

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
FINANCE, TAX, & BUDGETS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 5, 2026

I. Call to Order

Committee Chairperson Schultz called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on Thursday, March 5, 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 – John Creighton, Michael Dittmar, Diane Gallagher, Michael Holt, John Lang, John Schultz, LaDon Trost. Present: 7. Present electronically: 0. Absent: 0.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2026, Finance, Tax, & Budgets Committee meeting was made by Diane Gallagher and seconded by John Creighton. The motion carried by voice vote with an abstention recorded for Michael Holt.

IV. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

V. Unfinished Business

FY2025/FY2027 Strategic Goals: Not reviewed.

VI. New Business

Presentation of the Veterans Assistance Program of Jo Daviess County: Arthur Ricker, Tom Lobacz, and George Petitgout gave the committee a brief history of how the program was created and their process for helping veterans. They voiced their concerns regarding recent legislation that has been introduced that may change how they are able to operate the program in the future.

Presentation of the Ad-Hoc Community Growth Committee Final Report: Michael Dittmar presented the committee's findings, which included summarizations of discussions on demographic conditions, county-level constraints that included economic development incentives unavailable to county government, existing tools, and recommended enhancements.

A motion to recommend forwarding to the County Board the Ad-Hoc Community Growth Committee Final Report was made by Michael Dittmar and seconded by Diane Gallagher. The motion carried by voice vote.

Discussion regarding the Multi-Township Assessment District (MTAD) Apple River-Thompson Assessor vacancy and P2025-3 Township Assessor Work Completion Policy included comments and concerns from the Thompson Township Clerk. The key issue is their inability to collect enough property tax revenue to fund an assessor contract, as they are without an elected assessor. Questions were asked regarding what steps they plan to take to remedy the situation, which touched on township assistance and aggregate rate/extension-based referenda. It was understood

they cannot provide assessing duties for the 2026 assessment cycle and that the County would have to step in to do the work and bill the MTAD for the hours, as outlined in the P2025-3 Township Assessor Work Completion Policy.

A motion to recommend clarifications to the Special Service Area Contracts between Jo Daviess County and Warren Ambulance Service, Galena Area EMS District, and Elizabeth Community Ambulance Service as presented was made by John Schultz and seconded by Michael Dittmar.

A motion to amend the contract to include language in item 9.b. *"Capital reserves maintained in a designated Capital Equipment Fund for long-term asset replacement shall not be included in the calculation of available working capital reserves for purpose of this section."* was made by John Schultz and seconded by John Creighton.

The amendment carried by voice vote.

The original motion as amended carried by voice vote.

A motion to recommend approval of a Resolution to execute a deed of conveyance of the County's interest in parcel 18-010-096-00 Thompson Township to Oluwakemi Gbangbalasa was made by John Creighton and seconded by Michael Holt. The motion carried by voice vote.

A motion to recommend approval of a Resolution to execute a deed of conveyance of the County's interest in parcel 18-011-263-00 Thompson Township to Lola Falore was made by John Schultz and seconded by Diane Gallagher. The motion carried by voice vote.

A motion to recommend approval of a Resolution to execute a deed of conveyance of the County's interest in parcel 18-011-264-00 Thompson Township to Lola Falore was made by John Schultz and seconded by John Lang. The motion carried by voice vote.

A motion to recommend a contract with Motorola Solutions for Rave 911 and Rave Alert External and iPaws to provide a county-wide Emergency Notification System for a total five-year subscription cost of \$50,000.00 was made by LaDon Trost and seconded by Michael Holt. The motion carried by voice vote.

VII. Reports

Assessments: A written report was provided and CCAO Laura Edmonds was present to answer questions.

Treasurer: A written report was provided and Treasurer Melisa Hammer was present to answer questions.

Grants Administrator: A written report was provided and Grants Administrator Tammy Cahill was present to answer questions.

Financial Reports: The January 2026 financial reports were provided for review.

VIII. Citizens' Comments

Tori Offenheiser, Elizabeth introduced herself as the Republican candidate for County Treasurer and provided to the committee some background information on herself.

IX. Committee Member Concerns

John Creighton reported on a recent Board of Health meeting he attended.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:33 PM by John Lang and seconded by Diane Gallagher. Motion carried by voice vote.

Next committee meeting is Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.