

HEATHER BOWMAN
HAMILTON COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING ON:
MAY 20, 2026**

The Hamilton County Board convened at the Hamilton County Courthouse in the City of McLeansboro, State of Illinois, on Wednesday the 20th day of May, 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, and Landon Vaughan. Adam Little was absent.

State's Attorney Sarah Mead and County Highway Engineer Rick Coronado were also in attendance.

MOTION was made by Landon Vaughan, seconded by John Carrell, to approve the minutes of the April 15, 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 asked if there were any public comments. Paula Hatfield asked to give a 4H/Extension update. She started by briefly touching on the new ADA guidelines that led to their new digitally accessible newsletter. She also gave preview of their schedule for fair week and talked about the tests the kids have to take in order to show their animals. Paula noted that she had been contacted by Jelly Bean, Hamilton County Daycare, and Mercy Heights about their summer classes. Last, she complimented how well the 4H kids did on scholarship night. This concluded her update. Chairman Woodrow thanked her for her time. Next, Shyla Wagner-Hernandez was invited to address the board. Shyla passed out a proposal for her Recovery Month Community Event to be held in September, with request for support from the County's opioid funds. Shyla noted that she is currently employed through SIRAC with the Egyptian Health Department. She read through her handout which gave the purpose of the event, proposed activities, and the reasons why the event would matter and make a difference in the community. The board thanked Shyla for her presentation. Chairman Woodrow said they would have State's Attorney Mead review the applicable uses for the opioid funds and would place the item on our next agenda. Before moving on, Chairman Woodrow confirmed there were no other public comments.

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 update.

County Clerk & Recorder's Update: Clerk Bowman noted that a copy of her monthly financial report was in the board packet, along with some correspondence from the Special Olympics regarding the County's recent donation. She said she also included a copy of the Southern 14 newsletter and the 25 payable 26 Levy Approval Form. Bowman noted that the tax extensions would be completed by the end of the following week and would meet the deadlines to print for the targeted due dates.

EMA Report: EMA Director, Jason Stewart, said they had a pretty slow month with 1 call for assistance and a Johnson County Search & Rescue Training. He noted that they had taken the Humvee to the Coroner's lot to be sold. Chairman Woodrow asked if it still ran and if they still needed it. Jason confirmed that they did drive it to the lot, but said they don't use it enough to keep it.

ETSB Report: ETSB Chairman, Dorothy Smith, said there is new legislation out pertaining to mental health. She noted that the telecommunicators will have to be well trained for it. She briefly talked about their hopes for Novacom to put up the new repeater on the water tower soon. Last, Dorothy said they would be posting the CPR training notices on June 1st. Landon Vaughan asked about the status on their discussion to move the voice recorder from the Sheriff's office to the basement. Dorothy said she was hoping they would be able to, but Novacom would have to be the ones to do it. She noted that it would help clear up space. This concluded her report.

Health Department Report: There was no update.

Animal Control Update: None.

Ambulance Service Update: There was no update.

Administrative Services: Dustin Harmon, with Bellwether, told the members they would need to hold a special board meeting after the public hearing to pass the solar/wind ordinances and be in compliance with the State before the June 1st deadline. He also informed the board of some language found in SB25 restricting un-zoned counties from making ordinances for BESS. Dustin did note that there were several legal teams already trying to change this language. Landon Vaughan asked if they would still be allowed to have Road Use agreements at the least. Dustin said he would be checking into that. Last, he noted that they had started the FY27 budget template to get it ready for the 6-month budget data. He noted their plans to start earlier and include more people in the budget process.

MOTION was made by John Mead, seconded by Landon Vaughan, 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 April, 2026.
Salaries: \$9,348.00 Fringes: \$1,099.32 Unemployment: \$257.86 Insurance: \$1,158.14.
2. Accept check #48400 in the amount of \$5,208.33 from the City of McLeansboro per the Central Dispatching agreement for the month of May 2026.
3. Accept check # 6013224 from Hamilton County Coal, LLC in the amount of \$194,075.34 for the product of lease dated 12/01/2007.
4. Accept check #AC8433159 in the amount of \$3,445.00 from the State of Illinois/State Board of Elections for reimbursement of Election Judge expenses for the March 17, 2026 Primary Election.
5. Review the 1% school facilities tax schedule in the amount of \$56,236.67.
6. Review the Hamilton County Public Safety Tax Payment received in the amount of \$56,513.68.
This is liability MO- Feb 2026, Collected MO- Mar 2026 Vouchered MO- May 2026.
7. Accept check # 2106 in the amount of \$1,750.00 and issue Class C Liquor License to Reegan & Holly Schuster, D/B/A The Liquor Hut, LLC for a (6) month period to expire on November 30, 2026.

8. Accept check # 5992 in the amount of \$1,750.00 and issue Class C Liquor License to Ryan Rubenacker, D/B/A Rube's Liquor Locker, Inc for a (6) month period to expire on November 30, 2026.
9. Accept check # 1245 in the amount of \$1,750.00 and issue Class C Liquor License to Asif Hemdani, D/B/A Hunts Gas N Go LLC for a (6) month period to expire on November 30, 2026.
10. Approve Resolution # 2026-05-01 pertaining to the sale of permanent parcel # 04-25-177-003 to Mark S & Chelsea R Miller in the amount of \$1,606.98.
(Certificate # 3599 sold at the November 2022 tax sale to the Hamilton County Trustee Program)
11. Approve Resolution # 2026-05-02 pertaining to the sale of permanent parcel # 08-09-431-002 to Mark S & Chelsea R Miller in the amount of \$1,515.15.
(Certificate # 3602 sold at the November 2022 tax sale to the Hamilton County Trustee Program)
12. Approve Resolution # 2026-05-03 pertaining to the sale of permanent parcel # 08-15-178-004 to Haylee McPeak in the amount of \$850.00.
(Certificate # 000855 sold at the January 2009 tax sale to the Hamilton County Trustee Program)
13. Approve Resolution # 2026-05-04 pertaining to the sale of permanent parcel # 08-15-179-010 to Ricardo Santos in the amount of \$1,120.00.
(Certificate # 3608 sold at the November 2022 tax sale to the Hamilton County Trustee Program)
14. Approve Resolution # 2026-05-05 pertaining to the sale of permanent parcel # 08-16-282-003 to Dustin Parmley in the amount of \$1,500.00.
(Certificate # 3617 sold at the November 2022 tax sale to the Hamilton County Trustee Program)
15. Approve Resolution # 2026-05-06 pertaining to the sale of permanent parcel # 15-05-377-002 to Timothy Hoover in the amount of \$850.00.
(Certificate # 358 sold at the January 2005 tax sale to the Hamilton County Trustee Program)
16. Approve Resolution # 2026-05-07 pertaining to the sale of permanent parcel # 15-08-128-018 to Timothy Hoover in the amount of \$850.00.
(Certificate # 365 sold at the January 2005 tax sale to the Hamilton County Trustee Program)

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, John Mead, and Kelly Woodrow. 4 yes, 0 nays, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion was opened regarding the update on the Courthouse 2nd Floor Bathroom Project.

Landon Vaughan said the architect got everything lined out for the bathroom project. He noted that the board packet included a copy of the new layout and that the county published to accept bids until June 4th. Vaughan said they would plan to open the bids after the deadline on the 4th and would be able to take a vote at the June meeting.

2. The board was presented with updated proposal options for a new GIS aerial by Hamilton County Supervisor of Assessments, Clint Hopfinger.

The Supervisor of Assessments noted that he gave an updated set of proposals to the Clerk for the board packets. Clint said based on the board responses from last month, he recommended proposal #4 and noted that he currently has the funds available in GIS to cover the expense. Landon Vaughan said he had been talking with EMA Director Stewart about their drone capability for imaging and how that might work if they could figure out how to overlay the layers on our map. Assistant EMA Director Westyn Welch said he had taken some classes on drone imaging and knew they could use the photos for 911. The Supervisor of Assessments said he would be concerned about potential liability issues. John Carrell agreed that there is likely a difference between using the drone for search & rescue and accessing people's property for photos. Chairman Woodrow asked how often the surrounding counties are renewing their aerial photos. Clint said they all try to do one at least every 4 years and reminded the board that the GIS account is funded from the recording fee, not tax dollars. Dustin Harmon with Bellwether said he felt proposal #4 was a good option that didn't lock them in for an extended period of time and considered future changes with technology.

MOTION was made by John Carrell, seconded by Landon Vaughan, to approve proposal #4 as presented. On roll call the vote was as follows: Yes- John Carrell, Landon Vaughan, John Mead and Kelly Woodrow. 4 yes, 0 nays, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

3. The board provided with a copy of the FY25 Workers' Comp Audit and claim in the amount of \$4,442.00.

John Carrell asked the Clerk what the invoice was for. Clerk Bowman said they usually get an invoice for the adjusted premium due to the difference between the estimated salaries and the actual amounts.

MOTION was made by John Mead, seconded by Landon Vaughan, to approve the FY25 Worker's Comp Audit and claim in the amount of \$4,442.00. On roll call the vote was as follows: Yes- John Mead, Landon Vaughan, John Carrell, and Kelly Woodrow. 4 yes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Chairman Woodrow then stated that item #4 was not ready to vote on. He noted that Circuit Clerk, Beth Sandusky, needed to postpone the item until next month.

4. *Discussion and possible approval: Resolution #2026-05-08 pertaining to Juror Pay.*

MOTION was made by John Carrell, seconded by Landon Vaughan, to table the resolution for juror pay until next month. Vote by acclamation. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.

5. Discussion was opened regarding the use of the former Highway Department office.

Landon Vaughan asked when the Highway Department moved out of their old office. Rick Coronado said they moved out in January and there has been work going on since. He noted they have completed the plaster work and thought the paint would be done soon. Landon asked for the other members' opinions of moving the EMA or Coroner office to that space. He noted that they could only make a recommendation, as the final call was for the Sheriff to make. State's Attorney Mead said the pre-trial officer was interested in the space as well. Chairman Woodrow said they would really need to talk to Sheriff Lakin. Landon reminded the board that the EMA was kicked out of their other space behind the courtroom after Ashton left. John Mead asked where the EMA operates out of now. Someone thought most of Jason's work was done at home. Dustin Harmon, with Bellwether, said the Sheriff mentioned that the probation officer had also inquired about the space. Chairman Woodrow allowed Mary Anne Hopfinger, former Clerk, to ask a question as a member of the public. She said she thought the EMA operated out of a building on the Highway Department grounds. The board let her know that the EMA only stored equipment there, but had no office. Chairman Woodrow said he would talk to Tracy about it, but they may need to consider doing something for the EMA at the Highway Grounds instead.

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 Landon Vaughan, to approve all claims as presented. On roll call the vote was as follows: Yes- John Carrell, Landon Vaughan, John Mead, and Kelly Woodrow. 4 yes, 0 nays, motion carried.

HIGHWAY RECOMMENDATION

7. The board was presented with Resolution #2026-05-09 pertaining to the acceptance of Illini Asphalt's bid for the A-3 Bituminous Treatment of Edgar's Road and Rural Hills Road.

MOTION was made by Landon Vaughan, seconded by John Carrell, to approve Resolution #2026-05-09 as presented. On roll call the vote was as follows: Yes- Landon Vaughan, John Carrell, John Mead, and Kelly Woodrow. 4 yes, 0 nays, motion carried.

8. The board was presented with Resolution #2026-05-10 pertaining to the acceptance of ET Simond's bid for the HMA Resurfacing of Dale Road.

MOTION was made by John Carrell, seconded by Landon Vaughan, to approve Resolution #2026-05-10 as presented. On roll call the vote was as follows: Yes- John Carrell, Landon Vaughan, John Mead, and Kelly Woodrow. 4 yes, 0 nays, motion carried.

9. The board was presented with Resolution #2026-05-11 for the approval of the financial responsibility and submission for the Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) Grant.

MOTION was made by John Mead, seconded by Landon Vaughan, to approve Resolution #2026-05-11 as presented. On roll call the vote was as follows: Yes- John Mead, Landon Vaughan, John Carrell, and Kelly Woodrow. 4 yes, 0 nays, motion carried.

Before requesting the motion to adjourn, Chairman Woodrow said the board would need to call a Special Meeting to follow the Solar/Wind hearing scheduled for next week. Landon Vaughan said he would make the motion and John Mead said he would second. Chairman Woodrow noted that they did not need a motion to call the meeting; they would just need 3 signatures on the request form. He asked if anyone had anything else to discuss. Landon Vaughan asked if the Chairman had heard from the Barker Brothers about the concrete project for the NE corner of the Courthouse. Woodrow said he talked to them last week and was supposed to meet soon to talk about drainage.

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

MINUTES APPROVED ON: _____

COUNTY CLERK

CHAIRMAN