

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

INVOCATION was given by County Board Member William Iske.

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Bickelhaupt called the Board meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS-Lindsay Sanders, Straddle Creek Gardens expressed her frustration on having to obtain a permit for her upcoming events. She has never had to obtain a permit for her events in previous years. She feels as though she's being singled out on this requirement.

CONSENT AGENDA- Chair Bickelhaupt presented the consent agenda. Motion by Jacobs, seconded by Iske to approve the Consent Agenda. Roll call shows Beyers, Appel, Jacobs, Soldat, Flikkema, Iske and Bickelhaupt all voting aye. Motion carried.

TABLED ITMES- None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Animal Control- ACO Lisa Larson advised no report.

Assessor- Chief County Assessor Annette Gruhn and Deputy Assessor Koltin Dimmick updated the Board that their office is expecting an increase of 7.8% County Wide of Taxable Value due to the Sales Ration Study from the Illinois Department of Revenue. This uses sales from the prior three years of 2022, 2023 and 2024. Farmland value will increase by an estimated 9.9% which will add around \$11,121,069. As of September 15, 2025, they have captured new construction in the amount of \$4,224,850. Again, this year there will be an Equalization Factor for Cherry Grove-Shannon, Freedom, Washington, Woodland and Savanna Townships. Quadrennial Reassessments are occurring in Rock Creek-Lima, Elkhorn Grove and Wysox Townships. All those figures combined should be an increase of \$43,411,538, which is a 7.8% increase over last year.

Circuit Clerk- Circuit Clerk Patty Hiher reported that she has qualified for an ADA grant up to \$40,000. She is looking at making her front counter in her office ADA compatible. She is hoping there will be enough to also do some ADA projects around the Courthouse.

County Clerk-County Clerk Amy Buss advised no report.

Emergency Management-Emergency Director Jim Klinefelter advised no report.

GIS-GIS Director Jerney Hughes advised no report.

Highway-County Engineer Sara Renkes advised no report.

Health Department-Dawn Holland reported that Community Flu Clinics will be held at various locations throughout the county September 22nd through October 9th. More information is located on their website and Facebook page.

Probation-Probation Manager Officer Steve Brown advised no report.

Sheriff-Sheriff Ryan Kloepping advised no report.

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

Transit- PCOM Mary Maszk reported she will be attending the Illinois Public Transportation Association (IPTA) Conference in Champaign, Illinois. The conference is held September 29 through October 1st.

Treasurer- Treasurer Lydia Hutchcraft advised no report.

Zoning/Zoning Board of Appeals-Zoning Officer Jaicee Buckner reported she participated in a Roundtable Meeting with fellow Zoning Officers.

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-County Board Member Jacobs reported that Hotel/Motel Board is applying for a \$10,000 tourism grant.

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 they are working on surveys that will be distributed to the community, stakeholders and community leaders in the future. They also have been talking with grant writers to see how the County could benefit from their help. The next meeting is October 16th.

Ad Hoc Highway Committee- County Board Member Appel reported the next scheduled meeting is October 1st.

BUSINESS

1. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Riverview Center-Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation for 2025. Sarah Comitz and River Magar thanked the Board for their support.
They informed the Board of a program that accepts used cell phones, and these phones are in return given to Domestic Violence survivors. They encouraged everyone to wear purple on October 23rd for Domestic Violence awareness.
2. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for review and possible approval of the Vialytics Contract at the cost of \$19,975.00. County Engineer Renkes explained how the information is collected simply by having a cell phone on your dashboard as you are driving down the road. She believes this software would be very beneficial to her office. This contract would be paid out of County Matching funds. Motion by Iske, second by Beyers to approve the contract. Roll call shows Jacobs, Appel, Soldat, Beyers, Bickelhaupt, Iske, and Flikkema all voting aye. Motion carried.
3. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of the Resolution to allocate \$19,975.00 of County Matching Funds to pay for the Vialytics Contract. Motion by Iske, seconded by Jacobs to approve the Resolution. Roll call shows Iske, Beyers, Flikkema, Jacobs, Soldat, Appel, and Bickelhaupt all voting aye. Motion carried.
4. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Raffle License for Trinity Lutheran Church of Milledgeville. Motion by Jacobs, second by Soldat to approve. Motion carried.
5. Budget Presentations
 - Judge Kane presented the budget for Fund 11(General), Department 24(Public Defender), Department 28(Judge's expenses), Funds 21(Law Library), Fund 71(Marriage fund), Fund 81(Public Defender Automation Special Fund) and Fund 87(Public Defender Safety Act Special Fund).
 - County Engineer Renkes presented the budget for Fund 11(General), Department 35(Highway Upkeep), Fund 13(Bridge Aid), Fund 14(Highway), Fund 15(Township Motor Fuel), Fund 16(County Motor Fuel), Fund 17(Township Bridge) and Fund 18(County Matching). For Funds 13, 16 and 18 an additional handout was given to the Board that included expenses, revenues and projects for Fund 13, and revenues and expenses for Fund 16 and 18. All increases or decreases for all Fund requests from the County Engineer were explained in the notes.
 - Animal Control Officer Ashby presented the budget for Fund 11(General)Department 19, Funds 27(Animal Control and Fund 56(Pet Population Control). She would like to retire Fund 56(Pet Population Control) since no funding is provided by the State anymore. The only

significant increase was in Fund 27(Animal Control) since Pet Population fund will be retired she has moved Spay and Neuter costs to that fund in the amount of \$6,000.

She voiced her concerns about only having 60% of compliance for Dog registrations for the County. She supplied the Board with a handout on the figures, and she explained the Whodapet software they use to collect this data. She would like the local veterinarians to enforce the County Dog Registration fee and use the software to report this information.

- Dawn Holland, Assistant Administrator of the Health Department presented the budget for Fund 54(Health Department). Health Department Administrator Kerry Wipple was also present. Dawn Holland explained the increases and decreases in their budget request. Due to the Health Department working on starting a Dental Clinic, those budget figures are included in the increased line items. If they are unable to get the Dental Clinic up and going this upcoming fiscal year, the money will not be spent.
- Zoning Officer Buckner presented the budget for Fund 11(General), Department 27. She explained to the Board the new line for Property Remediation in the amount of \$25,000. She asked the Board to consider this line item if not in this budget possibility in the future. Notes were included in her budget requests.
- Probation Manager Officer Brown presented the budget for Fund 11(General) Department 29 and Fund 32(Probation Fees) and Fund 83(Probation Court Fee). In his budget presentation, he reminded that the additional budget requests in Fund 11(General) Department 29 are due to those expenses that cannot be paid out of Fund 32(Probation Fee). At a previous Board meeting, he thought those extra expenses might be as much as \$40,000. With careful budgeting, he was happy to report his request for Fund 11(General) Department 29 was \$11,254. His total budget requests for all funds was \$12,945.75, which he was very happy with. Notes were included in his budget requests.
- Emergency Director Jim Klinefelter presented his budget for Fund 11(General), Department 22. He explained the increases to three of his line items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-None

CHAIR REPORT- Chair Bickelhaupt thanked all Department Heads for their hard work on their budgets.

APPOINTMENTS- Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Tri-County Airport Authority Reappointment of Jason Reiland for a term through 2030. Motion by Appel, seconded by Jacobs to approve. Motion carried.

Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Tri-County Authority Reappointment of Jim Sweeny for a term through 2029. Motion by Jacobs, second by Appel to approve. Motion carried.

Motion by Jacobs, seconded by Flikkema to adjourn at 11:44 a.m. Motion carried.

The next board meeting will be on October 2, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the small courtroom.

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