

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING

Feb 17, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the County Board was called to order at 6:00 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, Brad Wilson and Neil Hargis. Kevin Weston 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; Alexis St. George, Animal Control Supervisor 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?

Tom Carter: The Tourism Bureau, still have a hard time figuring out how you're appointing people to that board, when there is no current agreement. It's been expired for two years. The agreement is what spells out that you can assign board members. If there's no agreement, how can you assign them? Also, if you're negotiating a new contract, are you negotiating with the right people, because if you contacted the IRS to see who is the signatory or who is in charge of that company and with the secretary of states office of Illinois to find out who is the registered agent or who is over that company. Also, should be the same person. If there's a change in

leadership, you have to file the proper forms to the IRS and the Secretary of States office. So do we actually know who you're talking to and do they have the proper authority to negotiate a new agreement.

Brad Wilson: Do you want to take this Ray, or do you want me to?

Ray Minor: I can speak to it. I believe the registered agent issue has been solved.

Brad Wilson: Well, they are working on it. For Mark (Atkins) to be registered, there was a two part authentication code and that was coming from Darby and she wasn't sending over the information that Mark (Atkins) needed to make it happen.

Tom Carter: The transfer form from the IRS.

Brad Wilson: I talked to Mark (Atkins) last week they, kind of have a work around to get what they need. So Mark Atkins is going to be that person.

Ray Minor: The registered agent thing is already solved.

Tom Carter: I was trying to picture the head of the private company being ousted by the County Board, without a public private agreement, to be able to do that.

Ray Minor: Well, we didn't oust Darby (Beasley), she resigned.

Tom Carter: Well, she told you she resigned, but she could have stayed in charge of the company until she sends you the paperwork.

Brad Wilson: The problem we were running into was getting a full resignation. But I'm pretty sure they got it

Ray Minor: They're working through the bugs.

Brad Wilson: And the agreement that you talked about. Were working on that language on that now.

Tom Carter: Yeah, you guys need a lot of protections in there. There needs to be enough language in there that's going to protect the tax payers. And speaking of tax payers, I've talked to the Sheriff about filing a complaint against Vercellino. It seems like Abby (Dinn) has been hiding out ever since this thing came up on tourism. I wish she would hear it. To me I see it as a misappropriation of funds. I think that's a prison able offense. Which I don't want to see him go to prison, but the tax payers are losing money. So are we going to try and get restitution on this at all? With Jim, Nancy Hobbs left him in a big mess when he took over and nothing ever become of it, and we lost a lot of money. Now were losing money over here on this side.

J. Larry Miller: Nobody is losing money, you've lost me.

Tom Carter: Two Years we've had no contract and they kept taking money. You can't fault a person for taking money, but the Treasurer is supposed to follow the contracts when they are given the money. I mean the way he's doing it, I can just go up there and

J. Larry Miller: As far as we know, we are not aware of any changes. We didn't find out until you guys got involved with this, and that was a year and a half in. I'll defend Steve a little bit, and I know his dad was involved, if they had conversations, I don't know, okay? But I think to make the statement that he is liable is a little bit of a stretch.

Tom Carter: No, I'm pretty straight forward with it. The tax payers...

J. Larry Miller: So, you're wanting us to charge files against him?

Tom Carter: That's up to you. You're the authority.

J. Larry Miller: No, I'm asking you, do you think that's what we ought to do?

Tom Carter: I think we should have restitution for the two years of money that was taken.

J. Larry Miller: And he would have to give the restitution?

Tom Carter: Well, he gave it to Darby (Beasley) and his dad. Who do you think should have to pay the restitution?

John Gossett: Tom, I'm with you on most things, I really am but I'm not with you here. None of us here knew it, I don't think she knew it. I don't want to see him lose a possible 300,000 dollars, that's just not right. So lets move forward from here, let's not do this misappropriation thing, I really don't want to do that.

Tom Carter: Well, like I said, I've seen it with Nancy Hobbs, and I don't know how much more they would have gotten on that deal, but I'm not pleased about it and I'm not pleased about this.

Brad Wilson: I'll say this and, we all know that I've been harder on Steve then probably everyone else up here, but its not totally his...Brad Wilson is to blame, for not going on with that board also. And would not have known if you guys didn't tell us what was going on with that board.

J. Larry Miller: Well, if you're to blame then I'm to blame too.

Brad Wilson: We have to take some of that blame for not knowing, that Darby (Beasley) had moved that over to a 501c3.

Tom Carter: Well is there any way, in the future that we can get...this is a sad thing because were arguing that we don't have rights over elected

officials for hiring practices but can you get a treasurer to look at all the contracts like he's supposed to and know what you're giving money out for before you give it out.

J Larry Miller: Well first of all I don't know any other situation, that was like the tourism thing. We collected the money and we had set up the board the way it was. And we assumed that was the way it was. It was his job to transfer the money. We had a situation once when I was chairman, he wouldn't transfer it and I told him to do it. They had bills to pay. That was under the old franchise, you know. But were in the middle, we don't know who's all responsible for this.

Tom Carter: Well that's why I was asking, are you even negotiating...

Brad Wilson: We are negotiating.

Ray Minor: The Money was spent appropriately on tourism. I struggle to see any misappropriation of funds.

Rocky Morris: You saying that money spent appropriate?

Ray Minor: It was spent on events that was promoting tourism.

Tom Carter: It was spent on salaries without a contract; it was misappropriated. Period. That's the Tax payers' point of view. Thanks.

Rocky Morris: Well I'll cut mine short. I think Darby (Beasley) was very qualified. But she didn't want anyone overseeing her. That's my opinion. My opinion also is, were talking about a different ball game. A while ago, we were talking about public, now were talking about private. She very, in fact I got the letter, when me and her bumped heads. She said "were a 501c6 Private, Nonprofit organization under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act only

public bodies have a legal obligation to respond to your FOIA." So what she said is, Rend Lake Tourism is not a public body. Well before reports were always being recorded, by the Litton's. Every quarter they gave an account for the money. January 1, 2024, it stopped. Why? Was the board still active in the decision making? Or was it her board making the call? We asked for conflict-of-interest forms, didn't get them. Don't have to, were private. So we went from a public nepotism to a private entity. How did Steve have the right to take public money and transfer it to a private entity with no accountability? That's just my question. Any answers? I mean these are just things were looking at. Let me tell you something else. We started down this rabbit hole, were so deep in it now. I lose my air a lot when I get upset. I have the LLC's I've got the INCs. Unbelievable. Because a lot of these LLCs and INCs, I couldn't even find Darby's (Beasley). Because it was under a different address, different name. It's like shielded. So, but I found it, through the AG.

Dave Bartoni: What do you mean an INC and an LLC?

Rocky Morris: When they start a private business, they have nonprofit, they sign this 35-dollar deal to the State of Illinois. Most people use their name. You know me, home address. We couldn't find hers because it was under her wife and her name. It was called Darby Shaw. The address was Champagne. These are the regional agents. You can see why I get shook. Because I think this whole thing, I don't know where she comes from. I don't know who offered her the job. I only know what Steve Vercellino did.

Brad Wilson: Rick Litton is the one who originally, if I'm remembering correctly, who came to the board and told us, "Hey I think Darby is going to do a great job."

Rocky Morris: He didn't even know Darby (Beasley).

I asked him. He said he had never had met her, lived up in Wheaton. Anyways that's just old ground. But getting to the point, I think this whole thing is a scheme. I know schemes. I've been involved in a few of them, not proud of it. But electronic debits, I'm going to give you a few. 24 is over here it's done. Let me give you this. IRS, 851 IL Department of Revenue, this is bed tax money. Rend Lake Area payroll, 2940. IL Department of Revenue, hell I'll just show them. That's bed tax money. The big question I have, and I was hoping Steve was going to be here. Department GTR payment, 228.25. 4182 dollars. You know what that's for?

J. Larry Miller: Let me ask you a question. Are you saying that Steve the treasurer authorized those payments?

Rocky Morris: How did she get the money, to make those payments? You understand what I'm saying?

J. Larry Miller: I understand.

Rocky Morris: I'm not saying it was just Steve, but somebody told him.

J. Larry Miller: He was just doing what he did in the past.

Rocky Morris: Okay.

J. Larry Miller: Can I just ask, and I haven't figured this whole thing out okay?

Chairman Neil Hargis: I think were all there.

Rocky Morris: I agree with that.

J. Larry Miller: But the idea that were going to have a 9-member board, and were only going to appoint 3 of them, and they appoint the remaining 6, that's more than the majority.

Rocky Morris: That's correct. And it's a private entity. So were kind of transferring money...and I'm for tourism. I'm for what he's doing. But here's the deal, another question I have that you guys have to deal with. I filed a FOIA. Do you guys have a formal written agreement with a private entity using that facility? Do you have an agreement? With a private entity to use that public facility?

Brad Wilson: I don't believe we do.

Rocky Morris: I recommend having one.

J. Larry Miller: Well, the reason was, was because Rick Litton was there and we agreed to let them use that facility over there and we didn't know that any of this stuff was going on.

Rocky Morris: Rick Litton did most of his work at home.

Brad Wilson: Rick Litton is the one that asked for the space because he had too much stuff at his house. So, Rick asked for that space, and at the time he asked for it, they were a public entity.

Ray Minor: Can I share something that might clear some of this up? There's a big difference between a contract and an inter-agency agreement.

Tom Carter: Public Contract

Ray Minor: Let me finish. In the State of Illinois, the courts have ruled over and over again, that there is a mutual implied consent with mutual agreements. If our mutual agreement with pre-trial services over there expires and this board does not expressly, explicitly state that were ending that, and we continue to provide money and services, just like we always did it's a mutual continuation of services, and it's been upheld by our courts over and over again. So, it's not a contract, it's an

inter-agency agreement. So, if we don't ever sign another inter agency agreement with them, the implied consent is still there under a mutual inter agency agreement.

Rocky Morris: So, they don't pay any rent? Benton pays rent.

Ray Minor: I'm not arguing about that, you guys keep saying we violated the contract and Steve should be held accountable for the violation of the money when the inter-agency agreement expired. The truth is that even though the inter-agency agreement expired, it doesn't change the obligation to that entity. That has been held up by our courts over and over again. I don't want to argue with you Rocky, I think were beating a dead horse here.

Rocky Morris: No I'm not.

Ray Minor: The county board is doing everything we can to fix it. You can say that we need to sue them, you can say whatever you want, you can say they violated the contract. It was not a contract, it was an inter-agency agreement, completely different.

Rocky Morris: Private to public, or Public to private.

Ray Minor: We had no idea that had changed. I'm not sure it changes the inter-agency agreement either. I would have to do some research to find out if there's case law to say that. It's still an entity that we signed an inter-agency agreement with.

Rocky Morris: You lost me. Okay on these 4176 dollars. This is Darby (Beasley). One time payroll tax liability settlement. Cleaning up unauthorized payroll checks. Is that 4 thousand dollars' worth of bed tax money? Is that correct. Can we spend bed tax money on these inappropriate activities? She wrote it.

John Gossett: Rocky I look at this and I don't understand it. But its 413,000 spent on debits. They only collected 30,000. I don't know where the other 370,000 dollars came from.

Brad Wilson: Grants.

Rocky Morris: Nope.

Brad Wilson: Did they not get grants?

Rocky Morris: They only got 80,000 grant and that was at the end of 25.

Brad Wilson: 106 or 108,000 I think is what we collect on the bed tax?

John Gossett: That's correct.

Brad Wilson: Somewhere in there, its close. But I think were between 106 and 108 and the people that really got done wrong, is not general public, it's the people that own those business. Those are the ones that got really. Because Joe q public out here is not paying into that bed tax, those are the people coming to stay.

Rocky Morris: That's right.

Brad Wilson: The people that got done wrong are the people that own those businesses. Because they are collecting that bed tax money, with the assurance that they are getting a representation of promoting their business.

Rocky Morris: Well, and I'm done. There is...I'm not going to go through all of it, I've brought in a couple of them, but I can show you all of the line items. That was ridiculous. We spent thousand of dollars paying back taxes. Is that the tax money? Its listed. Right here. IRS tax payment, \$3939. IRS tax payment \$662. IL Dept of Revenue 182, 198, 600. It's a joke.

Ray Minor: That's probably employee tax is what that is. That's probably what that is, is the employment tax from the salaries that they are paying out.

Rocky Morris: Why didn't they do it in 24? They are picking up in 24, look at 24 it's a disaster.

Ray Minor: Well Did they have employees in 24?

Rocky Morris: No.

Ray Minor: Well, that's probably why they didn't pay employee tax in 24.

Rocky Morris: So, you're justifying it?

Ray Minor: I'm not justifying it; I'm saying that there's an explanation.

Rocky Morris: Yes, you are, I'm saying that there's an ordinance in this county that says that this bed tax money collected through the State of Illinois and by ordinance of Franklin County that the money collected on bed tax would only go to tourism and to promote tourism. Not Darby (Beasley), not her bike company, none of it.

Ray Minor: Well, it shouldn't have been sent out to promote her bike company, but I don't know anything about that.

Rocky Morris: She owns a bike company, an LLC that's how I found it.

Ray Minor: Rocky as a tourism council, there has to be a full-time employee, there has to be or the council doesn't exist. The council has to have a full-time employee, at least one. And it has to have a permanent address. Those are 2 things that are very clear in statute. If it doesn't have those 2 things, then it doesn't exist.

Rocky Morris: Then how did the Litton's get grants prior?

Ray Minor: They were not a tourism council prior to Darby's (Beasley) hiring.

Tom Carter: Yes, they were.

Ray Minor: That's not the way I understand it. So...

J. Larry Miller: Can I ask a question? The Litton's were wonderful people.

Ray Minor: They were.

J. Larry Miller: Do you think under their administration, that they did everything right or that you couldn't find something wrong?

Rocky Morris: No.

J. Larry Miller: Okay thank you.

Rocky Morris: I Looked.

J. Larry Miller: You couldn't find anything wrong?

Rocky Morris: Not like under contract by Darby.

J. Larry Miller: Well, I don't know.

Rocky Morris: Because there was one check for \$24,000 that I called them on. Darby contracted them to do the drone work out at Rend Lake. Anyone else have anything? So do you want your want, and we will do what we got to.

Brad Wilson: I assume that you guys are taking this to Abby Dinn.

Rocky Morris: Yes. Well, were doing it, were going to file it. If this is a public body. Not a public private. It's a public body, because we provide

public funds, a facility, monthly expense, along with all of the other stuff, and we don't get anything out of it. Benton has to pay \$3000 bucks for rent. Why don't we charge them? I mean to me, what about liability? What about the assets? Who has the assets? Money is gone, but who has the assets? Computers. We found 7 computers in that room.

Ray Minor: They are still there. They are there, those 7 computers are still there.

Tom Carter: Hard drives aren't.

Ray Minor: On those laptops?

Tom Carter: Hard drives on the main computers.

Ray Minor: Well because I think those laptops have never been taken out of the box.

Rocky Morris: No, they're still in the box.

Ray Minor: We saw those when we were down there.

Rocky Morris: So, I know that talking to Jeremy, that they spent thousands on furniture. Is that County's or is that Rend Lake? Brand new tables and chairs, that's assets? What about all of the data. Norton, Adobe, Open AI Chat, Clearwave.

Brad Wilson: Some of that would be public. Adobe is a reader on their computer to do their flyers and stuff like that. The AI chat is another thing you use for tourism because it creates, you can use it for whatever you want it to create. Where you can set the parameters in the...whether we like it or not, AI is the way everything is going to go and that's even in promoting tourism.

Rocky Morris: I don't disagree with that, but what I'm saying is that...where is the asset that she purchased during her tender, that she put on her

laptop, for her company? Do we have it? Do we have any of the assets?

Brad Wilson: Now they still have the furniture and the computers. They have past records of the Litton's that kept very good records. Now the last couple of years there's not much to find.

Rocky Morris: She bought LTBB, prevention, there's stuff that you guys, that I recommend, I mean I can't make you. There was a \$50,000 placement, which we will talk to Steve about that. But Gas, we paid for gas, every trip she made, expenses, she got her pills at CVS. We got all of that. Now if that's bed tax money, I apologize. But I don't think that is bed tax money properly spent. So, who suffered? Not us. Not me.

Brad Wilson: It's those businesses. Have you contacted any of them, rent lake cabins?

Rocky Morris: Yeah, oh well we haven't looked at them.

Brad Wilson: Well, I've talked to them, and the biggest problem they had in this whole thing is that they are the ones collecting this bed tax money, and they wanted equal representation.

Rocky Morris: Well Jeremy, you know and the Young's, they own all the stuff. Sara

Brad Wilson: She's related to them.

Rocky Morris: So, I mean conflicts, whatever you want to look at. I've done everything Darby told me to do. Because I didn't know.

Brad Wilson: What I was thinking Rocky, is that Sara should be on there...

Rocky Morris: Yes.

Brad Wilson: Because they are one of the largest contributors to the bed tax money, so if they are contributing to the bed tax, they ought to have a say on that board with what they advertise. Because in the past couple of years those people weren't getting equal representation.

Rocky Morris: Like I said, were not done. Because the rabbit hole is deep. But now there's cashed checks, making political donations.

Ray Minor: Where is that? You found those?

Rocky Morris: No, I said were looking into it. That was a comment made to us. That's all I have. Were deep.

Brad Wilson: Whether it's a public or a 501c3 that's not legal.

Rocky Morris: Like I said, every time we get a tip, it's someone from inside that's pissed.

Brad Wilson: I'm sure it is, because I know some of those people that are...

Ray Minor: I'm not happy with what's going on either, were just trying to clean it up. I think that everyone on this board wants to see it cleaned up.

Tom Carter: Maybe more than 3 members, you're going to have to put a lot of them on there so you can have some actual say.

Rocky Morris: I'm like you, I mean I think we got struggle was, and she's very smart. But what she did was tell us "Hey were not a public, were not subject to FOIA as a 501c6." And she was half correct. And she said "I'm not accountable to the county board, we have our own board." She did, that's why she never answered to you guys, and you're running in the same direction right now. You

have different people, but you're headed the same way. How did Steve's Dad, I know he's a big political figure, I don't care. I went to Steve before that and said Steve before Darby came after me and said why don't you put Vercellino on the board and get her out? Steve looked at me and said "I'm scared to death of her." So, they shut us down totally. Now they wish they wouldn't have, I have Steve's emails. You ought to read them. So, I'm sorry it taking so long. But anyways.

Chairman Neil Hargis: I'm just going to re-state what Ray and Brad were saying. We are starting to work our way through it. It's a big puzzle with a lot of pieces. It took 2 years to get that FOIA and you can't just flip a switch and its all perfect.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the January 20, 2026 Regular County Board Meeting.

John Gossett made a motion to approve those minutes. Angela Evans second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

COUNTY CLAIMS

Chairman Neil Hargis states that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the County Claims.

Angela Evans made a motion to approve the County Claims. Curtis Overton second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

DELINQUENT TAX PROGRAM - RESOLUTIONS

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

J. Larry Miller made a motion to approve the Delinquent Tax Program resolutions. Angela Evans second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said resolutions are made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2026-43 thru 2026-45.

**IEMMAS (IL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT MUTUAL
AID SYSTEM)
AGREEMENT - APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis states that the next item on the agenda is the approval of a resolution authorizing participation as a member in the IEMMAS (IL Emergency Management Mutual Aid System) response pursuant to an Intergovernmental Agreement for the establishment of the a Mutual Aid Intergovernmental Service Agreement.

John Gossett made a motion to approve the IEMMAS Agreement as presented as a resolution. Dave Bartoni second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2026-46.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
MILEAGE RATE
INCREASE - APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis states that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Franklin County Mileage Rate Increase. Chairman Neil Hargis states the rate of mileage will go up to \$0.725 for State Travel Effective January 1, 2026.

Brad Wilson made a motion to approve the Mileage Rate Increase. Dave Bartoni second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said agreement is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2026-03.

**NOT TO RELEASE
CLOSED SESSION
MINUTES - APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis states that the next item on the agenda is the approval to Not release the closed session minutes.

Curtis Overton made a motion to approve not releasing the closed session minutes. Dave Bartoni second that motion. On Roll call vote, all vote yes.

**NOT TO DESTROY
CLOSED SESSION TAPES
- APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis states that the next item on the agenda is the approval to Not Destroy Closed Session tapes.

John Gossett: We usually vote no.

Brad Wilson: We want to destroy them, right?

John Gossett: At one time some judge said we had to hold them for a while. States Attorney told us to not destroy the tapes, but I don't know if that period is over or not over.

Amanda Kink, County Board Office Manager: As of last year, that period was not over.

Ray Minor: In the past we always voted no. Approval not to destroy and we've always voted no.

Amanda Kink, County Board Office Manager: I just went off what Gayla had put last year. That's what she had put. But I don't know what the vote was.

Brad Wilson: We had the same discussion. We made a motion. We second the motion and then everybody voted no.

J. Larry Miller: I thought the motion last year was to destroy them and we voted no.

John Gossett: We did destroy them for years and then we all of a sudden quit. Because of this judge and the states attorney telling us we had to hold onto them.

Dave Bartoni: Why don't we table it until we clarification, so we don't make a bad decision. Because it all depends on how it was worded last year. Was it to not destroy or to destroy?

Brad Wilson: It was to not destroy. But we can table it.

Ray Minor: Just don't provide a motion and we can table it.

Chairman Neil Hargis states that the Approval to Not Destroy the Closed Session Tapes will be tabled.

**HONEYWELL 5-YEAR
FULL-SERVICE
CONTRACT - APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis states that the approval of the Honeywell 5 Year Full-Service Contract will be tabled.

**RESOLUTION TO
FURNISH MATERIALS
FOR SECTION
26-00000-00-GM**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is a resolution to furnish materials for Section 26-00000-00-GM Maintenance County. Chairman Neil Hargis presented the resolution County Maintenance for 26-00000-00-GM for materials. Eagle Valley, Inc., from Shawneetown, Illinois for CA 10 Surfacing Material and CA-16 Seal Coat Aggregate; Emulsicoat from Urbana, Illinois for BIT.MTLS Liquid Asphalt HFE-90/150 or RS-2 Delivered and Illini Asphalt, from Benton Illinois for Emulsified Asphalt Grade HFE-300, BIT.MTLS Liquid Asphalt, HFE-90/150 or RS-2 Applied and BIT.MTLS Liquid Asphalt HFP Applied all are the low bidders.

J. Larry Miller made a motion to approve. Curtis Overton second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2026-47.

**RESOLUTION TO
FURNISH MATERIALS
FOR SECTION
26-XX000-00-GM**

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the resolution for the 2026 Township Maintenance 26-XX000-00-GM. Chairman Neil Hargis presented the resolution for the Township Road districts and they are as follows: Barren, Benton, Browning, Cave, Denning, Eastern, Ewing, Frankfort, Goode, Northern, Six-Mile & Tyrone. Awarding Bidders: Beelman Logistic LLC, East St. Louis, Illinois to furnish Seal Coat Aggregate CA 16; Illini Asphalt, Benton, Illinois to furnish BIT.MTLS Liquid Asphalt HFE-150 or RS-2 Applied, BIT.MTLS Liquid Asphalt HFP, Seal Coat Aggregate CA 16 applied, Emulsified Asphalt Grade HFE-300; and Crossroads 2 LLC, Junction, Illinois to furnish Surfacing Material CA 6/10; Dorris Trucking Inc. from Sesser, Illinois, to furnish Seal Coat Aggregate CA 16, Surfacing Material CA 10, Surfacing Material CA 6/10; Eagle Valley Inc, from

Shawneetown, Illinois, Surfacing Material CA 6/10, and Seal Coat Aggregate CA 16; Charles Carter & Son from Fairfield, Illinois to furnish Surfacing Material CA 6/10, Seal Coat Aggregate CA 16, and Surfacing Material CA 10. There are twelve townships and the resolution states which low bidder was awarded that contract.

Curtis Overton made a motion to accept the resolution. Angela Evans second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2026-48.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AGREEMENT FOR SALE
OF 401 PARK STREET -
APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis states that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement for sale of 401 Park Street. Chairman Neil Hargis states that the purchaser is the Franklin Hospital in the amount of \$45,000.

Dave Bartoni made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental agreement for sale of 401 Park Street to the Franklin Hospital in the amount of \$45,000. Brad Wilson second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said agreement is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2026-04.

**COUNTY WIDE NEPOTISM
POLICY - APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis states that the approval of the County Wide Nepotism Policy will be tabled.

**EMERGENCY
EXPENDITURE FOR
ROOFTOP UNIT AT
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
- APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis states that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Emergency Expenditure for Rooftop Unit at Sheriff's Department presenting an invoice from Honeywell. Chairman Neil Hargis states the total amounts is \$51,411.32 with Honeywell.

Chairman Neil Hargis: Like I said most of that is covered through the grant.

Ray minor made a motion to approve the Emergency Expenditure for Rooftop Unit at Sheriff's Dept. in the total of \$51,411.32. Brad Wilson second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said invoice with Honeywell is made a part of these minutes.

**NEW ANNEX BUILDING
SIGN - APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis states that the next item on the agenda is the approval for the new Annex Building sign.

Chairman Neil Hargis: Curtis I can't remember how much that was for.

Curtis Overton: \$825.

Ray Minor made a motion to approve the New Annex Building sign. Curtis Overton second that motion.

J. Larry Miller: Can I make a suggestion? That \$800 could be taken out of this courthouse fund. Do we need to amend the motion.

Curtis Overton: I'll make it.

Brad Wilson: Well, it doesn't specify what account it's coming out of right?

J. Larry Miller: Well, I just assumed it was coming out of the General Fund.

Ray Minor made a motion to approve the new sign for the Annex Building to be paid out of the 1% sales tax fund. Curtis Overton second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

**EASEMENT FROM
WETLANDS FOREVER INC
TO DOUGLAS HAAKE**

Chairman Neil Hargis states that the next item on the agenda is the easement from Wetlands Forever Inc to Douglas Haake.

Curtis Overton made a motion to approve the easement from Wetlands Forever Inc to Douglas Haake. Angela Evans second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

**E-911 EMERGENCY
TELEPHONE SYSTEM
BOARD - 3
APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Neil Hargis states that the next item on the agenda is the appointment of 3 members to the E-911 Emergency Telephone System Board. Chairman Neil Hargis states that all 3 appointments are re-appointments for Shane Cockrum, Jeremy Parke, & Derek Sailliez, whose terms are set to expire on March 20, 2026.

J. Larry Miller made a motion to re-appoint Shane Cockrum, Jeremy Parke, and Derek Sailliez to new 3-year terms ending on March 20, 2029. Dave Bartoni second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

**REND LAKE AREA
TOURISM COUNCIL - 1
APPOINTMENT**

Chairman Neil Hargis states that the next item on the agenda is to appoint one member to the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council and that will be Sara McCollum. Chairman Neil Hargis stated Sara McCollum will be appointed to fulfill Miranda Williams, who has resigned, unexpired term ending on December 31, 2027.

Ray Minor made a motion to appoint Sara McCollum to an unexpired term ending on December 31, 2027. Brad Wilson second that motion. On Roll call vote, all vote yes.

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

Chairman Neil Hargis states that the next item on the agenda is to accept the monthly reports for the County Clerk, Sheriff, & Coroner.

Brad Wilson made a motion to approve the monthly reports for the County Clerk, Sheriff, and Coroner. Dave Bartoni second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said reports are made a part of these minutes.

**ANIMAL CONTROL -
MONTHLY REPORT**

Chairman Neil Hargis states that the next item on the agenda is to accept the monthly report for the Animal Control.

Brad Wilson Made a motion to approve the monthly reports for the Animal Control. Dave Bartoni second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said report is made a part of these minutes.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Neil Hargis informed everyone that we will not have 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



Paris Dunk
County Clerk and Recorder