

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 27, 2026

I. Call to Order

Committee Chairperson Grizzoffi called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on Monday, April 27, 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 – Jacob Ambrosia, John Creighton, Steve Endress, John Grizzoffi, Joseph Heitkamp, LaDon Trost. Present: 6. Present electronically: 0. Absent – Robert Heuerman. Absent: 1.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve minutes of the April 6, 2026 Special Public Works Committee meeting was made by Steve Endress and seconded by John Creighton. The motion carried by voice vote.

IV. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

V. Unfinished Business

FY2025/FY2027 Strategic Goals were reviewed.

VI. New Business

Update on Acting County Engineer Appointment: On March 11, 2025, with the consent of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the County Board appointed Dylan Oppold as Acting County Engineer to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Steve Keeffer. Oppold was not able to earn his PE license until he had completed four years of experience working under a professional engineer and passed two exams, but is able to serve as an Acting Engineer, provided he was supervised by a PE during that time. He has just recently reached the four-year work requirement. Representatives from IDOT reached out to County Administrator Kaiser to discuss Oppold's progress towards earning his PE, as it has been a year since the original appointment. They assured Kaiser they had no concerns regarding Oppold's performance; it is their practice to reach out periodically to gauge progress towards licensure. Oppold informed the board he has purchased the exam and hopes to test in late June or early July; he has been taking practice tests to prepare.

Acting County Engineer Dylan Oppold explained to the committee the need to rescind the FY26 general maintenance bids for county material that were approved by the County Board on April 13, 2026. The process of readying for the bid letting includes approval by IDOT of the bid materials and a second official approval of the letting date. Oppold was unaware a second official approval was needed, so the general maintenance needed to be re-bid. He reached out to all contractors involved

and explained the issue and all confirmed they would re-submit their second bids identical to the first. The second letting will be May 12, 2026, necessitating the need for a special Public Works meeting that night ahead of the County Board meeting. **A motion to recommend rescinding the motion to approve General Maintenance Bids for County Material for FY2026 as highlighted and presented, passed on April 13, 2026, was made by John Creighton and seconded by Joseph Heitkamp. The motion carried by voice vote.**

Oppold referenced his earlier explanation as the same situation for township material. **A motion to recommend rescinding the motion to approve General Maintenance Bids for Township Material for FY2026 as highlighted and presented, passed on April 13, 2026 was made by Joseph Heitkamp and seconded by John Grizzoffi. The motion carried by voice vote.**

Oppold explained this bridge is facing imminent closure due to disrepair, but is hoping IDOT will agree to a one lane closure in order to keep traffic moving. **A motion to recommend approval of an engineering agreement with Willett, Hofmann & Associates for the replacement of structure 043-3022 (Massbach Road) at a cost not to exceed \$108,869.00 was made by Joseph Heitkamp and seconded by Steve Endress. The motion carried by voice vote.**

VII. Reports

Acting County Engineer: Oppold is applying for the DOT FY26 Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Implementation Grant, which is an 80/20 matching grant designed to improve road safety. Based on information from Blackhawk Hills Regional Council (BHRC), Jo Daviess County has the best chance of getting implementation funding; the intersection of Stagecoach Trail and Ellizabeth-Scales Mound Road has been identified in the [Northwest Illinois Safety Action Plan](#) as the top county road crash location. He had planned for a box culvert replacement for this intersection at an estimated cost of \$500,000. This grant, if awarded, would fund the construction of a roundabout and include the box culvert replacement, thereby making the County's 20% match responsibility less than the original culvert replacement project.

VIII. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

IX. Committee Member Concerns

Member Ambrosia was contacted by a property owner regarding a damaged culvert that was supposed to be replaced by County Highway in 2018. Oppold stated an insurance claim was filed by the property owner using an estimate from County Highway for full replacement; proceeds from the claim were received and deposited by County Highway, and extensions appear to have been added to the ends of the culvert. He is aware of the situation and will be assessing the situation for a remedy.

Member Creighton asked Oppold if he would be seeking help in applying for the grant for the Stagecoach Trail/Elizabeth-Scales Mound Road work; Oppold indicated he would have help from Abby Ebelherr with Blackhawk Hills Regional Council and JDC Grants Administrator Tammy Cahill.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:18 PM by Joseph Heitkamp and seconded by Jacob Ambrosia.
Motion carried by voice vote.

Next committee meeting is Monday, June 22, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.