

**JO DAVIESS COUNTY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
OCTOBER 27, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: Jo Daviess County Chairperson Don Hill called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 27, 2022 in the Jo Daviess County Large Courtroom, Jo Daviess County Courthouse in Galena, Illinois.

ROLL CALL was answered as follows: Present – Dianne Allendorf, William Bingham, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, Robert Heuerman, Don Hill, John Lang. Steve McIntyre, John Schultz, LaDon Trost, and Don Zillig. Present: 11. Present electronically - Hendrica Regez. Present electronically: 1. Absent – Staci Duerr, Robert O'Connor, John Korth, and Darcy Wild. Absent: 4. Vacant: 1.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Chairperson Hill.

AGENDA ITEM I - CITIZENS' COMMENTS

There were no citizens' comments at this time.

AGENDA ITEM II – READING OF THE MEETING NOTICE INTO THE MINUTES

County Administrator Scott Toot read the meeting notice that was published in the October 12, 2022 edition of The Flash.

AGENDA ITEM III - SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Lucas Bourquin, Warren Area Ambulance Coordinator explained their reasoning for asking the County Board for a tax rate increase. They would like to hire additional paramedics to establish 24/7 paramedic-level coverage for the residents and visitors of Special Service Area #1 and to other areas of Jo Daviess County, when called upon. The increase will help with the rising costs of medical supplies and to offset the rapidly declining amount of patient fees received. The original tax rate of .10 was set in 1981 and has never been raised.

AGENDA IV - OPENING OF PUBLIC HEARING

Chairperson Hill opened the public hearing at 5:38 p.m.

County Administrator Scott Toot read into the minutes one comment received via email.

John Monson, Apple River: *We want to express our objections to the potential tax rate increase for 911 "special" services. Our property is at Apple Canyon Lake, which already has higher property tax rates than all but one county in Illinois. A rate increase of \$750 or more on our property taxes is not something we support.*

Henry Doden, Apple River expressed his concern for the property owners that can't afford any increase in their property tax bill. He questioned the existing rates for other special service areas.

County Clerk/Recorder Angela Kaiser read the 2021 rates and extensions for all three special service areas:

SSA #1 had a rate of .10 and an extension of \$116,978.34

SSA #6 had a rate of .10 and an extension of \$401,574.32

SSA #7 had a rate of .29981 and an extension of \$296,666.46

Ben Petitigout, Galena EMS stated on behalf of their service, they support the Warren Area Ambulance's effort to raise the tax rate, as the expense of providing emergency services continues to grow. He also confirmed the problem of trying to collect fees, due to Medicare, insurance coverages, and non-payment by individuals.

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Steve McIntyre, County Board District #13 asked if the county were to be successful in passing a 1% sales tax to be added to hotel/motel tax, would that offset some of their expenses. He also asked if they have considered hiring a collection agency.

Diane Gallagher, County Board District #1 is unhappy that essential services would have to beg for money to operate.

AGENDA ITEM V - CLOSURE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Chairperson Hill closed the public hearing at 5:54 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM VI - NEW BUSINESS

A motion to adopt *An Ordinance To Amend An Ordinance Establishing Jo Daviess County Special Service Area Number One* with a maximum property tax rate of \$0.20 per \$100 of assessed valuation was made by John Lang and seconded by John Schultz.

The motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes – Dianne Allendorf, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, Robert Heuerman, Don Hill, John Lang, Steve McIntyre, Hendrica Regez, John Schultz, LaDon Trost, and Don Zillig. Ayes: 11. Nays: 0. Abstain - William Bingham. Abstentions: 1. Absent –Staci Duerr, Robert O'Connor, John Korth, and Darcy Wild. Absent: 4. Vacant: 1.

AGENDA ITEM VII - CITIZENS' COMMENTS

There were no citizens' comments at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was made by John Schultz and seconded by Dianne Allendorf.

The motion carried by voice vote.

Chairperson Hill adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Monday, November 7, 2022 at the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Courthouse, Galena, Illinois