

**JO DAVIESS COUNTY**  
**FINANCE, TAX, & BUDGETS COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**JULY 31, 2025**

**I. Call to Order**

Committee Chairperson Schultz called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on Thursday, July 31, 2025 in the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Administrative Offices 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. Present electronically: 0. Absent – 0. Absent: 0.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve minutes of the June 26, 2025 Finance, Tax & Budgets Committee meeting was made by John Lang and seconded by Diane Gallagher. The motion carried by voice vote.

**IV. Citizens' Comments**

There were no citizens' comments.

**V. Unfinished Business**

The FY2025/FY2027 Strategic Goals & Plans were not reviewed, however there was discussion regarding the prioritization of the entire list as a whole.

**VI. New Business**

A motion to recommend awarding a Professional Audit Services Contract to Lauterbach & Amen at an all-inclusive maximum price for fiscal years ending November 30, 2025 (\$57,500), November 30, 2026 (\$59,800), November 30, 2027 (\$62,200), with a County option of two (2) additional years for fiscal years ending November 30, 2028 (\$64,700) and November 30, 2029 (\$67,200) was made by John Schultz and seconded by John Lang. The motion carried by voice vote.

**VII. Reports**

Assessments: Laura Edmonds, C.C.A.O. provided a written report, but summarized her month as busy with township assessors and working on calculating factors.

Treasurer: Melisa Hammer provided a written report. She still has an open position and is concerned that the starting wage for the grade is too low. Mike Holt asked Hammer about interest-bearing checking accounts and if she'd looked into the Illinois Fund.

Grant Administrator: Tammy Cahill provided a written report. She also talked about a new grant opportunity she's investigating. CivicPlus announced "Celebrating Commitment to Community-

\$1,000 Grants for Local Projects" which will award a \$1,000 grant for three outstanding community projects. Ideas for Jo Daviess County include benches for the street side of the Courthouse, a picnic table, and Christmas trees to display in the new Courthouse lobbies. She also talked about unscheduled grant expense once the fiscal year budget has been approved and ideas on how to handle this budget-wise, so department spending isn't penalized by receiving surprise grant funding.

#### **VIII. Citizens' Comments**

There were no citizens' comments.

#### **IX. Committee Member Concerns**

Trost: Asked Melisa Hammer if there was an update on delinquent hotel/motel tax; no update to provide.

Lang: When attending the recent UCCI conference, there was a presentation on using solar energy to power data centers. He thinks the Savanna Army Depot would be a perfect place for a facility like this. Lang was asked to suggest two appointees to fill the open LRA seats, as they would have a direct line to those types of decisions.

Dittmar: Recently attended a Galena Country meeting and reported hotel/motel tax is projected to increase by 2-3% in the next year.

Creighton: Will be attending a meeting in Stockton, along with Diane Gallagher, on Friday, August 1, 2025 regarding the proposed Industrial Park.

Gallagher: Spoke about Blackhawk Hills Regional Council and their recent AARP Community Challenge Grant award.

#### **X. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:38 PM by John Lang and seconded by Michael Holt. Motion carried by voice vote.

**Next committee meeting : Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**