

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Executive Committee
CHAIRPERSON: John Creighton, Chairperson
DATE/TIME: March 3, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

☐ John Creighton	☒ Dianne Allendorf	☒ John Lang
☒ LaDon Trost	☒ Diane Gallagher	☒ Michael Holt
☒ Lynn Gallagher	☒ John Schultz	☒ John Grizzoffi

A quorum was established.

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Heitkamp and Jacob Ambrosia.

OTHERS PRESENT: Angela Kaiser.

1. **Call to Order:** Vice-Chair LaDon Trost called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Minutes Approval:**
 - a) Minutes of the February 3, 2025 Executive Committee meeting – **Schultz made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2025 Executive Committee meeting. Seconded by Lang and the motion carried by voice vote.**
3. **Citizens' Comments:** None.
3. **Unfinished Business:**
 - a) FY2023/FY2024 Strategic Goals and Plans – The members reviewed the goals and plans and discussed potential goals for the upcoming County Board retreat.
 - b) Update on Jo Daviess County FOIA Requests – The committee reviewed the FOIA Request Log for the months of January and February. There was discussion regarding the extensive length of time that a specific requestor's FOIA request had created for an employee.
4. **New Business:**
 - a) Discussion and possible action to recommend the approval of an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of Jo Daviess County, Illinois Title 4, Business License & Regulations Chapter 1, Liquor Control, Section 20, Days and Hours of Operations – There was considerable discussion regarding the current hours and operations in the Liquor Control section of the Code of Ordinances. This was brought before the Executive Committee at the request of a representative from Apple Canyon Lake. They would like to be able to sell alcoholic beverages earlier on Sunday. It would not only benefit those who use ACL's amenities, but also other businesses within the county. **Holt made a motion to recommend the approval of an Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances of Jo Daviess County, Illinois Title 4, Business License & Regulations, Chapter 1, Liquor Control, Section 20: Days & Hours of Operations to align Sunday hours of operation with Monday-Saturday. Seconded by Schultz and the motion carried by voice vote.**
 - b) Discussion and possible action to recommend amending P2010-4 Mobile Device Policy – There was discussion regarding outdated Mobile Device Policy. There is a lot to consider when

amending this policy, especially how it will affect departments differently than others. There will be more discussion on this in the near future. **Schultz made a motion to postpone the agenda item. Seconded by Grizzoffi. Schultz made a motion to amend his original motion to assign the agenda item to the Information Communications & Technology Committee. Seconded by Grizzoffi and the amendment carried by voice vote. The amended motion carried by voice vote.**

- c) Discussion and possible action to recommend a the termination of an electrical aggregation program contract with Nordic Energy – There was discussion regarding the electrical aggregation program and the contract that was signed in 2023 with Nordic Energy. The rates have gone up considerably and Nordic has been wanting to terminate the contract for some time. Richard Montgomery, Rock River Energy Services, attended the meeting to discuss potential options. Because the average rate with ComEd is lower than the contracted rate, the committee felt that it would save the residents money terminating the contract and allowing residents to go back to ComEd. There was additional discussion. **Allendorf made a motion to recommend a Resolution Regarding a Nordic Energy Aggregation Program Contract to end the current agreement as presented. Seconded by Schultz. The motion carried by voice vote.**
- d) Discussion and possible action to recommend awarding an electrical aggregation program contract to _____ at a fixed rate of _____ for a term of _____ years – **Lang made a motion to table the agenda item. Seconded by Holt and the motion carried by voice vote.**
- e) Discussion and possible action on County Cemeteries – The committee discussed two cemeteries owned by the County and what needs to happen with the properties. The Poor Farm Cemetery is overgrown and difficult to navigate, as there are not markers for the interments buried there. Area residents have kept up the Miner Cemetery and they would like the County to do their due diligence by opening the cemetery and selling plots. That would require the formation of a cemetery board. No townships have the desire to obtain the properties. The options are to officially recognize that the cemeteries are abandoned and offer a quit-claim deed to someone that may want to take it and open it themselves or the County could form a cemetery board, which would allow the sale of plots and maintenance of the grounds. There are volunteers maintaining it, but they are growing older and are unable to continue doing so for much longer. Kaiser explained that the County Board needs to make a decision so these citizens can make their burial plans. Leaving it abandoned does not mean the County will disregard the properties and their maintenance. The cemeteries are in fact already legally considered abandoned; if the decision is to officially abandon the cemeteries, this would memorialize the decision. **Schultz made a motion to officially abandon the Miner Cemetery and the Poor Farm Cemetery and be open to the transfer of ownership to interested parties. Seconded by D. Gallagher and the motion carried by voice vote.**

5. Closed Session:

Allendorf made a motion to enter into closed session at 8:08 p.m. for the Personnel section 2(c)1 "The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity." Topic of discussion: County Engineer Position and Court Security Position.

Seconded by Schultz. Voice vote resulted in all Ayes and motion carried.

At 8:33 p.m., Holt made a motion to reconvene to open session. Seconded by Schultz and motion carried following a roll call vote resulting in all Ayes.

6. Possible Action as a Result of Closed Session:

- a) **D. Gallagher made a motion to recommend the appointment of Dylan J. Oppold as Acting County Engineer effective March 15, 2025. Seconded by Holt and the motion carried by voice vote.**
- b) **Holt made a motion to set the annual Acting County Engineer salary at \$100,000.00. Seconded by Schultz and the motion carried by voice vote.**

7. Staff Reports:

- a) County Administrator – Angela Kaiser – There was an OAC meeting last Monday. The structural steel for the first and second floors is installed and decking has been poured. The interior walls on the first and second floors are close to complete; drywall is as well. Things are moving quickly. HVAC ductwork is also 90% to completion, as well as electrical. Thompson Electronics is the company doing the work for the audio and visual equipment in the courtrooms. In the 1970's building, Epic Construction discovered the leveling agent had not bonded to the existing floor, so the concrete needed to be removed completely and re-poured. Regarding the 1900's building trim and soffit painting, the work was actually included in the bid, so that will not incur any extra expense, but the seals around the windows are failing and will need replacement. Kaiser provided the committee with the most recent financials regarding the project. The change orders have made things go over budget, however; the expense savings in other areas have offset the higher expense with Shive-Hattery. She also updated on the CivicPlus Agenda and Meeting Management Select software that was presented to the Finance Committee last week. Kaiser costed it out at the 5% annual increase and she asked the contact if the increase was negotiable. There has been another quote provided with the updated increase, which is now only 3%. This is an impressive program and Kaiser is doing additional research before asking the County Board to make a decision.

8. Citizens' Comments: None.

9. Committee Member Concerns: D. Gallagher said it was a pleasure to represent the County at the Galena Territory Association Owner's Annual Meeting. Schultz said the tour at the courthouse went well and he was impressed. Lang mentioned the State of Illinois budget and the large deficit budget recently passed. Dittmar discussed a number of bills in the Illinois General Assembly.

10. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn was made at 9:02 p.m. by Grizzoffi and seconded by Schultz. Motion passed by voice vote.

Next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION
JO DAVIESS COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 3, 2025 – OPENED: 07.06.26

The board entered closed session at 8:09 p.m. to discuss:

Personnel section 2(c)1

"The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity". Topic of Discussion – County Engineer Position and Court Security Position

Present were members Dianne Allendorf, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Michael Holt, John Lang, John Schultz, and LaDon Trost. Present: 8. County Board Members Jacob Ambrosia and Joseph Heitkamp, County Engineer Steve Keeffer, and County Administrator Angela Kaiser were also present.

Kaiser distributed financial documents relating to salaries and budgets for the Highway and County Motor Fuel funds, as well as a copy of the IDOT concurrence for the appointment of Dylan Oppold as Acting County Engineer. She stated if the board ultimately approves the appointment of Oppold, they will need to determine the annual salary for the position. The financial documents accounted for FY25 salaries up to date, an increased salary for Oppold, a salary for a Highway foreman hire, should it be approved, as well as funding for a contracted P.E. to oversee Oppold's last year of the required four years of supervision. She then asked Keeffer to speak to the members regarding the typical salary he sees in his field for an acting county engineer.

Keeffer stated for everything we're asking of the position, he believes we would need to be in a six figure range, because it's a big job. If the intent is to keep him around once he is certified, lowballing him at this point might be counterproductive. Showing confidence in him now by offering a fair salary would go a long way in possibly keeping him in Jo Daviess County.

Kaiser gave some financial figures regarding the Salary Reimbursement Program and although we can't participate with an acting county engineer, it gives an idea of where you might want to be when setting the salary now. She also asked members to keep in mind that the job posting yielded not one qualified candidate. She let members know that she did talk to Oppold about his salary expectations, should he be appointed, and believes he would be satisfied with \$100,000.

Members discussed whether or not they wanted to make a recommendation when they came out of closed session or did they want to push it to the full board and have a closed session there. The consensus was to make the recommendation now and forego another duplicate closed session discussion.

The board left closed session at 8:33 p.m.



Angela Kaiser, County Administrator