

February 18, 2026
OFFICIAL MINUTES
of the
DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD

*Members of the Douglas County Board convened in regular session at 9:00 A.M., County Board Room, Courthouse, Tuscola, Illinois. Chairman of the Board, Tom Hettinger called the meeting to order and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

*Members answering roll call: Bibby Appleby, Tom Hettinger, Phil Morris, Dan Henry, Travis Wilson and Ed Carleton.
PRESENT: 6 ABSENT: Luth

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 21, 2026, REGULAR BOARD MINUTES

***Motion by Wilson/Henry:** To approve the 21, 2025, Regular Board Minutes.
YEAS: 6 ABSENT: Luth *Motion Passes.*

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

***Motion by Morris/Henry:** To approve the monthly financial obligations for the County as reviewed by the Budget and Finance Sub-Committee.
YEAS: 6 ABSENT: Luth *Motion Passes.*

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS OF FEES

***Motion by Wilson/Carleton:** To approve the monthly reports of fees of the County offices as prepared.
YEAS: 7 Luth arrived late. *Motion Passes.*

TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION LIAISON

***Motion by Wilson/Morris:** To approve at the recommendation of Personnel, Legal & Management sub-committee to reappoint Judi Pollock as the Insurance Administration Liaison to Douglas County for one-year effective January 1, 2026. This position is to be recompensed solely via a \$7500 stipend paid from line item 001-050-41920 as stated in Ordinance 17-O-2 and renewable at the Boards discretion. This position will be reviewed annually by the Personnel, Legal & Management sub-committee.
YEAS: 7 *Motion Passes.*

APPROVAL OF ANNUAL STIPEND FOR PAYMENT AND RECONCILIATION OF PAYROLL DEDUCTED INSURANCE BENEFITS

***Motion by Henry/Luth:** To approve at the recommendation of the Personnel, Legal & Management sub-committee to give an annual stipend of \$3000 to the Douglas County Treasurer's office to be distributed to her staff at her discretion for continued payment and reconciliation of the billing and payroll deducted insurance benefits (VSP and Companion Dental, policies) for Douglas County Employees for the FY 2026.
YEAS: 7 *Motion Passes.*

TO APPROVE ESTABLISHING THE NUMBER OF FOR SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES

***Motion by Morris/Luth:** To approve at the recommendation of the Personnel, Legal & Management sub-committee to the Douglas County Board to establish the total number of deputies allowed for the Sheriff's Department. The total number of deputies allowed will be 12.
YEAS: 7 *Motion Passes.*

TO APPROVE HARD DRIVE BACKUPS FOR COURTHOUSE

***Motion by Luth/Morris:** To approve at the recommendation of Budget & Finance sub-committee to allow IT Coordinator, Jason Goad to purchase 5 new hard drive backups for the Douglas County Courthouse at an approximate cost of \$250 each.
YEAS: 7 *Motion Passes.*

TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF NEWMAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TRUSTEE

***Motion by Carleton/Henry:** To approve the appointment of Chris Duitsman as Trustee of the Newman Fire Protection District. This appointment will fill the vacancy due to the resignation of Morris Dague. The appointment of Chris Duitsman will terminate May 1, 2029, and thereafter until his successor is appointed and shall have been duly qualified.
YEAS: 7 *Motion Passes.*

APPROVAL TO RETROFIT LED LIGHTBULBS DOUGLAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

***Motion by Appleby/Wilson:** To approve the bid from Waggle and Company Electric, LLC to retrofit new LED light bulbs in the Courthouse for everything except the drop in 2X2 and 2X4 fixtures which will be replaced. Ameren will pay for the materials, and the County will cover the labor costs of \$6759.00.

YEAS: 7

Motion Passes.

TO APPROVE NEW DROP IN LIGHTS DOUGLAS COUNTY JAIL

***Motion by Morris/Appleby:** To approve the bid from Waggle and Company Electric, LLC to retrofit new LED light bulbs at the jail for everything except the drop in 2X2 and 2X4 fixtures which will be replaced. Ameren will pay for the materials, and the County will cover the labor costs of \$9714.10.

YEAS: 7

Motion Passes.

APPROVAL OF MOTION TO APPROVE BRIDGE FUND PETITIONS

***Motion by Wilson/Luth:** To approve Resolution **26-R-03** for County Board Approval of Eleven (11) Bridge Fund Petitions, as recommended by the County Engineer and approved by the Road and Bridge Committee and that the Douglas County Board Chairman is authorized to sign the Petitions.

YEAS: 7

Motion Passes.

APPROVAL OF MOTION TO APPROVE MASTER SERVICE AGREEMENT, STANLEY CONSULTANTS, INC.

***Motion by Luth/Morris:** To approve the Master Services Agreement be approved as submitted by Stanley Consultants, Inc. to assist Douglas County in the review/approval of Commercial Solar Sitting/Construction permit applications, with all cost be the responsibility of the developer as per applicable Douglas County Ordinance and that the County Board Chairman be authorized to sign the Agreement.

YEAS: 7

Motion Passes.

TABLED AGENDA ITEMS 18-21 ELECTRICAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS

***Motion by Henry/Wilson:** To table agenda items #18-21 re: electrical service agreements until a later date.

YEAS: 7

Motion Passes.

APPROVAL OF MOTION TO TERMINATE POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN DOUGLAS COUNTY AND HOMEFIELD ENERGY

APPROVAL OF MOTION TO TERMINATE POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN DOUGLAS COUNTY AND HUDSON ENERGY

APPROVAL OF MOTION TO APPROVE GAP POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR THE DOUGLAS COUNTY FACILITIES

APPROVAL OF MOTION TO APPROVE POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR THE DOUGLAS COUNTY FACILITIES

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PRESS

ADJOURNMENT

***Motion by Luth/Henry:** At 9:26 A.M., there being no further business to come before the County Board at this time, to adjourn until March 18, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

YEAS: 7

Motion Passes.

Judi Pollock, Ex-Officio Clerk