SPECIAL COUNTY BOARD MEETING
FORD COUNTY BOARD
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026, 6:00 P.M.

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Ford County Board met pursuant to adjournment in the Sheriff's Boardroom at the jail on Monday, October 26, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chase McCall at 6:00 P.M.

B. ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following members in attendance: Tim Nuss, Tom McQuinn, Cindy Ihrke, Neil Rhoades, Dominic Brackenhoff, Greg Niewold, Vice Chairman Carson Vaughn, and Chairman McCall. Members not present: Lesley King, Gene May, Randy Ferguson, and Sarah Mussman.

C. PROCLAMATION **Chairman McCall**

D. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG AND INVOCATION **Chairman McCall**

E. APPROVAL OF THE BOARD AGENDA

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

Voice Vote- Carried

F. APPROVAL OF THE COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

Mr. Niewold moves to approve the **October 26, 2026, County Board minutes.** Mr. Rhoades seconded the motion. **Voice Vote – Carried**

G. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Gayle Griffen-Jordan addressed the board regarding amendments to the solar ordinance and concerns for Ford County farmland, the project running along the Big Four, and asked the board to set the most restrictive setbacks allowed by state and local law to protect homes, crops, and water.

Seth Uphoff addressed the board regarding the proposed solar amendments being considered at this meeting. Mr. Uphoff suggested making changes to application fees to stay consistent with the wind ordinance, when to provide AIMA, consistencies in sound compliance, cure period consistencies, name plate capacity consistencies.

H. OLD BUSINESS

No old business

I. NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Ihrke makes a motion to discuss approving text amendments to Ford County WECS and Solar ordinances. Mr. Brackenhoff seconds the motion.

Discussion: Andrew Kyte advised the board regarding statute amendments. Suggestions: changing capacity and fee changes. Mrs. Ihrke suggests the higher fee due to workload, possibility of needing another employee for projects of this size. Mr. Niewold questioned the opinion of Mr. Kyte on "reasonable". Mr. Kyte states the higher suggested fee isn't unreasonable but could be challenged by a developer.

Mrs. Ihrke moves to approve the text amendments to the Ford County WECS ordinance with the change in fee to match the building permit from solar at 10,000 per MW at maximum 250,000 plus change to the alternating current. Mr. Nuss seconds the motion. **Roll Call - Unanimous**

Mrs. Ihrke moves to discuss the text amendments to the solar ordinance. Mr. McQuinn seconds the motion.

Mr. Kyte suggested matching application fees, sound compliance (keeping battery storage in mind), insurance provisions, revocation and cure period, and current change. The board can review a vegetative screening plan.

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Mrs. Ihrke moves to approve text amendments to the Ford County solar ordinance subject to the revisions discussed and recommend. Mr. Brackenhoff seconds the motion. **Roll call – Unanimous**

My. Kyte provided clarification on how county ordinances and municipal zoning authority apply to projects located within one and one-half miles of a municipality.

Mr. Niewold moved to approve text amendments to the Ford County cash rent lease agreement. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion.
Discussion: Mr. Killian made updates to the lease and Mr. McCall went over the changes.
Mr. Niewold suggested a change of having the tenant inform us when they have a contract to sell grain.
Mr. Niewold moved to approve amendments made to the Ford County cash rent lease agreement subject to revisions discussed and recommended. Mr. Nuss seconded the motion. **Voice Vote – Carried**

Mr. Vaughn moves to discuss allowing the Ford County Board to seek bids for cash rent for Ford County farm #3 for a period of not less than one year but no greater than five years. Mr. Brackenhoff seconds the motion.
Discussion: Permission for the board to run a two-week newspaper ad for cash renting Ford County farm #3. The term of the lease needs to be decided.
Mrs. Ihrke moved to allow the Ford County Board to seek bids for cash rent for Ford County farm #3 for a period of two years. Mr. Nuss seconds the motion. **Voice Vote - Carried**

Mr. Vaughn moved to adjourn. Mr. Brackenhoff seconded the motion.
The meeting ended at 7:15 P.M.

Ford County Board meetings are recorded. Recordings are available on the Ford County website at https://fordcounty.illinois.gov

Respectfully submitted,
Kelsie Vaughn
Ford County Clerk & Recorder

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