



## **Historical Preservation Committee**

Kaden Nelms – Chairman

McKenzie Building – Second Floor Conference Room

Monday, June 8, 2026 – 3:00 p.m.

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approve the January 14, 2026 meeting minutes
- III. Public Comment
- IV. New Business
  1. Discussion: America 250
  2. Discussion: County Bicentennial
- V. Unfinished Business
- VI. Recess

Members: Chairman Kaden Nelms, Russ Crawford, Linc Hobson, John Ackerman

*Minutes pending committee approval*



**Historical Preservation Committee Meeting**

Chairman Kaden Nelms  
Second Floor Conference Room – McKenzie Building  
Wednesday, January 14, 2026 – 3:03 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Chairman Kaden Nelms, Circuit Clerk Linc Hobson, County Clerk John Ackerman

Committee Members Absent: Russ Crawford (appeared via telephone)

Others Attending: Administrator Mindy Darcy

**MOTION**                    **MOTION BY MEMBER HOBSON, SECOND BY MEMBER ACKERMAN** to approve the December 4, 2025 meeting minutes

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOTION**                    **Review/Recommend County Bicentennial Logo Selection**

County Clerk Ackerman presented four choices of the Bicentennial Logo. The Committee decided on #2.

Circuit Clerk Hobson voiced his frustration over comments that were made at the last County Board meeting regarding America 250 celebrations.

Chairman Nelms recommended providing all four logos at the County Board meeting and letting the members vote on one.

County Clerk Ackerman stated that it was his understanding that the board prefers that this committee make decisions then bring their decision to the board.

Administrator Mindy Darcy stated that they could put the logos up on the screen at the start of full board so everyone could see it and provide feedback.

Administrator Darcy stated that America 250 should be celebrated, however, we need to paint a picture of what that will look like to the board members. She stated that we need to build some enthusiasm and provide ideas and our vision for the event. She recommended asking each township to provide something that

symbolizes their township. She also recommended bringing in food trucks, having a choir come in and sing patriotic songs, having a balloon guy, or having pictures taken on the Courthouse steps. She stated that we need to make it like a festival.

Member Crawford agreed with Administrator Darcy's thoughts and appreciated her feedback.

County Clerk Ackerman suggested that this committee go to each of the township meetings and bring a county board member from that district with us, give them a token of the bicentennial, a swag bag, and explain to them what we love to have them incorporate.

County Clerk Ackerman stated that in approximately October we would have a press conference to announce the I-Voted sticker which would contain whatever logo we pick.

The committee decided that they would display Logo #2 at the county board meeting.

## **MOTION**

### **Review/Recommend Medal of Honor Memorial**

County Clerk Ackerman stated that we need to get this moved this month because we talked about dedicating this on Memorial Day, however, it is not available so we will do this on Veteran's Day. He stated that we need to get the monument company ordering the stone and getting this placed. He stated that the only other thing that will be on the monument that is not in the picture is the phrase "erected Veteran's Day 2026".

Clerk Ackerman stated that the location is outside the State's Attorney's Office in front of a giant green generator box. He stated that it will be near the Veteran's Memorial and will not block the view of the Courthouse.

### **MOTION BY MEMBER HOBSON, SECOND BY MEMBER ACKERMAN to review/recommend Medal of Honor Memorial**

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Clerk Ackerman stated that he has spoke to Steve Saal about interrupting his Veteran's Day program. He stated that Ms. Saal was okay with that and stated we would make the program more

like the dedication of the Veteran's Memorial, where you had some medal of honor recipients and some congressional leadership there.

Administrator Darcy stated that we will bring this to Executive committee this month. She stated that the logo will be displayed at the County Board meeting and input will be requested.

**MOTION     Review/Recommend the Bicentennial State Historical Markers**

County Clerk Ackerman stated that in April of 2027, the County Board meeting will be held in Hopedale because that is where the first County Board meeting was held. He stated that in May of 2027, the County Board meeting will be held in Mackinaw because that is where the first Courthouse was. He stated that in June of 2027, the County Board meeting will be held in Tremont. He stated that in July of 2027, we would be back in Pekin. He stated that before the meeting, there would be a public dedication and then go inside for the meeting. He stated that there is a budget for this under County Administration. He stated that these need approved as soon as possible since they take six months to make.

County Clerk Ackerman stated that he provided text for the three markers, however, the State Society will reshape this for what would fit on the markers. He confirmed that the committee will be able to see it prior to the project being finalized.

The Committee discussed the need for this to go for approval in January.

**MOTION BY MEMBER ACKERMAN, SECOND BY MEMBER HOBSON to review/recommend the Bicentennial State Historical Markers**

On voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**DISCUSSION:     Tazewell's Commitment Memorial**

County Clerk Ackerman stated that this would be put into place for the bicentennial and then a brick sidewalk would be around the memorial and we would remove a couple pieces of brick and put in a black granite slab that would reflect off the memorial. He stated that there would be one location for everything in the future. He

stated that the four categories on the memorial are manufacturing, civic leadership, military service, and agriculture.

Member Hobson stated that he prefers limestone as opposed to marble.

County Clerk Ackerman stated that the eagle on top would be limestone but the etchings would not be seen on limestone. He stated that this could be put on a limestone base.

County Clerk Ackerman stated that the total cost, including installation, is \$80,000. He stated that the brick sidewalk would be additional.

County Clerk Ackerman stated that he is having trouble finding someone that could do the limestone eagle but we can get an eagle that is granite that looks like limestone.

Member Hobson stated that he has some contacts and will make some calls regarding that.

County Clerk Ackerman stated that he proposed a bicentennial dinner in February of 2027 and proceeds from that dinner would go towards this.

Administrator Darcy stated that she supports a fundraiser for this.

County Clerk Ackerman stated that we would need to move on this in mid-summer because it takes time to get this made and in place.

Administrator Darcy questioned if the background could be changed for the Military Service picture. She stated that the background depicts the military as destroyers and they are peacemakers and they liberate people.

County Clerk Ackerman recommended putting an American flag in the corner.

Member Hobson recommended seeing an option with something more traditional than the marble etched option.

Administrator Darcy recommended providing two options for the board to vote on.

County Clerk Ackerman recommended having the eagle on a natural stone pedestal and having the slabs that are sitting at an angle, so they are not as prominent.

The committee stated that they liked that idea as opposed to the first option.

County Clerk Ackerman stated that he will look into that option and provide the committee with a quote.

**DISCUSSION: America 250/Historical Story Board**

County Clerk Ackerman stated that after hearing the comments at the last board meeting, he recommended that rather than the township idea, we could make the historic tourism boards on the Courthouse lawn. He stated that this would be the County's contribution to America 250, showcasing the County's history. He stated that we would need to move on this quickly because it takes time to get these story boards created and get them back to us to the committee to approve. He stated that this would be placed where there are two holes on the lawn where trees were removed. He stated that the total is \$9,250.

Administrator Darcy questioned if the America 250 would be on the story board and County Clerk Ackerman confirmed that it would.

County Clerk Ackerman explained the six categories that he chose to go on the story boards, however, these could be changed.

Chairman Nelms stated that if he was going to take anything off, it would be the Tazewell County Political Leaders because he believes you could incorporate them into the Famous Citizens category.

The Committee agreed to keep the 6 topics on the story board and remove the individuals from the proposal.

**DISCUSSION: Meeting Overview**

Administrator Darcy reviewed the items that were discussed at the meeting. She stated that adding to our grounds is the Medal of Honor Memorial, two story boards, and the large Tazewell Commitment memorial. She stated that this could be hit with some resistance from the board.

County Clerk Ackerman stated that the two story boards would be placed where two trees were removed so something needs to go there.

The Committee discussed the prior Resolution to grant funds to local townships planning America250 celebrations. County Clerk Ackerman stated that the board members expressed skepticism.

Administrator Darcy stated that it would be either the story boards of the granting of funds.

Member Hobson stated that the board has already provided their opinion on the granting of funds so he recommends going with the story boards.

Chairman Nelms stated that the board members did not feel like they had enough information and transitioning to the story boards would answer all the questions they would have.

County Clerk Ackerman stated that going with the story boards would be less than half the cost of granting funds to the townships.

County Clerk Ackerman stated that one of the topics for the next meeting would be the timeline of schedule of events.

County Clerk Ackerman confirmed that coming up this month will be showing the board members the bicentennial logo, and coming up for vote will be the Medal of Honor monument, three Courthouse markers, and the America250 story boards.

Member Hobson stated that the Medal of Honor is done since it was already passed through a referendum.

Chairman Nelms recessed the meeting at 4:43 p.m.

(transcribed by S. Gullette)