

CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 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 May 18, 2026.

3. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Present: Arentsen, Crisel, Heinzmann, Jansen, B. Knolhoff, K. Knolhoff, Rakers, Riechman, Schmitz, Schroeder, Strieker, Veizer. Absent: Haselhorst, Hilmes, Rapien. 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 April 20, 2026 regular meeting. Veizer seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

6. REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

7. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD

- a. Allen Huelsmann spoke to the board about the assessment of railroad property. He feels the CSX Railroad, which has been out of service for about 11 years, is under assessed in Clinton County when compared to nearby counties. Clinton County receives about \$124,000 in real estate taxes from CSX for over 400 acres. In Marion County, CSX is paying over \$225,000 for 75 acres less. He asked the board to investigate this and see what can be done. B. Knolhoff explained that the state has full assessment jurisdiction for railroads and pollution control. In comparing the Marion County taxes to Clinton County, Knolhoff said our tax rate is quite a bit lower than Marion County. He said their equalized assessed valuation per acre is likely very similar for both counties; however, the rate we pay in Clinton County is less. Huelsmann said his understanding is that the county assessor can start assessing railroads higher. Knolhoff said he would review the information presented by Huelsmann.
- b. Attorney Sean Pluta, representing Shoal Creek Solar, LLC and its parent company Cultivate Power, expressed concerns over two proposed text amendments to the zoning code regarding solar energy systems: a Road Use Agreement (RUA) Counter-Signature Requirement and a Telecommunications/Interference Study Requirement. He said the RUA will require a signature from the appropriate road administrator and one or several

members of that local authority. Pluta said his company is requesting this be removed as it would either unlawfully regulate roads outside the county's jurisdiction or refuse to recognize a lawful RUA issued by another jurisdiction. He also asked for removal of the Telecommunications/ Interference Study Requirement. Pluta said this is typically seen in wind-farm ordinances; however, solar farms are different. Solar facilities do not require federal or state telecommunications or interference clearances of the kind applicable to wind turbines.

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 May 6. There are two cases and two amendments on the agenda for board consideration.

- i. Motion – Special Use Family Split for Scott and Karen Gebke to allow their child to build a single-family dwelling. The property is located on State Route 161 in Germantown Township between Bartelso and Germantown. Rakers made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the family split. Schroeder seconded the motion.

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

- ii. Motion – Special Use Family Split for Ron and Geralyn Huels to allow their child to build a single-family dwelling. The property is in Carlyle Township, ¼ mile east of Carlyle on the south side of Sand Ridge Road. Riechman made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the family split. Crisel seconded the motion.

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

- iii. Motion – Amending Chapter 40 (Zoning Code) and Approving a Text Amendment Regarding Solar Energy Systems – Clinton County Zoning Code. Staser explained that a public hearing for the solar energy amendments was held on May 6. Most of the changes are due to updated state statutes that take effect June 1. There are also some recommendations from the Zoning Board that include the county's established setbacks and incorporating some language from a sample ordinance that was presented at the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Seminar and shared with the Illinois Association of County Clerk Boards.

Riechman made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the amendments. Crisel seconded the motion.

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

Rapien (Absent), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 12-0.

- iv. Motion – Amending the Schedule of Filing Fees in the Clinton County Code Established for Zoning. The only changes are to zoning fees which are mirroring state statute requirements which take effect June 1.

Schmitz made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the amended fees.

Heinzmann seconded the motion.

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

- b. Economic Development, Tourism and Clinton County Enterprise Zone – Mike Rakers
No Report.
- c. Insurance/ICIT – Nelson Heinzmann
 - 1. Heinzmann reported on the May 11 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 3.34 percent under budget, without reimbursement, and 44.9 percent under budget, with reimbursement.
- d. Facilities Committee – Gary Arentsen
 - 1. Arentsen said the committee discussed possibly asphaltting and resealing the new lot south of the jail and adding a new fence around the property after the purchase is complete. He said the elevator at the courthouse is now working; however, it's been determined that both elevators at the courthouse are considered obsolete. There's been some discussion about replacing one of the elevators and keeping the second elevator for parts. This work will be considered in next year's budget. The committee also discussed replacing asphalt areas near the courthouse. The Highway Department is drafting plans for a new building which will be discussed at the next committee meeting on July 7.
- e. Animal Control – Ann Schroeder
No Report
- f. Finance – Kurt Schmitz

Schmitz reported the committee met May 13 and reviewed bills and IT reports.

 - 1. Treasurer's Monthly Report – Denise Trame
 - i. Motion – Monthly Budget and Financial Report
Schmitz made a motion to approve the report. Riechman 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 gave an update on the repairs to North Walnut Street in Breese where county and city crews ripped out and replaced about 200 feet of bad pavement. Beams have been set and concrete poured on Lake Road Bridge. Weather permitting, the project will be completed in early June. Mowing along county roadways is underway but has been delayed due to intermittent rains. Behrens said they try to complete four rounds per year.
- j. Personnel, Labor and Grievance – Mike Hilmes/Gary Arentsen
 - 1. The committee met May 12 and approved the minutes from the April meeting. The committee discussed a grievance filed in the Highway Department, and a resignation/payout claim is on the agenda for board consideration. The next committee meeting is 6 p.m. on July 14.
 - i. Motion – Resignation and Payout Claim for Maintenance Employee John “Jack” Ratermann. Arentsen noted that the resignation took effect May 8, and the balance of the payout is \$568.79
Strieker made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the resignation and payout. Arentsen seconded the motion.
Arentsen (Yes), Crisel (Yes), Haselhorst (Absent), Heinzmann (Yes), Hilmes (Absent), Jansen (Yes), B. Knolhoff (Yes), K. Knolhoff (Yes), Rakers (Yes), Rapien (Absent), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 12-0.
- k. Executive Committee – Nelson Heinzmann
 - 1. Heinzmann reported that the committee met May 15 to approve agenda items and hear reports from department heads.

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- a. Radio – Curt Haselhorst
 - 1. Haselhorst said the committee met May 5 and heard reports from the project managers. Equipment in the shelters is in the final stages of installation. A burn-in period for the new equipment will begin June 1 with testing of the system in early July and a tentative completion in late August.
- b. GIS/Assessment Lookup Committee – Jeff Crisel
 - 1. Crisel said the committee met April 30 with Supervisor of Assessments Jackie Eversgerd. She provided an update on the GIS system noting that parcel information was working correctly. Sidwell will be adding an option for users to report any issues they are having with the system. The next meeting is 6 p.m. on May 28.

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 May 5. The department is finishing up the grant year and completing applications for next year. Health fairs in local school districts are being planned and have been scheduled for

later this year and next year. Leidel said tick drags and mosquito trapping are underway, and positive results will be reported to the public.

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 quarterly 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

Riechman made a motion for a roll call vote for approval of Accounts Payable. Rakers seconded the motion.

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

Motion Carried 12-0.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

15. NEW BUSINESS

a. Motion – Change date of the June regular meeting from June 15, 2026 to June 22, 2026.

Heinzmann made a motion to change the date. Strieker seconded the motion.

Motion Carried.

16. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2026 AT 7 P.M.

a. Arentsen made a motion to adjourn until Monday, June 22, 2026 at 7 p.m. Crisel seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers
County Clerk & Recorder