

**APPROVED**

**HEATHER BOWMAN**  
HAMILTON COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING ON:  
AUGUST 19, 2026**

The Hamilton County Board convened at the Hamilton County Courthouse in the City of McLeansboro, State of Illinois, on Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> day of August, 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, Supervisor of Assessments Clint Hopfinger, State's Attorney Sarah Mead, and County Highway Engineer Rick Coronado were also in attendance.

**MOTION** was made by Adam Little, seconded by Landon Vaughan, to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2026 Regular Hamilton County Board Meeting and the July 22, 2026 Special 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 brought a few girls from the Funny Farmer's 4H group to give the update this week. She brought Shiloh Willis, Laney Davis, and Ainsley Willis. Each of the three girls talked about their recent experience at the State Fair. Paula also noted that Shiloh worked a summer internship with the Extension Office and was a big help for the gift garden and cooking classes. Chairman Woodrow told the girls to keep up their good work and thanked them for their 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:** Sheriff Lakin provided a written report for the board packets.

**County Clerk & Recorder's Update:** Clerk Bowman said their packet included a copy of her monthly financial report and other miscellaneous correspondence for the board, including a Snedeker Risk Management Conference invitation, Discover Downstate Annual Dinner invitation, Southern 14 Newsletter, and a copy of the signed agreement with Shyla Hernandez for use of the County Opioid Funds. She also gave a reminder about her recent PVBm mass mailing and the importance of "opting-out" to save county funds in future mailings. Bowman said this particular mailing cost around \$5,000. Last, the Clerk noted the upcoming due date for their insurance renewal application and briefly touched on the updated county website. This concluded her report.

**EMA Report:** EMA Director, Jason Stewart, said they had 3 EMS calls for lift assistance this month and also set up a landing site for air evac. Stewart said they had a meeting in Marion with Mike Bost about their funding programs this month as well. Last he touched on a grant they applied for to obtain new computers. Chairman Woodrow asked Jason if they decided on a space and collected estimates for drone storage at the highway department property. The Director said they were still gathering estimates at this time.

**ETSB Report:** ETSB Chairman, Dorothy Smith, said their meeting was moved to the following night due to an issue that came up on their regularly scheduled date.

**Health Department Report:** There was no update.

Animal Control Update: There was no update.

Ambulance Service Update: There was no update.

Before moving on to the Administrative Report, Chairman Woodrow asked Coroner Robert Miller to come to the front to be presented with a training certificate from his recent conference in Collinsville.

Administrative Services: Dustin Harmon, with Bellwether, said the Treasurer's held their association meeting this month, which involved discussion on the legislative updates to the tax sale and tax redemption process. He noted that the legislation stems from lawsuits involving Illinois counties and lost equity related to tax sales. Dustin said the new legislation gives the County the ability to assign all tax certificates to the trustee, taking liability off the County. He said the only downfall he can see to doing such is a delay in tax disbursements, but only affects the taxes that are delinquent. He noted that the tax sale ordinance on the agenda was for acting on this new legislation and is backed by both the County Clerk & Treasurer's Associations. Next, Dustin briefly touched on the budget meetings held earlier in the day with each department. He said the budget was upside down to start and still includes a coal transfer, with the goal to keep property taxes down. He added that they were able to cut around \$187,000 from last year and will have to keep working at the budget until the EAV grows. Harmon told the board to be on the lookout for the first draft coming soon.

**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 July, 2026.  
Salaries: \$8,856.00 Fringes: \$1,041.46 Insurance: \$1,158.14.
2. Accept check #48685 in the amount of \$5,208.33 from the City of McLeansboro per the Central Dispatching agreement for the month of August 2026.
3. Accept check #138764248 from the State of Illinois/State Board of Elections in the amount of \$1,248.16 for the reimbursement of FY26 IVRS grant expenses.
4. Approve the Discharge of Assignment for Policy #79584991 in relation to Mortgage Release #2025-00000856.
5. Review the IRS mid-year mileage rate change effective July 1, 2026.
6. Review the FY27 Annual Budget Plan and fully executed agreement for the U of I Extension submitted by Angie Messmer.
7. Review the 1% school facilities tax schedule in the amount of \$60,496.04.
8. Review the Hamilton County Public Safety Tax Payment received in the amount of \$60,653.17.  
This is liability MO- May 2026, Collected MO- June 2026 Vouchered MO- August 2026.

**MOTION** was made by John Mead, seconded by Adam Little, to approve the consent agenda as read. 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.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. The board was presented with the request for 2026 Fall Festival Sponsorship from John Perryman, Sponsorship Committee Chairman of the McLeansboro Kiwanis Club.

Chairman Woodrow invited John Perryman to speak on behalf of the McLeansboro Kiwanis Club. John thanked the board in advance for their support, use of the courthouse grounds, and help from the Hamilton County Sheriff's office. He also reminded the board that they are still looking for a place to store their sign boards. Chairman Woodrow asked about the available funds for the donation. Dustin Harmon with Bellwether suggested making a contribution for "rural development" from the Coal Fund. Chairman Woodrow noted that he agreed and referenced the increase of sales tax dollars stemming from extra visitors during the event.

**MOTION** was made by Adam Little, seconded by John Mead, to approve the sponsorship for the 2026 Fall Festival in the amount of \$2,500 for rural development from Coal Fund. On roll call the vote was as follows: Yes- Adam Little, John Mead, John Carrell, Landon Vaughan, and Kelly Woodrow. 5 yes, 0 nays, motion carried.

2. The Board was presented with the Hamilton County Trustee Tax Sale Ordinance #2026-08-01.

Chairman Woodrow reminded the board that Dustin Harmon covered this ordinance in the administrative report. John Mead asked Clerk Bowman if she thought there was any downside to doing the tax sale this way. Bowman said she didn't feel there was and expressed support for the ordinance. She said it takes a big liability off of the county and briefly explained how they would be liable for excess equity not returned by other tax buyers if they do not move forward in this direction.

**MOTION** was made by Landon Vaughan, seconded by John Carrell, to approve Ordinance #2026-08-01 as presented. 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.

3. The board was presented with the list of Election Judges to be used during the 2026-2028 term.

Chairman Woodrow noted that the list of judges was included in the board packet.

**MOTION** was made by Adam Little, seconded by John Mead, to approve the list of Election Judges as presented. Vote by acclamation. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.

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

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

Chairman Woodrow asked the board if they had anything else to add before adjourning. Landon Vaughan shared an update from the budget meeting earlier in the day. He said they decided to give Clint Hopfinger, Supervisor of Assessments, one of the retired Sheriff's vehicles that was set to go to auction. Chairman Woodrow said he had no problem with that. Hopfinger, who was in attendance, said his biggest question was where to pay the fuel and expenses from if a motor, transmission, or something else goes out. Chairman Woodrow asked him about the vehicle he currently uses. Clint said he gets reimbursed mileage for the little truck he uses, but the county does own the magnet on the door. Chairman Woodrow confirmed that he also pays for the fuel in the truck as well. Both John Mead and John Carrell agreed they could always find another vehicle to swap out if the one given needs repaired. The board told the Supervisor of Assessments to pick whichever vehicle he wanted. Coroner Robert Miller, also in attendance, asked about getting a vehicle for the Coroner's office as well. The board agreed they had already made an effort to find Robert a vehicle and later told him to just pick one out. Last, Chairman Woodrow recognized the civics students in attendance.

**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**