Kayci Heil

White County Clerk & Recorder

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR WHITE COUNTY BOARD MEETING ON:**

**July 16, 2025**

The White County Board convened at the White County Courthouse in the City of Carmi, State of Illinois, on Wednesday the 16th day of July, at 7:00 p.m. and was called to order by County Board Chairperson Cassie Pigg.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

On Roll Call, the following Board members responded as being present, which represented a quorum: Cassie, Pigg Kenny Usery, Amanda Cannon, Clint Spencer and David South were present.

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Usery seconded by Mrs. Cannon, to approve the minutes of the White County Board meeting. Vote by acclamation. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.

COUNTY OFFICER REPORTS

County Clerk: Clerk Heil told the Board that she has the taxes in her office, and she is in the process of working on extension. Tentative tax computation reports have been sent to the taxing districts, so they can double-check all the figures. The Board was also informed that the conversion with Fidlar Technologies is nearing an end, and all the scanned books are getting ready to be online.

County Treasurer: Treasurer Baxley submitted his report in writing. He was hoping to get the taxes rolled to his office within the week, so they get them out in time to have September and November installment dates.

Circuit Clerk: Not in attendance

Ambulance: Not in attendance

State’s Attorney: Mr. Neal stated that everything was going well.

Sheriff: Mr. Weiss said that the Fair went well. He stated that he did get into contact with Tim Pollard about the air conditioning unit in the Courtroom. He also wanted to inform the Board about what is going on with Enfield Nursing Home. He told the Board that an individual bought the nursing home and has a contract with the State of Illinois as a mental health provider and they are going to house from what they heard 43ankle monitored sex offenders. DOC and the individual that bought the facilities have not been very forthcoming with information. Sheriff Weiss told the Board that he has been in contact with our local State Representatives and Senate to see if they are able to get information. Sheriff Weiss stated that if they do put sex offenders in the facility then his office will make everyone go through a thorough background check. If any of them have an offense that pertains to a child, then they will be denied registry with the facility being so close to a park. There were several questions from the Board. Sheriff Weiss told the Board it was his understanding that the individuals in the facility would be highly medical people. Then the facility would be responsible for taking them to appointments and treatments. If there is no nighttime staff, then that would create a strain on our ambulance department. Sheriff Weiss expressed his concern that Enfield only has a part time patrol officer and then the State law enforcement is not closed by, so his department will be run thin on resources. Sheriff Weiss talked about having a town hall meeting with State elected officials to help keep the town informed.

Supervisor of Assessments: Mr. Baxley stated that he did not have anything to report and that he is on the agenda later.

Highway: Mr. Ray told the Board that Invenergy did make good on their promise to fix the county roads, and they gave them money for that and hopefully it can get scheduled sometime in the middle of next month and get it fixed. He told the Board that they had just finished a bridge up in Phillips Township. The cost was $370,000 and paid by the State.

EMA: Sheriff Weiss told the Board that there is an entity that has surplus equipment and if we want to expand, then he can apply for it.

TB Officer: Not in attendance

Coroner: Not in attendance

911: Not in attendance

Administrative Services: Mr. Harmon stated that the budget packets have been sent out. He said that the revenues, due to the Safety Act and replacement tax, could be a 12% drop. We are anticipating lower revenues and higher expenses.

Chairperson Pigg asked if there was any public comment:

**Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda was read by Chairperson Pigg.

1. Discussion and possible approval of PTAX 451 for the increase in the Public Defender’s salary.
2. Discussion and possible approval of PTAX 451 for the increase in the Sheriff’s salary.
3. Discussion and possible approval of a Resolution for the sale of 19-01-207-005,006 for $830 to David & Kafinn Lovell.

Chairman Pigg asked if anyone would like any of the items removed from the agenda.

Mr. Harmon told the Board that Mr. Usery made a good point and the salaries are set by the State.

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Cannon, seconded by Mr. South to approve items on the consent agenda. Vote passed by roll call.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No old business

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion and possible approval of appointing, Michael Brown, as flood plain administrator and compensation for that role.

Mr. Baxley introduced Mr. Brown and told the Board about his experience. Mr. Baxley expressed his concern about the importance of getting someone to handle the floodplain and getting building permits. He told the Board that they need to get a new updated flood ordinance in place for the State of Illinois. If the County does not adhere to the information sent out by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, then we could lose our accreditation and any help from FEMA. He was asking the Board to appoint, Michael Brown to the position and pay him $2000 a month until he can get everything caught up. Chairperson Pigg said that she needs to respond by at least August 4th with a plan to stay qualified. Mr. Harmon suggested that a good first step would be to get the ordinance in place, and it will buy us some time before they shut us off. He talked about how we passed a balanced budget this year and he doesn’t think that we have $50000 to spend on a floodplain administrator. The Board asked what they do in other Counties? Mr. Harmon stated that it is different through each County in the State. Mr. South suggested submitting a plan for what we are going to work on and do. There was a lot of discussion during this item on the best plan to take.

**MOTION** was made by Mr. South, seconded by Mr. Usery, to respond back with our plan and work on a purposed ordinance for August and then pursue a flood coordinator. Vote by acclamation. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.

1. Discussion and possible approval of paying VET environmental bills of $24,774.48

Mr. Harmon told the Board about an excel spreadsheet that contained the percentages that were paid out for settlement payment. Mr. Harmon recommended that they bill out the amounts based on the percentages that were paid by the County to the other municipalities. Mr. Neal suggested that we contact Mr. Edwards and VET Environmental to see if they could bill the municipalities for their share instead of the County paying for everything and then billing out.

**MOTION** was made by Mr. South, seconded by Mr. Spencer, to pay for this item and bill out the municipalities for their share. Vote passed by roll call. Motion carried.

1. Discussion and possible approval of hiring outside counsel for lawsuit.

Mr. Neal said this was where a tax buyer went to tax sales around the State and purchased taxes and is now suing the Counties that bought taxes. Mr. Neal said that the Attorney Generals Office said that they are being removed from the suit and will not cover anyone and the liability insurance will not cover the County. Mr. Neal found a firm that he is going to go into hire as well as many other Counties to handle this.

No **MOTION** was made or needed for this item.

1. Discussion on the Animal Control process.

The Board has been asked for the County to allow volunteers to interact with the dogs at the pound. There was a waiver that a different County uses that was sent to the Board to look over. Mr. Usery expressed his concerns about letting people interact with the dogs outside of the pound, when there is a city park close to the facility. He worries about the people that did not sign a waiver or other animals getting hurt. Mr. Neal said that if it is a dangerous dog then it should not be allowed to be walked. Mrs. Cannon told the Board that they received a list of suggestions from Tammy Knight with Pets at Risk on some things that could be done to help improve the pound. Chairperson Pigg said that if people wanted to help this would be a great way to get additional help at the pound. It would be a way to help keep cages cleaned.

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Usery, seconded by Mrs. Cannon, to table this item. Vote by acclamation. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS**

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Usery, seconded by Mrs. Cannon, to approve all bills. Vote passed by roll call. Motion carried.

Mr. South asked to see an itemized coffee bill.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

 Chairperson Pigg asked the Board if there was any need for an executive session. Mr. Harmon informed the Board that there was a personnel item for executive session.

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Usery, seconded by Mrs. Cannon, to go into executive session. Vote by acclamation. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.

**MOTION** was made by Mrs. Cannon, seconded by Mr. South, to come out of executive session. Vote by acclamation. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.

**County Board Member Non-Action Items and Comments**

Next meeting will be August 20th, at 7:00 p.m. in the White County Courthouse.

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Usery, seconded by Mrs. Cannon, to adjourn. Vote by acclamation. All voting aye, none nay. Motion carried.