

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING AT

6:00 PM

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 4, 2026

CALL TO ORDER The Special 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 Square, 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 was Amanda Kink, County Board Office Manager 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.

PUBLIC NOTICE Chairman Neil Hargis informed everyone in attendance at the meeting that the purpose of this meeting is to approve the Rend Lake Tourism Council Sub-Recipient Agreement and to hire a Animal Control Supervisor.

SUB RECIPIENT AGREEMENT FOR REND LAKE TOURISM COUNCIL - APPROVAL Chairman Neil Hargis states that the next item on the agenda is the approval of the Sub Recipient agreement for the Rend Lake Tourism Council.

Kevin Weston made a motion to approve the sub-recipient agreement for Rend Lake Tourism Council. Ray Minor second that motion.

J. Larry Miller asks what the difference between the old and new agreements.

Chairman Neil Hargis informs Larry that this agreement is not much different from the last one. He says the only difference is in the language when referring to Airbnb's. Chairman Neil Hargis also informs the board that the new sub-recipient agreement is year to year. Curtis Overton asks if this agreement would give access to the bed tax money? Chairman Neil Hargis confirms that it does indeed give access to the bed tax money.

Mark Atkins, Rend Lake Area Tourism President: Asks about the request process included in the sub-recipient agreement? Chairman Neil Hargis responds by saying that the request would be made to the Franklin County Treasurer. Amanda Kink, County Board Office Manager; adds that the Rend Lake Area Tourism Council can use the same forms they were using before when making requests.

On roll call vote, all vote yes.

Said sub-recipient agreement is made a part of these minutes as Agreement No. 2026-07.

**EMPLOYMENT FOR
ANIMAL CONTROL
SUPERVISOR -
APPROVAL**

Chairman Neil Hargis states that the next item on the agenda is the approval of employment for the Animal Control Supervisor.

Dave Bartoni explains that they had 2 applicants apply for the position, Madison Hand, and Bobby Blaylock. He also explains that he and Curtis Overton conducted the interviews. Mr. Bartoni adds that after the interview process was concluded, Madison Hand was the choice put forward. Mr. Bartoni gives a bit of background on Madisons work history and believes she will be a good asset.

J. Larry Miller asks about the salary of the new supervisor. Chairman Neil Hargis states the salary is \$45,000. Which is what the old supervisor was making.

Angela Evans reminds the board that Madison was previously interviewed for the position before.

John Gossett asks if the contract would be a 1-year contract? Chairman Neil Hargis confirms it is indeed a 1-year contract with what he believes is a 60-day probationary period.

Dave Bartoni made a motion to approve the employment of Madison Hand as the new Animal Control Supervisor. Curtis Overton second that motion. On roll call vote, all vote yes.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Neil Hargis states that there will be no closed session for tonight's meeting.

**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. Ray Minor 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