

**MINUTES OF THE MCDONOUGH COUNTY BOARD**  
**MARCH 19, 2026**

The monthly meeting of the McDonough County Board was held at the McDonough County Courthouse, in Courtroom 201 at 7:00 p.m. Roll call resulted in 17 present, and 4 absent. Members Eric Chapman, Allen Henderson, Larry Aurelio, and Jack Lowderman were absent. Sheriff Nick Petitgout made the opening declaration. Chair Blakeley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**EXHIBIT 1**

Minutes of February, 2026 Board Meeting.

**EXHIBIT 2**

The report from Public Defender, Scott Terry for the month of February, 2026.

**EXHIBIT 3**

The report of Sales Tax collected in December 2025. County Sales Tax, Public Safety Tax, Cannabis Tax, and Transportation Tax.

**EXHIBIT 4**

The report of Balances and Investments from County Treasurer Moon for the month of February, 2026.

**EXHIBIT 5**

The report of Circuit Clerk Fischer for the month of February, 2026.

**EXHIBIT 6**

The report from County Clerk Benson on Warrants Issued in Vacation for the month of February, 2026.

**EXHIBIT 7**

The Transfer of Appropriations of Monies was referred to the Finance Committee.

**EXHIBIT 8**

Report of the Finance Committee for February 2026.

**EXHIBIT 9**

Report of General Claims for February 2026.

**EXHIBIT 10**

Resolution of re-appointment of Steve Haney, Lee Ward, and Mike Moore as trustees to the Blandinsville-Hire Fire Protection District for a 3-year term.

### **EXHIBIT 11**

Resolution of re-appointment of Larry Moore, Scott Bagley, and Randall Parks as trustees to the New Salem Fire Protection District for a 3-year term.

### **EXHIBIT 12**

\*Consent Agenda item 12 was removed from the Consent Agenda prior to the approval of the consent items

Member Erlandson discussed the purpose of this resolution to show the county's support for not allowing the use of eminent domain for co2 pipeline. Board Member Erlandson moved with a second by Board Member Thompson to approve the resolution. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 16 yeas, 0 nays, 1 pass, and 4 absent as **Exhibit 12**.

### **EXHIBIT 13**

Alternate heating sources, space heater restriction policy.

Board Member Hiel moved with a second by Board Member Foster to approve consent agenda items 1 through 11 and 13. Chair Blakeley discussed the use of the consent agenda and briefly discussed the sales tax report. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 17 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 4 absent.

## **ACTION AGENDA ITEMS**

### **EXHIBIT 14**

Board Member Erlandson moved with a second by Board Member Cook to approve the tri-county interim agreements. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 16 yeas, 0 nays, 1 pass, and 4 absent as **Exhibit 14**.

### **EXHIBIT 15**

Ken Durkin brought to the Board a motion to transfer 50% of existing funds in Fund 087, McDonough County American Rescue, to Fund 066, Animal Control Memorial Fund, that shall be used for the purchase of operational equipment including cages, kennels with outdoor runs, sinks, cabinetry, etc. to be installed, utilized, in a new animal control facility that is being constructed by the Humane Society of McDonough County for the benefit of McDonough County Animal Control. These funds shall not be used for salaries or routine shelter expenses. The expenditure of these funds shall be reviewed and approved by the Human Resources and Planning Committee through the county board claims process.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding this motion.

Board Member Durkin moved with a second by Board Member Kirby to approve 50% transfer of funds from fund 087, McDonough County American Rescue, to fund 066, Animal Control Memorial Fund. Motion did not carry with a roll call vote of 4 yeas, 12 nays, 1 pass, and 4 absent as **Exhibit 15**.

**EXHIBIT 16**

None.

**EXHIBIT 17**

Marilyn Shelly thanked the board committee for their votes of support towards no eminent domain for co2 pipeline resolution.

**EXHIBIT 18**

None.

**EXHIBIT 19**

Chair Blakeley entertained a motion that Days and Miles are checked, roll be called, and the Board adjourn until Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Board Member Kipling moved with a second by Board Member Raby to adjourn the meeting. A roll call was taken for days and miles and the motion to adjourn carried with a voice vote. With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. Sheriff Petitgout gave the closing declaration.