

FAYETTE COUNTY
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Convene

Patrick Click, Vice Chairperson, called the Finance Committee Meeting to order at the Vandalia City Hall, 431 W Gallatin St, Vandalia, Illinois, 62471 on January 6, 2026, at 6:34 p.m.

Attendance

Michael Black, *Present*; Michael L. Butts, *Present*; Patrick Click, *Present*; Jaqueline Durr, *Present*; Sean Hannagan, *Absent*; Jacob Harris, *Absent*; Dan Lutz, *Present*; Mack Payne, *Present*; Scott L. Ray, *Present*; Ryan Tompkins, *Present*; Ashley Towler, *Absent*; James Wehrle, *Present*; Joe A. Wills, *Present*; Scott Workman, *Absent*.

Approval of Prior Minutes from November 4, 2025

Mack Payne made a motion to approve the prior meeting minutes. Dan Lutz second the motion. The motion passed with all Ayes.

Public Comment

None.

Administrator Report

Justin Greeley, Bellwether, stated that the salary for elected officials will be a topic of discussion as this must be set 180 days prior to the General Election on November 3, 2026. We will utilize the survey prepared by United Counties Council of Illinois (UCCI) as it provides a look at population and sizes of counties comparable to our own.

Persons to Address Board

None.

Discussion of Financial Issues

1. Discussion and possible approval of Downstate Major Case Squad Intergovernmental Criminal Justice Service Assistance Agreement.

Sheriff Ronnie Stevens stated that this will allow our agency to put out press releases rather than having to wait on the State Police. We have spoke with States Attorney Brenda Mathis and she agrees that this is a good agreement to have in place.

Michael Black made a motion to move the Agreement to the full board for consideration. Michael Butts second the motion. The motion passed with all Ayes.

2. Discussion of Fayette County FY25 Audit.

Treasurer Michelle Hagy reported that she contacted a CPA firm that may be willing to accept Fayette County as a client. After consultation with the County's prior auditor, Koch, the CPA firm advised that an additional audit would be required to identify and understand an existing discrepancy before they would agree to take the County on as a client. The discrepancy was described as an approximate \$100,000 variance, reflecting excess funds shown in the bank balance.

Treasurer Hagy stated that the County's audits balanced while conducted by Franklin & Vaughn, but that issues have arisen during the period audited by Koch. She further reported that Koch has identified the existence of discrepancies but has not provided specific details regarding the source or line item causing the imbalance. The prospective CPA firm indicated that if a forensic audit is completed and the issue is identified, they would be willing to accept Fayette County as a client. Treasurer Hagy offered to pay one-half of the cost of the forensic audit from her special funds, contingent upon the County covering the remaining portion.

Michael Butts made a motion to move the approval of the Forensic Audit to the Board meeting. Ryan Tompkins second the motion. The motion passed with all Ayes.

3. **Discussion and update from the Sheriff regarding courthouse maintenance and insurance.**

Sheriff Stevens provided an update on recent courthouse maintenance issues. He reported that sewer problems required excavation, which included the removal of a tree. During this work, it was discovered that window wells had been improperly tied into the sewer system, which is not permitted and required correction. Sheriff Stevens also stated that outdated tile was discovered during the repairs and needed to be replaced with modern materials.

Sheriff Stevens further reported that the failure of the jail's heating system has already significantly impacted the FY26 budget, noting that these expenses have substantially depleted available funds despite the fiscal year being only in its second month.

4. **Discussion and possible approval of bids received for the Washington School Building.**

Two bids were received for the Washington School Building. The committee accepted the high bid from Durbin Rental Property.

Michael Black made a motion to move the approval of the bid to the Board meeting. Dan Lutz second the motion. The motion passed with all Ayes.

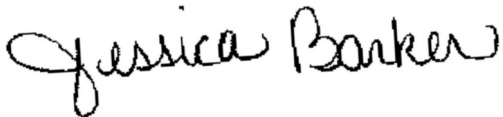
Board Member's Comments and Non-Action Items

It was noted that the Public Building Commission is seeking to fill a vacancy following the resignation of Sandy Michel. The Commission expressed a preference for a candidate with a background in real estate, who is female, and a resident of the County.

Adjournment

Mack Payne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joe Wills second the motion. The motion passed with all Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Submitted



Jessica Barker
Fayette County Clerk and Recorder