

HEATHER BOWMAN
HAMILTON COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER

APPROVED

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING ON:
MARCH 18, 2026**

The Hamilton County Board convened at the Hamilton County Courthouse in the City of McLeansboro, State of Illinois, on Wednesday the 18th day of March, 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, Adam Little, John Carrell, and Landon Vaughan.

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

MOTION was made by John Carrell, seconded by Landon Vaughan, to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2026 Regular Hamilton County Board Meeting as presented. Vote by acclamation. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Chairman Woodrow thanked everyone for coming and invited Dawson Zabawa with Samsung to address the board. Dawson reminded everyone that he was the Project Manager for their company's renewable energy team and had visited back in the fall. He said he just wanted to touch base with the board and see if they had made any progress on the BESS ordinance. Chairman Woodrow said things had been delayed due to the new state guidelines and turned it over to Dustin Harmon with Bellwether. Dustin let Dawson know that the final ordinance would be very similar to the draft he already provided to the group, but would be modified to meet the new state guidelines. Dawson asked if the county had any questions for them. Dustin said the biggest questions are in regards to emergency response. He explained to Dawson that our volunteer EMA & Fire Departments are much smaller than levied districts. Dustin asked what Samsung would do to help them be prepared. Dawson said they were waiting to get some results back on their application in September and to also see what the county's ordinance looks like. This will help the group get a more accurate cost analysis of their project. Chairman Woodrow asked how often they expect to be hauling heavy loads in and out and what kind of deal they plan to make on the road use. Dawson said they are still trying to figure out the size of the project before he would have more specific answers to that. He said they are still aiming for 2029-2030 and noted that the lead time to order equipment is pretty long. Dustin said the road use agreement will take care of Kelly's questions and will still be in play on the final ordinance. He let the group know that he expected to have the ordinance ready for a vote in May. Dawson thanked the board for their time and the board did the same in return.

Chairman Woodrow asked if there were any other public comments. Kevin Kern with Snedeker Risk Management said he just stopped in to invite the board to their upcoming regional meeting to be held at Walker's Bluff on April 1st. He had a handout to share with the information and asked for their rsvp if they would like to attend. The board thanked Kevin for his time.

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: There was no update.

County Clerk & Recorder's Update: Clerk Bowman noted that a copy of her monthly financial report was in the board packet and that she passed out a copy of the unofficial election results before the meeting. She said Election Day was long, but good, and noted that it was a 16-hour day for her staff. Bowman said the turnout was just below 35%, which was comparatively good compared to surrounding counties, but could always be better.

Last, the Clerk reported that they visited all polling places earlier in the day to pick up equipment. This concluded her report.

EMA Report: There was no one present to report.

ETSB Report: ETSB Chairman, Dorothy Smith, talked about their plans to host CPR classes again this summer. She said they would be having one with all local fire departments (McLeansboro, Dahlgren, and Belle Rive) on July 14th and another on July 16th for anyone at the courthouse. She said they wouldn't be sending invitations until closer to time. Last, Dorothy briefly noted the completed install of their new battery backup and potential for the state to increase the 911 surcharge on every phone. Dustin Harmon asked if they would also broaden the scope for the use of those funds. Dorothy was not sure.

Health Department Report: No report.

Animal Control Update: Chairman Woodrow said he reached out to Chad (Mayor, City of McLeansboro), but he has not got back to him with a meeting date yet.

Ambulance Service Update: There was no update.

Administrative Services: Dustin Harmon, with Bellwether, said they had received the third quarter variance information from the Treasurer and would be sending reports soon. He also informed the board that he would have updated wind, solar, and BESS ordinances to vote on in May and noted that they did still have financial assurance options in play up to 25% of the decommission cost. Last, he reminded the board that the elected official salaries must be set before June and would like to see them on the April agenda due to all other energy related items planned for May.

MOTION was made by Landon Vaughan, seconded by Adam Little, 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 January, 2026.
Salaries: \$8,967.63 Fringes: \$1,042.98 Unemployment: \$282.11 Insurance: \$942.76.
2. Accept checks from the Hamilton County Health Department for the month of February, 2026.
Salaries: \$4,638.00 Fringes: \$545.43 Unemployment: \$148.42 Insurance: \$942.76.
3. Accept check # 8160 in the amount of \$285.00 from the Hamilton County Health Department for reimbursement of Kunce Managed Services through the end of February 2026.
4. Accept check #48237 in the amount of \$5,416.66 from the City of McLeansboro per the Central Dispatching agreement for the month of March 2026.
5. Accept check # 6012951 from Hamilton County Coal, LLC in the amount of \$8,604.90 for the product of lease dated 12/01/2007.
6. Review the 1% school facilities tax schedule in the amount of \$68,763.86.
7. Review the Hamilton County Public Safety Tax Payment received in the amount of \$69,072.72.
This is liability MO- Dec 2025, Collected MO- Jan 2026 Vouchered MO- March 2026.
8. The request from Darlene Chapman, CEO of the Discover Downstate Illinois Tourism Board, for a certification letter recognizing them as our "state certified tourism bureau" for FY27.

9. Approve Resolution # 2026-03-01 pertaining to the sale of permanent parcel # 11-70-155-235 to B WE ARE UNIQUE LLC in the amount of \$835.00.
(Certificate # 2836 sold at the February 2019 tax sale to the Hamilton County Trustee Program)
10. Approve Resolution # 2026-03-02 pertaining to the sale of the mobile home located at 105 E Powell Ave, Parcel # 07-111 to the City of McLeansboro in the amount of \$915.00.
(Certificate # 3457 sold at the December 2021 tax sale to the Hamilton County Trustee Program)

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion was opened regarding the bid received at the February meeting for the Courthouse Bathroom Renovation project.

Chairman Woodrow said the 2nd bidder has come back with an updated estimate to meet the state plumbing inspector requirements, but didn't feel the board could accept it. Landon Vaughan said he met with 1 architect already and would be meeting another the following week. Vaughan felt it would be best to gather a couple estimates and then have someone engineer the project so everyone would be bidding the exact same thing.

Chairman Woodrow asked if anyone wanted to make a motion pertaining to the bids received. He asked a second time. The item failed due to lack of motion.

NEW BUSINESS

2. The board was presented with the request from Ashley Davis with SAFE for the County to sign a proclamation declaring April 2026 Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Chairman Woodrow invited Ashley to address the board. Ashley introduced herself and her associate Carson, both from the Sexual Assault & Family Emergency center in Mt. Vernon. She said they provide free confidential services for a large group of surrounding counties, including legal & medical advocacy, counseling, prevention, and education. Carson said her education topics include internet safety and toxic relationships. She said they provide the education to both teachers and students. Ashley read the proclamation to the room.

MOTION was made by John Mead, seconded by John Carrell, to approve the proclamation declaring April 2026 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Vote by acclamation. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.

3. The board was presented with a Notice of Intent to construct a new sow farm at 5743 County Road 375 E in McLeansboro by Micah Miller.

Chairman Woodrow invited Micah to address the board. Mr. Miller introduced himself and informed the board of his plans to build a 3,000 head sow site. He said all manure will be stored in underground concrete tanks and the operation has low environmental impact. He also said they would be using local grain and creating about 10 jobs. Mr. Miller said from his understanding, the board has a right to request a hearing for the residents. Chairman Woodrow said that he and the administrator looked over the documents and it appeared he had everything in order. Micah said they are trying to be good neighbors and made all setbacks almost double the requirements. Chairman Woodrow said he proposed that they let Mr. Miller proceed with his project with no further public hearing.

MOTION was made by John Carrell, seconded by Landon Vaughan, to allow Mr. Miller to proceed with his sow farm construction without an additional hearing request from the County Board. Vote by acclamation. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.

4. The board was provided with a copy of the request from ICRMT for the County's proxy vote for fellow County Board Members nominated to serve on the ICRMT Executive Board.

MOTION was made by Landon Vaughan, seconded by John Mead, to approve the proxy vote and return to ICRMT. Vote by acclamation. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.

5. The board was presented with a copy of the University of Illinois Extension FY27 agreement with the County & other program updates by Angie Messmer.

Chairman Woodrow invited Angie to address the board. Mrs. Messmer said the FY27 agreement is the same as in years past. She said she also had some reminders to share from Paula Hatfield, regarding upcoming Farmer's Share Breakfast, Safety Day, and their involvement in the upcoming Hamilton County Fair. She also highlighted their recent 4H Public Presentations Day. Angie said they had 18 participants total and noted that 3 out of 4 participants advancing to the state level were from Hamilton County. She asked the board if they had any questions. There were none.

MOTION was made by John Carrell, seconded by Adam Little, to approve the FY27 agreement with the University of Illinois Extension as presented. Vote by acclamation. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.

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

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

HIGHWAY RECOMMENDATION

7. The board was presented with Resolution #2026-03-03 to establish engineering services.

MOTION was made by Landon Vaughan, seconded by Adam Little, to approve Resolution #2026-03-03. 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.

8. The board was provided with a copy of Resolution #2026-03-04 pertaining to material proposals for the 2026 County MFT Program.

MOTION was made by Adam Little, seconded by Landon Vaughan, to approve Resolution #2026-03-04. On roll call the vote was as follows: Yes- Adam Little, Landon Vaughan, John Carrell, John Mead, and Kelly Woodrow. 5 yes, 0 nays, motion carried.

9. The board was presented with Resolution #2026-03-05 pertaining to material proposals for the 2026 Road District MFT Program.

MOTION was made by John Carrell, seconded by John Mead, to approve Resolution #2026-03-05 as presented. On roll call the vote was as follows: Yes- John Carrell, John Mead, Adam Little, Landon Vaughan, and Kelly Woodrow. 5 yes, 0 nays, motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS

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

10. **MOTION** was made by Landon Vaughan, seconded by John Carrell, to appoint Jamie Vineyard to the Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning & Development Commission Board to replace Glenn Miller for the remainder of his (3) year term to expire February 20, 2027. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.
11. **MOTION** was made by Landon Vaughan, seconded by John Mead, to appoint Adam Little to the Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning & Development Commission Board to replace Terry Drone for

the remainder of his (3) year term to expire February 20, 2028. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.

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

MINUTES APPROVED ON:_____

COUNTY CLERK

CHAIRMAN