



JASPER COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

The Jasper County Board met in regular session on Thursday, September 17, 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 Board Chairman Warfel and 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, Michael Geier, James Judson, Eric Spiker, and Jessica Schackmann (attended virtually via Zoom). Austin Francis was absent.

The County Board met in regular session on Thursday, September 17, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by board chairman Warfel. Warfel led a moment in silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present were Geier, Heltsley, Judson, Pickens, Schackmann (via Zoom), Spiker, Warfel and Weddell. Francis was absent.

Public Comments: David Kemp Village President of Yale asked the question is there any resources for the townships and villages. He went on to say if late paying taxes were added a penalty fee of 1%. He also submitted a FOID request. Bob Crocker spoke on his concerns of the Wabash River Aquifer. His message is to slow the proliferator of high-water consumption.

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

Reports:

County Departments:

Ambulance Department - August 2026 - 911 Transports 72; Transfers 40; Accidents 4; Refusals 17; Discharges 0; Mutual Aid Standby 10. A crew hit a deer with an ambulance during transport of a patient. It has been taken to the body shop, repaired and is back in service.

Highway Department – Right-of-way mowing began at the beginning of September. Wade Township was selected by IDOT to receive \$150,000 through the Local Project Funding Program for the construction of the MVP road, consisting of an aggregate base, oil and chip surface. The funds will be administered through the County Highway Department. Ninety-five percent of the funding will be received in advance with the remaining 5% received upon completion of the project. The budget will need to be revised accordingly; please see attached documentation. The Highway Department will be soliciting Letters of Interest and Statement of Qualifications from professional engineering consultants for engineering services and assistance with obtaining funding for a Yager Bridge project. The existing bridge is currently the only bridge on a Jasper County Highway which is load posted. MVP Road work will begin late spring next year.

Health Department – 476 Clients were served in the month of August. A meeting discussing childcare will be held on September 23 at 5:30 pm at the Jasper County Health Department. The discussion will

be on the lack of childcare in our community and ideas and solutions. Jasper County Health Department will be sponsoring the Jasper County Cancer Support Bingo October 8th at St. Thomas Parish Center doors open at 5:00 and Bingo begins at 6:00 pm. Flu Clinics are available call for an appointment. Behavioral Health has a newsletter. The next Board of Health meeting will be on September 28th at 5:30 pm.

County Positions/Services:

Building Maintenance – Nothing to report.

Jasper County Courthouse – Basement is being dug. Concrete company wanted the ground to be level, reasoning for the back fill. The county received a bill from the City of Newton. A Fire hydrant was installed. There was a discussion a gentleman's agreement and said there would be no cost.

Information Technology – Spiker stated one of the fiber boxes are going to be moved. Most lines were severed and one line was not. Magoo has a work around using Metro lines.

Animal Control – 16 County Calls; 9 City Calls; 1,437 Miles; 0 Reported Bites; 0 Pets Relinquished; 0 Abuse/Neglect Reports; 2 dogs Impounded; \$260 collected in pound fees. 3 dogs have been adopted. One had been prepared for the adoption fees. 2 strays were impounded and the rest of the dogs reported were able to be returned to owners the same day they were found. FOIA was completed and then a no kill shelter more adopted Grant for heart worm treatments \$1,200 and contacted rescues to help with the cost.

Elected Officials:

Treasurer- Reports from Bigard were sent in the board packet. The total income for August was \$1,040,000.26. First distribution of Real Estate Taxes was \$5,84,661.57. Bank loan advance was \$200,000. The expenses for August were \$474,004.26. Total income less expenses for August a net income of \$565,996. Fiscal year 2025/2026 income was \$3,395,900.90. Less Expenses were \$3,609,734.08 with a net loss of \$213,833.18.

Other Elected Officials/Offices –

County Clerk – In Packet There is currently 448 vote by mail ballots that will be sent out. The office will work together to get all the vote by mail ballots out in the mail. Early voting will begin on September 24th.

Consent Agenda: The Following items were on the consent agenda: Approval of Jasper County Board, August 20, 2026, and September 2, 2026, Meeting Minutes; Reappointment of Dwight Sappenfield as Commissioner of the Mint Creek Drainage District [2029]; Appointment of Steven Smith as Trustee of the North Fork Conservancy District [2031]; Reappointment of Aaron Ochs as Commissioner of the Sainte Marie Drainage and Levee District [2029]; File County Reports and Allow Claims. Weddell moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Geier seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote. The Consent Agenda has been adopted.

Old Business:

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

There will be a meeting to discuss this agreement with Alisha Wise. Action will be in October.

New Business:

Item A. Adoption of Resolution to Amend FY2026 Budget for Wade Twp. MVP Road Local Project Funding Program

Wade Township was selected by IDOT to receive \$150,000 through the Local Project Funding Program for construction of MVP Road. The funding will be administered through the County Highway Department, requiring an amendment to the FY2026 County Budget. Approximately \$50,000 is anticipated to be expended in FY2026, with the remaining project expenditures occurring in a subsequent fiscal year. Passing state money through the budget. This was an application the townships had submitted. Senator Rose had a hand in it. Geier moved for the adoption of the Resolution to Amend FY2026 Budget for Wade Twp. MVP Road Local Project Funding Program. Spiker seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote. Resolution to Amend FY2026 Budget for Wade Twp. MVP Road Local Project Funding Program was adopted.

Item B. HopeTrust 2027 County Health Insurance Rates

Review and discussion of HOPE Trust 2027 renewal rates, available health plan options, and the County's employer contribution toward employee health insurance. Board direction will be needed regarding plan selection and 2027 contribution levels. A meeting was facilitated between the department heads. There was a higher percentage using. Risk sharing will be going away at the end of the year. The county assumed some of the risk. They are enrolling the fees into health insurance. Board pass it along to the employees. The county contributes \$755 per month. HopeTrust has gotten Carle as a Tier 1. Judson had switched providers and feels it is not the best when must use it. Warfel asked what board would like to contribute? A comment was made that at a 8-9% increase each year it is going to double in 8 years. Ted Whitehead from SRM said the insurance company does now have lobbyists. This is a national problem.

Board Comments: Weddell wanted to wish the Junior High softball team good luck as they advance Friday in Bloomington.

Chairman's Comments:

October 12, 2026 — Columbus Day — Non-Emergency County Offices & Departments Closed

Upcoming Meetings

September 23—24, 2026 — Snedeker Risk Management Fall Client Conference

UCCI Meetings: September 28, 2026 — Membership Meeting — Springfield, IL — 9:30 a.m.

October 23—24, 2026 — UCCI Fall Conference — Springfield, IL

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

The Next Board Meeting will be on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Amy Tarr, Jasper County Clerk