



Jo Daviess County Health Department • 9483 US Rt. 20 West • P. O. Box 318 • Galena, Illinois 61036

**Jo Daviess County Health Department Board of Health Meeting  
Jo Daviess County Health Department Conference Room  
Wednesday, May 21, 2025 @ 7:00 pm**

1. **Call to Order** – Board President Merri Berlage called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm.
2. **Roll Call** – Voice roll call was taken – members present: Don Hill, Violet Naese, Merri Berlage, Lisa Haas, Peg Dittmar, Dr. Maria Hernandez and John Creighton and Dr. Barb Kepner via zoom. Staff present: Sandra Schleicher. Members absent: Tracy Bauer.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. A motion was made by Peg Dittmar to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2025, Board of Health Meeting. Second by Lisa Haas. All were in favor. Motion passed.
4. **Citizens' Comments** – none
5. **Financial Reports** – Public Health Fund 003 and Animal Control Fund 020 – Budget comparisons through March 31, 2025, were presented for review. Sandra Schleicher stated that Public Health is waiting on grant funds from the State of Illinois and expenses are in line for the year thus far. Animal Control is at 41% of revenue which is above the 33% mark for the year. Fourteen spay/neuter vouchers have been given out along with the \$2000 reimbursement for cat spay/neuter programs.
6. **Election of Board of Health Officers** – Don Hill motioned to elect Merri Berlage as President, Peg Dittmar as Vice President, and Lisa Haas as Secretary. Second by Dr. Hernandez. All were in favor, motion passed. Peg, Lisa and Violet all agreed to another term on the BOH.
7. **Unfinished Business**
  - a. Discussion and possible action regarding ordinance authorizing DACRA system – Discussion was held about the status of this project and questions from the State's Attorney's office. The item will remain under Unfinished Business for the next meeting. No action was taken.
8. **New Business**
  - a. Discussion and presentation regarding Blackjack Cutoff project -- Brad Petersburg and Jim Baranski presented a summary of the proposal and explained the premise of moving the Public Health building to a new location. John Creighton stated that the County Board supports this project. It is unclear where the funds will come from to move the Public Health building or to relocate the office into a totally different location. Jim volunteered to complete a programming exercise with Public Health to get a better idea of what the space needs are currently and in the future. It is believed

that this will be a 3 to 5 year project. Board members were reminded of how communication during this project discussion will be important. Merri and other Board members will begin the process of looking into possible location options on a temporary basis and also on a permanent basis.

- b. Discussion regarding shared kitchen licensing – A request was received by the Social and Environmental Committee chairperson that this item be put on the agenda but no specifics were conveyed. Currently there are no shared kitchen licenses issued by the County. No further discussion.

**9. Administrator's Comments** – Sandra stated that the Local Health Protection grant application was submitted with a decrease to lead and vector programs and tick surveillance was added. There is no news with the PHEP grant; the state says funding is level but the federal government is cutting programs. Sandra and Samantha Rojemann attended the PHEP Summit in Bloomington. Sandra attended the County Board Retreat; a topic of discussion was Senior Resources. Sandra expressed her interest in getting these services at Public Health. The measles outbreak seems to be remaining steady in Illinois at this time; there are currently 8 cases.

**10. President's Comments** – None.

**11. Board Member Comments** – Don Hill thanked the Board members who accepted an office position on the BOH. Lisa Haas stated Jet Dental is paid for with a grant, and Sandra was encouraged to see if a grant could be secured for Public Health since Medicaid is not accepted by Jet Dental.

**12. Citizens' Comments** – None.

**13. Next Scheduled Meeting Date:** August 6, 2025 at 7:00 pm (with Finance at 6:30 pm)

**14. Adjourn** – Lisa Haas made a motion to adjourn the meeting; second by Peg Dittmar. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.