

LAW & LEGAL

MARCH 2, 2026

The Law & Legal Committee held its monthly meeting on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the McDonough County Courthouse, 3rd Floor, Law Library. Committee Members present included Committee Chair Joe Erlandson, Vice Chair Ken Durkin, Clayton Cook, Travis Hiel, Ryan Litchfield, Roger Ward, and Terry Thompson. Other persons in attendance were Steve Hess, Marilyn Shelly, Darcie Shinberger, Ric Smart, Deborah Cousins, Sheriff Nick Petitgout, County Chair Eric Blakeley, Deputy Clerk Kyah Beck, and County Clerk Jeremy Benson. Member Jack Lowderman was absent.

Chair Erlandson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Review & Approve February, 2026 Minutes

Member Durkin moved with a second by Member Thompson to approve the minutes with corrections. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Waste Management Update

Received and filed.

Tri-County Recycling

Report received and filed.

Veteran's Assistance and Van Report

Ric Smart gave the report. 11 Veterans were given assistance in February. Total assistance amounted to \$2,685. Ric also updated the committee about meetings that he has been attending in regards to the Veterans Assistance Commission. He believes the meetings have been going well and the county will be worked with to keep this commission.

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Nick Petitgout gave the report.

Assessor's Office Update

Assessor Deborah Cousins gave the report. Deborah is currently working on contacting Commercial Solar Farm sites, several in which will go on the tax roll for this year.

Approve CO2 Pipeline/Eminent Domain Resolution

Steve Hess contacted Joe Erlandson about a bill being passed in senate right now regarding no eminent domain for Co2 pipelines. Many other organizations are endorsing this bill. Steve would like the support from the county.

Member Litchfield moved with a second by Member Hiel to approve the resolution. Motion carried on a voice vote. This will go to full board.

Tri-County Recycling Interim Agreements

The Interim Intergovernmental Agreement, the Interim IGA & Budget Treatment Resolution, and the Interim Technical Assistance Agreement, will be temporary until new agreements and contracts can be made with WIRC.

Member Cook moved with a second by Member Thompson to approve the Tri-County Recycling Agreements. Motion carried on a voice vote. This will be moving to full board for approval.

Claims Review and Approval

Member Durkin moved with a second by Member Cook to approve the claims as submitted. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Other Items as Needed

None.

Executive Session

None.

Public Comment

None.

County Board Chair Comments

Eric encouraged everyone to vote on March 17th.

Adjourn

Member Hiel moved with a second by Member Durkin to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Motion carried on a voice vote.