

CARROLL COUNTY BOARD MEETING

301 N. MAIN ST., MT. CARROLL, IL

SMALL COURTROOM

JANUARY 15, 2026, 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 9:30 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS-None

CONSENT AGENDA-

1. Approval of the December 18th Meeting minutes
2. Approval of Bills Paid in Vacation
3. Approval of Committee on Claims

Motion by Jacobs, second by Iske to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll call vote shows Flikkema, Bickelhaupt, Jacobs, Iske, Soldat and Beyers all voting aye. Motion carried.

TABLED ITEMS- None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Animal Control- ACO Lisa Larson reported that major repairs have recently been made to her department vehicle and the mechanic is recommending trading the vehicle before more repairs are needed. Lisa will work with County Administrator Bob Jachnicki to determine the best plan moving forward.

Assessor- Chief County Assessor Annette Gruhn reported on the tentative equalization factor from IDOR, and she is proud to report that the factor is 1.0000. The appeals period is underway and January 16, 2026 is the last day to submit an appeal. There are currently 40 appeals. Board of Review is also meeting today.

Circuit Clerk- Circuit Clerk Patty Hiher reported she has been awarded an ADA grant for \$9,000. She plans to use the money to lower the counters in her office.

County Clerk-Deputy Clerk Jane Adolph reported the office has been working with Eastland High School Art students on the I-Voted Sticker Contest. A winner will be selected by the end of the month.

Emergency Management-Emergency Management Director Jim Klinefelter was not present. County Administrator Bob Jachnicki reported that Carroll County hosted a class at the Emergency Control Center on January 10th with 33 attendees.

GIS-GIS Director Jerney Hughes reported that Carroll, Jo Daviess and Whiteside counties sent out a request for proposals for the arial imagery project. Bids will be reviewed and brought to the February 19, 2026 board meeting.

Health Department- Dawn Holland was not present.

Highway-A monthly report was submitted.

County Engineer Sara Renkes provided documentation for the possible purchase of a new Tilt Bed Equipment Trailer to haul the skid steer. Final cost for the trailer will be identified and brought to the next board meeting.

She is meeting with the LRA this afternoon to discuss two federal grant opportunities for work to be done on Army Depot Road.

Probation- Chief Probation Managing Officer Steve Brown reported he's been working with the Sheriff Department to revamp the work release program.

Sheriff-Sheriff Ryan Kloepping reported the jail project is underway. The two new positions have been filled – one new hire is already working and the other will start February 1st.

State's Attorney-State's Attorney Aaron Kaney reported his office is applying for the Victim's Assistance Grant.

Transit- A monthly report was submitted. PCOM Mary Maszk will re-evaluate the statistics shown in one of the submitted reports.

Treasurer- Treasurer Lydia Hutchcraft reported that the auditors will be here next week for in-house audits. The new payroll software has been integrated.

Zoning/Zoning Board of Appeals-Zoning Officer Jaicee Buckner reported that the next Zoning Board of Appeals meeting is February 2, 2026 at 6 p.m.

She also reported that a new bill (Public 104-0458) has been signed amending solar regulations, wind regulations and short-term Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) allowing them to have their own ordinances to be stand alone facilities. Discussion followed regarding how this will impact the county.

County Administrator- County Administrator Bob Jachnicki announced the courthouse will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2026, for the MLK Jr. Holiday.

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- No Report.

LRA-Monthly report was submitted.

NWILED- Monthly report was submitted.

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 reported the next meeting will be January 29, 2026 at 1 p.m. at the courthouse.

Ad Hoc Planning and Development Committee-Chair Bickelhaupt reported that the next meeting will be February 13, 2026 at 8 a.m. at the Highway Building.

Ad Hoc Highway Committee- Board Member Appel was not present.

BUSINESS

1. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Raffle License for Carroll County Fair. Motion by Jacobs, seconded by Beyers to approve. Motion carried.
2. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Plat Book Agreement. Motion by Jacobs, seconded by Iske to approve. Roll call vote shows Iske, Jacobs, Soldat, Beyers, Bickelhaupt and Flikkema all voting aye. Motion carried.
3. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of IDNR Forestry Program Request to waive fees for County GIS Parcel Data. GIS Director Jeremy Hughes explained this program and the possibility of having an intergovernmental agreement between Carroll County and IDNR. Motion to table this request by Jacobs, seconded by Iske. Motion carried.
4. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of the 2026-2031 Carroll County Strategic Plan. Motion by Jacobs, seconded by Soldat to approve. Motion carried.
5. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Adjusted Wysox Township Bridge Aid request to repair wood piling on Prowant Road at a total cost of \$68,600. Motion by Jacobs, seconded by Soldat to approve. Roll call vote shows Flikkema, Beyers, Bickelhaupt, Jacobs, Soldat and Iske all voting aye. Motion carried.

6. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for Approval of Adjusted Resolution for the County's Bridge Aid fund for \$34,300. Motion by Iske, seconded by Flikkema to approve. Roll call vote shows Soldat, Iske, Jacobs, Beyers, Flikkema and Bickelhaupt all voting aye. Motion carried.
7. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for approval of Resolution to have a mailbox assessment and replacement policy during snow removal operations. Motion by Iske, seconded by Jacobs to approve. Motion carried.
8. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for approval to proceed with purchasing a used 2018 New Holland C237 Track Skid Steer with 72" bucket for the Highway Department at a cost not to exceed cost of \$57,500. Discussion. Motion by Jacobs, seconded by Soldat to approve. Roll call vote shows Soldat, Bickelhaupt, Flikkema, Iske, Beyers and Jacobs all voting aye. Motion carried.
9. Chair Bickelhaupt presented for approval for Board Chair to execute Resolution for the Appointment of Regional Superintendent of the Carroll, Jo Daviess and Stephenson County Regional Office of Education to fill a vacancy created by the retirement of Aaron Mercier. Motion by Jacobs, seconded by Soldat to approve. Roll call vote shows Bickelhaupt, Flikkema, Iske, Jacobs, Soldat and Beyers all voting aye. Motion carried.

Chair Report-Chair Bickelhaupt reported that a thank you was received from Ron Preston's family for the arrangement that was sent after Ron's passing. She also reported that a special Carroll County Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 29, 2026 to seat a new appointment for Ron's vacancy.

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 10:40 a.m. Motion by Iske, seconded by Jacobs to approve going into executive session. Roll call shows Beyers, Bickelhaupt, Iske, Flikkema, Jacobs, and Soldat all voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Iske, seconded by Jacobs to return into Regular Session at 10:53 a.m. Motion carried. No action taken from Executive Session.

APPOINTMENTS- None

Chair Bickelhaupt reminded that upcoming Board Meetings are as follows:

Special Board Meeting on Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. in the small courtroom.

Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in the small courtroom.

Motion by Jacobs, seconded by Flikkema to adjourn at 10:55 a.m. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Jane E. Adolph, Deputy County Clerk and Recorder