

**JO DAVIESS COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**OCTOBER 1, 2025**

**I. Call to Order**

Board of Health President Merri Berlage called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll Call was answered as follows: Present – John Creighton, Merri Berlage, Barbara Kepner, Don Hill, Violet Naese, Maria Hernandez. Present: 6. Present electronically – 0. Absent – Peg Dittmar, Tracy Bauer, Lisa Haas. Absent: 3.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**A. Approval of minutes of August 6, 2025 meeting**

A motion to approve minutes of August 6, 2025 meeting was made by Don Hill and seconded by Barbara Kepner. The motion carried by voice vote.

**IV. Citizens' Comments**

There were no citizens' comments.

**V. Financial Reports**

**A. Review of 003 Public Health Fund and 020 Animal Control Fund**

Budget comparisons through August 31, 2025, were presented for review. Sandra Schleicher stated that we are at 75% of the fiscal year, and Public Health is caught up on grant reimbursements. Animal Control is above the fiscal year average for revenue (85%). Both departments are below the average for expenses. The Board would like to see a breakdown report from the JDC Clerk of Courts to review fine money received.

**VI. Unfinished Business**

**A. Review of changes to proposed FY 26 budgets**

Sandra informed the Board of changes that were made to the proposed FY2026 budget. The health insurance total was increased as the deductible per individual on the family plan will increase from \$3200 to \$3300 and the H.S.A. contribution for employees on the family plan will increase to \$3300. The fringe benefits also increased because fringes were not calculated originally for overtime. Everything else stayed the same.

**VII. New Business**

**A. Discussion and possible action to approve the purchase of a new Animal Control vehicle**

A request for proposal was published for the purchase of a new mid-sized pickup to be used by the Animal Control Department. Two bids were received and reviewed. The truck was budgeted in the FY2025 055 Public Health Capital Investment fund for \$50,000. A bid was received for a 2026 Chevrolet Colorado from Runde Chevrolet at a cost of \$35,893 with a trade in value for the old truck of \$13,000 making the total cost \$22,893. McGrath in Dubuque submitted a bid for the same truck of \$36,128.20

with a trade value of \$13,500 making the total cost of \$22,628.20. A motion to accept the bid by Runde Chevrolet from East Dubuque for \$22,893 was made by John Creighton and seconded by Maria Hernandez. It was noted that the difference in cost between the bids was \$264.80 so the low bid was not accepted in order to make the purchase from a vendor in Jo Daviess County. The motion carried by voice vote.

#### **VIII. Administrator's Comments**

Sandra reported that the grant agreement for Emergency Preparedness was received and sent in back in June. She attended the IPHA conference in Bloomington, Illinois, in September. We will begin publishing food establishment inspection reports online starting next fiscal year. Six additional restaurants have opened in Jo Daviess County. Animal Control is busy with bites and dogs running at large. The clinic nurses are no longer working at the JDC jail because a nurse practitioner was hired by the Sheriff's Department. Sandra also demonstrated the new system online of how to access Board agendas and minutes on the county website.

#### **IX. President's Comments**

Merri mentioned that AOK Kids in Stephenson County refers to Jo Daviess County as having dental services available. Sandra will check with the county grant writer to see if there are any grants available for dental care for children. Sandra mentioned that Crescent Community Health Center in Dubuque is adding additional dental care.

#### **X. Board Member Comments**

Dr. Kepner asked about AA meetings available in the county. Sandra mentioned that Rosecrance is leaving the Public Health building in December and adding staff to offer more services for individuals and groups; they will remain in Galena. Merri discussed her concern of possibly running out of money when the grants end in 2026 and the need to find more funding. John Creighton commented on the Blackjack Road project stating that the project is years away at this point.

#### **XI. Citizens' Comments**

There were no citizens' comments.

#### **XII. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Barbara Kepner and seconded by Maria Hernandez. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.

#### **Next Board of Health meeting**

- A. Next scheduled Board of Health meeting December 3, 2025 at 7pm.**
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