

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

PUBLIC SAFETY

(Sheriff's Office, EMA, Animal Control,
Waste Management, Bi-County Health Board, 911/Emergency Services,)
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 Fitzgerald, Court Services
- (x) Marty Leffler, Coroner
- (x) 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
- () Alexis St. George, Animal Control Supervisor
- (x) Kevin Wilson, County Clerk

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

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The meeting was called to order at 5:50 PM by John Gossett in the absence of David Bartoni. See above list of those attending, and also, those stating public comments and the topics of their comments.

Sheriff Kyle Bacon...

- Report can be viewed on www.franklincountyil.gov as 9-2-25 Public Safety Meeting Attachment 1.
- Sheriff Bacon discussed the MAT program which is a medication assisted treatment program used in jails to help the cost of prescriptions to inmates.
- There is a new pilot program for Mental Health inmates that has been in the works for a few months, some details are being finalized. It would give inmates suffering from mental health faster treatment while waiting on a facility bed to open up. For more information, please view www.franklincountyil.gov as 9-2-25 Public Safety Meeting Attachment 2.

Coroner Marty Leffler...

- 28 total cases in August
- 2 autopsies scheduled in our facility for other counties
- Jackson County has used our cooler for a few weeks.
- Full report can be viewed on www.franklincountyil.gov as 9-2-25 Public Safety Meeting Attachment 3.

Animal Control Supervisor Alexis St. George...

- Total revenue from 08/04/2025-09/02/2025 \$11,209.82
- New flooring is being done October 6th
- Received bid for dog kennel fencing repair for \$13,500
- New cat kennels eventually due to the state of old kennels and issues with cleanliness.
- The full report can be viewed on www.franklincountyil.gov as 9-2-25 Public Safety Attachment 4.

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 PM
Minutes submitted 09/2/2025
John Gossett

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DATE: September 15, 2025

PUBLIC SAFETY

(Sheriff's Office, EMA, Animal Control,
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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 6:11 PM by John Gossett in the absence of David Bartoni. See above list of those attending, and also, those stating public comments and the topics of their comments.

OEMC Director Ryan Buckingham...

- Report can be viewed on www.franklincountyil.gov as 9-15-2025 Public Safety Meeting Attachment 1.
- Ribbon Cutting is set for 9/26/2025 at 4pm-6pm

Chairman Neil Hargis...

- Animal Control fencing will be tabled at tonight's board meeting. Stacy from Department of Agriculture talked to Alexis this morning and they will need more work than what was quoted so they are working on getting a new quote to be voted on at the next meeting.
- Solar Ordinance will be tabled as well. Rhett is still working on this.
- Discussion on 1% and when we can stop it completely. Chairman Neil Hargis is working behind the scenes on this with the lawyer and will update the board when he has more information.
- Emma Walcott was present to answer any questions about the solar farm coming to Franklin County. It is 45 megawatts, around 250-300 acres and it will start in the Fall of 2026 and be completed in the late summer of 2027.
- Chairman Neil Hargis thinks we will add a Special Meeting in October to pass the few things being tabled at tonight's board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 PM
Minutes submitted 09/15/2025
John Gossett