

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

Jul 21, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the County Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Kevin D. Weston. 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 Dave Bartoni, Angela Evans, John Gossett, J. Larry Miller, Ray Minor, Curtis Overton, Kevin Weston and Brad Wilson. Neil Hargis was absent.

Also in attendance were Amanda Kink, County Board Office Manager; Kyle Bacon, County Sheriff; Matt Barnett, County Engineer; Marty Leffler, County Coroner; Cindy Miklos, Supervisor of Assessments; Steve Vercellino, County Treasurer; and other interested parties.

PLEDGE

Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston asked if there is anyone who wants to make public comments? No comments at this time.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Ray Minor made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 16, 2025 Regular County Board Meeting with a correction to the Franklin County Hospital Board appointment, Mary Ellen Akin should have replaced Robert Lewis, unexpired term ending August 31, 2025 instead of Ron Knox. And the July 7, 2025 Special County Board Meeting Minutes. John Gossett second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

COUNTY CLAIMS

Curtis Overton made a motion to pay the claims on file. Ray Minor second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**DELINQUENT TAX
RESOLUTION**

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

Brad Wilson made a motion to accept the resolutions as presented. Curtis Overton second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolutions are made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2025-38 and 2025-39.

**CELLBRITE FOR
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
- APPROVAL**

Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Cellbrite System for the Sheriff's Department using the Opioid Fund.

John Gossett made a motion to the approve the Cellbrite System as presented. Dave Bartoni second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**ICRMT (ILLINOIS
COUNTIES RISK
MANAGEMENT TRUST) -
APPROVAL**

Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the ICRMT (Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust) to handle the County's Insurance thru S. C. D. Rea & Sons Insurance from Benton showing a comparison printout.

Ray Minor made a motion to approval the ICRMT as presented. Brad Wilson second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said comparison printout is made a part of these minutes.

**STATE'S ATTORNEY TO
ENGAGE OUTSIDE
COUNSEL FOR
INTEGRITY LAWSUIT -
RESOLUTION**

Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the resolution for the State's Attorney to engage outside counsel for the purposes of representation and litigation and to authorize payment for representation in the Integrity Lawsuit.

Angela Evans made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Dave Bartoni second the motion.

Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston asked if there were any discussions.

Curtis Overton: I haven't heard much about this. Is this where that several counties in Illinois are being sued?

Dave Bartoni: I mean 40. Yes. 40.

Curtis Overton: And this is an order that she can get outside representation for the county said she can't do it herself.

Angela Evans: Yes. Okay. I understand. Thank you.

J. Larry Miller: I can ask. I should know, but I've forgotten the basis of the suit what is it?

Steve Vercellino, County Treasurer: Yeah. So as far as the suit, so it was a Supreme Court ruling said as far as the Tax process, all the states, you should handle it this way. There's amount money that you collect as far as the tax sale process. They're saying there's a piece of it that is basically the sweat I believe that you may have in your house if you lose it on taxes. But we get everything and we sell to whoever was different between that piece. They're saying, well, they should even, they know they lost the house, the taxes. They shouldn't lose the sweat equity. I know that's an open generalization of it. A lot of states changed laws based on that get done. And so, like myself and Kevin and all the other county special, we're following what state law says, which is, doesn't quite follow what the federal law says.

So, all the counties and all are multiple lawsuits. There's one down here and I think one more up north where we're all getting sued for the

same thing basically. And unfortunately, it is a federal thing, so I really can't handle it. I believe policy has an exclusion that says that they can't handle it either, which is not just this company or the company that we're going to. It going to be the same situation. So, all the counties are having to get something representation for this.

J. Larry Miller: So loosely what does it mean?

Steve Vercellino, County Treasurer: I don't know it's going be probably several years. I expect for it's even resolved to be honest with you. Hopefully by the end of the state will change the law, reflect what supposed be happening. I would hope it's more of one of those types of things where we say, well, it's not the county's fault. We're following with the law. Said we need to talk to the state as far as our handling. And then maybe the state has some type of settlement saying, hey, okay, we'll fix things if you'll do this. I don't know. I'm not an attorney and don't tend to be the one, but it probably will take while and there's all these kinds involved. So hopefully maybe they'll be where different kinds can get involved based on their population or their different things. So, we won't have to pay a whole bunch per county. Maybe they can get together and choose one particular law firm to work on. But in a nutshell, that's kind of what's going on. Nothing that we have personally done wrong. We follow the state law.

Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston: Any other questions? Okay take roll. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2025-40.

**LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY
ENGINEERING SERVICES
AGREEMENT FOR BENTON
FIELD ROAD** Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement for Benton Field Road, section 24-00198-00-SP with Round Table Design Inc from Mt. Vernon.

Brad Wilson made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Ray Minor second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said agreement is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2025-13.

**LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY
ENGINEERING SERVICES
AGREEMENT FOR PEACH
ORCHARD ROAD** Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement for Peach Orchard Road, section 25-00200-00-BR with BFW Engineering from Marion.

Curtis Overton made a motion to approve the agreement as presented. Dave Bartoni second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said agreement is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2025-14.

**LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY
FORMAL CONTRACT WITH
SAMRON MIDWEST
CONTRACTING FOR
FREEMAN SPUR
BLACKTOP** Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Local Public Agency Formal Contract for Freeman Spur Blacktop, section 24-00196-00-RS with Samron Midwest Contracting, from Murphysboro.

Brad Wilson mad a motion to approve the formal contract as presented. Dave Bartoni second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said formal contract is made a part of these minutes.

**CONTRACT BOND FROM
SAMRON MIDWEST
CONTRACTING FOR
FREEMAN SPUR
BLACKTOP** Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Contract Bond for Freeman Spur Blacktop, section 24-+00196-00-RS with Samron Midwest Contracting from Murphysboro for \$653,275.92.

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

Said contract bond is made a part of these minutes.

HIRE COUNTY ASSESSOR - APPROVAL Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval to hire a County Tax Assessor.

Ray Minor made a motion to approve the hiring of a County Tax Assessor. John Gossett second the motion but I have a question: Is it same terms and length as we had last year?

J. Larry Miller: How Long? Three months?

Cindy Miklos, Supervisor of Assessments: \$20,000. Three months.

Brad Wilson: Thank you.

Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston: Any other questions?

Brad Wilson: And we are going to charge townships, correct? We don't need to put that in our motion.

Cindy Miklos, Supervisor of Assessments: But John had asked me in between meetings to come up with a price and I can let you guys know. That's what I was just trying to work on now. But if you guys want me to, and we can vote on that the next time if you guys want to say higher and then we can put that in the next meeting. I can go ahead and let him know. The assessor said he was interested, but he would like to start sooner because I don't think we've done this until later last year. But put it on the agenda next time to approve the amount. We're going to charge the townships if you want me to. I don't know that it's necessary, but we can.

J. Larry Miller: Well, it's not, I mean you have the authority to do it, don't you?

Cindy Miklos, Supervisor of Assessments: I do. Yeah.

Brad Wilson: I would still, I am for approving this tonight, but I would still like to have it voted on, on record of what we're going to charge. I would like to vote on that next time, that fee.

Cindy Miklos, Supervisor of Assessments: Okay, I'll get it to you and explain how I came up with the number that I came up with.

Brad Wilson: Just because I want it to be very public that we are charging for this.

Curtis Overton: And last year we got a return on our investment, didn't we? I mean we regain more than what we paid and lost taxes that were recovered.

Cindy Miklos, Supervisor of Assessments: Well, the county itself didn't because they get a percent or something. But over the years, yes, because he picked up, I think a million dollars' worth of stuff. So, I mean, yeah, it was well worth it. But the county actually didn't recover in one year.

Brad Wilson: And I also think us voting on it from here, Cindy takes that pressure off you. You're not the one coming up with this that the board voted on that date.

Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston: Any other questions? Okay take roll. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**AIRBNB & VRBO BED
TAX ORDINANCE -
APPROVAL**

Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Airbnb & VRBO Bed Tax Ordinance Establishing A County Hotel/Motel Transient Occupancy Rental Units Tax & Related Matters.

Brad Wilson made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Dave Bartoni second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes except Angela Evans voted NO and Ray Minor abstain because he is a property owner.

Said ordinance is made a part of these minutes as Ordinance No. 2025-02.

AMENDED SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE - APPROVAL Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the resolution for Amendment to the Subdivision Ordinance of Franklin County, Illinois Ordinance #2013-04.

J. Larry Miller made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Brad Wilson second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2025-41.

FRANKLIN HOSPITAL BOARD - 1 APPOINTMENT Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston stated that the next item on the agenda is an appointment to the Franklin County Hospital Board, for Micah Snell to replace Ron Knox who has resigned. This appointment is for Ron Knox's unexpired term ending August 31, 2027.

Curtis Overton made a motion to appoint Micah Snell to the Franklin County Hospital Board for an unexpired term ending August 31, 2027. Brad Wilson second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

REND LAKE AREA TOURISM COUNCIL - 3 APPOINTMENTS Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston stated that the next item on the agenda are three appointments to the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council recommending Ryan Bleichner to replace Brad Rogers unexpired term ending December 31, 2025, Louie Giroux to replace Jeff Jones whose term ended December 31, 2024 and Miranda Williams to replace Mark Kays unexpired term ending December 31, 2027.

Angela Evans made a motion to approve the appointments as recommended. Dave Bartoni second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

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

Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston stated the next item on the agenda are the June, 2025 monthly reports from the County Clerk, Sheriff & Coroner reports.

Brad Wilson 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

Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston informed everyone that we will have no closed session.

**RETURN TO OPEN
SESSION**

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston asked the Board if there were any questions. J. Larry Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Angela Evans second the motion. There being no further business Vice-Chairman Kevin D. Weston declared the meeting adjourned.



Kevin D. Weston

Franklin County Board Vice Chairman



Kevin Wilson
County Clerk and Recorder