

**FORD COUNTY BOARD SPECIFICALLY
FARM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2026, 4:00 P.M.**

The Farm Committee met in the Sheriff's boardroom at the jail.

Chairman Greg Niewold called the meeting to order at 4:10 P.M.

Roll call showed the following members present: Dominic Brackenhoff, Cindy Ihrke, Tom McQuinn, and Chairman Niewold. Sarah Mussman was not present.

Mrs. Ihrke moved to approve agenda with the amendment of moving item #4 (Discussion/Possible action regarding asking full board, State's Attorney, and Clerk to work together in gathering necessary deed paperwork for all three farms) to item #1 on the agenda. Mr. McQuinn seconded the motion.

Voice Vote – Carried

Public Comment

Dallas Glazik addressed the Farm Committee regarding the possible selling of the County Farms. Mr. Glazik states he believes the County farms needs better land management and he believes CRP is a good resolution. Mr. Glazik also states he believes CRP would have brought more money to the county to date. CRP would also relieve efforts of management to the board. He asks to let the new landowner decide leaving the 31-acre farm #3 in USFWS. Mr. Glazik also addressed the concern of the county selling land that they do not have a deed for and prioritize that issue.

Under old business, Mr. Niewold states the county farms are likely to be harvested this week. After harvest is complete, Mr. Miles will begin the repair projects.

New business

Mrs. Ihrke makes the motion for discussion/possible action regarding asking the full board, state's attorney, and clerk to work together in gathering necessary deed paperwork for all 3 farms. Mr. Brackenhoff seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mrs. Ihrke states that the State's Attorney has said in the past that the county will never be able to obtain deeds for the county farms, so she is curious about what has changed. Mr. Niewold stated he has had another conversation with the State's Attorney regarding the deed and Mr. Niewold isn't sure of the exact process but Mr. Killian states we could obtain proper paperwork. Mrs. Ihrke asked if we do obtain proper paperwork should the county revisit the idea of CRP. If it is not going to be open for public use, then Mrs. Ihrke is in favor of selling. Mr. Niewold states he is not in favor of selling farmland as a family farmer but there is the issue of having the farms on Ford County's plate. Bottom line: The Ford County Board needs proof of ownership.

Mr. Brackenhoff moved to send agenda item Discussion/Possible action regarding asking full board, State's Attorney, and Clerk to work together in gathering necessary deed paperwork for all 3 farms to the County Board agenda. Mrs. Ihrke seconded the motion.

Voice Vote - Carried

Mr. Niewold moved to discuss selling all 3 farms via live auction. Mr. Brackenhoff seconds the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Niewold states the board discussed selling farms at auction and he believed the board was in favor of this. Mr. Niewold also spoke with Mr. Killian and Chairman McCall regarding details. Mr. Killian said if close to or over \$30,000 it would be a good idea to bid out auction services. Mr. Niewold drafted a bid packet, Mr. Killian made changes and the bid packet was sent out for auction services for packets to be opened at the County Board meeting. Mr. McQuinn states this wasn't voted on before it was the packet was sent out and questions why we must have a live auction due to cost. Mr. Niewold states auction companies have people who are looking for farm ground. Mr. McQuinn states we could auction the farm ground ourselves. Mrs. Ihrke is also concerned that protocol was not followed by going through committee and would like to make sure we

are okay to do so. Mrs. Ihrke moved to add agenda item for full board Discussion/Possible action on selling the 3 Ford County Farms. Mr. Brackenhoff seconds the motion.

Voice Vote – Carried

Mr. Niewold moved to discuss leaving the 31-acre farm #3 USFWS program intact or removing it from the program in anticipation of selling the ground. Mr. Brackenhoff seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Niewold is in favor of leaving in the program. Mrs. Ihrke states it is transferable.

Mr. Niewold moves to send agenda item “Discussion/possible action regarding leaving the 31-acre farm #3 USFWS program intact” Mr. Brackenhoff seconded the motion.

Voice Vote – Carried

Mr. Niewold moved to discuss leaving a 5-acre tract of sellable ground on the west side of farm #3. Mrs. Ihrke seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Niewold was approached by the homeowner on the west side of the property asking to separate a 5-acre tract. We can separate and call it tract 2 but we have no control – anyone can buy it – no guarantee.

Homeowners are interested due to waterway. Mrs. Ihrke moved to send to the full county board agenda “Discussion/possible action creating a 5-acre tract of sellable ground on the west side of Farm #3” Mr.

McQuinn seconded the motion.

Voice Vote - Carried

Mr. Niewold moved to discuss setting a minimum price per acre for live auction of county farms. Mr. Brackenhoff seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mr. Niewold suggests tabling this item until a company is hired and specifics are worked out. Item tabled.

Mr. Niewold moved to discuss setting a full board annual resolution to only use the interest off the sale of the farms for county use, thus preserving the principal from the sale, with the principle being invested in local CDs or Illinois funds (whichever is greater). Mr. McQuinn seconded the motion.

Discussion: Treasurer’s office would need to have investment policy; every county board would have to approve annual resolution. Mr. McQuinn states it should be under finance. Mrs. Ihrke states Farm Committee has their own dedicated fund. Mrs. Ihrke suggest tabling this item until there is more information and there is more known direction.

The committee found no need to discuss accepting sealed bids for auction services for all 3 county farms again – just that they want to reiterate that we are okay to do so.

Mr. Niewold made a motion to discuss harvest progress on all 3 county farms. Mr. Brackenhoff seconded the motion.

Discussion: All 3 farms should be harvested this week. Mr. Niewold will start paperwork with Clerk, Treasurer, Board Chairman, and State’s Attorney to ensure the county is made whole. Grain can sit for 7 days before storage fees occur. Conversation has been made with BCS regarding the time frame. Mr. Niewold would ask the County Board to rescind the motion regarding transferring crop insurance for county farms 1,2,3 to Ford County and related costs associated due to not hearing anything from Mr. Purcell or his insurance agent regarding the insurance policy being transferred to Ford County. Insurance amounts have never been told, no paperwork, no amounts.

There was no safety report.

Mr. McQuinn moved to adjourn. Mrs. Ihrke seconded the motion.

The meeting ended at 4:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted – Kelsie Vaughn – Ford County Clerk & Recorder