

Rock Island County Committee of the Whole Minutes
Wednesday 14 January 2026

Chairman Richard "Quijas" Brunk, Vice-Chairman Brian Vyncke

The Committee of the Whole of the Rock Island County Board met on Wednesday January 14th 2026 at 5:30pm in the County Board Chambers on the Third floor Room 316 of the County Office Building located at 1504 3rd Ave, Rock Island, IL. Meeting minutes are as follows:

1. Call to order and roll call:

Chairman Richard Brunk called the meeting to order at 5:30pm and asked to call the roll.

Members present: Richard Morthland, Melissa Moreno-Baker, Drue Mielke, Larry Burns, Carla Enburg, Dr. Luis Moreno, David Adams, Richard Brunk, Timothy Foster, Enyo Dewith, Bob Perkins, Kai Swanson, Dr. Rodney Simmer, Chuck Layer, Bob Westpfahl.

Member Absent: Cindy D. Ramos, Edna Sowards, Brian Vyncke.

Also Present: County Administrator Jim Grafton, Jim Nelson, Sheriff Darren Hart, Dora Villareal States Attorney, IT Director Kurt Davis.

2. Public Comment: Vice Chairman Brian Vyncke made three calls for public comment:

There were no requests for public comment.

3. Approval of the minutes from Thursday December 10th, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Motion to approve: Dr. Rodney Simmer

Second: Kai Swanson

Voice vote

Motion Carried

4. Presentation: None

5. Condition of Funds Report: None

6. Staff Reports: None

7. Finance & Personnel Committee Report:

Dr. Moreno reported that the Finance & Personnel Committee met on Tuesday January 13th at 8:30 am
The Finance & Personnel Committee heard reports from:

- County Auditor April Palmer reported that they are preparing for the Audit and that the outside Auditors will be onsite doing preliminary work beginning January 5th.
- County Treasurer Nick Camlin reported that we had our tax sale two weeks ago. Through the property tax cycle has been a struggle because of the Supreme Court ruling that part of the tax sale rulings were unconstitutional and we were one of the last counties to do this with the help of Austin Carlson from the States Attorney office came up with an agreement form that indemnified the County. The reason the County had to do this was the Supreme Court ruling that former owners can get compensation for the equity they had in their home, even if they did not pay their property taxes. So, now the mechanism is who is going to get sued for that money and we have made it very clear it is not the County, we do not get any of that money so you are not going to get your equity from us. The States Attorney Office came up with an agreement that tax buyers purchased signed and agreed to take on that responsibility. I subsequently got calls from the States Treasurers Office and they wanted to know how we did it and if any tax buyers showed up for the tax sale and the sale was perfectly aligned with last year and the year before.
- County Clerk Karen Kinney gave a brief explanation about the election cycle mailing.
- Finance Director Ryan Berger noted that he is working on a year-end report that hopes to have for members next month.
- County Finance Director gave a report on changes coming on the new money resolutions. Next month you are going to see three resolutions. A resolution approving emergency

purchases, a resolution that is going to approve budget amendment requests and a resolution approving grant and settlement expenses. Attached to those resolutions is just going to be pulled directly from the system

- County Sheriff Darren Hart reported that he had toured the new Federal Courthouse with all the Chiefs, Chief Justice Darrow and our SWAT teams just to get a lay of the building and try to understand if there are any concerns there.
- County Administrator Jim Grafton reported that he is considering upgrading the sign at Animal Control. He is looking for quotes to put in an electronic sign.

All routine reports were approved

The Committee considered six delinquent tax resolutions:

1. Permanent Parcel Number: 09-19-114-001 Tax Payor ID#: (06) 5427 HA
2. Permanent Parcel Number: 09-26-302-005 Tax Payor ID#: (06) 839 HA
3. Permanent Parcel Number: 09-28-401-002 Tax Payor ID#: (06) 6413 HA
4. Permanent Parcel Number: 17-17-104-010 Tax Payor ID#: (07) 12369 SM
5. Permanent Parcel Number: 17-17-206-006 Tax Payor ID#: (07) 2724 SM
6. Permanent Parcel Number: 17-19-107-003 Tax Payor ID#: (11) 2088 LT 3 Ralph R Carvers 2nd SUBD

The following were considered and recommended for approval:

Award of Farm Lease Bid for the County Farm 265 acres adjoining the old nursing home site in Coal Valley, with County Administration recommending Mr. Mitchell Trouten's bid of \$67,525.00 per year for the 5-year term

Violence Reduction Strategy Project Proposal Agreement also known as Group Violence Intervention. **States Attorney Dora Villareal presented a power point presentation to explain to members the Violent Crime Reduction Strategy. Ms. Villareal explained that this is a nationwide strategy and has been implemented in several big cities including our neighbor Davenport, Iowa through the City and Police Department launched this in 2021 amid calls to stop the shootings in neighborhoods, along with automobile thefts. We went around the Country looking at different strategies to help prevent violent crimes and also to assist in the enforcement of them. Part of that has all of our Police Agencies insure that the communication is filtering to one central place. The Police Department and my office have databases and we can see who is arrested for what, but when you have several different shifts of officers' working there are a lot of different investigations going on and sometimes we have individuals who are repeatedly committing violent crimes and it is difficult to tell that maybe two or three different agencies are looking for the same individual for different crimes. Our goal is to have something that is a lot more collaborative across all the Police agencies also working with our probation department. We will also be working with family resources to assist in training with my office and all of the other stakeholders that are involved. Our goal would be to have a lot more coordination, organization and communication to know exactly who the repeat offenders are. We can see if there is a way we can intervene and stop them. A lot of times what you see on the news there is a shooting at a house or just shots fired in a drive by, then the next couple of nights a retaliation shooting. So, this is where the part of the program strategy where individuals from family resources actually go to these family's and ask what we can do to get them not to go out and retaliate. It is a pretty large strategy and we are a little more unique than the City of Davenport because we have so many law enforcement agencies where they just deal with the City of Davenport, the Scott County Sheriff's Department and then Bettendorf.

So, we have pretty robust agencies and quite a few of them. So, we really think this would greatly assist all of the agencies it would make the most sense to have it centered out of the County. Therefore, it doesn't suddenly belong to Moline or Rock Island we want it centralized out of the County. One of the goals would be to eventually have a Criminal Analyst. We are seeking the same individual that served as the Strategy Officer in the City of Davenport and her name is Sarah Ott she is an employee for the City of Davenport. As you can see she had started her own consulting company to help communities implement Group Violence intervention. So, we are looking into entering a fifteen-month contract with her where she would assist my office the Sheriff's Office and all the other agencies to essentially get on the same page and get better at the communication and prevention. That is something that is happening we and have a lot of different organizations going in different directions. But what we really need is communications and someone going out to try to intervene, especially since the Safety Act it become more difficult keep individuals, even repeat offenders detained in jail. We hope that gathering this extra analysis and data will give us more to show the Judges the need to detain these individuals to try to get him or her to quit committing violent crimes this will be both for prevention and enforcement. Our goal is for this strategy to become a legacy here in the County that will be able to pass through Chiefs and other Sheriffs. CBC Brunk added that the Mayor of Davenport after coming back from the East Coast shared their experience it is a proven strategy. At this point is what they are looking for is a commitment from the Board to approve the funds to hire a consultant. At this time Ms. Villareal is still exploring options for funding. Some General Fund money may be needed. Dr. Simmer stated he would like hear from Ms. Ott as she still has a full-time position with the Davenport School District and my concerns are is she going to give us enough time I do not know if that is possible \$145,000 for a part-time job for 18 months or whatever I am just concerned about that. I am concerned about her time spent on this is she committed to us. I would like to see some of these other cities that will be involved in this program. I would like a little more insight to what she is going to do so we get our money's worth. SA Villareal noted that this is a national strategy if you need more information than what is in the agenda briefing I would be glad to get it for you. There is a website National Network for Safer Communities. They are the ones who started to work on this. Mr. Adams stated that he felt we can trust the State Attorney and the Sheriff to make sure she is fulfilling her duties to the County, also \$145,000 is well worth spending that money. Mr. Adams thanked SA Villareal for looking into this program and bringing it to the Board. Kai Swanson noted based on what he knows about GVI's implementation so far in the Quad Cities it has been very effective. Some of you may know Tee LeShoure she is the lead employee at family resources on this and she is she person that has spent a fair amount of her professional life working in youth development and she will tell you this is the first thing she has ever seen that really works. I am excited by this, the one suggestion that I would have is when we turn the corner from this consultancy itself, that we explore cost sharing with local departments. Because, obviously Rock Island County will be the beneficiary with the reduction of crime and will be the supervisor and it would be appropriate that the Sheriff should be the supervisor. If we are looking at an ongoing position I would like to look in some different areas. Sheriff Hart agreed with Mr. Swanson and noted that there has been some discussion with the Chiefs then again that model is something we are going to be talking about very shortly in about a week with Crime Stoppers. It is new to me when I was there it was just the City of Moline funding Crime Stoppers and there will be some conversation about the sharing of costs if this program is going to continue there may be some buy in from some other Municipalities. Bob Westpfahl asked where they came up with the figure of \$145,000.00 and what do we actually get for \$145,000.00. SA Villareal answered that some of that would be included in the short briefing I sent and I also sent two

publications regarding her contract and what is involved in her proposal. Mr. Westpfahl said he is not for this until he gets more information about it. Mr. Westpfahl said that sticking \$145,000 into something that we know absolutely anything about. I would have to have some time to think about it before I can support it. CBC Brunk recommended to Mr. Westpfahl that he refer to the material in his packet because all the information needed is there. SA Villareal noted that if Mr. Westpfahl would like for her to print out the material for him she would.

- Award of Farm Lease Bid for the county farm, 265 acres adjoining the old nursing home site in Coal Valley, with County Administration recommending Mr. Mitchell Trouten's bid of \$67,525 per year for the 5-year term.
- The Violence Reduction Strategy Project Proposal Agreement, also known as Group Violence Intervention.
- Actions necessary to address the Animal Care and Control fund balance, which includes forgiving loans totaling \$239,000 and an additional transfer from the general fund to the animal control fund of \$509,476.31. It should be noted that much of this amount is actually filling a gap created due to budgeted money never actually being moved to the animal control fund.
- The County Administrator Service Agreement, reflecting an increase of 4.75%, mirroring that of the other non-bargaining unit staff.
- The purchase of a Behnke 16' 20K Dump Trailer at the Highway Department.
- The 2026 General County Letting- Stone Bid Award for the Townships.
- And, Auditing Services with Baker-Tilly for 2025-2027, at a cost starting at \$145,635 for the 2025 audit increasing each year, to \$155,988 for the 2027 audit

Also Considered were:

- Transfer of Appropriations and Appropriation Resolutions for Funds
 - Claims in the Amount of \$1,285,545.61 for FY 2025
\$996,082.90 for FY 20226
 - Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$736,439.42 for FY 2025
\$1,582,166.36 for FY 2026
 - And, the Board Member Per Diem and Mileage Report
- This concludes the report of the Finance & Personnel Committee

8. Governance, Health & Administration Committee Report

Chairwoman Carla Enburg of the Governance, Health and Administration Committee noted that they met on Monday January 12th2026 at 10:00am

- County Clerk Karen Kinney gave her vital records report and reported on key dates for the upcoming primary election. Vote by mail and early voting in the county clerk's office begins February 5th, four offsite early voting locations open March 2nd, and Election Day itself falls on March 17th.
 - Regional Superintendent of Schools Tammy Muerhoff introduced new assistance dog "Morrell" that will be used in three Schools- Eagle Ridge, Colona and Rockridge.
- All routine reports were approved.

The Committee also considered the following items:

- A Proclamation recognizing February 2026 as Black History Month
- Insurance Broker Proposals to seek quotes for catastrophic coverage, with County Administrator recommending Gallagher, citing extensive access to broad network of insurance carriers.
- The designation of Visit Quad Cities as Rock Island County's tourism marketing organization.
- The Committee also approved and forwarded to the Violence Reduction Strategy Project Proposal to the Finance & Personnel Committee for Further consideration.

This concludes the report of the Governance, Health and Administration Committee.

9. Public Works & Facilities Report

The Public Works & Facilities Committee met on Monday January 12th, 2026 at 8:30 AM

The committee heard reports from the following:

- GIS Director Josh Boudi reported Recorder Fees for December of \$26,915.00. Mr. Boudi also reported that the installation of the GIS software at Highway has been completed, with the next step being to sync the server at Highway with the County server.
- Zoning & Building Director Greg Thorpe reported on an upcoming stormwater conference to be held on February 19 at Bally's. Mr. Thorpe informed the committee that due to budget cuts, the federal government is not requiring recertification for the Community Rating System this year. The CRS program encourages communities to implement floodplain management practices that exceed the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program, resulting in lower flood insurance premiums for residents. He also noted that with the passage of new state legislation related to wind, solar, & battery storage projects, that there will be ordinance & fee updates coming forward for consideration in the coming months and that building inspectors will also need to update their certifications.
- County Engineer Matt Miller reported on highway activity including: Salt deliveries being received. Receipt of the new trucks for the foreman and county engineer. Tree clean up throughout the County. The repair of the snowplow that was damaged due to the low shoulder on a road during the last major snow, at a cost of \$1,200. And, the installation of flashing stop-signs at 94th Avenue and 256 N. at the Riverdale Schools; with rumble strips to be installed at spring break.
- County Administrator Jim Grafton reported that work continues on the new preventive building maintenance agreement to ensure the most cost-effective plan. Mr. Grafton also noted that he is exploring options for updated signage at Animal Care & Control, to include an electronic sign panel to help promote the shelter and boost adoptions. The new signage will utilize the current sign support structure located along route 150 and clearly identify the Rock Island County Animal Care & Control Shelter. He anticipates bringing forward quotes next month for consideration.

All routine reports were approved

There were three Zoning Board of Appeals cases:

- a. RZ-26-101 Jerry & Lisa Pratt R-1 to B-3 BP
- b. RZ-26-102 Kristopher Homan AG-2 to SE-2 BO
- c. SU-26-201 Joshua Smith Seasonal Recreation HA

The following items were also considered and forwarded to Finance & Personnel for further consideration:

- Award of Farm Lease Bid proposals.
- The purchase of Behnke 16' 20K dump trailer
- and, the 2026 General County Letting – Stone bid award

This concludes the Public Works & Facilities Report

10. Approval of the County Board Agenda

Chairman Brunk noted that would like a motion to approve the County Board Agenda for 20 January 2026 with the exception of Item 6E

Motion by: Dr. Luis Moreno

Seconded by: Enyo Dewith

Motion carried via voice vote

11. Closed Session: Chairman Richard “Quijas” Brunk made a motion to go into Closed Session as allowed in 5 ILCS 120/2(c) to discuss Collective negotiated matters between the Public Body and its employees or their representative, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

Motion by: Dave Adams

Seconded by: Tim Foster

Roll call:

Member voting aye: Richard Morthland, Melissa Moreno-Baker, Drue Mielke, Larry Burns, Carla Enburg, Dr. Luis Moreno, David Adams, Richard Brunk, Timothy Foster, Enyo Dewith, Bob Perkins, Kai Swanson, Dr. Rodney Simmer, Chuck Layer, Bob Westpfahl

Also Present: States Attorney Dora Villareal, County Administrator Jim Grafton, County IT Director Kurt Davis and Jim Nelson from the County Administration Office.

The Rock Island County Board Committee of the Whole went into closed session at 6:05pm.

The Rock Island County Board Committee of the Whole returned to open session at 6:19pm.

Motion to go back into open session:

Motion: Dave Adams Second : Kai Swanson

Motion carried via voice vote

Members present: Richard Morthland, Melissa Moreno-Baker, Drue Mielke, Larry Burns, Carla Enburg, Dr. Luis Moreno, David Adams, Richard Brunk, Timothy Foster, Enyo Dewith, Bob Perkins, Kai Swanson, Chuck Layer, Bob Westpfahl.

Absent: Dr. Rodney Simmer (6:19pm), Cindy Ramos, Edna Sowards, Brian Vyncke.

Chairman Brunk noted that there was no action taken in closed session.

12. No action necessary on closed session

13. Committee Member opportunity for brief comment:

Chairman Brunk noted that it has been said there is a rumor that there have been no discussions with reference to homeless shelters in the Illinois Quad Cities. That is inaccurate, all the discussions I have been a part of at least 2 dozen discussions trying to connect various stakeholders to facilitate communication and potential options I am hoping that something will address the immediate need soon and those conversations continue to facilitate a long- term approach.

14. Adjourn

The 13 January 2026 meeting of the Committee of the Whole adjourned at 6:21 pm

The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on Wednesday 11 February 2026 at 5:30pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Jim Nelson

Rock Island County Administration