

FORD COUNTY BOARD SPECIFICALLY FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Finance Committee met on Friday, October 9, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. in the small courtroom at the Ford County Courthouse.

The meeting was called to order by Finance Chair Sarah Mussman at 9:07 A.M.

Roll call showed the following present: Greg Niewold, Carson Vaughn, and Sarah Mussman. Randy Ferguson and Gene May were not present.

There was no public comment.

Mr. Niewold moved to approve all submitted claims. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion.

Discussion: There was a bill from Locis that was for annual licensing that was under County Clerk, but that will be changed or transferred to come from County Board expenses. The Finance Committee included a bill for Harvesting services to paid as well.

Roll Call - Unanimous

There were no ARPA claims.

Under new business, Mr. Niewold moved to discuss approving a resolution for lease and contract extension agreement to lease of courthouse building and contract Ford Operation and maintenance. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion.

At 9:11 A.M., Mr. Niewold made a motion to seat Finance Committee members Gene May and Randy Ferguson. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion.

Voice Vote – Unanimous

Discussion: Del Bruens, PBC Chairman states that there will be a new lease for Public Building Commission. Mr. Niewold asked if there was any chance PBC would reconsider their amount and Mr. Bruens stated they will not and it is based off expenses. Since the lease is TBD Mr. Ferguson moved to table this agenda item, Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion.

Voice Vote – Unanimous

Mr. Ferguson moved to approve sending agenda item “Discussion/possible action approving a resolution setting per diem for mileage reimbursement for 2026” to the full board for consideration. Mr. May seconded the motion.

Voice Vote - Unanimous

Mr. Vaughn moved to discuss agenda item “Discussion/possible action approving resolution amending resolution 2019-57: Establishing fees and criminal and traffic assessments to be collected by the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Mr. Niewold seconded the motion.

Discussion: Kasi Schwarz, Circuit Clerk, explained that fees have changed (starting in September 2026). Kasi presented a sheet of fees that affect Ford County and what will no longer have fees associated.

Mr. Vaughn made a motion to send this agenda item to the full board for consideration. Mr. May seconded the motion.

Voice Vote - Unanimous

Mr. Niewold moved approve sending the agenda item “Discussion/possible action approving a resolution for the approval of the State’s Attorney’s Appellate Prosecutor to handle appeals and conflict cases for Ford County State’s Attorney’s Office. Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion

Voice Vote - Unanimous

Mr. Niewold moved to discuss the proposed FY2027 county budget. Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion.

Discussion: Not a lot of changes. Pam Bruens, SOA states she would like to \$13,000 included for the hire of part-time staff. Jennifer Harrison, CMO Probation, would like officer's salaries at \$167,327.28 due to union raise. Andrew Killian, State's Attorney, would like computer services to be \$10,000. Mr. Niewold moved to send amended changes to the full board for consideration to let budget lie. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion.

Roll call – Unanimous

Mr. Niewold moved to discuss the proposed 2026 property tax levy, payable in 2027. Mr. May seconded the motion.

Discussion: Mrs. Mussman explained the accounts that were not levied last year and that will be replaced this year. Mrs. Bruens explained that she had sent out an estimated EAV yesterday, but it is now determined that it is 515,067,380. Ford County will lose EAV from farmland due to solar farms. Mrs. Mussman moved to send EAV 520,000 to the full board for consideration. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion.

Roll Call – Unanimous

Mr. Niewold moved to discuss the total amount owed to the county farm operations, including a harvest update. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion.

Discussion: All farms have been harvested. Still waiting on nutrient replacement amount. When that is received, it will be decided what goes to Ford County, and what goes to Mr. Purcell. Mr. Niewold also explained that there will be a motion for the board to rescind their motion regarding transferring crop insurance and associated costs due to no communication from an insurance company or Mr. Purcell.

Old Business

Payroll update. Per Taylor Burnett, Treasurer and Kelsie Vaughn, County Clerk, payroll seems to be improved as of now.

Reconciliation of accounts in Locis – update. Mrs. Burnett states she needs to have Locis help reconcile and they will not be able to do so until after November 1, 2026, when the Locis update is live. Mrs. Burnett states she will be working with them via phone or email to reconcile.

There was no safety report.

Mr. Vaughn moved to adjourn. Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion.
The meeting ended at 10:29

Respectfully submitted,
Kelsie Vaughn
Ford County Clerk & Recorder