

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD  
KNOX COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**August 26, 2015**

STATE OF ILLINOIS        )  
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COUNTY OF KNOX        )

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois on Wednesday, August 26, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

The Meeting was called to order by County Board Chairman Brian Friedrich and upon roll call the following Members reported present:

District 1	Lyle Johnson
District 2	Greg “Chops” Bacon
District 3	Barbara Foster
District 4	George Knapp
District 5	Brian Friedrich
District 1	Cheryl Nache
District 2	John Hunigan
District 3	Pamela Davidson
District 4	David Erickson
District 5	Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval
District 1	Richard Conklin
District 2	Robert “Bob” Bondi
District 3	Trisha Hurst
District 4	Shawn Pitman
District 5	Jeff Jefferson

Also present were Sheriff Dave Clague, County Treasurer Robin Davis and County Clerk Scott Erickson.

Sheriff Dave Clague delivered the proclamation. Chairman Friedrich led the Members in the pledge to the flag. Rev. Dan Siems of the First Baptist Church of Galesburg delivered the invocation.

Chairman Friedrich asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none.

Chairman Friedrich asked for public comments. There were none.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on July 22, 2015, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of August 26, 2015 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the

month of May 2015 in the amounts of \$110,735.29 and \$21,877.99 and public safety tax in the amount of \$93,678.58. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Proclamation of Remembrance of former County Board Member Dr. William Abel who passed away earlier this month. County Clerk Scott Erickson read aloud this proclamation, a copy of which is included in the packets. A moment of silence was observed in his honor. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Proclamation for Labor Day 2015. Chairman Friedrich read aloud this proclamation, a copy of which is included in the packets. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the purchase of out of state service credit towards retirement for Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds in the amount of \$76,000.

Member Hunigan asked for clarification as to why this action would benefit the County. County Treasurer Robin Davis responded that it would not benefit the County.

Member Pitman explained that this amount would be spread out over some years after Mr. Reynolds retires. Member Pitman gave much thought to this matter. Mr. Reynolds had given Board Members a letter which describes his accomplishments while he has served as Administrator of the Knox County Landfill. He has made some sound business decisions. Knox County has other administrators and elected officials who have worked diligently to secure grants and purchase equipment, as well as just working hard to save the County money. Mr. Reynolds has gone above the call of duty in the department that he oversees. However, if the Board approves this for Mr. Reynolds, than what about everyone else? The County should not establish a precedent in approving these requests for other things. This request would basically buy over nine years of service. There is not a firm retirement date included with this. Therefore, this proposed amount could fluctuate.

Chairman Friedrich added that Mr. Reynolds has stated that he did not plan to retire until at least three more years although it could be five years.

Member Bacon stated that he echoed Member Pitman's concerns. Member Bacon agrees that Mr. Reynolds has done a great job and he has made the County some good money. Yet this is what the County hired him to do. If he were not doing these things, then the County would have hired someone else to do this job. Member Bacon cannot support this request, because it will cost the County money. Recently, the finance committee discussed the budget deficit of over \$600,000. The situation with the State is not looking good and the County's financial situation is not likely to improve. Member Bacon stated that he cannot support this request.

Member Nache stated her agreement that she cannot support this request. The fact of the matter is that this is Mr. Reynolds' job to make the landfill prosper. If the County approves this request, then who is next? She will not be voting in favor of this request.

Member Hurst stated that she recently took a tour of the landfill. Mr. Reynolds has done a fabulous job. Perhaps this is a matter that could be negotiated in his contract.

Member Bacon stated that this would still mean that Mr. Reynolds would negotiate \$76,000 of pay out of his contract over the next four or five years.

Member Hunigan agreed that Mr. Reynolds has done a good job. Due to financial concerns he cannot in good conscience support this request.

Member Davidson stated her opposition to this request. Previously she voted against awarding raises of less than \$10,000 to elected officials. She cannot go back to her constituents and say that the Board did this. She agrees with Member Bacon; the County Board has no way of knowing what the State will be doing financially. Currently the County is barely staying above water. If this passes, than what jobs will have to be cut later to make up this money?

Member Jefferson cautioned everyone about voting in favor of this considering the County's economic situation. Many others have contributed to well-being of this County. Rod Clair, Administrator of the Mary Davis Home has made numerous sacrifices for many years to keep the doors open. The same could be said about the Nursing Home. Members must exercise caution when these decisions are made.

Member Bondi asked what the recommendation was from the finance committee.

Chairman Friedrich responded that the finance committee did not recommend this and it did not come out of the finance committee. That is why it is on the agenda under "Items for the Chairman." The Landfill committee did not vote on this either.

Member Davidson added that Mr. Reynolds has been asking for this for over a year.

Member Bacon stated that when this was discussed in the finance committee the IMRF representative was consulted, who did his best to explain how much this would cost the County over the years. This was never put on the agenda for approval as this was something the representative did not think that the County needed to do.

Member Bondi asked how this progressed through the Landfill committee.

Member Pitman responded that a couple of months ago, Mr. Reynolds presented his letter and wanted his request to progress to the finance committee. Originally there was some discussion whether this should go through the landfill committee or through the finance committee. Mr. Reynolds asked that the Board discuss this. It was decided to put this on the agenda under "Items for the Chairman."

Member Bacon called for the question. Roll call vote to approve the purchase of out of state service credit towards retirement for Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds in the amount of \$76,000 is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Knapp, Sandoval, and Hurst—(4). Noes—Bacon, Foster, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(11). Motion failed.

The Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, and Clerk Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Greg Bacon. The monthly reports and committee minutes are included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the annual membership renewal fee in the amount of \$5,485.20 for the Western Illinois Regional Council. Member Bacon reminded Members that this is the organization that in the past has helped to secure grants for the Courthouse. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Conklin to approve the litigation settlement amount of \$125,000.00 to James Ray. Chairman Friedrich stated that it is State's Attorney's John Pepmeyer's opinion that the Board vote to approve this settlement and move on. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Pass—Bondi—(1). Motion carried.

The Building Committee report was presented by Building Committee Co-Chairman George Knapp. The committee minutes and the monthly reports are included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the payment for services for the second floor courtroom renovation to Klingner & Associates in the amount of \$7,835.00. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the contract with Klingner and Associates for the fire escape project at the Courthouse in the amount of \$10,000.00. Member Bacon explained that this project would start with sand blasting the existing fire escape to remove the lead paint and then repaint it. The structural engineer will then inspect it. Modifications will be made as needed to keep it safe.

Sheriff Clague reported that the fire escape was inspected about two years ago. The Sheriff met with the inspector about six months ago who suggested that the County needs to do everything possible to make this safe and useable. After the first of the year, there will be additional regulations.

Chairman Bacon added that if the existing fire escape is not repaired and maintained the County would have to build an enclosed fire escape which would cost \$400,000-\$500,000. It would be more cost effective to maintain the existing fire escape. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Nache to approve the installation of hand rails in the jury box ramp for the second floor courtroom in the amount of \$3,500.00. Member Hunigan expressed his concern about the cost as did Member Nache.

Member Bacon explained that Hein Construction is doing this as an add-on to the court room renovation. This is a change order. It is cheaper this way than putting it out for bid. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(14). Noes—Bondi—(1). Motion carried.

Administrator of the Mary Davis Home, Rod Clear reported that the current census of the Mary Davis Home was 26 and 2 of those from Knox County. County Sheriff Dave Clague reported that currently there are 89 inmates at the County Jail and 6 of those are federal inmates. The K-9 program is going well. They got rid of another vehicle and there is still a couple more on the lot.

The Nursing Home, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Jeff Jefferson. These monthly reports are included in the packets. Recently the State completed their annual survey of the Nursing Home. All went very well. There were only a couple tags and they have already been addressed and taken care of. He thanked Nursing Home Administrator Rachel Secrist and her staff for keeping the facility in compliance. The current census is 136 residents.

The Highway and Landfill Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Shawn Pitman. The monthly report is in the packet. The landfill took in 9,171.78 tons. Total revenue was \$299,638.42. After all expenses are deducted, net income is recorded as \$121,932.12. After deductions of 10% to the contingency fund, and the \$2.00 per ton to the general fund, the total is 48,307.42. The net profit is \$73,625.71

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the replacement of flooring in the Landfill Administrative Office in the amount not to exceed \$6,566.80. Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds stated that this is for the whole building. This bid will include the replacement of underlayment as necessary. Three months ago when this was put out for bid, the County received no bids whatsoever. Breslin's Floor Covering did consent to coming to inspect the building and did present this bid. This is the only proposal that they received.

Member Davidson commented that that currently the floor looks absolutely horrible. It looks as if it was not installed properly the first time. This cost is a worst case scenario and they are hoping the new underlayment will not be required on the entire floor.

Mr. Reynolds stated that this is a safety issue as well as protecting the floor and the subfloor. There is a full basement under this building. In theory someone could fall through this floor and into the basement.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—Bacon and Nache—(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Erickson to approve the purchase of a Caterpillar 826KW Landfill Compactor. Chairman Friedrich stated that this sale is to be contingent upon financing options. Actual price of the compactor minus the trade in is \$612,650.00. The cost of the GPS system is \$84,545.00.

Member Pitman stated that that the County had received financing options from several different financial institutions. To demonstrate that the County is seriously interested in borrowing this money, the County needs to approve this purchase.

Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds stated that in 2010 the landfill purchased an "H model" of this machine which replaced a "G model." The landfill kept the "G model" to use as a backup machine and usually used it on Saturdays. The "H" model was the primary machine. With this purchase the "G model" would be the trade-in. The "H model" will then become the backup machine and the Saturday machine. The new model, the "K machine" would become the primary machine.

Member Foster questioned that these machines deteriorate so fast.

Mr. Reynolds responded that can happen.

Member Pitman agreed. He had compiled some numbers that confirm the amount of money spent on repairs for these machines. For year to date for the “G model” they have spent approximately \$36,000 on repairs and for the “H model” they have spent close to \$40,000. That is a combined total of approximately \$75,000 for the repairs of these two machines. Board Members need to realize that this is the one piece of machinery that makes money for the landfill. This machine helps to optimize compaction in the landfill. The “H machine” with the GPS on it paid for itself inside of a year. This is a \$600,000 investment that will pay for itself.

Mr. Reynolds stated that when the landfill took possession of the “H machine” with the GPS system on it, within eight months of use, they extended the life of the landfill by four years. Based on the formula that represents \$2,500,000 of revenue per year, that represents \$10,000,000 in revenue without the addition of any other equipment. The purpose is to gain the most compaction possible in the smallest amount of area. Sometimes when arranging credit terms with Caterpillar, they provide the maintenance agreement at no cost or a reduced cost. It is important to do some cost comparisons when looking at interest rates on this machine. The average life span of a trash compactor is five or six years or about 9,000 hours.

Member Hunigan asked if there are grants available to help defray the cost of purchasing such machines.

Mr. Reynolds responded that there are not such grants available for these purchases.

Member Pitman stated that this machine with the purchase price, the GPS, the add-ons, the maintenance agreement and the interest on the loan will cost just under \$1,000,000.

County Clerk Scott Erickson stated that this motion is almost a bid and bring back to secure financing proposals.

Chairman Friedrich added that this motion says that the County is purchasing this machine but still shopping for a loan.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(12). Noes—Nache—(1). Pass—Friedrich and Conklin—(2). Motion carried.

Member Davidson presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. She reported that the Health Department is doing well. They need to hire a receptionist for the front desk. Due to the hiring freeze, this will have to be approved by the personnel committee. Cubicles have been installed in the medical area to allow the clients to have more privacy. The Health Department is working through the financial challenges associated with the fact that the State of Illinois still does not have a budget. The Health Department is continuing to provide routine services. All in all the Health Department is doing very well.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors’ Bureau. He stated that there were good activity reports between River to River and Heritage Days. Hotel stays were increased. The Main Street entrance is being renovated to include a new entrance to the Holiday Express as well as the entrance to the Welcome Center on Main Street. The Channel 7 project should be going live sometime in September.

Chairman Friedrich added that during that meeting there were concerns expressed about continued Amtrak funding. He encouraged citizens to contact their legislators to continue Amtrak funding.

Member Knapp stated that there was no 9-1-1 meeting in August.

Chairman Friedrich presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. He stated that a new employee, Kyle Kelly, was hired to assist Director Ken Springer. Mr. Springer stated that there was good news from the State of Illinois regarding the Enterprise Zone which has been approved through July 2016. The Love's Project is proceeding as planned. The Knox County Area Partnership's new website has been completed and can be viewed at [www.knoxpartnership.com](http://www.knoxpartnership.com). There has been some progress in the small business sector. Mid-size and smaller projects have slowed down.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from Prairie Hills Resources Board. At the last meeting, a couple small business loans were approved. They have received approval from the State for the plan for the Banner Marsh Project. This involves digging out approximately 50 acres of the marsh and replanting a lot of hard wood in the upland area. September 27th is the fundraiser Prairie Table for the Prairie Land Conservancy which is a branch of Prairie Hills. This event will be held at the Lake Hills Winery in Carthage. This organization is also working on placing four different areas into conservancy, which is really quite a time consuming project.

Member Davidson stated that she did not attend the recent meeting for the United Council of Counties. She commented that this is not working for her and asked that the Chairman appoint someone else. Usually this meeting is held the third Monday of the month in Springfield. Member Johnson responded that he would try.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the opening of the budget for line item changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve specific line item changes to the budget. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Pitman to approve claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of July 23, 2105 through August 26, 2015 (ordering that invoices be accepted and approved and that the County Clerk and County Treasurer be authorized and directed to issue County Warrants in payment of the bills.) Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson commented about the upcoming fund raising dinner for Prairie Land Conservancy. He does have handouts and would hope that someone else from the Board would join him for this fund raiser dinner.

Member Bacon thanked that Board for the Proclamation for Dr. William Abel. Member Bacon asked that a copy of this Proclamation be mailed to the family.

Member Foster wished everyone a Happy Labor Day.

Member Knapp had no comments at this time.

Chairman Friedrich asked that Members who are assigned to some of these smaller committees and unable to attend the committee meeting to phone him so that he can make alternate arrangements to have a quorum present. He is proud of how people are working together on this Board.

Member Nache also wished everyone a Safe Labor Day and added that Dr. Abel will be missed.

Member Hunigan thanked Supervisor of Assessments, Chris Gray for allowing him to learn what this office actually does. He encouraged Board Members and the general public to contact State legislators to try to get this budget issue resolved.

Member Davidson, Member Erickson, Member Sandoval and Member Conklin had no comments at this time.

Member Bondi asked Members and the general public to contact their State Representatives and communicate the need to continue funding Amtrak, which is a real lifeblood of the area. We need to get the word out.

Member Hurst commented about the County's website. It is not as interactive as it could be. She is not sure how to make that happen.

County Clerk Scott Erickson responded that they are working on it and the newer version should be ready next month.

Member Pitman and Member Jefferson had no comments at this time.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 2015. 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Davidson and seconded by Member Sandoval to adjourn from this Meeting until the next regularly scheduled Meeting. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.