

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 7, 2026

I. Call to Order

Board of Health President Merri Berlage called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was answered as follows: Present -- Merri Berlage, Peg Dittmar, Dr. Barbara Kepner, Violet Naese, Don Hill and Dr. Maria Hernandez. Present: 5. Present electronically -- 0. Absent -- John Creighton, Tracy Bauer, and Lisa Haas. Absent 3.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of minutes of the October 1, 2025 Board of Health meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from October 1, 2025, meeting was made by Don Hill and seconded by Peg Dittmar. The motion carried by voice vote.

IV. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizen comments.

V. Financial Reports

A. 003 Public Health Fund and 020 Animal Control Fund financial reports

Budget comparisons through November 30, 2025 were presented for review. Sandra Schleicher stated these are tentative figures for the end of FY2025. Public Health is still waiting on grant money from July through September that will go into FY2025. The new truck for Animal Control was not received before the end of FY25 as budgeted, so line items were adjusted to pay the expense in FY26. Both funds ended the fiscal year with a positive balance.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Discussion and possible action regarding DACRA system for Animal Control program

Terry Kurt, attorney for the Village of Warren, presented information on the DACRA system being used by several local municipalities for administrative hearings of ordinance violations. The program started in 2021 in East Dubuque, but now the Village of Warren is the host. Animal Control can join the DACRA system. There would be a monthly fee along with a portion of each citation paid to participate. Terry volunteered to help work on the necessary ordinance revisions and present at the next Board of Health meeting if we choose to join the program. After further discussion, a motion to proceed with ordinance revisions to implement an administrative hearing process by the Animal Control program with assistance from Terry Kurt and present a draft at the next meeting was made by Dr. Hernandez and seconded by Don Hill. All were in favor, the motion carried by voice vote.

VII. New Business

A. Approval of 2026 Board of Health meeting schedule

The Board of Health is required to meet four times per year. A motion to accept the meeting dates as presented was made by Dr. Barb Kepner and seconded by Peg Dittmar. All were in favor. The motion carried by voice vote.

VIII. Administrator's Comments

Sandra informed the group that 17 spay/neuter vouchers were redeemed in FY 2025 out of 32 issued. The State of Illinois is not following the new vaccination guidelines and will be convening a statewide advisory group to review and make recommendations. There are high levels of influenza cases in the county along with some covid. Sandra is working with Tammy Cahill on possible sustainable grants to offer dental care. The food establishment license renewals with Environment Health have been processed for FY2026.

IX. President's Comments

Merri Berlage informed the group that she had a discussion with John Creighton about the Blackjack Road project. John expects a feasibility study will be approved at Thursday night's Legislative meeting.

X. Board Member Comments

Dr. Barb Kepner updated the Board on her search for possible AA meetings in the county; she found online many different days and times meetings are available throughout the county. There was also a short discussion about Rosecrance being in their new location and also having a representative in the Galena Schools.

XI. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizen comments.

XII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn at 7:58 pm was made by Peg Dittmar and seconded by Dr. Barb Kepner. The motion carried by voice vote.

Next Board of Health meeting

March 4, 2026, at 7:00 pm