



DU PAGE COUNTY

Ethics Commission

Summary

421 N. COUNTY FARM ROAD
WHEATON, IL 60187
www.dupagecounty.gov

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

10:00 AM

County Board Room

1. CALL TO ORDER

10:00 AM meeting was called to order by Chair John Demling 10:05 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

Member Donner arrived at 10:23 A.M.

PRESENT	Benson, Cahalan, and Demling
LATE	Donner

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Prior to public comment Chair Demling stated that ordinarily public comment is limited to three minutes. He also stated that he would extend the time to ten minutes due to there being only one person present to make a public comment. He also mentioned that he had spoken to Ms. Rugg over the phone sometime in late August of this year.

The following individual made public comment:

Karen Rugg: Water/Flooding Issues

4. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS - CHAIR DEMLING

Chair remarks were given at the top of the meeting. Chair Demling stated that there are five members of the Ethics Commission and we are down one member. He also stated that there were three members present which constitutes a quorum of the Ethics Commission. He went on to say that Member Donner indicated that he is coming late.

5. MINUTES APPROVAL

5.A. 25-2423

DuPage County Ethics Commission Minutes - Regular Meeting - Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Attachments: [Ethics Minutes_06-11-2025.pdf](#)

RESULT:	ACCEPTED
MOVER:	Suzanne Cahalan
SECONDER:	Edward Benson

6. OTHER ACTION ITEM**6.A. 25-2424**

2026 Ethics Commission Meeting Schedule

Attachments: [2026 Ethics Meeting Schedule.pdf](#)

RESULT:	ACCEPTED
MOVER:	Edward Benson
SECONDER:	Suzanne Cahalan

7. OLD BUSINESS**7.A. FY25 Ethics Training Update**

Evan Shields, Communications Manager, introduced himself. He stated that Jason Blumenthal and Jeremy Custer who previously appeared before this Board have both since resigned. Regarding the 2025 Ethics Training, Mr. Shields stated that as of October 1, 2025, from a County Board perspective, we are now at 93% completion. He also stated that the County Board Members took their Ethics Training at the August 26, 2025 County Board meeting. Regarding outside agencies, Mr. Shields stated that we have 337 employees who have completed the training. He also stated that the outside agencies are a little tricky because we do not know how many people work for those agencies. He went on to say that he is working to get updated contact information to ensure everyone takes the training.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Member Cahalan stated that this will be her last meeting. She will be tendering her resignation effective at the end of the calendar year. There was discussion about moving the meeting dates due to now having two vacancies. Mr. Shields stated that he would move quickly to try and fill both vacancies. Member Cahalan stated that she would tender resignation effective upon the appointment of her replacement.

Mr. Shields informed the Commission that Gregory Vaci, Investigator General, also tendered his resignation recently. He went on to say that they had a replacement who was ready to commit, but then backed out due to time commitments so he is working very hard to get that vacancy filled quickly.

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Member Benson moved, seconded by Member Cahalan, with no objection the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 A.M.



Minutes

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File #: 25-2423

Agenda Date: 10/8/2025

Agenda #: 5.A.



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Summary

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Wednesday, June 11, 2025

10:00 AM

County Board Room

1. CALL TO ORDER

10:00 AM meeting was called to order by Chair John Demling at 10:04 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

Member Donner arrived at 10:09 A.M.

PRESENT	Benson, Cahalan, and Demling
ABSENT	Clemen
LATE	Donner

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were offered.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS - CHAIR DEMLING

Chair Demling stated that there had not been a lot that has happened other than the Ethics Training and there will be a report on that later in the meeting.

5. MINUTES APPROVAL

5.A. 25-1486

DuPage County Ethics Commission Minutes - Regular Meeting - Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Attachments: [Ethics Minutes_10-09-2024.pdf](#)

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVED:	Edward Benson
SECONDER:	Suzanne Cahalan

6. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.A. Ethics Training Update

Jeremy Custer, Senior Advisor, stated that the notice of the FY25 Ethics Training was sent out a little over a month ago to our employees, outside agencies, and Elected Officials. He stated that compliance has been good. The deadline to complete the training is June 27, 2025. He went on

to say that compliance right now is at about 50%. Mr. Custer stated that reminder emails were sent out today, and he will follow up with additional reminders leading up to June 27th. Chair Demling stated that this is one of the Ethics Commission's primary purposes with respect to their duties. They have other purposes, but this is the one that is a constant each year and one that they continue to update and monitor.

Member Benson stated that he was interested that there was a 50% compliance and he is sure that towards the end employees of the County will get a chance to go through the Ethics review. He shared with the Commission that he was on a call with a gentleman this morning where he reminded him that DuPage is probably the wealthiest and best run County in the State. He went on to say that the work the Ethics Commission does has been looked at by other Counties in our State and we do a great job. Member Benson stated that what bothers him is a story on the front page of the New York Times about the president's son-in-law cutting a deal in Coatis, a meme coin being sold by the president of the United States, or a TV add for a presidential watch. He also stated that to him all those things violate Ethics rules. He went on to say that he brought those things up because they influence all of us and that he is hoping that the rules of the Ethics Ordinance are understood.

Chairman Demling stated that occasionally he'll get a comment from someone asking about what the Commission does or why don't they do this or that. He also stated that it is important to understand that from our perspective our Ethics Commission is statutory and set up by an Ordinance. The Commission's authority and limitations come from the Ordinance. He went on to say that there are a lot of things that he might read in the newspaper and wish there was something the Ethics Commission could do about it, but unfortunately it is beyond the scope of our statutory establishment and when that happens you depend upon other organizations.

Chairman Demling stated that the beauty of our organization is that we are all basically volunteers. We get paid a little bit, but not a lot, and we are split between parties in order to keep it somewhat fair and equal. He also stated that ordinarily you would depend on other legislative bodies to protect the public from what Member Benson just described. Far too often those legislative bodies do not necessarily follow up to the extent they probably should. He went on to say that again from our prospective what we can and should do is somewhat limited by the scope that is given to us by the Ordinance that establishes this Commission. Chairman Demling stated that the Commission members should be proud because what they do within their scope is done very well and there has not been a lot of incidents with respect to that. He went on to say that he could not remember the last time the Commission had to have a hearing on an issue and he thinks to a degree some of that is a response to the training and information the Commission provides.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Member Benson moved, seconded by Member Cahalan, with no objection the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 A.M.



Action Item

421 N. COUNTY FARM
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File #: 25-2424

Agenda Date: 10/8/2025

Agenda #: 6.A.



DU PAGE COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

John Demling, Chairman & Commissioner

E F Todd Benson, Commissioner

Suzanne Cahalan, Commissioner

Ted Donner, Commissioner

2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings will convene at 10:00 a.m.

February 11, 2026

June 10, 2026

October 14, 2026