

CARROLL COUNTY BOARD MEETING
301 N. MAIN ST., MT. CARROLL, IL
SMALL COURTROOM
DECEMBER 18, 2025, AT 9:30 A.M.

INVOCATION was given by County Board Member David Soldat.

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, Melinda Appel, Kevin Barends and Jason Beyers present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS-None

CONSENT AGENDA-

1. Approval of the December 4th Meeting minutes
2. Approval of Bills Paid in Vacation
3. Approval of Committee on Claims
4. Approval of Board Member Services

Chair Bickelhaupt pulled the December 4th meeting minutes due to correction. The November 20th Board meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m. not 5:23 a.m. as stated in the minutes. Motion by Beyers, second by Barnes to approve with this correction. Motion carried.

Motion by Jacobs, second by Soldat to approve Bills Paid in Vacation, Committee on Claims and Board Member Services as presented. Roll call vote shows Beyers, Barnes, Soldat, Appel, Jacobs, Flikkema, Bickelhaupt and Iske all voting aye. Motion carried.

TABLED ITEMS- None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Animal Control- ACO Lisa Larson was happy to report that the number of dogs at the Animal Control facility was down this year. She credits that mostly to the Facebook page.

Assessor- Chief Assessor Annette Gruhn reported that assessment notices were mailed out yesterday, will be published next week and the Final Abstract went to the Illinois Department of Revenue.

If anyone would like to have their assessment reviewed, they must apply by January 16, 2026.

Circuit Clerk- Circuit Clerk Patty Hiher advised she has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from Illinois Courts Technology.

County Clerk-County Clerk Amy Buss reported she is in the process of setting up a Property Fraud Review and Reference Process according to Public Act 104-0382.

Emergency Management-Emergency Management Director Jim Klinefelter advised no report.

GIS-GIS Director Jerney Hughes advised no report.

Highway-A monthly report was submitted.

County Engineer Sara Renkes reported that for Prowant Road piling bridge repair project her estimate was too low. She estimated around \$48,600 with the actual bid from contractors being \$64,550. She wanted to explain she referred to a previous bid that was before covid and did not take into consideration inflation since covid. This project will be brought to the Board for approval at a future Board meeting.

Health Department- Dawn Holland was not present.

Probation-Probation Administrative Assistance Jamie Rowe advised no report.

Sheriff-Sheriff Ryan Kloepping reported that there was a roof leak which ruined some ceiling tiles in the hallway by the Circuit Clerk's office. It has been patched for now but will be repaired in the Spring. He also reported the population for the jail recently is 7 to 10 inmates. The chairlifts have been installed and need to be certified along with the trim work that needs to be completed. The renovation on the third floor is close to completion.

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

Transit- PCOM Mary Maszk advised no report.

Treasurer- Treasurer Lydia Hutchcraft reported that the new payroll server is being set up. She and Payroll Clerk, Kim Jones will have training on the new software. Employees will sign up on an app to receive their paystub information.

Zoning/Zoning Board of Appeals-Zoning Officer Jaicee Buckner reported that the next ZBA meeting will be on January 5, 2026, at 6 p.m. The board will be working on revisions of Chapter 700.

County Administrator- County Administrator Jachnicki advised no report.

AFFILIATE REPORTS

Blackhawk Hills Regional Council-No Report.

Business Employment Skills Team/Workforce-No Report.

Community Mental Health-No Report.

Emergency Telephone System-No Report.

Health Board-No Report.

Hotel/Motel Board-No Report.

Jo Daviess/Carroll Co. Joint Action Solid Waste Agency- Board Member Appel reported the next meeting will be January 22, 2026.

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- Vice Chair 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 have been reviewing the Comprehensive Plan. The next committee meeting will be January 12, 2026, at 8 a.m.

Ad Hoc Highway Committee- Board Member Appel advised that a meeting will be held at the Highway department immediately following this board meeting.

BUSINESS

1. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Semi-Annual Report for the County Clerk and Recorder. County Clerk Buss explained. Motion by Jacobs, seconded by Iske to approve as presented. Motion carried.

Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Semi-Annual Report for the Sheriff. Sheriff Kloepping explained. Motion by Jacobs, seconded by Soldat to approve as presented. Motion carried.

2. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Wysox Township Bridge Aid request to replace the culvert located at Clark Road. The total project estimate is \$35,000. Cost to the Bridge fund will be \$9,985. County Engineer Renkes explained. Motion by Flikkema, seconded by Jacobs to approve. Roll call vote shows Appel, Flikkema, Beyers, Iske, Bickelhaupt, Jacobs, Barnes, and Soldat all voting aye. Motion carried.
3. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Resolution to appropriate \$40,000 in County Matching Funds to be reimbursed by the Illinois Grade Crossing Fund, to improve the east side approach of the railroad crossing of Powerlab Road. County Engineer Renkes explained. Motion by Beyers, seconded by Jacobs to approve. Roll call vote shows Jacobs, Soldat, Barnes, Bickelhaupt, Appel, Flikkema, Beyers and Iske all voting aye. Motion carried.

4. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Re-Approval of the Resolution Appropriating Funds for the Payment of the County Engineer's Salary Section 26-00000-00-CS from MFT Funds in the adjusted amount of \$131,763.78. County Engineer Renkes explained that the last Resolution approval was at 3% not 3.5%. Motion by Jacobs, seconded by Soldat to reapprove the resolution. Roll call vote shows Bickelhaupt, Soldat, Beyers, Jacobs, Barnes, Appel, Iske, and Flikkema all voting aye. Motion carried.
5. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval to Sign the 2026 Platbook Agreement with Mapping Solutions. GIS Director Hughes explained. Discussion involved if it was needed since the Carroll County Farm Bureau just released a new Platbook recently. No action taken at this time.
6. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Discussion and possible approval of the Resolution to submit an Advisory Referendum to the voters of Carroll County regarding the Federal Scholarship Tax Credit. Chair Bickelhaupt explained the advisory referendum. County Clerk Buss explained the additional cost to the County by adding the advisory referendum to the ballot in March. Motion by Flikkema, seconded by Appel to approve. Roll call shows Bickelhaupt, Appel, Soldat, Barnes, Beyers, and Flikkema all voting aye, Iske and Jacobs voting nay. Motion carried.
7. Chair Bickelhaupt presented to Review the Draft of the 2026-2031 Strategic Plan. County Administrator and Chair Bickelhaupt explained plan and the need for an updated plan.
8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION-** Chair Bickelhaupt asked for a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of Collective Bargaining under Section 2 (c) (2) at 10:23 a.m. Motion by Jacobs, seconded by Flikkema to approve going into executive session. Roll call shows Bickelhaupt, Iske, Jacobs, Flikkema, Appel, Barnes, Soldat and Beyers all voting aye. Motion carried.

Back into Regular Session at 11:18 a.m. No action taken.

Chair Report-Chair Bickelhaupt reported that she attended a workshop at the Mount Carroll Library called Deepening Community Connections which was very informative.

She advised the Board and Department Heads that she is canceling the January 1, 2026 Board meeting since it's a holiday. The next meeting scheduled is January 15, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

APPOINTMENTS-

1. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Appointment for Quad Cities Regional Economic Development Authority (QCREDA)-Nancy Bandemer. Motion by Jacobs, second by Appel to approve the appointment. Motion carried.
2. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Reappointment for 911 Board for a three-year term. James Schryver, Becky Sweitzer and Jacob Helms are up for reappointment. Motion by Jacobs, second by Barnes to reappoint. Motion carried.

Motion by Barnes, seconded by Flikkema to adjourn at 11:23 a.m. Motion carried.

The next board meeting will be on January 15, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. in the small courtroom.

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