

**JO DAVIESS COUNTY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 13, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER: Jo Daviess County Chairperson LaDon Trost called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 in the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Administrative Offices in Galena, Illinois.

ROLL CALL was answered as follows: Present – Dianne Allendorf, Daisha Boehm, Tina Brandel, John Creighton, Michael Dittmar, Steve Endress, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Joseph Heitkamp, Robert Heuerman, Michael Holt, John Lang, John Schultz, LaDon Trost, and Don Zillig. Present: 16. and Darcy Wild. Absent: 1.

State’s Attorney Chris Allendorf was present.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Chairperson Trost.

THE INVOCATION AND THOUGHT FOR THE DAY was given by Joseph Heitkamp.

AGENDA ITEM I – CONSENT AGENDA

A motion to approve the consent agenda, removing Item F1 to be voted upon separately was made by John Schultz and seconded by Diane Gallagher.

The motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes – Dianne Allendorf, Daisha Boehm, Tina Brandel, John Creighton, Michael Dittmar, Steve Endress, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Joseph Heitkamp, Robert Heuerman, Michael Holt, John Lang, John Schultz, LaDon Trost, and Don Zillig. Ayes: 16. Nays: 0. Absent: 1.

A motion to approve consent agenda Item F (1) with the following corrections was made by John Schultz and seconded by John Lang:

1. Claims approval in the amount of \$2,239,935.31 as follows:

- i. ~~\$1,850,829.21~~ **\$1,840,829.21** (~~\$1,750,196.84~~ **\$1,740,196.84** Regular Claims + Claims associated w/LIT’s \$100,632.37)
- ii. \$2,991.08 (Claims associated w/Interfund Transfers (IFT’s))
- iii. \$127,555.43 (GGMI Hotel/Motel Tax Reimbursement)
- iv. \$18,000 (Emergency Purchase-USPS Pre- Paid Postage)
- v. \$240,559.59 (Special Service Area Commissions)
 - Warren Area Ambulance Service, Inc. - SSA #1 - \$59,569.50
 - Galena Area Emergency Medical Service – SSA #6 - \$100,883.03
 - Elizabeth Community Ambulance Service – SSA #7 - \$80,107.06
- vi. **\$10,000.00 (Over budget claim – ICRMT (deductibles))**

The motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes – Dianne Allendorf, Daisha Boehm, Tina Brandel, John Creighton, Michael Dittmar, Steve Endress, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Joseph Heitkamp, Robert Heuerman, Michael Holt, John Lang, John Schultz, LaDon Trost, and Don Zillig. Ayes: 16. Nays: 0. Absent: 1.

AGENDA ITEM II - CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

Kimball Willis, Derinda Township Road Commissioner expressed concerns regarding possible speed limit changes in Scales Mound Township. He believe the request should have come from the Scales Mound Township Road Commissioner, as that will be the person responsible for the road, signage, etc.

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Dean Williams, Thompson Township Road Commissioner submitted a written comment to be read: "It seems that the Public Works committee disregarded the speed study and changed a speed limit on a township road just to let UTV's on the road. I don't feel this is a safe practice. The road commissioners of Jo Daviess County work hard to keep the roads safe. Some don't have the funding for signage. Is the County Board going to help fund this trail? My feeling is if the county board wants UTV's on the roads, maybe they should allow them on county roads. The township insurance and attorney have advised against it. The two people that would have our back with things go bad."

Ruth Foley, Scales Mound Township resident expressed her concerns regarding the Public Works committee recommendation. She attended the meeting and was bothered by the comment "This is not about safety, this is about political gain". When asking why there wasn't a public hearing, was told "it wasn't needed". She said the speed study recommended 50mph, but the committee was told to "disregard the study". In the meeting, she had asked why no other roads were considered for a lowered speed limit and was told "Wisconsin only wanted this one". She doesn't feel the opinions of those in Wisconsin should be a factor. She questioned how this can constitute economic development when the majority of businesses in Scales Mound have reduced or no hours on the weekends. Cost estimates for road upkeep are estimated at 8 million and she feels this is just a start before more roads are added.

Matt Reed, Council Hill Township Road Commissioner stated a speed limit sign will be required every 90 feet on any road with an altered speed limit. This will result in 6-10 new signs and he'd like to know who is going to pay for that. He commented TOI still considers this illegal.

Steve Stadel, Scales Mound Supervisor said he began attempts to make changes that would allow UTV's on the roads eight years ago and notes there has been no change to update the law since then. He addressed safety concerns, stating he believes lowering the limit from 55 mph to 35 mph will make the road safer. He stated that he has also spoken to TOI and says they will support a township if the township has "followed the rules".

Randy Reed, Apple River Township resident spoke as a UTV owner. He believes there has been revenue lost by not lowering limits. He doesn't believe there are safety concerns because expensive UTV's have a lot of safety features and the owners are older and don't go out joy-riding.

Mark Goodwin, Scales Mound Township Road Commissioner states he is against lowering the speed limit on this road in his township.

Michael Foley, Scales Mound Township resident lives and farms on this road and is very concerned with the safety of UTV's drivers when there is farm equipment on the road. There are two 90 degree corners and a blind hill that could cause serious accidents. He's witnessed vehicles racing on this road and believes allowing UTV's to drive it will be dangerous.

AGENDA ITEM III – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

AGENDA ITEM IV – NEW BUSINESS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

LEGISLATIVE:

The committee had no business to bring before the board.

EXECUTIVE:

A committee motion to approve a resolution to dissolve the Jo Daviess County Ad-Hoc Courthouse Committee was seconded by John Lang.

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The motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes – Dianne Allendorf, Daisha Boehm, Tina Brandel, John Creighton, Michael Dittmar, Steve Endress, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Joseph Heitkamp, Robert Heuerman, John Lang, John Schultz, LaDon Trost, and Don Zillig. Ayes: 15. Nays - Michael Holt. Nays: 1. Absent: 1.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY:

A committee motion to approve the new SAN (Storage Area Network) equipment from Storage IT Solutions at a cost of \$96,790.50 was seconded by Tina Brandel.

The motion carried by voice vote.

FINANCE, TAX, & BUDGETS:

The fund balance for the Contingency Fund (016) on 06/30/2024 was \$772,528.60.

A motion to approve a resolution to pay additional FY2024 expenses for the Insurance Fund (017) from the Contingency Fund (016) was made by John Schultz and seconded by John Lang.

After discussion, the motion was withdrawn by John Schultz and seconded by John Lang.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Chairperson Trost exercised his prerogative and moved Item E1&3 behind Items E2&4-5.

A committee motion to approve a Federal Aid Agreement and Resolution to allow the use of federal funding on a project on Scout Camp Road was seconded by John Creighton.

The motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes – Dianne Allendorf, Daisha Boehm, Tina Brandel, John Creighton, Michael Dittmar, Steve Endress, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Joseph Heitkamp, Robert Heuerman, Michael Holt, John Lang, John Schultz, LaDon Trost, and Don Zillig. Ayes: 16. Nays: 0. Absent: 1.

A committee motion to approve a County MTF Resolution for Canyon Park Road Resurfacing Project was seconded by John Creighton.

The motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes – Dianne Allendorf, Daisha Boehm, Tina Brandel, John Creighton, Michael Dittmar, Steve Endress, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Joseph Heitkamp, Robert Heuerman, Michael Holt, John Lang, John Schultz, LaDon Trost, and Don Zillig. Ayes: 16. Nays: 0. Absent: 1.

A committee motion to approve a bid from Helm Construction in the amount of \$1,639,845.99 for the Canyon Park Road Resurfacing Project was seconded by John Creighton.

The motion carried by voice vote.

A committee motion to approve a request from the Scales Mound Township Board for an ordinance to lower the speed limit on Charles Mound Road was seconded by John Creighton.

Chairperson Trost read aloud proposed ordinance O2024-9. Members discussed at length the merits and drawbacks of approving this ordinance.

The motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes –Daisha Boehm, John Creighton, Michael Dittmar, Steve Endress, Diane Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Joseph Heitkamp, Robert Heuerman, Michael Holt, and LaDon Trost. Ayes: 10. Nays - Dianne Allendorf, Tina Brandel, Lynn Gallagher, John Lang, John Schultz, and Don Zillig. Nays: 6. Absent: 1.

A committee motion to approve bids for the Rush Township Bridge Repair Project was withdrawn by John Creighton and seconded by Joseph Heitkamp.

The motion to withdraw carried by voice vote.

LAW ENFORCEMENT & COURTS:

The committee had no business to bring before the board.

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL:

A committee motion to approve a contract with Jo Daviess County Transit and The Galena United Methodist Church with a rate of \$1.00 per passenger per trip was seconded by Dianne Allendorf.

The motion carried by voice vote with an abstention recorded for John Creighton.

A committee motion to approve a contract with Jo Daviess County Transit and Rosecrance with a rate of \$6.00 per hour per passenger per trip was seconded by Dianne Allendorf.

The motion carried by voice vote with an abstention recorded for John Creighton.

PLANNING COMMISSION/ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:

There was no business to bring before the board.

DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING:

The committee had no business to bring before the board.

AGENDA ITEM V – OTHER COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

AD-HOC COURTHOUSE COMMITTEE:

Due to the dissolution of the committee, Chairperson Trost plans to give board members a short update each month. He spoke of a couple additional problems that were discovered and he displayed two photographs of support joists in the 1839 building that are resting on rocks. He stated footings will have be poured and does not feel this will be too expensive.

AGENDA ITEM VI – CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Randy Reed, Apple River Township resident spoke again, citing his belief that driving UTV's on township roads is very safe.

AGENDA ITEM VII – CLOSED SESSION

A motion to enter closed session at 8:06 p.m. was made by Dianne Allendorf and seconded by Michael Holt to discuss:

A. 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 Administrator.

The motion carried by voice vote.

The board reconvened at 9:16 p.m. following a motion by Dianne Allendorf and seconded by John Schultz.

The motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes - Dianne Allendorf, Daisha Boehm, Tina Brandel, John Creighton, Michael Dittmar, Steve Endress, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Joseph Heitkamp, Robert Heuerman, Michael Holt, John Lang, John Schultz, LaDon Trost, and Don Zillig. Ayes: 16. Nays: 0. Absent: 1.

AGENDA ITEM VIII – POSSIBLE ACTION AS A RESULT OF CLOSED SESSION

A motion to accept the resignation of County Administrator Scott Toot, effective 4:00 p.m. August 30, 2024 and be granted a severance package of salary and health insurance for the months of September and October 2024 was made by John Lang and seconded by John Schultz.

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Ayes – Dianne Allendorf, Daisha Boehm, Tina Brandel, John Creighton, Michael Dittmar, Steve Endress, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Joseph Heitkamp, Robert Heuerman, Michael Holt, John Lang, John Schultz, LaDon Trost, and Don Zillig. Ayes: 16. Nays: 0. Absent: 1.

AGENDA ITEM IX – BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS

Diane Gallagher expressed her appreciation for the personal and professional experience of her fellow board members and knows they have the ability to work better together towards the common goal of improving Jo Daviess County.

John Schultz states on behalf of the people they represent, the board needs to work together to solve problems and not attack each other.

Michael Dittmar states he is deeply invested in the future of the people of Jo Daviess County and greatly apologizes if his passion and tenacity comes across as anything less than caring. He thanks Chairperson Trost for his leadership and fully commits to working together with the board.

Daisha Boehm is passionate about expanding the taxpayers' dollars and wants to address the grant writing idea she's previously discussed. Because she was unhappy with the fact the County did not pursue grant opportunities to assist in funding the courthouse renovation, she reached out to Dan Pepin, who is a community planner and grant writer, who confirmed her belief that there would have been grant opportunities to help with the project. This is a missed opportunity that she doesn't want to see happen again. It is her understanding the grants the county currently applies for and receives are not of a competitive nature, but instead either offered to us or are allocated funds from state and/or federal sources. She understands we don't have a grant writer on staff, but wants the County to give consideration to the possibility, as it would be money well spent. She believes it is the County's responsibility to seek grant funding and alleviate the taxpayer burden for any and all projects going forward.

John Grizzoffi thanked all the elected officials for their good work as they navigate through these tough times.

Dianne Allendorf thanks the Chairperson Trost for his board request to "reset" and states she has felt appalled at the unprofessionalism sometimes shown at their recent meetings and hopes they can get over that.

AGENDA ITEM X - ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion carried by voice vote.

Chairperson Trost adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Administrative Offices in Galena, Illinois.



Angela Kaiser, County Clerk

**JO DAVIESS COUNTY BOARD
CONSENT AGENDA
AUGUST 13, 2024**

A. MINUTES APPROVAL

1. County Board meeting minutes from the July 9, 2024 County Board Meeting.
2. County Board meeting minutes from the July 25, 2024 Special County Board Meeting.

B. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

1. Reappointment of Steve McIntyre to the Jo Daviess County Housing Authority Board for a five-year term, commencing June 11, 2024 and ending June 14, 2029.

C. CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, & PETITIONS

D. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, & PROCLAMATIONS

E. REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

F. CLAIMS

1. Claims approval in the amount of \$2,239,935.31 as follows:
 - i. \$1,840,829.21 (\$1,740,196.84 Regular Claims + Claims associated w/LIT's \$100,632.37)
 - ii. \$2,991.08 (Claims associated w/Interfund Transfers (IFT's))
 - iii. \$127,555.43 (GGMI Hotel/Motel Tax Reimbursement)
 - iv. \$18,000 (Emergency Purchase-USPS Pre- Paid Postage)
 - v. \$240,559.59 (Special Service Area Commissions)
 - Warren Area Ambulance Service, Inc. - SSA #1 - \$59,569.50
 - Galena Area Emergency Medical Service – SSA #6 - \$100,883.03
 - Elizabeth Community Ambulance Service – SSA #7 - \$80,107.06
 - vi. \$10,000.00 (Over budget claim – ICRMT (deductibles))

G. LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

1. FY2024 Line Item Transfers (with associated claims) in the amount of \$109,344.39 as follows:
 - i. \$30,000.00 \$30,000.00 from 008-43141-830 Highways to 008-43141-702 Professional Service
 - ii. \$21,550.90 \$21,550.90 from 038-46179-820 Vehicle to 038-46179-606 Minor Equipment & Small tools
 - iii. \$1,201.47 \$1,201.47 from 049-47107-890 Other Improvements to 049-47107-810 Equipment Purchase
 - iv. \$56,592.02 \$56,592.02 from 088-46182-805 Buildings to 088-46182-702 Professional Service