

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 6, 2026

I. Call to Order

Committee Chairperson Creighton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on Monday, April 6, 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, Michael Holt, John Lang, John Schultz, LaDon Trost. Present: 9. Present electronically: 0. Absent: 0.

III. Approval of Minutes

IV. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

V. Unfinished Business

FY2025/FY2027 Strategic Goals: Chairperson Creighton provided an update on anticipated revisions to Strategic Goal #1. Based on preliminary traffic study results, the goal regarding construction of a road from Blackjack to Highway 20 will likely be revised to focus on watershed management and control.

Update on Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests: Reviewed.

A motion to recommend a County Board Technology Equipment Policy to supersede P2009-3 Paperless Packet Policy was made by Lynn Gallagher and seconded by Dianne Allendorf. The motion carried by voice vote with a nay vote recorded for John Lang.

The Committee held an extended discussion on Option 4, the proposed restructuring of the County Board's standing committees. Supporters emphasized benefits such as fewer meeting nights, improved participation from younger and working members, reduced per-diem and security costs, better coordination among related subject areas, and more consistent department head reporting. Several members noted the value of a two-year trial period to evaluate effectiveness. Concerns centered on the workload placed on single committee chairs, the consolidation of three committees under one chair in the People, Policy & Programming Committee, and the Executive Committee comprising a majority of the full board, which some felt could diminish minority influence. Despite reservations, the committee agreed the proposal was worth testing. **A motion 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 was made by John Creighton and seconded by Lynn Gallagher. The motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes – Dianne Allendorf, John Creighton, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, Michael Holt, John Schultz, LaDon Trost. Ayes: 7. Nays – John Grizzoffi, John Lang. Nays: 2. Absent: 0.**

VI. New Business

The Committee reviewed salary-setting for the County Clerk & Recorder, Treasurer, and Circuit Clerk, beginning with the current salary of \$84,239 and noting that Jo Daviess County remains \$7,000–\$9,000 above comparable counties in the UCCI survey. Members discussed whether to maintain salaries at the current level for the next four-year term or apply a modest annual increase. Several expressed discomfort with a four-year freeze, citing cost-of-living pressures and the precedent set for other employee groups, while others emphasized fiscal restraint and the county's already above-average compensation. The County Administrator presented multiple scenarios, including 1%, 2%, and 3% annual increases, flat-dollar adjustments, and CPI-based options, to illustrate long-term impacts. Concerns were also raised about how raises might influence future collective bargaining negotiations. With no consensus reached, the committee opted to table the item for one month to allow further review and comparison. **A motion to table action on an Ordinance Establishing Salaries of Elected Officials County Clerk and Recorder, County Treasurer, and Clerk of the Circuit Court was made by Michael Holt and seconded by John Lang. The motion carried by voice vote.**

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 County Administrator Kaiser was present to answer questions.

XI. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

XII. Committee Member Concerns

Members shared various comments, including:

- Importance of monitoring township meetings
- Observations on public service compensation
- Additional thoughts on elected official salary structure and parity

XIII. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:47 PM by John Schultz and seconded by John Grizzoffi. Motion carried by voice vote.

Next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.