

MINUTES OF THE MCDONOUGH COUNTY BOARD
APRIL 15, 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 17 present, and 4 absent. Members Jarad Royer, Craig Foster, Larry Aurelio, and Jack Lowderman were absent. Sheriff Nick Petitgout made the opening declaration. Chair Blakeley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

EXHIBIT 1

Minutes of March 18, 2026 Board Meeting.

EXHIBIT 2

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

EXHIBIT 3

The report of Sales Tax collected in January, 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 March, 2026.

EXHIBIT 5

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

EXHIBIT 6

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

EXHIBIT 7

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

EXHIBIT 8

Report of the Finance Committee for March, 2026.

EXHIBIT 9

Report of General Claims for March, 2026.

EXHIBIT 10

Re-appoint Clarence Waldinger, Dustin Thompson, and Josh Buchen for a 3-year term, and appoint Kyle Rhoads for a 2-year term and Evan Wisely for a 3-year term to the Good Hope-Scotia Fire Protection District.

EXHIBIT 11

County Highway Resolutions, County Aid to Bridge Funds Project No. 2646-42 Emmet Township Road District and Project No. 2652-60 Township Road District #1.

Board Member Kipling moved with a second by Board Member Chapman to approve consent agenda items 1 through 11. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 17 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 4 absent.

ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

EXHIBIT 12

Board Member Erlandson moved with a second by Member Durkin to approve the revised wind and solar ordinances. Eric Blakeley thanked Joe and Ken for their hard work in making these. Joe informed the Board that current projects will be staying under the ordinance they started under. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 17 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 4 absent as **Exhibit 12A**.

EXHIBIT 13

Board Member Hiel moved with a second by Board Member Durkin to approve the resolution for the purchase of New Financial Software Solutions, Inc. based on a proposal submitted March 16, 2026. Jeremy Benson spoke about how a new program is long overdue for the county. Both Jeremy and Dana Moon believe this program will fit the needs of the county. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 17 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 4 absent as **Exhibit 13A**.

EXHIBIT 14

Board Member Chapman moved with a second by Board Member Raby to approve the resolution for additional 2026 budget appropriation for initial software purchase costs. The purchase of the software was not originally factored in to the budget. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 17 yeas, 0 nays, 0 pass, and 4 absent as **Exhibit 14A**.

EXHIBIT 15

No items were removed from the consent agenda.

EXHIBIT 16

None.

EXHIBIT 17

Edgar Rodriguez the director of ESDA (Emergency Services and Disaster Agency) informed the board of a grant opportunity he would like to apply for. He would like to use this grant for new storm sirens for the surrounding McDonough municipalities. More information will be given to Edgar from States Attorney Matt Kwacala.

Board Director of MDH, Dave Garner, came and spoke about statements made in the local newspaper from County Board Chairman Eric Blakeley. Dave spoke about how MDH takes the Lifeguard ambulance contract very seriously.

Sheriff Nick Petitgout let the committee know that in May he plans to bring deputies to the meeting to give awards for their hard work.

Eric Blakeley announced Jack Lowderman's board resignation. He will be looking for someone for replacement. Eric Blakeley plans to have an ambulance subcommittee developed once the county and city takes the contract over. He also informed everyone that the county's 911 and communications board will be relocating due to the current center being too small. This is on a hold for the moment.

EXHIBIT 18

None.

EXHIBIT 19

Chair Blakeley entertained a motion that Days and Miles are checked, roll be called, and the Board adjourn until Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Board Member Kipling moved with a second by Board Member Chapman 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 7:55 p.m. Sheriff Petitgout gave the closing declaration.