

FORD COUNTY BOARD MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER

The County Board of Ford County met pursuant to adjournment in the Ford County Sheriff's Board Room at the Ford County jail in Paxton, Illinois on Monday, August 10, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. The meeting was called to order by the Ford County Board Chairman, Chase McCall.

B. ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following board members in attendance: Gene May, Dominic Brackenhoff, Greg Niewold, Sarah Mussman, Tim Nuss, Tom McQuinn, Lesley King, Carson Vaughn, and Chairman Chase McCall. Randy Ferguson and Cindy Ihrke 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

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

Voice Vote – Carried

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nuss made a motion to approve the **July 13, 2026, County Board Minutes**. Mrs. Mussman seconded the motion.

Voice Vote – Carried

G. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

H. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

- Ann Ihrke addressed the County Board asking them to vote in favor of the submission of a referendum to separate downstate Illinois from Cook County. Mrs. Ihrke noted that this is non-binding and an exploratory step.
- Mr. Glenn Miller with the FCPHD updated the board. Mr. Miller states all programs are running smoothly. Mr. Miller also gave updates on complaints that are being or have been handled, upcoming and past events. Mr. Miller is also finalizing his budget. Mrs. King read a promise out loud to the County Board from Mr. Miller and the FCPHD on their purpose for Ford County.

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

- Jennifer Harrison, CMO, informed the board that she received the yearly approval from the administrative office of the Illinois Courts.
- Taylor Burnett, Ford County Treasurer, stated her reports will be available to board members soon via email.

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

Mr. Vaughn 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

I. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman McCall states there was no executive committee meeting, and all items will be addressed under New Business.

II. FARM COMMITTEE

Farm Committee Chair, Mr. Niewold states the Farm Committee met Tuesday, August 4th, 2026. Maps were provided in board member packets for seeding and chemical applications.

Mr. Niewold made a motion to discuss Ford County Farms and drafting a lease letter to the tenant regarding late payments. Mrs. Mussman seconded the motion.

Discussion: Ford County Farm tenant, Mr. Purcell, has made the first lease payment of 25% but has failed to pay the remainder of the 75% which was due June 1st, 2026. Mr. Purcell has also not yet paid the first installment of property taxes as of 8/10/2026. Mr. Purcell has received late notices with a 2% penalty for June and July. Mr. Niewold has tried to reach Mr. Purcell and has had no communication. Per lease agreement, Mr. Niewold suggests having Mr. Killian draft a letter of default with a 14-day timeline. Mr. Nuss made the motion to have Mr. Killian draft a letter of default and termination for all three farms with a 14-day timeline. Mrs. Mussman seconded the motion.

Roll Call – Unanimous

Mr. Niewold made a motion to discuss having the Ford County Board seek bids for custom harvesting for the Ford County Farms should it be necessary. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion.

Discussion: If no payment has been made once a default and termination letter is sent, with the 14-day timeline plus a mailing period, Ford County will still have grain that needs to be harvested. Mr. Niewold noted that Ford County will be made whole for this year through the grain. A bid packet could be drafted and put out so bids could be opened at the September meeting if necessary.

After discussion, Mr. Nuss made a motion to proactively seek custom harvest bids on all three Ford County Farms. Mrs. Mussman seconded the motion.

Voice Vote – Carried

III. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Ihrke entered the meeting. Mr. Nuss made a motion to seat Mrs. Ihrke at 6:30 P.M. Mrs. Mussman seconded the motion.

Voice Vote – Carried

Finance Chair, Mrs. Mussman, stated that the Finance Committee met on August 6th, 2026. Mrs. Mussman made a motion to approve all claims excluding WIPFLI. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion.

Discussion: There are no ARPA claims this month. This is the third month withholding WIPFLI payment due to ongoing payroll issues. WIPFLI is our auditor and Ford County is paying the audit claim.

Roll call – Unanimous

Mrs. Mussman made a motion to discuss the ongoing payroll issues. Mr. Niewold seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mrs. Mussman informed the board that the mapping portion of the payroll has been corrected on the Clerk's side, but the issue is now the report that needs to be uploaded to LOCIS is not correct resulting in balancing issues on the treasury side. Locis states they could potentially create a module or import specific to WIPFLI since the two programs do not talk to one another. Ford County employees are being paid, it is a balancing issue only.

Mrs. Mussman made a motion for discussion/possible action on Locis Software update. Mr. Niewold seconded the motion.

Discussion: Locis8 is the latest version available for the Locis program. The updated version is slightly cheaper than the current Locis7 program that the County is utilizing. Mrs. Mussman stated while the update will not fix the issues with payroll, it is hopeful that it will make it easier and is more user-friendly.

Mrs. Ihrke made a motion to allow Ford County to upgrade to Locis8. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion.

Voice Vote - Carried

Mr. Niewold made a motion for discussion/possible action on payroll reconciliation solutions. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Niewold states starting December 1 to current – the mapping and balance of the payroll have been incorrect. The issue is now how to fix the problem. Options for reconciliation are: Locis – has consulting help available for \$125 per hour. Another option proposed by the Clerk and Treasurer would be to have Finance Chair Sarah Musmann who has an accounting degree and background and help with reconciliation for a fee. Mrs. Ihrke suggests using Locis consulting after the update is completed, if needed, to avoid any issues in the future with paying Mrs. Musmann since she is a board member. Mrs. Burnett stated she has no training fund and whoever comes in to help, the funding would need to come from the County Board operating expense line.

Mrs. Mussman made a motion for the Ford County Treasurer to hire part-time staff in her office, as well as hire Locis for payroll reconciliation assistance not to exceed \$10,000. Mr. Niewold seconded the motion. **Roll call – Unanimous (RES26-43)**

IV. HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

Highway Committee chair Tim Nuss states the Highway Committee met August 5th, 2026. Mr. Nuss makes a motion for the Ford County Board to approve all Highway claims. Mrs. Ihrke seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Roll Call – Unanimous

Mr. Nuss made a motion **approving an agreement with WHA for Drummer TWP bridge design SEC26-04156-00-BR for \$111,513.00 (RES26-44)**. Mrs. Ihrke seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Roll Call – Unanimous

Mr. Nuss made a motion to **approve agreement with HLR for initial bridge inspections of newly constructed structures for \$7815.00 (RES26-45)**. Mrs. Ihrke seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Roll Call – Unanimous

Mr. Nuss will be attending a tri-county rural transportation meeting on August 18th, 2026 at the Livingston County Courthouse.

Representatives with McClean County Regional Planning Commission spoke on who they are, what they do involving Ford County, and gave an update.

V. INSURANCE & PERSONNEL

No meeting

VI. SHERIFF COMMITTEE

Sheriff Committee Chair Carson Vaughn states the Sheriff Committee met August 10th.

Mr. Vaughn made a motion to approve all Sheriff Claims. Mrs. Mussman seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Roll Call – Unanimous

VII. ZONING COMMITTEE

Mrs. Ihrke states the Zoning Committee has met twice since the last County Board meeting. The Committee has made text amendments for wind and solar and will move on to battery at the next meeting on August 25th, 2026.

VIII. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Mrs. King moved to approve all committee meeting minutes. Mr. Niewold seconded the motion.

Voice Vote – Carried

L. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

- I.** 708 BOARD
- II.** 9-1-1 Next meeting August 12th, 2026. 9-1-1 coordinator position is posted.
- III.** CIRMA Met July 23rd. Ford Co working with Lexipol.
- IV.** ECCA
- V.** ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- VI.** EXTENSION August 6th – Vermillion Co, November 4th – Champaign Co.
- VII.** FORD COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
- VIII.** MOBILE 8 REGION
- IX.** REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION
- X.** UNION AFFAIRS
- XI.** WIA

KING
NUSS
McCALL/VAUGHN/IHRKE
McCALL
FERGUSON/NUSS
MUSSMAN
McCALL/NUSS
SHERIFF JOHNSON/McCALL
McCALL/VAUGHN
McCALL/McQUINN
McCALL/NIEWOLD

M. OLD BUSINESS

No old business

N. NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Ihrke made a motion to approve a resolution providing for the submission of an advisory public policy referendum to the voters of Ford County regarding the separation of downstate Illinois from the State of Illinois.

Mrs. Mussman seconded the motion. **(RES26-46)**

Discussion: Discussion among board members on what this would mean, would Ford County be okay financially, and that this is exploratory and not binding.

Roll call – Ayes -8, Nays -1, Abstain- 1
(Nays – Niewold, Abstain – Vaughn)

Mr. Vaughn made a motion to reappoint R. Bork to the Union Drainage District. Mrs. Mussman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **(RES46-47)**

Voice Vote – Carried

Mrs. Mussman made a motion to reappoint R. Lange, D. Fuoss, and H. Crawford to the Iroquois and Ford Counties fire protection districts. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **(RES26-48)**

Voice Vote – Carried

Mr. Vaughn made a motion to appoint Neil Rhoades to the Ford County Board, District 3. Mrs. Mussman seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Rhoades was present and introduced himself to the board, answered questions, and spoke on his background. **(RES26-49)**

Voice Vote – Carried

Mr. Vaughn made a motion to approve a waste management plan for Ford County. Mr. Niewold seconded the motion.

Discussion: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency contacted Chairman McCall stating that Ford County had last revised their waste management plan in 2021. Mr. McCall drafted a plan for the 2026-2031 term. The plan has been reviewed by the State’s Attorney, Public Health, and EMA. If approved, the County Clerk will attest, seal and send to EPA for approval. EPA will approve or suggest recommendations. **(RES26-50)**

Voice Vote – Unanimous

Mr. Niewold moved to approve the reappointment of Dr. Spangler to the Ford County Board of Health. Mr. Nuss seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **(RES26-51)**

Voice Vote – Unanimous

Mr. Vaughn moved to approve the appointment of Steve Meenan as Wall Twp Drainage Commissioner. Mrs. King seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **(RES26-52)**

O. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Vaughn moved to adjourn. Mr. Niewold seconded the motion.
The meeting ended at 7:49.

P. PROCLAMATION

Sheriff Johnson

The next Ford County Board meeting is scheduled for **September 14th, 2026** in the Sheriff’s Boardroom at the jail.

FORD COUNTY BOARD MEETING	August 10, 2026
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COUNTY CLERK: KELSIE VAUGHN

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