

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

Call to Order

(5:00pm)

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

Absent: Comparato

Also Present: Andrew Erbes, Nel Battrell, Joni Bailey, Whitney Endres, Mark Kuhns, Barb Stevenson, Ben Killman

Approval of Minutes

I. 2025-341 Approval of February 11, 2025, Minutes

A motion was made by Phillips, seconded by Miller, to approve the February 11, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Animal Control

II. 2025-342 Animal Control Monthly Update

Animal Control Officer Killman reviewed his reports that are included in the meeting packet and answered questions from the committee. Knust suggested that a disposition column of how a call was completed should be included in the report.

III. 2025-343 Animal Control Facility Update

Chapman updated the committee on the recent purchase of the HSSI facility and included information on utilities, draft job descriptions, draft facility operating procedures, insurance, a project manager proposal, a ServePro estimate, and an intergovernmental agreement with the city of Carbondale and Murphysboro. He did ask the committee to review the draft documents he provided and make any suggestions or comments to him. He answered various questions from the committee as they continued the discussion.

Heath Department & Solid Waste

IV. 2025-344 Jackson County Health Department

Director Stevenson reported the following:

- *Measles cases and outbreak: As of February 27, 2025 NO CASES in Jackson County*
<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/data-research/>
 1. *164 cases in 9 jurisdiction: Alaska, California, Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York City, Rhode Island, and Texas.*
 2. *All cases linked to 3 outbreaks, 20% of cases hospitalized and 1 death*
 3. ****Please see Press Release from JCHD regarding Measles****
- *CDC Respiratory Illness Data for Jackson County: As of February 28*

<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/data/index.html>

1. Respiratory illness causing individuals to seek health care is at a moderate level.
 2. Emergency Dept. visits are decreasing/low for COVID-19, high/decreasing for flu, and low/decreasing for RSV.
 3. Wastewater viral levels are as follows COVID-19 Moderate, Flu moderate, RSV very low.
- IDPH Seasonal Respiratory Dashboard: Week ending February 22
<https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/respiratory-disease/surveillance/respiratory-disease-report.html>
 1. Respiratory trends for admissions are all trending Down.
 2. Respiratory Illness activity level lower as “Moderate” in Illinois.
 - 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 3:00p.m. to 6:00p.m.

V. 2025-345 Solid Waste Enforcement

Director Stevenson reported the following:

Activities Completed: 2/11/25 – 3/5/25

- 1 Landfill Inspection
- 1 Citizen Complaints
- 1 new site opened
- 6 Field Visits conducted at new or ongoing open dumping / burning files.
- 2 Sites now found in general compliance
- Staff attended IDPH body art training

VI. 2025-346 Solid Waste Fund Update

Director Stevenson commented that the report was included in the meeting packet and that she could answer any questions the committee may have.

VII. 2025-347 Recycling Program

Director Stevenson reported the following:

Activities Completed for County Recycling Program: 2/11/25 – 3/5/25

- Supporting the SIU Compost Facility Tour during Illinois Soil Health Week - March 6, 2-3 pm – IFSCC will present “We Compost” Award to SIU More info. and to register <https://ilstewards.org/soil-health-week/>
- Shred/Med/Sharps & More Disposal Day – 4/26 -see attached flyer
- Waste Vegetable Oil Collection Site – see attached flyer
- Illinois Recycling Association Legislative Updates Mtg. 2/24
- On-going monitoring of medical sharps kiosks – 58 lbs collected in the last month.
- Attended Illinois Product Stewardship Council Mtg. 2/11
- Collaborated w County Board staff, Erin Ashley to submit a funding application for The Great Lakes Environmental Justice Thriving Communities EPA Grant to pilot a “Nourish and Flourish Jackson County” project

Emergency Management

Ambulance Service

VIII. 2025-348 Payment of Ambulance Monthly Claims

Khuns answered various questions from the committee.

*A motion was made by Knust, seconded by Miller, to approve payment of Ambulance Monthly claims in the amount of \$249,666.46. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: **YES** (6): Snyder, Knust, Lister, Miller, Mueller, Phillips **ABSENT** (1): Comparato*

IX. 2025-349 Director's Report

Kuhns reported the following and answered various questions from the committee:

Monthly Claims: \$249,666.46

Accounts Receivable Cash: \$402,686.37

Activity Report: 962 patient contact reports

Other Information:

The monthly claims include reimbursement to GEMT for Q1 & Q2 of 2024. We have not received any further invoices from them for Q3 & Q4 of 2024.

We instructed and licensed 144 members of the community in BLS last month. These members ranged from community members, Giant City School teachers, Carbondale Police Department, Murphysboro-Pomona-Somerset Fire Dept and employees from a local veterinary office. We began planning with EMA for the next disaster drill. We provided EMS standby services for IDNR during their physical fit testing for their seasonal staff. We took part and had an integral role with other public service agencies from the county and representatives from the Illinois Police Training and Standards Board Mobile Training Unit 15 (regional office). This group is focused on planning and training for emergency mass casualty events involving schools. Once the curriculum is developed and finalized, it will be presented across our region, and potentially to public service departments across the State. This meeting and training development project has support from Senator Dale Fowler and Representative Paul Jacobs. The new ambulance has arrived. We should have all requirements met for licensing and placed in service before the end of March. The transmission replacement is estimated to be complete by mid-April. The engine replacement will begin on the date the new ambulance is placed in service.

State's Attorney

X. 2025-350 State's Attorney Monthly Update

ASA Bailey gave an oral update on what the State's Attorney's Office had been working on.

Legislative

XI. 2025-351 Liquor Board Gaming Price Increase for FY26 to \$125

Snyder began a discussion of why the liquor board was proposing a gaming price increase. Knust questioned where the funds go once they are paid to the county. A motion was made by Lister, seconded by Mueller to approve the Liquor Board Gaming Price Increase for FY26 to \$125 with an annual review every March. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

XII. 2025-352 Approval of 2025 Polling Places

A motion was made by Miller, seconded by Lister, to approve the 2025 Polling Places. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Citizen Comments

Old Business

New Business

Snyder asked the committee to take some time and review the current by-laws (copies were provided at the start of the meeting) and identify three items they felt would be the most important to work on updating/adding. She asked that, within the next 2 weeks, those items/suggestions be emailed to the County board staff and herself so that they could be compiled for the next meeting. Bailey commented that she would like the board to look at a procedure for the election of a chair to replace one stepping down and to consider a rule regarding recurring votes for chair. She also commented that the Board take a look at committee roles. Battrell suggested adding a procedure for Board members getting items on an agenda.

Executive Session

(5:48pm)

*A motion was made by Lister, seconded by Knust, to go into Executive Session under 2 (c) 11 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to discuss Litigation. The motion carried by the following roll call vote: **YES** (6): Snyder, Knust, Lister, Miller, Mueller, Phillips **ABSENT** (1): Comparato*

Adjourn

(7:10pm)

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

[MIN_SIGNATURES]