

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Executive Committee Meeting
CHAIRPERSON: John Lang, Chairperson
DATE/TIME: March 5, 2024 at 6:30 pm

PRESENT:

☒ John Lang
☒ LaDon Trost
☒ Dianne Allendorf

☒ John Creighton
☒ Diane Gallagher
☒ Don Zillig

☐ John Schultz
☒ Tina Brandel

A quorum was established.

Other Board Members: Joseph Heitkamp and Steve Endress.

Others: Scott Toot, Mike Dittmar, Nicole Hermsen, Jacob Ambrosia, Terry Matteson – Galena Country Tourism, Katelyn Hilton, Steve Keeffer and Julie Spangler.

1. Minutes Approval

- a) Minutes of the February 6, 2024 Executive Committee meeting – **Gallagher made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2024 Executive Committee meeting as presented. Seconded by Allendorf and motion carried following a voice vote resulting in all Ayes.**

2. Citizens' Comments – None.

3. Unfinished Business

- a) FY2023/FY2024 Strategic Goals and Plans – The Committee briefly reviewed the Strategic Goals and Plans.
- b) Update on Jo Daviess County FOIA requests – The Committee looked at the February 2024 FOIA Requests.
- c) Courthouse Project Update and possible action – All offices are fully moved out of the Courthouse. Everything is completely out of the Courthouse now. There was a bid opening for the work to be done on the building. They came in higher than anticipated and that will be addressed. There will be an Ad-Hoc Courthouse Committee meeting next Thursday at 4:30 p.m. to go over the bids. Toot explained the bids and what they came in at. Conlon is going to work to try and find any deductions that can be made.
- d) Discussion and possible action on an Ordinance Authorizing the Operation of Non-Highway Vehicles on County Roads (Postponed from the January 2, 2024, meeting of the Executive Committee) – Creighton said he has had an opportunity to explore this further in the past two months. He said that the Administration Office has received letters of support from different municipalities in the County. The real treasure he has discovered, he said, is the new director from Galena Country Tourism, Terry Matteson. Matteson was present to give a presentation. Matteson said that he was able to research and gather 14 studies on the economic impact of UTV's throughout the Nation. There are over 500 pages that he handed out to the Committee. In addition to the studies, he put together a smaller document for the Committee's review. He continued to say that the proliferation of UTV sales in the past few years has been very dramatic. He likened the UTV's to that of a car or even a Jeep. They come with cabs, seatbelts, air conditioning and so on. They are not inexpensive. They run between \$30,000-\$40,000. Most of the data is state-wide,

and some by County. Most of this research took place between 2017 and 2019. Creighton spoke. He said that he and Chairman Trost will be visiting with officials from Carroll County. They are going to attempt drafting an Ordinance that will encompass 3 Counties. **Creighton made a motion to table the Ordinance Authorizing the Operation of Non-Highway Vehicles on County Roads, for an additional 60 days. Seconded by Zillig and motion carried following a voice vote resulting in all Ayes.** Brandel made a comment that it is her feeling that this should be brought to the vote of the people in the townships that they represent. She doesn't believe it should be their place or the municipalities' to tell the people in the townships how things need to be. She believes their voices need to be heard and they're the people who put the Board in their positions before this is taken any further. Zillig commented that he spoke to a road commissioner that was also against the Ordinance. Chairman Trost said that he would like to see this pass. We need something to boost economic growth. Trost said that in Illinois, if it doesn't pertain to Chicago, it doesn't pertain to the State. If we need to change the State legislature, then that's what we have to do. Everybody would benefit from the impact this would create. There was much discussion. **Creighton made a motion to amend the previous motion, a motion to table the Ordinance 02024-1, the Ordinance Authorizing the Operation of Non-Highway Vehicles on County Roads, as presented on pages 14-17 and 18-21 in the packet, for an additional 60 days. Seconded by Zillig and motion carried following a voice vote resulting in all Ayes.**

4. New Business

- a) Discussion and possible action on an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Counties of Carroll, Jo Daviess and Stephenson and the Regional Office of Education #8 for Carroll, Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties – **Gallagher made a motion to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Counties of Carroll, Jo Daviess and Stephenson and the Regional Office of Education #8 for Carroll, Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties. Seconded by Brandel and motion carried following a voice vote resulting in all Ayes.**

5. Staff Reports

- a) County Administrator – Scott Toot, County Administrator, gave his report that was included in the packet. He attended the ILCMA Winter Conference in Normal last month. Almost 300 managers/administrators attended. The next conference will be at Eagle Ridge. Tessa has been attending the Jo Daviess County Leadership Forum. Her anticipated graduation is in November. Toot said that he, Chairperson Trost and Vice-Chairperson Lang attended a meeting at the Regional Office of Education in Freeport. They were given a tour and had a lunch meeting to discuss the Intergovernmental Agreement between Carroll, Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties. The bid opening for the Courthouse Renovation project was held at the Administrative Offices last month. There is also an Ad-Hoc Courthouse Committee meeting being held on Thursday, March 14th at 4:30. The movers moved the second floor, Probation and Board Room at the end of February. Lastly, the auditors will arrive tomorrow to begin the FY2023 audit.

6. Summary of Committee Activities

- a) John Creighton: Public Works Committee – Creighton informed the committee that Highway just purchased a new dump truck.
- b) Diane Gallagher – Development & Planning Committee – Development & Planning was pleased to look at the draft Comprehensive Plan Update. The full update was to be posted on the planjodaviess.com website and that occurred this afternoon. Gallagher has received a lot more input this time around. She feels it may take a little bit longer to get everything ironed out the way they would like it to be.

- c) Tina Brandel – Information & Communications Technology Committee – ICTC did not meet this past month, however, Brandel wanted to commend Joe and his employees for the wonderful job they’ve been doing during the move.
- d) John Lang – Legislative Committee – Legislative did not meet in February. There isn’t a lot going on currently, because the General Assembly only met for 6 days. Illinois is looking at almost a billion dollar deficit. The Governor is proposing a lot of new business tax to make up for that. It is estimated that the migrant health insurance is going to cost taxpayers almost one billion.
- e) Dianne Allendorf: Social & Environmental Committee – Rosecrance is now operating in the Health Department building. They are currently working with only adults. They are assisting with counseling, substance-abuse training and DUI assessments. Allendorf said they are continuing to talk about the food licensing fees. There’s nothing definite on that yet.
- f) Don Zillig – Law Enforcement & Courts Committee -

7. **Citizens’ Comments** – Michael Dittmar spoke about the UTV’s. He feels it would spread the wealth to other places other than Galena. He said his biggest issue is, in the last 5 years, the biggest places for new revenue have been with gambling and marijuana.

8. **Board Member Concerns** – Creighton said there was a Board of Health meeting a couple weeks ago. He thinks they’re on track to review and consolidate some of the food licensing fees. Gallagher said she attended the Rural Economic Development Conference in Springfield and it was tremendous. She sat in on many sessions and thoroughly enjoyed the conference. Zillig commented that the Matteson’s presentation was great. He feels that regardless of how anyone feels, Matteson had some strong reasons to go along with what he was speaking about. Brandel was also grateful of the presentation. Economic Development is good. Any way we can bring additional revenue into the County is a good thing, but we need to make sure we’re doing our due diligence with these things and take our time. Lang said that he agreed with Brandel.

9. Adjourn

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. following a motion made by Creighton. Seconded by Brandel and the motion carried by voice vote.