

SHELBY COUNTY BOARD MEETING
May 14, 2026 – 7:00 P.M.

Video archive of this board meeting at shelbycounty-il.gov under You Tube

The Shelby County Board met on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. in Courtroom A of the Shelby County Courthouse in Shelbyville, Illinois.

Vice- Chair Teresa Boehm called the meeting to order. Those present said the Pledge of Allegiance and the prayer was given by board member John Strohl.

County Clerk Jessica Fox called the roll. McCormick, Mayhall, Pritchard, and Tate were absent. Edwards was tardy entering the meeting at 7:06 PM.

Minutes for the April 9, 2026, meeting were presented for approval. Wood made motion to approve the minutes. Gregg seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (15 yes, 0 no).

Vice Chair Boehm called for public body comment.

Public comments/opinions expressed are summarized as follows:

Matt and Hannah Overbeck expressed concerns about the special use permit issue for the former salvage yard that was addressed last month. They expressed concerns that rules regarding this piece of property are not currently being followed and junk continues to be hauled in.

Martha Firnhaber spoke about salary resolutions. She shared concerns and perspectives about those salaries. Firnhaber stated in the past that all of the elected officials were treated equally with respect to salary, and suggested the board amend the item to include the same pay increases for the Treasurer, the County Clerk/Recorder and Supervisor of Assessments.

Erica Firnhaber addressed the budget amendment for the courthouse maintenance line item and stated there was plenty of money in 029 to cover the Performance Services bills.

Kirk Allen spoke about FOIA requests, lawsuits and PCOM.

A vacancy was announced in Shelby County Board District #7 due to the resignation of Tricia Miller.

A vacancy was announced in Shelby County Board District #9 due to the resignation of Gene Price.

Morse made motion to approve the appointment of Chad Yantis to County Board District #9. Matlock seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (16 yes, 0 no).

County Clerk Fox administered the oath to Yantis, and he took his seat on the board.

Zoning Administrator John Herron requested the board approve a comprehensive text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, Article 16 and Article 16.5 for wind energy conversion systems and solar energy conversion systems.

Strohl made motion to approve the amendment. Wafford seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (13 yes, 3 no – Matlock, Mitchell, and Wood).

At this time, Vice Chair Boehm called for the Highway Engineers report.

County Highway Engineer Michael Tappendorf presented the following items for approval:

Resolution to award low bid for removal and replacement of a bridge over TR 313 (Section#20-03118-00-BR) over Richland Creek in Clarksburg Township to C-Hill Civil Contractors, Inc. with a bid of \$1,208,424 (To be paid with LPF Grant Funds and Township Bridge funds). SCHD recommends approval of the low bidder
Resolution to review and change permit fees for the purposes of access permits, specifically field culverts.

50/50 petition from Big Spring Township Highway Commissioner to remove a failing CMP Pipe and replace with a 72" diameter x 50-foot-long CMP. Project Location on 3100E/810N. The estimated cost of the project will be \$14,224 which will be shared 50/50 between the township and county Bridge account.

No Trucks and/or Seasonal Weight Restrictions on 2100E, 2200E, 2325E (South of 16), County Highway 7 (from 2200E to IL 32), as well as County Highway 16 from State Highway 16 to County Highway 21.

Morse made motion to approve the highway items. Matlock seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (16 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Boehm, Brown, Cole, Edwards, Grant, Gregg, Hardy, Matlock, Mitchell, Morse, Strohl, Syfert, Wafford, Wallace, Wood, and Yantis. Nay: none.

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Tappendorf stated the bridge over Richland Creek is a long wood plank bridge just west of Hidden Springs.

Matlock made motion to approve the amendment of the Highway department budget due to a 1.5 million local project funding grant being received. Wallace seconded said motion. This will be a pass-through grant.

Motion and second passed by roll call vote (16 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Boehm, Brown, Cole, Edwards, Grant, Gregg, Hardy, Matlock, Mitchell, Morse, Strohl, Syfert, Wafford, Wallace, Wood, and Yantis. Nay: none.

Treasurer Firnhaber requested approval to recode the payment of 2 Performance Services bills from 066-061-50560(ARPA project line) to 001-029-74300 (Courthouse Maintenance & Repair) in the general fund for fiscal year 2026 to clarify action taken by the board in April.

Edwards made motion to approve the item. Brown seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (16 yes 0 no) following a lengthy discussion about the need to recode these items from ARPA to the general fund out of courthouse repair and maintenance. Ayes: Boehm, Brown, Cole, Edwards, Grant, Gregg, Hardy, Matlock, Mitchell, Morse, Strohl, Syfert, Wafford, Wallace, Wood, and Yantis. Nay: none.

Next Firnhaber requested the board transfer the remaining \$60,000 in LATCH funds to the social security fund. The social security fund ran out of money with the May 8, 2026 payroll. Brown made motion to approve the transfer. Grant seconded said motion. Discussion followed. Matlock stated during the BAL committee meeting, the committee decided to reimburse social security after tax time. The LATCF can be used for other things, the committee feels it is best not to use those funds at this time. Firnhaber informed the board the social security fund is out of money and the due to/from continues to increase with each payroll. The general fund is currently paying the social security shortfall and will have to reimburse that fund once tax money is received from tax distribution. The social security fund will continue to show as a negative on budget reports until this reimbursement from tax revenue can reimburse the general fund. The social security levy has run short the last few years. The social security levy was increased for taxes payable in 2026, so there should be plenty of money available after the first tax installment is paid this summer to reimburse the general fund.

The transfer of LATCF funds to social security failed by roll call vote (5 yes, 11 no). Ayes: Brown, Edwards, Hardy, Strohl, and Wallace. Nay: Boehm, Cole, Grant, Gregg, Matlock, Mitchell, Morse, Syfert, Wafford, Wood, and Yantis.

Sheriff McReynolds addressed the board about an amendment to the courthouse maintenance and repair line item which was originally only budgeted at \$90,000. A contract for Phase 1 of the courthouse work done by Performance Services in the amount of \$436,424. Since those items will be recoded from ARPA to the 029 general fund, the Sheriff needs more funds to pay these expenses that have already been obligated.

Matlock made motion to approve the budget amendment. Wood seconded said motion. Discussion continued. The Sheriff reported the county has received a DECO grant from the State in the amount of \$250,000 that can be used on courthouse repairs. A contract for Phase 2 for work to be done inside the courthouse has not been signed, and that will be up to the board to determine whether or not the work gets done moving forward. Gregg suggested the board approve the amendment to the budget for Phase 1 and kick Phase 2 back to the BAL committee to decide if that work can or will be completed in the future.

Budget amendment passed by roll call vote (15 yes, 1 nay). Ayes: Boehm, Brown, Cole, Grant, Gregg, Hardy, Matlock, Mitchell, Morse, Strohl, Syfert, Wafford, Wallace, Wood, and Yantis. Nay: Edwards.

Wood made motion to approve the FY 2027 Ordinance to allow Effingham County to serve as the grant recipient of the IDOT funds and public transportation provider for Shelby County. The county will lose no services. Matlock seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote. (13 yes, 3 nay). Ayes: Boehm, Cole, Edwards, Grant, Gregg, Hardy, Matlock, Mitchell, Morse, Strohl, Syfert, Wafford, Wood, and Yantis. Nay: Brown, Hardy, and Wallace.

Matlock made motion to approve the intergovernmental agreements between Effingham County and the counties of Christian, Clay, Fayette, Montgomery, Moultrie, and Shelby for the provision of public transportation. Gregg seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (16 yes, 0 no).

Brown made motion to approve the Dive Team Forensic audit performed by Benford & Brown in 2024. Edwards seconded said motion. Discussion was held. The board acted

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on this item in June 2025 and was not approved at that time. The county only has this audit in draft form. Cole said there were items in that audit that had nothing to do with the dive team. Brown said the board voted to have the audit done, the county paid for the audit, and he feels strongly that this audit should be publicly available. Boehm said the audit was only available in draft form, and this audit has also been released on social media. So the audit has been made available.

Approval of dive team forensic audit in draft form failed by roll call vote (5 yes, 11 no). Ayes: Brown, Edwards, Hardy, Syfert, and Wallace. Nay: Boehm, Cole, Grant, Gregg, Matlock, Mitchell, Morse, Strohl, Wafford, Wood, and Yantis.

Cole made motion to approve the salary setting resolution for the Sheriff to take office on December 1, 2026. The Sheriff's salary is set by statute to be 80% of the State's Attorney salary. Matlock seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (16 yes, 0 no).

Morse made motion to approve the salary setting resolution for the Supervisor of Assessments to take office on December 1, 2026. Matlock seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (12 yes, 4 no). Ayes: Boehm, Cole, Grant, Gregg, Matlock, Mitchell, Morse, Strohl, Syfert, Wafford, Wood, and Yantis. Nay: Brown, Edwards, Hardy, and Wallace.

Gregg made motion to approve the salary setting resolution for the County Clerk & Recorder to take office on December 1, 2026. Matlock seconded said motion. Brown stated in the March primary there were 2 people running for this position and neither one said they wanted a large pay increase. He also asked why this was not brought up in March or April, so research could be done in surrounding counties as to what they were paying.

Resolution passed by roll call vote (12 yes, 3 no, 1 present). Ayes: Boehm, Cole, Edwards, Grant, Gregg, Matlock, Mitchell, Morse, Syfert, Wafford, Wood, and Yantis. Nay: Brown, Hardy, and Wallace. Present: Strohl.

Matlock made motion to approve the salary setting resolution for the Treasurer to take office on December 1, 2026. Wood seconded said motion. Edwards made motion to amend this resolution to the same salaries approved for the Supervisor of Assessment and County Clerk/Recorder. Brown seconded said motion, which failed by a tied roll call vote (8 ayes, 8 no). Ayes: Brown, Cole, Edwards, Grant, Hardy, Strohl, Syfert, and Wafford. Nays: Boehm, Gregg, Matlock, Mitchell, Morse, Wallace, Wood, and Yantis.

The board was told they needed to vote on the salary resolution as this must be done 180 days before the officer holders take office on December 1, 2026. The board was told they were voted on the original agenda item as presented which sets the treasurer salary at \$67, 207 for each of the 4-year term.

The original motion made by Gregg, seconded by Matlock passed by roll call vote (10 yes, 4 nays, 2 present). Ayes: Boehm, Brown, Grant, Gregg, Hardy, Matlock, Mitchell, Morse, Syfert, and Wood. Nays: Cole, Edwards, Strohl, and Wafford. Present: Wallace and Yantis.

Matlock made motion to approve the salary setting resolution for the coroner to take office on December 1, 2026. Wood seconded said motion. This salary will be for a two-year term. This position has not received a pay increase in several years.

Resolution passed by roll call vote (14 yes, 2 no). Ayes: Boehm, Cole, Edwards, Grant, Gregg, Hardy, Matlock, Mitchell, Morse, Strohl, Syfert, Wafford, Wood, and Yantis. Nays: Brown and Wallace.

Gregg made motion to approve the appointments of Walt Lookofsky, Gary Kull, and Patricia Tait-Hendrickson to the Ethics Commission. Mitchell seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (15 yes, 1 nay – Brown). Edwards asked how these folks were chosen. Boehm did state these individuals have filed the required affidavits.

Mitchell made motion to approve the appointment of Assistant State's Attorney Gina Vonderheide as Ethics Commission advisor. Syfert seconded said motion which passed by voice vote (16 yes, 0 no).

Vice-Chair Boehm called for committee reports. (Committee reports are attached to these minutes).

Public Safety did get the Olds Bravada previously used by the Rescue Squad for \$250.

Morse reported the Cooperative Extension board meeting was very informative. They are trying to reach older individuals with their programs and opportunities.

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Boehm referenced some thank you correspondence received from the U of I Extension office and the Hour House.

Boehm requested approval for the following appointments.

Tri County Fire – Mark Wolf, trustee 3-year term
Morse to Finance to replace Miller
Yantis to the Budget/Audit/Legislative committee to replace Grant
Wood to Public Safety to replace Price
Boehm, Morse, and Gregg – FOP Grievance committee

Cole made motion to approve the appointments. Matlock seconded said motions, which passed by voice vote (16 yes, 0 no).

Under old business, Edwards thanked the Treasurer and County Clerk for bringing concerns they had about the PCOM position to the State's Attorney in October 2025. Edwards stated, in her opinion, she feels there was much waste, fraud, and abuse taking place. This position has been in this county for several years and very little to no money was spent on this position. Edwards mentioned the purchase of Starlink, ChatGPT, a laptop, and a desktop computer. Edwards stated that in 8 months the former PCOM was paid \$40,000. Edwards has asked the State's Attorney if there was any way the county could recoup some of these funds, as she is concerned that many of these expenses will not be reimbursed by the CEFS grant and will fall back on the Shelby County taxpayers.

Gregg made a motion to approve the payment of claims. Syfert seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (15 yes, 1 no). Ayes: Boehm, Brown, Cole, Grant, Gregg, Hardy, Matlock, Mitchell, Morse, Strohl, Syfert, Wafford, Wallace, Wood, and Yantis. Nay: Edwards.

At this time Vice Chair Boehm called for Public Body Comment.

Public comments/opinions expressed are summarized as follows:

Beth Beck-Marts informed the board grant reports for PCOM had always been submitted in the past by those in that position.

Martha Firnhaber thanked those that voted to give the Treasurer the same pay raise as the SOA and Clerk/Recorder. She stated the disdain for the person in that office currently is abundantly clear, concerns were expressed about members calling for the vote when certain members are speaking, and that grant money is taxpayer money.

Edwards was thanked for asking for her oversight regarding PCOM.

Union contracts gave the employees 17-20%. Yantis explained this board didn't do that, 2 boards ago caused the issue by increasing employees hourly pay with ARPA funds. The board is trying to do what is right for the majority. AFSCME and FOP contracts were delayed, which resulted in 9 months' worth of backpay.

The Treasurer, Clerk/Recorder, and SOA had their salaries frozen for 10-12 years, while everyone else continued to receive raises, the workload on these official has not decreased and they should be compensated as such.

The board is here to represent the people, and the taxpayers find out what the board is doing during conversations.

The taxpayers paid for the dive team audit and the people deserve to know what is in that audit.

Most townships do not have township assessors, there are very few now, and the Supervisor of Assessments does the work in those townships. Dunaway has a lot of knowledge and when the county loses her, the county is going to be in trouble.

Tami Smith commented on social media comments about the treasurer-elect's ability to do the job. The taxpayers pay the board, employees, the elected officials and the taxpayers want them to be respectful, do their jobs, and treat people how they want to be treated.

The board was told they should be ashamed for letting waste and fraud go on.

Jake Cole expressed concerns about the balance and fund reports on the website for August 2023 do not balance.

Work in the courthouse was creating silica dust that made it so bad in the Probation office; employees had to be sent home.

Erica Firnhaber read a letter she emailed to the board on April 29 about PCOM. Firnhaber also asked who was responsible for making an inventory on the equipment returned. CEFS has been asking for receipts that have not been produced. Firnhaber stated she has requested a criminal investigation.

Cole stated that Heath McCormick has not attended a county board meeting since June of 2025. The Shelby County GOP requested that former member Charlie Davis Jr resign since Davis's work conflicted with board meetings and asked if McCormick would be asked to resign since he is not representing his constituents.

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Matlock stated how the claims process works prior to Finance receiving those claims to review. If the Finance members have questions, they call and ask. The PCOM items belong to CEFS and should go to CEFS, as it belongs to them. With Shelby County being late on our audits it is going to be much easier for Effingham County to take over the rural transportation. Nobody wants to see transportation shut down for 6 counties. Effingham County is already established as a grantee.

Kirk Allen suggested the board review the counties code and stated the board should not have amended the budget for the courthouse maintenance line item, spoke about compensation setting resolutions, and referred to powers and duties of the county boards, which are in the counties code. When questions aren't answered you have forced people to make an assumption, which may be right and may be wrong. That is why people and employees should have time during meetings to ask questions outside of public body comment.

Contacting the appropriate people when folks aren't showing up for meetings, the statute says the Chairman shall contract the appropriate party chair.

State's Attorney Woolery stated she would like to respond to an accusation that was made at the beginning of the meeting. Woolery stated she does not use her personal email for county business.

There was no further business to come before the Shelby County Board.

Cole made motion to adjourn until the next regular meeting to be held on June 11, 2026. Matlock seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (16 yes, 0 no) and the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Jessica Fox
Shelby County Clerk and Recorder