

CARROLL COUNTY BOARD MEETING
301 N. MAIN ST., MT. CARROLL, IL
SMALL COURTROOM
AUGUST 21, 2025 AT 9:30 A.M.

INVOCATION was given by Pastor Tim Yoder.

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Bickelhaupt called the Board meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL-Roll call shows Julie Bickelhaupt, William Iske, Susan Jacobs, Christopher Flikkema, David Soldat, and Melinda Appel present. Kevin Barnes, Jason Beyers and Ronald Preston were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS-No Public Comments.

CONSENT AGENDA- Chair Bickelhaupt presented the consent agenda. Motion by Soldat, seconded by Jacobs to pull Approval of the August 7th Meeting minutes.

Vice Chair Iske asked for August 7, 2025, minutes to be amended. Under Ad Hoc Planning and Development Committee the second sentence of the paragraph should read “The Committee is working on surveys.”

Motion by Soldat, seconded by Jacobs to approve the minutes with this amendment. Roll call shows Iske, Appel, Bickelhaupt, Soldat, Jacobs and Flikkema all voting aye. Motion carried.

Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of the Bills Paid in Vacation and Approval of Committee on Claims. Motion by Jacobs, seconded by Flikkema to approve. Roll call shows Flikkema, Jacobs, Soldat, Bickelhaupt, Appel and Iske all voting aye. Motion carried.

TABLED ITMES- None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Animal Control- ACO Lisa Larson reported there are eight dogs at pound and two in foster care.

Assessor- Chief County Assessor Annette Gruhn reported that the office was continuing to put in data from Rock/Lima and Wysox reassessment. She informed the Board her office is very pleased to have Jeremy Hughes back as GIS Director.

Circuit Clerk- Circuit Clerk Patty Hiher was present advised no report.

County Clerk-County Clerk Amy Buss reported that her office has received an IVRS Grant from the Illinois State Board of Elections in the amount of \$36,619.56.

Emergency Management-Emergency Director Jim Klinefelter informed the Board that August is Emergency Management Awareness Month.

He stated the conference room at the Emergency Management Control Center was used nine times last month.

He reported that he helped in Ogle County with an incident.

GIS-GIS Director Jerney Hughes was present advised no report.

Highway-A monthly report was submitted.

County Engineer Sara Renkes reminded everyone of some Back-to-School Roadway Safety tips. She voiced her concerns about the increase of accidents on rural roads.

Health Department-Dawn Holland reported that the Health Department was hosting free back to school physicals and blood drive.

Probation-Probation Manager Officer Steve Brown was present advised no report.

Sheriff-Sheriff Ryan Kloepping introduced Pastor Tim Yoder as the newly appointed Chaplain of the Sheriff's office. He has been training with the staff and is doing ride alongs with the deputies.

State's Attorney-State's Attorney Aaron Kaney was present advised no report.

Transit- PCOM Mary Maszk reported that the grant applications are out and waiting for signatures.

Treasurer- Treasurer Lydia Hutchcraft reported that tax collecting is down but expects an increase due to the upcoming September 3rd deadline.

Zoning/Zoning Board of Appeals-Zoning Officer Jaicee Buckner reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals has received an application and a ZBA meeting will be scheduled soon.

She also reported that the clean-up of the old Motel on US Highway 52 is continuing and will probably be completed in mid-November.

County Administrator- County Administrator was present advised no report.

AFFILIATE REPORTS

Blackhawk Hills Regional Council-No Report.

Business Employment Skills Team/Workforce-No Report.

Community Mental Health-Monthly report submitted.

Emergency Telephone System-No Report.

Health Board-No Report.

Hotel/Motel Board-Monthly report submitted.

Jo Daviess/Carroll Co. Joint Action Solid Waste Agency- No report.

LRA-No report.

NWILED-No report.

Senior Services Board-No Report.

Tri-County Opportunities Council-No Report.

United County Council of Illinois-No Report.

Veterans Assistance Commission-No Report.

Whiteside/Carroll & Jo/Carroll Enterprise Zones-No Report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ad Hoc Inmate Housing Committee- County Board Member Iske advised no report.

Ad Hoc Transit Garage Committee-County Board Member Flikkema advised no report.

Ad Hoc Planning and Development Committee- Chair Bickelhaupt reported that they had a meeting before the board meeting today. They continue to work on analyzing the needs based on the surveys completed by department heads. The next meeting is scheduled for September 18th.

Ad Hoc Highway Committee- County Board Member Appel reported that the committee will meet on August 27 at 10:30 a.m. at the Highway Department.

BUSINESS

1. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of natural gas services contract for Carroll County properties. Marni Henert, Rock River Energy Services presented the different suppliers and explained the differences between Option #1-Fixed Price and Option #2-Index price. After discussion and questions, Iske made a motion to sign with Symmetry Energy for thirty-six months at .4850 per therm, seconded by Jacobs to approve. Roll call shows Flikkema, Bickelhaupt, Iske, Jacobs, Soldat, Appel all voting aye. Motion carried.
2. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Carroll County Municipal Aggregation contract renewal. Mike Mudge, Rock River Energy Services handed out the Final Aggregation Bid Review. Mr. Mudge gave an informative presentation. A motion was made by Jacobs, seconded by Appel to approve Dynegy Energy with a rate of 9.35 for 29 months. Roll call shows Iske, Appel, Bickelhaupt, Jacobs, Flikkema, and Soldat all voting aye. Motion carried.

Before budget presentations were given, County Administrator Jachnicki explained the budget procedure. He also explained the Board will hear presentations, but no decisions will be made until the conclusion of all presentations. Notification from the Board will be sent at a later date regarding approval of budget requests.

3. Budget Presentations

- Karla Belzer, Illinois Extension, presented their budget. She explained that they depend on three sources of funding: Local Funding including County Board contributions and local donations, State match dollars line item through the Illinois Department of Ag; matched at 75% of local contributions and Federal Smith Lever dollars through USDA/NIFA; reduced for FY26. She also reviewed the many programs the Illinois Extension offer. Their budget request for FY 2025-26 is \$80,000 which is an increase of \$5,000 from last year. Chair Bickelhaupt thanked her for her time.
 - David Schmit, Northwest Illinois Economic Development explained how NWILED promotes economic development. Their budget request for FY 2025-26 is \$2,500 which is a \$1,500 increase from last year. Chair Bickelhaupt thanked him for his time.
 - Aaron Mercier, Regional Superintendent of Education introduced Chris Shockey, Assistant Regional Superintendent of Education. He explained that their budget request is based on a Statutory Formula. Carroll County percentage of the formula is 20.791%. Their full budget request is \$132,970 which 20.791% of that is \$27,654. Last year's request was \$28,597. Chair Bickelhaupt thanked them both for their time.
 - Craig Dimmick, Carroll County Senior Center, stated that he was presenting the budget for Carroll County Senior Center and that Transit has their own budget. Mr. Dimmick informed the Board of some of the challenges the Center is facing. A letter was included in the Board packet on these challenges. Their budget request for FY 2025-26 is \$132,000 which is a \$10,000 increase from last year. Chair Bickelhaupt thanked him for his time.
 - Daniel Payette, Blackhawk Hills Regional Council presented a power point to help explain the many ways they help economic growth through the region. Their budget request is \$1,570 which is the same as last year's request. Chair Bickelhaupt thanked him for his time.
4. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Rock Creek/Lima Township Bridge Aid request to replace the culvert located on Center Drive. The total estimate of the project is \$14,800. County Engineer Sara Renkes explained the request. She pointed out that under County Bridge Fund and Rock Creek/Lima township that totals were incorrect as \$7,900 for each. The correct figure of \$7,400 for each has been handwritten in. After discussion, it was pointed out on page two of the Agreement it read \$8,100 and should read \$7,400. Motion by Jacobs, seconded by Iske to approve with these corrections. Roll call shows Jacobs, Appel, Bickelhaupt, Iske, Flikkema and Soldat all voting aye. Motion carried.
 5. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Resolution for the County's Bridge Aid for \$7,400. County Engineer Renkes explained the Resolution. Motion by Jacobs, seconded by Flikkema to approve. Roll call shows Soldat, Jacobs, Iske, Bickelhaupt, Appel and Flikkema all voting aye. Motion carried.

6. Circuit Clerk Hiher presented for Approval of Semi-Annual Report for her office. Motion by Jacobs, seconded by Flikkema to approve. Motion carried.

She reported that her office has received a \$6,500 grant.

7. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Website Development Project. GIS Director, Jeremy Hughes explained the cost will be a development cost and annual maintenance subscription fee. This project will be funded through the GIS budget allocations from this fiscal year, specifically fund 44-00-00-5191 "Contractual Services". Motion by Jacobs, seconded by Flikkema to approve. Discussion. Roll call shows Appel, Flikkema, Jacobs, Soldat, Iske and Bickelhaupt all voting aye. Motion carried.
8. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Resolution Repealing Ordinance Chapter 141. County Treasurer Hutchcraft explained as stated in the Resolution this Ordinance is outdated and has not been updated to reflect the necessary changes required by the Illinois Department of Revenue. She stated she received her first and only application in February of 2025. Motion by Iske to approve this Resolution to Repeal but to grant, approve and pay the business owner prior to repealing this ordinance. Second, by Flikkema. Motion carried.
9. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Payroll Services Program. County Treasurer Hutchcraft and County Administrator Jachnicki explained to the Board the current payroll system through CIC (Computer Information Concepts) is inadequate and customer support is very poor. County Treasurer Hutchcraft explained the difference between the three providers and showed costs of their software. After much discussion, motion by Jacobs, seconded by Appel to table this matter. Motion carried. They encouraged Treasurer Hutchcraft to speak with Department Heads about their recommendations and thoughts before the next meeting.
10. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Raffle License for Love Like Libby. Motion by Jacobs, second by Appel to approve. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) Personnel

Motion by Iske, seconded by Jacobs to go into executive session at 12:09 p.m. Roll call shows Bickelhaupt, Iske, Jacobs, Flikkema, Soldat and Appel all voting aye. Motion carried.

Out of executive session at 12:20 p.m. with no action taken.

CHAIR REPORT- No Report.

APPOINTMENTS- None

Motion by Jacobs, second by Flikkema to adjourn at 12:21 p.m. Motion carried.

The next board meeting will be on September 4, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the small courtroom.

Minutes submitted by Amy R. Buss, County Clerk and Recorder