

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 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 January 20, 2026.

3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

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

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND GUESTS

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion – Haselhorst made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2025 regular meeting. Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

6. REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

7. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD

8. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

a. Zoning and Subdivision Committee – Ann Schroeder

1. Zoning Report – Jami Staser said the Zoning Board of Appeals met Jan. 7 and heard eight cases, and the Subdivision Committee met Jan. 14. There are five items on the agenda for board consideration.

i. Motion – Special Use Family Split – Joseph Thole – Sugar Creek Township
Schroeder made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the family split.
Riechman seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), Hilmes (Absent), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Absent). Motion Carried 12-0.

ii. Motion – Flood Plain Variance – Dennis Munie – St. Rose Township. The applicant could not attend the zoning hearing, so the Zoning Board

recommended denying the request pending a future hearing.

Strieker made a motion for a roll call vote to deny the variance request.

Crisel seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), Hilmes (Absent), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Absent). Motion Carried 12-0.

- iii. Motion – J-Rock Family Split Subdivision – 1 Lot – Sugar Creek Township – Joan Rakers Family Trust.

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

Schroeder seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), Hilmes (Absent), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Absent). Motion Carried 12-0.

- iv. Motion – CB Goebel Subdivision – 3 lot – Lookingglass Township – Sandra and Clarence Goebel.

Jansen made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the subdivision. Rapien seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), Hilmes (Absent), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Absent). Motion Carried 12-0.

- v. Motion – Zoning Fee Updates for 2026 which included an increase in the special use permit fee for commercial solar projects from \$3,000 per megawatt to \$5,000 per megawatt and an increase in the extension fee from \$3,000 to \$5,000. It was determined that the fee would be capped at \$5,000 per megawatt in accordance with the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act which is scheduled to take effect on June 1.

Schroeder made a motion for a roll call vote to approve fee updates.

Haselhorst seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), Hilmes (Absent), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Absent). Motion Carried 12-0.

- vi. Staser presented the 2025 Housing Report noting that 64 building permits for stick-built houses were issued in 2025 with a total estimated value of \$29,106,000. A total of 38 permits were issued by her office with 26 permits issued by cities throughout the county. Staser also presented a 2025 Zoning Report showing that a total of 216 zoning permits were issued in 2025. Thirteen subdivision plats were approved through the zoning office and 86 cases were heard by the Zoning Board of Review.

- b. Economic Development, Tourism and Clinton County Enterprise Zone – Mike Rakers

1. B. Knolhoff mentioned that the county made a \$10,000 payment for the Clinton County Ag Association Building per the agreement that was approved the previous year.
- c. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann
 1. B. Knolhoff reported that the committee met Jan. 12. Insurance costs are slightly over budget, but that’s common for this early in the fiscal year.
 - d. Facilities Committee – Gary Arentsen
No Report
 - e. Animal Control – Ann Schroeder
No Report
 - f. Finance – Kurt Schmitz
Schmitz reported the committee met Jan. 14 and all bills were approved.
 1. Treasurer’s Monthly Report – Denise Trame
 - i. Motion – Monthly Budget and Financial Report
Trame reported that an oil check was received for \$3,389.22 and video gaming proceeds for the past month were \$10,058.38. Mobile Home Tax distributions were made to the various taxing districts in January totaling \$3,375.11. Schmitz made a motion to approve the report. Crisel seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.
 - 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
Oil and rock bids for county and township roads were opened on Jan. 12. He noted that steel slag, the aggregate of choice for covering oil, is no longer available so the county is switching to a larger limestone rock. Submitting low bids were Beelman Logistics, Kall Trucking, Brink Bros. Trucking, SC Transport, Timmermann Milk Service and Zachry Farms.
 - i. Motion – Approval to Award Township and County Motor Fuel Tax Rock Bids
Arentsen made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the low bids. Crisel seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), Hilmes (Absent), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Absent). Motion Carried 12-0.
Behrens said the county has received conditional approval from the state for a safety grant project, totally approximately \$1.1 million which is 90 percent

federally funded. The project includes safety improvements on the curves along Jamestown Road. Materials are being prepared for repairs to the north end of the southbound lane of Walnut Street in Breese, near the roundabout. Work will be completed in early spring. The tentative start date for repairs to Lake Road Bridge is March 15. Shoulder and dirt work will be done on Huey-Hoffman Road with plans to eventually widen the road before resurfacing is completed.

- j. Personnel, Labor and Grievance – Mike Hilmes/Gary Arentsen
 - 1. Motion – Letter of Resignation and Payout for Sheriff’s Department Employee Brett Winegarner.
Riechman made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the resignation and payout. Rapien seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), Hilmes (Absent), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Absent). Motion Carried 12-0.
 - 2. Motion – Letter of Payout Claim for Employee Jacqueline Eversgerd
Arentsen made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the payout. Crisel seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), Hilmes (Absent), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Absent). Motion Carried 12-0
- k. Executive Committee – Nelson Heinzmann
 - 1. B. Knolhoff reported that the committee met Jan. 16 and approved agenda items and heard reports from department heads.

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. Radio – Curt Haselhorst
 - 1. Haselhorst said the committee met Jan. 14 and received an update from the project managers. Steel reinforcements should be installed soon on the Sheriff’s Department telecommunications tower. The next meeting is 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 11. B. Knolhoff announced that the county is the recipient of a \$2.1 million Community Project Funding grant to help finance the new emergency radio and communication system. The grant was submitted by County Clerk Vicky Albers and administered through Congressman Mike Bost’s office.
- b. GIS/Assessment Lookup Committee – Jeff Crisel
 - 1. Crisel said the committee will hold its first meeting at 6 p.m. on Jan. 29.

11. OUTSIDE COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

- a. Board of Health – Kurt Schmitz
 - 1. Motion - Health Department Monthly Report.
Health Department Administrator Chris Leidel said the department received a \$15,000 grant for respiratory services to provides vaccines for those in need. The Health Department is hosting a Health Fair on Feb. 5 and plans to hold more events

in the future. Ben Vonburg of Breese has been hired to fill the environmental health position.

i. Schmitz made a motion to approve the Health Department Monthly Report.

Crisel seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

b. 708 Mental Health Board – Greg Riechman

No Report

c. 911 ETSB Board – Bruce Rapien

1. Rapien said the committee discussed the new radio system and how the radio channels will be set up. Sheriff Dan Travous said local emergency services – fire departments and ambulance services – have seen a 20 percent increase in the number of calls they are responding to.

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

Schmitz made a motion for a roll call vote for approval of Accounts Payable. Rapien seconded the motion.

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

Motion Carried 12-0

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

a. Motion – Appointment of Jeff Crisel as Trustee of the Carlyle Fire Protection District

B. Knolhoff made a motion to approve the appointment. Riechman seconded the motion. Motion Carried with Crisel abstaining from the vote.

15. NEW BUSINESS

a. Executive Session

B. Knolhoff said the board would be entering Executive Session to discuss the following:

(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act.

(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

Riechman made a motion for a roll call vote to enter Executive Session at 7:29 p.m. to discuss payout requests for the Highway Department technicians. Strieker seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), Hilmes (Absent), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Absent).
Motion Carried 12-0

16. RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

- a. Strieker made a motion for a roll call vote to return to open session at 9:08 p.m.
Riechman seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), Hilmes (Absent), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Absent).
Motion Carried 12-0.
- b. Motion – Payout Request for Highway Department Technician Neal Richter.
Arentsen made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the payout request for Neal Richter of up to 720 hours of sick leave (360 hours paid and 360 hours to IMRF) and up to 21 days of vacation to be paid on final payroll after termination in accordance with the Highway Technicians’ contract. Haselhorst seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), Hilmes (Absent), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Abstain), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Abstain), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Absent). Motion Carried 10-0
- c. Motion – Payout Request for Highway Department Technician Wayne Kruse.
Arentsen made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the payout request for Wayne Kruse of up to 719 hours of sick leave (359.5 hours paid and 359.5 hours to IMRF) and up to 21 days of vacation to be paid on final payroll after termination in accordance with the Highway Technicians’ contract. Strieker seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Absent), Hilmes (Absent), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Abstain), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Abstain), Rapien (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Absent). Motion Carried 10-0

17. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026 AT 7 P.M.

- a. Rapien made a motion to adjourn until Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 7 p.m. Crisel seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers
County Clerk & Recorder