

**JO DAVIESS COUNTY BOARD RETREAT  
MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 12, 2006**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson of the Jo Daviess County Board, Merri Berlage, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 12, 2006 at the Elizabeth Community Building in Elizabeth, Illinois.

**AGENDA ITEM I - ROLL CALL** was answered as follows: Present-Beth Baranski, Merri Berlage, Jody Carroll, William Cooper, Vincent Hasken, Dane Jackson, Alan Kent, Mat Kluesner, Ron Mapes, Yerda Potter, Domer Schubert, Marvin Schultz, Terry Stoffregen, Sally Toepfer and Jack Zillig. Present: 15. Absent- Margie Montelius and Tim Petitgout. Absent: 2.

Also in attendance were Retreat Facilitator Patricia Dietz, Assistant State's Attorney Bob Bush, Circuit Clerk Sharon Wand, Treasurer Carol Soat, Chief Managing Officer of Probation Tim Stephenson, Zoning Officer Linda Delvaux, GIS Coordinator Joe Kratcha, Chief County Assessment Officer Donna Berlage, Health Department Administrator Peggy Murphy, Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Betsy Eaton, County Engineer Steve Keeffer, Sheriff Brian Melton, County Administrator Dan Reimer and County Clerk/Recorder Jean Dimke.

**AGENDA ITEM II – Introductions**

All in attendance introduced themselves.

**AGENDA ITEM III – GROUND RULES**

Patricia Dietz established ground rules and explained them to the participants.

**AGENDA ITEM IV – REVIEW AGENDA AND MEETING FORMAT**

Patricia explained that the format for the meeting would consist of approximately 30 minutes of discussion on teamwork, 30 minutes of discussion on efficient utilization of department heads as resources for County Board decision making processes and the remaining time would be spent listing budgetary priorities, both immediate and long-term.

**AGENDA ITEM V – DISCUSS OBJECTIVES**

Participants explored ways of improving teamwork within the County Organization. Much of the discussion centered on open communications and participation.

Next, the group discussed how to efficiently use department heads as resources within the organization. There were many good suggestions that included board member and public education of each county department.

The last topic of discussion was on setting budget priorities and ranking them for both immediate and long-term goals. The top three immediate budget concerns were the courthouse roof replacement and other structural problems, health insurance and establishing an Information Technology position. The top three long-term budget goals and concerns were the need to plan for long-term capital purchases, a new county building and the possibility of establishing a countywide sales tax for funding a new county building.

**AGENDA ITEM VI – SUMMARY**

Retreat facilitator Patricia Dietz summarized the evening's discussions and some suggested solutions that came from those discussions.

**AGENDA ITEM VII – BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS**

There were no board members concerns at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM VIII – ADJOURN**

With the consensus of the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

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Jean Dimke, Jo Daviess County Clerk

