



Kane County

KC Public Service Committee

Meeting Minutes

Government Center
719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A
Geneva, IL 60134

SANCHEZ, Young, Gripe, Gumz, Lewis, Surges, Tepe, ex-officios Roth (County Vice Chair)
and Pierog (County Chair)

Thursday, August 21, 2025

9:00 AM

County Board Room

1. Call To Order

Chairman Sanchez called today's meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT	Board Member Jarett Sanchez Board Member Jon Gripe Board Member Michelle Gumz Board Member Anita Lewis Board Member Vern Tepe Ex-Officio County Board Vice Chair Bill Roth
REMOTE	Board Member David Young Board Member Clifford Surges
ABSENT	Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog

Also present: Co. Bd. members Bates*, Juby, Molina*, Penesis*; Treasurer Lauzen; SOA Armstrong; ROE Supt. Jonak and staff Allgrim and Hadjiev; VAC Supt. Zimmerman; Co. Clk. staff Pollock; ITD staff Peters; and members of the press and public.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

Chairman Sanchez announced the remote attendance requests for today's meeting. He asked the Committee if there were any objections to Committee Members Surges and Young attending remotely. There were no objections.

4. Approval of Minutes: July 17, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Vern Tepe

5. Public Comment

Kane County resident Victoria Davidson-Bell spoke on her concerns about the County Board considering the Proclamation Opposing Non-Citizen voting. She stated that by doing this, the Board Members are implying that the Board counterparts support and enable voter fraud. Davidson-Bell added that by supporting this misguided proclamation, the lie that the 2020 Election was fraudulent is being supported as well. Lastly, she stated that it is inappropriate for the Kane County Board to engage in supporting lies that are damaging to the country and nation.

Kane County resident Denise Theobald addressed repeated claims by Board Members that non-citizens are voting in Kane County Elections, and that the county's elections are not secure. She stated that these claims are false. Theobald added that Illinois has strict checks and balances to prevent non-citizens from voting. Same-day registrants must show proper identification, proof of U.S. citizenship, signature matching, and provisional balance cross-checks with state and federal databases. She noted that Kane County Bipartisan Election Officials consistently demonstrate integrity and transparency. In 2021, based on requests from Republicans, Kane County Clerk, Jack Cunningham, and staff spend more than 100 hours providing a forensic audit. It concluded with no evidence of fraud. Lastly, Theobald stated that free and fair elections are important, and that they are the foundation of democracy.

Kane County resident Heather Hayes addressed a claim about non-citizens voting in elections. She stated that the claim that non-citizens voting through same-day registration is false. She added that independent studies show that non-citizen voting is virtually non-existent in Illinois, and across the country.

6. Finance**A. Monthly Report**

The monthly report is on file. No additional report was made.

7. Recorder**A. Monthly Report**

The monthly report is on file. No additional report was made.

8. Treasurer / Collector**A. Monthly Report**

Treasurer Lauzen stated that the second installment of property tax collections are moving smoothly. The property tax deadline is Tuesday, September 2, 2025. He looks forward to introducing new employees to the committee at next month's meeting.

9. Supervisor of Assessments**A. Monthly Report**

Kane County Supervisor of Assessments (SOA) Armstrong stated that the monthly report is on file. He provided the monthly and year-to-date summaries of work performed by the Kane County Assessment Office during July 2025. The Kane County Board of Review will begin hearing assessment complaints on August 12, 2025. In an ongoing effort to educate and inform stakeholders in the assessment process, Armstrong provided a presentation on the statistical uniformity in Kane County assessments. He explained that reviewing assessments is a provision that results from the following constitutional provisions. According to the Illinois Supreme Court, the constitutional provision for uniformity does not require that property be assessed on any particular day or on the same day. A practical uniformity is measured by the use of a sales ratio study. These studies are conducted by the Illinois Department of Revenue, and compare sale prices to assessed values. Armstrong noted that the goal of these studies is to establish median level of assessments and issue equalization factors to bring all counties to a three-year average median level of assessments of 33.33%. There are three measurers of assessment equity, including Coefficient of Dispersion (COD), Coefficient of Concentration (COC), and Price-Related Differential (PRD). Lastly, he stated that the consequences of inequitable assessments are loss of state funding to the county, exaggerated state equalization factors, and diminished public trust in assessment process, leading to increased cost of assessment complaints and appeals.

B. SOA FY26 Budget Presentation

Kane County Supervisor of Assessments (SOA) Armstrong provided the FY26 Budget Presentation. He stated that the SOA salary reimbursement from the state is 50%. The submitted budget for the SOA's largest expense overall is personnel services, salaries and wages in the amount of \$959,325. The second highest expense is \$32K for legal printing and binding services. He referenced the budgeted items are over \$10K including employee training and employee mileage expenses. The Board of Review is in the amount of \$98,687 which pays for the three main full-time board members' salaries and wages. Lastly, the budgeted amount for appraisal services is at \$24K for FY26. Armstrong addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Further discussion ensued.

10. Regional Office of Education**A. ROE FY26 Budget Presentation**

Regional Office of Education (ROE) Supt. Jonak presented the FY26 Budget Presentation. He reminded the committee that the role of the ROE is to advocate for education, provide leadership, perform regulatory functions, and coordinate state and local services for educators, school districts, and the community. In 2025, there were over 1,200 bus drivers trained, 4,250 people were fingerprinted, 2,495 school and home truancy visits, and 520 high school equivalency exams were administered. The FY26 submitted budget in salary and wages is \$395,997.56. The budget for contractual services amount is \$4,757.00. The total expense amount for the FY26 budget is \$400,572.56. Further discussion took place.

11. Veteran's Assistance Commission**A Monthly Report**

Kane County Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) Supt. Zimmerman stated that the monthly report is on file. The average disability claim processing time for Veterans is twelve days faster on average than the State of Illinois. Pension claims for indigent veterans below the poverty level are being processed 35 days faster. Of the 18K claims pending in the State of Illinois, almost 300 of those claims belong to the VAC office. Over 400 disability compensation claims, 1 pension claim, 27 dependency and indemnity compensation claims, 7 survivor pension claims, 60 applications for VA health care, and 43 appeals on benefits have been filed. Zimmerman added that there were \$6.8M in new benefits collected, and the VAC provided 84 rides on "Ride-in-Kane." Lastly, he highlighted that in June he received a call from a regional manager from the auto repair facility Midas regarding four nominees to receive refurbished vehicles through a national initiative called "Project Spark." This non-profit organization provides donated vehicles and vehicle repairs to families, veterans, and first responders. Of the six vehicles donated at Soldier Field, five of them were given to Kane County Veterans.

B. VAC FY26 Budget

Kane County Veteran's Assistance Commission Supt. Zimmerman provided the FY26 Budget Presentation. The VAC office is made up of five employees, including the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, and three Veteran Service Officers. He noted that the county is required to fund the VAC at 0.02% of the last known equalized assessed value (EAV) of the county, unless the VAC requests less. The total proposed FY26 budget amount is \$713,191.00, with the amount of savings to Kane County of \$3,641,069.48. Discussion ensued.

- C. Authorizing the Placement of a Marker in Memory of John R. Carr, Retired Superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Vern Tepe
SECONDER:	Jon Gripe
AYE:	Jarett Sanchez, David Young, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Anita Lewis, Clifford Surges, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT:	Corinne M. Pierog

12. County Clerk

A. Monthly Report

Kane County Clerk's Office staff Pollock stated that the monthly report is on file. He noted that the Clerk's Office is serving 13% more customers this year than last year. Passport applications are 36% higher than last year. Pollock announced that the 2025-2026 government guide and election calendar are available on the Kane County website. Updates to this guide will be available at the County Clerk's website. The government guide briefly describes the departments within Kane County government, outlines services provided, and lists the names of the administrators of those departments. It also includes a comprehensive listing of the national and state officials who represent the citizens of Kane County, as well as the elected and appointed officials of the units of local government. Further discussion ensued. (Chairman Sanchez left at 10:30 a.m. Vice-Chair Roth stood in as Chairman for the remainder of the meeting.)

B. Co. Clk. Office FY26 Budget Presentation

Kane County Clerk's Office staff Pollock provided the FY26 Budget Presentation. The County Clerk's Office handles vital records, passports, property tax services, and elections. Birth certificate records for this year are currently 5% higher than last year. Death records are trending 7.5% above this year than last year. There were a total of 3,400 marriage licenses issued in 2024. This year, marriage licenses have increased by 2%. Pollock explained that the Kane County Clerk's Office handles several different aspects regarding property taxes including property tax extension for local governments, past tax searches, delinquent tax redemption, and annexations of taxing districts. Additionally, the Kane County Clerk's Office extends taxes for nearly 300 local governmental taxing bodies in Kane County. The total assessed value for all property in Kane County in 2024 was \$23B. Pollock proceeded to explain that the only non-mandated function of the Clerk's Office are passports. They are an additional revenue source that the Clerk's Office provides to the General Fund. The Clerk's Office receives \$35 for each new passport application accepted, along with a passport photo service that costs \$15 for each photo taken. Through July 31, the Clerk's Office accepted more passports than any full year. Passports are on pace to reach almost 8K this year. Through July, the Clerk's Office generated \$240,398 in revenue from passports and photos. This is all revenue going to the general fund, and is above and beyond the statutory obligation. In conclusion, the Clerk's Office has generated nearly \$365K more through July in FY25 than through the same period in FY24. At this point, Pollock stated that his office has already exceeded their revenue projection for FY25. He hopes to continue this pace for the rest of the year to produce additional revenue for the county's general fund. The expected revenue amount in FY26 is \$1,753,040. Further discussion ensued.

13. Other Business

Committee Member Gripe handed out a draft Proclamation Honoring Chris Lauzen for 2025 Cashvest National Leadership Award for Financial Management. He asked for the committee's consideration to recognize this award. The Committee agreed to include the proclamation on the agenda for next month's meeting.

14. Executive Session (If Needed)

None.

15. Reports Placed On File

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Jon Gripe

16. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Jon Gripe
SECONDER:	Michelle Gumz

This meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary