FORD COUNTY BOARD MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026

A. CALL TO ORDER

The County Board of Ford County met pursuant to adjournment in the Ford County Sheriff's Boardroom at the Ford County jail in Paxton, Illinois on Tuesday, October 13, 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, Randy Ferguson, Greg Niewold, Sarah Mussman, Tim Nuss, Tom McQuinn, Cindy Ihrke, Neil Rhoades, Lesley King, and Chairman McCall. Vice Chairman Carson Vaughn was not present.

C. PROCLAMATION — Sheriff Johnson

D. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG AND INVOCATION — Chairman McCall / Lesley King

E. APPROVAL OF THE BOARD AGENDA

Mr. Nuss moved to approve the agenda as written. Mr. McQuinn seconded the motion. Mrs. Ihrke moved to move item #2 *Discussion/possible action regarding asking full board, State's Attorney, and clerk to work together in gathering necessary deed paperwork for all 3 farms* on the Farm Committee portion of the agenda to item #1. Mrs. Mussman omitted the "*Discussion/possible action on the total amount owed to the county farm operations, including a harvest update*."

Voice Vote - Carried

F. APPROVAL OF COUNTY BOARD MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

Mr. Niewold moved to approve. Mrs. King seconded the motion. **Voice Vote – Carried**

G. COMMUNICATIONS — Clerk & Recorder Vaughn

None

H. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Glenn Miller – Ford County Health Dept. Mr. Miller states there have been children's hearing and vision screenings, flu immunizations with 5 clinics still on the schedule, 2 active nuisance complaints, a mutual aid agreement has been signed with the city of Paxton and their ERS, final week of mosquito collection that will be followed by tick drags, Medicare enrollment is October 15- December 7 – Aetna no longer an option in Ford County, participated in a resource fair that was held at the Paxton Firehouse, and donated 200 gun locks to the Sheriff's department.

Dallas Glazik – Spoke on the agenda item of selling the county farms. Mr. Glazik is not in favor of this as he states it is an asset to the county and was willed to the benefit of the public. Mr. Glazik states that CRP would have brought more money to the county. Mr. Glazik also states there is no deed to the farms and has a concern with the county being able to sell them without a deed. Mr. Glazik requested tabling any action regarding the sale of the farms and send all land management items back to committee until deed is acquired.

Monte Andrews – Rural Public Transportation, Futures. Mr. Andrews provided an update on ride statistics in Ford County from the last quarter. Up to 5-6 trips per day on average. Rides are based on demand, and the public sees they are a reliable carrier. IDOT has been helpful in making them a carrier in the county. IDOT will fix every bus (30 for all three counties). Drivers are needed, CDL is not needed but is more hourly pay if you have a CDL. Future hopes to have permanent routes around Paxton and Gibson City. Telecare of Gibson City has ceased operations and donated two vehicles, a garage, and the funding left in their bank account to Futures.

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

Kasi Schwarz – Ford County Circuit Clerk. Mrs. Schwarz provided a handout to county board members regarding fine & fee amendments that are set by the state. It was explained what fees have changed and the circuit clerk's office funds will be affected.

Andrew Killian – Ford County State's Attorney. Mr. Killian shared the Clove Alliance open house scheduled for October 29, 2026, from 7:30 A.M. – 9:30 A.M. in their new building and sharing information on what they do in Ford County.

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

Mr. Niewold moved to approve all submitted elected official/Dept. head reports. Mrs. Ihrke seconded the motion.

Voice Vote - Carried

K. VERBAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

I. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Ferguson moved to approve the appointment of Ford County Clerk & Recorder Kelsie Vaughn as the authorized agent to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund for Ford County Illinois. Mr. Nuss seconded the motion. **RES26-58** **Voice Vote – Carried**

Mr. Nuss moved to approve adopting the Ford County Property Loss, Insurance Claim and Loss Response Policy. Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion. **RES26-59** **Voice Vote – Carried**

Mr. Ferguson moved to approve the appointment of Charles Deany as Drainage Commissioner of Vermillion River Outlet Drainage District. Mr. Rhoades seconded the motion. **RES26-60**

Voice Vote – Carried

II. FARM COMMITTEE

Mr. Niewold made a motion asking the full board, State's Attorney, and clerk to work together in gathering necessary deed paperwork for all 3 farms. Mrs. Ihrke seconded the motion.
Discussion: Mr. Niewold states there needs to be some sort of paperwork title that would serve as a deed. Mr. Killian states it would be known as a Title Commitment from a title company and it would be for all three farms. There would be fees associated with obtaining a title commitment and Mr. Killian would cover any legal fees. The board agrees that regardless of what happens with the farms, obtaining proper documentation is important. Mr. Niewold amended his original motion to "Asking the full board, State's Attorney, and clerk to work together in gathering necessary deed paperwork, and approving all costs associated for all 3 farms." Mrs. Ihrke seconded the motion.

Roll call-Unanimous

Mr. Niewold made a motion to discuss selling the 3 Ford County Farms. Mrs. Mussman seconded the motion.
Discussion: There are options of leasing, selling, CRP. Mr. Niewold would like to point out that the statement of CRP bringing more money isn't necessarily true using the 2025 rate not the 2019 or 2020 rate that would lock in for 7-10 years. Mr. Niewold suggests, if the farms were sold, that the County Board adopt a resolution stating the proceeds from selling stay in an investment and the county will only use interest from it. Whether future boards abide by that is an unknown answer. Interest would go into the general fund. Mr. McCall states the farm bill extension has expired, however, the House of Representatives in Congress have passed a new farm bill to be installed in the Senate. If there is no farm bill, no new CRP. Mr. Killian confirmed that the county board cannot make any item permanent – so while the current county board are good financial stewards the future county board(s) may not be. Mrs. Ihrke states while she does not have a problem with selling, she does not want to discount the value of having conservation ground as a county. She suggests selling two farms and keeping one for conservation area. Mr. Niewold states that Ford County cannot accept money from Federal Government, Ford County would again enter a lease situation, CRP proceeds would go to a tenant who would transfer money to Ford County, which must be a non-profit. CRP would lock Ford County into a 7–10-year commitment, if non-profit dissolves there is no way for Ford County to receive money.

Mr. Ferguson made the motion to explore cash rent leases for the county farms. Mr. Nuss seconds the motion.
Mr. Killan added that it will take the super majority (9 votes) to lease and majority (7 votes) to sell.
After discussion, Mr. Ferguson rescinded his motion to explore cash rent leases for the county farms.
Mrs. Mussman makes the motion to sell all three county farms. Mr. Niewold seconds the motion.
Discussion: Mrs. Ihrke is not comfortable selling all three farms. Mr. Rhoades would like to see a clear plan of what is going to be done with the money because he has a hard time selling an asset that has historically increased in value and provides income.

Roll Call
Aye - 5
Nay – 6
Motion failed

Mr. McQuinn makes a motion to explore cash rent bids for a two-year period for farms 1,2,3. Mr. May seconded the motion.
Discussion: Mrs. Ihrke questions if we go into a lease does that mean Ford County cannot sell the farm ground. Mr. Niewold states auction companies inquired if there was a lease, when he stated there was not their response was farms that are free and clear of a lease bring higher premiums.
Mr. McQuinn rescinded his motion to explore cash rent bid for a two-year period for farms 1,2,3.
Mr. Ferguson made a motion to reconsider selling all three county farms. There was no second. **Motion fails for lack of a second from the original majority.**
Mrs. Ihrke made a motion to sell farms 1 and 2 and explore options for consideration of farm 3. Mr. Nuss seconds the motion. Mr. Niewold would like to amend the motion to sell farms 1 and 2 while exploring leasing for a two-year term while exploring other options for farm 3. Mrs. Ihrke agrees to amend her motion and Mr. Nuss agrees to seconding the amended motion.
Discussion: A special county board meeting before the regular meeting in November will satisfy the requirement to have an agenda item allowing the county board to seek bids for cash rent for farm 3.

Roll Call
Aye- 9
Nay - 2
Motion Carried

Agenda item for leaving the 21-acre farm #3 USFWS program intact was tabled due to exploring.

Agenda item regarding creating a 5-acre tract of sellable ground on the west side of farm 3 was tabled.

Mr. Niewold made a motion to rescind lasts month's motion to transfer crop insurance for county farms 1,2,3 to Ford County and all costs associated. Mrs. Ihrke seconds the motion.
Discussion: Since the last meeting there has been no communication from any insurance company. Tomorrow morning, there will be a call to two elevators to transfer grain before there are storage fees. If the motion is not rescinded, Ford County is still waiting on amounts that were agreed to transfer and will go into reimbursement amounts. All crops are out.

Voice vote – Carried

Mr. Killian verified that we cannot open sealed bids for auction services for all 3 farms. The agenda item was tabled.
Agenda item for accepting a sealed bid was tabled.

Mrs. Mussman makes the motion to discuss harvest progress of all 3 county farms. Mr. Ferguson seconds the motion. Discussion: On track harvested farms last week. Farm 1 averaged 223 bushels per acre, Farm 2 averaged 63-acre soybeans, Farm 3 200 bushel per acre. $1097.83 for drying on Farm 3.

Mr. Niewold made a motion for discussion/possible action on review and approval of reimbursement amounts owed to Ford County for Farms 1,2,3. Mrs. Mussman seconds the motion.

Discussion: Owed to County Farms: Farm 1 - $48,462.52, Farm 2 - $62,444.07, Farm 3 - $54,498.13 – totaling $165,404.72.
Mr. Niewold moves to have the farm chair coordinate that amount out of the grain that is at Ludlow Co-Op elevator for farm 2,3 and the remaining grain at Ludlow Co-Op after that plus the grain at Cargill from farm 1 to be transferred back to the tenant. Mr. Ferguson seconds the motion.

Roll call – Unanimous

III. FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Mussman made a motion to approve all claims reviewed in the finance committee. Mr. Niewold seconded the motion.

Roll call – Aye - 10
1 no vote
Motion carried

The agenda item discussion/possible action on approving a resolution for lease and contract extension agreement to lease courthouse building and contract ford operation and maintenance was tabled during committee meeting.
Discussion: Public Building Commission is meeting October 29, 2026, to review a new lease.

Mr. Ferguson moved to approve a resolution setting per diem mileage reimbursement for 2026. Mr. Niewold seconded the motion.
Discussion: The state has set a new rate of .76 per mile. **RES26-61**

Roll call - Unanimous

Mrs. Mussman made a motion to approve resolution amending the resolution 2019-57: Establishing fees and criminal and traffic assessments to be collected by the clerk of the circuit court. Mrs. King seconded the motion.
Discussion: As Mrs. Schwarz stated, this will affect her overall income. Mr. Nuss inquired about voting no – anyone can vote no, but this is state mandated. **RES26-62**

Roll call – Aye - 10
Nay -1
Motion carried

Mrs. Mussman made a motion to approve a resolution for the approval of the State's Attorney's appellate prosecutor to handle appeals and conflict cases for Ford County. Mrs. Ihrke seconded the motion.
RES26-63

Roll call – Unanimous

Mrs. Mussman moved to discuss/possible action on the proposed FY2027 county budget. Mr. May seconded the motion.
Discussion: Mrs. Mussman states only a few changes since last discussion. Corporate tax is 1,924,000.00 and was originally 2,000,000.000. EAV was left at 520,000,000 after finance. 1,924,000.00 is the max of 37%. Public Building Commission came in at 289,720.61. Changes were: Jen (probation) but was based off of contracts so it has to be honored, 13,000 increase to Supervisor of assessments for part-time employee, State's Attorney asked for 3,500 increase in computer services. This is just shy of a 400,000 deficit. Mr. Niewold is asking again for Public Building Commission to revisit their agreed levy amount based off of current year expenses and asks for new lease to do the same. Mr. McQuinn states the Public Building Commission paid nothing for years and the county board paid all of their own bills. He also states that there is a major upcoming project and that's why they have been cautious with funds. Mrs. Ihrke questioned transferring money from the farm account. Mrs. Mussman states she is hesitant until the direction of the farms is known. Chairman McCall states there is always an option to amend the budget.
Dedicated funds – if there is no information from department heads, it will stay the same.
Mrs. Mussman makes a motion to let the FY2027 budget lay with the caveat being if departments do not input or provide their FY2027 dedicated fund amount that the FY2026 amount entered into previously will be FY2027 amount for dedicated. Mr. Ferguson seconds the motion.

Roll call - Unanimous

Mrs. Mussman makes a motion for discussion/possible action on the proposed 2026 property tax levy, payable in 2027. Mr. Ferguson seconds the motion.
Discussion: Calculated EAV 520,000,000. Levy shows over 105% so a truth in taxation will be necessary. The difference is 110.84%. Truth in taxation hearing will be held November 16, 2026, at 5:30 in Sheriff's Boardroom. **Roll call - Unanimous**

IV. HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

Mr. Nuss moved to approve all bills reviewed in the Highway Committee meeting. Mr. Rhoades seconded the motion. **Roll call - Unanimous**

Mr. Nuss moved to approve the purchase of the Falcon RME asphalt hot box from Sullivant Township for $6,000.00. Mrs. Ihrke seconded the motion. **Roll call - Unanimous**

Mr. Nuss moved to approve a resolution for 2026 maintenance under IL highway code. Mrs. Ihrke seconded the motion. **RES26-64** **Roll call – Unanimous**

Mr. Nuss moved to approve a resolution for peach orchard culvert 26-08157-00-DR through county bridge fund. Mrs. Ihrke seconded the motion. **RES26-65** **Roll call – Unanimous**

The next Highway meeting will be moved to November 9, 2026, at 7:00 A.M.

V. INSURANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

No meeting

VI. SHERIFF COMMITTEE

Mr. Ferguson moved to approve all claims reviewed in the Sheriff Committee meeting. Mrs. Mussman seconds the motion. **Roll call - Unanimous**

Mr. Ferguson moved to approve the payment (11,989.90) for upfitting the EMA vehicle that was donated to EMA from the Sheriff's Department. This will come from County Board operating expense. Mr. Brackenhoff seconded the motion.

Roll call – Unanimous

VII. ZONE COMMITTEE

Per Mrs. Ihrke, ZBA met to have a hearing on wind solar ordinance changes and solar ordinance changes. Mrs. Ihrke is waiting to hear from attorney Andy Kyte who is going to send availability for a special county board meeting to go through the ordinance. There will then be a follow up hearing on battery ordinance and possible solar permit.

VIII. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Feguson moved to approve all committee meeting minutes. Mr. McQuinn seconds the motion.
Voice Vote - Carried

L. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

I.	708 Board	KING
II.	9-1-1 Meeting Oct 14 5:00 to hire coordinator	NUSS
III.	CIRMA Meeting third week of October	McCALL/VAUGHN/IHRKE
IV.	ECCA	McCALL
V.	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	FERGUSON/NUSS
VI.	EXTENSION putting on FOIA & OMA training	MUSSMAN
VII.	FORD COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH	McCALL/NUSS
VIII.	MOBILE REGION 8	SHERIFF JOHNON/McCALL
IX.	REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION	McCALL/VAUGHN
X.	UNION AFFAIRS	McCALL/McQUINN
XI.	WIA Job fair at Gordyville in December	McCALL/NIEWOLD

M. OLD BUSINESS

No old business

N. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Niewold makes a motion to approve a resolution for the appointment of Colton Brown and Randy Ferguson to the Ford County Board of Review. Mrs. King seconded the motion. **RES26-66**

Voice Vote – Unanimous

Mr. Ferguson moved to approve a resolution authorizing the destruction of certain Ford County Treasurer's office records. Mrs. Mussman seconded the motion. **RES26-67**

Voice Vote – Unanimous

Mr. Niewold moved to approve a resolution authorizing the destruction of certain Ford County Supervisor of Assessments office records. Mrs. Mussman seconded the motion. **RES26-68**

Voice Vote – Unanimous

O. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Mussman moved to adjourn. Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion.
The meeting ended at 8:42 P.M.

P. PROCLAMATION Sheriff Johnson

The next County Board meeting is scheduled for **November 16, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.** in the Sheriff's boardroom.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelsie Vaughn
Ford County Clerk & Recorder

FORD COUNTY BOARD MEETING		October 13, 2026															
ROLL CALL Present = P Absent = A	BOARD MEMBER	Board, SA, and Clerk gather deed paperwork, approving all associated costs		SELLING ALL 3 COUNTY FARMS		SELL FARMS 1,2 WHILE EXPLORING 2 YR LEASE WHILE EXPLORING OTHER OPTIONS FARM 3		FARM CHAIR COORDINATE AMT OWED TO FORD CO AND REMAINING BACK TO FORMER TENANT		FINANCE CLAIMS		PER DIEM MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT		Court fees for circuit clerk amending Public Act 2019-57		STATE'S ATTY'S APPELLATE PROS TO HAND APPEALS AND CASES FOR FORD CO	
		YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
P	MAY, Gene	X			X		X	X		X		X		X		X	
P	BRACKENHOFF,DOM	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	FERGUSON, Randy	X			X	X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	NIEWOLD, Greg	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	MUSSMAN, Sarah	X		X			X	X		X		X		X		X	
P	NUSS, Tim	X			X	X		X		X		X			X	X	
P	McQUINN, Tom	X			X	X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	IHRKE, Cindy	X			X	X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	RHOADES, NEIL	X		X		X		X		No vote		X		X		X	
P	KING, Lesley	X			X	X		X		X		X		X		X	
A	VAUGHN, Carson (VC)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	McCALL, Chase (CHAIRMAN)	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
RESULTS = PASSED *OR* FAILED		PASSED		FAILED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED	
		11	0	5	6	9	2	11	0	10	1-no vote	11	0	10	1	11	0

COUNTY CLERK: KELSIE VAUGHN

ROLL CALL Present = P Absent = A	BOARD MEMBER	FY2027 BUDGET		2026 PROPERTY TAX LEVY, PAYABLE IN 2027		HIGHWAY CLAIMS		FALCON RME ASHPALT BOX		2026 MAINTENANCE UNDER IL HWY CODE		PEACH ORCHARD CULVERT 26-08157-00-DR		SHERIFF CLAIMS		EMA VEHICLE UPFITTING $11,989.90	
		YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
P	MAY, Gene	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	BRACKENHOFF, DOM	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	FERGUSON, RANDY	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	NIEWOLD, Greg	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	MUSSMAN, Sarah	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	NUSS, Tim	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	McQUINN, Tom	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	IHRKE, Cindy	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	RHOADES, NEIL	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
P	KING, Lesley	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
A	VAUGHN, Carson (VC)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P	McCALL, Chase (CHAIRMAN)	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
RESULTS = PASSED *OR* FAILED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASEED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED		PASSED	
		11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0	11	0

COUNTY CLERK: KELSIE VAUGHN