

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
COUNTY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 12, 2026

I. Call to Order

Jo Daviess County Chairperson LaDon Trost called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, May 12, 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, Jacob Ambrosia, Daisha Boehm, John Creighton, Michael Dittmar, Steve Endress, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Joseph Heitkamp, Michael Holt, John Lang, Logan Noe, John Schultz and LaDon Trost. Present: 15. Absent – Peggy Bastian and Robert Heuerman. Absent: 2.

Peggy Bastian entered the meeting at this time.

State's Attorney Chris Allendorf was also present.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Trost.

IV. Invocation & Thought for the Day

The Invocation & Thought for the Day was given by Joseph Heitkamp.

V. Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by John Creighton and seconded by Diane Gallagher.

The motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes – Dianne Allendorf, Jacob Ambrosia, Peggy Bastian, Daisha Boehm, John Creighton, Michael Dittmar, Steve Endress, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Joseph Heitkamp, Michael Holt, John Lang, Logan Noe, John Schultz, LaDon Trost. Ayes: 16. Nays – None. Nays: 0. Absent – Robert Heuerman. Absent: 1.

A. Minutes Approval

1. County Board minutes from the April 13, 2026, County Board meeting

B. Appointments/Resignations

1. Reappointment of Larry Wiedenheft to the Jo Daviess County Board of Review for a two-year term beginning on June 1, 2026 and ending May 31, 2028
2. Reappointment of Steve Stadel to serve as a trustee for Scales Mound Fire Protection District for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2026 and ending April 30, 2029

3. Reappointment of Andrew Berlage to serve as a trustee for Galena Rural Fire Protection District for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2026 and ending April 30, 2029
4. Reappointment of Steve Keeffer to serve on the Upper Mississippi River International Port District for a three-year term beginning June 1, 2026, and ending May 31, 2029
5. Reappointment of Helen Kilgore to the Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2026, and ending April 30, 2029
6. Reappointment of Jeff Wood to the Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) for a three-year term beginning May 1, 2026, and ending April 30, 2029

C. Contracts/Agreements/Petitions

D. Ordinances/Resolutions/Proclamations

E. Reports/Correspondence

1. City of Galena-Letter of Opposition to Proposed Zoning Amendments
2. April 2026 County Clerk Financial Report
3. April 2026 Pending State's Attorney Cases
4. March 2026 Galena Country Tourism Reports

F. Claims

1. Claims approval in the amount of **\$1,017,088.43** as follows:
 - i. **\$898,982.45** (Regular Claims)
 - ii. **\$2,791.00** (Claims associated w/ LIT's)
 - iii. **\$19,513.83** (Claims associated w/ IFT's)
 - iv. **\$47,191.32** (GGMI Hotel/Motel Tax Reimbursement)
 - v. **\$11,354.17** (Contingency)
 - vi. **\$37,255.66** (IMRF Accelerated Pay)

G. Line Item Transfers

1. FY2026 Line-Item Transfers over \$500.00:
 - i. **\$2,100.00** from 001-41122-720 Inmate Mental Health Services to 001-41122-702 Professional Service

End of Consent Agenda

VI. Citizens' Comments

Carol Schwerdtfeger, 1126 S. Elizabeth Scales Mound Rd., Elizabeth, spoke in support of a letter prepared by the City of Galena in opposition of the proposed changes in the County Ordinance, Title

8, Chapter 3 District Regulation, that are set for hearing with the Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals on May 27, 2026. Carol also spoke on Jo Daviess County being part of The Driftless Area.

Tom Heidenreich, 1038 E. Binkley Rd., Stockton, spoke in support of a letter prepared by the City of Galena in opposition of the proposed changes in the County Ordinance, Title 8, Chapter 3 District Regulation, that are set for hearing with the Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals on May 27, 2026.

Judy Chiarelli, 713 Dewey Ave., Galena, spoke in support of a letter prepared by the City of Galena in opposition of the proposed changes in the County Ordinance, Title 8, Chapter 3 District Regulation, that are set for hearing with the Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals on May 27, 2026. Judy feels that citizens were not properly notified of the proposed changes and would like to see more outreach to citizens.

Nan Hoff, 3223 W. Headquarters, Elizabeth, spoke in support of a letter prepared by the City of Galena in opposition of the proposed changes in the County Ordinance, Title 8, Chapter 3 District Regulation, that are set for hearing with the Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals on May 27, 2026.

Carl "Skip" Schwerdtfeger, 1126 S. Elizabeth Scales Mound Rd., Elizabeth, spoke in support of a letter prepared by the City of Galena in opposition of the proposed changes in the County Ordinance, Title 8, Chapter 3 District Regulation, that are set for hearing with the Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals on May 27, 2026.

VII. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business brought before the board at this time.

VIII. New Business & Committee Reports

A. Letter of resignation from Kathy Phillips, Clerk of the Circuit Court, effective August 3, 2026

A motion to accept a letter of resignation from Kathy Phillips, Clerk of the Circuit Court, effective August 3, 2026 was made by Michael Dittmar and seconded by John Schultz. The motion carried by voice vote.

B. Social & Environmental

The committee had no business to bring before the board.

C. Executive

1. Consideration of a recommendation to approve an Ordinance Establishing Salaries of Elected Officials County Clerk and Recorder, County Treasurer, and Clerk of the Circuit Court (*Recommendation of the Executive Committee meeting held on May 4, 2026*)

A committee motion to approve an Ordinance Establishing Salaries of Elected Officials County Clerk and Recorder, County Treasurer, and Clerk of the Circuit Court was seconded by John Creighton.

The motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes – Jacob Ambrosia, Peggy Bastian, John Creighton, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Joseph Heitkamp, Michael Holt, John Lang, John Schultz, LaDon Trost. Ayes: 10. Nays – Dianne Allendorf, Daisha Boehm, Michael Dittmar, Steve Endress, Diane Gallagher, Logan Noe. Nays: 6. Absent – Robert Heuerman. Absent: 1.

2. Consideration of a recommendation to approve a Resolution Amending R2025-21 to Authorize FY2026 Loans to Transit Fund (071) from Contingency Fund (016)
(Recommendation of the Executive Committee meeting held on May 4, 2026)

A committee motion to approve a Resolution Amending R2025-21 to Authorize FY2026 Loans to Transit Fund (071) from Contingency Fund (016) was seconded by John Creighton.

The motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes – Dianne Allendorf, Jacob Ambrosia, Peggy Bastian, Daisha Boehm, John Creighton, Michael Dittmar, Steve Endress, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Joseph Heitkamp, Michael Holt, John Lang, Logan Noe, John Schultz, LaDon Trost. Ayes: 16. Nays – None. Nays: 0. Absent – Robert Heuerman. Absent: 1.

3. Consideration of a recommendation to approve a Resolution to Establish the Governance Framework for County Board Committee Structure and Providing for the Appointment of Committee Chairs *(Recommendation of the Executive Committee meeting held on May 4, 2026)*

A motion to refer a recommendation to approve a Resolution to Establish the Governance Framework for County Board Committee Structure and Providing for the Appointment of Committee Chairs back to the Executive Committee was made by John Creighton and seconded by Diane Gallagher.

The motion carried by voice vote.

4. Consideration of a recommendation to approve a County Board Standing & Special Committee Governance Policy *(Recommendation of the Executive Committee meeting held on May 4, 2026)*

A motion to refer a recommendation to approve a County Board Standing & Special Committee Governance Policy back to the Executive Committee was made by Michael Holt and seconded by Dianne Allendorf.

The motion carried by voice vote.

D. Information & Technology

The committee had no business to bring before the board.

E. Public Works

1. Consideration of a recommendation to approve rescinding the motion to approve General Maintenance Bids for County Material for FY2026 as highlighted and presented, passed on April 13, 2026 *(Recommendation of the Public Works Committee meeting held on April 27, 2026)*

A committee motion to approve rescinding the motion to approve General Maintenance Bids for County Material for FY2026 as highlighted and presented, passed on April 13, 2026 was seconded by

John Grizzoffi.

The motion carried by voice vote.

2. Consideration of a recommendation to approve rescinding the motion to approve General Maintenance Bids for Township Material for FY2026 as highlighted and presented, passed on April 13, 2026 (*Recommendation of the Public Works Committee meeting held on April 27, 2026*)

A committee motion to approve rescinding the motion to approve General Maintenance Bids for Township Material for FY2026 as highlighted and presented, passed on April 13, 2026 was seconded by John Grizzoffi.

The motion carried by voice vote.

3. Consideration of a recommendation to approve 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 (*Recommendation of the Public Works Committee meeting held on April 27, 2026*)

A committee motion to approve 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 seconded by John Grizzoffi.

The motion carried by voice vote.

4. Consideration of a recommendation to approve the General Maintenance Bids for County Material for FY2026 (*Possible recommendation of the Public Works Committee meeting held on May 12, 2026*)

A committee motion to approve the General Maintenance Bids for County Material for FY2026 was seconded by John Grizzoffi.

The motion carried by voice vote.

5. Consideration of a recommendation to approve the General Maintenance Bids for Township Material for FY2026 (*Possible recommendation of the Public Works Committee meeting held on May 12, 2026*)

A committee motion to approve the General Maintenance Bids for Township Material for FY2026 was seconded by John Grizzoffi.

The motion carried by voice vote.

6. Consideration of a recommendation to approve a Resolution Committing to Vision Zero in Jo Daviess County, Illinois (*Possible recommendation of the Public Works Committee meeting held on May 12, 2026*)

A committee motion to approve a Resolution Committing to Vision Zero in Jo Daviess County, Illinois was seconded by John Grizzoffi.

The motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes – Dianne Allendorf, Jacob Ambrosia, Peggy Bastian, Daisha Boehm, John Creighton, Michael Dittmar, Steve Endress, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Joseph Heitkamp, Michael Holt, John Lang, Logan Noe, John Schultz, LaDon Trost. Ayes: 16. Nays – None. Absent – Robert Heuerman. Absent: 1.

7. Consideration of a recommendation to approve a Resolution Authorizing Application to the United States Department of Transportation to Fund a Roundabout to Reduce Traffic Fatalities & Injuries (*Possible recommendation of the Public Works Committee meeting held on May 12, 2026*)

A committee motion to approve a Resolution Authorizing Application to the United States Department of Transportation to Fund a Roundabout to Reduce Traffic Fatalities & Injuries was seconded by John Grizzoffi.

The motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes – Dianne Allendorf, Jacob Ambrosia, Peggy Bastian, Daisha Boehm, John Creighton, Michael Dittmar, Steve Endress, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Joseph Heitkamp, Michael Holt, John Lang, Logan Noe, John Schultz, LaDon Trost. Ayes: 16. Nays – None. Nays: 0. Absent – Robert Heuerman. Absent: 1.

F. Law & Courts

The committee had no business to bring before the board.

G. Finance

1. The fund balance for the Contingency Fund (016) on March 31, 2026, was **\$687,370.70.**

H. Planning Commission/Building Code of Appeals

The committee had no business to bring before the board.

I. Development & Planning

The committee had no business to bring before the board.

J. Legislative

The committee had no business to bring before the board.

IX. Other Committees & Boards

There were no reports by other committees or boards at this time.

X. Closed Session

There was no need for closed session.

XI. Possible Actions as a Result of Closed Session

There was no action as a result of closed session.

XII. Board Member Concerns

Jacob Ambrosia gave his approval on the Small Business Development Grant that was awarded to Remm Outdoors, as they are now expanding, which means more revenue in sales tax for the County.

Dianne Allendorf stated she hopes everyone remembers what they did with the elected officials' salaries tonight when it comes to deciding our other employees' salaries.

XIII. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments at this time.

XIV. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by John Schultz and seconded by John Lang.

The motion carried by voice vote.

Chairperson Trost adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Courthouse in Galena, Illinois.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Timmerman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Dana Timmerman, County Clerk