



JASPER COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2026

The Jasper County Board met in regular session on Thursday, January 15, 2026, 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 by Sheriff Francis. Sheriff Francis led a moment of 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, Eric Spiker, and Jessica Schackmann. Michael Geier and Austin Francis were absent.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA. There was no objection; the agenda was adopted as distributed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No comments from the Public.

REPORTS:

County Departments:

Ambulance Service - 911 transports 56; Transfers 29; Accidents 7; Refusals 17; Mutual Aid Standby 30. A new ambulance has been ordered through Frazer Ambulance. The build time should be around 11 months.

Highway Department – Full Board approval needed on the following resolutions: Agreement for County Engineer’s Salary Program and Resolution Appropriating Funds for the Payment of County Engineer’s Salary. The MFT Rock & Pipe letting for County and Township is scheduled for January 22, 2026, meeting moved to the Highway Department.

Health Department – 339 total clients seen in December by the Nursing Department. Jasper County Health Department Sponsored Blood Drive Thursday, February 5, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Newton KC Hall 707 Van Buren Newton, IL. Check Your Health Event on Tuesday, February 10th from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Jasper County Health Department. Call for an Appointment 618-783-4436: free Lipid (Cholesterol) and PSA Screening. Flu & COVID vaccines are available.

County Positions/Services:

Building Maintenance – 3 firms have been contacted about moving items out of the Courthouse. Carpet has been ordered for the Health Department Annex building. Garage doors were repaired at the Storage/EMA Building.

Animal Control – 43 County Calls, 9 City Calls, 1,130 miles traveled, 1 reported bite, 1 abuse/neglect report, 11 dogs impounded, \$986 pound fees. Adopted out 2 adult dogs and 8 puppies. 1 dog returned to the owner after it was impounded. Total of 30 dogs have been adopted out since July 2025.

Elected Officials:

County Treasurer- Reports from Bigard were sent in the board packet. The total income for December was \$273,567.20. The expenses for December were \$390,301.99. Total income less expenses for December is a net of -\$116,734.79. December was the first month of Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

County Clerk/Recorder – Report from County Clerk/Recorder was included in the board packet.

CONSENT AGENDA. The following items were on the consent agenda:

- A. Approval of Jasper County Board, December 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of Agreement for County Engineer's Salary
- C. Adoption of Resolution Appropriating Funds for Payment of the County Engineer's Salary
- D. Approval of Salary Adjustment for Public Defender Per Chief Judge/Fourth Judicial Circuit
- E. File County Reports
- F. Allow Claims

Doug Weddell moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Eric Spiker seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item A. – Jasper County Courthouse Contents & Offices Moving

Update on preliminary moving plans for the contents and offices of the County Courthouse to the Health Annex building and County Storage building. Waiting on moving estimates, none have been received yet.

Item B. – HopeTrust Dividend Check Presentation

Jacob Jassen from Snedeker Risk Management (SRM) / HopeTrust was present to present the County of Jasper with a \$24,080 dividend check. The HopeTrust is presenting dividend checks to its members' employers, representing the growth and financial stability of the Trust. The County has already earmarked the amount received to offset some of the increased costs for employees' health insurance in FY2026.

BOARD COMMENTS: No board comments.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Chairman Warfel listed upcoming holiday closures, Congressman Bost's mobile office hours, Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet, and Health Department Blood Drive.

Upcoming County Holidays

Non-emergency County Offices and Departments will be closed:

- Monday, January 19, 2026, in observance of Martin Luther King Day
- Monday, February 16, 2026, in observance of Presidents' Day

Congressman Mike Bost Mobile Office Hours Thursday, January 22, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Jasper County Building Boardroom

Jasper County Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet “Rooted in Jasper County”

Thursday, January 29, 2026 – West End Reception & Events

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. – Social Hour 6:00 p.m. – Dinner Hartrich Meats Inc.

Awards & Jasper County Trivia Following Meal

Jasper County Health Department Blood Drive

Thursday, February 5, 2026 12:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Ron Heltsley moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 pm. A.C. Pickens seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote.

The Next Board Meeting will be on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes Taken/Submitted By:

Jessica Schackmann, Board Member