



Press Release

For Immediate Release

For more information: Jody Coss, 815-801-5760

StephensonCountyDemocrats@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

Checks and Balances in serious danger at the Stephenson County Board

The Administration Committee of the Stephenson County Board will today hear a proposal to change the County Code to allow the Chair of the Board to also be the Finance Committee Chair.

Board member and current Finance Committee Chair, Tim Whalen, is resigning from the Board. Board Chair, Scott Helms, is asserting that no other Board member has the ability to be the Finance Chair except himself.

Board Chair Scott Helms is also the husband of the current County Treasurer, Stephanie Helms.

Numerous other Board Members do have a financial background. Current members include a former Chair of the Board, an employee of Security First Title Company, a former Vice Chair of the Board and a number of members who run large farms.

Stephenson County Democratic Party Chair, Jody Coss said, "It seems like this is an attempt to cover up bad decisions by the County. We need a lot more transparency with our taxpayers' money. Just like at the national level, we could use more of a bi-partisan approach."

Many questionable financial decisions have recently been made by the Stephenson County Board, including the sale of the County's Senior Nursing Home, Walnut Acres, while the Court is reviewing the requirement for the sale to be approved by referendum of Stephenson County Residents. The case is still continuing, but the Court has already ruled that the Board violated Illinois State Statute by not holding the referendum.

Members of the Administration Committee are:

- Larry Jogerst - Chairman
- Lou Ann Hayes - Vice Chairman
- Steve Fricke
- Adam Moderow

The Administration Committee will meet today, Wednesday, March 11, at 5:00 p.m. on the 7th Floor of the Stewart Centre, 50 W. Douglas St, Freeport. Press and County residents are encouraged to contact their Board representatives and attend the meeting.



AGENDA
MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATION & LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Stewart Centre Conference Room

7th Floor

50 W. Douglas Street, Freeport, IL

(Claims available for viewing by Committee Members and General Public beginning at 4:30 p.m.)

- 1.0 - **Call to Order**
- 2.0 - **Prayer**
- 3.0 - **Approval of Agenda**
- 4.0 - **Approval of Meeting Minutes from the February 11, 2026, Meeting**
- 5.0 - **Approval of Claims**
- 6.0 - **Public Comments**
- 7.0 - **Departmental Reports**
 - 7.1 County Treasurer
 - 7.2 County Clerk
 - 7.3 Supervisor of Assessments
 - 7.4 County Administrator
 - 7.5 IT Manager
- 8.0 - **Old Business**
 - 8.1 Approval of AI Use Policy
- 9.0 - **New Business**
 - 9.1 Approval of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 29 of the Stephenson County Code
- 10.0 - **Comments from Committee Members**
- 11.0 - **Adjournment**

*** Please note that the committee meetings will now be streamed on YouTube. You can access them by going to the website, clicking on the "Government" tab, selecting "County Board", and then "County Board Meeting Online" or by using the link below:**

<https://www.youtube.com/@stephensoncountyboard8181/streams>