

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Executive Committee Meeting
CHAIRPERSON: John Lang, Chairperson
DATE/TIME: June 4, 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: Michael Dittmar, Steve Endress, John Grizzoffi, Joseph Heitkamp and Kevin Turner.

Others: Scott Toot

1. Minutes Approval

- a) Minutes of the May 7, 2024 Executive Committee meeting – This item was postponed. There were no minutes included in the informational packet.

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 reviewed the May, 2024 FOIA Requests.
- c) Courthouse Project Update and possible action – Scott Toot went through the courthouse today and he believes this week or the next they are going to begin out in the parking lot. Pretty much all of the inside is gutted. They are looking at the sprinkler system. The sprinklers are joined together with different materials. They have made a lot of progress. They are behind right now on the schedule but we have been told overall they will be completed on time. Toot has requested a weekly progress report every Friday from Conlon. We will have an Ad-Hoc Courthouse meeting this month. They are going to start the process of furniture, fixtures and equipment and they will have to have meetings with department heads over that. Michael Dittmar wants to know how much money of the project is coming back locally. He would like to see that published.

4. New Business

- a) Discussion and Possible Action regarding the Hazardous Mitigation Plan Grant Application and Title 2, Chapter 1, Purchasing of the Code of Ordinances – Tammy Cahill provided an update in the packet which she reviewed for the committee. The All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update must be updated every five years for Jo Daviess County to receive FEMA funding. That deadline is January 12, 2026. **John Schultz made a motion to approve the Hazardous Mitigation Plan Grant Application and Title 2, Chapter 1, Purchasing of the Code of Ordinances. Seconded by Diane Gallagher and motion carried following a voice vote resulting in all Ayes.**

- b) Discussion and Possible Action to recommend Amending the Jo Daviess County Code of Ordinances by Prohibiting Camping on Jo Daviess County Public Property – In the third paragraph it should say near publically owned trails. This ordinance is to prohibit people from setting up camp on public property. This is in front of the United States Supreme Court, the 9th Federal Appeals Court had issued an order ruling all of the ordinances in that circuit as essentially unconstitutional and the municipalities in the 9th Federal Circuit appealed it to the US Supreme Court who could issue a ruling that would affect the whole country. **John Lang made a motion to approve Amending the Jo Daviess County Code of Ordinances by Prohibiting Camping on Jo Daviess County Public Property. Seconded by John Schultz and motion carried following a roll call vote resulting in all Ayes.**
- c) Discussion and Possible Action on a resolution to establish the Jo Daviess County Ad Hoc Zoning Committee – We do not have anything for this item at this time. The Chairman asked that it be postponed.
- d) Discussion and Possible Action to request the creation of Standard Operating Procedures regarding Code Enforcement Violations – John Lang commented that the County has a variety of ordinances that county officials and department heads are supposed to enforce. The problem is that the people are refusing to comply with some of them like the guest accommodations and food inspections. The issue is how do we bring about compliance and what steps do these departments take to enforce these ordinances. Lang wants to establish guidelines so that departments know what they need to do to bring about enforcement of the ordinances they are supposed to implement. Kristina Tranel and Sandra Schleicher informed the committee of some of the issues they have encountered. Much discussion ensued and no action was taken.

5. Staff Reports

- a) County Administrator – Scott Toot, County Administrator, already explained about the courthouse. We are starting the budget process. He has an idea where to go with the salary increase and he appreciates that the board took action on that for the Coroner. The main thing has been the courthouse and they have said they are going to be on schedule and he will hold them to that. We have been told July, 2025.

6. Summary of Committee Activities

- a) Diane Gallagher – Development & Planning Committee – Development & Planning Committee met on May 28th. They had an interesting public comment that there is a critical intersection at Blackjack Road and Highway 20. The gentleman said that there are 650 addresses there and he was really concerned about that. He would like to see something like that added into the comprehensive plan. That's pretty difficult to do anything that specific because the plan is long-term. Gallagher wants to keep that in front of us. The committee was given copies of the comprehensive plan. She would be happy to share it with anyone who doesn't have access to it. At this time they have a few tweaks they would still like to do to it. They expect the plan to go to the County Board in July for a presentation. We will have an opportunity in June for the committee to look at it again. When it comes to the County Board they will be giving it to us in a pdf but Kristina Tranel is being challenged with putting it into a Word document so that then if we do make changes we will be able to do those as well. They did receive the resignation from Steve Koester and he's been such a diligent person in applying the address signs for 9-1-1. Tranel prepared a way for individuals building a new home or new structures to put in their own signs. We were a little concerned that there wouldn't be consistency with that. Now we are looking at a cost of approximately \$150 a structure. There were 38 permits that included six new homes in the County. Gallagher thanked everyone for their commitment. They have a lot of items to cover and a lot of interests and she is looking forward to the completion of the plan.

- b) Don Zillig – Law Enforcement & Courts Committee – they had a short meeting of Law & Courts and they authorized Sheriff Turner to buy three new vehicles.
 - c) John Schultz – Finance, Tax & Budgets Committee – We had a meeting last Thursday. They accepted the purchase of a computer for Multi-Township Assessment District/Council Hill, Guilford, Scales Mound Laptop Computer and accessories at a cost not to exceed \$1,140.98. They discussed the overtime rule from the Department of Labor and we don't think that is going to affect us a whole lot. We also accepted the Budget Preparation Schedule. We should be done with that by the 19th of November. We are currently on Step 2. Tentatively we have budget workshops scheduled and we have that review schedule. The Treasurer is concerned that the property tax is slow coming in. A lot of people pay both payments at the same time and at the time of the meeting there was only 27% of the people that had paid. We are currently at 49% of the total paid in.
 - d) John Creighton - Public Works Committee – The Public Works Committee did not meet this month.
 - e) John Lang – Legislative Committee – Legislative Committee will be meeting next week. The state has passed a record budget.
 - f) Dianne Allendorf – Social & Environmental Committee – The Social and Environmental Committee did not meet.
 - g) Tina Brandel – Information & Communications Technology Committee – Was not in attendance.
 - h) LaDon Trost – County Board Chairman – Nothing to report at this time.
7. **Citizens' Comments** – Michael Dittmar brought up to Scott Toot and LaDon Trost about using our Facebook page more. Transparency and communication is key. Dittmar asked if we write grants or if we just administer them. Tammy Cahill responded that she hasn't written any grants but she has applied for grants.
8. **Board Member Concerns** – Steve Endress commented that he has taken a lot of calls about the outage from ComEd in the last storm. Dianne Gallagher really wanted to commend Tammy Cahill for her work as the Grants Administrator. She is willing to work with any department that is looking to apply for grants. John Grizzoffi commended the Board with the spirited discussion regarding the Coroner's salary increase.

9. Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m. following a motion made by John Schultz. Seconded by Don Zillig and the motion carried by voice vote.