

County Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 17, 2025 6:00 PM
Jackson County Courthouse, Courtroom 4

Invocation

Call to Order

Chairman Calandro called the meeting order at 6:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Members present: Knust, Phillips, Bost, Miller, Snyder, Peterson, Rendleman, Ikner, Battrell, Lister, Erbes, Calandro. Members absent: Mueller, Comparato.

Recognition of Visitors

Citizen Comments

Debbie Hileman pleaded for financial assistance from the County Board for Grand Tower resident taxes due to GTEC (Grand Tower Electric Company) settlement. The Board briefly discussed possible options before deciding to take the matter to Finance Committee.

Communications

Agency Reports

Peterson spoke on the following:

Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission met on Tuesday, June 10, 2025. The Commission approved the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (a required five-year update to the region's CEDS). This can be viewed on the Greater Egypt website. The members also approved the FY 26 budget, the May Staff Report, and the FY 26 local share contributions. The Jackson County local share contribution is \$14,302. 98. The next Commision meeting will be on August 12, 2025.

On June 2nd, Greater Egypt also hosted an informational meeting for the five counties with representatives from IDOT to discuss transportation planning and construction in the areas

outside the MPO planning area. This included the Bike So Ill website, Safe Routes to School, SS4A (Safe Streets for all), COG - Crab Orchard Greenway multiuse path, Illinois 13 expansion to six lanes 2025 - 28, and the JAX comprehensive study (to be completed in August).

Erbes spoke on the following:

Erbes, Chairman Calandro, and Battrell welcomed Governor Pritzker to Jackson County during a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Giant City Stables facility. Erbes spoke with event host Senator Fowler regarding ongoing assistance for the taxing districts impacted by the GTEC (Grand Tower Electric Company) settlement. They spoke briefly with the governor and were then directed to his director of government affairs, Allison Flood, with whom Erbes arranged a meeting in Springfield for the following week to discuss the matter.

Erbes met with Sen. Bryant and Rep. Jacobs about ongoing county issues, specifically the Grand Tower situation, which Rep. Jacobs especially vehemently supported. UCCI and ISACo were helpful in tailoring information that would be vital for the governor's office to have in order to better understand the GTEC situation. Efforts are ongoing. ICRMT (Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust) met to discuss ongoing claims - of note is the 20+ million dollar claim at Neoga High School following a tornado which lifted the roof off the structure. Other liability claims include two claims involving injuries to public works/highway employees in other counties, one of which is Williamson, which are expected to hit the 20 million dollar mark. The injured parties are currently in \$17k-a-day facility for rehabilitation. Due to these excessively high claim costs, ICRMT is doubling down on our investment in our reinsurance start-up, White Tail Insurance, and will meet in Charlotte in October for our legally required board meeting.

The reinstatement of the grocery tax by the county is in committee for discussion, as was allowed by the legislature with the governor's abolition of the current local grocery tax. The previously discussed township consolidation was taken back up at the last minute, but will only impact Capitol Township in Springfield. UCCI will meet in Galena in late July for their annual conference. Keynote speaker will be Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

Chairman Report

- I. 2025-656 Approval of Resolution 2025-52 William "Bill" Alstat Award in Recognition of Joni Baily

A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Erbes, to approve Resolution 2025-52 William "Bill" Alstat Award in Recognition of Joni Baily. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

- II. 2025-657 Approval of Resolution 2025-53 William "Bill" Alstat Award in Recognition of Liz Stevenson

A motion was made by Rendleman, seconded by Knust, to approve Resolution 2025-53 William "Bill" Alstat Award in Recognition of Liz Stevenson. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

III. 2025-658 July Meetings Calendar

Finance Meeting will be moved to July 7th at 5:00 PM.

Approval of Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Rendleman, seconded by Peterson, to approve the June 2025 Consent Agenda with the removal of items 9 & 18. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

- IV. 2025-653 Approval of May 20, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes
- V. 2025-660 Approval of Payment of HOPE Trust Dental & Vision Claims in the amount of \$8,531.34
- VI. 2025-661 Approval of Payment of HOPE Trust Medical Administration Claim in the amount of \$332,506.00
- VII. 2025-662 Approval of On Demand Claims in the amount \$40,392.68
- VIII. 2025-663 Approval of 708 Mental Health Board Budget Adjustment in the amount of \$616,000.00
- IX. 2025-664 Approval of the Negotiated Boundaries of the Animal Control Facility

A motion was made by Rendleman, seconded by Erbes, to approve the Negotiated Boundaries of the Animal Control Facility. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

- X. 2025-665 Approval of Expenditure to Finalize Boundaries of the Animal Control Facility with Blankenship up to \$8,000.00
- XI. 2025-666 Authorization of Chairman to Execute Deed to Evans Trust and Accept Deed from Evans Trust
- XII. 2025-667 Approval of Payment of Ambulance Monthly Claims in the amount of \$312,310.85
- XIII. 2025-669 Approval of Highway Monthly Claims in the amount of \$267,703.00
- XIV. 2025-670 Approval of Resolution 2025-54 Road Use Agreement-Big Muddy Solar LLC, and County of Jackson, Illinois
- XV. 2025-671 Approval of Resolution 2025-55 Highway Lighting Cost Reimbursement Agreement Big Muddy Solar LLC and County of Jackson, Illinois
- XVI. 2025-672 Approval of Resolution 2025-56 Township Aid Appropriation-Ora Township East Sugar Hill Road

XVII. 2025-673 Approval of Resolution 2025-57 2025 Motor Fuel Tax Bid Award Asphalt Products Bid

XVIII. 2025-682 Approval of Ordinance 2025-02 Commercial Solar Energy Facility Siting Ordinance

Item #18 was briefly discussed before being moved to sub-committee.

Standing Committee Reports

XIX. 2025-674 DRAFT Committee Meeting Minutes (informational only)

Executive Committee

XX. 2025-675 Open Appointments in **June-July** 2025 {21} *

1. Blairsville Water District (2)
2. Board of Health (4)*
3. Buncombe Water District (1)
4. Crosswalk Community Action Agency (2) *
5. Elverado Water District (3)
6. Greater Egypt (1)
7. Jackson County Housing Authority (2)
8. K-RC Conservancy District (1) *
9. Lakeside Water District (1) *
10. Murdale Water District (1) *
11. Natural Resource Economic Development Board (1)
12. Oraville Water District (1)
13. TB Board (1)

A motion was by Rendleman, seconded by Phillips, to appoint Nancy Caskey to the Board of Health. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: YES (11) - Phillips, Bost, Miller, Snyder, Peterson, Rendleman, Ikner, Battrell, Lister, Erbes, Calandro. NO (1) - Knust. ABSENT (2) - Mueller, Comparato.

A motion was by Miller, seconded by Snyder, to appoint Melodi Ewing to the Board of Health. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: YES (11) - Phillips, Bost, Miller, Snyder, Peterson, Rendleman, Ikner, Battrell, Lister, Erbes, Calandro. NO (1) - Knust. ABSENT (2) - Mueller, Comparato.

A motion was by Peterson, seconded by Rendleman, to appoint Karl Maple to the Crosswalk Community Action Agency. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: YES (11) - Phillips, Bost, Miller, Snyder, Peterson, Rendleman, Ikner, Battrell, Lister, Erbes, Calandro. NO (1) - Knust. ABSENT (2) - Mueller, Comparato.

A motion was by Snyder, seconded by Phillips, to reappoint Theresa Doerr to the Jackson County Housing Authority. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: YES (11) - Phillips, Bost, Miller, Snyder, Peterson, Rendleman, Ikner, Battrell, Lister, Erbes, Calandro. NO (1) - Knust. ABSENT (2) - Mueller, Comparato.

A motion was by Ikner, seconded by Miller, to appoint Jay Ziegler to the K-RC Conservancy District. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: YES (11) - Phillips, Bost, Miller, Snyder, Peterson, Rendleman, Ikner, Battrell, Lister, Erbes, Calandro. NO (1) - Knust. ABSENT (2) - Mueller, Comparato.

A motion was by Ikner, seconded by Knust, to appoint Julie Erbes to the Jackson County Housing Authority. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: YES (10) - Phillips, Bost, Miller, Snyder, Peterson, Rendleman, Ikner, Battrell, Lister, Calandro. NO (1) - Knust. ABSTAIN (1) - Erbes. ABSENT (2) - Mueller, Comparato.

A motion was by Rendleman, seconded by Snyder, to appoint Keith Hindman to the Lakeside Water District Board. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: YES (11) - Phillips, Bost, Miller, Snyder, Peterson, Rendleman, Ikner, Battrell, Lister, Erbes, Calandro. NO (1) - Knust. ABSENT (2) - Mueller, Comparato.

A motion was by Peterson, seconded by Ikner, to appoint Jill Stokes to the Murdale Water District Board. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: YES (11) - Phillips, Bost, Miller, Snyder, Peterson, Rendleman, Ikner, Battrell, Lister, Erbes, Calandro. NO (1) - Knust. ABSENT (2) - Mueller, Comparato.

XXI. 2025-676 Courthouse Electrical Power Panel Upgrades

Bill Burke discussed need for Courthouse power panel upgrades.

A motion was made by Rendleman, seconded by Bost, to approve Emergency Courthouse Electrical Power Panel Upgrades (compatible with any future solar panel installation) by Burke Electric. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Finance & Administration Committee

XXII. 2025-677 Approval of Payment of Board Member Travel Expenses in the amount of \$3,260.01

A motion was made by Rendleman, seconded by Snyder, to approve Payment of Board Member Travel Expenses in the amount of \$3,260.01. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: YES (11) - Knust, Phillips, Bost, Miller, Snyder, Peterson, Rendleman, Ikner, Battrell, Erbes, Calandro. NO (1) - Lister. ABSENT (2) - Mueller, Comparato.

XXIII. 2025-678 Approval of Payment of County Monthly Claims in the amount of \$531,607.62

A motion was made by Snyder, seconded by Knust, to approve Payment of County Monthly Claims in the amount of \$531,607.62. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: YES (11) - Knust, Phillips, Bost, Miller, Snyder, Peterson, Ikner, Battrell, Lister, Erbes, Calandro. ABSTAIN (1) - Rendleman. ABSENT (2) - Mueller, Comparato.

Legislative & Public Safety Committee

Real Property Committee

XXIV. 2025-684 Donated Land

Item 2025-684 Donated Land was discussed in Executive Session.

A motion was made by Bost, seconded by Battrell, to approve Item 2025-684 Donated Land. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Special Committee Reports

Old Business

New Business

Executive Session

XXV. 2025-683 Executive Session under 2 (c) 5 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to discuss Real Property

7:18 PM.

A motion was made by Erbes, seconded by Knust, to enter Executive Session under 2 (c) 5 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to discuss Real Property. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

7:24 PM.

Executive Session Ended.

Recess

A motion was made by Bost, seconded by Phillips, to recess meeting at 7:25 PM. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

[MIN_SIGNATURES]