

HEATHER BOWMAN
HAMILTON COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER

APPROVED

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING ON:
JANUARY 21, 2026**

The Hamilton County Board convened at the Hamilton County Courthouse in the City of McLeansboro, State of Illinois, on Wednesday the 21st day of January, at 6:00 p.m. and was called to order by Chairman Kelly Woodrow.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

On roll call, the following board members responded as being present, which represented a quorum: Kelly Woodrow, John Mead, John Carrell, Adam Little, and Landon Vaughan.

Circuit Clerk Beth Sandusky, Coroner Robert Miller, State's Attorney Sarah Mead, and County Highway Engineer Rick Coronado, were also in attendance.

MOTION was made by John Mead, seconded by Landon Vaughan, to approve the amended minutes of the October 21, 2025 Regular Hamilton County Board Meeting, the December 16, 2025 Regular Hamilton County Board Meeting, and the December 19, 2025 Special Hamilton County Board Meeting as presented. Vote by acclamation. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Chairman Woodrow thanked everyone for coming and opened the floor to those that had requested to be on the agenda. He invited Paula Hatfield to give her 4H/University of IL Extension update first. Paula talked about several of their programs and planned event participation, including Craft Club, Lego Club, Cabin Fever Day, the Farmer's Share Breakfast, and Safety Day. She also talked about their plan to hold a YPCA certification class with the surrounding counties and reminded the board of their blanket project for the Veteran's Honor Flight. Last, Paula had one of her 4H members, Shiloh Willis, talk about her recent trip to the 4H Nationals in Atlanta, GA. Chairman Woodrow thanked them for their update. He then invited John Williams with Colonial Life Insurance to give his presentation. John introduced himself as an insurance agent of 40 years. He talked about his transition from Globe Life (previously pitched to the County) to Colonial Life, due to the expanded coverages they offer. John said his biggest advantage is their ability to guarantee issue with no waiting period. He also noted that they were 60% more affordable than Aflac and provided tax savings for the employer through payroll deducted premiums. Chairman Woodrow let John know that the Insurance Committee would need to discuss first and possibly set up a presentation for the employees. Mr. Williams thanked the board for their time and left behind a folder of information for each member. Last, Chairman Woodrow presented a certificate to Coroner Robert Miller for his training hours earned at his recent conference. He asked if there were any further public comments before moving on. There were none.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Chairman Woodrow noted that Treasurer, Sarah Kelly, provided her written monthly report and a copy was in the board packet.

Sheriff's Report: No report.

County Clerk & Recorder's Update: Clerk Bowman noted that she provided a copy of her monthly financial report for the board packet and a copy of her 2026 Election Postcard in the packet updates. She reminded the board that she has been sending this type of mailing the last few years to provide voter information and motivation, in hopes to reduce the number of ballots they waste on an annual basis. Bowman said she was able to cut back her election budget in enough places to afford the mailing each year, but was happy to report that the 2026 mailing would be covered under her PPA Grant. The Clerk said she was able to utilize the grant funds by making the theme of the cards related to their new accessibility features at the courthouse. Last, she informed

the board she would be having an ADA door opener installed within the next month; a pretty pricey item also covered by her PPA Grant. This concluded the Clerk's report.

EMA Report: EMA Director, Jason Stewart, said they had a busy month. He noted calls for a hazmat spill, suspect location with their drone, EMS assistance, and tree removal. Jason said they also attended a couple meetings in Marion and would soon have their new radios installed in the EMA vehicles.

ETSB Report: ETSB Chairman, Dorothy Smith, reported they had 1,739 911 calls in 2025. She did note that not all were truly an emergency. Last, Dorothy talked briefly about their application for a \$45,000 grant to help with equipment upgrades.

Health Department Report: No report.

Animal Control Update: Chairman Woodrow noted there was a new invoice on the claims list with 100 combined days of housing and 8.5 hours labor.

Ambulance Service Update: There was no update. Chairman Woodrow said he would reach out to Bailey for updated financials.

Administrative Services: Dustin Harmon, with Bellwether, talked briefly about SB25 regarding clean energy. He said it essentially reduces local control and changed the setback limits pertaining to roads and homes. Dustin noted that the county's ordinances will need to be updated, but preferred to wait on recommendations from UCCI. Clint Hopfinger, Supervisor of Assessments, expressed concerns for the delay and said he had been contacted by another battery storage company. Dustin said he understood, but really wanted to get the ordinance right the first time. Last, he made a couple comments about items discussed at the County Clerk's Conference held in Peoria relating to Property Fraud Alert and USPS postmarking changes.

MOTION was made by Landon Vaughan, seconded by John Carrell, to approve the department reports. Vote by acclamation. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was read by Heather Bowman, County Clerk.

1. Accept checks from the Hamilton County Health Department for the month of December, 2025. Salaries: \$8,830.00 Fringes: \$941.28 Unemployment: \$155.52 Insurance: \$1,885.52.
2. Accept check #48064 in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the City of McLeansboro per the Central Dispatching agreement for the month of January 2026.
3. Accept check #40388 in the amount of \$150.00 from UCCI for a 2025 Dues Refund.
4. Accept check # 6012645 from Hamilton County Coal, LLC in the amount of \$299,442.82 for the product of lease dated 11/01/2008.
5. Review the 1% school facilities tax schedule in the amount of \$62,047.77.
6. Review the Q2 report submitted by Dr. Beth Rister, ROE District #20 Superintendent.

Review the Hamilton County Public Safety Tax Payment received in the amount of \$62,680.91. This is liability MO- Oct 2025, Collected MO- Nov 2025 Vouchered MO- Jan 2026.

MOTION was made by Landon Vaughan, seconded by John Carrell, to approve the consent agenda as read. On roll call the vote was as follows: Yes- Landon Vaughan, John Carrell, Adam Little, John Mead, and Kelly Woodrow. 5 yes, 0 nays, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Board was presented with a request for “Local Authority Approval” from the Hamilton County Chamber for their 8th Annual HamCo Food & Brew Fest event planned for February 21, 2026 at the Big Red Barn.

Chairman Woodrow noted that the Chamber did provide their proof of insurance for the packet updates.

MOTION was made by John Carrell, seconded by Landon Vaughan, to issue the “Local Authority Approval” for the 8th Annual HamCo Food & Brew Fest event as requested. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.

2. The board was presented with a request from Jessica Barbre, Administrative Assistant of the Southern 14 Workforce Investment Board, to sign their Chief Elected Official and Grant Recipient/Fiscal Agent Agreement.

Chairman Woodrow reminded the board that this annual document allows them to obtain grants.

MOTION was made by John Mead, seconded by Landon Vaughan, to approve the Chief Elected Official and Grant Recipient/Fiscal Agent Agreement as presented. Vote by acclamation. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.

3. The board was provided with an invoice from Teffertiller Motors, Inc for the final balance on the EMA’s 2024 Chevrolet Silverado.

Woodrow stated the amount on the invoice - \$14,410.33. Adam Little asked where they planned to pay it from. The Chairman said it probably needed to come out of the coal fund. Landon Vaughan said he felt it could be paid from the emergency medical services fund since the EMA had received their first responder certification from IDPH. Chairman Woodrow asked Dustin Harmon if that would be allowed. He also asked Director Stewart if they were taking the vehicles on medical calls. Jason confirmed. Assistant Director, Westyn Welch also clarified that the vehicle itself was licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health to respond to medical calls as a medical response vehicle only. He said it could not transport patients.

MOTION was made by Landon Vaughan, seconded by Adam Little, to pay the invoice in the amount of \$14,410.33 out of the 1% Public Safety/Ambulance Reserve Account. On roll call the vote was as follows: Yes- Landon Vaughan, Adam Little, John Carrell, John Mead, and Kelly Woodrow. 5 yes, 0 nays, motion carried.

4. The board was provided with a copy of invoice #33620 from Novacom Communications for the final balance on the Motorola Repeater Link System, portables, and mobiles.

Chairman Woodrow asked the Clerk to share her notes on this item. Clerk Bowman said the County agreed to pay for a portion of the repeaters in 2023 and budgeted for it in 2024 under the contingency line item at \$60,000. She said they were only invoiced for the down payment in the amount of \$20,592.18, paid in July of 2024, but had not been invoiced for the rest due to issues with licensing and delayed install. There was some discussion back and forth between the board, the ETSB Chairman Dorothy Smith, and Clerk Bowman as to if the invoice included the final tower that was added later. With differing opinions, Chairman Woodrow suggested they may want to table payment for the invoice until more information could be gathered.

MOTION was made by John Carrell, seconded by John Mead, to table the item until clarification on the invoice was received. Vote by acclamation. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.

5. The board was provided with a list of Claims, including any Late Claims and Highway Claims.

MOTION was made by John Mead, seconded by Adam Little, to approve all claims as presented. On roll call the vote was as follows: Yes- John Mead, Adam Little, John Carrell, Landon Vaughan, and Kelly Woodrow. 5 yes, 0 nays, motion carried.

HIGHWAY RECOMMENDATION

6. The Board was presented with a copy of Resolution #2026-01-01 pertaining to a payment of \$10,000 to each township.

MOTION was made by Landon Vaughan, seconded by John Carrell, to approve Resolution #2026-01-01 as presented. On roll call the vote was as follows: Yes- Landon Vaughan, John Carrell, Adam Litte, John Mead, and Kelly Woodrow. 5 yes, 0 nays, motion carried.

7. The Board was provided with a copy of Resolution #2026-01-02 appropriating funds from the Motor Fuel Tax Allotment for the maintenance of County Highways for the period beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026.

MOTION was made by Landon Vaughan, seconded by Adam Little, to approve Resolution #2026-01-02 as presented. On roll call the vote was as follows: Yes- Landon Vaughan, Adam Little, John Carrell, John Mead, and Kelly Woodrow. 5 yes, 0 nays, motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS

The following motions were also made in accordance with the Chairman's recommendations:

8. **MOTION** was made by John Mead, seconded by John Carrell, to appoint Jason Craddock to the Hamilton County Emergency Telephone System Board to replace Justin Webb for a (3) year term to expire January 30, 2029. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.
9. **MOTION** was made by Landon Vaughan, seconded by John Carrell, to re-appoint Dorothy Smith to the Hamilton County Emergency Telephone System Board for a (3) year term to expire January 30, 2029. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.
10. **MOTION** was made by John Carrell, seconded by Landon Vaughan, to re-appoint Jason Stewart to the Hamilton County Emergency Telephone System Board for a (3) year term to expire January 30, 2029. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.
11. **MOTION** was made by John Mead, seconded by John Carrell, to re-appoint Landon Vaughan to the Hamilton County Emergency Telephone System Board for a (1) year term to expire January 30, 2027. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Chairman Woodrow asked if anyone else had anything before adjourning. Dorothy Smith asked for clarification on the term of the appointment for Jason Craddock. She said she thought Justin Webb had some time left on his term. Clerk Bowman said her appointment sheet indicated his term was up this month anyways, but would double check her notes and report back.

MOTION was made by Landon Vaughan, seconded by John Carrell, to adjourn the meeting. Vote by acclamation. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVED ON: _____

COUNTY CLERK

CHAIRMAN