



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, November 20, 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 David Young Board Member Jon Gripe Board Member Michelle Gumz Board Member Anita Lewis Ex-Officio County Board Vice Chair Bill Roth
ABSENT	Board Member Clifford Surges Board Member Vern Tepe Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog

Also present: Co. Bd. members Bates*, Juby, Kious*, Linder, Molina*, Strathmann*; SOA Armstrong; ROE Jonak and staff Algrim; VAC Supt. Zimmerman; Co. Clk. Dir. of Tax Extensions/ Vital Records Emerson, Co. Clk's Office Dir. of Elections Raymond Esquivel; Spec. ASA & Local Historian Shepro; ITD staff Kash; and members of the press and public.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

There were no remote attendance requests for today's meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes: October 23, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Jon Gripe

5. Public Comment

None.

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**

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

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

Supervisor of Assessments (SOA) Armstrong announced that on Monday he was elected Vice President of the State of Illinois Association of County Officials. He stated that the 2025 Veto session of the Illinois Assembly was completed in the early morning hours of October 31, and several bills affecting assessing officers were approved by the legislature. He stated that Senate Bill 642 has passed both chambers on November 1, 2025, and heads to the Governor's desk. He noted that this bill includes provisions, including ones that would increase the threshold income to qualify for Low-Income Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption (LISCAFHE), also known as the Senior Freeze, to \$75K in year 2026, \$77K in year 2027, and \$79K in year 2028. The bill will also increase the threshold for the Senior Deferral to match the thresholds in the Senior Freeze, and permit County Clerks to establish a payment plan for tax certificates held by the county. Armstrong stated that Senate Bill 25 has a wide range of provisions relating to energy, including the Battery Electric Storage Systems (BESS) resolving all issues on whether BESS systems are real property or personal property, and on the valuation of the systems themselves. For House Bill 576, Armstrong stated that it establishes the Public Official Safety and Privacy Act and extends provisions similar to those offered for Judges in the Judicial Privacy Act. This new legislation provides that if requested by certain public officials, the home addresses and other personal identifiers cannot be disclosed. Since the last meeting, the final deadline for all Board of Review filings have passed. Board of Review Hearings will continue until complete, which is anticipated in mid-December 2025. The Annual Instructional Assembly for the 2026 year will be held Friday, December 5 at 9:00 a.m. in the Auditorium of Building A. Armstrong addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Further discussion ensued.

10. Regional Office of Education

Regional Office of Education (ROE) Supt. Jonak stated that he attended the Veteran's Day Assembly held at Rotolo Middle School in Batavia on Wednesday, November 12. The event featured schools across District 101 welcoming family members and local veterans. Veterans representing the Army, Marines, Navy, Coast Guard, and Air Force attended and shared reflections on their time in service. He stated that he was very pleased with the Rotolo Middle School 8th grade bands and chorus who performed renditions of the National Anthem. Jonak stated he had the opportunity to tour the Boys and Girls Club facility in Elgin. Jonak stated that from November 21 through November 23, he and Asst. ROE Supt., Algrim, will be attending the Triple I Conference (Illinois Association of School Boards IASB, Illinois Association of School Administrators IASA, and Illinois Association of School Business Officials IASBO) held in Chicago where Illinois school board members, superintendents, and business officials gather for a weekend of focused learning on topics such as school finance, community engagement, educational equity and advocacy, and more. On Monday, November 17, Jonak stated that West Aurora School District 129 held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to launch its new fleet of twenty-seven electric school buses. These new buses will provide a quieter and cleaner ride for students, and reduce operating costs for the district. He highlighted that the ROE appointed Dr. Marisa Christoffel as the new principal of the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center (JJC), succeeding Ivars Spalis, who will be retiring in December. The ROE is communicating with other JJC's across the country to coordinate Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs that provide hands-on career-focused training in a wide variety of fields, preparing students for jobs through programs like automotive technology, healthcare, and Information Technology (IT). The ROE recognized the student winners of the Annual Student Photography Contest. All nine public school districts in Kane County participated in the competition, as well as Marmion Academy and Rosary College Prep in Aurora. The reception was held at Interiors for Business, Inc. in Batavia, where all student work was displayed and awards were presented. Lastly, Jonak announced that the ROE office will be closed on Thursday and Friday next week for Thanksgiving.

Asst. ROE Supt., Algrim, stated that she is the Chair of the Raising Student Achievement Conference (RSAC). This initiative is a professional development two-day event for educators from across Illinois, including teachers, principals, and school leaders held in Oak Brook, Illinois from December 8-9. The event features several keynote speakers, over 150 breakout sessions, and networking opportunities focused on topics such as educational trends, best practices, artificial intelligence in education (AI), grading, and leadership. She noted that there are currently seven-hundred registered educators across the state.

11. Veteran's Assistance Commission

A. Monthly Report

Veteran's Assistance Commission (VAC) Supt. Zimmerman stated that the monthly report is on file. He stated that the Ferson Creek Elementary School held a Veterans Day Ceremony representing all branches, with the exception of the Space Force. He attended the annual St. Charles Veterans Day Ceremony that was held on November 11 at 10:30 a.m. in Fire Station 1. The Geneva American Legion had an open house of the Traveling Memorial which serves as a tribute to veterans who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Zimmerman stated that pending claims have gone through as quickly as ten days, and some claims have been decided in as few as two days. That average has fallen to around, or under, 130 days in recent months. For FY25, a total of \$6M of new benefits were submitted. Lastly, Zimmerman stated that the VAC will be promoting from within to fill the Asst. Supt. position. He introduced Habacuc Rico as the commission's new Veteran Service Officer. Habacuc came from the McHenry County Veteran's Assistance Commission, born in Elgin, and raised in Carpentersville. He spent five years in active duty in the Army, which included two tours in Afghanistan. He is a recipient of the Combat Action Badge and brings an exceptional amount of VA experience to Kane County. Zimmerman addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Much discussion ensued.

12. County Clerk

A. Monthly Report

Kane County Clerk Dir. of Tax Extensions and & Vital Records, John Emerson, stated that the year-to-date amount for 2025 has a 26.4 percent increase over last year. He stated that the Clerk's Office has been busy with tax levy's and redemptions. Lastly, Emerson announced that invitations to an open house of the new Elgin building for Health Department and Government Services will be sent out mid-December. Emerson addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

13. Other Business

None.

14. Executive Session (If Needed)

None.

15. Reports Placed On File

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Michelle Gumz

16. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Michelle Gumz
SECONDER:	David Young

This meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary