



Kane County

KC Finance and Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes

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

BERMAN, Lenert, Juby, Lewis, Sanchez, Surges, Tepe, ex-officios Roth (County Vice Chair)
and Pierog (County Chair)

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

9:00 AM

County Board Room

1. Call To Order

Vice-Chairman Lenert called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT	Board Member Dale Berman Board Member Bill Lenert Board Member Leslie Juby Board Member Anita Lewis Board Member Jarett Sanchez Board Member Vern Tepe Ex-Officio County Board Vice Chair Bill Roth Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog
ABSENT	Board Member Clifford Surges

Also present: Co. Bd. Members Allan*, Bates, Gripe, Kious*, Linder*, Molina*, Penesis*; Treasurer Lauzen; Auditor Wegman; Fin. Exec. Dir. Hopkinson*; ITD/BLD Exec. Dir. Fahnestock & staff Kash, Palleson; SAO staff Frank, Hunt*; Circuit Clk. Barreiro*; Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik & staff Hinshaw; KCAC Admin. Youngsteadt*; KCHD CFO Snowden*; and members of the press and public.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

Vice-Chairman Lenert announced the remote attendance requests for today's meeting. He asked the Committee if there were any objections to Committee Member Berman attending today's meeting remotely. There were no objections. (Committee Member Sanchez arrived in-person at 9:02 a.m.)

4. Approval of Minutes: August 27, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Vern Tepe

5. Public Comment

Steve Leffler, St Charles spoke on the FY2026 Budget. He spoke on his concerns of the County utilizing the Grand Victoria Riverboat fund to balance the budget. He explained that when the County is programming money for internal uses, they are leaving out critical external organizations that function for the community, such as the

Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry, the Northern Illinois Food Bank, Rising Lights, and Suicide Prevention Services of America. He stated that these are critical organizations within the community that are helping individuals with their needs. He suggested that before the Committee decides to take all the money from the Riverboat Fund and utilize it for internal purposes, that other options are considered. He voiced several options, such as raising the County's Gas Tax by one penny, which would generate approximately \$6M.

Kane County resident, Denise Theobald, spoke on the proposed FY2026 Budget. She commended the County Board and Departments for working in good faith to close the budget gap. She stated that departments are cutting costs, implementing a hiring freeze, and making difficult decisions. She explained that this comes at a time where Kane County families are stretched thin financially, inflation continues to drive up the cost of everything, and cuts to services are occurring that help the most vulnerable. Theobald stated that a proposal was passed to reduce the FY2026 Budget by up to 8%. She questioned Treasurer Lauzen's requested 30% increase to the Treasurer's Office's FY2026 Budget. She explained that the Treasurer's Office's FY2025 Budget was \$830,277.00. With the Board's 8% reduction request, Lauzen's budget should be no more than \$850,598. Instead, Lauzen submitted a budget of \$1,078,276 from the County's General Fund. Theobald stated while every other department/office is cutting expenses, and Lauzen has asked for an increase. She questioned the reasoning behind the increase. She asked Lauzen if he is now admitting that inflation is out of control and needs more money to run his office. If so, Lauzen has been misleading the public on the County's finances and the need for revenues. Theobald spoke on Lauzen's salary and his views on cutting expenses. She addressed Lauzen and stated that the public deserves answers to their questions.

Brian Anderson, Sugar Grove, addressed the previous speaker. He stated that Treasurer Lauzen has publicly invited the constituent to his office. He challenged the speaker to meet with Lauzen to receive the answers she seeks. Anderson spoke on Resolution J: Authorizing Termination of Contract with Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, LLC for Strategic Planning Services. He explained that January 2025, he came to a Finance and Budget Committee meeting and challenged the Board about the Strategic Plan consulting fee. He stated 238 days have passed since his challenge, and, today, he sees a resolution to cancel the contract. He commended the Committee for introducing this resolution and for focusing on the FY2026 Budget. He stated that the County needs to continue to prune, challenge, look, and to not listen to voices distraction, such as the proposed Paid Internship Program. Anderson spoke on the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Funds. He explained that these funds are used for specifics, not to balance the budget. As he has stated before, even if the County balances the FY2026 Budget, they will have the same conversations next year for FY2027. He stated that Committee Vice-Chairman Lenert and Committee Ex-Officio Roth has made comments and suggestions since January 2025, such as implementing an Attrition Program and Hiring Freeze, and suspending all non-essential items/services. He explained that the County is in a crucial state and it needs a balanced budget, which means pruning and working with every department/office to lessen the budget.

Michelle Bettag, St. Charles, spoke on the County's Responsible Bidders' Ordinance (RBO). (Madam Chairman Pierog arrived in-person 9:11 a.m.) She explained that Chairman Pierog brought this ordinance to the County Board in 2023, where County Board Member Kious championed the efforts of getting it passed. She noted that the RBO means only unions can do the work in Kane County. She stated that the RBO is filtered and is specific so that only certain companies and unions can perform the work in Kane County. Bettag explained that in 2024, she had a conversation with ITD/BLD Exec. Dir. Fahnestock about projects' increase costs to Kane County citizens. While looking over Pierog's campaign, Bettag noticed that she had 79 donations from unions outside of the County. Bettag stated that Kane County citizens are hurting, especially with the increased tax bills since 2018. As she has spoken to Kane County residents, many have expressed their anger with their taxes. She explained that since she has been coming to Board meetings, she had no idea there was a king maker in Kane County. She stated that the king maker is the democratic party and Pierog is the puppet. Bettag stated that as Pierog is accepting thousands of dollars from these unions, she is taking money out of Kane County to repay them. She addressed the local businesses that have been turned down for County bids. She asked Board democrats to not go along with the RBO any longer and to take it off the citizens' backs.

6. Treasurer's Report (C. Lauzen)

A. Monthly Report

Treasurer Lauzen stated the monthly report was on file. He responded to the public's concern. He stated that he will respond accordingly to the resident's requests. Additionally, he invited this resident to his office at their convenience to address any concerns or questions they may have. Referencing page 22 of the Finance Committee's meeting agenda, Lauzen explained the County Board's budgeting process. He stated that the County departments/offices were instructed to provide a proposed budget. He stated that he submitted a proposed budget that is needed to effectively run the Treasurer's Office. Step two of the process is for the County Board to respond to the budget proposals from offices/departments. Lauzen stated that he will follow the direction of the County Board. He spoke on the importance of interest income to the County's finances. He stated that the interest income is approximately \$63M, which is half of a whole year's General Fund balance. He recalled that Finance Vice-Chairman Lenert suggested month's ago to utilize the interest income to balance the County's General Fund. This would provide an opportunity to relieve the amount the financial restraint on certain proposed budgets. Lauzen has noticed that when political critics complain about the amount of money being spent in the Treasurer's Office, they tend to ignore the amount of revenue that is brought in through the office. He stated that last year, the Treasurer's Office collected \$1M more revenue than expenses. He explained that the Treasurer's Office has certain allocations for expenses, but the revenues exceed them.

7. Auditor's Report (P. Wegman)**A. Monthly Report**

Auditor Wegman stated the monthly report was on file. No additional report was made.

B. Approving August 2025 Claims Paid

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Anita Lewis
SECONDER:	Jarett Sanchez
AYE:	Bill Lenert, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT:	Dale Berman, and Clifford Surges

C. Authorizing Transfer of Appropriation and Budget Adjustment in the General Fund for Contractual Services in the County Auditor's Office

Committee Member Sanchez asked the Auditor to describe the contractual services and what the County can expect from them. Auditor Wegman explained that at the last Committee meeting, Committee Member Surges recommended that the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) be implemented into the office. After speaking to constituents and investigating some of the processes that may be available, the Auditor's Office feels that there is an opportunity to utilize AI. Wegman stated that Surges also suggested that this expense be taken from the Capital Fund. However, she was able to reevaluate the Auditor's Office's budget and will be able to cover the expense.

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Jarett Sanchez
SECONDER:	Leslie Juby
AYE:	Bill Lenert, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT:	Dale Berman, and Clifford Surges

8. Finance Director's Report (K. Hopkinson)**A. Monthly Finance Reports**

Fin. Exec. Dir. Hopkinson stated the monthly financial reports were on file. She presented the General Fund - General Account FY2025 to Date - Key Indicators. She stated that the County recently received the second installment of property tax revenue. She noted that the County is still forecasted to use \$27M in fund balance for FY2025. She presented the Tax Revenue - Key Indicators. She stated that the Sales Tax revenue increased from last year. She spoke on the State law change regarding the Local Use Tax. Due to this, this revenue source has significantly decreased. Hopkinson stated that in FY2025 the County received \$1.5M in revenue from the Local Use Tax. To date, the County has only received \$697K. Hopkinson stated that the State Income Tax revenue tends to fluctuate frequently. Currently, the revenue amount is higher than expected, but lower compared to last year. Hopkinson spoke on the Personal Property Replacement Tax (PPRT). She stated that this revenue source fluctuates from month to month. She explained that the revenue amount is below what was received last year. Lastly, she stated that the State/County Motor Fuel Tax revenues are slightly higher than expected and higher than last year. Hopkinson addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

9. New Business**A. Authorizing the County to Contract with Humana Inc. to Provide the 2026 Healthcare Continuation Coverage for Medicare Eligible Retired and Disabled Employees and Surviving Spouses**

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Vern Tepe
SECONDER:	Jarett Sanchez
AYE:	Bill Lenert, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT:	Dale Berman, and Clifford Surges

B. Authorizing the Provision of Funds to the City of Batavia for the Implementation of an Energy Efficiency Program

Committee Member Lewis understood that the City of Batavia was running these energy efficiency programs from the revenue collected from grocery bag fees. She questioned why the County would be contributing to the programs. Environ. Mgmt. Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw explained that the City of Batavia are pioneers in these types of programs. She confirmed that the City plans to use

the grocery bag fee revenue for these. Additionally, the funds contributed by the County will come from the Electric Aggregation Fund 421. Hinshaw explained that the County is helping the City of Batavia for the first year. She stated that the purpose of the Electric Aggregation Fund is to help residents with energy efficiency and reduction. Hinshaw addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Jarett Sanchez
SECONDER:	Anita Lewis
AYE:	Bill Lenert, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT:	Dale Berman, and Clifford Surges

- C. Approving FY2026 Operations and Maintenance Agreement with USGS for the Stream and Rainfall Gages

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Jarett Sanchez
SECONDER:	Leslie Juby
AYE:	Bill Lenert, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT:	Dale Berman, and Clifford Surges

- D. Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with Rock Island County for Juvenile Detention Services

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Jarett Sanchez
SECONDER:	Leslie Juby
AYE:	Bill Lenert, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT:	Dale Berman, and Clifford Surges

- E. Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with Ogle County for Juvenile Detention Services

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Anita Lewis
SECONDER:	Jarett Sanchez
AYE:	Bill Lenert, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT:	Dale Berman, and Clifford Surges

- F. Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with Lee County for Juvenile Detention Services

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Jarett Sanchez
SECONDER:	Anita Lewis
AYE:	Bill Lenert, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT:	Dale Berman, and Clifford Surges

- G.** Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with Stephenson County for Juvenile Detention Services

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Jarett Sanchez
SECONDER:	Anita Lewis
AYE:	Bill Lenert, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT:	Dale Berman, and Clifford Surges

- H.** Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with Whiteside County for Juvenile Detention Services

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Jarett Sanchez
SECONDER:	Anita Lewis
AYE:	Bill Lenert, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT:	Dale Berman, and Clifford Surges

I. Approving County Board Personal Expense Voucher Reimbursement Request

Committee Member Sanchez inquired on the amount used for Personal Expense Vouchers this year. Madam Chairman Pierog stated that the County Board is within budget. Sanchez requested the total expense amount for the year be placed on these resolutions. The Committee requested the total amount used to be presented during this meeting.

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Leslie Juby
SECONDER:	Anita Lewis
AYE:	Bill Lenert, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT:	Dale Berman, and Clifford Surges

J. Authorizing Termination of Contract with Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, LLC for Strategic Planning Services

Committee Member Juby stated that she will be in support of terminating this contract. However, she is not against strategic plans and understands their value. She believes that the County is not in the proper financial state to cover this expense at this time. She spoke on the proposal of having this expense covered by the Riverboat Fund, instead of these funds being utilized for external projects.

Committee Member Sanchez stated that an organization the size of this County should have a Strategic Plan. He feels that it is a necessity. He explained that any large corporation should be investing in strategic planning. He stated that a Strategic Plan is an entity that will exist far longer than any member of the Board and it will continue to guide the County's leading principles and guiding documents that allow the County to move forward in a more thoughtful manner. He is in favor of continuing the work on the Strategic Plan.

Committee Member Lewis stated that she is not against the Strategic Plan. However, she does not like that the Strategic Plan is being funded by the Riverboat fund.

Committee Vice-Chair Lenert stated that the Strategic Plan is a good idea. However, the County is witnessing a financial restraint that cannot support it at this time. He explained that the County Board has asked all departments/offices to make budget cuts, and they should do the same. He stated that he is against this plan and will vote to terminate the contract.

Further discussion ensued. (Committee Chairman Berman arrived remotely at 9:44 a.m.)

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Leslie Juby
SECONDER:	Anita Lewis
AYE:	Bill Lenert, and Leslie Juby
NAY:	Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT:	Clifford Surges

Motion failed by a 2-4 vote. This resolution will not move forward to the Executive Committee meeting.

K. Emergency Appropriation for Transfer of Funds from JJC/AJC Refunding Debt Service Fund #623 to the General Fund – General Account #001

Committee Member Sanchez requested a description of the cause for this emergency appropriation. Vice-Chairman Lenert explained this was debt service money that was placed into Fund 623. He added that the debt has been paid. Therefore, the money is being moved back into the County's General Fund.

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Jarett Sanchez
SECONDER:	Leslie Juby
AYE:	Dale Berman, Bill Lenert, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT:	Clifford Surges

- L. Approving an Amendment to the Agreement with Workday Adaptive Planning of Pleasanton, California for Access to and Use of Data Analytics and Budget/Forecasting Software

Committee Member Sanchez stated that this software will help save time and money, while improving accuracy in budgeting.

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Jarett Sanchez
SECONDER:	Anita Lewis
AYE:	Dale Berman, Bill Lenert, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT:	Clifford Surges

- M. Authorization to Enter Into a Contract Extension for Audit Services

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Anita Lewis
SECONDER:	Jarett Sanchez
AYE:	Dale Berman, Bill Lenert, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT:	Clifford Surges

10. Old Business

Vice-Chairman Lenert spoke on the FY2026 Budget process. He explained that Committee Member Tepe and himself have contacted various County department heads and elected officials. He stated that all department heads have complied with the Committee's request for reduction. With respect to the elected officials, the Board has approved the amounts being allocated for FY2026. However, three elected officials have discussed possible revisions. At this point, it has been decided that the approved expense allocations will be implemented. Lenert stated that all FY2026 Budget revisions must be submitted within the next week. He explained that through discussions with the State's Attorney and the Treasurer, it is believed that a balanced budget could be presented without using reserves by implementing the use of interest earned. The hope is that the discrepancies between the revenues and expenses, which is approximately \$3.5M, can be made up by the interest earned through the

Treasurer's Office. Much discussion ensued.

Committee Member Tepe stated that Personal Expense Voucher amount spent by County Board members was sent to the Finance Committee via email. He reported that the County Board's FY2025 Budget for Conferences and Meetings - Board Member fund was \$12K. To date, \$4,356.42 has been paid out, and \$7,643.58 remains.

11. Reports Placed On File

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Jarett Sanchez

12. Committee Chairman's Comments

None.

13. Executive Session (if needed)

None.

14. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Vern Tepe
SECONDER:	Anita Lewis

This meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Savannah Zgobica
Sr. Recording Secretary