



JASPER COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2025

The Jasper County Board met in regular session on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Jasper County Building, Board Room, 204 West Washington Street, Newton, Illinois. The meeting was called to order by proclamation according to law by Sheriff Francis. Sheriff Francis led a moment in silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. The following board members were present: Chairman Jason Warfel, Vice-Chairman Ron Heltsley, A.C. Pickens, Doug Weddell, James Judson, and Eric Spiker. Michael Geier, Jessica Schackmann and Austin Francis were absent.

Public Comments: None

Adoption of the agenda. There was no objection, the agenda was adopted as distributed.

Reports:

County Departments:

Ambulance Department - 911 Transports- 64; Accidents- 5; Transfers- 12; Refusals- 21; Fire Standby- 5; Mutual Aid Standby-32. Sherry Sherwood from the EMS office came to the base and did our annual skills review checkoffs on September 3rd. All crew members passed skills review. We received the Orell Farley Foundation grant. With the grant we are getting a larger TV for our training room to put the Power Point presentations on.

Highway Department – The mowing of county highway right of ways started in September and is approximately 1/2 complete. Preliminary / Construction Engineering services with Charleston Engineering for Section 25-10133-00-BR for a bridge project in Wade Township utilizing Township Bridge Program (TBP) funds will need full board approval. This bridge project is located 3.5 miles S.W. of Newton on 800E, south of the old golf course. On October 6, 2025, at 10:00 am a bid opening was held at the Highway department for bids on two new trucks. The first being a new tandem dump truck for the Highway Department and the second being a new tandem roll- off dumpster truck for Solid Waste Service. Included for discussion are the bid tabulation for the two trucks. Rush Truck Center International out of Effingham had the low bid for \$111,979.02 for an International truck for Solid Waste and had budgeted \$140,000 so the bid is under the budgeted amount. For the highway department truck, Rush Truck Center quoted \$164,691.75 for an International truck. Truck Centers quoted a Freightliner truck for \$170,708.34. With the quotes being close, they went and looked at them. For the International truck Higgs offered a bed of higher quality and making it at a lower cost, which makes it under budget for the truck. The truck will have new admission standards in the upcoming year, so wanted to get them now. \$15,000 for the truck trade in. Wade township was awarded a \$150,000 state grant for the project to oil and chip the road gravel road to MVP Happy Holler. The work will be completed next summer.

Health Department – 945 clients were served last month. Phase I is completed on the building. Nursing offering flu vaccinations and Covid vaccinations are available. Nov 13 will be the next Cancer Support Group meeting at the West End 5-6 pm. The Cancer Support Bingo sold 307 tickets and raised over \$16,000. Next meeting November 24 at 5:30 pm.

County Positions/Services:

Building Maintenance – Pickens contacted Roepke Overhead Door from Teutopolis to inspect the garage doors on the county storage building. A sensor on one door needs to be replaced, also the need lubed and adjusted. They will do it in October for around \$500. Pickens and Judson met with Bigard this afternoon to set the building budget for 2026.

Jasper County Courthouse – Shared the drawing with Chief Judge and he had some recommendations. There should be something soon to take to the planning committee to review.

Information Technology – Magoo was part of training on Wednesday for Cybersecurity. A new server is something needs to be considered.

Animal Control – Big increase in dog bites. Gave 2 dangerous dog termination. All kennels are full. Outside of building is sealed. Like everyone to come out to see the building to see what can be done. Working on getting fees from other counties. McCoy's came out and the building has a 1993 furnace and gave an estimate \$2,500 it is currently working but looking to budget for a possible new one at 80% efficiency.

Elected Officials:

Treasurer- Reports from Bigard were sent in the board packet. The total income for September was \$242,318.34. The expenses for September were \$322,718.75. Total income less expenses for September a net loss of \$80,400.41. Fiscal year 2024/2025 income was \$3,656,519.44. Less Expenses were \$3,818,628.91 with a net loss of \$162,109.47.

Other Elected Officials/Offices –
County Clerk – In Packet

Consent agenda. The following items were on the consent agenda this evening: Approval of Jasper County Board, September 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes; Approval of Jasper County Board, September 18 & 25, 2025 Budget Meeting Minutes; Adoption of Jasper County Trustee for Taxing Districts Resolution - Delinquent Taxes Real Estate Program; Approval of Preliminary/Construction Engineering Services Agreement for Wade Township Bridge Project; Adoption of the State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor Resolution; File County Reports; and Allow Claims. There was no objection, the Consent Agenda was adopted.

Old Business:
No Old Business

New Business:

Item A. – Approval to Display the FY2026 Jasper County Budget

A required step in the annual budget process; the proposed budget must be displayed for 15 days before a final vote. A full copy of the proposed budget is included in the board packet. A copy of

the full budget will be available for public inspection via the County's website or in person (members of the public must contact or stop in the Treasurer's office). Any changes or suggestions can be addressed at the full board meeting on November 20, 2025. The County Board is permitted to amend the budget at the November meeting. Please note that some offices/departments have not submitted all proposed FY2026 numbers; this will require at least some amendments prior to the final passage. Warfel encourages any changes or suggestions to be addressed prior to the November meeting if possible. *(55 ILCS 5/6-1001) Counties Code Annual Budget. The County Board shall adopt each year an annual budget under the terms of this Division for the succeeding fiscal year. Such budget shall be prepared by some person or persons designated by the County Board and such budget shall be made conveniently available for public inspection and provided to the public at a public meeting at least fifteen days prior to the final action thereon expect that nothing in this Act shall restrict a County Board from acting at a public meeting to amend a budget after making that budget available to the public and prior to the final adoption.* Spiker moved to Approve displaying the FY2026 Jasper County Budget. Weddell seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote. The FY2026 Jasper County Budget will be made available for public display with final action taken on the budget at the November 20, 2025, meeting.

Item B: - County Highway Department New Truck Bids – Tandem Dump Truck & Tandem Roll-Off Dumpster Truck

On October 6, 2025, at 10:00 am, a bid opening was held at the Highway Department for bids on two new trucks. The first is a new tandem dump truck for the Highway Department, and the second is a new tandem roll-off dumpster truck for Solid Waste Service. Included for discussion are the bid tabulation for the two trucks. Judson moved to accept the following bids from Rush Truck Centers Highway for an International truck for \$164,691.75 and Solid Waste for an International truck for \$111,949.02. Pickens seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote. The bids Rush Truck Centers Highway for an International truck for \$164,691.75 and Solid Waste and International truck for \$111,949.02 were accepted.

ITEM C - COMMUNITY DONATION REQUESTS

The County has received two requests for donations:

- Jasper County, Illinois Museum - \$5,000 Annual Donation Request
- Eagle Mural Project - \$1,000 Donation Request

Weddell questioned how the museum was funded prior to this. If the library could absorb some of the expenses if they were prior. Weddell asked about gaming for the Mural Project. No action was taken.

Item D - Approval of 2026 Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust/SRM Insurance Renewal [Risk, Workers' Comp, Unemployment]

The County has received the 2026 Insurance Renewal Rates for Risk, Workers' Compensation, and Unemployment Insurance. The Risk Policy is up (\$36,782) 11.2% with Workers' Compensation increased by (\$11,953) 13.2% and Unemployment increased by 0.01%. Heltsley moved to Approve the 2026 Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust/SRM Insurance Renewal Rates for Risk, Workers' Compensation and Unemployment. Weddell seconded the motion.

Motion carried on a voice vote, no by Judson. The 2026 ICRMT/SRM Renewal Rates have been approved.

Board Comments: None

Chairman's Comments:

Illinois Department of Transportation – Local Project Funding Award

Jasper County Courthouse Square Streetscape - \$1,000,000

On October 6, 2025, Jasper County was notified that we had been awarded a Local Project Funding Award for up to \$1,000,000 for the Jasper County Courthouse Square Streetscape Project. Out of the 1,900 applications, Jasper County was one of the few selected. At the March 21, 2024, meeting, the board voted unanimously to proceed forward with an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program Grant that would upgrade the street lighting and sidewalks on the county property of the courthouse square to look like the city property around the square. The Application was submitted in September 2024. While this is not the ITEP Grant, the Local Project Funding was awarded based on that ITEP submission. A big thank you to Milano & Grunloh Engineers, LLC, for their work assisting with this process, and a huge thank you to Tiffany Keller for spearheading the idea of searching out and applying for grant money to fund this project.

Upcoming Meetings

Chamber of Commerce Scare on the Square – October 18, 2025 – Newton, IL pending weather

United Counties Council of Illinois Fall Conference – October 24-25, 2025 – Springfield, IL

Jasper County Museum Reception & Ribbon Cutting – October 29, 2025 – Newton, IL

Jasper CEO BIDOPOLY West End Reception November 10 Doors open 5:30 pm Catered meal by Ochs St. Meats served at 6 pm 50/50 Raffle

Non-Emergency County Offices Closed on Veteran's Day – November 11, 2025

Jasper County Veteran's Day Program – November 11, 2025 – Newton, IL

Chamber of Commerce Christmas on the Square – December 13, 2025 – Newton, IL

County had training on Wednesday with 55 employees attending covering sexual harassment, cybersecurity, HR related matters and health insurance. Thank you to the Jasper Community School District for the use of their building.

Spiker moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 pm. Heltsley seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote.

The Next Board Meeting will be on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Amy Tarr, Jasper County Clerk