

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 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 June 22, 2026.

3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Present: Arentsen, Crisel, Haselhorst, Heinzmann, Hilmes, Jansen, B. Knolhoff, K. Knolhoff, Rakers, Riechman, Schroeder, Strieker, Veizer. Absent: Rapien, Schmitz. 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 June 22, 2026 regular meeting. Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

6. REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

7. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD

- a. David Gazda Jr. spoke to the board about his family's concerns with the proposed construction/placement of a telecommunications facility (cell tower) on Marydale Road, right across the street from his home. His first concern is lack of transparency. He noted that the application submitted by the property owner and Kimley Horn Company indicated that all adjoining landowners had been notified of the project. That application was dated May 6; however, he and other neighbors did not receive any notification until June 13. He said, according to state statute provided by Sen. Jason Plummer's office, the County Board can grant approval for such a project after one public hearing on the proposal; however, so far, no public hearing has been scheduled. Aesthetics and resale value are another concern. Gazda said studies show that cell towers can negatively impact residential property values. He noted that the property owner who is proposing this project resides over 20 miles away, so construction of the tower will not have an impact on his daily living or resale value. Health and safety are a big concern, and Gazda noted that the proposed tower location is only 315 feet from his bedroom window. He feels this is extremely close and a poor choice of location considering the rural setting and the amount of ground owned by the landowner along Marydale Road. He spoke of possible radiation issues and noted that experts

recommend at least a 1,500-foot cell tower setback from schools and homes. He also noted concerns with the risks of the cell tower falling on powerlines. Gazda is opposed to the construction, but he asked, at the very least, that the County Board require this tower to be set back off the road and 1,500 feet away from any neighboring residences. David Gazda Sr. reiterated his son's concerns but also spoke about the rainwater runoff from the cell tower property and the impact on wildlife and the environment. Local resident Barb Hempen said she and her husband were approached about building the cell tower on their property. She said they had considered it but decided against it. While she is not opposed to the construction of the tower, she is concerned about the proposed placement and feels it should be located further away from people's homes. Chad Thompson, the owner of Tincans Wireless Internet, a wireless internet provider located along Marydale Road, spoke about the possible impact on his business and the customers he serves. Board Chairman B. Knolhoff said that in 2018 the state took away a lot of the local authority regarding cell towers; however, the board will investigate the statute which was provided by Plummer's office. Zoning committee chairperson Ann Schroeder noted that a building permit has not yet been issued.

8. REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. Zoning and Subdivision Committee – Ann Schroeder
 - 1. Schroeder reported that the Zoning Board met June 1 and the Subdivision Committee met on June 14. There are a family split and two subdivisions on the agenda for board consideration.
 - i. Motion – Special Use Family Split for Neal and Reed Timmermann. The property to be split includes 3 acres and is located on Spring Road in Wheatfield Township.
Rakers 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 (Absent), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 13-0
 - ii. Motion – Kluemke-Timmermann First Subdivision, a one-lot subdivision, consisting of 4.51 acres in Wade Township.
Riechman made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the subdivision.
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 (Absent), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 13-0
 - iii. Motion – Huels Hills Subdivision, a one-lot, 20-acre subdivision on Sand Ridge Road in Carlyle Township.
Riechman made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the subdivision. Veizer 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 (Absent), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 13-0

- b. Economic Development, Tourism and Clinton County Enterprise Zone – Mike Rakers
 - 1. Rakers said the committee did not meet; however, he noted that Aviston is hosting the State Legion Baseball Tournament with games beginning at noon on July 22.
 - 2. B. Knolhoff commented on the new 618 Event Center on the Clinton County Fairgrounds which was utilized for the first time during last week's fair. The county contributed funding toward the construction, and Knolhoff said he believes it will be a big asset for the county in the future. He commended all those involved in the project.
- c. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann
 - 1. Heinzmann said there was no meeting; however, total costs for the current fiscal year are about 20 percent over budget, without reimbursement. Department heads will be meeting with Bill and Jessica Schmalz of Einstein Consulting at 9 a.m. on July 24 to discuss ongoing issues with health insurance. There have been multiple reports of unpaid claims and inactive cards since May renewal.
- d. Facilities Committee – Gary Arentsen
 - 1. Arentsen said the committee met July 7 and discussed ongoing maintenance along with plans for a new building at the Highway Department.
- e. Animal Control – Ann Schroeder
No Report
- f. Finance – Kurt Schmitz
 - 1. Treasurer's Monthly Report – Denise Trame
 - i. Motion – Monthly Budget and Financial Report
Arentsen 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
Behrens said the Highway Department spent \$116,700 leveling and repaving the roadway from Water Tower Road to Hazlet Park. Oil and chipping were completed on Boulder and Emerald Roads totaling \$128,600. Crews have been restriping county roadways. Behrens updated the board on two bridge railings that

sustained damage by motorists.

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

1. The next committee meeting is 6 p.m. on August 11.

k. Executive Committee – Nelson Heinzmann

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

- a. Motion – Resolution Regarding Public Defender’s Compensation, which is set by the state at 90 percent of the State’s Attorney’s Salary.

- b. Motion – Resolution Regarding Sheriff’s Compensation, which is set by the state at 80 percent of the State’s Attorney’s Salary.

Riechman made a motion for a roll call vote to approve both resolutions.

Heinzmann seconded the motion.

Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Yes), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Yes), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes),

Rapen (Absent), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Absent), Schroeder (Yes), Stricker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 13-0

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

a. Radio – Curt Haselhorst

1. Haselhorst said the committee met July 18. Testing of the new radio system showed some transmission interference which will need to be resolved and will delay the completion date. One possible remedy is to adjust the antennae height on the telecommunications towers. The next meeting is 6:30 p.m. on August 12.

b. GIS/Assessment Lookup Committee – Jeff Crisel

1. No Report. The next meeting is 6 p.m. on August 27.

11. OUTSIDE COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

a. Board of Health – Kurt Schmitz

1. Motion - Health Department Monthly Report.

Health Department Administrator Chris Leidel said the board met July 7. There are two back-to-school clinics set for July 23 and 30. Leidel expressed appreciation for the donation of 60 backpacks to give to students. Two lone star ticks have been sent for testing and results will be publicized after receiving.

- i. Veizer 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. Applicants will make presentations regarding the funding request at the board’s next meeting at 6 p.m. on July 27.

c. 911 ETSB Board – Bruce Rapen

1. Motion – Appointment of Curt Haselhorst as the voting board member for the 911 ETSB Committee.
Arentsen made a motion to approve the appointment. Strieker seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.

- 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

Heinzmann made a motion for a roll call vote to approve Accounts Payable. 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 (Absent), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Absent), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes).

Motion Carried 13-0

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- a. Motion – Appointment of Danielle Solis as Trustee of the Germantown Rural Fire Protection District.
Strieker made a motion to approve the appointment. Jansen seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.

15. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Supervisor of Assessments Jackie Eversgerd reported that the assessment books were turned over to the County Clerk's Office on July 13. Once the tax extension process is completed in the clerk's office, the bills will be printed and sent out by the Treasurer's Office. Estimated due dates will be September and November with bills going out in mid-August.
Motion – Adjournment of the Board of Review for the 2025 Tax Year. Heinzmann made a motion to approve the adjournment. Crisel seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.
- b. Reichman recognized the Standin' Proud Veterans Tribute Museum for all they have done to recognize local veterans. Standin' Proud is now requesting the County Board to approve a proclamation designating Clinton County as a Purple Heart County. The designation would publicly recognize and honor the many courageous men and women of our county who were wounded or made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. They are also asking for the county's support in installing Purple Heart County signs at the major entry points into Clinton County. B. Knolhoff said this will be addressed in committee and brought before the full board for a vote in August.

16. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026 AT 7 P.M.

- a. Arentsen made a motion to adjourn until Monday, August 17, 2026 at 7 p.m. 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