

**JO DAVIESS COUNTY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 27, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER: Jo Daviess County Chairperson Scott Toot called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, March 27, 2020 at the Jo Daviess County Highway Department, in Hanover, Illinois.

ROLL CALL was answered as follows: Present - Robert O'Connor and Scott Toot. Present: 2. Present electronically - Steve Allendorf, Lucas Bourquin, Diane Gallagher, Don Hill, John Korth, John Lang, Hendrica Regez, John Schultz, Ron Smith, Andrew Townsend, LaDon Trost, and Don Zillig. Present electronically: 12. Absent – William Bingham, Staci Duerr, and Robert Heurman. Absent: 3.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Chairperson Toot.

AGENDA ITEM I - CITIZENS' COMMENTS

There were no citizens' comments at this time.

AGENDA ITEM II – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business brought before the board at this time.

AGENDA ITEM III – NEW BUSINESS

A motion to approve the *Resolution to Amend the Jo Daviess County Emergency Disaster Declaration Due to COVID19* was made by John Lang and seconded by Hendrica Regez.

During discussion, State's Attorney John Hay is recommending the resolution to amend the *Proclamation Declaring Jo Daviess County a Disaster Area for Coronavirus Response* to include an end date in order to remove any possible obstacles for future funding and reimbursement.

The motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes - Steve Allendorf, Lucas Bourquin, Diane Gallagher, Don Hill, John Korth, John Lang, Robert O'Connor, Hendrica Regez, John Schultz, Ron Smith, Scott Toot, Andrew Townsend, LaDon Trost, and Don Zillig. Ayes: 14. Nays: 0. Absent – William Bingham, Staci Duerr, and Robert Heurman. Absent: 3.

A motion establish an emergency claims committee consisting of the County Board Chair, Finance, Tax & Budgets Chair, and Executive Committee Chair was made by Don Zillig and seconded by LaDon Trost.

Multiple questions and concerns were raised regarding the necessity of this action. A concern about fair representation was raised by Don Hill, along with a question regarding what the scope of this committee will be. Dan Reimer explained the current emergency purchasing policy in place, which provides a process to which anything needing immediate attention can be presented to the County Board Chair. This new committee would be responsible for approving all claims in place of the County Board. Steven Allendorf feels this method would facilitate quicker payment to vendors. Don Hill does not see the need for an additional committee, as there is already an established process in place. County Clerk Angela Kaiser said unless a decision had been made to cancel the regularly scheduled County Board meetings, there was no reason to form an additional committee. Claims are approved at each full board meeting and any emergency claims follow the established process and are paid out prior to board approval. Steven Allendorf felt this idea would replace County Board, should those meetings be cancelled, but if that is not the case, he suggests withdrawing the motion. Scott Toot's only concern is if they are not able to establish a quorum, a smaller committee might be more apt to convene. LaDon Trost believes they should continue to have regular County Board meetings via teleconferencing. Melisa Hammer believes the committee should not be referred to as an "Emergency Claims Committee", as its intended use will be for regular claims, not emergency claims. Don Hill asked that the motion be withdrawn. Steven Allendorf agreed the motion should be withdrawn and possibility looked at in the future, if needed.

Don Zillig withdrew the motion. Seconded by LaDon Trost and the motion is withdrawn.

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AGENDA ITEM VI – BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS

Don Zillig thanked the staff for all they have done during this time.

Hendrica Regez is concerned about the audio performance. If they are to continue teleconferencing, she hopes they can find a better method. She reminds the public to stay indoors and abide by the Governor's shelter in place order.

Diane Gallagher expressed concern about the hospitality industry and how they will be affected.

Lucas Bourquin feels the County Clerk and County Treasurer have the current claims process under control and the board should trust their judgement. He believes the Health Department should be their first priority during this time and complimented Public Health Administrator Sandra Schleicher for her excellent response during the pandemic emergency.

LaDon Trost expressed concern for truckers traveling through the area and how they lack access to the amenities they need. In his district, he has organized access to hot meals and suggests other board members look into something similar, if they are able.

Steven Allendorf is disappointed in the lack of support for his idea to create an emergency claims committee. He hopes to continue to move forward.

Scott Toot asked all members to take care of themselves. He wants members to know he is very concerned our second home population has gone from part time to full time, which created an additional strain on an already stressed and fragile EMS and law enforcement service. He has reached out to the Governor's office multiple times to express this concern, but has received no response. Chuck Pedersen has notified the IEMA Director of this concern.

John Korth asked if they would continue to be notified if/when there are cases of COVID-19 in Jo Daviess County. It was explained the process is as follows: The Health Department receives the results and they are forwarded on to Illinois Department of Public Health, where the information is embargoed until the Governor's 2:30 p.m. daily press conference. While he is speaking, an email is sent to the Health Department authorizing them to release the information.

AGENDA ITEM VII – CITIZENS' COMMENTS

There were no citizens' comments at this time.

AGENDA ITEM X - ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by John Korth and seconded by Don Hill.

The motion carried by voice vote.

Chairperson Toot adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Monday, April 13, 2020 at the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Courthouse in Galena, Illinois.