

**JO DAVIESS COUNTY BOARD RETREAT
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 14, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER: Jo Daviess County Chairperson LaDon Trost called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at the Elizabeth Community Building in Elizabeth, Illinois. Chairperson Trost introduced and welcomed Alan Wenzel as the County Board Retreat Facilitator.

ROLL CALL was answered as follows: Present – Dianne Allendorf, Peggy Bastian, Daisha Boehm, John Creighton, Steve Endress, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Joseph Heitkamp, Robert Heuerman, Michael Holt, John Lang, John Schultz, and LaDon Trost. Present: 14. Absent– Michael Dittmar and Jacob Ambrosia. Absent: 2. Vacant: 1.

Also in attendance were State’s Attorney Chris Allendorf, Sheriff Craig Ketelsen, GIS/IT Coordinator Joe Kratcha, C.C.A.O. Laura Edmonds, Probation CMO Jamie Watson, Public Health Administrator Sandra Schleicher, Planning & Development Administrator William Meeker, Transit Director/PCOM Nicole Hermsen, Board of Health President Merri Berlage, Acting County Engineer Dylan Oppold, EMA Director Michael Willis, Village of Elizabeth President Scott Toot, City of Galena Mayor Terry Renner and City Administrator Matt Oldenburg, Village of Scales Mound Trustee Ruth Foley, County Administrator Angela Kaiser and Financial Payroll Manager Tessa Moore, and Clerk/Recorder Dana Timmerman.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Chairperson Trost.

AGENDA ITEM I – CITIZENS’ COMMENTS:

There were no citizens’ comments at this time.

Jacob Ambrosia entered the meeting at this time.

AGENDA ITEM II – REVIEW AGENDA AND RETREAT OBJECTIVES

Alan Wenzel, the facilitator of the County Board Retreat, asked those in attendance to introduce themselves for those that are newer to the process and invited each person to state any comments or concerns they may have. He then reviewed the agenda and retreat objectives.

AGENDA ITEM III – EXPLANATION OF THE 2025 PLANNING PROCESS

County Administrator Angela Kaiser gave an overview of the 2025 planning process.

AGENDA ITEM IV – COURTHOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT PRESENTATION

Chairperson Trost and County Administrator Angela Kaiser gave a presentation on the Courthouse Renovation Project.

Michael Dittmar entered the meeting at this time.

AGENDA ITEM V –REPORTS FROM OTHER BOARDS

Reports were given by the Board of Health, the Ad-Hoc Mental Health, and the Ad-Hoc Community Growth.

AGENDA ITEM VI – BREAK

There was a ten-minute break in the meeting at this time.

AGENDA ITEM VII –TOP THREE 2025-2027 COMMITTEE GOALS

Facilitator Alan Wenzel stated that the next order of business would be to discuss the top three committee goals and projects, prioritize them and discuss how to achieve those goals.

The following is a list of goals from each committee.

EXECUTIVE

1. Construct a new road from Blackjack to Highway 20 to improve water management and traffic flow
2. Purchase land to develop courthouse parking
3. Support the development of a Stockton Business Complex

FINANCE

1. Review and assess current budget needs and explore future budget savings strategies
2. Create, Fund, and Support a Capital Development Five Year Plan
3. Commit funding for the Blackjack to Hwy 20 road project

DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

1. Revise the Zoning Ordinance to simplify
2. Encourage commercial/industrial development
3. Encourage cooperative planning efforts with municipalities

PUBLIC WORKS

1. Increase the share of 1% sales tax to Highway Department by 5% per year to a 50/50 match
2. Start to grind and recycle at least 3 miles of road per year
3. Create a Highway Capital Equipment Replacement 5-8 year Plan

SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL

1. Develop initiative focused on aging in-place services
2. Examine the need for additional county mental health services
3. Evaluate the current emergency medical services (EMS)

LAW & COURTS

1. Employ a full-time custodian for the remodeled courthouse
2. Obtain grants for squad cars
3. Plan for unfunded mandates, could require increasing GF operational budgets

LEGISLATIVE

1. Research ways to change the way we tax recreational land
2. Investigate options to sunset conservation easements
3. Support changes to the tax code to increase productivity
4. Pursue UTV/ATV usage in the county

INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY

1. Secure funding to purchase Microsoft Office 2024 perpetual licenses and recurring annual Exchange email server licenses for all County offices, departments and officials
2. Replace 6 physical servers used in the County's SAN (Storage Area Network)/virtual servers environment

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3. Implement SD-WAN (Software-Defined Wide Area Network) technology for transport services/Internet services between County facilities

Comments & Discussion was held on goals for each committee.

AGENDA ITEM VIII – GROUP FEEDBACK ON RETREAT FORMAT

Village of Scales Mound Trustee Ruth Foley suggested for the next retreat that all the municipals should come and bring their goals as well so we can work together in achieving our goals.

AGENDA ITEM IX –NEXT STEPS

County Administrator Angela Kaiser summarized and recapped the process of prioritizing the future goals and projects for Jo Daviess County. Kaiser stated that planning is very important in achieving these goals.

AGENDA ITEM X – CONCLUSION

BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS:

There were no board member concerns at this time.

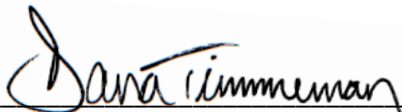
CITIZENS' COMMENTS

There were no citizens' comments at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned following a motion made by John Schultz and seconded by John Grizzoffi. The motion to adjourn carried by voice vote.

Chairperson Trost adjourned the meeting at 8.06 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Administrative Offices in Galena, Illinois.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dana Timmerman", written over a horizontal line.

Dana Timmerman, County Clerk