

**JO DAVIESS COUNTY**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

**I. Call to Order**

Committee Chairperson Creighton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on Monday, February 2, 2026 in the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Courthouse in Galena, Illinois.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll Call was answered as follows: Present – Dianne Allendorf, John Creighton, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, John Lang, John Schultz, LaDon Trost. Present: 8. Present electronically: 0. Absent – Michael Holt. Absent: 1.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2026, Executive Committee meeting was made by Dianne Allendorf and seconded by John Schultz. The motion carried by voice vote.

**IV. Citizens' Comments**

There were no citizens' comments.

**V. Unfinished Business**

FY2025/FY2027 Strategic Goals were reviewed with no updates to completion phases.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests were reviewed.

Discussion and possible action to recommend an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances Title 1 Administration, Chapter 5 County Board Organization and Operation Meetings; Rules of Order and Procedure, Section 21 Committees: A lengthy discussion was held regarding options to reduce committee size. One option includes a proposed structure consolidating eight standing committees into four-Executive, Finance & Planning, Public Services, and People, Policy & Programming-to streamline oversight and align related functions. Each new committee would group complementary responsibilities to improve coordination, strategic planning, and operational efficiency across county governance. Another option outlines a five-committee structure that keeps each committee legally distinct while pairing related committees to meet on the same night, reducing meeting frequency and operational costs. It maintains quorum compliance, preserves committee authority, and improves coordination while easing the time burden on Board members. It was suggested that consolidating committees would reduce duplicated work, stabilize workloads, and create a more efficient, predictable structure for both staff and board members. It also notes that fewer meetings would lower per-diem costs and allow the Administrator's Office to provide deeper, more strategic support rather than operating in a constant reactive cycle. Those against the idea expressed concern that consolidating committees could lead to longer meetings, reduced public discussion, and insufficient preparation time for committee chairs, potentially weakening the depth and quality of deliberation. Chairperson Creighton asked members to use the next month to put together any

suggestions they might have, as he would like to have a recommendation for County Board in March, should the committee decide a change is warranted.

## **VI. New Business**

**A motion to recommend a Resolution to Establish an Ad-Hoc Public Safety Integration Committee was made by Lynn Gallagher and seconded by Dianne Allendorf. The motion carried by voice vote.**

A brief explanation was given to the need for a FOIA policy. The policy itself follows the statute that governs FOIA, but sets additional guidelines that are County specific, such as the fact that County offices do not share records, so requests for information can only be answered by the keeper of those records. Another reason is to clarify the format in which electronic requests are submitted, pursuant to recent legislative changes that eliminate the requirement of having to open links or documents due to cybersecurity threats. **A motion to recommend approval of a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Policy was made by John Grizzoffi and seconded by John Schultz. The motion carried by voice vote.**

Discussion regarding this policy draft included a question of intent, which was answered by Administrator Kaiser. The intent of the policy serves the purpose of creating neutral guidelines to follow when drafting an agenda or submitting supporting documentation for review, ensuring compliance with the Open Meetings Act and Robert's Rules of Order. Member D. Gallagher indicated that for Development & Planning, she sometimes pursues agenda items that will serve as educational opportunities that will help the committee move towards the completion of their goals. Member Lang believes this policy is unnecessary and will put the Administrator's office in charge of the board and committee's agenda items, and if an item isn't on the agenda, you can't discuss it or take action. He added, "Being aware of the Open Meetings Act is important, but it should not govern totally how the board functions." Member Schultz stated that, as Finance, Tax, & Budget Committee chair, his agendas are "always almost perfect, because, aside from discussing items with the Administrator, she has all the information that needs to be included in his agendas." Member Trost asked how do we maintain a neutral agenda when every County Board member represents an established party? Kaiser answered that the goal is to avoid the overt appearance of partisanship and present all County agendas in a neutral format. After that is accomplished, the meeting discussion between members will flow from there. **A motion to recommend approval of a Submission of Agendas & Meeting Materials Policy was made by Lynn Gallagher and seconded by Dianne Allendorf. The motion carried by voice vote with nay votes recorded for John Lang and LaDon Trost.**

## **VII. Closed Session**

There was no need for closed session.

## **VIII. Reconvene to Open Session**

## **IX. Possible Actions as a Result of Closed Session**

## **X. Reports**

County Administrator: A written report was provided and Administrator Angela Kaiser was present to answer questions. She reported on Friday, she received confirmation from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that the Preliminary Investigation and Findings Report (PIFR) for the

Blackjack Sub-watershed Project in Galena was approved by their National Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program. More information will be available at the next committee meeting.

#### **XI. Citizens' Comments**

There were no citizens' comments.

#### **XII. Committee Member Concerns**

John Schultz expressed his concern regarding the vacancy of the MTAD Apple River/Thompson Assessor seat, and would like to address the situation in the next Finance, Tax, & Budget Committee meeting. He believes it unfair that the assessments of these properties have not been updated, because that spreads the burden over the rest of the citizens in both the townships and in the County as a whole.

#### **XIII. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:34 PM by John Schultz and seconded by John Lang. Motion carried by voice vote.

**Next committee meeting is Monday, March 2, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**