

CASS COUNTY BOARD MEETING

March 9, 2026

The Cass County Board met in the Courthouse, in the Courtroom, on Monday, March 9, 2026 at the hour of 6:00 P.M.

Present: Bill Merriman  
Chairman

Attest: Shelly Wessel  
County Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Merriman, who directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Merriman	Present	Wessel	Present	Douglass	Present
Williams	Present	Lunsford	Present	Noe	Present
Hance	Present	Schultz	Present	Brown	Absent
Ruppel	Present	Snellgrove	Present		

As a result of the roll call, the Clerk states that all board members are present except for Brown.

Chairman Merriman declares there is a quorum.

Chairman Merriman now leads the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

A Morgan County Commissioner and a representative from MCS Community Services spoke to the board about the annual cost of running the program. The program is needing additional funds and is requesting that Cass County contribute towards the annual costs.

The minutes of the March 9, 2026, Cass County Board meetings are presented for approval. Noe makes the motion to approve the minutes and Ruppel seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Noe reports the Courthouse and Jail Committee met on March 5, 2026 and approved all bills as presented.

Douglass reports the Public Safety, Environment and Housing Committee met on February 23, 2026. Genasys is up and running. It is free to all Cass County Citizens.

There was no report from Cass Rural Water. Chairman Merriman did state that he has signed a letter of support for Cass Rural Water and Arenzville Rural Water.

The Housing Authority Board met on February 17, 2026. The Housing Authority is in good financial shape.

Lunsford, Chairman of the Animal Control Commission, reports they met on February 25, 2026. They are working on getting ordinances in order. There were 21 calls, 7 dogs were picked up, 3 were returned to their owners, 1 dog was transferred to rescue, 3 are currently at the pound and 1 was euthanized.

Hance reports that the Health Department Board met Greg Seiders who works in the Environmental Health and Food Inspections division of the Health Department.

The Supervisor of Assessments Committee met on February 17, 2026. They have received 21 complaints.

Wessel reports the Road and Bridge Committee met on March 2, 2026 and approved all bills. The committee discussed a new plow truck and went over the drawings for the new building.

Under Insurance and Bonds, Mike Kirchner announces a Hope Trust Meeting will be held in Pleasant Plains on March 20, 2026. All board members are invited to attend.

Noe reports that OEDC met on February 24, 2026. The commission heard from a representative from Western Solar and Dustin Fritsche gave a report on student programs.

The following committees have no report:

Legislative

Policies and Procedures

Finance and Judiciary

Liquor Control

Economic Development

E-9-1-1

MCS

Coop Extension

Mental Health 708

Tourism

TIF

The Chairman now moves on to New Business:

An appointment to the Beardstown Rural Fire District is presented for approval. A motion to approve the appointment is made by Douglass and seconded by Ruppel. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Appointment)

Chairman Merriman presents for approval the Transferring of Funds within the County Treasury. A motion to approve is made by Wessel and seconded by Noe. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Approval)

Chairman Merriman next presents the request for a Liquor License for The Lounge (Clint Wherley). A motion to approve the Liquor License is made by Noe and seconded by Hance. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Chairman Merriman presents for Approval the request to Authorize the County Highway Engineer to enter into contracts with CMS for salt purchase. A motion to approve is made by Douglass and seconded by Hance. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Chairman Merriman presents for Approval the Authorization for Chairman Merriman to sign a "Preliminary Engineering Service Agreement" for the replacement of STR 009-3026 on Arenzville-Beardstown Road (CH-8). A motion to approve the authorization of signature is made by Wessel and seconded by Snellgrove. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Agreement)

Chairman Merriman presents for approval the Bid from Miller Construction for the ADA Grant. The \$40,000 grant has already been received. They will honor the same quote from 2024. A motion to approve the Bid is made by Douglass and seconded by Williams. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried. The Chairman directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Merriman	Yes	Wessel	Yes	Douglass	Yes
Williams	Yes	Lunsford	Yes	Noe	Yes
Hance	Absent	Schultz	Yes	Brown	Absent

As a result of the roll call, the Clerk states that all board members present have voted in the affirmative. Chairman Merriman declares the motion carried.

Chairman Merriman presents the monthly reports of the County Clerk, Treasurer, Circuit Clerk, Sheriff, and Zoning Officer. A motion to receive the monthly reports is made by Wessel and seconded by Ruppel. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

The approval of claims is next presented to the board. A motion to approve the claims is made by Wessel and seconded by Douglass. The Chairman directs the Clerk to call roll.

The Clerk calls roll.

Roll Call:

Merriman	Yes	Wessel	Yes	Douglass	Yes
Williams	Yes	Lunsford	Yes	Noe	Yes
Hance	Absent	Schultz	Yes	Brown	Absent
Ruppel	Yes	Snellgrove	Yes		

As a result of the roll call, the Clerk states that all members present have voted in the affirmative. Chairman Merriman declares the motion carried.

At approximately 6:40 p.m. a motion to adjourn and reconvene on the night of April 13, 2026 is made by Noe and seconded by Snellgrove. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

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Shelly Wessel, Clerk