

CASS COUNTY BOARD MEETING

January 12, 2026

The Cass County Board met in the Courthouse, in the Courtroom, on Monday, January 12, 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	Present
Ruppel	Present	Snellgrove	Absent		

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

Chairman Merriman declares there is a quorum.

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

During Public comment Jacob Jansen from Snedeker's Hope Trust reported a 0% increase for major medical. Jansen presented the board a dividend check in the amount of \$5,040.

Snellgrove arrives at 6:02 p.m.

Cass County Treasurer Travis Cox spoke on the financial condition of the county. The county has zero debt, the Illinois Mutual Retirement Fund is 100% fully funded. The General Fund Levy was set at \$60,000. If the county used their max rate the amount the county would collect would be 1.8 million.

Cox states that most counties would love to have a 6 month cash reserve and Cass County has a 2 year cash reserve.

The minutes of the December 8, 2025 Cass County Board meeting are presented for approval. Douglass makes the motion to approve the minutes and Hance seconds the motion. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Noe reports the Courthouse and Jail Committee met on January 8, 2026 and approved all bills as presented.

Douglass reports the Public Safety, Environment and Housing Committee met on December 22, 2025. Roger Lauder, Director of ESDA, held a table top disaster drill at D & D Homes in Beardstown.

Noe reports that the Cass County Housing Authority Board met on December 18, 2025. The county is providing all housing employees and board members with free life insurance.

Hance reports that the Health Department received the Home Health Elite Honor Award for Cass County 2025. Retirement parties for Teresa Armstrong and Kathy Newman were held. The Health Department received a \$25,000 grant from IDPH. IDPH is recommending that all children receive Hepatitis B vaccines at birth. The waste water in Beardstown tested high for Covid and Flu.

Lunsford, Chairman of the Animal Control Commission, reports a meeting was held on December 23, 2025 and they approved to have Judge Wessel swear in the Animal Control Wardens so that they can write citations in Cass County. There were 16 calls, 6 dogs were picked up, 3 were returned to their owners, 4 dogs went to the rescue facility and currently there are no dogs in the pound.

The Supervisor of Assessments Committee met on December 15, 2025. There was nothing to report. The next meeting will be January 20, 2026.

The Road and Bridge Committee met on January 5, 2026 and approved all bills. Kevin met with builders and subcontractors, and they hope to start on the new Highway Building/Sheriff's Office on March 1, 2026.

The following committees have no report:

Legislative

Policies and Procedures

Finance and Judiciary

Liquor Control

Economic Development

E-9-1-1

MCS

Coop Extension

OEDC

Mental Health 708

OEDC Tourism

TIF

The Chairman now moves on to New Business:

The appointments to the Cass County Public Defender, and Mud Creek Drainage District are presented for approval. A motion to approve the appointments is made by Noe and seconded by Douglass. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Appointments)

Chairman Merriman presents the Public Defender Contract for approval. A motion is made by Wessel and seconded by Douglass. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Contract)

Chairman Merriman presents for Approval the Budget Transfer Resolution. A motion to approve the Resolution is made by Wessel and seconded by Douglass. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

(See Attached Resolution)

Chairman Merriman next presents the request for Authorization for the Chairman to Sign the Joint Funding Agreement for State Participation for Bridge Replacement on CO Hwy 8 (Sec 18-00082-00BR). A motion to approve the Authorization for the Chairman to sign the agreement is made by Hance and seconded by Snellgrove.

(See Attached Agreement)

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 Douglass 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 Douglass and seconded by Noe. 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	Yes	Schultz	Yes	Brown	Yes
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 6:24 p.m. a motion to adjourn and reconvene on the night of February 9, 2026 is made by Snellgrove and seconded by Noe. The vote is by acclamation and declared carried.

Shelly Wessel, Clerk