

**JO DAVIESS COUNTY BOARD RETREAT
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 16, 2021**

AGENDA ITEM I - CALL TO ORDER: Jo Daviess County Chairperson Don Hill called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at the Elizabeth Community Building in Elizabeth, Illinois. Chairperson Hill introduced and welcomed Alan Wenzel as the County Board Retreat Facilitator.

AGENDA ITEM II - ROLL CALL was answered as follows: Present - Dianne Allendorf, William Bingham, Staci Duerr, Diane Gallagher, Robert Heuerman, Don Hill, John Korth, John Lang, Robert O'Connor, Hendrica Regez, John Schultz, LaDon Trost, and Don Zillig. Present: 13. Absent - Janet Checker and Darcy Wild. Absent: 2. Vacant: 2.

Also in attendance were Assistant State's Attorney Adam North, Circuit Clerk Kathy Phillips, Treasurer Melisa Hammer, Sheriff Kevin Turner, County Engineer Steve Keeffer, GIS/IT Coordinator Joe Kratcha, C.C.A.O. Laura Edmonds, Public Health Administrator Sandra Schleicher, Planning & Development Administrator Eric Tison, Grant Administrator Tammy Cahill, ETSB Chairperson William Kimball, Board of Health President Peg Dittmar, County Administrator Scott Toot, County Administrator Office Manager Mary Althof, and Clerk/Recorder Angela Kaiser.

AGENDA ITEM III - THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Chairperson Hill.

AGENDA ITEM IV – CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Mike Dittmar, Elizabeth addressed the board with multiple concerns:

- Regarding zoning rules and regulations in the County, he recently brought a new business to the County and felt the zoning process was very difficult. He would like the board to focus on making business-friendly changes to the county zoning ordinance.
- He encouraged the board to continue pursuing a county park on the land between Elizabeth and Galena, as it is a beautiful and unique property and he would hate to have it end up with a private owner.
- In revising the Comprehensive Plan, he would like to see less involvement from those involved in zoning and more from those involved in economic development.
- He thanked Sandra Schleicher and Peg Dittmar for their tireless work to vaccinate the people of Jo Daviess County during the COVID-19 pandemic.

AGENDA ITEM V – INTRODUCTIONS

Alan Wenzel, the facilitator of the County Board Retreat, asked those in attendance to introduce themselves, state their positions within the structure of the County, their place of residence, and their length of service. He then reviewed the agenda and retreat objectives.

AGENDA ITEM VI – OMA/FOIA/COUNTY BOARD RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURES

State's Attorney Christopher Allendorf was unable to attend, therefore there was no discussion at this time.

AGENDA ITEM VII – OVERVIEW OF JO DAVIESS COUNTY

County Administrator Scott Toot gave an overview of Jo Daviess County, covering financial, personnel, grounds, long-range planning, and overall condition. He plans to slowly work through policies and procedures,

collaborating with elected officials and department heads, to see what works, what could be enhanced, and what could be scaled back, in an effort to streamline county goals.

AGENDA ITEM VIII – REVIEW 2019 COUNTY BOARD STRATEGIC GOALS

County Board Committee members reviewed the projects and goals their committees were assigned following the FY2019 County Board Retreat and whether they are completed or ongoing items.

Reports were given on Board of Health, ETSB Board, and the County Park, Economic Development, and MDFPD Tower Ad-Hoc Committees.

AGENDA ITEM IX – BREAK

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

AGENDA ITEM X – DISCUSSIONS ON COUNTY PRIORITIES, PROJECTS AND GOALS

Facilitator Alan Wenzel stated that the next order of business would be to develop a list of County goals and projects, prioritize them and assign them to committees.

The following is a list of prioritized goals and projects that was developed, the committees that will be responsible for each one, and the votes for each project.

Executive Committee

1. Construct new County Employee Pay System (49)
2. Relocate the Courthouse (25)
3. Build a new Courthouse (16)
4. Investigate consolidation of services with other counties (8)
5. Create plan and create a funding source for attracting qualified experienced candidates for employment (6)

Information and Communication Technology

1. Obtain secondary internet service for redundancy (29)
2. Make website user friendly (13)
3. Complete IT systems network needs assessment, update options (11)
4. Find a set technology for allowing virtual participation (6)

Legislative

1. Identify “shovel ready” projects for possible infrastructure grants from the federal government/pursue help from legislators for improvement grants (30)
2. Promote more passing lanes on Hwy 20 (11)
3. Develop funding structure for EMS, based on tourism (i.e. Public Safety Tax) (7)
4. Change County to Home Rule (5)
5. Ask for more support from our state reps to get more done for the county (2)
6. Find options for municipalities to provide law enforcement to the County (intergovernmental agreements) (0)

Finance, Tax and Budget

1. Increase hourly standard to 40 hours for all full time employees (27)
2. Create and fund a yearly maintenance schedule for all county buildings (structural, cosmetic, cleaning, etc) (23)
3. Earmark Cannabis tax for Public Safety and Mental Health (not General Fund) (16)

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4. Explore buying house next to Courthouse (15)
5. Build fund for matching grants (4)
6. Increase Contingency Fund (016) to \$500,000 (3)

Development and Planning

1. Simplify and replace present zoning ordinances to encourage business (49)
2. Investigate developing solar alternatives for County energy needs (9)
3. Continue to encourage business development (8)
4. Develop economic development performance measures (5)
5. Investigate having a hearing officer for zoning (2)

Law and Courts

1. Increase Courthouse security (body scanners, locking mechanisms, etc) (41)
2. Develop funding for EMS solutions (i.e. Ambulance Tax) (20)
3. Upgrade all County law enforcement radios/extend to all EMS, EMA, Fire (14)
4. Make all necessary repairs to Courthouse (9)
5. Replace aging generator at Courthouse (8)
6. Add third floor to the Public Safety Building (1976 blueprint) (6)
7. Study unfunded mandates in law enforcement/find funding strategies (6)
8. Add security portal/addition to main entrance of Courthouse (5)
9. Find storage for all County offices (5)
10. Update/modernize courthouse (4)
11. Hire part time investigator for SA office (3)
12. Add conference rooms for attorneys (1)
13. Create an impound for seized vehicles/evidence (1)

Social and Environmental

1. Establish a good mental health plan (33)
2. Develop additional substance abuse programs for county residents/strengthen current programs (17)
3. Annex Health Department building to city water & sewer (13)
4. Explore funding sources to attract quality candidates for Health Department (8)
5. Work to bring WIC back to the County (6)
6. Place electric auto charging station at Courthouse (4)

Public Works

1. Continue replacing deficient bridges (20)
2. Research hiring of larger summer staff to supplement current full time staff (6)
3. Continue to investigate mitigation of flood prone areas (6)
4. Investigate purchase of pavement striper (3)
5. Promote sealcoating all township roads (0)

All Committees

1. Request all committee chairpersons to submit agendas & documents to Administrator's office one week prior to meetings (12)
2. Increase public participation in committee work for planning & decision making through various methods (10)

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3. Implement paperless packets (8)
4. Decrease number of committees by combining and/or repurposing their work (5)
5. Streamline committee oversight and approval process (3)
6. Review & test Disaster Preparedness Plan (1)
7. Cycle board members through all committees (0)

Other Committees

1. Work toward solutions for ongoing EMS crisis (46)
2. Expand and/or establish a pool of PT supplemental clerical pool and/or job-sharing (8)
3. Hold retreat in other locations (4)

AGENDA ITEM XI – DISCUSSION ON NEXT STEP OF GOALS AND PRIORITIES:

Alan Wenzel summarized and recapped the process of prioritizing the future goals and projects for Jo Daviess County.

AGENDA ITEM XII – BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS:

John Schultz continues to be concerned about the two vacancies on the board. Chairperson Hill responded he is working on filling those seats.

Don Zillig wants the board to focus on prioritizing all financial decisions.

AGENDA ITEM XIII – CITIZENS' COMMENTS

The board thanked Alan Wenzel on a great job of facilitating the workshop.

Kevin Turner thanked the health department for their work in vaccinating the County. He also informed the board the Illinois Department of Corrections are still not taking custody of their inmates and his office is facing some pretty steep medical costs as a result of these extra people.

AGENDA ITEM XIV - ADJOURNMENT

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

Chairperson Hill adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Courthouse, Galena, Illinois.