FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING
Mar 16, 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, Curtis Overton, Kevin Weston, Brad Wilson and Neil Hargis. Ray Minor was absent.

Also in attendance were Matt Barnett, County Engineer; Amanda Kink, County Board office manager; Marty Leffler, Coroner; as well as other interested parties.

PLEDGE

Chairman Neil Hargis leads everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Neil Hargis asked if there was anyone who wants to make a public comment? No Public Comments were made at this time.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Neil Hargis stated the next item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the February 17, 2026 Regular County Board meeting.

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

COUNTY CLAIMS

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

Curtis Overton made a motion to approve the County Claims. Kevin Weston 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.

Kevin Weston made a motion to approve the Delinquent Tax Program resolutions. Brad Wilson second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said resolutions are made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2026-49 and 2026-50.

NOT TO DESTROY CLOSED SESSION MINUTE TAPES - APPROVAL

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval to not destroy the closed session tapes.

Kevin Weston made a motion to not destroy the closed session tapes. Dave Bartoni second that motion. On Roll call vote, all vote yes.

JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH IDOT FOR NORTH THOMPSONVILLE ROAD - APPROVAL

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Joint Funding Agreement with IDOT for section number 25-00201-00-RS for North Thompsonville Road.

Brad Wilson made a motion to approve the Joint Funding Agreement with IDOT for North Thompsonville Road. Curtis Overton Second that motion.

Chairman Neil Hargis asks if there is any discussion?

J. Larry Miller: Yeah, Matt is that all North Thompsonville Road?

Matt Barnett, County Engineer: It is from Illinois 34 to Akin Blacktop. It's about 5 miles.

J. Larry Miller: Is it just resurfacing?

Matt Barnett, County Engineer: Yeah, it's just a resurfacing.

J. Larry Miller: That's going to happen when?

Matt Barnett, County Engineer: Its going to be let next month, so they will probably do it sometime this summer or fall.

Chairman Neil Hargis asks if there is anymore discussion? No Further discussion at this time. On Roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said agreement is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2026-05.

RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AID MATCH FUNDS FOR NORTH THOMPSONVILLE ROAD - APPROVAL

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Resolution to appropriate Federal Aid Match Funds for section number 25-00201-00-RS for North Thompsonville Road.

Curtis Overton made a motion to approve the resolution to appropriate Federal Aid Match Funds for North Thompsonville Road. J. Larry Miller second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2026-51.

AGREEMENT WITH IDOT FOR BENTON SQUARE RECONSTRUCTION / ADA - APPROVAL

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval for the Agreement with IDOT for Benton Square Reconstruction / ADA.

Curis Overton made a motion to approve the agreement with IDOT for Benton Square Reconstruction / ADA. Kevin Weston second that motion.

J. Larry Miller: So, tell me, what exactly are we doing? Are we approving the project?

Matt Barnett, County Engineer: Were saying that we agree to do our portion. They're going to physically do it.

J. Larry Miller: I understand.

Brad Wilson: What happens if you don't agree? They just do it anyways?

Matt Barnett, County Engineer: I don't know.

Brad Wilson: I mean I feel like this is a formality, they are going to do it anyways.

Curtis Overton: The part that were doing is the inside strip, the parking area. Its on county. Instead of letting them redo everything and continue to let it age. While they are doing it, Matt can get the matching funds to take care of our part.

J. Larry Miller: I'd almost be at notion to say no, because I think this is going to be a fiasco.

Curtis Overton: It's going to be a mess.

Chairman Neil Hargis: I don't disagree. Any other discussion?

On Roll call vote, Dave Bartoni, Angela Evans, Curtis Overton, Kevin Weston, and Chairman Neil Hargis voted yes. John Gossett, J. Larry Miller, and Brad Wilson voted no. Outcome being 5 to 3 in favor of yes.

Said agreement is made a part of this minutes as Agreement No. 2026-06.

RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AID MATCH FUNDS FOR BENTON SQUARE RECONSTRUCTION / ADA - APPROVAL

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval for the resolution to appropriate Federal Match Aid Match Funds for Benton Square Reconstruction/ADA.

Angela Evans made a motion to approve the resolution to appropriate Federal Match Aid Match funds for Benton Square Reconstruction/ADA. Curtis Overton Second that motion. On Roll call vote, Dave Bartoni, Angela Evans, John Gossett, Curtis Overton, Kevin Weston, Brad Wilson, and Chairman Neil Hargis voted yes. J. Larry Miller voted no. Outcome being 7 to 1 in favor of yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2026-52.

RESOLUTION FOR OEMC PARTICIPATION IN IL-TERT - APPROVAL

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval for the resolution for OEMC (Office of Emergency Management & Communications) Participation in IL - TERT (Illinois Telecommunicator Emergency Response Task Force).

John Gossett made a motion to approve the resolution for OEMC Participation in IL - TERT. Curtis Overton second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said resolution is made a part of these minutes as Resolution No. 2026-53.

TRAITEUR LAWN LLC FOR 2026 MOWING - APPROVAL

Chairman Neil Hargis stated the next item on the agenda is the approval of Traiteur Lawn LLC for 2026 Mowing.

Curtis Overton made a motion to approve Traiteur Lawn LLC for the 2026 Mowing. Kevin Weston second that motion. On Roll call vote, all vote yes.

ELECTRICAL ENERGY DECISION - LENGTH & PROVIDER - APPROVAL

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval for the Electrical Energy Decision - Length and Provider. Chairman Neil Hargis states that the provider would be Direct Energy for 36 months.

Brad Wilson made a motion to approve Direct Energy at 36 months for our electrical provider. Dave Bartoni second that motion. On Roll call vote, all vote yes.

ENROLL IN COMMUNITY SOLAR WITH AGE / NEXAMP - APPROVAL

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda would be the approval to Enroll in Community Solar with AGE/Nexamp. Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the term would be 3 years.

John Gossett made a motion to approve enrolling in Community Solar with AGE/Nexamp for a 3-year term. Brad Wilson second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

$10,000 TO TOURISM FOR OPERATIONAL EXPENSES - APPROVAL

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of $10,000 to be given to the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council for operational expenses. Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council submitted a request and highlighted what the money was going to be used for to the county board prior to this meeting.

J. Larry Miller made a motion to approve $10,000 to be given to the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council for operational expenses. Curtis Overton second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said fund request is made a part of these minutes.

HONEYWELL FULL-SERVICE CONTRACT - APPROVAL

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Honeywell Full-Service Contract. The board has expressed that they would like the term of service to begin immediately.

Brad Wilson made a motion to approve of the Honeywell Full-Service Contract to begin immediately. Dave Bartoni second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL "708" HEALTH BOARD - 1 APPOINTMENT

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda was the appointment of one county board member to the Franklin County Community Mental "708" Health Board. Chairman Neil Hargis asked for volunteers from the County Board to be appointed to the Franklin County Community Mental "708" Health Board. With their being no volunteers, the appointment was tabled at this time.

FRANKLIN HOSPITAL BOARD - 2 APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Neil Hargis states that the board will be tabling the appointment for two members of the Franklin County Hospital Board at this time.

COUNTY CLERK, SHERIFF, CORONER & ANIMAL CONTROL - MONTHLY REPORT

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that the next item on the agenda was the acceptance of monthly reports for the County Clerk, Sheriff, Coroner, and Animal Control.

Kevin Weston made a motion to approve the monthly reports for the County Clerk, Sheriff, Coroner and Animal Control. Angela Evans second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said reports are made a part of these minutes.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Neil Hargis stated that there will be no 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