

# McHenry County Administrative Services - Public Meeting MINUTES

August 6, 2025, 8:30 AM County Board Conference Room Administration Building, 667 Ware Rd., Woodstock, IL 60098

Members Present: Joseph Gottemoller, Pamela Althoff, John Collins, Terri Greeno, Matt Kunkle,

Paul Thomas

Members Absent: Eric Hendricks

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# 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at: 8:30 A.M.

Also present: Peter Austin, County Administrator; Scott Hartman, Deputy County Administrator; Kerri Wisz, CFO; Alicia Schueller, Director of Pubic Affairs; Tom Sullivan, Director of IT; Nicole Gatusso, Director of GIS; Tom Burroughs, Director of Facilities; Suzanne Ziebart, Director of HR; Chris Steckbar, Chief Technology Officer; Chalen Daigle, County Coordinator; Joe Tirio, County Clerk/Recorder; Sandra Salgado, Sheriff's Office Business Manager; Michael Rein, Coroner; Lynsey Osborne, Facilities Coordinator; Will Davis, County Admin Intern; Donn Kurtz, Treasurer.

Mover: Greeno Seconder: Kunkle

To allow the remote attendance of Ms. Althoff.

Aye (5): Gottemoller, Collins, Greeno, Kunkle, and Thomas

Abstain (1): Althoff

Absent (1): Hendricks

Recommended (5 to 0)

#### 2. MINUTES APPROVAL

Mover: Greeno Seconder: Thomas

Approve previous minutes of the July 2, 2025 meeting.

Aye (6): Gottemoller, Althoff, Collins, Greeno, Kunkle, and Thomas

Absent (1): Hendricks

#### Recommended (6 to 0)

2.1 Administrative Services - Public Meeting - Jul 2, 2025 8:30 A.M.

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

#### 4. MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Terri Greeno stated it might have been a good time to review the board rules. She reminded the committee that earlier in the year, they had discussed clarifying the process for negotiating and approving the administration contract and ensuring that this process was clearly outlined in the board rules for future members.

Chair Joe Gottemoller added that this could be included as a future topic.

Paul Thomas inquired if that was only for the administration contract. Chair Gottemoller stated they can review the board rules as a whole.

# 5. PRESENTATION

None.

#### 6. NEW BUSINESS

None.

#### 7. ROUTINE CONSENT AGENDA

7.1 Resolution Rescinding Resolutions R-202109-12-190 & R-202205-12-098 and Setting Compensation for The County Board Chairman, Clerk/Recorder, Treasurer, Sheriff, Auditor, Coroner and Clerk of the Circuit Courts (18)

Pulled for discussion by Chair Gottemoller.

Scott Hartman, Deputy County Administrator; Sandra Salgado, Sheriff's Business Manager; Joe Tirio, County Clerk; and Donna Kurtz, County Treasurer, joined the committee to discuss the resolution.

Mr. Hartman was asked if he wanted to begin the discussion, and he responded that although he would have preferred not to, he had to facilitate the conversation. He explained that this matter originated from a previous Administrative Services Committee meeting, where the committee had been asked to consider compensation for elected officials. Staff had been directed to prepare two separate resolutions—one addressing all elected officials, including the County Board Chairman, and another addressing County Board Member salaries.

Mr. Hartman stated that the resolution before the committee was the first of those, noting that it had been developed in response to the request. He added that three elected official salaries would soon need to be set—Clerk, Recorder, Treasurer, and Sheriff. State law required any salary adjustments to be made no later than 180 days prior to the election. While there was sufficient time, the request had been made to bring forward a resolution now.

He explained that the resolution addressed all elected officials and aimed to align constitutional officer salaries—Clerk, Recorder, and Treasurer—with each other. The proposal included annual indexing of those salaries to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or 3%, whichever was lower. The intent was to ensure that, despite staggered election cycles, salaries for these offices would ultimately be aligned.

Mr. Hartman noted that the Sheriff's salary was treated differently because state statute required it to be set at 80% of the State's Attorney's salary. In addition, the State reimbursed counties for two-thirds of that cost if the Sheriff's salary met at least the 80% threshold. He clarified that the State's Attorney's current salary was a little over \$219,000, meaning the Sheriff's minimum salary would need to be approximately \$175,000.

Mr. Hartman further noted that the resolution also accounted for stipends. Most elected officials received a \$6,500 stipend from the State, while the Sheriff received an additional \$4,000 stipend from the County for serving as Safety Officer. Therefore, under the resolution as written, the Sheriff would be placed at parity with the State's Attorney salary (\$219,000), plus stipends totaling \$10,500.

He also provided comparative salary information from other counties, though he cautioned that some of the figures might be outdated. While the information was provided to give the committee a reference point, Mr. Hartman acknowledged that the data was limited because some counties had not yet updated their public postings to reflect recent changes.

He then addressed specific proposals regarding the Recorder and Treasurer salaries, noting that they had been proposed to increase from approximately \$114,000 to \$154,000. These figures were carried forward from prior committee discussions and aligned with the Clerk's salary.

Committee members engaged in a wide-ranging discussion. One member stated that while the County currently had excellent elected officials, those individuals had run for office knowing the existing salaries. He stressed the importance of balancing compensation with fiscal responsibility, emphasizing that the County could not continue to raise salaries without corresponding growth in its tax base. He expressed concern that additional increases would place more burden on taxpayers, who were already struggling with stagnant wages and increased costs. He acknowledged the strong performance of current officeholders but stated that in his opinion, salaries should remain flat until the County's financial situation improved.

Other questions were raised about the resolution. A member inquired whether allowing elected officials the option to forego Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) participation in favor of a 457(k) plan had any negative financial consequences for the County. Mr. Hartman explained that this practice had been put in place several years earlier to give officials flexibility, since vesting under Tier 2 IMRF required ten years of service, which many elected officials might not reach. The County's cost impact was either the IMRF contribution (7% of salary) or a dollar-for-dollar 457(k) match up to \$8,000 annually.

Further discussion clarified that while some salaries were already indexed to CPI or 3%, others would not be indexed until the next election cycle, beginning in FY26. Mr. Hartman reviewed the timelines for each office, noting that all constitutional officers, with the exception of the Regional Office of Education (ROE, set by the State), would eventually be indexed beginning in December 2026.

Members also debated the timing of when salaries needed to be set. It was clarified that salaries must be determined no later than 180 days before the general election, not the primary. While this provided additional time, several members emphasized the importance of setting salaries earlier so that potential candidates would know the compensation prior to filing petitions.

Concerns were also raised about comparisons to other counties. One member noted that the only two counties that currently paid more were Cook and Lake Counties, both of which had significantly higher property taxes. He stated that McHenry County should not aim to match those counties, given their tax burdens.

Discussion then shifted to whether the Sheriff should be paid in parity with the State's Attorney or set at 80% of that salary, consistent with statute. Some members suggested clarity was needed in the resolution before it could be finalized.

At this point, additional testimony was provided. A representative of the Sheriff's Office, Ms. Salgado, explained that parity with the State's Attorney made sense when considering leadership responsibilities and comparisons to municipal police chiefs in McHenry County, many of whom already earned more than the Sheriff. She cautioned that failing to set competitive compensation could make it difficult to attract qualified candidates in future elections.

Mr. Tirio addressed the committee and emphasized that the proposed increases should be viewed as a "catch-up provision" to account for inflation and the fact that elected officials had not received adjustments since 2021. He noted that salaries had remained flat while the cost of living had increased, and that peer department heads in the County had seen salary growth of approximately 28% since 2018. He added that his office had saved the County nearly \$10 million through efficiencies, consolidation, and service improvements, and argued that such performance warranted competitive compensation.

Other members acknowledged the value of professional experience and leadership brought by current officeholders but reiterated concerns about taxpayer burdens. One member pointed out that while the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicated average wages had increased by roughly 27% since 2018, many residents did not feel they had experienced such increases. He stressed the need to balance fairness to elected officials with accountability to taxpayers.

Another member added that the unincorporated population served by the County was approximately 38,000, and that residents in municipalities might not be concerned with county-level administrative salaries. He emphasized the need to ensure cost-efficiency and urged elected officials to demonstrate their ability to cut costs alongside requests for higher pay.

Ms. Althoff thanked her colleagues and reminded the committee that previous county boards had consistently kept the levy flat or low over the past 12 years, underscoring the County's long-standing efforts toward fiscal restraint. She requested additional information about the cost savings resulting from the merger of the Recorder's Office into the Clerk's Office, noting that the Clerk had assumed responsibility for both offices without an associated increase in salary.

Mr. Tirio responded by outlining efficiencies achieved since the merger. He explained that when he first took office, the Recorder's Office had 27 employees and required nearly five days to process a document. Today, the office operated with only eight employees, processing documents in minutes rather than days. These changes, combined with technology upgrades and process re-engineering, had saved the County between \$7–8 million. In addition, \$1.4 million accumulated in a fund had been returned to the County to help finance IT infrastructure and cybersecurity projects. He further noted that his office had reduced fees for constituents, contributing to nearly \$10 million in total savings since consolidation.

Mr. Hartman then presented a historical summary of elected official salaries to provide additional context. He confirmed that the Recorder's and Clerk's Offices were consolidated in 2018, generating more than \$100,000 annually in salary savings alone, not including FICA or IMRF costs. Mr. Tirio also confirmed that he did not participate in IMRF, meaning the County incurred no pension contributions on his behalf.

Representing the Sheriff's Office, Ms. Salgado explained that the Sheriff's role carried unique countywide responsibilities, including serving as the fallback for small municipalities that could no longer afford police services. She highlighted the Sheriff's proactive work with surrounding counties and agencies, such as housing inmates from Lake and Kane Counties, and partnerships with DCFS, which generated revenue without additional staffing. She argued that these efforts provided both financial and non-financial returns on investment for the County.

Ms. Kurtz then reviewed cost savings and revenue enhancements from her office. She noted that her first budget eliminated a staff position, saving \$80,000 annually. Her office had also implemented new technology to increase passport revenue by 20–30%, offsetting the need for additional staff. She highlighted that by professionalizing the County's investment strategy, her office had generated between \$10–12 million in additional investment income. She emphasized that McHenry County now had the

infrastructure to manage smaller, targeted investment portfolios for agencies such as Senior Services, creating liquidity and optimized returns while meeting unique needs. She stressed that these savings and gains reflected not campaign promises, but professional expertise and execution.

Ms. Althoff expressed appreciation for these efforts and asked Ms. Kurtz to prepare a written summary of investment performance since she took office. Ms. Kurtz confirmed she would do so.

Committee members then discussed whether the proposed salary increases could be adjusted to reflect partial increases rather than full parity. One member urged elected officials to consider what level of increase they could tolerate short of the full 28% adjustment. Another member emphasized that while the County had excellent leaders, the County's limited tax base required careful justification of any increase.

The discussion turned briefly to whether the County Board Chair should be included in the resolution, given the unique nature of that role. Some members suggested removing it for separate consideration.

Mover: Greeno Seconder: Collins

To approve a resolution rescinding resolutions R-202109-12-190 & R-202205-12-098 and setting compensation for the County Board Chairman, Clerk/Recorder, Treasurer, Sheriff, Auditor, Coroner and Clerk if the Circuit Courts.

Aye (3): Gottemoller, Althoff, and Thomas

Nay (3): Collins, Greeno, and Kunkle

Absent (1): Hendricks

### Not Recommended (3 to 3)

7.2 Resolution Rescinding Resolution R-2021-12-190 and Setting County Board Member Compensation and Access to Benefits for FY27 and Thereafter (18)

Pulled for discussion by Chair Gottemoller.

Peter Austin, County Administrator, joined the committee to discuss the resolution.

Chair Gottemoller stated the County Board resolution did not include a number. He noted that the resolution currently lacked clarity, particularly regarding compensation disclosures. He explained that historically, County Board members had received increases in pay primarily due to rising health insurance costs. He stated that in 1991, the Board allowed pensions and health coverage for members, which were not currently provided in the same manner. He compared benefits in surrounding counties, noting that nearly all offered both health insurance and pensions, although he clarified he was not advocating for pensions. He further explained that even a partial pension could be valuable because years served on the County Board might carry over to another position, creating significant financial value for certain individuals.

He noted that the current reported salary for Board members was approximately \$21,000, but when factoring in health insurance and other benefits, the total compensation equated to roughly \$50,000 annually. He emphasized that failing to disclose the total value of benefits misrepresented the true compensation to constituents and that transparency was necessary. He acknowledged previous attempts in 2020 to adjust reporting had not succeeded, as the Board chose to leave the matter unchanged. He also highlighted that health insurance costs had increased significantly since 1994, making the accurate reporting of total compensation essential.

Mr. Kunkle agreed with the need for transparency and stated that while disclosing the total value of benefits was important, it was equally crucial not to eliminate provisions that could deter qualified

individuals from running for office. He emphasized that many County Board members were active in other careers or had significant responsibilities, and overly restrictive compensation or benefits could reduce the pool of potential candidates. He argued that reporting total benefits accurately, including the maximum allowed for health insurance, would maintain fairness and accessibility while providing transparency to taxpayers.

Ms. Althoff added that the required yearly report from the state included comprehensive information on salary and benefits, making it publicly available. She noted that while the information existed online, it was not always easily accessible or transparent to the general public. She emphasized that clear disclosure of salary and benefits was important for maintaining public trust, particularly during election periods. She supported stating the maximum amount for benefits, allowing Board members access to those benefits while ensuring taxpayers were fully informed.

Further discussion clarified that some minor benefits, such as optional life insurance, were available to members but not automatically provided.

Ms. Greeno suggested that reporting should be consistent across all positions, focusing on total payroll burden, to allow for accurate comparisons.

Chair Gottemoller recommended continuing the discussion to the next month to compile numbers for the resolution, allowing the Board to decide how to report compensation comprehensively.

A motion was made to continue the discussion of the County Board members' compensation to the next month, and it was seconded. The motion passed with all in favor, allowing additional time to gather numbers and ensure transparency and consistency in reporting.

Mover: Collins Seconder: Greeno

To continue the discussion at the September Administrative Services Committee for the resolution rescinding resolution R-2021-12-190 and setting County Board Member compensation for terms beginning in December 2026 and December 2028.

Aye (6): Gottemoller, Althoff, Collins, Greeno, Kunkle, and Thomas

Absent (1): Hendricks

Tabled (6 to 0)

7.3 Resolution Renewing a Memorandum of Understanding Between McHenry County and McHenry County Council of Governments for County Coordinator (18)

Pulled for discussion by Chair Gottemoller.

Peter Austin, County Administrator, joined the committee to discuss the resolution.

It was clarified that the only change from the current plan was the timing of the contract: instead of a two-year contract, the term would now be completed within the first four years, aligning it with the fiscal year. This adjustment effectively resulted in a two-year, four-month contract.

Mover: Collins Seconder: Thomas

To approve the Resolution renewing a Memorandum of Understanding Between McHenry County and McHenry County Council of Governments for County Coordinator.

Aye (6): Gottemoller, Althoff, Collins, Greeno, Kunkle, and Thomas

#### 8. OLD BUSINESS

None.

# 9. FY26 BUDGET REVIEWS

# 9.1 Information Technology

Tom Sullivan, Director of Information Technology, and Chris Steckbar, Chief Technology Officer, joined the committee members for a presentation of the FY25-26 Information Technology budget (contained in the meeting packet). Various department funds were reviewed, along with FY25-26 performance indicators.

It was the consensus of the committee to advance the Information Technology budget to the full County Board as presented.

**Approved by Voice** 

#### 9.2 GIS

Nicole Gattusso, Director of GIS, joined the committee members for a presentation of the FY25-26 GIS budget (contained in the meeting packet). Various department funds were reviewed, along with FY25-26 performance indicators.

It was the consensus of the committee to advance the GIS budget to the full County Board as presented.

**Approved by Voice** 

# 9.3 Facility Management

Tom Burroughs, Director of Facilities Management, joined the committee members for a presentation of the FY25-26 Facility Management budget (contained in the meeting packet). Various department funds were reviewed, along with FY25-26 performance indicators.

It was the consensus of the committee to advance the Facility Management budget to the full County Board as presented.

**Approved by Voice** 

#### 10. DISCUSSION

10.1 Discussion on Mid-Year Compensation Increases - Salary Administration Policy

Peter Austin, County Administrator, joined the committee for the discussion.

Mr. Austin stated that when the board passed a budget policy in May, an amendment had been requested to limit the amount of mid-year salary increases. He stated that there was some suggestion that this limitation was not appropriate for a budget policy and that a standalone salary administration policy would be a better place to acknowledge when employees were performing well and managers wished to request mid-year increases.

He explained that they had taken a step back to review the matter more comprehensively. In early August, Ms. Wisz, Ms. Ziebart, Mr. Hartman, Ms. Bough, and he met to review the salary administration policy,

which had not been updated since 2008. He noted that while some provisions were being adhered to, others were being inconsistently applied. The team aimed to conduct a more complete review of the document and ensure alignment with board rules.

He stated that the goal was to better manage mid-year increases, but he was hesitant to completely eliminate them or restrict them to only two specific dates, such as December 1 and May 1. He explained that mid-year increases sometimes reflected a static situation where an employee was being recognized for good performance, and these could potentially be scheduled twice a year. However, in situations such as organizational departures or role shuffling—he cited a recent example in community development—flexibility was necessary to acknowledge changes and performance. He concluded that the team intended to strike a balance and would bring forward an updated policy for board consideration.

# 10.2 Guidebook for Appointed Public Officials

Scott Hartman, Deputy County Administrator, and Will Davis, County Administration Intern, joined the committee for the discussion.

Mr. Hartman noted that the discussion pertained to the guidebook project and provided context regarding the summer intern, Mr. Davis, who had been working with the team. Mr. Davis, a soon-to-be senior at Huntley High School, had been assigned a variety of substantial projects to help develop professional skills and build a strong resume.

Mr. Hartman explained that the guidebook had originally been developed in 2015 through the preceding Community Management Services Committee. Its purpose was to provide appointed officials with guidance on how public bodies operate. He noted that the guidebook was in need of updating and that the team had engaged talented individuals within the organization to take over the project.

Mr. Hartman stated that Mr. Davis had presented the updates, explaining that the guidebook had been reformatted and redesigned for better readability and presentation. He noted improvements included updated graphics, enhanced formatting using modern software tools, and a more legible layout to aid appointed officials in understanding the material. Additionally, all contact information, links, addresses, and phone numbers had been verified and updated to ensure accuracy and usability. New contact information for administrative personnel, including Peter and Scott Lacey, had also been added.

Committee members reviewed the updated guidebook. Mr. Hartman noted that one member suggested the first photo in the guidebook be updated to reflect the current County Board, as the existing photo included former members. He stated that Mr. Davis acknowledged the original photo had been sourced from a Google search of the County Board and agreed that an updated photo should be obtained, possibly from Elise, to accurately reflect the current board members.

Mr. Hartman concluded that, aside from updating the photo, the guidebook was complete and well-prepared. Committee members commended Mr. Davis for a fantastic job and noted the significant improvement over the original 2015 version.

# 11. REPORTS

11.1 Capital Plan Update

None.

11.2 Human Resources Update

Ms. Althoff leaves at 10:50 A.M.

Suzanne Ziebart, Director of Human Resources, joined the committee for the report.

Ms. Ziebart noted that next month's meeting would focus extensively on HR matters, including budgets, performance reviews, and a review of the salary policy. She stated that the team was preparing for a substantial agenda and anticipated providing detailed updates.

She reported that the dependent audit was wrapping up successfully. Ms. Ziebart explained that the audit ensured employees removed ineligible dependents from insurance, such as a spouse following divorce. She noted that, in some cases, employees had maintained coverage for a former spouse for over two years. She stated that the county was considering penalties or repercussions for such situations, and discussed whether these consequences should be included in the employee handbook.

Ms. Ziebart highlighted that in divorce situations, employees often needed to purchase separate policies, as county insurance coverage could not extend to former spouses. She emphasized that the county administered dependent coverage carefully and monitored compliance closely.

She then noted ongoing communications regarding the 2026 benefits and updates to recruitment efforts for two high-level positions: the Mental Health Executive Director role and the BAC Superintendent role. She stated that the HR team was assisting these groups in identifying and filling key positions.

Ms. Ziebart also shared that the county's wellness program would host Class Farms, a local Harvard farm, for a farm stand the following Friday. She explained that this initiative promoted healthy eating and supported community development.

She concluded by stating that HR continued to manage numerous responsibilities and reiterated that next month's meeting would include a comprehensive review of metrics and key drivers for HR operations.

#### 11.3 Communications

Alicia Schueller, Director of Public Affairs, joined the committee for the report.

#### **Communications Strategic Plan Update**

County communications personnel are meeting on August 4, 2025, to begin the development of the next Communications Strategic Plan. The Administrative Services Committee members are encouraged to begin thinking about the direction of county communications in the coming years as their ideas will be requested in the next two meetings.

#### **Communications Collaborations**

- County Administration staff collaborated with the following departments and offices on communications: A news release and social media messaging on Superintendent of Schools Diana Hartmann's honor flight with the Blue Angels- the story made the front page of the Northwest Herald
- The development and distribution of news release and social media content regarding summer gastrointestinal illnesses to assist the Department of Health
- A joint news release on the Police Social Work Program winning an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties with the Sheriff's Office

## **Communications of Note**

Chief Judge Feetterer and Trial Court Administrator Dan Wallis participated in an <u>interview with ABC7</u> <u>news</u> regarding additional security measures being taken to protect judges and staff in the 22nd Judicial Circuit.

The Division of Transportation has launched the first two episodes of its new podcast, "McHenry on the Move." Anyone interested can listen to the podcast episodes on Spotify.

#### Follower Growth and Reach

During the month of July, County Administration social media channels have increased their followings by these numbers: Facebook 100, Instagram 21, Twitter/X 14, and LinkedIn 65.

The County Administration Facebook posts have reached 73,101 accounts this month, which is a decrease from last month. Annually, County Administration Facebook posts have reached 754,265 accounts and have garnered over 3.3 million impressions. The Administration Instagram and LinkedIn accounts have all increased their reach this month to 1,850 and 7,144 accounts, respectively. Twitter/X has also increased its monthly impressions for a total of 10,867.

## **Reach and Engagement Metrics**

Channel	Post Summary	Reach
Facebook	Workforce Network Kiosks are now at the Harvard & McHenry libraries	31,463
Facebook	New temporary work zone speed limit on Kishwaukee Valley Road	14,634
Facebook	The PSW Program won a national award for its community successes!	8,710
Instagram	Update to fatal hit-and-run crash in Crystal Lake	697
Instagram	The McHenry County Fair opened today!	615
Instagram	Diana Hartmann Blue Angels honor flight	461
Twitter (X)	Join Chairman Buehler for the video edition of his COW remarks	434
Twitter (X)	We're expecting strong storms today- please don't enter flood waters	391
Twitter (X)	Miller and Randall Road closure video	282
LinkedIn	McHenry County approved its new Strategic Plan	719
LinkedIn	Diana Hartmann Blue Angels honor flight	625
LinkedIn	Attend the next Talk and Tour on stream restoration in Algonquin	551

<sup>\*</sup>Twitter provides metrics for impressions instead of reach.

**Top 3 Posts by Channel Engagement** 

Channel	Post Summary	Engagement Rate
Facebook	Suspected vehicle located in fatal Crystal Lake crash	30.88%
Facebook	Suspect identified in fatal hit-and-run crash	23.38%
Facebook	Wanted: 2018 Jeep Cherokee involved in fatal hit-and-run crash	21.84%
Instagram	Hot weather safety tips for pets	4.23%
Instagram	Honey and Louie were sworn in as official Court Facility Dogs!	3.62%
Instagram	Did you know McRide can take you anywhere in McHenry County?	3.36%
Twitter (X)	Check out the new MCDOT podcast!	6.42%
Twitter (X)	McHenry County is hiring. #FindajobFriday	4.64%
Twitter (X)	Miller and Randall Road closure video	4.61%
LinkedIn	Diana Hartmann Blue Angels honor flight	43.1%
LinkedIn	Thank you to our state lawmakers for updating us on mass transit	33.53%
LinkedIn	Hats off to our Facilities team on the completion of our new parking lot	19.27%

#### 11.4 Administrator Report

Peter Austin, County Administrator, joined the committee for the report.

Mr. Austin stated that he would provide a brief update. He noted that earlier in the month, Ms. Bough had sent out information regarding a candidate for the Valley High Cemetery Board. He explained that he had requested a pause on the matter because the Valley High Cemetery Board had not met in approximately five years. While the candidate was eager to participate, the board's inactivity meant that her desire could not be fully accommodated. He stated that staff was considering options for fulfilling the county's oversight role for the cemetery board and would present recommendations at the next meeting.

He also reported on grant-related activities, noting that the county was working with municipalities on a grant application for Trout Valley. He met with representatives from Wonder Lake and R1 regarding a \$10.5 million project, which included funding for the Hancock Road sewer expansion. He added that the

Village Administrator in Wonder Lake indicated that the village had approved an additional 820 homes for platting and development. He noted that a new stoplight had been approved by IDOT at 120 and Stoneware, near the elementary school, which had been a priority of the mayor.

Finally, he highlighted that at the September Administrative Services meeting, there would be a presentation on artificial intelligence. He stated that the presentation would cover current uses of Al in county operations and potential future applications.

# 12. FUTURE TOPICS

Chair Gottemoller noted that the board had discussed board rules, the board budget, and salary matters. He requested if there were any other future topics that needed to be addressed or if any items were missing. He stated that the September meeting was expected to be busy and encouraged members to keep their schedules open.

# 13. EXECUTIVE SESSION (AS NECESSARY)

None.

# 14. ADJOURNMENT

Mover: Collins Seconder: Kunkle

To adjourn the meeting at 10:57 A.M. -TCCazares

Aye (5): Gottemoller, Collins, Greeno, Kunkle, and Thomas

Absent (2): Hendricks, and Althoff

Recommended (5 to 0)