

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD
100 Public Square
Benton IL 62812
Phone 618-439-3743 www.franklincountyil.gov FAX 618-435-9847

Kevin Weston
Vice Chairman

Neil Hargis
County Board Chairman

Amanda Kink
Office Manager

Date: September 2, 2025

**FINANCE,
(Salaries, Policy and Purchasing, Insurance, Tourism,
Supervisor of Assessments/Mapping, Economic Development)
DECEMBER 2024 THRU NOVEMBER 2025
FIRST AND THIRD MONDAYS OF THE MONTH**

Franklin County Board Committee meetings and Franklin County Board meetings are held at the Franklin County Board Room, Franklin County Courthouse, 100 Public Square, Benton, Illinois.

COMMITTEEMEN:

- (x) John Gossett
- (x) Angela Evans
- (-) Dave Bartoni – Public Safety
- (x) Kevin Weston
- (x) Neil Hargis – County Board Chairman
- (-) Brad Wilson – Finance
- (x) Curtis Overton – Transportation
- (x) Larry Miller
- (x) Ray Minor

County Offices

- (-) Amos Abbott, Director 911
- (x) Kyle Bacon, Sheriff
- (x) Matthew Barnett, County Engineer
- (-) Ryan Buckingham, Director OEMC
- (-) Abigail Dinn, State's Attorney
- (-) Darla Fitzgerrell, Court Services
- (x) Marty Leffler, Coroner
- (-) Lorie LeQuatte, ROE
- (x) Cynthia Miklos, Supervisor of Assessments
- (-) Judge Melissa Morgan
- (x) Jim Muir, Circuit Clerk
- (x) Amanda Kink, County Board Office Manager
- (x) Steve Vercellino, Treasurer
- (x) Alexis St. George, Animal Control Supervisor
- (x) Kevin Wilson, County Clerk

Guests (Topic of Comment), Steve Vercellino, Rocky Morris, Tom Carter, Daniel Reigal

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Rocky Morris spoke on the issue of needing an ordinance or policy in place for private grants and the protocol with those grants to prevent misuse of money.

Tom Carter spoke on the issue concerning security at the Campbell Building. He expressed his concerns on needing a decision soon for the safety of county employees.

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM by Kevin Weston in the absence of Finance Chairman Brad Wilson. See above list of those attending, and also, those stating public comments and the topics of their comments.

County claims were then submitted and were approved and signed by all members present.

Franklin County Treasurer Steve Vercellino was not present but provided a full report on the county claims and reported on the county finances...

- Beginning balance as of 8/31/2025 is \$5,170,512. Estimated ending of 9/12/2025 is \$5,242,161.
- The full report can be viewed on www.franklincountyil.gov as 9/2/2025 Finance Meeting Attachment 1.
- Audit is submitted and will be on the 9/15/2025 Agenda.
- According to the finance report we should have the Courthouse paid off earlier than anticipated (April-May 2026)
- John Gossett expressed his concerns with Ameren rates and proposed writing a letter to

The meeting adjourned at 5:16 PM
Minutes submitted 9/2/2025
Kevin Weston

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Date: September 15, 2025

FINANCE,

**(Salaries, Policy and Purchasing, Insurance, Tourism,
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FIRST AND THIRD MONDAYS OF THE MONTH**

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Guests (Topic of Comment), Steve Vercellino, Rocky Morris, Tom Carter, Emma Walcott, Mark Franklin

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Finance Chairman Brad Wilson. See above list of those attending, and also, those stating public comments and the topics of their comments.

County claims were then submitted and were approved and signed by all members present.

Franklin County Treasurer Steve Vercellino reported on the county finances...

- Beginning balance as of 9/15/2025 \$4,516,415. Estimated ending of 9/30/2025 is \$6,233,787.
- The full report can be viewed on www.franklincountyil.gov as 9/15/2025 Finance Meeting Attachment 1.
- The total for all districts with sales tax \$22,953,445
- 1st distribution payment is in the amount of \$1,073,751.
- Questions arose with the 1%...Treasurer thinks we could have the courthouse paid off in April at the earliest. Discussion followed...
- All board members received a copy of the Audit, we will have a discussion at the next meeting in October once everyone has gone through it.

Sheriff Bacon asked the board to consider approving them to get another K9 since they had one medically retired in January. The total \$14,388.00 and would be paid out of Opioid funds. A detailed estimate can be viewed at www.franklincountyil.gov as 9/15/2025 Finance Meeting Attachment 2.

Steve Vercillino Sr. came to speak on Tourism and some of things they are working on.

- They just got a 3-year contract signed for Youth Archery Tournament. This is a huge event and will bring a lot of revenue to Franklin County. They have competitors from 23 different states that come to this event.
- Tourism received 2 grants this year, one for \$36,312.39 and another for \$54,476.78
- They turned their checking account into an interest earning account recently.

Judge Giacone here to talk about Franklin County part-time Public Defenders.

- States Attorney and Public Defenders office are under resourced.
- Both of our part time public defenders have to run private practices in order to make ends meet. Both are wanting a new contract or they both will have to resign.
- Surrounding counties who see fewer criminal cases are not only getting paid more with benefits but also have more assistants overall. We are equivalent to Jackson County when it comes to volume of criminal cases. To view a print out of caseload go to www.franklincountyil.gov as 9-15-2025 Finance Meeting Attachment 3.

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- Both our assistant public defenders are great. They both have great demeanor and get along great with states attorney.
- Consequences if we lose our part time public defenders is that we won't be able to replace them at the pay scale we are giving. Around 1200 cases would have to be put on private attorneys if they decide to resign. Discussion followed...

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 PM
Minutes submitted 9/15/2025
Brad Wilson- Finance Chairman