

HUMAN RESOURCES AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

MARCH 12, 2026

The Human Resources and Planning Committee met on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the McDonough County Courthouse, 3rd Floor, Law Library. Committee Members in attendance included Chair Ken Durkin, Vice Chair Vicky Kipling, Clayton Cook, Allen Henderson, Mike Kirby, Jerry Raby, Ryan Litchfield, Dana Walker and John Vigezzi. Others in attendance included Zach Welch, Karen Blakeley, Bonnie Skripps, County Chair Eric Blakeley, and Deputy County Clerk Kyah Beck.

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

Review and Approve Minutes from February 12, 2026

Member Kipling moved with a second by Member Litchfield to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Animal Control Report

Received and filed. There was 20 dogs and 44 cats in the shelter at the end of February.

Humane Society

Bonnie said that casino night was a big hit and raised good money for the animal shelter. She thanked Darcie Shinberger for advertising the fundraiser in the newspaper.

Mowing Bids

Ken informed the committee of mowing bids for the animal shelter. One has been sent in, and any more they receive will be opened in April.

Approval of Fund Transfers from Fund 087 to 066

As discussed in other committees, Fund 087 is the McDonough County American Rescue Fund, which was established as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Interest has been accruing, and Ken Durkin has proposed that this interest be moved to the Animal Control Memorial Fund. He presented this proposal to the Finance Committee and requested a motion of support. He informed the HR & Planning committee that the motion did not pass. Questions were asked, and a lengthy discussion took place. This matter will be brought before the full board.

Member Walker moved with a second by Member Kirby to approve the support of the transfer of funds. Motion carried on a voice vote with six in favor and three against.

Approval of Space Heater Policy

The committee spoke about the slight changes made to this policy before going to the full board. They believe this is a good thing to have in place to avoid fire hazards.

Member Kipling moved with a second by Member Raby to approve the space heater policy. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Policies and Procedures

None.

GIS Update

None.

Approval of HR & Planning Claims

Member Raby moved with a second by Member Cook to approve the HR & Planning 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 informed the committee of an open Q & A the Spoon River Outreach would be having in regards to the new sports facility. Updates on the facility will also be spoke about.

Adjourn

Member Raby moved with a second by Member Kirby to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. Motion carried on a voice vote.