State of Illinois)
County of Ogle) ss

Call to Order

Chairman Larson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

The roll call showed Griffin and Miller absent. The invocation was given by Kenney and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation: Andy Shaw, Enterprise Zone and GIS Mapping Specialist – Blackhawk Hills Regional Council

Andy Shaw presented the Ogle County Board with a report of tax comparisons statewide and in surrounding counties for Ogle County. The data included 2023 taxes and valuation, combined with 2020 census populations, all at the county level.

Public Hearing - Bond Abatement - O-2025-1201
Chairman Larson presented "An Ordinance abating the taxes heretofore levied for the year 2025 to pay debt service on $9,705,000 General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2018, and $6,523,000 General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2020, of The County of Ogle, Illinois."

Billeter moved to approve O-2025-1201, 2nd by Kenney. A roll call vote was taken:

YES: Reising, Simms, Williams, Youman, Asp, Billeter, Corbitt, Daws, Fox, Fritz, Gillis, Heuer, Hopkins, Huber, Janes, Kenney, Mudge, Nordman, Oltmanns, Ramsey, Reeverts and Larson.

NO: None

ABSENT: Griffin and Miller

Motion carried on a roll call vote. (Placed on file)

Consent Agenda Items – by Roll Call Vote

1. Approval of Ogle County Board Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2025
2. Accept Monthly Reports – Treasurer, County Clerk & Recorder and Circuit Clerk
3. Appointments –
    - Board of Health – Jennifer Fox – R-2025-1201
    - Mental Health 708 Board – Marcella Haushahn – R-2025-1202
    - Mental Health 708 Board – Jennifer Helfrich – R-2025-1203
4. Vacancies -
    - Board of Health – DDS (1 unexpired term)
    - Board of Health (1 vacancy)
    - Housing Authority (2 unexpired terms)
    - Mental Health 708 Board (1 unexpired term)
    - Franklin Grove Fire Protection District (1 vacancy)

Application and Resumé deadline - Friday, January 2, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. in the County Clerk's Office -105 S. 5th St, Ste 104, Oregon

5. Ogle County Claims –
    - Department Claims – November 2025 - $127,995.82
    - County Board Payments – $146,018.20
    - County Highway Fund – $62,409.11
6. Communications -
    - Local Sales Tax
    - ComEd Management Vegetation Activities

Simms moved to approve the Consent Agenda and 2nd by Fritz. A roll call vote is taken:

YES: Simms, Williams, Youman, Asp, Billeter, Corbitt, Daws, Fox, Fritz, Gillis, Heuer, Hopkins, Huber, Janes, Kenney, Mudge, Nordman, Oltmanns, Ramsey, Reeverts, Reising, and Larson

NO: None

ABSENT: Griffin and Miller

Motion carried.

Zoning - #09-25 SPECIAL USE - Summit Ridge Energy dba Forreston IL Solar 1, LLC, % Barrett LaChance, 1000 Wilson Blvd, Ste. 2400, Arlington, VA - O-2025-1202

Nordman presented #09-25 Special Use in the AG-1 Agricultural District to allow the construction and operation of a 2.0 MW AC Community Solar Energy Facility on the property described as follows and being leased by the petitioner: Part of the South Half (S1/2) of the Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of Section 4 Lincoln Township 24N, R8E of the 4th P.M., Ogle County, IL, 17.1 acres of the 47.54 acres site, more or less. PIN: Part of 07-04-400-005. Common Location: 12,000 block of W. West Grove Rd.

Nordman stated ZBA had a 5-0 approval and APZ had an 8-0 approval.

Nordman moved to approve O-2025-1202 as presented, 2nd by Asp.

Motion carried. (Placed on file)

Zoning – Ogle County Commercial Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Siting and Operating - O-2025-1203

Nordman presented and moved to approve O-2025-1203, 2nd by Janes.

Reeverts mentioned that he had some concerns regarding this ordinance. He pointed out that there are several different references to AMIA for a BESS system, but at this time the Illinois Department of Agricultural doesn't have anything in place for that. The Clean Reliable Grid Act was passed by the General Assembly during their last session, which will outline the State standards for a battery energy storage system. Reeverts is concerned that certain provisions in the ordinance may conflict with the State Statute once it is signed by the Governor.

Reising said that he called the IACBM and spoke to someone regarding the State Statue. He was advised that they have their draft of the Clean Reliable Grid act ready, and they expect the Governor to sign it in January. It was recommended that no action be taken at this time.

Nordman responded that she appreciated the input from the Board Members. Nordman believes that moving forward is best, and that if passed, the ordinance can be changed at a later time.

Youman stated that there are about 12 other counties that already have a Battery Energy Storage System in place.

Larson indicated that passing this ordinance could possibly get the County grandfathered in, and if the Governor signs, revisions can be made as needed.

A roll call vote is taken:

YES: Williams, Youman, Asp, Billeter, Daws, Fox, Fritz, Gillis, Huber, Janes, Kenney, Nordman, Oltmanns, Reising, and Larson.

NO: Corbitt, Heuer, Hopkins, Mudge, Ramsey, Reeverts, and Simms.

ABSENT: Griffin and Miller

Motion carried.

Public Comment

- Bridget Callahan - Callahan is a representative of Forreston IL Solar 1, LLC on behalf of Summit Ridge Energy. She wanted to cover some key points of the project. The plan is to lease 17 of the 47 acres for solar, and keep the additional 30 acres as agricultural.

- Brion Brooks - Brooks is retiring on Friday, December 19 as the Director of the Village of Progress after 11 years. He wanted to thank the County for their help over the years with the disabilities community, and encouraged the members to continue backing the agencies that the Mental Health 708 Board supports.
- Laura Cook - Cook presented Abby Duke with a 19th Amendment commemorative coin for her help over the years in the County Clerk's office.

Presentation of plaque to retiring Ogle County Clerk and Recorder Laura J. Cook
Chairman Larson presented retiring Ogle County Clerk and Recorder Laura J. Cook with a plaque recognizing her commitment to the citizens of Ogle County.

Reports and Recommendations of Committees

Executive

- Recognizing County Clerk and Recorder – R-2025-1206

  Larson presented and moved to approve R-2025-1206 declaring December 19, 2025 as Laura J. Cook Day in Ogle County, 2nd by Oltmanns. Motion carried. (Placed on file)

- Appointment of County Clerk and Recorder – R-2025-1205

  Larson presented and moved to approve R-2025-1205 to appoint Rebecca K. Duke as County Clerk and Recorder until November 30, 2026, 2nd by Youman. Motion carried. (Placed on file)

Finance

- Bellwether Budget Development Service FY2027 - O-2025-1204

  Billeter presented and moved to approve O-2025-1204 to enter into an agreement authorizing Bellwether to analyze FY2027 budget, 2nd by Youman. Motion carried. (Placed on file)

Human Resources and Risk Management

- Appointment of IMRF Authorized Agent – R-2025-1214

  Larson stated and Kenney confirmed R-2025-1214 is being stricken at this time.

Long Range Planning

- Updates

  Oltmanns presented updates regarding the Historic Courthouse roof project. Sterling Roofing has a plan in place to continue working on the roof throughout the winter. There is no update on the Memorial Plaza project at this time. The VAC and Animal Control office renovations are still being worked up, and hope to have an update next month.

Road and Bridge

- German Church Rd Culvert Improvements – 21-00337-00-BR - R-2025-1207

  Hopkins presented and moved to approve R-2025-1207, 2nd by Williams. Billeter recused himself due to family employment. Motion carried. (Placed on file)

- Temporary Construction Easement Agmts - Constellation Energy Generation, LLC - German Church Culvert Improvements - 21-00337-00-BR - R-2025-1208

  Hopkins presented and moved to approve R-2025-1208, 2nd by Oltmanns. Motion carried. (Placed on file)

- 2026 County Maintenance - 26-0000-00-GM - R-2025-1209

  Hopkins presented and moved to approve R-2025-1209, 2nd by Reeverts. Motion carried. (Placed on file)

- County Engineer's Salary - 26-00000-00-CS - R-2025-1210

  Hopkins presented and moved to approve R-2025-1210, 2nd by Kenney. Motion carried. (Placed on file)

- Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement, Phase 2 - Big Mound Rd Bridge - 23-22124-00-BR - R-2025-1211
  Hopkins presented and moved to approve R-2025-1211, 2nd by Fritz. Motion carried. (Placed on file)

- Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Construction - German Church Rd overlay - 20-00333-00-RS - R-2025-1212

  Hopkins presented and moved to approve R-2025-1212, 2nd by Reeverts. Motion carried. (Placed on file)

- County Road Construction, German Church Rd overlay - 20-00333-00-RS - R-2025-1213

  Hopkins presented and moved to approve R-2025-1213, 2nd by Janes. Motion carried. (Placed on file)

Unfinished and New Business: None
Chairman Comments: Thank you Laura Cook, County Clerk and Recorder for 27 ½ years of service.
Vice-Chairman Comments: Merry Christmas everyone.
Adjournment:

At 6:32 p.m., with no further business Chairman Larson adjourned the meeting until Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Courthouse in Oregon.

Chairman Bruce E. Larson
Ogle County Board

Attest: Laura J. Cook, Ogle County Clerk & Recorder
Ex-officio Clerk of the Ogle County Board