



JASPER COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 20, 2026

The County Board met for the FY2025 Audit Review at 5:00 pm. AnneMarie with Kemper CPA gave the audit review.

Bigard, County Treasurer spoke on the new law which took effect in July by the State of Illinois. Bigard recommends Joseph Meyer to take the delinquent taxes. So, if property owner loses property to delinquent taxes, the property gets sold and the property owner will get the equity from the sale of the property.

The Jasper County Board met in regular session on Thursday, August, 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 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, Michael Geier, James Judson, Eric Spiker, Jessica Schackmann and Austin Francis.

Public Comments:

Dave Kemp presented a request to the board.

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

Reports:

County Departments:

Ambulance Department – 66 – 911; Transfers - 40; Refusals - 21, Accidents - 3; Discharges - 3; Mutual Aid Standby - 16; Mutual Aid 911 – 5. John Phillips has come back as a PRN medic for the department.

Highway Department – The oiling program for the County roads has been completed. The townships are expected to complete their oiling programs within the next couple of weeks. The Highway Department was accepting sealed bids for a 1998 Chevrolet Pickup truck. Bids were due by 9:00 a.m. on Monday, August 17, 2026. The truck was sold for \$550. A reminder of the renewal of the County Highway Material Tax referendum will appear on the November ballot. This referendum is required to be submitted to voters every five years for renewal. Funds generated by the Material Tax are dedicated exclusively to the purchase of rock and oil for the maintenance of County roads. This is strictly a renewal of the existing tax and does not create or increase any tax. Mowing of the roads will start around Labor Day. Judson asked for further explanation and the importance of passing the material tax. Materials Tax was passed in 1991 to get all the county highways to oil and chip. The tax is used for maintenance and every 4 years the county highways are oiled and chipped.

Health Department – 854 clients were served. Flu shot clinics are available, call for an appointment. Jasper Cancer Support Bingo will be on October 8th. The next Board of Health meeting will be on September 28th at 5:30 pm.

County Positions/Services:

Building Maintenance – Pickens stated the need to put a line item in the budget for maintenance and repair at the storage / EMA building. Judson stated the county needs to keep up with the maintenance of the county building. Look at getting a storage container for the books that have been moved from the courthouse attic.

Jasper County Courthouse – Geier said courthouse is down; debris should be removed by the end of next week. Then they will start digging the basement.

Information Technology – Support Tickets (Last 90 Days) - 517 tickets were submitted, with 511 successfully resolved. Only 6 tickets remain open and are currently in progress. Lifecycle Management - Performed firmware updates and maintenance on all network infrastructure devices during the last quarter. Switches / Routers- New router and switch for the Annex (temp site) have been purchased, configured, and installed. New switch was installed to replace the loaner switch in the County Building. Switches at Sheriff Office are due to be replaced. Cybersecurity - We have observed an increase in phishing attempts. While existing measures help mitigate these threats, user awareness remains critical. Please continue practicing safe email habits and report suspicious messages promptly. We will continue to train users via practice emails and training modules. Projects completed in the last 90 days - New locked Server rack is installed at the County Building. Improving security of servers and network connections.; NAS (Network Area Storage) device installed at Sheriff's office. Improving storage capabilities of their evidence server while keeping information secure.; Move Courthouse offices IT equipment to the Annex (temporary site)-Appreciate effort from everyone involved to make it as smooth as possible. Recommendations: 2 switches at the Sheriff Office are approaching EOL and should be replaced; Move the County Building's NVR system into new locked rack. Improving the security of the building by reducing physical access to the camera system; Device Recycling Initiative, Identify and safely dispose of eligible, unused devices throughout the County. The new locked cabinet rack was purchased by Election Grant money, the funds did not come out of the county funds, reported by Tarr County Clerk.

Animal Control – July there was 30 calls for in the county and 6 calls from the City of Newton, 1024 miles, we had 2 reported bites; had a neglect and stray impounded. \$1,124 pound fees was collected, it does include the price of the vet care, so when the dogs are adopted out the new owners are paying an adoption fee along with vet care, and microchipping. One family has prepaid for an adoption.

Elected Officials:

Treasurer- Reports from Bigard were sent in the board packet. The total income for July was \$373,398.86. The expenses for July were \$496,000.15. Total income less expenses for July a net loss of \$122,601.29. Fiscal year 2025/2026 income was \$2,260,367.97. Less Expenses were \$3,135,729.82 with a net loss of \$515,361.85.

Other Elected Officials/Offices –

County Clerk – In Packet

ROE Reports are in the packet. Tom Matson stated Debbie Ochs will be retiring at the end of the year. Brooke Murrey has been hired to be the new employee and will train with Debbie.

Approval Of July 16, 2026, Meeting Minutes; Acceptance of Jasper County FY2025 Audit; File County Reports Including Six-Month Reports; and Allow Claims. Schackmann moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Weddell seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote. The Consent Agenda has been adopted.

Old Business:

No Old Business

New Business:**Item A. - Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Jasper County to Acquire Tax Sale Certificates and Utilize the County Trustee for Delinquent Property Taxes**

Authorizes Jasper County to acquire eligible delinquent tax certificates and continue utilizing Joseph E. Meyer & Associates, Inc. as County Trustee to administer the delinquent property process. The resolution updates the County's procedures to comply with recent changes to the Illinois Property Tax Code. Pickens moved to adopt the resolution authorizing Jasper County to Acquire Tax Sale Certificates and Utilize the County Trustee for Delinquent Property Taxes. Judson seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote. The Resolution has been adopted.

Item B. - Adoption of Resolution Establishing the Jasper County Surplus Equity Fund

Establish the Jasper County Surplus Equity Fund as required by the amended Illinois Property Tax Code. The County Treasurer will serve as trustee of the fund for qualifying surplus equity claims arising from the delinquent property tax process. Spiker moved to adopt the resolution establishing the Jasper County Surplus Equity Fund. Francis seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote. The Resolution has been adopted.

Item C. - Adoption of Jasper County Animal Control Warden Independent Contractor Agreement

Approves an updated agreement with the County's Animal Control Warden that clearly establishes the position as an independent contractor and outlines the responsibilities, expectations, accountability, and termination provisions of the arrangement. Warfel and State's Attorney will meet with Alisha and discuss the contract in person. The contract will be held over to next month's business.

Item D. - Approval of Purchase of JIMS PROSECUTOR CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM for State's Attorney's Office

The State's Attorney is requesting approval to purchase the JIMS Prosecutor case management system from Goodin Associates. Initial cost: \$22,292.25; annual cost: \$3,396. Funding is requested outside the current FY2026 State's Attorney budget. Implementation is expected to take 2–3 months and requires coordination with the Circuit Clerk. Existing file conversions would be handled internally. Treccia can only view documents that have been filed but this will allow him to flash drives and be digitally able to save everything digitally. Bring into 3 to 4 boxes. Court is being held in Effingham. If someone comes in not able to access the files. Raining walking 2 to 3 blocks the boxes were falling apart. Most offices have gone digital significant cost up front and they will digitally FOIA request for individual files smoother process and 5-day response. Physical files are outdated. Flash drives and \$1000 in folders. Some body cam. Judson asked about payment. Initial cost and Jessica asked about annual cost. Treccia up front. Weddell asked about waiting until next budget. Treccia sooner than later. Schackmann asked for clarification on annual cost. Weddell asked if could come up with it in the current budget. Judson moved to approve the purchase of JIMS Prosecutor Case Management System for State's Attorney Offices. Weddell seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote. The purchase has been approved.

Item E. - Discussion & Consideration for Support of Jasper County Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund

Discussion and consideration only regarding potential future County support for the Jasper County Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund. No funding action was taken at this meeting. Any future financial support would require consideration and appropriation as part of the County's FY2027 budget process. The interest is 1.5% lower than the market loans. The loan is to help businesses. Warfel asked the board to think about it.

Board Comments:

Heltsley asked about the status of the grants. Geier said we are waiting to hear back from the state. The grant is a reimbursement grant.

Chamber is having cruise night at the West End. Hopefully nice cars are brought out.

Chairman's Comments:**Community Events –**

- August 21, 2026 - Jasper County Chamber of Commerce Cruise In - 5:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. - West End;
- August 25, 2026 - TGM Lis Open House -11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. - Lis, IL
- ICRMT MEETING - September 23—24, 2026 - Snedeker Risk Management Fall Client Conference
- UCCI MEETINGS - September 15-17, 2026 - Washington, D.C. Fly-In.;
September 28, 2026 - Membership Meeting - Springfield, IL - 9:30 a.m.
October 23—24, 2026 - UCCI Fall Conference — Springfield, IL
- DISCOVER DOWNSTATE ILLINOIS TOURISM - October 6, 2026 - Annual Dinner - Sassafras Ridge, Marshall, IL

Geier moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 pm. Schackmann seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote.

The Next Board Meeting will be on Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Amy Tarr, Jasper County Clerk