

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 17, 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 August 17, 2026.

3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

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

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND GUESTS

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion – Crisel made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 20, 2026 regular meeting. Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

6. REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

7. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD

- a. David Gazda Jr., who had addressed the board at the July meeting, reiterated his family's concerns with the proposed construction and placement of a telecommunications facility (cell tower) on Marydale Road, right across the street from his home and down the road from his father's home. He questioned whether the permit had been submitted, and if anyone had new information on the state statute he had previously mentioned, which was provided by Sen. Plummer's office. B. Knolhoff said he has not contacted Plummer's office; however, he did review the information that Gazda had sent to him. B. Knolhoff said it's a moot point for the board until the application is submitted. David Gazda Sr. urged the board not to bow down to large out-of-state companies, like the one proposing the cell tower. He spoke about the nuisance and health issues of having a 255-foot tower erected so close to residential dwellings.
- b. Sara Gaston, director of Clinton County Senior Services, thanked the county for its continued support. She noted that more than 25,000 meals have been delivered in the past year through the Meals on Wheels program, administered by the Carlyle Center, with over 3,500 congregate meals served. The Senior Center also provided information and assistance to over 1,500 seniors.

- c. Carlyle resident Eugene Hemingway voiced concerns about motorists' disregard for pedestrians in crosswalks and entering the four-way at Route 127 and Franklin Street. He has experienced multiple incidents of nearly getting hit in downtown Carlyle. He asked to bring this matter to the attention of the public and local law enforcement. Hemingway also commended the local Senior Center for the great work that they do; however, he said the agency is in dire need of a better location for improved accessibility for local seniors.

8. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Zoning and Subdivision Committee – Ann Schroeder

- 1. Staser reported that the Zoning Board met August 5 and the Subdivision Committee met August 13. There were eight cases brought before the Zoning Board with three items on the agenda.

- i. Motion – Special Use Family Split for Darrell Loepker on Loepker Road in Germantown Township. He is requesting a family split to build single-family dwelling on a 3-acre tract.

Jansen made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the family split.

Haselhorst seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Absent), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 14-0

- ii. Motion – Jared Kues' First Subdivision, a one-lot subdivision. The property is zoned agricultural and includes 13.8 acres with an existing house and a shed. Nearly half of the property is in the floodplain and Kues is wanting to split the house from the ag property and floodplain.

Riechman made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the subdivision.

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 (Absent), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 14-0

- iii. Motion – Text Amendment for Energy Storage Systems. Staser explained that Illinois is mandating all counties to comply with the Energy Storage Systems ordinance. The amendment was approved by the Zoning Board 4-1. B. Knolhoff said this is the perfect example of a state-mandated policy which the county does not fully support.

Rakers made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the text amendment. Crisel seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (No), Jansen (No), B. Knolhoff (No), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Absent), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (No), Strieker (No), Veizer (No). Motion Carried 8-6

- b. Economic Development, Tourism and Clinton County Enterprise Zone – Mike Rakers
No Report.
- c. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann
 - 1. Heinzmann said the committee met August 10. Total costs, medical claims and pharmacy costs are down compared to last year. For the current budget year, the county is 16 percent over budget, without reimbursement, and 18 percent under budget, with reimbursement. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 14.
- d. Facilities Committee – Gary Arentsen
 - 1. Arentsen said maintenance employee Dennis Moss will be retiring in December, and the county will be advertising for a new maintenance employee.
- e. Animal Control – Ann Schroeder
No Report
- f. Finance – Kurt Schmitz
 - 1. Treasurer’s Monthly Report – Denise Trame
Trame reported that proceeds from video gaming for the prior month were \$10,435.
 - i. Motion – Monthly Budget and Financial Report
Veizer made a motion to approve the report. Schmitz seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.
 - ii. Motion – Authorize the Treasurer’s Office to Conduct Business with the Designated List of County Banks (except for Scott Credit Union).
Schmitz made a motion to authorize the banks. Schroeder seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.
- g. Budget – Nelson Heinzmann
 - 1. Heinzmann reported that the committee will hold its first meeting of the fiscal year at 6 p.m. on Sept. 3.
- 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 Highway Department was awarded funding for a safety project over a year ago to improve the curves on Jamestown Road, north of Breese. He estimated the project at over \$1 million which will likely be split 90/10. The project is tentatively scheduled for a Jan. 2027 bid letting and includes safety lighting, shoulders and improvements to the roadway slopes. The Highway Department is working on plans for the resurfacing of Shattuc Road. The project is programmed for FY28 which begins next August. Behrens noted that this month's highway bills include a \$14,000 invoice recently received from the state for a

project completed 11 years ago. Going forward, outstanding obligations to the state will be documented more thoroughly to ensure future officials are aware of any anticipated bills.

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

1. Hilmes said the committee met on August 13, but there is no action for the board. The next meeting is 6 p.m. on Sept. 15.

k. Executive Committee – Nelson Heinzmann

1. Heinzmann reported that the committee met August 14 to clarify agenda items and hear reports from department heads.

a. Motion – Resolution for a Proclamation Designating Clinton County as a Purple Heart County.

Knolhoff thanked Greg Riechman for proposing the idea of becoming a Purple Heart County. Riechman explained that he has been working with Carl Huels and Larissa Monken of Standin' Proud Veterans Museum in Bartelso who initiated the idea. Clinton County will join St. Clair County as the only two counties in southern Illinois, and only 10 in the state, to be recognized as Purple Heart Counties. Board members recognized and applauded the Purple Heart recipients in attendance at the meeting. B. Knolhoff read the proclamation stating that the designation of Clinton County as a Purple Heart County will serve as a lasting and visible reminder of the sacrifices made by our service members and will further demonstrate the county's commitment to honoring and supporting veterans and their families.

Riechman made a motion to approve the proclamation. Heinzmann seconded the motion.

Motion Carried

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

a. Radio – Curt Haselhorst

1. Haselhorst said the committee met on August 12. Unfortunately, completion of the new radio telecommunications project is still delayed, but the committee is hoping for a resolution soon. Testing of the new radio system showed some transmission interference which will need to be resolved and has delayed the completion date.

b. GIS/Assessment Lookup Committee – Jeff Crisel

1. No Report.

11. OUTSIDE COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

a. Board of Health – Kurt Schmitz

1. Motion - Health Department Monthly Report.

Health Department Administrator Chris Leidel submitted his letter of resignation effective Sept. 29. He thanked the County Board and the Board of Health for their support during his tenure. B. Knolhoff commended Leidel for the great work that he has done and for working through the transition to the new health building. The next Board of Health- meeting is set for 6 p.m. on Sept. 1

- 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 board has received applications for mental health funding for the next fiscal year and is reviewing those requests
- c. 911 ETSB Board – Curt Haselhorst
 - 1. Haselhorst said the committee met August 12 and dealt with normal administrative matters. Kyle Markus of the Sheriff’s Department shared information about the first 9-8-8 call received in the county, which is a call for help related to a mental health issue.
- d. Discover Downstate Illinois (Ann Schroeder), SILEC (Mike Hilmes), SCIGA (Jeff Crisel), Greater Centralia Enterprise Zone (Jeff Crisel/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

Arentsen made a motion for a roll call vote to approve 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 (Absent), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 14-0

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- a. Motion – Appointment of Jesse Thole as Clinton County Trustee for Eastern Madison County Ambulance District. The Eastern Madison County Ambulance District is a new district approved by the voters of the district located in parts of Bond, Clinton and Madison counties. Its board will be comprised of five members. Initially, organizers were only going to allow one member to be from Clinton or Bond County; however, Knolhoff fought to get adequate representation on the board with a member from each of those two counties. The two representatives from Bond and Clinton will alternate voting rights every other year. Knolhoff said it was important to the community, especially St. Rose Township, to have a voice in the district’s decision making.
B. Knolhoff made a motion to approve the appointment. Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

15. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Reichman reminded board members that a sendoff reception and parade will be held August 31 for all the veterans taking part in the upcoming Honor Flight.

- b. A community member questioned when tax bills will be going out. Treasurer Denise Trame said the bills were mailed Friday, August 14 with due dates of Sept. 16 and Oct. 28.

16. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026 AT 7 P.M.

- a. Arentsen made a motion to adjourn until 7 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2026. Crisel seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 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