



County Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 9:00 AM

Old Lee County Courthouse, Third Floor Boardroom, 112 E 2nd St, Dixon, IL 61021

*This meeting can be viewed in its entirety on YouTube using the web address below
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbyUUqU3w6I>*

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., by Chair Jack Skrogstad.

II. Committee Member Roll Call: Chair Jack Skrogstad, Vice Chair Ali Huss, Dean Freil, Katie White, Ron Gascoigne, Reed Akre

Jack Skrogstad, Ali Huss, Dean Freil, Ron Gascoigne, and Reed Akre were all present in person. Katie White was absent.

Also present: Keane Hudson and Mike Koppien (Board Members), Dave Anderson (County Engineer/Highway Department), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney), Jennifer Boyd (Assessor), Jeremy Englund (Administrator), Paul Gorski (IT Director), Alice Henkel (Zoning Administrator), Nancy Petersen (County Clerk and Recorder), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) all attended in person.

III. Public Attendees

Nick and Kim Hermes attended the meeting to express their opposition to Zoning Petitions 25-P-1639 and 25-P-1640. Nick Hermes cited concerns regarding the land's current 10-year farm program with the IRS. The committee encouraged them to bring their concerns to the April 3, 2025, Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting. Jack Skrogstad explained that the role of the County Services Committee regarding these petitions was to move them to the Executive Committee so the County Board could move them to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

A. Reagan Mass Transit Report

Greg Gates was not able to attend the meeting but submitted a detailed report from the Reagan Mass Transit District. This report will be attached to the minutes and included in the March County Board agenda packet.

IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting - (February 11, 2025)

Minutes from the February 11, 2025, County Services Committee Meeting were approved as presented without modification.

V. Transportation/Solid Waste

A. Monthly Report

Dave Anderson walked the committee through the detailed report that he submitted from the Highway Department and Solid Waste Management. This report will be attached to a copy of the minutes and included in the March County Board agenda packet.

Not in Dave's report but discussed during the meeting was the proposed state bills that could potentially dissolve Township Government, transferring additional responsibilities to County Government. Arnold Vegter, Highway Commissioner in Whiteside County and the Legislative Chair for the Township Officials of Illinois (TOI), has graciously agreed to speak during the March County Board Meeting to help Board Members understand how these changes would directly impact the County.

B. Highway Department

1. *Certificate of Authority - Salt Purchase*

Dave Anderson, also the County Engineer, explained that he is seeking formal authorization to continue the annual bulk rock salt purchase through the CMS state bid joint purchasing program. While he has always handled these contracts, the state now requires an official vote from the County Board to grant the engineer the authority to sign them. This procedural change ensures formal approval for the ongoing salt procurement process.

Motion to move the Certificate of Authority for the Salt Purchase to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the March County Board agenda.

Moved by Dean Freil. **Second** by Ron Gascoigne. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. *County Engineer Salary Appropriation Resolution*

Dave Anderson explained that his salary is paid from County MFT funds and requires a specific appropriation resolution for formal approval. This resolution is necessary to comply with state programs and to facilitate the reimbursement of half the salary amount from federal funds. Essentially, the salary is funded through a combination of state and federal sources, requiring the appropriation resolution to be formally moved to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the County Board agenda.

Motion to move the County Engineer Salary Appropriation Resolution to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the March County Board agenda. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Ron Gascoigne. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. *Awarding of Bids From the March 7, 2025, Bid Letting*

Dave Anderson reported that the Highway Department conducted a bid letting for various road projects on Friday, March 8th. The results, including detailed information, were made available on the committee's OnBoard platform and on the County's website. Approval of these bids will allow the department to proceed with contract execution.

Motion to award the bids, as presented to the committee, subject to the Highway Commissioner concurrence, as applicable, and IDOT review. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Reed Akre. **Motion** passed by voice vote: four (4) in favor and one (1) abstention.

- C. Solid Waste Management
Dave Anderson reported that electronics recycling program would resume on April 1, 2025.

VI. Assessor's Office - GIS Department

- A. Assessor's Office
1. *Monthly Report*
Jennifer Boyd walked the committee through the detailed report that she submitted from the Assessor's Office. This report will be attached to the minutes and included in the February County Board agenda packet.
- B. GIS Department (Geographic Information System)
1. *Monthly Report*
Sami Elarifi was not able to attend the meeting but submitted a detailed report from the GIS Department. Jennifer Boyd walked the committee through the report. This report will be attached to the minutes and included in the March County Board agenda packet.

VII. County Board

Jeremy Englund reported the following information from the County Board:

- Jeremy had a conversation with Congressman LaHood's office regarding the next phase of community funded projects. The County had previously applied for this funding for a new Highway facility. The project was initially selected but funding was retracted due to USDA program restrictions. With continued support from the Congressman, a new application committing additional funds to the project, will be submitted through the new application platform that is expected to open in April of 2025.
- Five internet service providers have applied for state broadband funding with the County's assistance and there has been increased activity in right-of-way permit applications for broadband infrastructure. The County anticipates receiving updates on the state funding applications and the state's process by the next meeting.
- Susan Gillespie has been hired as the new Human Resources coordinator, and she will be starting March 31st.

VIII. County Clerk and Recorder's Office

- A. Monthly Report
Nancy Petersen walked the committee through the detailed report that she submitted. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the March County Board agenda packet. In addition to her report, Nancy provided the committee with a copy of the voter guide insert that was placed in the Dixon Telegraph and Amboy News.

IX. IT Department (Information Technology)

- A. Monthly Report

Paul Gorski walked the committee through the detailed report that he submitted from the IT Department. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the March County Board agenda packet.

X. ROE (Regional Office of Education #47)

A. Monthly Report

Chris Tennyson was not able to attend the meeting but submitted a detailed report from the Regional Office of Education. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the March County Board agenda packet.

XI. Veterans Assistance

A. Summary Report for January 2025

B. Summary Report for February 2025

Jim Gorman was not able to attend the meeting but submitted summary reports from the office for January and February. These summary reports will be attached to the minutes and included in the March County Board agenda packet.

XII. Zoning / Planning

A. Monthly Report

Alice Henkel walked the committee through the detailed report that she submitted from the Zoning Department. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the March County Board agenda packet.

B. Petitions Going To the Zoning Board of Appeals - 2 Petitions

1. *Petition No. 25-P-1639 by Mound Hill Road North Solar, LLC, as lessee of certain real property identified as PIN 16-07-05-300-005, in Palmyra Township, Lee County.*

Motion to move Petition No. 25-P-1639 to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the March County Board agenda? **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Ali Huss. **Motion** passed by voice vote: four (4) in favor and one (1) opposed.

2. *Petition No. 25-P-1640 by Mound Hill Road South Solar, LLC, as lessee of certain real property identified as PIN 16-07-05-300-006 and 16-07-08-100-004, in Palmyra Township.*

Motion to move Petition No. 25-P-1640 to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the March County Board agenda? **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Ali Huss. **Motion** passed by voice vote: four (4) in favor and one (1) opposed.

C. Petitions Coming From the Zoning Board of Appeals - 1 Petition

1. *Petition No. 25-P-1638 by Craig A. and Christine Kessel, as owners of certain real property identified as PIN 02-15-19-200-004 and commonly known as 859 Morgan Road, Amboy, Illinois, in Amboy Township. See attached for details.*

Motion to move Petition No. 24-P-1638, with corresponding resolution, to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the March County Board agenda. **Moved** by Ron Gascoigne. **Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

D. Petitions Going To the Planning Commission

There were no petitions going to the Planning Commission.

E. Petitions Coming From the Planning Commission - 1 Petition

1. *Petition No. 25-PC-78 by the Lee County Zoning Administrator, was filed in which Petitioner seeks to amend the text of Title 10: ZONING REGULATIONS of the Lee County Code of Ordinances to replace Zoning Board of Appeals with Zoning Hearing Officer.*

Motion to move Petition No. 25-PC-78 to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the March County Board agenda. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Ron Gascoigne. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

F. Revisions to the Zoning and Building Permit Fees Resolution

Alice Henkel explained that the following two (2) fees were added to the permitting application:

- Fees for shipping containers (only allowed in Ag, Commercial, and Industrial Districts) will be a flat fee of \$100 per container
- Fees for commercial grain facilities will be total construction cost times \$0.001

Motion to move the Revisions to the Zoning and Building Permit Fees Resolution to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the March County Board agenda. **Moved** by Ali Huss. **Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

XIII. Unfinished Business

There were no items under Unfinished Business.

XIV. New Business

There were no items under New Business.

XV. Executive Session

There was no request for an Executive Session.

XVI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 9:46 a.m. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Ron Gascoigne. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

The next County Services Committee Meeting is scheduled for
9:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Respectfully submitted by:
Becky Brenner - Board Secretary

Lee County Highway Department
Report to the County Services Committee – MARCH 2025

The following represents a report of notable Highway Department activities and explanations of requested board actions:

Status of Current Projects

- Bid Letting on 3/7/2025, bid tabulations are attached. Full and detailed bid tabulations were placed on the Lee County website on 3/07/2025.

Other:

- Continuing to develop and plan for 2025 and 2026 road projects. Minor road maintenance as weather allows and equipment repairs being conducted by the maintenance crew.

Board Action Items:

- Certificate of Authority – for County Engineer to execute Joint Purchasing Contract with State of Illinois for Bulk Road Salt
- MFT Appropriation Resolution – County Engineer's Salary
- Award Bids listed on attached Bid Tabulation

Solid Waste

Electronics collection is closed for the season and will reopen again in April. The contract is in place with Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations for recycling E-waste in 2025.



MONTHLY ASSESSMENT OFFICE REPORT
March 11, 2025 – County Services Committee

- Board of Review hearings were held on February 18th and February 21st last month. Out of 75 parcels with appeals docketed, 20 of them scheduled hearings with the Board of Review either in person or by teleconference.
 - Final Board of Review decisions were mailed by standard mail Tuesday, March 4th along with courtesy copies of the notices again emailed to property owners.
 - Owners have 30 days from the date of the final notice to file an appeal with the State Property Tax Appeal Board. Instructions are included in the notice.
- With final BOR Notices out, the assessment office is working on wrapping up the 2024 assessment year and will be rolling the file to the Clerk's office very soon.
- The Annual Assessor's Instructional Meeting was held March 4th in the Assessment Office Conference Room. Per 35 ILCS 200/9-15 the purpose of the meeting is for the Supervisor of Assessments to assemble all assessors and their deputies for consultation and shall instruct them in uniformity of their functions. This is important to promote uniformity and equity across the county.
- There are several changes coming up in the next year with the townships and assessors.
 - Doug Farley's most recent term as Dixon Township Assessor is up at the end of this year. There is no one on the ballot for this coming term starting January 1, 2026. Doug has informed us that the Dixon Township will be contracting an assessor.
 - Carmen Bollman's term as the elected township assessor in Harmon-Nelson multi-township assessment district ends at the end of this year. Her contract as the Franklin Grove-Nachusa MTAD township assessor also ends at that time. She will not be continuing in either of those positions.
 - Harmon-Nelson is interested in contracting with Lee County for their assessment work and I will be working on preparing a contract for them.
 - Franklin Grove-Nachusa has contracted with Lisa Sims who is an assessor in Bureau County and has contracted in several other townships there. I have spoken with her and plan on coordinating with her more this summer before she steps into the position January 1, 2026.
 - Another change for 2026 is in the multi-township assessment districts due to the 2020 census. A township or multi-township must have 1,000 inhabitants and May-Sublette MTAD fell short of that in 2020. To remedy that, I proposed, and the townships agreed to combining Lee Center with May and Sublette to form a new multi-township assessment district. Lee Center will be separated from Amboy MTAD leaving it a standalone township, which with close to 3,000 inhabitants, Amboy meets the threshold to do that.
- GIS Update:
 - The GIS Dept continues to work towards converting the Assessment Office to ArcGISPro and have been developing instructions for the Assessment Ofc. Staff.
 - GIS Dept. and I had met with Cloudpoint to discuss Parcel Fabric and Open Fields. Joy Pitman also sat in on this meeting as Open Fields is being looked at as a replacement for the current Farms tool which effects Joy's workflow.
 - GIS Dept. and I had a video conference with ESRI Thursday, 3/6 along with Brian from the Highway Department and look forward to possibly supporting them in some GIS solutions in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Boyd, CIAO

Chief County Assessment Officer/GIS Supervisor



Monthly GIS Department Report

March 6, 2025

- The GIS Department has processed all parcel split and combination requests for January 2025 and updated the relevant GIS layers, including land use, 911, NG911, and other associated datasets.
- Completed and submitted the 2024 Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Finalized and submitted the 2024 drainage parcel calculations to the Clerk's office.
- Attended Esri training seminar to explore the future of web app development within the Esri platform using ArcGIS Experience Builder.
- Met with Cloudpoint to discuss the parcel fabric migration project and evaluate the integration of their new farmland assessment tool, Open Fields, into our workflows.
- Met with Esri to discuss software licensing and plan for the upcoming upgrade to ArcGIS Pro, as support for ArcGIS Desktop will be discontinued in early 2026.
- Currently preparing detailed step-by-step instructions to ensure a seamless transition to ArcGIS Pro.
- Customizing the Special Event Operations Solution to incorporate relevant icons for various resources, ensuring it aligns with the specific needs of the Dixon Fire Department.
- Modifying the Municipal Damage Assessment Survey as per the request of Lee County EMA.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sami Elarifi
GIS Coordinator

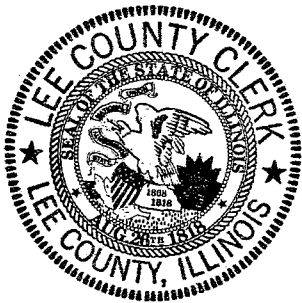


COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER
REPORT FOR MARCH COMMITTEE MEETING

- **CONSOLIDATED ELECTION APRIL 1, 2025**
- Early Voting and Voting by Mail started on February 20, 2025
- Vote by Mail Ballots went out 1876 - 401 returned so far
- Voter turnout low - 70 voters
- Training Sessions for Election Judges were held on February 25th had 91 Judges attend and our number is at 124.
- Always looking for Election Day Judges – please reach out to my Election Office
- Economic Interest Papers mailed out turn into the Election Department Due Date May 1st
- Tax Extension Process is under way in my 2nd floor office.
- Huge uptick in requests for birth and marriage licenses coming from Real ID requirements-deadline May 7th
- Publication update

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Petersen
Lee County Clerk & Recorder





IT Department
Paul Gorski, IT Director
www.leecountyil.com

March 6, 2025

IT Board Report – March 2025

1. Records Office – Travis Null completed migrating this office to newer file servers.
2. LEC – Travis Null is upgrading and replacing some PCs for LEC staff.
3. Courts – Jonathan Henrikson is deploying new desktop PCs to court staff.
4. SAO and LEC – new servers, for backups, put in place and running. These backup systems will help protect against ransomware and accidental deletion of county data.
5. Highway – this month we will be replacing one PC workstation and one file server.
6. County Administrator – we expect to be purchasing and setting up a new PC for new HR person.
7. IT – Brightspeed, one of our phone vendors, had a major data migration to a new system, but did not migrate our billing accounts accurately and IT is working with Brightspeed staff to resolve.
8. County-wide – ongoing - we're migrating user PCs to Windows 11 in advance of Microsoft planned retirement of Windows 10 in October 2025.
9. Upcoming projects include:
 - Computer upgrades in SAO later this spring, pending grant approval.
 - County-wide – reorganize, consolidate on-site login, domain servers.
 - Organize Cybersecurity response team and response team plan.

Contact me with any questions.

Thank you.

Paul Gorski
IT Director
Lee County, IL
815-285-8166
pgorski@countyoflee.org

Regional Office of Education Report

March 2025

Educator Shortage Survey To Be Released on March 10th

Educator shortages arise when districts are unable to find qualified educators with the appropriate certification to fill open positions. In Illinois, and across the country, these shortages are not distributed evenly, as educator shortages disproportionately impact rural and urban regions, under-resourced schools, and specific content areas. Such disproportionate variation in educator shortages can result in inequitable student access to high-quality instruction and services. Historically, two annual statewide measures of educator shortages have been administered in the fall: (1) the Unfilled Positions report (UFP) from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and (2) the Educator Shortage Survey from the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS). Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year (SY24), ISBE and IARSS collaborated, in partnership with the Illinois Workforce and Education Research Collaborative (IWERC) at the University of Illinois and Goshen Consulting, to conduct and report on both measures in tandem. Findings from both measures from the 2024-2025 school year are presented concurrently in the report released on March 10th. Taken together, findings from these two measures provide a comprehensive picture of the impact that staffing challenges have on districts statewide, by providing an analysis of the magnitude and severity of staffing challenges as well as the strategies that can address root causes of the problem. But while these two measures are similar in scope, salient differences exist in the types of data each organization collects. These distinctions influence the conclusions drawn from the data and their implications for Illinois districts and schools. To illustrate, the Unfilled Positions survey collects administrative data from education entities to determine the number of vacant educator positions, or magnitude of educator shortages, throughout the state. The Educator Shortage Survey, on the other hand, asks education entity leaders to assess the severity of educator shortages in their jurisdictions and to consider causes of and potential solutions to mitigate the difficulty they experience recruiting and retaining high-quality educators. We will highlight some key findings in next month's report when the official data is released.

Office of Professional Learning & Educational Services

Current Programs - Office of Professional Learning & Educational Services
Induction & Mentoring
Education Pathway Endorsement
Manufacturing, Health Science, IT & Agriculture Endorsement Programs
Elevating Special Educators
School Improvement & Strategic Planning
School Improvement Cooperative (instructional coaching, training, networking)
Social Emotional Learning/Trauma/Youth Mental Health First Aid/TRS I-A
Early Childhood Professional Learning
Family Education & Engagement
NEXUS Family Support Services
Student Attendance
Computer Science Capacity Building
Afterschool Program
Preschool for ALL Expansion

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Professional Learning & School Improvement

- ROE 47 Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services is currently **auditing 10 school districts** in Lee, Ogle & Whiteside counties. Regional Offices of Education are required to audit the professional development activities offered by districts at least once every five years.
- ROE 47 is partnering with the Illinois and National Science Teacher Association and the Illinois State Board of Education to provide **statewide professional learning to support the implementation of the Illinois Science Standards** in FY 25. Sessions (virtual, face to face, synchronous, asynchronous) launched January 27, 2025 with over 40 participants and will continue through June 30, 2025.
- ROE 47 Office of PL & Ed Services has been awarded a NEW grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health to promote **youth mental health and suicide prevention**.

The Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM) program is a school-based program that teaches students (grades 8-12) how to cope with mental health issues and prevent suicide. The program is delivered by certified facilitators in the classroom in a series of interactive sessions(role play, student discussions) over a few weeks. What the program does:

- Helps students learn about mental health and suicide prevention
- Teaches students how to identify and respond to mental health concerns
- Helps students develop coping skills and emotional resilience
- Encourages students to seek help for themselves and their friends
- Helps students recognize the need for support
- Active schools with **TRS-IA or RSSI plans** to support trauma-responsive schools include: Amboy Central Elementary, Amboy Jr High School, Amboy High School, Center for Change, Chana Educ Center, Southside School (Morrison), Polo High School, Rock Falls Middle School, Dillon Elementary (RF), Merrill Elementary (RF), Riverdale (RF), Jefferson (Sterling), Lincoln Elementary (Sterling), Paw Paw Elementary & Jr High, Monroe Center, Sauk Valley Deanery.
- ROE 47 has launched a year-long **social media campaign to raise awareness of trauma**, reduce stigma, and promote resilience. Posts are available each Monday on Facebook.
- ROE 47 partners with Sterling Township's Elevate Youth Program and the Sterling-Rock Falls YMCA to provide an **afterschool program** for Challand Middle School students at the youth center. The program runs Monday - Thursday from 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. We are serving 15 students each night. In the recent weeks students have really enjoyed using tinkercad and printing on the 3d printer. In the last week we have gained 2 new kids because their friends are excited about coming. Looking forward to planning summer activities with the group and working on study and homework skills.
- The Office Professional Learning & Educational Services is excited to announce that we have been awarded a **Preschool for ALL Expansion grant** through the Illinois State Board of Education. The grant proposed partnering with Dixon YMCA and Dreaming Tree preschool in Dixon to open four full day preschool classrooms serving 80 children ages 3-4.

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Parent Engagement & Community Outreach
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- Parent & Family Engagement Events
 - February 3 - Blockfest at AFC Elementary - 45+ participants
 - February 4 - Parent University (Parenting Beyond the Screen with LSSI Prevention Initiative) - 18 families
 - February 8 - Early Childhood Resource Fair
 - February 15 - Blockfest at Oregon Park District
 - February 22 - TCOC Frosty Fun Day

- To date, ROE 47 has 144 partners on its IRIS referral platform. There have been 3,150 referrals and 1745 families served. IRIS is an Integrated Referral and Intake System that works to connect local agencies with one another to streamline online client referrals. IRIS supports warm hand-offs for families, closes the communication loop for referring organizations, tracks outcomes, and provides a clear data-driven picture of partner capacity to improve the process over time.

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Social Media

The department's social media presence continues to grow. Like our page on Facebook (Regional Office of Education #47) and download our ROE47 App for weekly teacher talks, instructional tips, news, giveaways, updates & more! Follow us on Twitter @RegionalOffice47 Want to hear from educators & students in the classroom? Check out our Teacher Talks on YouTube! We have an extensive library of 153 videos (and growing) in our collection!

Upcoming Events

For Educators

NGSS CAPACITY BUILDERS SERIES

Welcome to this Zoom-based learning series for administrators, coaches, ROE staff, higher ed, curriculum directors, and science leaders. We'll explore key aspects of science education, including program analysis, effective instruction, integrating key skills, and enhancing science through technology and CTE. Join us to gain valuable insights and collaborate.

THE CURRENT REALITY OF SCIENCE

JANUARY 27
9:00 - 10:00 A.M.

This session will explore the role of science education in preparing students for success in the 21st century. We will demonstrate how science provides a crucial framework for understanding the world, fosters critical thinking, inspires students, and connects to all areas of learning. We'll discuss ways to grow your school or district's science program (and ourselves)—starting small, and moving to big. This session will inspire administrators to become champions for science in their schools and provide strategies for enhancing science instruction.

EVALUATING THE SCIENCE CLASSROOM

FEBRUARY 24
9:00 - 10:00 A.M.

This workshop will explore how to effectively assess and improve implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). We will delve into defining effective science instruction, including phenomena-driven 3-dimensional learning, and culturally responsive teaching. We will then discuss strategies for bridging the gap between current instructional practices and the realities of what the NGSS demands, supporting teachers and administrators in this transition. By the end of this session, participants will be able to identify key characteristics of an effective science classroom and develop strategies for improving teacher feedback to accurately reflect the quality of science instruction.

INTEGRATING MATH & LITERACY IN SCIENCE

APRIL 28
9:00 - 10:00 A.M.

This session will explore strategies for seamlessly integrating math and literacy skills (including oracy) into science instruction. Participants will examine real-world examples of how to make time for these essential connections within the science curriculum.

SCIENCE SUMMIT

JUNE 23
8:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

This online summit will feature keynote presentations from leading experts, interactive breakout sessions, and valuable networking opportunities. Attendees will explore key topics such as leveraging technology in the classroom, effective budgeting strategies, best practices in Career and Technical Education (CTE), and identifying and utilizing high-quality educational resources. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and insights from industry leaders, connect with other educators, and discover innovative strategies to improve teaching and learning.

To register visit: www.roe47.org

ASSESSMENT WEB SEMINAR SERIES: DESIGNING EQUITABLE, 3D, CURRICULUM-ANCHORED ASSESSMENTS

Join us for a series of four workshops on Wednesdays, April 9, April 16, April 23, and April 30, 2025 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM, to redesign a three-dimensional classroom assessment connected to your instructional materials.

Using the NGSS Task Design Workbook and examples from a curated list, you'll learn key elements of high-quality 3D assessment design, including sensemaking, problematizing phenomena, and accessibility features.

The goal is to adapt an existing assessment for science classrooms while addressing questions about engaging students in 3D sensemaking and ensuring tasks are meaningful and accessible for all learners.

APRIL 9, APRIL 16, APRIL 23, APRIL 30
6:00 - 7:30 P.M. CST
VIRTUAL

REGISTER TODAY!

VISIT:
[HTTPS://WWW.ROE47.ORG/PAGE/PL-OPPORTUNITIES-WORKSHOPS](https://www.roe47.org/PAGE/PL-OPPORTUNITIES-WORKSHOPS)

THIS LEARNING SERIES IS PROVIDED AT NO ADDITIONAL COST THROUGH FUNDS FROM THE ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.



OpenSciEd Curriculum Launch Middle & High School



OpenSciEd High School Biology Launch

This 4-week series (8 x 3-hour web seminars) introduces high school teachers to the OpenSciEd Biology curriculum. Through video observations, peer learning, and hands-on experiences, participants will gain a deep understanding of the curriculum and its alignment with NGSS and the Framework for K-12 Science Education. They will also develop skills in 3D instruction and assessment, and learn to provide effective feedback to support student learning.



OpenSciEd High School Chemistry Launch

This 4-week series (8 x 3-hour web seminars) introduces high school teachers to the OpenSciEd Chemistry curriculum. Through video observations, peer learning, and hands-on experiences, participants will gain a deep understanding of the curriculum and its alignment with NGSS and the Framework for K-12 Science Education. They will also develop skills in 3D instruction and assessment, and learn to provide effective feedback to support student learning.



OpenSciEd Middle School Launch

This 4-week series (8 x 3-hour web seminars) introduces middle school teachers to the OpenSciEd 7th grade climate science unit. Through video observations, peer learning, and hands-on experiences, participants will gain a deep understanding of the curriculum and its alignment with NGSS and the Framework for K-12 Science Education. They will also develop skills in 3D instruction and assessment, and learn to provide effective feedback to support student learning.



To register for these opportunities visit www.roe47.org



Session Details

Tuesdays & Thursdays
5:00 - 8:00 p.m. CT

April 1, 2025
April 3, 2025
April 8, 2025
April 10, 2025
April 15, 2025
April 17, 2025
April 29, 2025
May 1, 2025

All sessions on zoom.
PDHs provided.

Facilitator Training

Individuals interested in becoming a certified facilitator **MUST** complete ALL launch sessions dates above AND participate in an additional facilitator training to be held virtually on the following dates and times:

4/5/25 & 5/3/25
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Registration for this session is available on the ROE 47 website.

Training supported by ISBE and provided at no additional cost to participants.



ROE 47 Computer Science Teacher Leader Program



Session One

The training emphasizes building a strong foundation in computer science education, covering topics like computational thinking, algorithms, programming, and integrating CS into different content areas. Participants will explore resources for teaching CS concepts and collaborative practices like pair programming and debugging.



Session Two

The training delves deeper into integrating computer science (CS) across the curriculum. Participants will explore connections between CS and various content areas for both K-5 and 6-12 grade levels. Practical application will be emphasized through hands-on experience with microbots for grades 6-12. The K-5 session will feature participants designing cross-curricular lessons incorporating unplugged, plugged, and robotic activities for K-5 students.



Session Three

The training deepens CS integration, focusing on physical computing, project-based learning, and AI connections for middle and high schoolers. Elementary teachers will explore microbot basics and designed cross-curricular lessons.



Session Four

This final year 1 session will focus on reflecting on the learning journey and developing actionable plans for integrating computer science into classrooms. Participants will share their experiences, challenges, and successes. We will collaboratively develop strategies for overcoming obstacles and sustaining CS initiatives. Participants will leave equipped with a personalized action plan to implement in their classrooms.

To register, visit www.roe47.org
Space is limited in K-5 and 6-12 programs.

Please contact Anji Garza (agarza@roe47.org) with questions or for more information.



Session Dates

Session One:
MS/HS: September 26
K-5: September 27

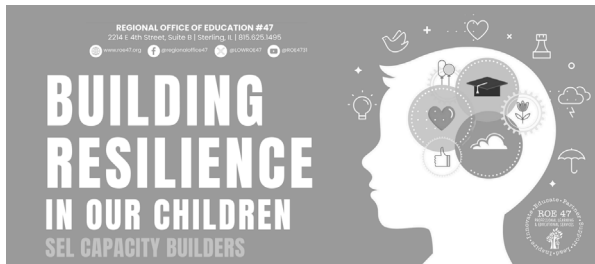
Session Two:
MS/HS: January 30
K-5: January 31

Session Three:
MS/HS: March 13
K-5: March 14

Session Four:
MS/HS: June 16
K-5: June 17

Benefits of Participation

- ISTE membership access
- Comprehensive LTC training aligned with new IL CS standards
- Comprehensive 2-year program
- Scholarships for technology conferences
- Access to ROE 47 technology lending library
- Ready-to-use classroom resources and lesson plans
- Networking opportunities with fellow educators
- Professional learning hours
- Support for building an IT pathway endorsement program
- Access to student engagement events (e.g., hackathons)
- And more!



SEL Capacity Builders is dedicated to fostering a strong network of educators, caregivers, and community leaders committed to enhancing children's emotional well-being. By providing practical tools and expert knowledge on trauma, attachment, behavior, and more, you will walk away with strategies to use in your classroom, your home, and your workplace to promote resilience.



Sep Trauma & Attachment

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College
Understand how trauma and attachment affect child development and behavior. Presented by The Knowledge Center at Chaddock.

Nov Youth Mental Health First-Aid

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College
Learn to recognize and respond to mental health issues in youth. This session has a pre-work component.

Feb The School of Hope

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College
Learn how the science of hope can improve academic outcomes, decrease anxiety, and change your life. Presented by Cathleen Beachboard.

Mar SEL Summit

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College
Dive into a transformative summit, designed to equip you with the tools and strategies to build vibrant, inclusive communities within your schools. Keynote by Tom Toney.

Jun Building a Tool-Kit

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Sauk Valley Community College
Build a toolkit of strategies to support children's behavior regulation and resilience and explore the importance of self-care. Presented by Jamie Stuart Taylor, LCSW

Please contact Grace Heimerdinger-Boake at gheimerdingerboake@roe47.org with any questions.

COUNSELOR & SOCIAL WORKER NETWORKING

Connect with colleagues to stay informed about state updates, share best practices, and find support within our professional community.



SESSION DETAILS



September 5



November 7



January 9



April 3



ROE 47

2214 E. 4th Street, Suite B, Sterling



8:30 AM - 10:30 AM



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[@ROE4731](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqR0K4731)

Be Bold

Student Leadership Summit
Step Up.
Stand Out.



Tom Toney
Keynote Speaker

Are you ready to break free from the ordinary and make a difference?

Join us for the Student Leadership Summit and discover the power of boldness.

Don't let your dreams stay just dreams.
Join us and ignite your leadership spark.



Step outside your comfort zone. Embrace change and unlock your full potential.



Discover your unique strengths. Identify your talents and use them to make a positive impact.



Develop essential leadership skills. Learn the habits and attitudes that drive successful leaders.



Set Clear Goals & Achieve Them. Create a roadmap to success and overcome obstacles along the way.

Thursday, March 20, 2025

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

McCormick Event Center,
Rock Falls

Questions

Contact Michelle Sanders
at msanders@roe47.org



ILLINOIS ELEVATING SPECIAL EDUCATORS

Presents our 2024-2025

Special Education Professional Learning Opportunities

Visit ROE47.ORG to register for these FREE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



DEVELOPING LEADERS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Administrators and teacher leaders:

Are you looking to grow your knowledge, skills, and leadership in special education?

In this series, participants will take a deep dive into processes and procedures for helping students with disabilities, from the early stages of intervention all the way through facilitating productive IEP meetings. Each session will feature a deep dive, opportunities to build your leadership toolkit exploration of current issues, community resources, and roundtable discussions.



October 24
December 10
February 13
April 10

At Sauk Valley Community College
8:30-2:30
Lunch is included
& PDHs available

TARGETED IMPROVEMENT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF DIVERSE LEARNERS

Administrators and teacher teams:

Join us as we explore special education data, reflect on current systems & practices, understand evidence-based practices, and consider systems development & refinement through a continuous improvement approach to support diverse learners.



November 12
January 14
March 11

At the ROE office in Sterling (by Goodwill)
8:30-2:30
Lunch is included
& PDHs available

ESSENTIAL FACILITATION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION LEADERS

Administrators and teacher leaders:

This comprehensive workshop series is designed to equip special education teachers with the essential leadership and facilitation skills necessary to excel in their roles as teacher leaders. Participants will develop a deep understanding of teacher leadership, explore effective facilitation strategies, and build the confidence to drive positive change within their school community.



October 17
January 23
April 24
June 19

At Sauk Valley Community College
8:30-2:30
Lunch is included
& PDHs available

QUARTERLY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Teachers:

Join us in these learning opportunities to learn, share, grow, and connect.

September 20 Register today!

Special Education Summit

Activities will include a keynote from leading scholar, Kathleen Beachboard. Special educators will also choose sessions specific to their needs, gaining insight into the latest research-based strategies and tips they can apply to supporting students with disabilities in the classroom.

December 6
February 7

More information coming soon!

At Sauk Valley Community College
8:30-3:00
Lunch is included
& PDHs available

Please reach out to:
Shauna Dinges at sdinges@iesnetwork.org or Kelly Marcum at kmarcum@iesnetwork.org

The contents of this flyer were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #W322A00014. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government. Project Officer, Jennifer Caffery.



INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT NETWORKING

Calling all educators in instructional support roles (instructional coaches, interventionists, etc.). These networking sessions are designed to explore data, reflect on current systems and practices, understand evidence-based practices, and consider systems development and refinement through a continuous improvement approach to support all learners. and your loved ones

Session Dates

- ✓ August 28
- ✓ October 30
- ✓ January 29
- ✓ April 30

More Information

ROE 47
2214 E. 4th St., Suite B, Sterling

8:30 - 11:30 AM



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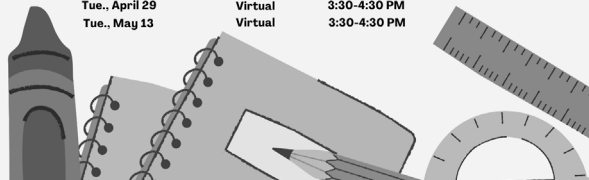
NEW TEACHER CADRE

If you are a new teacher, certified or non-certified in a teaching role, or a teacher in a new teaching area, certified or non-certified in a teaching role, we have several options of support designed to help you grow professionally and network with other teachers to share and ideas, support and build a network both in your district and outside with other schools to share strategies--instructional, classroom management, remote learning, special education and SEL.

For questions, please contact Gail Wright at gwright@roe47.org

Tue., September 24	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., October 22	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., November 19	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., December 17	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., January 28	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., February 18	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., March 11	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., April 29	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM
Tue., May 13	Virtual	3:30-4:30 PM

SCAN TO REGISTER



7th Annual Social Emotional Learning Summit

Tug of War The Power of Pulling Together



Tom Toney
Keynote Speaker

Are you feeling pulled in a million directions? Overwhelmed by the demands of education? As educators, we often find ourselves in a constant battle, striving to create the best possible learning environments for our students. But the pressures can be immense, leaving us feeling exhausted and defeated.

It's time to change the game.

In this summit, we will explore the concept of Tug of War and how it relates to our daily experiences as educators. We'll delve into the energy-sapping habits that can hinder our progress and discover strategies to overcome these challenges.



Understanding the Tug-of-War Mentality: Recognize the common patterns that can lead to feelings of exhaustion and frustration.



Building Positive Relationships: Learn how to foster collaboration and cooperation with colleagues, students, and parents.



Cultivating Resilience: Develop strategies to cope with stress and maintain a positive outlook.



Embracing the Power of Teamwork: Discover how to harness the collective strength of your team to achieve common goals.



Friday, March 21, 2025



8:30 AM - 2:30 PM



Sauk Valley Community College

Scan QR Code



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47

2214 E. 4th Street, Suite 111 Sterling, IL 61082-3109

www.roe47.org

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[gH04473](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgH04473)



Administrator Academy

**Literacies of the Digital World:
Teaching Technology Skills for
Success in the 21st Century**

This workshop aims to educate participants on the significance of computer literacy, digital literacy, and digital citizenship for student success in school and life. Attendees will learn to differentiate between these concepts, identify essential skills for each, and understand the appropriate timing for student exposure. Ultimately, participants will create an actionable plan for implementation in their school or district.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

8:30 - 2:30 P.M.

SAUK VALLEY

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

173 IL RTE 2; DIXON



To register, scan code or visit www.roe47.org

For Students

TEAM-BASED CHALLENGE DAY

Work with local industry partners in Manufacturing, Health Science, and Education to solve problems that people encounter in everyday professional practice.

Thursday, March 6th

8:30-2:30 at Sauk Valley Community College



REGISTRATION WILL BE
AVAILABLE SOON!



The Pathway Team at ROE 47 has developed a team-based challenge day for your health science, education, and manufacturing students. Tenth-grade to twelfth-grade students who are working on earning an endorsement in these areas are welcome to attend. Lunch will be provided.

This event will allow students to complete one of their required team-based challenges. Pre-work may be required.

REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION 47
AND
SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



HEALTH SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM



APRIL 4TH, 2025

TIME
9:00 - 2:00

Join our area schools as we celebrate the hard work our health science pathway students have accomplished and use this opportunity to inspire other students to enter the health science field. Our goal is to have the students leave with a passion for health science and an excitement that will help them in their future.

MORE INFO:

cmcdonnell@roe47.org



For Families

let's talk about mental health

You're invited to an open and welcoming conversation about mental health! Together, let's explore how we can support ourselves and those we care about.

This is a safe space for everyone to come together, learn, and support one another. Let's build a community where mental health is embraced, not ignored.

KEY TOPICS



Spotting the Signs
Understand the early signals of mental health challenges and how to respond with care.



Breaking the Stigma
Let's change the narrative and make talking about mental health feel natural and empowering.



Finding Support
Explore the amazing local resources and tools available to help you or someone you love.

Tuesday, March 4

7:00-8:00 PM

Virtual - Zoom



Scan the QR code to register or text/call (815) 764-1194



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PLAY: The Foundation of Learning

Play is essential for young children's learning and growth.

Join our online session during the Week of the Young Child to explore play's role in development, discover family resources, and connect with other parents in the community.



LEARN TIPS & TRICKS

Thurs. April 10

7:00-8:00 PM

Virtual





Scan the QR code to register or text/call (815) 764-1194





Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Professional Learning Events

February 2025 Participants - 745

February 4

Librarians Networking Session @ 3:00 p.m.

LETRS Cohort 2 @ 3:30 p.m.

What is Sensemaking? @ 4:30 p.m.

February 5

Preschool Family Support Specialist @ 9:00 a.m.

Teacher Tools Networking @ 3:30 p.m.

Poverty Simulation @ Forreston High School

February 7

Building Schools of Hope: Strategies for Lasting Impact @ SVCC

Paw Paw SIP Day @ Paw Paw

February 10

Amplify ELA Networking Session @ 3:15 p.m.

February 14

Rock Falls Elementary Teacher Institute @ Rock Falls Middle School

Montmorency Teacher Institute @ Montmorency School

Kings SIP Day @ Kings School

February 18

Math for ALL Cohort @ ROE #47

New Teacher Cadre @ 3:30 p.m.

February 19

Deanery School Improvement Day @ Newman High School

LaMoille SIP Day @ LaMoille

Book Study: The Anxious Generation @ 3:30 p.m.

February 20

Administrator Networking Session @ 9:00 a.m.

February 21

Paw Paw SIP Day @ Paw Paw

February 24

Illinois Science Capacity Builders Series - Evaluating the Science Classroom @ 9:00 a.m.

February 25

LETRS Cohort 3 @ ROE #47

February 26

River Bend SIP Day @ Fulton

LaMoille SIP Team Meeting @ LaMoille

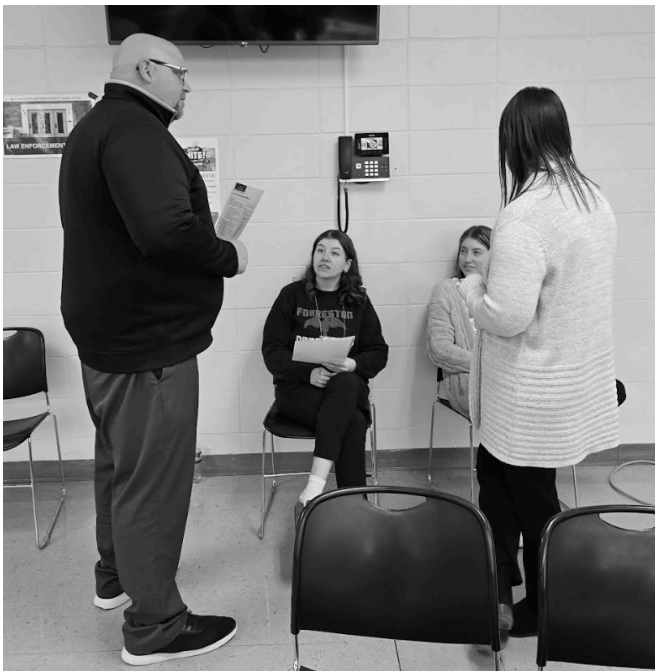
February 27

Eswood SIP Day @ Eswood

February 28

3rd Annual Cultivating Connections in Agriculture @ Tettens Grain, Dixon

February 2025 in Photos:





Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: NEXUS



The Nexus Program has been hard at work this year! We are sending out requests for commitments from school districts for next year this week! Wish us luck!

Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Student Attendance Support



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION 47

***HOW WE SUPPORT
YOUR DISTRICT***

Attendance Support Program

REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION

158

Families Supported

296

Children Supported

18

McKinney Vinto

215

Goals Met

4,883

Family Contacts

Parents as Teachers First Years

In February, we participated in a large number of community events:

- We had a joint “Spa Day” with the Education Outreach Program. We enjoyed relaxing self-care activities, including a cucumber water play station, making sugar scrubs, and self-care products bingo. We also had a special visitor - Circie the Therapy Dog! Check out the pictures below.
- We joined an Early Childhood Resource fair at the Morrison Library
- We visited with Cinderella at the Prophetstown Library
- Later in the month, we joined many community service providers at the Frosty Fun Day organized by Tri-County Opportunities Council Head Start at the Sterling Mall.



Education Outreach Program

February was a month of recovery and winter weather and showing the students that we can help them prepare for testing in creative ways. The Education Outreach Program works hard to meet our students where they are at in life. We understand the importance of consistency and our resources allow our students to continue to study even if they cannot make it to class. We provide the option of online studying with resources, such as Aztec Software and iPathways programs that provide online teacher video lessons, GED flash card activities, and alternative testing methods. At EOP we also have 2 devoted teachers that go out of their way to create paper packets, video lessons or phone conferences to ensure the students' needs are met.

The Education Outreach Program and Parents As Teachers First Years collaborated for yet another event, Self-Care Day. Our students along with clients from PAT were able to enjoy activities together! Individuals learned how to make their own sugar scrub, how to interact with young children and promote self-care, and how to take better care of themselves.



McKinney Vento Homeless Program

Energy is being used to help our students that are senior to be looking forward to their next step. College, trade schools, jobs...all these are viable options to be pursued. Our unaccompanied youth especially are needing the support and direction from our educational staff. Working with community resources continues to be vital for educational success. Next month is our State McKinney- Vento conference; therefore, work is being done to prepare for this great opportunity to meet and be with others through the State that are doing the same tasks that we are.

Center For Change

February

As we enter the final third of the year, we at Center for Change are committed to finishing strong and supporting our students in every way possible. With many of our students preparing for graduation and taking the next step in their educational journey, we are incredibly proud of their dedication and perseverance. We remain steadfast in our mission to ensure that every student has the resources and guidance needed to complete their courses and reach their goals.

For those transitioning to secondary education, we celebrate your achievements and are honored to have been a part of your journey. Our dedicated team continues to provide academic and emotional support, helping students successfully navigate this exciting time. Whether it's completing final coursework or preparing for what comes next, we are here to assist every step of the way.

Beyond academics, we are thrilled about the continued growth of our extracurricular programs through the Phoenix Leadership Council. Our commitment to fostering community and personal development remains a top priority, and through the expansion of student-led clubs, we are creating more opportunities for meaningful interactions and shared experiences. These clubs, facilitated by our dedicated counseling professionals, offer students a space to connect, support one another, and explore their passions in a safe and welcoming environment.

As always, our goal is to nurture not only academic success but also personal growth and community engagement. We encourage all students to take advantage of the many resources available to them and to get involved with our growing network of clubs and support groups.

Let's make this final stretch of the year a time of achievement, connection, and growth. Keep pushing forward, and let's finish strong together!

Warm regards,

The Center for Change Team

Lee County Veterans Assistance Commission

Tally for
January 25

Total number of calls in office: 53
Total number of visitors to the office: 26

Total number of food vouchers issued in January = 0
Total of bills received for food vouchers: \$192.56

Total number of veterans using the van: 3
Total number of trips van made: 3
Total number of volunteer van drivers: 3

Veterans transported by volunteers: 0
Total volunteers driving veterans by car: 0
Total number of trips volunteers made: 0
Total number of veterans driving self: 9
Total trips veterans made driving self: 16

Total number of trips to: Total cost:

Davenport	1	\$70.55
Freeport	1	\$29.75
Hines	0	\$0.00
Iowa City	1	\$87.50
J. Brown	0	\$0.00
LaSalle	0	\$0.00
Madison	1	\$87.50
Rockford	0	\$436.85
Sycamore	1	\$43.68
Sterling	0	\$0.00

VA remibursement \$0.00

Total: \$755.30

Grand totals:

Transportation	\$755.83
Food Vouchers	\$192.56
Van Lease	\$218.00
Office Supplies	\$0.00
Rent Assistance	\$150.00
Utility Assistance	\$33.21

Total assistance January \$1,349.60

1349.6

Lee County Veterans Assistance Commission

Tally for
February 25

Total number of calls in office: 51
Total number of visitors to the office: 29

Total number of food vouchers issued in February = 0
Total of bills received for food vouchers: \$0.00

Total number of veterans using the van: 6
Total number of trips van made: 5
Total number of volunteer van drivers: 3

Veterans transported by volunteers: 1
Total volunteers driving veterans by car: 1
Total number of trips volunteers made: 1
Total number of veterans driving self: 7
Total trips veterans made driving self: 9

Total number of trips to: Total cost:

Davenport	0	\$0.00
Freeport	1	\$29.75
Hines	0	\$0.00
Iowa City	1	\$87.50
J. Brown	0	\$0.00
LaSalle	0	\$0.00
Madison	1	\$87.50
Moline	0	\$0.00
Monroe	0	\$0.00
Rockford	11	\$248.50
Sycamore	1	\$43.68
VA remibursement		\$0.00
Total:		\$496.83

Grand totals:

Transportation	\$496.83
Food Vouchers	\$0.00
Van Lease	\$218.00
Office Supplies	\$40.82
Rent Assistance	\$0.00
Utility Assistance	\$108.40

Total assistance February \$864.15

MONTHLY ZONING AND PLANNING REPORT

March 11, 2025 – County Services Committee

ACTIONS COMING FROM THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS –

1. Petition No. 25-P-1638 by Craig A. and Christine Kessel, as owners of certain real property identified as PIN 02-15-19-200-004 and commonly known as 859 Morgan Road, Amboy, Illinois, in Amboy Township, Lee County, Illinois, filed a Petition for Special Use with the Lee County Zoning Office requesting a special use permit for the purpose of Auto Repair – Minor, as defined by the Lee County Zoning Ordinance. The parcel is currently zoned Ag-1, Rural/Agricultural District and is 1.24 acres in size.

This petition was heard on March 6, 2025. Following the public hearing, **the Zoning Board of Appeals voted unanimously (4-0) to recommend approval of this petition to the County Board, with the following conditions:**

1. Petitioners shall be limited to working on five (5) customer vehicles at one time. These vehicles will be allowed to remain onsite for a period of seven (7) days.
2. No vehicles shall be parked or stored in the public right-of-way.
3. No signs shall be placed on the property unless such signage is approved through the Lee County Zoning Office.
4. Storage of customer vehicles that are being worked on shall be in the designated location only: near the southwest corner of the property.
5. Petitioners shall not operate a junkyard or scrap processing facility from the Subject Realty.
6. Petitioners shall comply with the IL State Plumbing Code for auto repair shops.
7. Petitioners shall comply with, among other things, the hazardous materials section of the Lee County Code (Title 10, Chapter 15, Section 12).
8. Should the Subject Realty transfer ownership to anyone other than the Petitioners, the special use permit shall become null and void upon transfer to any new owner.

ACTIONS GOING TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS –

1. Petition No. 25-P-1639 by Mound Hill Road North Solar, LLC, as lessee of certain real property identified as PIN 16-07-05-300-005, in Palmyra Township, Lee County, Illinois, filed a Petition for Special Use with the Lee County Zoning Office requesting a special use permit for a 5 MW

Commercial Solar Energy Facility (community solar). The parcel is located on the east side of Mound Hill Road, approximately one-half mile north of Illinois Route 2. The parcel is currently zoned Ag-1, Rural/Agricultural District and is 67.29 acres in size.

2. Petition No. 25-P-1640 by Mound Hill Road South Solar, LLC, as lessee of certain real property identified as PIN 16-07-05-300-006 and 16-07-08-100-004, in Palmyra Township, Lee County, Illinois, filed a Petition for Special Use with the Lee County Zoning Office requesting a special use permit for a 2 MW Commercial Solar Energy Facility (community solar). The parcels are located on the east side of Mound Hill Road, approximately seven tenths of a mile north of Illinois Route 2. The parcels are currently zoned Ag-1, Rural/Agricultural District and are collectively 67.29 acres in size.

ACTIONS COMING FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION –

1. Petition No. 25-PC-78 by the Lee County Zoning Administrator, was filed in which Petitioner seeks to amend the text of Title 10: ZONING REGULATIONS of the Lee County Code of Ordinances to replace Zoning Board of Appeals with Zoning Hearing Officer and to create standards for amending Special Use Permit that have been previously approved by the Lee County Board

This petition was heard on March 3, 2025. Following the public hearing, **the Regional Planning Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to recommend approval of this petition to the County Board with the following revisions:**

1. The text should include language that allows for the removal of a zoning hearing officer.
2. The text should include language that limits the term(s) of the zoning hearing officer.
3. The text should include language that will allow the County Board to annually review the zoning hearing officer.
4. The text should not allow the zoning hearing officer to create their own Rules of Procedure and that the County Board should have some say in those Rules.

ACTIONS GOING TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION – None

OTHER ACTIONS FROM THE ZONING OFFICE

Deputy Zoning Administrator Laura Mangrum has taken a position as a Floodplain Specialist for the State of New Mexico. Her last day with the County was February 19, 2025. We wish her the best on her new endeavor.

Last month, I attended POWERGEN International 2025 in Dallas, Texas. POWERGEN brings together over 8,000 industry professionals, including power utilities, hardware vendors, and equipment

manufacturers. The event focused on the evolving landscape of energy generation, demand growth, grid resilience, and innovative technologies shaping the future of the power sector.

Some of the key highlights are listed below. These insights reflect the industry's shift toward pragmatic, multi-faceted strategies that balance reliability, sustainability, and technological innovation.

1. **Resurgence of Traditional Power Sources:** Discussions highlighted a renewed interest in natural gas and nuclear energy. Keynote speakers, including representatives from NVIDIA (a major data center developer) and Entergy, emphasized the growing demand for firm generation capacity to support expanding AI-driven energy needs.
2. **Advancement in Hydrogen and Energy Storage:** Innovations aimed at decarbonization and long-duration energy storage were showcased. Notably, Westinghouse presented a compelling energy storage solution, while Modern Hydrogen introduced a methane-to-hydrogen conversion process using pyrolysis. This technology allows methane to be transported efficiently before converting it to hydrogen at the point of use, with the remaining carbon repurposed for asphalt production.
3. **Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Energy Demand:** NVIDIA's keynote addressed the surge in energy consumption driven by artificial intelligence workloads, underscoring the need for reliable power sources to support this growth.
4. **Emergence of Grid-Edge Technologies:** The event featured discussions on behind-the-meter solutions, microgrids, and portable energy storage, highlighting the importance of data-driven decision-making in modern energy management.

The Big Sky Wind, LLC wind project is under new ownership as of the beginning of this year. Potentia will be taking over the business side of the project from Exus. Exus will stay on to oversee the energy side of the project.

In accordance with being substantially underway, Deriva Energy has provided an update to the County on the South Dixon Solar project. The project has completed Phase II interconnection studies with PJM and is moving into Phase III. Upon the successful completion of Phase III, interconnection shall be awarded.

Lee County is now requiring architectural plans that are sealed by an Illinois licensed design professional for all commercial buildings as defined by the State of Illinois. The State defines "commercial building" as any building other than: 1) a single-family home or dwelling containing 2 or fewer apartments, condominiums, or townhouses; or 2) a farm building as exempted from Section 3 of the Illinois Architecture Practice Act of 1989.

Lee County is also now requiring plan reviews for all commercial buildings as defined by the State of Illinois. We will be partnering with Kelly Reynolds who handles plan reviews for over 200 municipalities and counties across the country. Currently, Whiteside County, the City of Sterling and the City of Dixon utilize his services. The cost of the service will be paid directly by the building permit applicant.

By requiring architectural plans and plan reviews for all commercial buildings, Lee County is ensuring that these structures are constructed properly, reducing and/or eliminating the risks to the health, safety, and general welfare of the public that may enter these commercial structures.

During the month of February 2025, the Zoning Office processed fifteen (15) building permits. Permit fees in the amount of \$843.20 were collected.



Report to County Services Committee of Lee County Board

March 11, 2025 | 9:00 AM

1) RIDERSHIP DATA (December 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025)

	December, 2024	January, 2025	February, 2025	FY 25 Trend
RIDES	6,584	8,086	7,314	95,100
SERVICE HOURS	2,070	2,498	2,172	31,076
MILES OF SERVICE	57,305	69,706	59,988	759,388
FUEL COST	\$16,907.88	\$19,295.08	\$18,452.67	\$268,852.32

2) DEVELOPMENTS

a) Budget/Contracts for FY 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

- (1) Work is underway on finalizing contractual agreements for Fiscal Year 2026. Funding Allocations for FY 2026 are as follows:
 - (a) 5311 Contract: \$283,450
 - (b) DOAP Contract: \$2,240,400
 - (c) 5311F Contract (I-88 and I-39): \$2,029,606

b) Rural Winnebago County Transit Services

- i) Intergovernmental Agreement with Winnebago County to provide rural transit was finalized during that County Board meeting in February.
- ii) Separate agreement being finalized for the contractual hiring of a person to be the PCOM (oversight) of the rural transit services was also approved at the same February meeting.
- iii) Agreements have been signed. Work will begin on the initiation of services on July 1, 2025.
- iv) The contractual budget proposed by IDOT for this new rural service is as follows:
 - (i) 5311 Contract: \$207,864
 - (ii) DOAP Contract: \$798,728

c) Vehicle Procurement

- (1) RMTD is awaiting final word of when the six (6) proposed vehicles from IDOT will be available for pickup.
- (2) RMTD is receiving six (6) vehicles (2 minivans, 4 light duty buses) via IDOT's 2022 CVP Application.
- (3) RMTD collaboration with IDOT on a federal proposal to the Low/No Emission Grants.
 - (a) RMTD will procure two (2) electric buses via this proposal.

d) Hydrogen Fuel Feasibility Study

- i) RMTD completed the RFP process for a Project Lead Consultant for the Hydrogen Fuel Feasibility Study. The review committee completed a review of the application received from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. A contractual agreement has been shared with UIUC.
- ii) IDOT State Planning and Research Program has awarded \$300,000 to assess the feasibility of using hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and hydrogen fuel in rural Illinois.

e) Service Contract Discussions

- i) Initial discussions on potential service contracts have been had with Rochelle Community Hospital as well as OSF Saint Katharine. Both of these are in the very preliminary stages, with good content from the initial meetings.
- ii) A meeting is also being sought with Mercy Health, which opened an emergent clinic in the City of Dixon late in 2024.

f) Architectural/Engineering Firm / Oregon facility construction

- i) Pre-bid Concurrence paperwork has been submitted to IDOT for its review. Once concurred will allow for going out for the hiring of a General Contractor.

- ii) Larson and Darby, architectural firm out of Rockford, is the architect/engineering firm hired for the Oregon Construction project. This project is part of RMTD application under REBUILD 1
- g) Transit Desert Grant / IDOT State Planning and Research**
 - i) Work is continuing on the Transit Desert Grant study of Lee and Ogle Counties, specifically those areas of the counties more remote in nature
 - ii) The initial meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee was held Wednesday, January 8, 2025. The next meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee will likely be in March.
 - iii) Next steps in the process, spearheaded by the NIU Center for Governmental Studies (NIU/CGS), will include interviews with key stakeholders.
 - iv) NIU/CGS is also starting the review of existing data for transit deserts in the two-county region. A Public Survey is being developed by NIU/CGS with distribution in the near future.
 - v) A series of Focus Groups will be established by NIU/CGS for the coming months.
- h) Auditing Services**
 - i) RMTD and Wipfli, LLC completed the annual Single Transportation Audit, as a requirement of RMTD's contract with IDOT.
 - ii) The audit reviewed all transit funding sources for the period of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.
 - (1) Downstate Operating Assistance Program
 - (2) 5311 / 5311F for local and Intercity Bus operations
 - (3) CARES (Covid) funding
- i) IT Services**
 - i) The transition from DC Computers to Sundog IT is complete. The agreement with Sundog is a three-year contract with two (2) additional one-year options.
- j) Pending Request for Bids / Intercity Bus**
 - i) An upcoming bid opportunity to operate Intercity Bus services on I-88 and I-39 will be forthcoming in the next six (6) months, with the selected operator beginning on July 1, 2025.
 - (1) Greyhound Bus Lines / FLIX are the current operator on both the I-88 Intercity Bus Route between Chicago and Davenport, Iowa, as well as the I-39 (I-90, and I-74) Route between Chicago and Danville, IL.
- k) Request for Bids / Replacement Vehicles**
 - i) RMTD will be piggy-backing onto another state's Vehicle Procurement Program (likely Georgia) for up to three (3) Ford Transit type vehicles. This was a recommendation of IDOT. RMTD will also look to procure an electric vehicle through the Georgia procurement program.

3) OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

- a) Capital Funding / Community Project Funding | Representative Darin LaHood**
 - i) Funding includes construction of additional administrative space at Dixon Transit Center
 - ii) Total amount of funding is \$2.9472 million to provide for planned expansion at the Reagan Transit Center in Dixon.
- b) Capital Funding / REBUILD Round 1**
 - i) Funding provides for construction of new Oregon location
 - ii) Furnishings and equipment for Oregon facility
 - iii) Implementation of video surveillance cameras in 17 of RMTD's buses and minivans (completed)
 - iv) Three (3) new buses (Ford transit type vehicles)
- c) Capital Funding / REBUILD Round 2**
 - (1) RMTD Proposal will allow for the following:
 - (a) Two electric vehicles for use in the RMTD system
 - (b) Three (3) new offices at Reagan Transit Center and secured file room/storage room
 - (c) Develop new Conference Room between Reagan Transit Center and Mechanical Bay
 - (d) Geothermal and Solar technologies will be incorporated into complex
- d) Capital Funding / REBUILD Round 3**
 - i) RMTD will receive \$62,500 for the purchase of 2 service vehicles