

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Executive
CHAIRPERSON: John Creighton
DATE/TIME: May 5, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: John Creighton, LaDon Trost, Dianne Allendorf, John Lang, Michael Holt, Lynn Gallagher, and John Grizzoffi. A quorum was established. John Schultz arrived later in the meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Diane Gallagher

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Daisha Boehm and Jacob Ambrosia

OTHERS PRESENT: Angela Kaiser and Melisa Hammer

1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Creighton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Minutes Approval:**
 - a) Minutes of the April 1, 2025 Executive Committee meeting – Grizzoffi/L. Gallagher made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2025 Executive Committee meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.
3. **Citizens' Comments:** None
3. **Unfinished Business:**
 - a) FY2023/FY2024 Strategic Goals and Plans – None
4. **New Business:**
 - a) Presentation by Brad Petersburg regarding the Blackjack Watershed and Blackjack Road – The volunteer steering committee comprised of Brad Petersburg, Jim Baranski, Beth Baranski, and Steve Keefer gave the committee an update on the timeline to date. Blackjack Watershed Project: In October 2023, there was a presentation to the County Board by Anita Ahrends, NRCS Program Manager for Illinois, explaining how the watershed project could move forward. During the presentation, the idea of working concurrently with water management planning to build a road off of Blackjack was also discussed, as the two projects could be mutually beneficial. At that time, the county voted to sponsor a request for funding a PIFR as the first step in the WFPO program. Unfortunately, since that time, the government has placed a freeze on contracts, so the PIFR is currently on hold, but interest in a road remains high and could potentially assist in temporary water management until such time as the WFPO program can resume. Blackjack Cutoff: In the last six months, there has been activity that has led to land acquisition by Petersburg and ideas of developing the area that lies between Highway 20 and Blackjack Road. This reignited the road discussion and possible alignments, with former County Engineer Steve Keefer volunteering to act in an advisory capacity. The favored alignment would necessitate moving the Health Department building. Early estimates of building the road are approximately \$3.5M, with various funding sources to be investigated. If the county is interested, the first step would be a traffic study to present to IDOT. Eastside Greenway: Petersburg has acquired property and is willing to facilitate the development of community improvements such as workforce housing, tourist parking, shuttle service for both tourists and residents, Eastside EMS garage, childcare center, relocated Health Department, an extension of the Galena River Trail to Horseshoe Mound, and a convenience store, many of which align with issues summarized in the 2024 JDC Comprehensive Plan. Given the broad community support expressed for the new road, productive discussions among County and City staff and landowners, the positive impact a new road would have on traffic safety and traffic flow, the benefit of integrating the new road

alignment and design with watershed planning and the opportunities a new road would offer for a variety of community improvements supported by the county's Comprehensive Plan, the steering committee asks the County to consider the development of the new road, which would start with the additional due diligence of a traffic study.

- b) Discussion and possible action to recommend a letter of support for the development of a Stockton Industrial/Commercial Business Complex – David Schmidt of NWILED spoke regarding the proposed complex and provided informational materials. The proposed letter of support from the county will be helpful to him and his group when promoting the project. **L. Gallagher/Allendorf made a motion to recommend sending a letter of support to the Village of Stockton for the development of a Stockton Industrial/Commercial Business Complex. The motion carried by voice vote.**

5. Staff Reports:

- a) County Administrator – Angela Kaiser – Kaiser distributed a written report to members outlining activity for the month of April. This included updated financial information for the Courthouse renovation project, as well as construction progress, board retreat planning, software training for the agenda & meeting management program, payroll and benefit administration, and the start of FY2026 budget planning, with a focus on restoring the Highway Fund (002) to a more stable level.

6. Citizens' Comments: None

- 7. Committee Member Concerns:** Lynn Gallagher informed members the mental health survey created by the Ad-Hoc Mental Health Committee is available online and urged everyone to participate and share. John Lang shared concerns regarding guest accommodation ordinance violations.

8. Closed Session:

Creighton/L. Gallagher made a motion to enter into closed session at 8:02 p.m. for Purchase/lease property section 2(c)5 *"The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired."* **Topic of Discussion: Parking lot purchase. The motion carried by voice vote.**

Schultz/Creighton made a motion to reconvene to open session at 8:24 p.m. The motion carried following a roll call vote resulting in all Ayes.

9. Possible Action as a Result of Closed Session: None

- 10. Adjourn:** Allendorf/Holt made a motion to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. The motion carried by voice vote.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, June 2, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION
JO DAVIESS COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 5, 2025 – OPENED: 07.06.26

The committee entered closed session at 8:02 p.m. to discuss:

Purchase/lease property section 2(c)5

"The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired." Topic of Discussion: Parking lot purchase

Present were members Dianne Allendorf, John Creighton, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Michael Holt, John Lang, John Schultz, and LaDon Trost. Present: 8. County Board Members Jacob Ambrosia and Daisha Boehm, and County Administrator Angela Kaiser were also present.

Kaiser informed the committee of a proposal by William Miller to build and sell to the county a parking lot located on the corner of N. Bench and Franklin streets for \$300,000. She also spoke of discussions with the owners of 402 Broadway street, which lies contiguous to the Meeker street parking lot. A small portion of the county parking lot lies on their property and Kaiser attempted to negotiate a purchase of approximately 2,632 s.f. that would allow for the ownership of what we already use and six additional parking spots. The owners are not interested in selling a small piece, but would be interested in selling the entire property as is for an estimated \$400,000. The property includes a 1840's building that houses 4+ apartments. There's also the option of trying to contact the owner of 306 N. Bench street to see if a purchase can be negotiated. She asked what direction the committee would like her to take to move forward.

Allendorf would like to pursue purchasing the Broadway street property by first reaching out to the City to see if there is any way the building could be demolished. If that can't be done, trying to contact the owners of 306 N. Bench.

Boehm would like the conversation with the city to include collaboration to purchase and demolish properties that line Franklin street with the goal of upgrading Franklin, a large parking lot, and possible greenspace.

Trost wants to purchase Miller's property, because he believes past boards have missed opportunities to gain parking and he doesn't want that to happen again. Space is limited and the county has to take what they can get.

The consensus was to have Kaiser meet with city officials to see what is even possible and if they are willing to work with us to secure parking. This will help the board make their decisions going forward.

The committee left closed session at 8:24 p.m.



Angela Kaiser, County Administrator