

**PUTNAM COUNTY REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**December 8, 2025, at 5:30 P.M.**

The regular meeting of the Putnam County Board was called to order at 5:30 P.M. on Monday, December 8, 2025, by the County Board Chairman, Charles Lenkaitis. The meeting was held in the courtroom at the Putnam County Courthouse in Hennepin, Illinois

The Clerk of the County Board took Roll Call with Floyd Holocker, Tony Rue, Marlee Giacometti, Luke Holly, and Charles Lenkaitis answering.

All who were in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes:** Tabled until next meeting.

**Bills:** It was moved by board member Holocker to pay the November Bills. Board member Rue seconded the motion, which was carried on a roll call board vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 absent.

**Public comment:** Donna Blomquist was present and asked the board to table the Ordinance. Brittany Blomquist asked the board to table the Ordinance to allow for more time for the public to review and comment on the ordinance.

Jim Mayor asked if what was discussed last week at ZBA meeting is the Ordinance that is being voted on tonight. Jim Mayor also asked them to get a different attorney or environmental consultant who has more knowledge of Carbon Sequestration. Jim Mayor is concerned about the Zoning Permit Cost. Why are they being lowered? We are allowed to charge reasonable rates. There is no way one (1) Zoning Officer can handle anything at that site.

Bob Hammond requested that the county hire a consulting firm to handle what is going on at that site. Ryan can not do everything for the county and look over that site as well.

Dawn Neubaum thanked the board and all involved for writing an Ordinance. However, there are questions about the Agriculture/Industrial Waste Zoning and why it has been taken out and or put into the ordinance. The board chairman thanked everyone for their concerns and questions.

**State Attorney** Christina Judd Mennie was present and had no action items for the board. There were no other questions for the State's Attorney.

**County Highway Engineer** Catherine Terando was present and had her report regarding County Highway Engineering and Maintenance Activities for the board. Terando had 2 action items. First one, Resolution 2025-28 Maintenance Under the Illinois Highway Code. It was moved by board member Rue to approve Resolution 2025-28 Maintenance Under the Illinois Highway Code. Board member Holly seconded the motion, which was carried on a roll call board vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 absent. *(The Clerk of the County Board was directed to process Resolution 2025-28 Maintenance Under the Illinois Highway Code.)* Second one, Ordinance 2025-O-04 Establishing Right-of-Way Permit Fees. It was moved by board member Holocker to approve Ordinance 2025-O-04 Establishing Right-of-Way Permit Fees. Board member Giacometti seconded the motion, which was carried on a roll call board vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent. *(The Clerk of the County Board was directed to process Ordinance 2025-O-04*

***Establishing Right-of-Way Permit Fees.*** Terando reported that during the recent weather events, we were short-staffed and had a couple of truck issues. The Highway Department is still looking for a full-time employee. There were no other questions regarding her report. (The County Highway Engineer report is on file at the Office of the County Clerk & Recorder for review by any interested parties.)

**Sheriff** Joshua Boedigheimer was present with his report. The Sheriff did not have anything additional to report. There were no other questions for the Sheriff. (The Sheriff's and Civil Processing Transaction Reports are on file at the Office of the County Clerk for review by any interested parties.)

**County Treasurer** Kevin Kunkel was not present, but the board had his report.

NOV, FY' 2025

Income - \$266,947.51

General Fund Account Balances

General Fund Balance – (\$40,159.87)

General Fund Savings - \$402,778.68

NCB CD - \$535,772.18

Illinois Funds - \$2,773,456.55

IIIT (PFM) - \$454,627.68

PMA - \$563,996.01

Total – \$4,690,471.23

FY' 2025 Total Revenues - \$4,090,960.84

FY' 2025 Total Expenses – (\$4,244,574.98)

(The County Treasurer's financial reports are on file at the Office of the County Clerk for review by any interested parties.)

**County Clerk & Recorder** Tina Dolder was present with her report. Dolder reported that the income collected for November was \$11,863.98. Dolder stated it has been a busy month leading up to the end of the year. Dolder reported that on Dec 3, 2025, she and Chauntelle went to Springfield, and Dolder accepted an award on behalf of Putnam County. The Putnam County Courthouse was accepted into the 2025 Centennial Business Awards program. The Putnam County Courthouse is one of only 1,500 businesses recognized by the program since it was established in 1984 to honor Illinois companies and institutions that have operated continuously in the Prairie State for 100 years or more. The board had no other questions. (The County Clerk & Recorder's report is on file at the Office of the County Clerk & Recorder for review by any interested parties.)

**County Circuit Clerk** Carly Neubaum was not present and had nothing to report.

**County Probation Officer** Sam Wier was not present and had nothing to report.

**Zoning Administrator** Ryan Giacometti was present with his report. Giacometti continued inspections for the various permitted projects and issued 2 new permits for November. Giacometti reported the ZBA that was scheduled for November 25, 2025, at 5:30 PM to hear ZBA #25-002 Application for text Amendment requested by the County to add a Carbon Capture and Sequestration Ordinance (CCS) Ordinance to the existing Putnam County Zoning Ordinance, passed with 5 Ayes, 1 Nay, and 1 Abstain. One action is Resolution 2025-29 and Ordinance 2025-O-05 Amending the Application for Text Amendment ZBA #25-002: Carbon Capture and Sequestration (“CCS”) Ordinance.

Board Chairman Lenkaitis stated that this revised Ordinance was presented by Heyl Royster law firm, and a representative from the firm is here to help answer any questions we may have. Representative from Heyl Royster proceeded to say this Ordinance has gone through the ZBA process now it is on the agenda, so the county board has an option to approve the Ordinance. The attorney pointed out some of the challenges of coming up with an ordinance in this county. One challenge is that we are not a home-rule county, which means we have restrictions on what we can even do. The Federal government has issued a statute, plus a whole set of laws on carbon capture and the injection of underground injection wells. That whole framework governs whatever type of project they're going to do, where they're capturing carbon and then injecting it. Because of that, our power is somewhat limited, which makes it challenging. Heyl Royster also wanted to point out that most counties in Illinois don't have full regulation on this. Whether an ordinance is passed or not, it does not have any impact on whether a project stops or continues. The County Ordinance gives some regulations by the county that are within the confines of the ordinance. If you don't pass the ordinance, a project could come through with permission from the Federal government. The point of this ordinance is to have some regulation without overstepping the bounds of the Federal Government. The board had no other questions. It was moved by Board member Rue to approve Resolution 2025-29/Ordinance 2025-O-05 Amending the Application for Text Amendment ZBA #25-002: Carbon Capture and Sequestration (“CCS”) Ordinance. Board member Holly seconded the motion, which was carried on a roll call board vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstain. *(The Clerk of the County Board was directed to process Resolution 2025-29/Ordinance 2025-O-05 Amending the Application for Text Amendment ZBA #25-002: Carbon Capture and Sequestration (“CCS”) Ordinance.)* (The Zoning Administrator's report is on file at the Office of the County Clerk & Recorder for review by any interested parties.)

**County Supervisor of Assessments** Tammy Mehalic was not present and had nothing to report.

**County Death Investigator** Bob Cofoid was not present and had nothing to report.

**Putnam County Office of Emergency Management Coordinator** Chauntelle Biagi was present and had her report for November. Biagi attended several virtual meetings and trainings. Biagi reported 1650 total hours for FY' 2025. Biagi included a list of committees to which she belongs. The board had no further questions. (The County Emergency Management Coordinator's report is on file at the Office of the County Clerk & Recorder for review by any interested parties.)

### **NEW/OLD BUSINESS:**

The Illinois Waterway Ports Commission has attended a couple of board meetings throughout the year. The purpose of the ILWW Ports Commission is to help attract more infrastructure investment to our modern, sustainable, rural, regional, multi-modal inland partnership port areas. The Ports Commission was requesting financial support, specifically \$1.00 per person, per the most recent county census. The ILWW Ports Commission was not funded by the state to support the region. We need funding from each county to provide this critical support and allow us (ILWW Ports Commission) to continue to serve the region as an economic enabler and continue to attract federal, state, non-profit, and private business investment. It was moved by Board member Holly to approve a donation of \$5,000.00 to the ILWW Ports Commission. Board member Holocker seconded the motion, which was carried on a roll call board vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 absent.

Ambulance Contract Bids – We received 2 bids. The bids were open one at a time, first bid, from Stark County Ambulance Service \$803,925, which includes an ALS Crew, two fully equipped vehicles, or \$920,325 includes an ALS crew, three fully equipped vehicles, with a 3 % increase for the first three years of the agreement. Second bid, McNabb Fire Protection District, \$440,000 for the initial term with annual increases in compensation of 4.999%. After a little discussion, it was moved by Board member Rue to approve the McNabb Fire Protection District's bid of \$440,000. (The bids will be kept on file at the Office of the County Clerk & Recorder for review by any interested parties.)

Handbook – No new updates.

### **Correspondences and Committee Reports: None**

**Public Comment:** The board Chairman offered one more opportunity for anyone who did not get to speak earlier to speak about Carbon Sequestration.

A community member asked if the Ordinance had passed or not. The board Chairman said it did pass.

Joyce Blumenshine had a question for the Zoning Administrator. When was the revised version of the Carbon Sequestering Ordinance published for the community to review? Mark Marquis was present and wanted to thank the board for the do diligence with this issue and finding some common ground where both the county is protected without opening themselves up to litigation.

Marquis stated that they want to build more business, create jobs, better income for farmers, for the grain, for our team, and for everyone here. He said there are great opportunities in the future. From a leadership perspective, Mr. Marquis encouraged the board as leaders in the community to take an active role in being sure that an Enterprise Zone is established for new business. It is important that we lead with an Enterprise Zone that's got some length to it and has participation by the taxing bodies. This creates space, jobs, and opportunities for generations to come. Mr. Marquis ended by expressing his concern that they had this project in the works for four years, and then, here towards the end, when we met all the criteria of the EPA and the State of Illinois, there could be a regulation come out that could be detrimental to something that we are doing. Marquis stated, "So, finding this common ground with your legal staff and the board, I will commit that we will follow the letters of the ordinance here forward. Thank you, and let's do more business."

The Board Chairman thanked Mr. Marquis.

Joyce Blumenshine asked when the questions would be answered. The Board Chairman responded by informing her that she can email anyone with any questions, and they will answer after the meeting.

Ms. Dahl, Stark County EMS director, thanked the county board for opening the bid and giving them the opportunity to bid on the EMS.

**ADJOURN:**

At 6:06 P.M., Board member Holocker moved to adjourn the meeting. Board member Rue seconded the motion; it was carried on a roll call board vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 absent. The meeting was adjourned. The next Regular Meeting of the Putnam County Board is scheduled for Monday, January 12, 2026, at 5:30 P.M. The meeting will be held in the courtroom at the Putnam County Courthouse.

Respectfully submitted,

TINA DOLDER, Clerk of the Putnam County Board