

**JO DAVIESS COUNTY BOARD RETREAT
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 6, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: Jo Daviess County Chairperson LaDon Trost called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, July 6, 2023, 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, Tina Brandel, John Creighton, Steve Endress, Diane Gallagher, Lynn Gallagher, John Grizzoffi, Joseph Heitkamp, Robert Heuerman, Michael Holt, John Lang, Steve McIntyre, John Schultz, LaDon Trost, and Don Zillig. Present: 15. Absent – Daniel Holcomb and Darcy Wild. Absent: 2.

Also in attendance were State’s Attorney Chris Allendorf, Circuit Clerk Kathy Phillips, Treasurer Melisa Hammer, Sheriff Kevin Turner, GIS/IT Coordinator Joe Kratcha, C.C.A.O. Laura Edmonds, Public Health Administrator Sandra Schleicher, Planning & Development Administrator Kristina Tranel, Grant Administrator Tammy Cahill, Transit Director/PCOM Nicole Hermesen, ETSB Chairperson William Kimball, Board of Health President Merri Berlage, County Administrator Office Manager Mary Althof and Administrative Assistant Tessa Moore, and Clerk/Recorder Angela Kaiser.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Chairperson Trost.

AGENDA ITEM I – CITIZENS’ COMMENTS:

There were no citizens’ comments at this time.

AGENDA ITEM II – NEW BUSINESS

A motion to approve hiring the services of Appraiser James K. Tellatin, MAI of Integra Realty Resources – Healthcare & Senior Housing (IRR-HCSH) for the Prairie Ridge of Galena PTAB case at a cost not to exceed \$5,900.00 to be paid from Fund 016 Contingency was made by John Lang and seconded by John Schultz.

The motion carried by voice vote.

AGENDA ITEM III – INTRODUCTIONS

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 IV – OVERVIEW OF JO DAVIESS COUNTY

County Administrator Scott Toot was unable to attend the retreat, so an overview was not presented at this time.

AGENDA ITEM V – REVIEW 2021 COUNTY BOARD STRATEGIC GOALS

Chairperson Trost reviewed the projects and goals the committees were assigned following the FY2021 County Board Retreat and whether they are completed or ongoing items.

Reports were given by the Board of Health, the ETSB Board, and the Ad-Hoc Courthouse Committee.

AGENDA ITEM VI – BREAK

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

AGENDA ITEM VII – DISCUSSIONS ON COUNTY 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. Those in attendance had a lengthy discussion regarding the importance of many projects and goals.

County Engineer Steve Keeffer entered the meeting at this time.

AGENDA ITEM VIII – PRIORITIZING PROJECTS AND GOALS

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 five year capital investment plan for all projects with a yearly maintenance schedule for all county buildings (structural, cosmetic, cleaning, etc (58)
2. Increase Courthouse parking (46)
3. Review policy regarding Certificate of Insurance requirements for vendors (22)

Information and Communication Technology

1. Implement secondary internet service for redundancy (35)
2. Update network storage equipment for County (16)
3. Obtain modernized video equipment for court hearings (13)
4. Research grants for expanding rural broadband (3)

Legislative

1. Continue to push for 1% tax for EMS services at the state level (28)
2. Push for westbound left turn lane on Hwy 20 at Bench St. (12)
3. Pursue changes in statutes regarding length of record retention (3)

Finance, Tax and Budget

1. Stimulate tools for economic development (43)
2. Fund and implement timekeeping module and online pay portal (26)
3. Increase budgetary target amounts in proportion to a department's contribution to grant-funded services (3)

Development and Planning

1. Simplify and replace present zoning ordinances to encourage business (44)
2. Attract development to grow tax base (33)
3. Decrease 40 acre requirement for residents building on ag land (16)
4. Update records by digitizing documents (10)
5. Research capping Airbnb permits in the County (3)

Law and Courts

1. Fund digital ticketing (17)
2. Increase security at all satellite locations (16)
3. Replace all law enforcement radios with Starcom (5)
4. Increase volunteers for all EMS (3)

Social and Environmental

1. Establish mental health & substance abuse programs for all county residents (61)
2. Establish facility for treatment of mental health patients (31)

Jo Daviess County Board Retreat Minutes

July 6, 2023

Page 3 of 3

3. Bring senior resource funding and services into the County (28)
4. Establish a mental and physical wellness program for employees (21)
5. Construct climate controlled animal kennel with storage space (11)

Public Works

1. Build climate controlled storage facility to be used for all offices and evidence (20)
2. Purchase a pavement lane striper (18)
3. Plan safer alternate intersection for Highway 20 and Blackjack Road (8)

All Committees

1. Implement paperless packets (28)
2. Continue to apply for community funding projects county-wide (23)

Other Committees

1. Keep Courthouse renovation under budget (25)
2. Create plan for moving offices and storing equipment during Courthouse construction (12)
3. Expanded space for County Administrator office (3)

AGENDA ITEM IX – 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 X – CONCLUSION

BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS:

John Schultz is very happy the County received a double A bond rating during the GO Bond sale process.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

County Clerk/Recorder Angela Kaiser stated there will be 14 of 17 County Board seats on the ballot in 2024 and paperwork will be available in September, 2023.

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 8:09 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Courthouse, Galena, Illinois.



Angela Kaiser, County Clerk