

# FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD

## MINUTES OF MEETING

Dec 15, 2025

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### CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the County Board was called to order at 6:12 P.M. by Chairman Neil Hargis. This meeting was held in the Franklin County Courthouse, County Board Room 133, 100 Public Sq, Benton, Illinois.

### ROLL CALL

Secretary, Paris Dunk, called the roll. Members in attendance were Dave Bartoni, Angela Evans, John Gossett, J. Larry Miller, Ray Minor, Curtis Overton, Kevin Weston, and Neil Hargis. Brad Wilson was absent.

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

### PLEDGE

Chairman Neil Hargis leads everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Neil Hargis asked if there is anyone who wants to make a public comment? No public comments were made.

### MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

J. Larry Miller made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 17, 2025 Regular County Board Meeting and the November 25, 2025 Special 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.

Kevin Weston 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. 2025-56 thru 2025-64.

**2026 ANNUAL LEVY -  
APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis states that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the 2026 Annual Levy.

Ray Minor made a motion to approve the 2026 Annual Levy. David Bartoni second the motion. On roll call vote, all voted yes.

Said 2026 Annual Levy is made a part of these minutes as Ordinance No. 2025-05.

**2026 ANNUAL  
ABATEMENT - APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis states that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the 2026 Annual Abatement. Chairman Neil Hargis states that he believes its in relation to the juvenile detention center.

J. Larry Miller made a motion to approve the 2026 annual abatement. Ray minor second the motion.

Chairman Neil Hargis asked if anyone had questions?

J. Larry Miller: Yeah, I do, I ask this every year, if you recall. What are we doing here? Does anybody know what we're doing here?

Chairman Neil Hargis: I think were allowed to levy an additional tax for it, and we've never done that.

J. Larry Miller: You would have to have a motion to levy the tax, do you understand what I'm getting at? It goes back to the juvenile detention some way when they built the thing. I believe they did not use the bond; they had another source and then they finally went to the bonding. I think its every year that you have to abate, and what bothers me about it is it sounds like were saving the tax payers money when were not. We had a bonding guy here one time and he looked at it, and I would like for us to figure that out. If we pay off the bond, would we not have to do this anymore?

Chairman Neil Hargis: I don't think we would have to.

J. Larry Miller: Okay. Sorry I just like to know what I'm going with here.

Chairman Neil Hargis asks if there are any more questions regarding the approval of the 2026 Annual Abatement?

On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said 2026 Annual Abatement made a part of these minutes as Ordinance No. 2025-06.

**2026 VAC LEVY -  
APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the 2026 VAC (Veterans Assistance Commission) Levy.

Chairman Neil Hargis: Do we need to put the percentage in that?

Steve Vercellino, County Treasurer: Its just listed as \$126,000.

Curtis Overton: Were just leaving it the same, aren't we?

Angela Evans: Yes.

Kevin Weston made a motion to approve the VAC Levy for \$126,000. Dave Bartoni second the motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said 2026 VAC Levy is made a part of these minutes which is included in with the County's levy.

**PAYOFF CAMPBELL  
BUILDING - APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the payoff of the Campbell Building.

J. Larry Miller made a motion to approve the payoff of the Campbell Building. Ray Minor second the motion.

Chairman Neil Hargis asks if there are any questions?

Curtis Overton: How much is the payoff at this time?

Chairman Neil Hargis: Steve, do we know that number? I believe its three hundred and something thousand.

Steve Vercellino, County Treasurer: Yeah, its three hundred and something thousand, whatever it was at last meeting.

J. Larry Miller: I believe it's 326,000.

Steve Vercellino, County Treasurer: Yeah, that sounds good to me.

J. Larry Miller: Were also making a payment this year, aren't we? Is it in the budget or are you going to do both at the same time?

Steve Vercellino, County Treasurer: I mean we'll do it at the same time. Pay it off.

J Larry Miller: There is a budgeted item for a payment and then the payoff too.

Steve Vercellino, County Treasurer: Yeah, we'll take care of both and be done with it.

J Larry Miller: I think we ought to be proud.

Chairman Neil Hargis: One last thing to worry about.

Chairman Neil Hargis asks if there are any more questions about the approval of the payoff of the Campbell Building?

On Roll call vote, all vote yes.

**PAYMENT OF THE  
COUNTY ENGINEER'S  
SALARY - RESOLUTION**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is appropriating funds of \$135,000 for the payment of the County Engineers salary from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026.

Kevin Weston made a motion to approve the resolution. Curtis Overton second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2025-65.

**RICE & SULLIVAN FOR  
2025 COUNTY AUDIT -  
APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of Rice and Sullivan for the 2025 County Audit at the cost of \$130,000.

Angela Evans made a motion to approve Rice and Sullivan for the 2025 Franklin County Audit at the cost of \$130,000. David Bartoni second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said 2025 County Audit is made a part of these minutes.

**RICE & SULLIVAN FOR  
CIRCUIT CLERK AUDIT  
- APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of Rice and Sullivan for the Circuit Clerk audit in the amount of \$8,000.

Angela Evans made a motion to approve of Rice and Sullivan for the Circuit Clerk audit in the amount of \$8,000. Curtis Overton second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said Circuit Clerk audit is made a part of these minutes.

**RICE & SULLIVAN FOR  
SHERIFF DEPARTMENT  
AUDIT - APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of Rice and Sullivan for the Sheriff Department audit for their commissary in the amount of \$6,000.

John Gossett made a motion to approve Rice and Sullivan for the Sheriff Department audit for commissary in the amount of \$6,000. David Bartoni second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said Sheriff Department Audit is made a part of these minutes.

**CROSSWALK COMMUNITY  
ACTION AGENCY - 2  
APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda are 2 appointments/re-appointments to the Crosswalk Community Action Agency. Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the 2 appointments/re-appointments made will be John D. Aiken, and Dalton Woolard, whose 2-year terms will be ending December 31, 2025.

Curtis Overton made a motion to re-appoint John D. Aiken and Dalton Woolard to the Crosswalk Community Action Agency both are two year term ending December 31, 2027. Angela Evans second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

**GREATER EGYPT  
REGIONAL PLANNING  
COMMISSION - 1  
APPOINTMENT**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the re-appointment to the Greater Egypt Regional Planning Commission and he presented a letter from Cary Minnis, Executive Director. Requesting one reappointment is to be made and that is Cindy Humm whose 3-year term is ending on December 31, 2025.

Vice Chairman Kevin Weston made a motion to reappoint Cindy Humm to the Greater Egypt Regional Planning Commission for three year term ending December 31, 2028. Angela Evans second that motion.

Kevin Weston: Cindy does serve on the Greater Egypt; she's on the executive committee. She was our former assessor and she does a great job and she represents our county well on that. I'm glad you guys might consider her for reappointment.

Chairman Neil Hargis asks if there are any other questions?

On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said letter is made a part of these minutes.

**SHERIFF'S MERIT  
BOARD - 1  
APPOINTMENT**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the re-appointment to the Sheriff Merit Board who is Murphy Hart, whose 6-year term ended on December 1, 2025.

John Gossett made a motion to reappoint Murphy Hart to the Sheriff Merit Board for a six year term ending December 1, 2031. Angela Evans second that motion. On Roll call vote, all vote yes.

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

Chairman Neil Hargis stated the next item on the agenda is to approve the November 2025 monthly reports for the County Clerk, Sheriff and Coroner.

Curtis Overton made a motion to accept the reports. J. Larry Miller second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote 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 stated that before everyone leaves, they will need to sign the Annual Levy as well as the documents provided for the budget.

Steve Vercellino: So, I need 2 original copies of both. The budget that was passed last time, there will be 2 copies of that I will need you to sign and 2 copies of the levy that I will need you to sign. So, you should sign 4 things.

Chairman Neil Hargis asked the Board if there were any additional questions? J. Larry Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Angela Evans second that motion. There being no further business. Chairman Neil Hargis declares the meeting adjourned.

Neil Hargis  
Franklin County Board Chairman



Paris Dunk  
County Clerk and Recorder

