

COUNTY OF MENARD)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)

The Menard County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the Menard County Courthouse, 102 South Seventh Street, Petersburg, Illinois. Commissioners Ed Whitcomb, Troy Cummings, Rich Brauer, and Dalton Whitley were physically present. A quorum was present. County Clerk Marty Gum, County Coordinator Dara Worthington, State's Attorney Gwen Thomas, and County Treasurer Molly Bettis were also physically present. County Clerk Marty Gum called the meeting to order.

County Clerk Marty Gum then called for nominations to serve as the Menard County Board of Commissioners' Chairperson for the 2026 fiscal year. Commissioner Cummings nominated Ed Whitcomb to serve as the Menard County Board of Commissioners' Chairperson for the 2026 fiscal year. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

County Clerk Marty Gum called for nominations to serve as the Menard County Board of Commissioners' Vice Chair for the 2026 fiscal year. Commissioner Whitley nominated Troy Cummings to serve as the Menard County Board of Commissioners' Vice Chair for the 2026 fiscal year. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Whitcomb assumed the position as Chairperson.

Commissioner Whitcomb requested a moment of silence to honor past Menard County Board Chair and Commissioner Robert L. Lott.

Commissioner Brauer moved to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of the Regular Board Minutes and Executive Session Minutes from December 9, 2025, along with the November 2025 monthly department expense reports. Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as noted and Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Scheduled/Unscheduled Guests

There were no guests present at the meeting.

Scheduled County Elected Officials & Staff

County Zoning Administrator's Report/Request for Board Action

Zoning Administrator Joe Crowe was in attendance. A brief overview was provided on the upcoming public hearing with the Menard County Zoning Board of Appeals for the RCM proposed development and the board's options RCM within that proposal. Discussion ensued.

County Engineer's Report/Request for Board Action

Engineer Dowd was in attendance.

Resolution 01-26 – Intergovernmental Agreement Providing for Membership in the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network. Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve the resolution and Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as Resolution 01-26.

Resolution 02-26 – Appointment of Lindsey Whitley as Menard County Road District #5 Clerk. Commissioner Cummings made a motion to approve the appointment. Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried with three "ayes" and one "present". This shall be known as Resolution 02-26.

Engineer Dowd provided departmental updates for the commissioners. Within that discussion, it was the consensus of the board that Dowd proceed with the purchase of the sign truck and the broom truck as presented and since the purchases were provided for in the budget.

County Sheriff's Report/Request for Board Action

Sheriff Oller was in attendance and reported the current jail census being at seven male inmates with one female inmate being held in Sangamon County and one of the male inmates being housed for Brown County. Oller reported on an incident which occurred early that same morning. Additionally, updates were provided on the courthouse window project and the annex remodeling.

County Treasurer's Report/Request for Board Action

Treasurer Molly Bettis was in attendance and provided an update on activities within her department which included an update on final tax disbursements, the FY25 Summary of Expenses and progress on the audit. Bettis expressed her thanks to Zoning Administrator Joe Crowe for his assistance with preparation of the 2026 Menard County Budget Book.

County Clerk's Report/Request for Board Action

County Clerk Gum was in attendance. Gum presented a liquor license from the Greenview Amvets for approval. Commissioner Cummings made a motion to approve the license and Commissioner Brauer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Clerk Gum also provided an update on her department's activities.

County State's Attorney/Request for Board Action

State's Attorney Gwen Thomas was in attendance. Thomas provided a brief update on her department's activities including the upcoming jury trials. Thomas reported on the situation with her office computers in uploading camera/video footage noting that the computers in her office were provided at no charge. She was directed to proceed with purchasing two new computers.

County Coordinator's Report/Requests for Board Action

Coordinator Dara Worthington was in attendance. Worthington presented the February 2026 invoice for the provision of Public Health Services for board approval. Commissioner Whitley made a motion to approve payment. Commissioner Cummings seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session minutes from December 10, 2024, and June 10, 2025, were presented to the commissioners with recommendation that they remain closed. Commissioner Cummings made a motion for both sets of minutes to remain closed. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A brief overview was provided on the following: FY26 grant funds received for GATA reporting, the FY26 Local Government Travel Expense Control Board mileage rate to be adopted, the Board of Review exam, personnel policies, a proposed new Animal Control agreement with the City of Petersburg and their payment status, personnel and wage matters at Sunny Acres, the approved DCEO grant modification, Animal Control community reports, the CAPCIL Annual Report, the 2025 workers' compensation audit, elected officials' salaries, and the impound structure.

County Coroner's Report/Request for Board Action

County Coroner Ben Hollis was in attendance. Hollis reported that the McLean County Coroners' office had initiated a new requirement that the Menard County enter into a contract for their services. Hollis will have the State's Attorney review the contract before bringing it before the board for approval.

Individual Board of Commissioners' Reports/Requests for Board Action

Commissioner Whitley requested that Animal Control address a problem with cats in Oakford. Coordinator Worthington will advise the Animal Control Officer of this concern. Commissioner Whitley requested that the Animal Control community reports be sent to them monthly rather than quarterly.

Other Scheduled Topics

Approval of Menard County Waste Management Plan Update

Commissioner Cummings made a motion to approve the updated plan as presented while Commissioner Brauer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 03-26 – Reappointment of Julie Wankel and Rod Riech to the Planning Commissioner for Three-Year Terms Expiring December 31, 2028.

Commissioner Whitley made a motion to approve the appointments. Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as Resolution 03-26.

Resolution 04-26 - Reappointment of Dan Robertson, Steve Ozella, Steve Wilken, and Karen Stott to the Zoning Board of Appeals for Five-Year Terms Expiring December 31, 2030. Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve the appointments. Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. This shall be known as Resolution 04-26.

Approval of Heritage Shared Services for Admissions

After a brief description of what this item entailed, Commissioner Cummings made a motion to approve participating in the shared services with the caveat that continued participation will be revisited after one year and/or with the new Heritage agreement. Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Letter of Agreement for Contracted Services with Bellwether LLC

County Clerk Gum provided a brief overview of the process involved with levies followed by brief discussion of what the board hoped to achieve with this service. Commissioner Brauer made a motion to approve entering into the agreement for services with Bellwether LLC and Commissioner Whitley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Adjournment

With no other business coming before the Board, Commissioner Brauer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 PM. Commissioner Cummings seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.