

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 4, 2026

I. Call to Order

Committee Chairperson Creighton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on Monday, May 4, 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 – Dianne Allendorf, John Creighton, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Michael Holt, John Lang, John Schultz, LaDon Trost. Present: 9. Present electronically: 0. Absent: 0.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2026, Executive Committee meeting was made by John Schultz and seconded by John Creighton. The motion carried by voice vote.

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2026, Executive Committee meeting was made by Dianne Allendorf and seconded by John Grizzoffi. The motion carried by voice vote.

IV. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

V. Unfinished Business

FY2025/FY2027 Strategic Goals: Reviewed, no change.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests: Reviewed.

The Committee reviewed the UCCI statewide salary survey data showing that Jo Daviess County's elected officials are currently compensated above the 75th percentile. Members discussed whether to maintain current levels or apply modest increases, considering inflation, internal equity with department heads, and the need for predictability over the four-year term. Options considered included CPI-based adjustments, percentage increases, and fixed-dollar raises. Concerns were raised about CPI volatility and the risk of elected officials falling behind inflation if increases were too low. An amendment was discussed to set salaries with a \$1,000 annual increase for each of the four years of the upcoming term. **A motion to recommend an Ordinance Establishing Salaries of Elected Officials County Clerk and Recorder, County Treasurer, and Clerk of the Circuit Court with no increase during the four years was made by John Creighton and seconded by John Schultz. An amendment establishing salaries of \$85,239 (FY2027), \$86,239 (FY2028), \$87,239 (FY2029), and \$88,239 (FY2030) was made by Michael Holt and seconded by John Schultz. The amendment passed by voice vote. The amended motion passed by voice vote.**

VI. New Business

The Committee discussed a resolution amending R2025-21 to authorize FY2026 loans from the Contingency Fund to the Transit Fund, due to delayed CARES reimbursements. All loans from the

prior year have been repaid. **A motion to recommend a Resolution Amending R2025-21 to Authorize FY2026 Loans to Transit Fund (071) from Contingency Fund (016) was made by Dianne Allendorf and seconded by John Schultz. The motion carried by voice vote.**

The Committee continued its multi-month review of the County Board committee restructuring by discussing the governance framework. Members noted that the overall structure had been previously agreed upon, with the remaining discussion focused on the distribution of responsibilities within the People, Policy & Programming (PP&P) Committee. The Chair summarized that earlier concerns centered on assigning all PP&P functions (Legislative, Social & Environmental (S&E), and Information & Communications Technology (ICTC)) to a single chair, which several members felt created an unreasonable workload. The revised draft addressed this by dividing PP&P into two co-chair roles, S&E/Legislative and ICTC. During discussion, one member suggested Legislative should stand alone due to its research-heavy nature and lack of a supporting department head, while another member suggested the stand-alone committee should be S&E. Members also discussed meeting frequency, noting that Legislative and ICTC meet infrequently while S&E meets regularly, and considered how to balance workload across the two chairs. Additional comments addressed meeting locations, with several members expressing a preference to discontinue meetings in Hanover due to AV limitations and to consolidate all committee meetings at the courthouse. An amendment made by John Lang and seconded by John Schultz for Legislative to stand alone with its own chair was later withdrawn. Another amendment was introduced to change the chairperson pairing to better accommodate the committees' needs. **A motion to recommend a Resolution to Establish the Governance Framework for County Board Committee Structure and Providing for the Appointment of Committee Chairs as presented was made by Michael Holt and seconded by John Schultz.**

An amendment to assign Social & Environmental to Chair A and to pair Legislative with Information & Communications Technology under Chair B was made by Lynn Gallagher and seconded by John Schultz.

The amendment passed by voice vote with a nay vote recorded for John Grizzoffi. The amended motion passed by voice vote with a nay vote recorded for John Grizzoffi.

The Committee next discussed establishing a new County Board Standing & Special Committee Governance Policy, noting it largely restates existing responsibilities while aligning with the new structure. **A motion to recommend approving a County Board Standing & Special Committee Governance Policy was made by Michael Holt and seconded by Diane Gallagher. The motion carried by voice vote.**

At this point, Chairperson Creighton exercised his prerogative and moved to Citizens' Comments.

VII. Citizens' Comments

Melisa Hammer, Galena resident and County Treasurer, raised concerns about the consistency of compensation practices between elected officials and appointed department heads. She noted that some department heads currently earn more than the elected officials, and she finds that unfair. *(Per the Executive Committee meeting of 06.01.26, the closed caption transcript of the actual comment is attached)*

Michael Dittmar, Elizabeth resident and County Board Member District #13, commented on the Executive Committee's structure, noting that because it includes a quorum of the full Board, he

believes its discussions shape outcomes early and deny other board members the ability to fully participate in decision-making.

VIII. Closed Session

A motion to enter closed session at 6:54 PM was made by Dianne Allendorf and seconded by John Grizzoffi to discuss:

1. Closed session minutes section 2(c)21 *"Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for the purpose of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06."*; Topic of discussion; the review of closed session minutes was made by Dianne Allendorf and seconded by John Schultz. The motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes – Dianne Allendorf, John Creighton, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Michael Holt, John Lang, John Schultz, LaDon Trost. Ayes: 9. Nays: 0. Absent: 0.

IX. Reconvene to Open Session

A motion to reconvene to open session at 7:06 PM was made by Dianne Allendorf and seconded by John Schultz. The motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes – Dianne Allendorf, John Creighton, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Michael Holt, John Lang, John Schultz, LaDon Trost. Ayes: 9. Nays: 0. Absent: 0.

X. Possible Actions as a Result of Closed Session

A motion to open Finance, Tax, & Budget Committee Closed Session minutes from May 19, 2004, July 29, 2004, October 14, 2004, December 30, 2004, February 24, 2005, May 26, 2005; Public Works Closed Session minutes from September 24, 2004; Law Enforcement & Courts Committee Closed Session minutes from September 4, 2002, October 2, 2002, November 6, 2002; Development & Planning Committee Closed Session minutes from April 26, 2004, May 24, 2004, September 27, 2004; Executive Committee Closed Session minutes from December 1, 1997, July 24, 2000, January 5, 2004, June 8, 2004, August 5, 2004, and September 7, 2004 was made by Dianne Allendorf and seconded by John Schultz. The motion carried by voice vote.

A motion to remain closed Development & Planning Committee Closed Session minutes from March 22, 2004; Executive Committee Closed Session minutes from July 6, 2004 and August 2, 2004 was made by Dianne Allendorf and seconded by John Schultz. The motion carried by voice vote.

XI. Reports

County Administrator: A written report was provided and Angela Kaiser was present to answer questions.

XII. Committee Member Concerns

Chairperson John Creighton provided a clarifying statement regarding the earlier misunderstanding involving the Village of Scales Mound's request for road work. He explained that although he had initially indicated the County might be able to assist, further review confirmed that the County lacks statutory authority to construct or maintain municipal streets that are not part of the county highway system. He emphasized that the County must operate within its legal limits and cannot commit resources to projects outside its jurisdiction. He noted that the miscommunication was unintentional and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to correct the record publicly. Committee members

acknowledged the Chair's clarification, and the discussion highlighted the importance of verifying statutory authority before making commitments, as well as maintaining clear communication with municipal partners and the public.

Diane Gallagher requested an updated Jo Daviess County Reference & Yearbook be made available on the County's website once the new committee structure is implemented.

John Schultz encouraged all board members to ask questions during both committee meetings and County Board.

XIII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:15 PM by John Schultz and seconded by John Lang. Motion carried by voice vote.

Next committee meeting: Monday, June 1, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Citizen Comment Transcript (Melisa Hammer, County Treasurer)

18:45:55 I think we're going to skip ahead.
18:45:57 to, uh, Citizens' comments.
18:46:00 Anybody?
18:46:02 Well, anyone online want to talk?
18:46:06 First, hearing none,
18:46:08 Treasurer?
18:46:17 coming as a citizen.
18:46:18 And, um, first of all, I want to state that I'm totally offended.
18:46:22 By the fact that you stated that an elected official...
18:46:26 is different than an at-will employee.
18:46:29 Because one year ago,
18:46:31 Um, you felt that one of the appointed...
18:46:35 officials, that is an at-will employee.
18:46:38 Um, was put into the same comparison.
18:46:42 with the elected officials?
18:46:44 And the salary was increased immensely.
18:46:47 To match that of the elected officials, because you stated that...
18:46:52 Their job is just as important as the elected officials in the tax cycle.
18:46:56 Now you're stating that it's not.
18:46:59 And also the fact that...
18:47:02 Um, if...
18:47:05 This other employee that's appointed...
18:47:08 is given the...
18:47:11 increase of...
18:47:13 a higher amount than \$1,000.
18:47:14 That you just did tonight.
18:47:17 Um, that would put that person at a higher rate.

18:47:19 And as you saw on the list already,
18:47:24 that employee is already at a higher rate.
18:47:26 Because that's what happened this year.
18:47:28 She was given a higher raise than the rest of us.
18:47:32 Um, I'm just stating as an official.
18:47:35 There's no skin off my back, because...
18:47:37 I'm not running again.
18:47:39 So, um, but I don't believe it's fair to the other officials.
18:47:43 Thank you.