

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 20, 2026 – 7 p.m.

Bradley Knolhoff, Chairman

Nelson Heinzmann, Vice Chairman

1. OPENING PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. CALL TO ORDER

Sheriff Dan Travous called the meeting of the Clinton County District Board to order at 7 p.m. on April 20, 2026.

3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Present: Arentsen, Crisel, Haselhorst, Heinzmann, Hilmes, Jansen, B. Knolhoff, K. Knolhoff, Rakers, Rapien, Riechman, Schmitz, Schroeder, Strieker, Veizer.
The record reflected there was a quorum.

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND GUESTS

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion – Arentsen made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2026 regular meeting. Crisel seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

6. REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Motion - Proclamation declaring May as Motorcycle Awareness Month in the County.
B. Knolhoff made a motion to approve the proclamation. Riechman seconded the motion.
Motion Carried

7. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD

Ron Koerkenmeier, Dan Athmer and Lookingglass Township Highway Commissioner Jacob Finley voiced their concerns about speeding, theft and semi traffic on Airport Road, located south of the Interstate 64 entrance and exit ramps near Damiansville. Koerkenmeier said there are nearly 30 families living along this stretch of oil and chipped roadway, and they have incurred a large increase in traffic volume from semi-trucks and other vehicles, as well as increased speeding through the residential farming community. Some of the problems are caused by navigation programs, such as Google Maps, which are misdirecting traffic through the area. He said the roadway is narrow, bumpy and prone to flooding. The speed limit is currently unregulated, and the road is not designed or rated for heavy loads. He noted that once the semi-trucks turn onto Airport Road, they are committed with virtually no option to turn around. They are asking for reduced speed limits in the area and signage to warn motorists of the narrow road width, weight limits and other constraints. The county will work with the township on conducting a speed study along with implementing improvements and signage to slow down traffic in that area.

8. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Zoning and Subdivision Committee – Ann Schroeder

1. Jami Staser reported that the Zoning Board met April 1 with eight cases. There is one case for board consideration, and an amendment to the zoning code regarding solar projects may be on the agenda in May.

i. Motion – Flood Plan Variance – Dennis Munie – along St. Rose Road in St. Rose Township.

Veizer made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the variance. Schroeder seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes).
Motion Carried 15-0.

b. Economic Development, Tourism and Clinton County Enterprise Zone – Mike Rakers
No Report.

c. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann

1. Heinzmann reported on the April 13 committee meeting. Insurance costs and medical claims are down compared to last year, while fixed costs and pharmacy costs were up slightly. Total costs for the current fiscal year are 6.7 percent under budget, without reimbursement, and 42 percent under budget, with reimbursement. The committee voted to renew the health insurance with CAS as the third-party administrator. Once again, employees will have the option to choose an HSA plan with a higher deductible and lower premium. Bill Schmaltz of Einstein Consulting will be at the courthouse later in the week to discuss that option and other renewal concerns.

i. Motion – Health Insurance Renewal with CAS reflecting a slight increase.

Heinzmann made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the renewal. Strieker seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes).
Motion Carried 15-0.

d. Facilities Committee – Gary Arentsen

1. Arentsen reported that maintenance staff have been upgrading landscaping around the courthouse, and the next committee meeting is 6 p.m. on May 7.

e. Animal Control – Ann Schroeder

No Report

f. Finance – Kurt Schmitz

Schmitz reported the committee met April 8. All bills were approved, and they finalized the county's new Purchasing Policy.

1. Treasurer's Monthly Report – Denise Trame

Trame reported that an oil check was received for \$3,077.38 and video gaming proceeds for the past month were \$8,989.42. Mobile home tax bills were sent out on March 26.

i. Motion – Monthly Budget and Financial Report

Schmitz made a motion to approve the report. Veizer seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

ii. Motion – Ordinance Amending Section 1-9-4 of the County Code Regarding the County Purchasing Policy

Schmitz made a motion to approve the ordinance. Strieker seconded the motion. Motion Carried

iii. Motion – Resolution Allowing the Execution of a Letter of Intent for Purchase of Real Property Located at 851 Washington Street and 871 Washington Street in Carlyle, IL.

K. Knolhoff noted that this property will assist with parking for the county. Haselhorst questioned if there were any underground tanks which would later cause additional cleanup costs for the county. B. Knolhoff noted that this is simply a letter of intent to purchase. If any remediation issues arise, the purchase will be brought back to the board for consideration.

Schmitz made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the purchase letter. Crisel seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 15-0.

g. Budget – Nelson Heinzmann

No Report

h. Law Enforcement, EMA, Welfare, Safety and Liquor Control – Mike Strieker

No Report.

i. Road and Bridge – Ken Knolhoff

1. Monthly County Engineer's Report – Dan Behrens

Behrens said the department opened bids for road oil on March 30, and prices were about 8-10 cents higher than last year. Behrens gave a report on the bridge construction on Lake Road. The abutments have been installed and they are hoping to get a crane scheduled to set beams next week. The plan is to have the bridge opened by Memorial Day. The city of Breese is ready to proceed with the repairs on Walnut Street in Breese pending receipt of construction supplies.

i. Motion – Approval of Low Bids for Road Oil for Township and County

Roads and Approval of the 2026 MFT Oil Bids for the Township and County.

Arentsen made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the bids. Rapien

seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 15-0.

j. Personnel, Labor and Grievance – Mike Hilmes/Gary Arentsen

1. Hilmes reported the committee met April 14 and approved the minutes from the March meeting. Two items are on the agenda for board consideration. The next committee meeting is 6 p.m. on May 12.

i. Motion – Ordinance Affixing Clinton County Board Member Compensation and Certain County Officials’ Salaries. B. Knolhoff noted that the board is required to set the salaries for the next term at least 180 days prior to newly-elected officials taking office.

Schroeder made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the salaries. Strieker seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 15-0.

ii. Motion – Resignation and Payout Claim for Brenda Pollmann. Hilmes noted that the resignation took effect March 2 and the balance of the payout is \$3,221.52. Hilmes made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the resignation and payout. Riechman seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 15-0.

k. Executive Committee – Nelson Heinzmann

1. Heinzmann reported that the committee met April 17 to approve agenda items and hear reports from department heads.

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

a. Radio – Curt Haselhorst

1. Haselhorst said the committee met April 8 and heard reports from the project managers. Also present were representatives of Tait Communications and GTSi, the company that will be installing the equipment. He noted that radio equipment would soon be installed in the various buildings. The companies will start running trials with the equipment in mid-May with a completion date in mid-August.

b. GIS/Assessment Lookup Committee – Jeff Crisel

1. Crisel said the committee met on March 19. He noted that the weekly calls with Sidwell, the county’s GIS Mapping vendor, have been productive. The next meeting is 6 p.m. on April 30.

11. OUTSIDE COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

- a. Board of Health – Kurt Schmitz
 1. Motion - Health Department Monthly Report.
Health Department Administrator Chris Leidel said the next meeting will be May 5.
 - i. Schmitz made a motion to approve the Health Department Monthly Report.
Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.
- b. 708 Mental Health Board – Greg Riechman
 1. Riechman said the next meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. on June 11.
- c. 911 ETSB Board – Bruce Rapien
No Report.
- d. Discover Downstate Illinois (Ann Schroeder), SILEC (Mike Hilmes), SCIGA, Greater Centralia Enterprise Zone (Greg Riechman), Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board (Mike Rakers), SWIDA (Ann Schroeder), SIMAPC (Ann Schroeder/Mike Rakers), UCCI
No Report.

12. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Heinzmann made a motion for a roll call vote for approval of Accounts Payable. Crisel seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 15-0.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- a. Motion – Reappointment of Rodney LaCaze as Trustee of the New Baden Fire Protection District.
- b. Motion – Reappointment of Richard Stumpf as Trustee of the New Baden Fire Protection District.
- c. Motion – Reappointment of Jim Kniepman as Trustee of the Sugar Creek Fire Protection District.
- d. Motion – Reappointment of Shelly Myers to the Shattuc-Ferrin Lighting District.
- e. Motion – Appointment of Kevin Eversgerd to the Aviston Fire Protection District.
- f. Motion - Appointment of Karl Klostermann to the St Rose Water District.
- g. Motion – Reappointment of Steve Tebbe to the St Rose Water District.

Haselhorst made a motion to approve all reappointments/appointments “a. – g.” Riechman second the motion. Motion Carried.

15. NEW BUSINESS

16. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026 AT 7 P.M.

- a. Riechman made a motion to adjourn until Monday, May 18, 2026 at 7 p.m. Heinzmann seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vicky Albers", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Vicky Albers
County Clerk & Recorder