

**JO DAVIESS COUNTY BOARD RETREAT  
MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 4, 2011**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson of the Jo Daviess County Board, Marvin Schultz, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 4, 2011, at the Elizabeth Community Building in Elizabeth, Illinois.

**AGENDA ITEM I - ROLL CALL** was answered as follows: Present-Gerald Bennett, Merri Berlage, William Cooper, Richard Dittmar, Gavin Doyle, Don Hill, Ron Mapes, Kim Monk, Margie Montelius, Steven Rutz, Marvin Schultz, Dan Sheridan, Ron Smith, Terry Stoffregen and Don Zillig. Present: 15. Absent-Bernece Hill and Dane Jackson. Absent: 2.

Also in attendance were State's Attorney Terry Kurt, Circuit Clerk Sharon Wand, Treasurer Carol Soat, Chief Managing Officer of Probation Tim Stephenson, Building and Zoning Administrator Linda Delvaux, GIS/IT Coordinator Joe Kratcha, Chief County Assessment Officer Donna Berlage, Public Health Administrator Peggy Murphy, Convention and Visitors Bureau Director of Sales Celestino Ruffini, County Engineer Steve Keeffer, Sheriff Kevin Turner, County Administrator Dan Reimer, County Administrator Office Manager Melisa Hammer and County Clerk/Recorder Jean Dimke.

**AGENDA ITEM II - THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Chairperson Schultz.

**AGENDA ITEM III – INTRODUCTIONS**

Marvin Schultz introduced Lynn Fever, the facilitator of the County Board Retreat.

**AGENDA ITEM IV – APPOINTMENTS**

James Nadig was appointed to the CEDS Committee following approval of a motion made by Merri Berlage and seconded by Ron Mapes.

The motion carried by voice vote.

**AGENDA ITEM V – LUNCH/REFRESHMENTS**

Everyone was invited to food and refreshments provided by the County Board and prepared by Merri Berlage.

**AGENDA ITEM VI – CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

There were no citizens' comments at this time.

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

Facilitator Lynn Fever explained the format and timeframe of the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM VIII – DISCUSS OBJECTIVES**

At this time, the board entered into a discussion on reapportionment of the County Board. Chairperson Schultz explained the timeframe and approach to the County Board structure in regard to reapportionment. The board discussed single member districts versus multi-member districts.

Bill Cooper stated that with the increase in population, he feels no need to reduce the number of members. He also said that he prefers single member districts because with multi-member districts the rural areas would not have fair representation.

Jerry Bennett said that he thinks the board is functioning well in its present structure and there is no need for change.

Merri Berlage reminded the board that the Structure Committee recommended multi-member districts. She said one of the reasons was that with multi-member districts, candidates would not feel like

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they were running against one person. She said the committee felt that multi-member districts would encourage more people to get involved and become candidates for County Board.

Ron Mapes said his only concern with multi-member districts is that all of the representation could come from municipalities with a larger voter base. Ron also expressed his concerns that going to fewer members could require a change in committee composition. He said he has heard many comments that the committee configuration that is presently in place is working well.

Gavin Doyle said that he feels some committees could be combined and still continue with the present structure of the committees.

Ron Smith agreed with Ron Mapes on his concerns with committee structure with fewer board members. He also feels that the present committee structure works well.

County Board Chairperson, Marvin Schultz said he had the GIS Department draft maps showing the Structure Committee recommendation for a 5 district-3 members per district map, a 3 district-5 members per district map, a 4 district-4 members per district map and even a 7 district-2 members per district map.

Carl "Skip" Schwerdtfeger addressed the board as a member of the restructure committee. He said that one of the concerns with the present map was that East Dubuque, Galena, Warren, Stockton, Elizabeth and the Galena Territory are divided by districts. Skip said the committee felt that was watering down the constituency votes in each of those areas.

R.J. Winkelhake, a member of the restructure committee, commented that a benefit for multi-member districts was that there was a better chance of representation in case you didn't share the same view point as your representative from a one member district. In multi-member districts there is a greater chance that some members may share your view point, thus giving you better representation in your district.

Don Hill commented that he thinks things are working well with the present structure and why try to fix something that is working.

Dan Sheridan said some of his constituents want multi-member districts and some prefer the present single member districts, but he feels multi-member districts would be an improvement.

Gavin Doyle said it doesn't have to be changed, but maybe it can be improved. He said that he favors multi-member districts and does not feel with the smaller population of the county you would lose the rural versus urban concept.

Kim Monk said he is leaning toward single member districts because he feels that a single member would be more accountable and easier to contact than multiple members. He also commented that so many other entities, such as school boards that elect three or four people at an election, many times only have three candidates seeking election.

Merri Berlage said that knowing the opinion of multiple members shouldn't be a problem, because a voter can always examine the members' voting records and know their positions on issues.

Steve Rutz said he hoped that there would be more rationale or reasons for multi-member districts versus single member districts. He stated the arguments that were presented for each structure. Multi-member districts would give more candidate choices, give the opportunity for more people to take an active role, would not split municipalities and could represent different points of view within one district. Single member districts would assure more rural representation and they seem to be working well now so why fix something that isn't broken.

Ron Smith said that he supports multi-member districts because Jo Daviess County is unique and feels multi-member districts would allow constituents more than one point of view.

Terry Stoffregen said he agreed with Smith and is leaning toward multi-member districts.

A motion to keep the structure of the County Board as single member districts was made by Bill Cooper and seconded by Jerry Bennett.

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The motion carried by roll call vote: Ayes-Gerald Bennett, Merri Berlage, William Cooper, Richard Dittmar, Don Hill, Ron Mapes, Kim Monk, Margie Montelius and Don Zillig. Ayes: 9. Nays-Gavin Doyle, Steven Rutz, Marvin Schultz, Dan Sheridan, Ron Smith and Terry Stoffregen. Nays: 6. Absent-Bernece Hill and Dane Jackson. Absent: 2.

A motion to keep the number of County Board districts at 17 was made by Rick Dittmar and seconded by Merri Berlage.

The motion carried by voice vote.

Lynn Fever led the board into a discussion on board member compensation and whether the County Board Chairperson would be elected by the voters of the County or by members of the board.

Marvin Schultz stated that he would like the compensation to stay as a per diem, but to also possibly include a salary. He thought that would address compensation for members that attend a second meeting in one day or the time spent on County business outside of meeting times.

Merri Berlage stated that some board members attend more than one meeting a day and some board members never attend more than one meeting a day. She felt that it would be fair if the second meeting could be paid as a bonus.

After much discussion about board compensation, it was the consensus of the board that the issue of board compensation will be addressed by the Executive Committee and they will bring a recommendation to the entire board.

It was also the consensus of the board that the County Board Chairperson should be elected by members of the board.

After a short break, the meeting continued with discussion on County priorities, projects and goals.

The following is a list of priorities that was developed that will go to the Executive Committee who will then assign each priority to a board committee for review. Each committee or department will then examine the priority and bring their ideas and information back to the full board.

**Public Safety**

Funding Communication Upgrades  
HVAC System  
Funding the priorities  
Source of funding for drug task force  
Collective Bargaining Agreement  
Plan – “shovel ready”

**Public Works**

Road Maintenance  
Bridges  
Road infrastructure program  
Funding/priorities – direction for winter and summer maintenance  
10 year plan in place

**Facilities**

Courthouse Parking  
Building Maintenance

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**IT**

Advertise area – attract businesses with broadband  
Upgrade computers and phone system  
Computers – uninterrupted power supply  
Servers  
Equipment to tie all together for broadband

**Department Needs**

Review employee pay freeze  
Link w/ performance metrics

**Health**

Funding for Health Department

**Other**

Term limits for Zoning Board of Appeals  
Live within our means – control budget  
Funding priorities  
Attract taxable businesses  
Economic Development/Revolving Loan Fund  
Consolidate -1 visitor center  
Leads at the CVB to be non-propriety

**Funding Options**

General Obligation Bonds

- Radio Communication System
- HVAC System
- Roads

Federal monies - grants, grant writer and by department

Referendum – levy purpose, sunset

PTELL – referendum

Grow the base – unique Jo Daviess County assets, Dubuque link, revolving loans

Undo mandates

Reduce services – look for possible cuts during budget season

Committee review of budget line items (necessities, wants, nice)

**AGENDA ITEM IX – SUMMARY:**

**AGENDA ITEM X – BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS:**

Ron Mapes thanked Merri Berlage for preparing and serving the food that was enjoyed by all in attendance.

**AGENDA ITEM XI – CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

There were no citizens' comments at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM XII – ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned following a motion made by Bill Cooper and seconded by Dan Sheridan.  
The motion to adjourn carried by voice vote.

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Chairperson Schultz adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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Jean Dimke, Jo Daviess County Clerk