JO DAVIESS COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 26, 2026

I. Call to Order

Committee Chairperson Grizzoffi called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on Monday, January 26, 2026 in the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Courthouse in Galena, Illinois.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was answered as follows: Present – John Creighton, Steve Endress, John Grizzoffi, Joseph Heitkamp, Robert Heuerman, LaDon Trost. Present: 6. Present electronically – Jacob Ambrosia. Present electronically: 1. Absent: 0.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2025, Special Public Works Meeting was made by John Creighton and seconded by Robert Heuerman. The motion carried by voice vote.

IV. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

V. Unfinished Business

FY2025/FY2027 Strategic Goals: The goals were briefly discussed and each given a phase:
1. *Increase the share of 1% sales tax to Highway Department by 5% per year to a 50/50 match*
- This goal is considered "**Complete**". During the FY26 budget process, the allocation of the 1% sales tax was changed from 25% Highway/75% General Fund to 75% Highway/25% General Fund.
2. *Start to grind and recycle at least 3 miles of road per year* - County Engineer Dylan Oppold weighed in on this goal, stating at the present time, he doesn't have an employee that has experience operating this piece of machinery, therefore he feels this goal is not attainable, or **"Closed"**.
3. *Create a Highway Capital Equipment Replacement 5-8 year Plan* - County Engineer Oppold stated he plans to start working together with staff to update the Highway Capital Equipment Replacement Plan, so this goal can be considered **"Reviewing"**

VI. New Business

At this time, Committee Chairperson Grizzoffi exercised his chair prerogative and moved to agenda item VI(d), Discussion and possible action to recommend replacing the Scales Mound shop roof.

Matt Thompson, a carpenter with the Highway Department, updated the committee on his plan for the roof replacement. For reasons such as safety and expense, he would like to install the new steel over the current steel roof, rather than remove it. If he leaves it on, he can use a crew of highway employees for the project. He feels the project would be safer for his crew if they have the steel roof as support while they work. If the steel roof is removed, he no longer feels comfortable having highway employees as a work crew, so the project would probably need to be bid out to a company experienced in commercial steel roofing in order to complete it in a timely fashion. Questions were asked regarding the process of covering the steel. Member Creighton expressed his concern regarding leaving a failing roof underneath and feels removing the steel would be the better choice in the long run. Thompson was asked to give a ballpark figure regarding the cost differences, and while he did not have solid numbers to present, he estimated the cost to hire a company to remove the steel and replacing with commercial grade steel would likely double the expense. Thompson was asked to put together some cost estimates for each method and bring them back to the committee at the February 2026 meeting.

A motion to approve the FY2026 Public Works Meeting Schedule as presented, leaving the May meeting as TBD was made by John Creighton and seconded by Joseph Heitkamp. The motion carried by voice vote.

A motion to recommend a resolution for the 2026 Annual Spring Weight Posting was made by LaDon Trost and seconded by John Grizzoffi. The motion carried by voice vote.

A motion to recommend adopting a Mailbox Replacement Policy was made by LaDon Trost and seconded by John Grizzoffi. The motion carried by voice vote.

VII. Reports

County Engineer: Dylan Oppold, County Engineer was present and gave a brief report of projects and maintenance completed in 2025 and planned for 2026.

VIII. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

IX. Committee Member Concerns

John Creighton expressed concern over the discussion of the committee's prioritized goals, as he does not want to see the goal of grinding and recycling at least 3 miles of road per year to be dismissed. He asked if they don't think they will use the equipment, should they consider selling it? Oppold stated he has had some interest in buying the equipment. A question was asked about whether or not they could revise the goal to 1–2 miles. Oppold believes the lack of employee experience with the machine, coupled with how long it takes to complete one mile, makes the goal hard to attain. The matter was left for further discussion, as members believe the grind and recycle plan could save money in the long run.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:41 PM by LaDon Trost and seconded by Robert Heuerman. Motion carried by voice vote.

Next committee meeting: Monday, February 23, 2026 at 6:00 PM