

Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chairman Mr. Fetherling at 9:00 am.

Roll Call

The following committee members were present: Mr. Fetherling, Mr. Miller, Mr. Long, Ms. Foster, Mr. Kerkstra, Ms. Amber Turner (via Zoom), Mr. Lowey, Mr. Taden, Mr. Benoit

Members Absent

Ms. Andrade, Mr. Dunnill, Mr. Koerner, Ms. Webber, Ms. Denise Turner, Mr. Alexander-Hildebrand

Mr. Miller made a motion to allow Ms. Amber Turner to attend via Zoom and Mr. Lowey seconded the motion. Motion carried with a voice vote.

In Attendance

- County Board Members
- Department Heads - Delbert Skimerhorn, Ben Wilson, Erich Blair, Eric Cavender

Media – None

Public Comment - None

Approval of Minutes – January 20, 2026

Mr. Miller made a motion to approve and Mr. Lowey seconded the motion. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Building

- **Building Report** – January 2026 & February 2026

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that in January there were 38 permits issued and the total revenue brought in was \$73,841.00.

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that in February there were 46 permits issued and the total revenue brought in was \$14,897.00.

Mr. Lowey made a motion to combine and approve the reports and Mr. Kerkstra seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

- **Stormwater/MS4 Program Discussion**

Mr. Skimerhorn asked if there was anything for discussion; there was not.

Zoning

- ZBA Case #26-01; to consider a Rezoning Application at 8872 E 7000 N Rd, Grant Park, IL, situated in Section 34 of Sumner Township (PI# 02-03-34-200-015 (out of)) from A1 Agriculture to A2 Agricultural Estate. Petition filed by Nathan and Jill Provost, property owners, and Leanne Provost, applicant.

Mr. Skimerhorn reviewed the application with the committee. Discussion was held. Zoning Board of Appeals approved 5-0.

Mr. Lowey made a motion to approve and Mr. Miller seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

- ZBA Case #26-02; to consider a Text Amendment to the Kankakee County Code of Ordinances in Chapter 121, Sections 3, 99, 146, 208, 209, 281, 295, and 297 regarding the siting, permitting, and regulation of renewable energy facilities as a result of the State of Illinois Public Act 104-0458. Petition filed by Kankakee County, applicant.

Mr. Skimerhorn reviewed the text amendment with the committee. Discussion was held. Zoning Board of Appeals approved 5-0.

Mr. Long made a motion to approve and Mr. Kerkstra seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote. Mr. Fetherling opposed.

- 2026 Zoning Map

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that each year they ask the County Board to approve the zoning map. Discussion was held.

Mr. Long made a motion to approve and Mr. Kerkstra seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Planning

- **Historic Preservation 2025 Annual Report**

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that the commission is required to file their annual report with the County Board each year.

Mr. Long made a motion to accept the report and put it on file and Mr. Miller seconded it. Motion carried with a voice vote.

- **Hovercraft Purchase**

Mr. Wilson stated that Limestone Fire Protection District has requested this hovercraft which will be paid for by a grant which was given to us for the purchase of river equipment.. The County will own it but the Limestone Fire Protection District will house it, maintain it, and insure it. There will be an intergovernmental agreement spelling out the details. The County will purchase it and then the grant will reimburse the County for it. He is asking for up to \$60,000 to cover the cost. Discussion was held.

Mr. Fetherling stated that he is not sure \$60,000 will be enough.

Mr. Long made a motion to approve the purchase not to exceed \$65,000 and Mr. Kerkstra seconded it. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays. Voting aye was Mr. Fetherling, Mr. Miller, Mr. Long, Ms. Foster, Mr. Kerkstra, Ms. Amber Turner (via Zoom), Mr. Lowey, Mr. Taden, Mr. Benoit.

Transportation

- **FY2027 FTA Section 5311 Application**
- **FY2027 Illinois Downstate Operating Assistance Program Application**
- **Purchase of Service Agreement with SHOWBUS**
- **Vehicle Lease Agreement**

Mr. Wilson stated that it is the time of year again to secure state and federal funds for rural transit. These are listed as separate items on the agenda but they are all connected to the process of securing the funds and they are all included in the application. Mr. Wilson reviewed the application process. Discussion was held.

Ms. Foster made a motion to combine and approve and Mr. Miller seconded it. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays. Voting aye was Mr. Fetherling, Mr. Miller, Mr. Long, Ms. Foster, Mr. Kerkstra, Ms. Amber Turner (via Zoom), Mr. Lowey, Mr. Taden, Mr. Benoit.

Old Business - None

New Business – Mr. Long stated that they are mourning the passing of Orion Samuelson who was a giant in agriculture. He brought the news of agriculture to many, many people over many, many years. He would like to extend gratitude from Kankakee County for everything that he did for agriculture and also send sympathies to his family. He used to fly into Kankakee and announce the tractor pulls out at the Kankakee Fairgrounds.

Mr. Long stated that he believes that all of the people managing the storm recovery from the disaster since last Tuesday have been doing a great job. Today they are going back to the tornado site with dogs to conduct a thorough search. He knows of no reported missing persons.

Mr. Long stated that he handed out a press release from the Sheriff's Office regarding damage assessment. He asked Mr. Cavender to come up and explain it.

Mr. Cavender stated that they are asking anyone who has any storm damage to scan the QR code on the press release document and fill out the self-assessment for the damage. The feedback that they get from the public is critical for determining whether the County receives any state or federal assistance to help recover from this disaster.

Mr. Cavender stated that the help that they have already received from the Planning Department has had a big impact on the recovery.

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that permits will be needed for much of the rebuilding and the contractors will need to be registered with the County.

Mr. Cavender stated that they have an updated list of approved contactors on the County's website.

Mr. Cavender stated the County Highway Department will start debris removal tomorrow morning for anyone in Aroma Park or Aroma Township.

Mr. Long stated that the City of Kankakee has been very helpful with the disaster.

Adjournment

Mr. Kerkstra made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 a.m. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried by a voice vote.

John Fetherling, Committee Chairman

Joanne Langlois, Executive Coordinator

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45cO_gK4qO0