

LAW & LEGAL

AUGUST 3, 2026

The Law & Legal Committee held its monthly meeting on Monday, August 3, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the McDonough County Courthouse, 3rd Floor, Law Library. Committee Members present included Committee Chair Joe Erlandson, Vice Chair Ken Durkin, Clayton Cook, Travis Hiel, Ryan Litchfield, Roger Ward, and Riley Smith. Other persons in attendance were Dana Walker, Darcie Shinberger, Deputy Sheriff Robbie Phelps, County Chair Eric Blakeley, and Deputy Clerk Kyah Beck. Member Terry Thompson was absent.

Chair Erlandson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Review & Approve July 6, 2026 Minutes

Member Durkin moved with a second by Member Ward to approve the minutes with correction. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Waste Management Update

Report received and filed.

Tri-County Recycling

Joe Erlandson and Eric Blakeley informed the committee that there has been a replacement found for Aaron Allen. The committee should be receiving reports soon.

Veteran's Assistance and Van Report

11 Veterans were given assistance in July. Total assistance amounted to \$2,800.

Sheriff's Report

Deputy Sheriff Robbie Phelps gave the report. He informed the committee that the new vehicle that came from insurance is in the process of being fully equipped.

Assessor's Office Update

Report received and filed.

Approval of Data Center Moratorium Resolution

A lengthy discussion was held towards the pros and cons of large-scale data centers. The state of Illinois is currently in the process of evaluating the impact of data centers and costs for residents. This resolution is not against data centers, more so to encourage developers of data centers to discuss plans with the County.

Member Durkin moved with a second by Member Cook to approve the Data Center Moratorium Resolution and to move it to full board. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 6 yeas, 1 nay, and 1 absent. This will be moving to full board.

Claims Review and Approval

Member Smith moved with a second by Member Hiel to approve the claims as submitted. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Other Items as Needed

Joe Erlandson reminded the committee of the budget meetings that will be held August 18th at 9 a.m., August 20th at 2 p.m., and August 25th at 2 p.m. These are public meetings and encouraged members to attend. Joe also informed the committee about voting mail that is required to send out every 4 years to registered voters. This gives the option for voters to sign up for voting by mail or can also choose to opt out of receiving this letter in the future.

Roger Ward spoke about the Wesley Ice cream Social and encouraged the members to attend.

Executive Session

None.

Public Comment

Dana Walker expressed suggested changes he had for the Data Center Moratorium Resolution.

County Board Chair Comments

Eric informed the committee that the elevator project could be getting started by the end of August. More details are to come from the company.

Adjourn

Member Litchfield moved with a second by Member Hiel to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Motion carried on a voice vote.