

MINUTES OF THE MCDONOUGH COUNTY BOARD
MAY 20, 2026

The monthly meeting of the McDonough County Board was held at the McDonough County Courthouse, in Courtroom 201 at 7:00 p.m. Roll call resulted in 19 present, 1 absent, and 1 vacant. Member Jarad Royer was absent. Sheriff Nick Petitgout made the opening declaration. Chair Blakeley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

EXHIBIT 1

Minutes of April 15, 2026 Board Meeting.

EXHIBIT 2

The report from Public Defender, Scott Terry for the month of April, 2026.

EXHIBIT 3

The report of Sales Tax collected in April, 2026. County Sales Tax, Public Safety Tax, Cannabis Tax, and Transportation Tax.

EXHIBIT 4

The report of Balances and Investments from County Treasurer Moon for the month of April, 2026.

EXHIBIT 5

The report of Circuit Clerk Fischer for the month of April, 2026.

EXHIBIT 6

The report from County Clerk Benson on Warrants Issued in Vacation for the month of April, 2026.

EXHIBIT 7

The Transfer of Appropriations of Monies was referred to the Finance Committee.

EXHIBIT 8

Report of the Finance Committee for April, 2026.

EXHIBIT 9

Report of General Claims for April, 2026.

EXHIBIT 10

Corrected resolution to re-appoint Clarence Waldinger and Bruce Burton for a 3-year term effective May 1st to the Good Hope-Sciota Fire Protection District.

EXHIBIT 11

Re-appoint Joseph L. Fosdyck for a 3-year term effective May 1st to the Bushnell Fire Protection District.

EXHIBIT 12

*Consent Agenda item 12 was removed from the Consent Agenda prior to the approval of the consent items. Moved to Action Agenda item 17A.

EXHIBIT 13

*Consent Agenda item 13 was removed from the Consent Agenda prior to the approval of the consent items. Moved to Action Agenda item 17B.

EXHIBIT 14

Saint Francis CH-16 county highway survey agreement and resolution

EXHIBIT 15

Abraham Lincoln signage request

EXHIBIT 16

Sale of used highway department truck to highest bidder

Board Member Hiel moved with a second by Board Member Kipling to approve consent agenda items 1 through 11, and agenda items 14, 15, and 16. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 19 yeas, 1 absent, and 1 vacant.

ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

EXHIBIT 17

Items removed from Consent Agenda

- A. Board Member Cox moved with a second by Board Member Aurelio to appoint Riley Smith to replace resigned Jack Lowderman. Motion carried with a voice vote.

- B. Ken Durkin explained to the Board that this memorandum only changed due to an address change. Board Member Kipling moved with a second by Board Member Aurelio to approve the amended memorandum of understanding with the Humane Society of McDonough County. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 19 present, 1 absent, and 1 vacant as **Exhibit 17B**.

EXHIBIT 18

Sheriff Nick Petitgout recognized deputies and their hard work. He recognized Dawson Tucker, Cody Lovall, Kyle Brokehart, Robert Phelps, Nick Ruggio, Kate Norton, and Michael Dunkin.

EXHIBIT 19

Board Member Cox moved with a second by Board Member Walker to approve the 2-year gas contract through QFB Energy. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 19 present, 1 absent, and 1 vacant as **Exhibit 19**.

EXHIBIT 20

Board Member Durkin moved with a second by Board Member Litchfield to approve the coroner's budget resolution. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 19 present, 1 absent, and 1 vacant as **Exhibit 20**.

EXHIBIT 21

The County Investment Policy was removed and will be referred back to the Finance committee.

EXHIBIT 22

Board Member Aurelio moved with a second by Board Member Kipling to approve the elected official salaries. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 19 present, 1 absent, and 1 vacant as **Exhibit 22**.

EXHIBIT 23

County Assessor salary was removed for more discussion.

EXHIBIT 24

Jeremy Benson gave an update to the Board members stating that the Fiscal year '23 audit has finally been completed.

EXHIBIT 25

Board Member Cox moved with a second by Board Member Foster to approve fiscal year '24 audit engagement letter with Sikich. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 19 present, 1 absent, and 1 vacant as **Exhibit 25**.

EXHIBIT 26

Board Chairman Eric Blakeley stated the need for executive session to discuss pending litigation. Member Erlandson moved with a second by Member Hiel to adjourn to executive session pursuant to Chapter 5 Illinois Compiled Statutes Section 120/2 (C)(11) at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 19 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent, and 1 vacant.

Member Aurelio motioned with a second by Member Chapman to adjourn from Executive Session at 8:24 p.m. with action taken (see Exhibit 27 below). Motion carried with a roll call vote of 19 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent, and 1 vacant.

EXHIBIT 27

Authorize the law firm of Esbrook PC to negotiate settlement terms in "Top Metal Buyers, Inc., et al, vs. McDonough County, et al" Tax Lawsuit, U.S. Southern District of Illinois, Case NO. 3:24-cv-01073-NJR on behalf of McDonough County.

Member Foster moved with a second by Member Murphy to approve Esbrook PC to settle term son behalf of McDonough County. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 19 yeas, 0 nays, 1 absent, and 1 vacant.

EXHIBIT 28

Chair Blakeley entertained a motion that Days and Miles are checked, roll be called, and the Board adjourn until Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Board Member Aurelio moved with a second by Board Member Raby to adjourn the meeting. A roll call was taken for days and miles and the motion to adjourn carried with a voice vote. With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m. Sheriff Petitgout gave the closing declaration.