



Kane County County Board Meeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

2:00 PM

County Board Room

SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Adjourned Meeting of the Kane County Board was held at the Kane County Government Center, 719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A, Geneva, IL 60134 on October 22, 2025.

Chairman Pierog called the meeting to order at 2:08 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:	Board Member Deborah Allan Board Member Sonia Garcia Board Member Jon Gripe Board Member Michelle Gumz Board Member Mo Iqbal Board Member Leslie Juby Board Member Chris Kious Board Member Anita Lewis Board Member Michael Linder Board Member Ted Penesis Board Member Bill Roth Board Member Cheryl Strathmann Board Member Vern Tepe Board Member David Young Chairman Corinne M. Pierog
REMOTE:	Board Member Jarett Sanchez Board Member Clifford Surges
ABSENT:	Board Member Mavis Bates Board Member Gary Daugherty Board Member Bill Lenert Board Member Bill Tarver Board Member Rick Williams
AWAY:	Board Member Alex Arroyo Board Member Myrna Molina

Present: Fin. Dir. Hopkinson; IT/Bldg. Mgmt. Dir. Fahnestock & staff Smith; KDOT staff Rickert; Auditor Wegman; State's Atty. Mosser*; Chief of Civil Frank; Animal Control Admin. Youngsteadt*; ITD staff Peters; Dpty. Mazzei and members of the press & public.

3. REMOTE ATTENDANCE REQUEST(S)

Members Arroyo, Molina, Sanchez & Surges previously requested to attend this meeting remotely. There were no objections.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION

Board Member Strathmann led the assembly with the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kane County resident Frank Esposito provided a brief background of his expertise in financial matters. He pointed out various increases he discovered in the proposed budget.

(Molina* arrives - 2:13 PM)

Kane County resident Steve Lefler spoke on budget cuts and motor fuel tax.

Brian Anderson from Sugar Grove showed off his new hat. He spoke on the large opposition to tax raises.

Kane County resident Jeanne Meier expressed her opposition to raising taxes due to current financial strain on all constituents.

Michelle Bettag from St. Charles spoke on the increase of taxes and expenses.

Kane County resident Mrs. Dinwittie spoke on the increase of taxes, expenses and TIF districts.

Kane County resident Mr. Dinwittie echoed previous comments regarding TIFs and taxes. He provided a brief background of his experience being a longtime federal employee.

Susan Fose from Batavia provided a brief background of her residency in Illinois, noting that she is considering moving due to high taxes.

Kane County resident Ginger Romano raised questions to clarify what the proposed grocery tax would mean for residents and consumers.

Kane County resident Denise Theobald spoke on population growth due to strategic planning and efforts to attract new residents.

7. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Madam Chair clarified that the actual cost of the County's lobbyist is \$120,000 per year, not \$500k as stated by a member of the audience. It will be amended to \$120k annually.

8. RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, AND OTHER SCHEDULED MATTERS

A. Authorizing an Increase in the County Motor Fuel Tax [25-381](#)

Much discussion ensued regarding fuel tax limits, raises, concerns and comparisons.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER:	Michelle Gumz
SECONDER:	Chris Kious
AYE:	Alex Arroyo, Sonia Garcia, Michelle Gumz, Chris Kious, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Ted Penesis, Cherryl Strathmann, and Vern Tepe
NAY:	Deborah Allan, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Clifford Surges, and David Young
ABSENT:	Mavis Bates, Gary Daugherty, Bill Lenert, Bill Tarver, and Rick Williams
AWAY:	Jarett Sanchez

B. Establishing and Imposing a County Grocery Retailers' Occupation Tax and a County Grocery Service Occupation Tax for the County of Kane [25-382](#)

Fin. Dir. Hopkinson explained that only unincorporated county residents would be affected by this grocery tax. She highlighted that the state currently taxes groceries, but will no longer be doing so. Discussion ensued regarding expected revenue.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER:	Michelle Gumz
SECONDER:	Michael Linder
AYE:	Sonia Garcia, Michelle Gumz, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Ted Penesis, Cherryl Strathmann, and Vern Tepe
NAY:	Deborah Allan, Alex Arroyo, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Clifford Surges, and David Young
ABSENT:	Mavis Bates, Gary Daugherty, Bill Lenert, Bill Tarver, and Rick Williams
AWAY:	Jarett Sanchez

- C.** Authorizing a Budget Adjustment for Public Defender’s FY2026 Budget [25-383](#)
 Madam Chair announced that agenda items C, D, E, F & G will be taken down individually and brought back to the October 29th meeting. Discussion ensued.
- D.** Authorizing a Budget Adjustment for Court Services FY2026 Budget [25-384](#)
 This resolution failed for lack of motion in order to be brought back at the October 29th meeting.
- E.** Authorizing a Budget Adjustment for Judiciary’s FY2026 Budget [25-385](#)
 This resolution failed for lack of motion in order to be brought back at the October 29th meeting.
- F.** Amending Ordinance 24-216 [25-386](#)
 This resolution failed for lack of motion in order to be brought back at the October 29th meeting.
- G.** Adopting the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Appropriations and Budget [25-387](#)
 This resolution failed for lack of motion in order to be brought back at the October 29th meeting.
- H.** Approving the FY26 Budget to be Placed on Public Display [25-388](#)
 Discussion ensued regarding the origin of certain funds versus department budget cuts.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER:	Jon Gripe
SECONDER:	Cherryl Strathmann
AYE:	Deborah Allan, Alex Arroyo, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, and David Young
NAY:	Clifford Surges
ABSENT:	Mavis Bates, Gary Daugherty, Bill Lenert, Bill Tarver, and Rick Williams
AWAY:	Jarett Sanchez

9. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed)

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Bill Roth
SECONDER:	Cherryl Strathmann

This meeting was adjourned at 3:36 PM.

Christine Mazzei
Recording Secretary