

**Legislative and Public Safety Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 11, 2025 5:00 PM
Jackson County Sheriff's Office Conference Room**

Call to Order

(5:00pm)

Present: Snyder, Comparato, Knust, Lister, Miller, Mueller, Phillips

Also Present: Kenton Schafer, Joni Bailey, Kerry Gale, Brian Chapman, Barb Stevenson, Kerri Gale

Approval of Minutes

I. 2025-143 Approval of January 14, 2025, Minutes

A motion was made by Miller, seconded by Knust, to approve the January 14, 2025, Minutes as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Animal Control

II. 2025-144 Animal Control Monthly Update

Chapman reported that the Animal Control Officer was on a call and that his monthly report (call log) was included in the meeting packet. He noted that this call log was created in the office to log incoming animal calls and help with follow-up.

III. 2025-145 Animal Control Facility Update

Chapman and ASA Bailey updated the committee on the purchase process of the HSSI facility. Chapman presented a rough draft of a potential budget for the facility and discussed several items with the committee. Chapman commented that he had submitted the HSSI Animal Facility project to the Northern Illinois ILCMA for a MPA graduate class project and it was selected. He noted that the class would be helping put together a budget, fee schedule, and staffing recommendations. The committee continued the discussion and asked that Chapman present at the March Legislative meeting a draft job description for a facility administrator for approval. The committee agreed to come up with a salary range at that time.

Heath Department & Solid Waste

IV. 2025-146 Jackson County Health Department

Director Stevenson reported the following and answered questions from the committee:

- CDC Respiratory Illness Data for Jackson County: As of January 31, <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>
 1. Respiratory illness causing individuals to seek health care is at a high level.
 2. Emergency Dept. visits are decreasing for COVID-19, moderate no change for flu, and high but decreasing for RSV.

3. Wastewater viral levels are as follows COVID-19 high, Flu very high, RSV Moderate.

- IDPH Seasonal Respiratory Dashboard: Week ending January 25

<https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/respiratory-disease/surveillance/respiratory-disease-report.html>

1. Respiratory trends: COVID-19 admissions are trending down, Flu admissions are trending up, and RSV admission trending down.
2. Respiratory Illness activity level rated as "High" in Illinois.

- Everyday prevention steps to reduce risk from respiratory viruses

1. You also can protect yourself and others with everyday prevention action such as:

- Staying home and away from others when you are sick (including people you live with),
- Enhanced cleaning
- Covering coughs and sneezes
- Improving ventilation
- Washing hands often
- Getting vaccinated visit <https://ichdonline.org/> to schedule.

- Reminder: We are planning for our 75th Anniversary Celebration. We will have a variety of Press Releases highlighting our history and current programming throughout 2025 and will host an Open House on April 10, 2025.

V. 2025-147 Solid Waste Enforcement

Ms. Gale reported the following:

Activities Completed: 1/14/25 – 2/11/25

- 1 Landfill Inspection
- 4 Citizen Complaints
- 1 new site opened (Violation Notice's)
- 17 Field Visits conducted at new or ongoing open dumping / burning files.
- 1 Site now found in general compliance
- Quarterly report was submitted to IEPA

VI. 2025-148 Solid Waste Fund Update

Ms. Gale reported the following:

Current Month Solid Waste Fund Transactions

Transfers: \$6,695.34-Shredding, Medical Waste and Trash Bills for county agencies for January 2025

Interest: \$26.35-Interest for January 2025

Deposits: \$82,272.35-Quarterly Tipping Fee

Current Month Household Hazardous Waste Fund Transactions

Transfers: \$0

Interest: \$9.52

Deposits: \$0

Host Fee Deposited

Deposits: \$64,781.38

VII. 2025-149 Recycling Program

Ms. Gale reported the following:

Activities Completed for County Recycling Program: 1/14/25 – 2/11/25

- On-going monitoring of medical sharps kiosks – 51lbs collected in the last two months.
- Attended Illinois Product Stewardship Council 12/10
- Attended Communities LEAP-Carbondale, IL 12/16 & 1/21
- Attended River to River Environmental Educators Association Mtg. 1/16
- Attended Carbondale Community Events Team Mtg.
- Planning the Shred/Med and more day for Spring 2025.

VIII. 2025-150 Approval of Invoice for Household Chemical Collection 2024

*Ms. Gale discussed the item with the committee and answered questions. A motion was made by Comparato, seconded by Mueller, to approve the invoice for household chemical collection 2024. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: **YES** (7): Snyder, Comparato, Knust, Lister, Miller, Mueller, Phillips*

Emergency Management

Ambulance Service

IX. 2025-151 Payment of Ambulance Monthly Claims

*A motion was made by Mueller, seconded by Miller, to approve payment of the Ambulance Monthly Claims in the amount of \$42,877.05. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: **YES** (7): Snyder, Comparato, Knust, Lister, Miller, Mueller, Phillips*

X. 2025-152 Director's Report

Director Schafer reported the following:

Monthly Claims: \$42,877.05

Accounts Receivable Cash: \$391,005.85

Activity Report: 1062 patient care reports

Other Information:

We trained 25 candidates in CPR last month.

We received a \$3,500.00 donation from Arevon (Big Muddy Solar) for our CPR program. The money will be portioned to assist our program in 2 ways. First, we will be able to add 5 instructors to our program to assist with more training opportunities. Second, we are working with the high schools in the county and the SIH OB department to offer CPR training at no cost to the participant. The no cost program is limited to new parents and high school aged students interested in babysitting.

Kenton also had a discussion with the committee regarding a class that new parents or caregivers of infants/toddlers could take and upon completion could receive a free child size mask, from the Arevon group, that could help with choking. The committee questioned whether this could be offered to all Jackson County schools. Schafer commented that it would not be

feasible due to the cost and budgeting. He also mentioned that he researched possible grants and there were none available at the present time.

XI. 2025-153 Approval of Emergency Purchase of an Ambulance in the amount of \$163,261.00

Director Schafer discussed the following with the committee and answered questions from the committee:

Agenda Items: *Emergency purchase of an ambulance. We currently have 3 ambulances out of service with major mechanical issues:*

1-2016 E-450 282,269 miles transmission failure. Our mechanic is working as quickly as possible to change this transmission (the cost is on our bills this month) to replace the ambulance with the failing engine.

1-2021 F-450 166,820 miles both have transmission issues. This has a Ford extended warranty to cover the replacement cost, however Ford must diagnose and approve it and Vogler must install it. Estimated 6-12 weeks out of service.

1-2017 E-450 274,005 miles thankfully this ambulance is currently still operational it was slated for an engine replacement because the engine has been showing signs of failure. 4-6 weeks for our mechanic to replace the engine.

We currently have no back-up ambulances available for back fill in the event of a deer strike or mechanical failure of any unit currently in service. If this should happen, we would have no choice but to reduce our service available to the community.

A motion was made by Comparato, seconded by Knust, to approve the emergency purchase of an Ambulance in the amount of \$162,261.00. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

YES (7): *Snyder, Comparato, Knust, Lister, Miller, Mueller, Phillips*

State's Attorney

XII. 2025-154 State's Attorney Monthly Update

ASA Bailey reviewed her written report with the committee and answered questions.

Legislative

Citizen Comments

Old Business

New Business

Executive Session

XIII. 2025-155 Executive Session under 2 (c) 5 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to discuss
Real Property

The committee did not go into executive session.

Adjourn

(6:00pm)

A motion was made by Comparato, seconded by Mueller, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.