

Jasper County Board Minutes
COUNTY OF JASPER NEWTON, ILLINOIS

County Office Building 204 W Washington St, Newton, IL 62448
March 19, 2026

Jason Warfel called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Executive/Closed Session

The Board does have an executive/closed session to discuss: Security Procedures (exception 8). Schackmann moved for the board to enter an executive session under the following exception Security Procedures (exception 8). Geier seconded the motion. Francis, Geier, Heltsley, Judson, Pickens, Shackmann, Spiker, Warfel and Weddell voted yes with a roll call vote. The Board entered an Executive Session at 5:03 pm.

Resumed the session open at 6:06 pm.

The County Board met in regular session on Thursday, March 19, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by proclamation according to law by Sheriff Francis. Sheriff Francis led a moment in silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. The members present were Francis, Geier, Heltsley, Judson, Pickens, Shackmann, Spiker, Warfel and Weddell.

Public Comments: None

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

Reports:

County Departments:

Ambulance Department – 57- 911 Transports; 27- Transfers 31; 4- Accidents; 31- Refusals; 14 – Mutual Aid Standby Lori spoke to Richland County and they are not calling for an in-town call so, they are not calling as much for mutual aid. McGrath Laryngoscopes arrived that were purchased with a Mary Heath Grant. They will be put in service as soon as all the paramedics have completed competency on them. They will improve first-attempt intubation rates.

Highway Department – Reminder: The Electronic Recycling Event is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2026, at the Highway Department. The oil letting is scheduled for March 17, 2026, 9:00 a.m. at the Highway Department. A Resolution to be attached to the Joint Federal Funding Agreement for the 2026 Pavement Preservation Project – Sec: 23-00143-00-PP needs Full Board Approval. This project consists of the Wheeler Road, Golf Course Road, Kedron Road which is from Golf Course Road west to Wheeler Road, Apple Shed Road and Yager Road (400N). Preliminary / Construction Engineering services with Charleston Engineering for Sec: 25-08119-00-BR for a bridge project in South Muddy Township utilizing Township Bridge Program (TBP) funds will need full board approval. This project is located 4 miles S.W. of Latona across Tributary to Big Muddy Creek. Plans improvement.

Health Department – 949 clients were served in the month of February. Flu and Covid Vaccinations are still available call the Health Department. The next Cancer Support Meeting will be April 9 from 5-6pm, Susan Shull will be guest speaker. 60th Anniversary Open house will be March 25th, 2-6 pm and will be giving tours of building. Next board of health meeting will be May 18 at 5:30 pm.

County Positions/Services:

Building Maintenance – 3 different estimates for moving of the courthouse contents. Tom Matson brought the issue of noise to his attention through the doors from the small boardroom when someone was meeting in the room. We will be looking at possibly insulated doors.

Jasper County Courthouse – Architectural plans are about 90% complete.

Information Technology – No report

Animal Control – 16 calls county and 2 dog and 2 feral cat bites. 1 report of neglected horses in the county, was unfounded on inspection. Dogs impounded over full at capacity, several on holds. Two are in foster care. 2 dogs were adopted and 1 impounded dog was returned to it's owner after fees were paid. Reminder for everyone to be getting vaccines. Alisha got a donation for a new bed.

Elected Officials:

Treasurer- Reports from Bigard were sent in the board packet. The total income for February was \$258,470.39. The expenses for February were \$343,704.65. Total income less expenses for February a net loss of \$85,234.25. Fiscal year 2025/2026 income was \$941,219.43 Less Expenses were \$1,234,527.73 with a net loss of \$293,308.30.

Other Elected Officials/Offices –

County Clerk – In Packet - The County Clerk reported the county had a 28.5 % turn out. 1825 voter out of the 6421 registered voters voted in the county. We have 96 remaining mail ballots. She had election judge training and introduced the new poll pads and trained the judges how to use them to register the voters. Election judges could scan the voters driver license/ID or voter card or manually enter the voters' name. The poll pad was able to give directions to the voters if they were in the incorrect polling location. We only had one call of not finding a voter's name.

Consent agenda. The following items were on the consent agenda this evening: Approval of County Board February 19, 2026, Meeting Minutes; Authorize Transfer Of \$25,000 From County's Opioid Remediation Fund to Jasper County Health Department - Illinois is expected to receive over \$1.4 billion in opioid settlement funds by 2038. The funds are structured to allocate 55% to the state-controlled Remediation Fund, with the remaining 45% divided between state and local governments. The funds are restricted and must be used on approved opioid remediation programs, such as naloxone distribution, treatment services, and prevention programs. The Jasper County Health Department/Behavioral Health is requesting funds for treatment services and prevention programs. The County Board has previously authorized the State's Attorney to monitor the legal settlements and oversee proper usage of the funds. Upon review of the request, the State's Attorney has recommended a transfer of \$25,000 from the fund to the Jasper County Health Department, pending full board approval.; Authorize Jasper County Ambulance Service Credit Card in Manager's Name [Lori Guerrettaz] \$5,000 Limit - Typically, Jasper County Credit Cards are issued in the name of the Elected Official/Department Head who oversees that department. When the last Ambulance Service Credit Card was issued, there was no permanent manager, and the card was issued in the County Treasurer's name. With the

appointment of Lori Guerrettaz as Ambulance Manager, a new card can now be issued in her name with a \$5,000 limit pending full board approval.; Authorize Jasper County Health Department Annex Building Final Carpet Costs - At the February 19, 2026, County Board meeting, it was mentioned that the cost of installing new carpet at the Health Department Annex Building, which will house the temporary Courthouse Offices during the Courthouse Construction Project, exceeded the initial estimate by \$1,000.; Reappointment Of Mike Murbarger and Larry Dorn As Trustees For Wade Community Fire Protection District – 3 Year Terms; Appointment Of E. Bruce Benefiel as Trustee for Wade Community Fire Protection District – 3-Year Term - At the Wade Community Fire Protection Board meeting on March 10, 2026, the board unanimously approved the appointment of Mike Murbarger, Larry Dorn, and E. Bruce Benefiel to a three-year term as trustees for the Wade Community Fire Protection District. The term will begin May 1, 2026, and run through April 30, 2029. Mike & Larry are reappointments and Bruce will be replacing Galen Mendenhall.; Adoption of Resolution Attached to Joint Federal Funding Agreement For 2026 Pavement Preservation Project; Approval of Preliminary/Construction Engineering Services Agreement for South Muddy Township Bridge Project; File County Reports; and Allow Claims. There was no objection, the Consent Agenda was adopted.

Old Business:

Item A. – Consideration and Approval of Jasper County Courthouse Moving of Offices and Contents Costs Estimate

Estimates have been obtained for moving the contents and offices out of the Courthouse. Items will be relocated to the Health Department Annex Building and the County Storage Building. One professional mover, one semi trucking and in county general contractor. Geier spoke with Judge Miller who wants to start moving in April. So, get used to going to the other building. Weddell wouldn't want to move until a bid was approved for building the courthouse. Geier spoke with Kishon on getting what they need regarding equipment and hookup. Spiker will contact him. Pickens moved to approve the estimate provided by Jared Schackmann for moving the contents and offices of the Jasper County Courthouse in the amount of \$40,000. Judson seconded the motion. Francis brought up in discussion do we need a bid not an estimate. It is over \$30,000. We will not have bids in April for building of courthouse, so there is time. Pickens withdrew his motion. They were estimates not bids, anything over \$30,000 need to have bids. Judson said needs to be a set price know how much it is going to cost..

New Business:

Item A. - Consideration and Approval of Jasper County Sheriff's Office Canine Handler MOU

Sheriff's Deputy Bridges is weeks away from attending training and receiving the Jasper County Sheriff's Office's new K9. Sgt. Long has provided the MOU for the K9 Handler that will need to be added to the Union Contract. The 3.5 hours of Compensation a week that is stated in the MOU is consistent with the Illinois State Statute for K9 Handlers' pay for care and maintenance of the K9. Any questions should be addressed to Sheriff Francis. Sheriff said this is similar to Resource officer. Geier moved to approve the Jasper County Sheriff's Office Canine Handler MOU. Francis seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote. The Canine Handler MOU has been approved.

Item B - Consideration and Approval of Jasper County Courthouse Plans and Authorization to Submit Plans for Bid

ADG (Architect) & Stone & Waggoner (Civil Engineer) have finalized the plans for the Jasper County Courthouse. A review of the plans with the full board took place at 5:00 p.m. prior to the meeting tonight. If plans are approved by the board, ADG & Stone & Waggoner will prepare plans in the next few weeks and take them to bid by the end of the month (March). Once bids have been received, the board will approve or deny. Geier said this has been a long road to get to this point. Geier moved to approve the Jasper County Courthouse Plans and Authorize the Architect & Engineer to submit the plans for bid. Francis seconded the motion. Francis, Geier, Heltsley, Judson, Pickens, Shackmann, Spiker, Warfel and Weddell voted yes with a roll call vote. Motion carried on a roll call vote. The Jasper County Courthouse Plans have been Approved and Authorization granted to submit the plans for bid.

Board Comments: Weddell commented the day after election he had individuals who had no idea that it was election day. Getting information out to the county is difficult, there is no form of paper medium everyone would receive. Promoting stuff is important. Francis stated this is not a Jasper County issue, it is a statewide issue. If anything, a board can do. Warfel said when states hold a primary election it differs in all states. Francis stated some voters think my vote doesn't count, don't think about the local races. Find out something that would work. Text alerts. Geier asked what the limit of text would be on who could use it.

Chairman's Comments:

Upcoming Dates:

Jasper County Health Department Open House – 60th Anniversary Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Electronic Recycling Event - Jasper County Highway Department Saturday, March 28, 2026, 7:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (unless trailer is filled before)

Non-Emergency County Offices and Departments will be closed: Friday, April 3, 2026, for Good Friday/Easter Holiday.

UCCI Meeting April 14-15, 2026 – UCCI Legislative Conference, Springfield, IL
Regional SRM meeting

Executive/Closed Session -

The Board already had an executive/closed session tonight at 5:00 p.m.

Geier moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 pm. Judson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote.

The Next Board Meeting will be on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Amy Tarr, Jasper County Clerk