget. There were printouts available for viewing. This budget is only what department heads have submitted and is very preliminary. There is a hope to work collaboratively with the Public Building Commission. The Public Building Commission is working with their own legal counsel on a new lease. The budget has an estimation of Tort, there are no ARPA funds, and does not yet include health insurance increase. There will be a special meeting of the Finance Committee for budget discussion, and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Mrs. Mussman made a motion to **adopt resolutions 26-39, 26-40, 26-41 (Salary adjustments for Public Defender, States Attorney, and Sheriff pursuant to the Illinois Department of Revenue cost-of-living adjustment – COLA)** Mr. Niewold seconded the motion.

Roll call – Unanimous

IV. HIGHWAY

Mr. Nuss made a motion to approve all claims. Mrs. King seconded the motion. No discussion.

Roll call – Unanimous

Mr. Nuss made a motion to approve agreement for Pella TWP bridge design **SEC26-09106-01-BR** for \$30,173.00. Mrs. Ihrke seconded the motion. No discussion.

Roll call - Unanimous

Mr. Nuss made a motion to approve agreement for Peach Orchard bridge design **SEC26-08155-00-BR** for \$85,128. Mrs. Ihrke seconded the motion. No discussion. **Roll call - Unanimous**

V. INSURANCE & PERSONNEL

No meeting. Mrs. King will contact Marty Nuss at IPG to send amounts for new insurance premiums.

VI. SHERIFF

Mr. Niewold made a motion to approve all claims. Mr. May seconded the motion. No discussion.

Roll call - Unanimous

EMA saved the Ford County fair \$10,000 with weather services. Scales are purchased and being fabricated for transporting. Drone has been very helpful leading to felony arrests.

VII. ZONE COMMITTEE

Next meeting is a training on July 24th, 2026 in the small courtroom. Mrs. Ihrke has been working on wind and solar revisions and will schedule a meeting soon.

VIII. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Nuss makes a motion to approve all committee meeting minutes. Mrs. Mussman seconded the motion.

Voice Vote - Unanimous

L. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

I. **708 Board** - Nothing KING

II. **9-1-1** - Next meeting 7/15/26 7 P.M. at the Piper City Fire Dept.
911 Coordinator position is still open and posted. NUSS

III. **CIRMA** - Next meeting in 2 weeks McALL/C. VAUGHN/IHRKE

IV. **ECCA** - No report McCALL

V. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** - No meeting FERGUSON/NUSS

VI. **EXTENSION** - No meeting. Mr. Niewold wondering about changing
levy or keeping funds in Ford County. MUSSMAN

VII. **FORD COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH** - Written report handed out. First
positive test for Wes Nile. More traps going out. McCALL/NUSS

VIII. **MOBILE REGION 8** - Nothing SHERIFF JOHNON/McCALL

IX. **REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION** - No meeting McCALL/VAUGHN

X. **UNION AFFAIRS** - Nothing McCALL/McQUINN

XI. **WIA** - meeting was June 10th. U of I working transit project. McCALL/NIEWOLD

M. OLD BUSINESS

None

N. NEW BUSINESS

Finance meeting will likely be moved to another date. Mrs. Mussman will speak to members of the Finance Committee and set a new date.

O. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Niewold made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. King seconded the motion.

The meeting ended at 7:49 P.M.

P. PROCLAMATION

Chief Deputy Sheriff Kaeding

The next Ford County Board meeting is scheduled for **AUGUST 10, 2026** in the Sheriff's Boardroom at the jail

Respectfully submitted,
Kelsie Vaughn
Ford County Clerk & Recorder

Approved_____