

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
AD-HOC PUBLIC SAFETY INTEGRATION STUDY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 31, 2026

I. Call to Order

Committee Chairperson Trost called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, March 31, 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 - John Creighton, Steve Endress, Angela Kaiser, Klaus Kretschmer, Kirk Raab, LaDon Trost. Present: 6. Present electronically - Dianne Allendorf. Present electronically: 1. Absent: 0.

III. Approval of Minutes

None.

IV. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

V. Unfinished Business

None.

VI. New Business

Welcome and Introductions: Chairperson Trost noted that committee members were familiar with one another and proceeded to the next item.

Overview of Background Information: Chairperson Trost stated that the potential assumption of municipal police services for the Village of Stockton represents an opportunity for consolidation within the County. He shared that he had advocated for such an approach when he retired as Stockton's Police Chief, though the mayor at that time was not supportive. He reported that the current Police Chief and a majority of the Village Council appear open to exploring the concept. Trost cited advantages for a small municipality, including improved training, stronger command structure, and unified law enforcement under one umbrella. Members discussed whether Stockton residents were aware of the proposal. It was confirmed that no public hearing had been held. Several members emphasized the importance of transparency and public engagement, particularly given the use of taxpayer funds. Trost agreed to suggest a public hearing to the Village Council. Members also raised questions regarding long-term implications, including whether a future mayor could reverse course, whether a disbanded police department could be re-established, and what would occur if the municipality later declined or was unable to pay for contracted services. There is reason to believe the County would have no mechanism to compel payment if the municipality chose not to pay. The Sheriff expressed concerns regarding staffing shortages, increased response times, the need to process ordinance violations, and the financial impact on county taxpayers. He noted that the Sheriff's Office has historically struggled to maintain full staffing and that absorbing Stockton's service

level would require additional deputies and support staff. The County Administrator presented preliminary cost estimates. A three-deputy model was estimated at approximately \$641,000 annually, not including insurance increases, training, equipment, or other indirect costs. It is believed this figure exceeds Stockton's current public safety budget for five officers and a clerk. Members discussed additional cost drivers, including pension differences (IMRF vs. SLEP), vehicle replacement cycles, body-camera storage, and administrative overhead.

Purpose and Scope of the Ad-Hoc Public Safety Integration Study Committee: The County Administrator reported that she had contacted a consulting firm referenced in the Illinois Association of County Board Members bulletin regarding long-range financial forecasting for law enforcement service contracts. She noted that consultant costs would likely require a formal RFP and could be substantial. Committee members agreed that the Village of Stockton must be present to confirm its expectations, including desired staffing levels, service hours, and willingness to fund the projected costs. Several members stated that further analysis or consultant engagement would be premature until the Village affirms its understanding of the financial implications.

Discussion and possible action on establishing 2026 meeting dates and start times of the Ad-Hoc Public Safety Integration Study Committee: No formal action was taken to establish 2026 meeting dates. Members agreed that the next meeting should include representatives from the Village of Stockton to discuss expectations, service levels, and financial capacity. A tentative date of April 28, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. was offered for a possible next meeting.

VII. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

VIII. Committee Member Concerns

None.

IX. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 10:50 AM by John Creighton and seconded by Steve Endress. Motion carried by voice vote.

Next committee meeting TBD