

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

Jun 16, 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, Dave Bartoni, Angela Evans, John Gossett, J. Larry Miller, Ray Minor, Curtis Overton, Kevin Weston and Brad Wilson.

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; Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk; Steve Vercellino, County Treasurer; 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?

Tom Carter: I'd like to thank you guys for talking about that 1%, earlier. After listening to Jim Muir, it sounds like it's going to be more critical to buy goodwill with the public and get rid of this 1%. And the reason being, is because it sounds like you're going to be about a third of 1% shortfall in all your areas. So, the only way you're going to get it is goodwill with the public to show 'me that you mean what you said and get this place paid off. And I know Kevin Weston, he likes spending that 1% on everything he can't get his hands on, and I appreciate stopping him on the spending a hundred thousand dollars over across the street and I appreciate the \$160,000 stop on the air conditioning units and everything. But for the rest of you all

the idea of a shortfall scares me, because I don't want to just raise taxes to be raised taxes on real estate and all that. So, I want to know if there's going to be a game plan here in the very near future about paying this place off, putting it on a referendum to increase a one third of 1% tax to be able to take care of all you guys' needs at the same time giving the general public two thirds as a tax cut.

Brad Wilson: I think that's something that we're going to have to look at a third of 1%. I don't know that that will cover it, to be honest with you, with the shortfall that's covered in his office and then just maintaining this place.

Tom Carter: Well, this thing I talked, this was about a half a million shortfall and I was figuring his between 250 and 300,000, so that's where I come up with that one.

Brad Wilson: What Kyle has thrown in. I think what we're going to have to do is going into our next budget hearing is start not only looking at the year we're going into, but projecting out of seeing where their losing money year over year because of stuff like that. And like you said, trying to see how many more years do we have until.

Tom Carter: Well, because we're talking about things need to go on the ballot, they need to discussed or heard because next election will be coming up shortly and we need to be able to do whatever we're going to do at that time period.

Brad Wilson: I don't think we'll have this courthouse paid off by then, will we, Steve by the next election?

Steve Vercellino, County Treasurer: I don't think so. I think 26 by then, we need to have our game plan in place for sure, because we have to have the timing of it.

Tom Carter: Yeah. Well, you'll be close enough where you should be able to tell the people with an honest statement of what they want to do with this 1% by forgiving it and also tell 'me how much you really need to keep everything running.

Brad Wilson: Well, I agree with you on that. It doesn't need to be raising property taxes. The Lord knows those are high enough.

Tom Carter: Anyway, thank you.

Rocky Morris: I am back.

Brad Wilson: Glad to see you, Rocky, glad you are doing better.

Tom Carter: I made Hey, Curtis, one last thing, this fine woman here. She will not need to work through class because me and Rocky said we wouldn't go up there tomorrow. She wouldn't need it.

Rocky Morris: I had a couple issues brought to my attention and they're kind of troubling. One was, which we discussed and seemed like we're going to try to move forward with that issue at the dog pound. We went out there the other day and we heard Tony Skobel had resigned or he was in the process to leave. So, we went out there just to encourage him, to stay on. He's doing a good job. And now evidently there was an incident that happened with a board member belittling, the way I understand it. Even the employees that allowed him to move, he decided after that happened, he was quitting. What right do you have as a board member or someone in authority to belittle employees? That's my question, Angela, was you involved?

Angela Evans: Well, I would like to see the accusation of belittling because I don't know. I mean, I can't say. I'll tell you right now. I did not belittle her, so I would want to have the right to face my accuser of belittling.

Rocky Morris: Okay, we can do that.

Angela Evans: Yes.

Rocky Morris: Okay. The second thing that we had, there was a dog out there. I hadn't been out there in a long time. There was a dog that had me scared to death. I mean this thing was ready to chew through the wire to get to me, and I'm going how in the world can two people handle 435 miles of county land. I mean county land and do it justice, can't do it. They need help and I hope you get 'me help or whatever you guys decide. I think they need more money if you're going to keep 'me. So those are two issues that I hope the board will discuss. And Angela, I'll get back with you.

Angela Evans: I appreciate that.

Rocky Morris: If there's any correction on what I've said, we'll make it.

Angela Evans: Thank you.

Rocky Morris: And if not, we won't.

Angela Evans: Okay.

Rocky Morris: So those are the two issues that I think and the 1% thing with Tommy. So, it's kind of major issues that we've got on this. I hope the board will move forward on it. Okay. Thank you.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING Brad Wilson made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 19, 2025 Regular County Board Meeting. Curtis Overton second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

COUNTY CLAIMS

John Gossett made a motion to pay the claims on file. Ray Minor 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 but there aren't any resolutions for this month, so we will move forward.

OEMC GAS METER (\$3,610.00) - APPROVAL

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of all OEMC gas meter and the amount of \$3,610 and he read a letter from Ameren.

Kevin Weston: I'd just like to make a comment on that. That was the estimate from, Ameren, and they tell us it may be lower than that probably, but that's what they gave us. So, we'll be approving it to pay the new gas and I'll make that motion. Dave Bartoni second the motion. On roll call vote, all votes yes.

Said letter is made a part of these minutes.

EVAPAR - 1 YEAR CONTRACT (\$1,695.00) - APPROVAL

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is to approve the EVAPAR one year contract for in the amount of \$1,695 and he presented the Planned Maintenance Agreement.

Curtis Overton: I make the motion we approve EVAPAR one year contract in the amount of \$1,695 a year as presented. Dave Bartoni second the motion.

J. Larry Miller: Yeah, would you remind me of what that is exactly?

Kevin Weston: That's for the maintenance contract for a year. Twice a year they'll come and change the filter. Make sure it's running, the generator.

J. Larry Miller: So, we had a contract with anybody before?

Kevin Weston: No.

J. Larry Miller: Okay.

On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said agreement is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2025-10.

HONEYWELL CONTRACT - 5 YEAR CONTRACT (\$8,520.00) - APPROVAL Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda the approval again of the Honeywell contract, five-year contract, 8,520 per year. We just need someone to make a motion to approve the contract.

Angela Evans: I'll make a motion to approve the five-year contract for 8,520. Curtis Overton second the motion.

Brad Wilson: And I have a question on that. What is included on that? Is that any time or is there a number of times? What's included on that?

Kevin Weston: They'll be here quarterly. They'll be in the building quarterly, checking everything they've already found. We do have one of the duct units that needs to be repaired. They're going to come out and do that. The guy that was with Honeywell and he does a control system. Says I would glad to do little things here too for you. What's nice is I got a call today from Nate who's with Honeywell. The Sheriff had a problem with the jail and Nate was there. Well, Nate, while he was checking thing, he got online and looked at our unit here and says, well, I see one of our rooftop units, one of the RTUs number one was only running one compressor.

The other one was running three incoming airs from the rooftop unit. One was, it was 65-degree air. The other one was 55 where it's supposed to be. So, he called me about that. I went ahead and called HSG. They'll be here tomorrow to see what's going on with top one. So, what I'm saying is this is working out pretty well to be able to take Honeywell's help. Honeywell is really wanting to work with us, turned out well.

J. Larry Miller: So, are they able to monitor any of that remotely?

Kevin Weston: Yeah. Nate did not come to the courthouse as far as I know today. He was able to log into the system from remotely on a computer. Yeah, but the only reason he did it was because he was at the jail monitor.

J. Larry Miller: So not monitoring it other than the fact that he looked at it today. So that could have gone on for a good while.

Curtis Overton: Does it not alarm them when there's an alarm on the system here? Does it not transfer that alarm to them?

Kevin Weston: I don't think so. I mean it could, but we'd have to pay the money for that 24-hour server. Now we look at our unit too. We can look at it here and see what alarm we have, but I'm thinking that whatever was an alarm. I know Jeff checks it. I don't think he saw a major alarm and it just could be; we have a compressor kicked out on power. We may not hit that alarm on the control.

On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said agreement is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2025-11.

**LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY
FORMAL CONTRACT FOR
TR254 JORDAN CREEK
ROAD - APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda the approval of local public agency formal contract for TR 254 Jordan Creek Road with Dees Incorporated and he presented a Local Public Agency Formal Contract.

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

Said contract is made a part of these minutes.

**CONTRACT BOND FOR
\$212,887 WITH DEES,
INC. - APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda the approval of contract bond for \$212,887 with Dees Incorporated for TR 254 Jordan Creek Road section number 21-02138-00-BR and presented the contract bond.

Kevin Weston made a motion to approve the contract bond for \$212,887 with Dees Incorporated for Jordan Creek Road as presented. Curtis Overton second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said contract bond is made a part of these minutes.

**RESOLUTION FOR
IMPROVEMENT OF
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
ON PEACH ORCHARD
ROAD**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda the resolution for improvement under the Illinois Highway Code for section 25-00200-00BR for \$400,000 for bridge replacement across Andy Creek on Peach Orchard Road.

Brad Wilson made a motion to accept the resolution for Peach Orchard Road as presented. Dave Bartoni second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2025-36.

**RESOLUTION IN THE
AWARDING OF CONTRACT
FOR FREEMAN SPUR
BLACKTOP TO SAMRON
MIDWEST CONTRACTING**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda the resolution for the contract for section 24-00196-00-RS Freeman Spur Blacktop to Samron Midwest Contracting in the amount of \$653,275.92.

Curtis Overton made a motion we award that contract for section 24-00196-00-RS at the Freeman Spur Blacktop to Samron Midwest Contracting in the amount of \$653,275.92 as presented. Dave Bartoni second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2025-37.

**NICK RIDDLE TO
REMOVE TILE FLOOR AT
ANIMAL CONTROL -
APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval for Nick Riddle to remove tile floor at animal control in the amount of \$1,700.

J. Larry Miller made a motion to approve Nick Riddle to remove tile floor as presented. Brad Wilson second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
HOSPITAL BOARD - 1
APPOINTMENT**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the appointment to the Franklin County Hospital Board and I'm recommending Mary Ellen Akin to be appointed to the Franklin County Hospital to replace Ron Knox, who has resigned. The appointment is an unexpired term ending August 31, 2027.

Brad Wilson made that motion to appoint Mary Ellen Akin to the Franklin County Hospital board as presented. Curtis Overton second the motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

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

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

John Gossett made motion to approve the reports as presented. Kevin Weston 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. J. Larry Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brad Wilson 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