

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 19, 2025

- CALL TO ORDER** The Regular Meeting of the County Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Neil Hargis. This meeting was held in the Franklin County Courthouse, County Board Room 133, 100 Public Square, Benton, Illinois.
- ROLL CALL** Secretary, Kevin Wilson, called the roll. Members in attendance were Neil Hargis, Angela Evans, John Gossett, J. Larry Miller, Curtis Overton, and Kevin Weston. Dave Bartoni, Ray Minor and Brad Wilson were absent.
- Also in attendance were Amanda Kink, County Board Office Manager; Amos Abbott, E-911 Director; Matt Barnett, County Engineer; Cindy Miklos, Supervisor of Assessments; Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk; Tony Skobel, Interim Animal Control Supervisor; Steve Vercellino, County Treasurer; Don Miklos, County Highway Foreman and other interested parties.
- PLEDGE** Chairman Neil Hargis lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- PUBLIC COMMENT** Chairman Neil Hargis asked if there is anyone who wants to make public comments? No comments at this time.
- MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** Angela Evans made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 21, 2025 Regular County Board Meeting. Curtis Overton second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.
- COUNTY CLAIMS** Kevin Weston made a motion to pay the claims on file. Angela Evans second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**DELINQUENT TAX
RESOLUTIONS**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the first item on the agenda is the Delinquent Tax Program resolutions regarding authorizing my signature (Neil Hargis) to execute deeds on the parcels sold thru the County's Delinquent Tax Program.

J. Larry Miller made a motion to accept the resolutions as presented. John Gossett second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolutions are made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2025-29 and 2025-32.

**VIOLATION OF PLAT
ACT REQUIREMENT FOR
TERRY NEWMAN -
APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is to approve the violation of Plan Act requirement. Terry Newman for 50 feet of road frontage instead of the 125-foot Road frontage. Do I have a motion?

Curtis Overton made a motion to approve violation as presented. Angela Evans second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**EASEMENT FROM
WILLIAM R. WINGET
TRUST TO MICHAEL K.
WINGET - APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the easement from William R. Wingett Trust to Michael K. Wingett. Michael is buying 10 acres, which is currently landlocked. Easement will be 30 feet off the south side of trust property from Arkansas Road.

Kevin Weston made a motion to approve the easement as presented. Curtis Overton second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**AWARDING CONTRACT TO
DEES, INC. FOR
JORDAN CREEK ROAD
BRIDGE - RESOLUTION**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is a resolution in the awarding of contract to Dees, Inc. for Jordan Creek Road on Township Bridge Section 21-02138-00-BR in the amount of \$212,887.

Kevin Weston made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Angela Evans second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2025-33.

**APPROPRIATING FUNDS
FOR COUNTY
ENGINEER'S SALARY -
RESOLUTION**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is a resolution appropriating funds for the payment of County Engineer's salary.

Curtis Overton made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Kevin Weston second the motion.

Chairman Neil Hargis asked there were any questions?

J. Larry Miller: Yeah. What? We don't do that for any other elected official.

Kevin Weston: We've done this for several years. What it is, if we pay the salary, we approve the salary. The state pays part of it. So it just is. It is formality.

Matt Barnett, County Engineer: Yeah. And it is just, you guys pay half the salary. The state pays half.

J. Larry Miller: So, we have others that we have that way too. We don't do a resolution.

Matt Barnett, County Engineer: It's an IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation) thing. They love the paperwork. Its coming out of motor fuel.

J. Larry Miller: I thought we were moving too fast I wanted to slow it down.

On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2025-34.

**RESOLUTION AGAINST
HB2827 - APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is a resolution against HB 2827.

John Gossett: I make a motion to approve the resolution against House Bill 2827 by the Illinois government, and I make this motion as presented before you on the piece of paper that you see.

Angela Evans: I'll second.

Chairman Neil Hargis: Okay. Motion by Mr. Gossett. Second by Mrs. Evan. Any questions?

Kevin Weston: I only had one Question or comment. My daughter went to St. John's Catholic School, so I believe in other forms of education other than public school, public schools, and things. But I talked to Patrick Windhorst this last weekend and not this weekend, weekend before last. And he told me that he didn't think that HB 2827 when even get out of committee, so won't even become a law. And if it was to become a law, they rewrote it, then I would put a resolution in. But I'm not comfortable putting resolutions in.

Angela Evans: I would say I had a conversation with State Representative Adam Newman, and he just said that he almost guarantees to see it by the end of session come back around. Yeah, he said that yesterday.

Kevin Weston: What was that?

Angela Evans: That State Representative Adam Newman of 109.

John Gossett: I spoke with Darren Bailey. He said it's very very possible to come back up. So that's why.

J. Larry Miller: My question is, and I haven't looked at it a little bit and I'm for adopting the resolution, but if this were to pass, would it affect schools like at West Frankfort, St. John?

Kevin Weston: All the teachers at St. John's are licensed educators in the city of Illinois and their curriculum is the same. But again, I would like to see it actually happen before we passed something like this.

John Gossett: Well, if we did that, it would be too late. We're trying to prevent it from happening. That's what we're doing with the resolution.

Chairman Neil Hargis: Okay. Any other questions? Okay call roll.

On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2025-35.

**FARMLAND COMMITTEE -
3 APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda are three appointments to the Farmland Committee and they are Joe Heard, Trey Jackanicz and Charles Mitroka Jr. for a four year terms ending June 1, 2029.

J. Larry Miller made a motion to approve the reappointments to Farmland Committee as presented. Angela Evans second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
HOSPITAL BOARD - 2
APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda are two appointments to the Franklin County Hospital Board. He informed the County Board that these appointments will be tabled at this time.

**EWING NORTHERN FIRE
PROTECTION BOARD - 1
APPOINTMENT**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is an appointment to the Ewing-Northern Fire Protection Board. We have one reappointment Dean Cripps for a three year term ending May 1, 2028.

Curtis Overton made that motion to approve the reappointments to the Ewing-Northern Fire Protection Board as presented. Kevin Weston second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**DENNING CEMETERY - 3
APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda are three reappointments to the Denning Cemetery Board and they are Paul Burbank Jr., Debra Jackanicz and Janice Warren for another six year terms ending June 1, 2031.

John Gossett made a motion to approve the reappointments to the Denning Cemetery Board as presented. Angela Evans second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**FRANKLIN-WILLIAMSON
BI-COUNTY BOARD - 2
APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda are two reappointments to the Franklin-Williamson Bi-County Board and they are Clark Dixon for a three year term ending June 30, 2028 and Curtis Overton for a one year term ending June 30, 2026.

Kevin Weston made a motion to approve the reappointments to the Franklin-Williamson Bi-County Board as presented. Angela Evans second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes, except Curtis Overton abstained.

**COUNTY CLERK,
SHERIFF & CORONER -
MONTHLY REPORTS**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated the next item on the agenda are the April, 2025 monthly reports from the County Clerk, Sheriff & Coroner reports.

J. Larry Miller made motion to approve the reports as presented. Curtis Overton second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said reports are made a part of these minutes.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Neil Hargis informed everyone that we will have no closed session.

RETURN TO OPEN
SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Neil Hargis asked the Board if there were any questions. Curtis Overton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Angela Evans second the motion. There being no further business Chairman Neil Hargis declared the meeting adjourned.



Neil Hargis
Franklin County Board Chairman



Kevin Wilson
County Clerk and Recorder