

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING AT

6:00 PM

MINUTES OF MEETING

Jan 5, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the County Board, was called to order at 6:14 p.m. by Chairman Neil Hargis. This meeting was held in the Franklin County Courthouse, County Board Room 133, 100 Public Square, Benton, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

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

Also in attendance were Amanda Kink, County Board Office Manager; 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 at this time.

REND LAKE AREA TOURISM COUNCIL - 4 APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the first and only item on the agenda were the appointments to the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council. There are a total of 4 positions to be appointed. Kellie Hicks resigned and she emailed a letter, with her term ending on December 31, 2027. Ryan Bleicher, Kathy Crawford, and Jason Johns 3-year term ended on December 31, 2025.

Chairman Neil Hargis: Like I said earlier, we need to kind of do that to be able to continue to work on the grants. Like I said there's many parts to this. We have four we can possibly appoint, but were still waiting to here back from one, so were just going to appoint three tonight.

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that Stacy Minor would be replacing Kellie Hicks for the remainder of her unexpired term ending on December 31, 2027. He then recommended that Kathy Crawford would be re-appointed to a new 3-year term ending on December 31, 2028. He then recommended that Mark Atkins replace Jason Johns to be appointed to a new term ending on December 31, 2028.

Curtis Overton makes a motion to approve Stacy Minor, Kathy Crawford, and Mark Atkins to be appointed to the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council. Angela Evans second the motion.

Chairman Neil Hargis asked if there were any questions?

J. Larry Miller: How many board members would that make at this time?

Chairman Neil Hargis: Six

J. Larry Miller: And were still short one, correct?

Chairman Neil Hargis: Yes.

J. Larry Miller: Could you have Amanda send out an email of all the board members?

Chairman Neil Hargis: Yes.

On roll call Dave Bartoni voted yes, Angela Evans vote yes, J. Larry Miller vote yes, Curtis Overton vote yes, Kevin Weston vote yes, Brad Wilson vote yes, Neil Hargis vote yes. Ray Minor abstained his vote.

Said email letter is 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 additional questions? J. Larry Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Bartoni 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

