

**Public Hearing Regarding FY2026 Budget  
November 24, 2025**

The Clinton County Board called a Public Hearing to order at 6:45 p.m. to give the public an opportunity to comment and ask questions about the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget and levies. No one was present to comment on the budget. Motion by Greg Riechman and a second by Jeff Crisel to close the hearing at 6:55 p.m. All board members present were in favor.

**CLINTON COUNTY BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
November 24, 2025 – 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 November 24, 2025.

**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 – Schroeder made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2025 regular meeting. Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**6. REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

- a. Bo Thomas of Glass & Shuffett gave a review of the Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Report. He noted that the accounting firm believes the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective modified cash basis financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the county as of Nov. 30, 2024. The accountants did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting, and there were no compliance issues. Looking at all county funds, total assets were \$57,320,911. Liabilities, such as the radio tower lease purchase agreement and other obligations, total \$4,993,069. The county's net position is \$52,327,842. The report offers a breakdown of county expenses and all direct revenue. Thomas said the county's net position increased about \$2 million over the reporting period. B. Knolhoff congratulated the board and department heads on the

work they have done. He noted that any year that the county can increase its net position while lowering the property tax levy is a good year.

## **7. PUBLIC MAY APPROACH THE BOARD**

- a. U. of I. Extension 4-H advisor Amanda Fox Clark and 4-H team leader Madison Tebbe spoke about the positive impacts that 4-H has had on their lives and the lives of local youth. They thanked the board for its continued support of 4-H.

## **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 Nov. 5 with six cases and the Subdivision Committee met Nov. 6 with two cases. There are three items on the agenda for board consideration.
    - i. Motion – Flood Plain Variance for Rob Korcik to place a portable shed on his property in East Fork Township.  
Haselhorst made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the variance. 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.
    - ii. Motion – Hill and Hollow Subdivision which is 2-lot subdivision in Germantown Township being developed by Thomas Johnson.  
Strieker 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 (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 15-0.
    - iii. Motion – Gray-Zing Meadows Subdivision which is a 1-lot subdivision in Sugar Creek Township being developed by James and David Ranz.  
Arentsen made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the subdivision.  
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 (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 said the committee met on Nov. 10 and had a presentation from Dan Imming on the ICRMT renewal, which is 7 percent higher than last year. Bill

Schmaltz of Einstein Consulting gave an insurance update. Total costs and claims are down compared to last year while fixed costs are slightly up. The next meeting is Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m.

- i. Motion – Renewal of Worker’s Comp and Liability Insurance Plans with ICRMT.

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

- d. Facilities Committee – Gary Arentsen  
No Report

- e. Animal Control – Ann Schroeder

1. Animal Control Warden Tony Petrea said a new ordinance is proposed to limit the number of dogs in the unincorporated areas of the county. This will put the county in line with local municipalities that already restrict the number of dogs. The number is based on lot size. B. Knolhoff said the ordinance is important as the county has received many complaints. He noted that this is a complaint-based ordinance and will be enforced, as needed, when issues arise. He reminded residents to be good stewards with their animals and to try to prevent animals from being a nuisance to neighbors.

- i. Motion – Ordinance Adding Chapter 3, Article VIII to the County Code Establishing Regulations on the Number of Dogs within Unincorporated Areas of the County.

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

- f. Finance – Kurt Schmitz

Schmitz reported the committee met Nov. 12 and all bills were approved.

1. Treasurer’s Monthly Report – Denise Trame

Trame said the Treasurer’s Office received an oil check for \$2,742.40 and gaming collected for the past month was \$9,487.93.

- i. Motion – Monthly Budget and Financial Report

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

- ii. Motion – Resolution to Execute Deeds of Conveyance of the County’s Interest for Parcels #15-14-12-455-005, #03-03-02-253-007, and #15-14-24-451-003

Schmitz made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the deeds. 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 (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 15-0.

g. Budget – Nelson Heinzmann

1. B. Knolhoff thanked the Budget Committee and department heads for working together on the budget. He said while most counties are struggling, Clinton County is financially sound. This is the fifth consecutive year that the board is lowering the property tax levy for residents of Clinton County. This doesn't mean that property owners are necessarily going to see their tax bills go down since the county is not the only taxing district to levy. The tax rate will be below 50 cents which is about half of the amount levied 7 or 8 years ago. Historically, the county strives to pass a balanced budget. This year, projected expenses are about \$350,000 over projected revenue. This is due to the transfer of \$1 million to the Building Fund for proposed building projects. Riechman expressed appreciation to Knolhoff for his dedication and hard work on the budget.

i. Motion – FY2026 Budget and Levies.

Heinzmann made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the budget. 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.

ii. Motion – FY 2026 SSA Contracts for Ambulance Service

Veizer made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the budget. 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.

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

1. Strieker asked EMA Assistant Tony Petrea to discuss the MABAS Agreement.

Petrea said the county has had an agreement with MABAS for the mutual aid box alarm system for many years, and the ordinance simply renews the contract.

i. Motion – Ordinance Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement for Participation in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS)

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

i. Road and Bridge – Ken Knolhoff

1. Monthly County Engineer's Report – Dan Behrens

Behrens said the MFT Maintenance Resolution includes \$1.3 million for road materials, salaries and equipment rental. Work on Walnut Street in Breese is completed and additional repairs will be made next year in a joint effort between the

Highway Department and the City of Breese. The 2029 Federal Program meeting was held recently in Collinsville. The county has plans for resurfacing Huey-Hoffmann Road in 2029, and substantial shoulder improvements will be completed before resurfacing. Work has been completed on Lee Road Bridge, which is on the county line between Madison and Clinton counties. The cost was split between the two counties based on the ratio of assessed valuations. Clinton County's share was 11 percent.

i. Motion – Approval of 2025 MFT Maintenance Resolution  
Hilmes made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the resolution. 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.

j. Personnel, Labor and Grievance – Mike Hilmes and Gary Arentsen  
No Report.

k. Executive Committee – Nelson Heinzmann  
1. Heinzmann said the committee met Nov. 21 when they heard reports from department heads and approved items on the regular meeting agenda.

## **11. SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

a. Radio – Curt Haselhorst

1. Haselhorst said the committee met Nov. 12 and heard an update from Mazzitello Professional Services, the project manager. Propane tanks are on site and the generators are installed. Electric service is complete, and the lights on the towers should be operational. Haselhorst presented a change order for \$209,335.37 from Sabre Industries for improvements to the telecommunication towers at the Sheriff's Office and the Corps of Engineers. B. Knolhoff said the change order was expected; however, the material cost increased substantially during the delay caused by the lawsuit, which has since been dismissed. Next meeting is Dec. 10.

i. Motion – Change Orders for Sabre Industries

Hilmes made a motion for a roll call vote to approve the change orders.

Reichman 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.

## **12. OUTSIDE COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS**

a. Board of Health – Kurt Schmitz

1. Motion - Health Department Monthly Report.

Health Department Administrator Chris Leidel said the bid to build the proposed dental clinic at the Health Department was higher than anticipated at \$270,000. The Health Board will be discussing this further. Southern Illinois Healthcare has

contacted the department about the possibility of having a doctor on-site five days a week to see Medicare and Medicaid patients.

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

No Report.

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

### **13. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Heinzmann made a motion for a roll call vote for approval of Accounts Payable. 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 (Yes), Riechman (Yes), Schmitz (Yes), Schroeder (Yes), Strieker (Yes), Veizer (Yes). Motion Carried 15-0.

### **14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **15. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

a. Motion – Appointment – William Rathmann as trustee to the Germantown Rural Fire Protection District

B. Knolhoff made a motion to approve the appointment. Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

### **16. NEW BUSINESS**

a. B. Knolhoff stated that he is establishing a new GIS/Assessment Lookup Committee with Crisel as the chairman and Schroeder and Schmitz as committee members. The committee is charged with improving the current GIS map and parcel lookup programs.

### **17. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025 AT 7 P.M.**

a. Rapien made a motion to adjourn until Monday, Dec. 15, 2025 at 7 p.m. Arentsen seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

ATTEST:



Vicky Albers  
County Clerk & Recorder