

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Executive
CHAIRPERSON: John Creighton
DATE/TIME: June 2, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: John Creighton, Dianne Allendorf, John Lang, Michael Holt, Lynn Gallagher, John Schultz, and John Grizzoffi. A quorum was established.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Diane Gallagher and LaDon Trost.

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Daisha Boehm.

OTHERS PRESENT: Angela Kaiser.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Creighton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Minutes Approval:**
 - a) Minutes of the May 5, 2025 Executive Committee meeting – Allendorf/Lang made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2025 Executive Committee meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.
3. **Citizens' Comments:** Brad Petersburg, Galena gave an update on the Blackjack Watershed to say he spoke to Matt Robert with NRCS and the funding freeze is still in effect. He's reached out to Congressperson LaHood and Senator Durbin, but asked the County to consider sending a letter to their representatives asking that the money be released. This would allow the PIFR (Preliminary Investigation Feasibility Report) to commence, which is the first part of the process to mitigate water issues on Blackjack. He also spoke on the recent City of Galena's decision to draft a Memorandum of Understanding between the county and city, and said that an informational public meeting hosted by the county or city would be beneficial to give citizens the opportunity to ask questions and about the project. There are three different groups doing different things, but whose interests have aligned nicely.
4. **Unfinished Business:**
 - a) Update on FOIA requests – The committee reviewed the April and May 2025 FOIA requests.
5. **New Business:**
 - a) Discussion and possible action to recommend a Resolution to Dissolve the Jo Daviess County Claims Committee – The committee discussed the pros and cons of the Claims Committee and whether or not dissolving it is best course of action. The committee originally existed unofficially when the Chairperson, Vice-Chair, and Finance Chair would meet ahead of the County Board meeting to review claims. This was when every claim was in paper form and they would be able to take them out to look at each one. The unofficial committee disbanded when the accounts payable process became paperless. In 2024, it was decided to re-establish the committee officially and that was done with the approval of R2024-2. In the year since the committee was re-established, it has not really achieved what its original intention was and that was to be able to examine the claims closely. As long as County Board packets continue to be sent as early as possible, any questions that board members have regarding the claims list can be answered in advance of the board meeting. If members want to review a particular claim, that can be done unofficially at any time. Kaiser reminded board members that unofficially reviewing the claims is fine as long as there isn't discussion between multiple members regarding a plan to act during a board meeting, as that may constitute a violation of the Open Meetings Act. **Holt/L. Gallagher made a motion to recommend the approval of a Resolution to Dissolve the Jo Daviess County Claims Committee. The motion carried by voice vote with a nay vote recorded by Lang.**
 - b) Discussion and possible action to recommend the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Jo Daviess County and the City of Galena regarding the Blackjack Road Realignment

Project – Angela Kaiser reported the idea of a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and City was presented to the Galena City Council during their May 27, 2025 meeting. The council unanimously approved drafting the MOU and having it on their June 9, 2025 agenda for approval. The MOU essentially states the County and City will seek more information to determine if an Intergovernmental Agreement would be beneficial in realigning Blackjack Road. It is thought there will be more opportunities for funding if they work together. **Allendorf/Schultz made a motion to recommend the approval of a memorandum of Understanding between Jo Daviess County and the City of Galena regarding the Blackjack Road Realignment Project. The motion carried by voice vote.**

6. Staff Reports:

- a) County Administrator – Angela Kaiser – Kaiser distributed a written report to members outlining activity for the month of May. This included updated financial information for the Courthouse renovation project, as well as construction progress, board retreat outcomes and feedback, software training for the agenda & meeting management program, implementation of the revised P2025-5 Mobile Device Policy, and the start of FY2026 budget planning. She reported on her activity regarding the Blackjack Road Realignment Project, stating she had a meeting with IDOT officials that was attended by staff of the City of Galena regarding a funding opportunity for the project. With that information, she started the process of applying for 1.1 million dollars in funding for Phase 1 and 2, which will include engineering costs, land acquisition, and possible studies, such as traffic, intersection, environmental, etc.

7. Citizens' Comments: None

- 8. Committee Member Concerns:** Michael Holt expressed his concerns regarding recent lobbying by board members for future funding of economic development that includes gifting taxpayer money. John Grizzoffi mentioned the state budget was approved and there were transportation cuts, but hasn't found more information to see what that entails. John Schultz and John Lang echoed Holt's concerns regarding gifting taxpayer money. John Creighton recently attended the Board of Health meeting, where they talked about the Blackjack Road Realignment and what that might mean for the Health Department. He also spoke of a plan to contract with CFPS for grant writing services that is being drafted by Member Boehm and will be presented at the July 2025 Executive Committee meeting. Lastly, he spoke of the proposed Village of Stockton Business Park and a letter of intent from the property owner. At this point, they are waiting on the State of Illinois to release the application timeframe.

9. Closed Session:

- a) **Allendorf/Schultz made a motion to enter into closed session at 7:17 p.m. for 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: Staff Engineer Position The motion carried by roll call vote resulting in all Ayes.**

Lang/Grizzoffi made a motion to reconvene to open session at 7:21 p.m. The motion carried following a roll call vote resulting in all Ayes.

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

- 11. Adjourn:** Schultz/Holt made a motion to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. The motion carried by voice vote.

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION
JO DAVIESS COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 2, 2025 – OPENED: 07.06.26

The board entered closed session at 7:17 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 – Staff Engineer Position

Present were members Dianne Allendorf, John Creighton, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Michael Holt, John Lang, and John Schultz. Present: 7. County Board Members Daisha Boehm and County Administrator Angela Kaiser were also present.

Kaiser informed the committee she had reached out to former County Engineer Steve Keeffer and offered him the part-time position of Staff Engineer with the intention of providing a contracted P.E. to oversee Acting County Engineer Dylan Oppold's last year of the required four years of supervision. She said Keeffer is willing to work for \$50 per hour for a maximum of 500 hours. IMRF guidelines prohibit contracting with a new retiree formally or informally for the first 60 days after their pension commences, which is why she waited until June to talk to Keeffer. She stated she didn't need the committee to act but wanted to give them the opportunity to weigh in on her decision.

Members were happy with the hiring of Keeffer and had no issues with the action.

The board left closed session at 7:21 p.m.



Angela Kaiser, County Administrator