

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

**February 24, 2016**

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, February 24, 2016, at 6:05 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 3 | Pamela Davidson         |
| District 4 | David Erickson          |
| District 5 | Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval |
| District 1 | Richard Conklin         |
| District 2 | Robert “Bob” Bondi      |
| District 4 | Shawn Pitman            |
| District 5 | Jeff Jefferson          |

|                   |            |              |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|
| And those absent: | District 1 | Cheryl Nache |
|                   | District 2 | John Hunigan |
|                   | District 3 | Trisha Hurst |

Also present were County Treasurer Robin Davis, State’s Attorney John Pepmeyer, County Sheriff David Clague, and County Clerk Scott Erickson.

Sheriff Dave Clague delivered the proclamation. Gilson Boy Scout Troop # 233 presented the colors. The Boy Scouts led the Members in the pledge to the flag. Since no clergyman was present to deliver the invocation, Chairman Friedrich asked for a moment of silence.

Chairman Friedrich asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. Member Pitman asked that agenda item #6, approve appointment of Kenneth Swanson to the Galesburg Sanitary District be removed from this agenda.

Chairman Friedrich asked for public comments. There were none.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on January 27, 2016, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of February 24, 2016 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of November 2015 in the amounts of \$102,633.94 and \$16,177.76 and public safety tax in the amount of \$175,076.94.

6:07 p.m. Member Hunigan entered the room.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

A presentation was given by Gilson Boy Scout Troop #233. Nathan Erickson recited the Boy Scout pledge. He stated that this troop was started by Jeff Jefferson and has been active for over 30 years with the distinction of 48 troop members having earned the rank of Eagle Scout. This is the largest troop in the district, which covers over 4 counties. Through many activities and programs the scouting programs are designed to prepare scouts for their lives as adults. Chairman Friedrich presented a certificate of appreciation to this troop.

Director of Wellness and Health Education of the Knox County Health Department, Erin Olson presented the 2015 Annual Report on the State of the Knox County Health Department. Copies of this report were distributed to the Board Members. According to Illinois County Codes this report must be presented to the Board and the community within ninety days of the conclusion of the fiscal year. This report highlights the main points of the previous year. In 2014 the Knox County Health Department was awarded a grant from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, which allowed the Health Department to become a host site for the Public Health Associate Program. This is a very competitive two year public health training program funded by the CDC. Duane Young began this program in October 2014 and will be completing his term this year. He has worked in the Health Department in a variety of roles and this grant has made it possible. The report also contains information about the WIC program and the eligibility requirements. There is also information regarding the role of the Health Department when it comes to food inspections, potable water safety, wastewater disposal programs, immunizations, communicable diseases, flu clinics, quality improvement, the Health Center, as well as other information.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Davidson to accept the Annual Report on the State of the Knox County Health Department. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the re-appointment of Roger L. Fitchpatrick to the Williamsfield Fire Protection District. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

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

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the annual animal kill claims for 2015 in the amount of \$0.00. This is an annual requirement to approve these claims. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve the deeds of conveyance for the following parcels: PIN 99-10-326-019, PIN 99-10-376-035, PIN 99-11-380-029, PIN 99-14-153-029, and PIN 99-14-176-012. Specific information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve the resolution calling for an equitable solution to issues related to increased juror compensation. Member Bacon stated that this refers to another unfunded mandate from the State. They have increased juror pay from \$15 per day to \$25 for the first day and then \$50 thereafter. The County is already through one half of the amount budgeted in this line item for this fiscal year. The County doesn't like it. This resolution is a formality. The County is in compliance but it is costing the County a lot more money. There is no income from this. This is just a way to tell the State that the County doesn't like this mandated increase in jury pay.

Member Johnson added that he had brought this resolution back from the United Council of Counties convention. Other counties have already approved this and forwarded it to Springfield.

Member Bondi asked what the County is going to do when there is no more funding available.

Member Bacon stated that they didn't have an answer yet but hopefully there will not be many more jury trials. But this is something that the County cannot control.

Chairman Friedrich added that the judges are doing the best they can do to not call jurors unless they have to do so. The judges are trying to help avoid this cost unless jurors are absolutely needed.

State's Attorney John Pepmeyer confirmed that the judges are doing their best.

Member Hunigan inquired about what will happen when the County's funds are exhausted.

Member Bacon stated that the budget line has \$20,000 to pay jurors and as the budget was prepared they did increase it. But two capital trials would take all of that. After that there is the contingency fund. The State approves these unfunded mandates all the time without realizing the budgetary consequences to local counties.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Conklin to approve bids submitted for furnishing various Motor Fuels Tax aggregates to various townships for the 2016 Maintenance Season Section 16-XX000-00-GM for the Highway Department. Specific

information is included in the packets. Chairman Friedrich explained that this is something that is done every year. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the resolution on 2016 Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance. Specific information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairman Bacon added that there are two funds that are running behind: the General Fund and the Nursing Home Fund. The General Fund began the fiscal year with a three payday month and it takes a while to even out. The Nursing Home Fund has had some problems with late payments. There have been additional budget meetings to monitor the budget and these meetings will continue. They have calculated that if the County received tax revenue evenly distributed throughout the year, instead of twice a year, the County could have a monthly balanced budget. The County did receive the salary reimbursements from the State for last year for the Supervisor of Assessments, State's Attorney and Public Defender. These funds were repaid to the Public Safety Fund to repay the amount that was borrowed.

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

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the resolution allocating funds of a \$1.00 per ton from the landfill dump fees to the building fund. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Additional materials were provided to the members.

Member Bacon stated that the Courthouse renovation projects need to be continuing to address some much needed repairs and updates. Additional funds are required to fund these projects. One packet provides information concerning the life safety study done at the Courthouse about five years ago by Metzger Johnson Architects. This was very detailed study of the Courthouse and even included the sidewalks around the building. They looked at all aspects of the Courthouse and advised where the County really needs to prioritize spending. The committee is still trying to get someone in to repair the fire escape which is the next project. The cost could range from \$120,000-\$500,000 depending on whether it can be repaired or must be replaced. If a new fire escape is needed, it must be enclosed. The next projects would be the electrical, the plumbing and masonry. All of the flashing and the gutters were previously dealt with. The sidewalks around the Courthouse were redone. The main electrical supply coming into the building was replaced. Likewise the electrical panel in the basement was updated when the HVAC was replaced.

The electrical system in the Courthouse is atrocious. The system dates back to the 1920's and 1930's. A rough estimate to replace the electrical system is approximately \$675,000. The plumbing estimate is approximately \$130,000, although Member Bacon suggested the actual cost could be much higher. The estimate to replace the steps and masonry is approximately \$75,000. The fire escape estimate is \$120,000-\$500,000. These projects could cost at least \$1,000,000,

and that amount is just for these select projects. The architects suggest that these projects need to be completed in the next five years.

As asbestos concerns arise, they have been dealt with. There is also some masonry work that needs to be done in the basement. Structurally the Courthouse is in excellent shape. The parking lot also needs to be redone and possibly expanded.

Member Bacon presented a brief synopsis of the Courthouse work done during the last seven years and the costs involved. One of the largest ongoing expenses has been for professional services and consulting fees. These services are required on a public project. The current balance in the building fund is \$86,000.

County Treasurer Robin Davis added that another \$80,000-\$90,000 will be added to that amount as an interest payment is reimbursed.

Member Bacon reported that in the last six or seven years the County has spent \$4,500,000 on the Courthouse. Some of this cost was paid with grants. Some of the cost was paid for through increased tipping fees at the landfill to pay for the HVAC system. (Some of this was an engineering nightmare.) Additionally, there were costs associated with asbestos removal. The elevator was rebuilt with funds from the building fund. They have tried not to take funds from the public safety fund to allow the Sheriff to maintain his department. The Knox County Jail is over 20 years old and will need some attention. These are the reasons why the building committee is asking for a \$1.00 per ton from the landfill. These building funds need to be replenished. The work on the Courthouse needs to continue and should not stop. When the building committee began this work, the Courthouse had not been maintained for years. The situation will not get any better and once these projects are completed, it will be time to start over again. The building will have to be maintained. He stressed that this process cannot be stopped.

Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds questioned if the tipping fee would remain the same or if another dollar is to be added.

Member Bacon stated that he was unsure how the current tipping fees compare to others in the area.

Mr. Reynolds responded that their current level is less than others. The lower fee is one reason why the landfill takes in as much as it does. There are clients that do business at the landfill who need advance notice of an increase in fees.

Member Bacon stated that the intent of this resolution was not to increase the tipping fees.

Mr. Reynolds commented that it was not plain in the text of the resolution.

Member Davidson added that the intent was that an extra \$1.00 per ton was to be moved from the landfill funds. It was not about increasing the tipping fees.

Member Bacon agreed this was not set up to increase the landfill fees.

Mr. Reynolds added that as landfill administrator he does not set the fees; the Board sets the fees. His question is whether the Board intends to increase the fees.

Member Bacon reiterated that committee did not intend to increase the fees. If this is a problem, this could wait until next year.

Chairman Friedrich stated that the wording in this resolution will increase the fees.

County Clerk Scott Erickson apologized for misunderstanding the intent of this resolution. He stated that the resolution could be modified.

Member Davidson asked the resolution to be modified and that the motion reflects this change.

Member Bacon commented that his I-Pad would not open and he had not read this resolution.

Other committee members verified that the intent of the resolution was not to increase the tipping fees.

Member Bacon and Member Davidson agreed to modify the original motion to reflect a change to the resolution to not include an increase in the tipping fees. An additional \$1.00 per ton would be taken from the landfill for the building fund.

Member Bacon added that it is anticipated that this will generate approximately \$90,000 per year.

Member Davidson stated that this should be done this year as these funds are needed now.

Member Bondi inquired how this would affect the landfill budget.

Mr. Reynolds responded that this will not impact the budget. They are in the black. Currently \$2.00 per ton out of the tipping fees is going to the general fund. It will impact the bottom line.

The modified resolution was restated that \$1.00 per ton would be transferred from the landfill to the building fund with no increase in the tipping fees. Roll call vote on the modified motion is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Sheriff, Jail, Courthouse, Animal Control, Mary Davis Home, and Annex Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Ricardo Sandoval. The monthly reports and committee minutes are included in the packets. Currently the Knox County Jail has 126 inmates and of that number 17 are federal prisoners.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Foster to approve the purchase of a Smart 9-1-1 System in the amount of \$20,000.00 for the initial installation and equipment and then \$15,000.00 each year. This would come out of the public safety tax. This is over and above the amount budgeted for the enhanced 9-1-1 system. Handouts had been provided to the Members. Sheriff Clague explained some the features of this program. Residents would be able to sign up for free and enter information into a national database that they want to share with 9-1-1 in case of an emergency. This app could be downloaded to an iPhone or Android phone. Various types of information could be submitted through this program. Medical information, floorplans, and photos of the entrance to the property, are some examples of the data that could be shared via this program. This pertinent information could be valuable for emergency responders. In the 9-1-1 dispatch center, every second counts. This information would be stored on an iCloud and would be secured. Sinclair County has already implemented this program. This can be an unbelievable time savings.

Public input as far as residents submitting their information would be critical to the success of this system. There are many features of this system that enhance the productivity of 9-1-1. This would include the County and the City of Galesburg. Chairman Friedrich stated that if the Board approves this, the public will have to be educated about the advantages of this program.

Member Davidson suggested that perhaps the Board could partner with the Health Department to encourage residents to participate in this program.

Roll call vote to approve the purchase of a Smart 9-1-1 System is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Foster to approve the replacement of bad sensors in thermostats at the Courthouse not to exceed the amount of \$10,000.00. Member Bacon stated that they are working on a plan that would not have the County pay for this.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Bondi to table this motion. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion to table this motion carried.

The Nursing Home, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Member Jefferson. The monthly reports and committee minutes are included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the resolution for a fund transfer from the Knox County Nursing Home Tax Levy Account to the Knox County Nursing Home General Account. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Member Jefferson explained that this was also done last year. Those funds were repaid. This measure is to help keep the Nursing afloat.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Jefferson reported that currently there are 138 residents at the Nursing Home. He also spoke of two upcoming fund raisers and invited Members to participate. The proceeds will be going to the Nursing Home Van Fund.

The Highway and Landfill Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Shawn Pitman. The monthly reports and committee minutes are included in the packets. He reported that tonnage at the landfill was down for the month and that is typical for this time of year. They finished the year the year in the black. The landfill is profitable and making money.

Chairman Friedrich presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. He attended this meeting and basically the same information was presented as was presented earlier in this Meeting.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. This meeting was held at the Holiday Express and it was a pleasure to go thru this facility. The signage for the Visitor's Center is finally up.

He had passed out information to the Members regarding Discovery Depot. They are in a fund raising mode and plan to include a water feature in this facility. Currently there is a fund raising effort to raise \$1,500,000. Executive Director Denise Bradburn would like to make a short presentation to the Board and encourage Knox County to consider making a donation.

Discovery Depot is the number one tourist attraction in Knox County with 42,000 annual visitors. This does generate additional tax revenue for the County. This is a first class operation and doing well competing with Peoria and the Quad Cities. The children learn much from these exhibits.

Member Knapp presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 committee. They started out this meeting by questioning the financial statement. They also discussed signs and mailboxes suitable for 9-1-1 and they are looking for some different prices for these 9-1-1 numbers.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. He announced that the annual meeting would be held March 3 and invited County Board Members to attend. This is really a good meeting to attend.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resource Board. He reported that there had not been a meeting that month. They are having a fund raiser that is a wine tour April 30. These interested have to sign up.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. The first day was a reception for the legislators. Unfortunately, not many legislators were in attendance. However, they did have a good session with those that did attend. They reported that they did not expect to see any progress on the State budget until after the Primary Election. They did talk of some small bills that being introduced and passed. Any Board Member can attend these meetings and talk to the legislators. It is good to talk to them and remind them of the funds that the counties are no receiving and share the counties' concerns. He did attend a workshop on parliamentary procedure. They also discussed statutory requirements, how to transfer funds and how to reimburse funds. Some counties do a two year loan between funds.

Member Bondi presented the report from the Ad Hoc Committee for Technology Services. They are trying to refine the role of IT coordinator. The help desk and work ticket scheduling program is being utilized to track work requests of the department.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the opening of the budget for line item changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

A presentation was given by Member Bacon for the proposed budget line item changes. He stated that these budget line changes are from the finance committee. When the budget was drafted, apparently a line item was inadvertently removed from the landfill budget. This line was for maintenance at the landfill. The committee was recently informed of this omission. Some money from the landfill contingency fund will have to go toward building maintenance.

There are some changes for the general fund. There are working on a plan to get rid of the waste removal at the Courthouse and the Sheriff's Department and put it on landfill. They are still working on that. Therefore, those budget lines need to be reinstated. There are also changes for the public safety fund. This would repay the money that was borrowed from that fund when the State was not reimbursing the salaries for the State's Attorney, Public Defender, and



Supervisor of Assessments. In order to balance the money for last fiscal year, they borrowed from the public safety fund. This budget line change would put that money back as was originally promised.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the budget line item changes as presented. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of January 28, 2016 through February 24, 2016 (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, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson had no comments at this time.

Member Bacon thanked the Board Members for their support of the building committee. We have to keep moving to take care of this old building.

Member Foster, Member Knapp, Chairman Friedrich, Member Hunigan, Member Davidson, Member Erickson, Member Sandoval, and Member Conklin had no comments at this time.

Member Bondi asked that Board Members continue to keep Judge Morrison and the family in their thoughts and prayers.

Member Pitman had no comments at this time.

Member Jefferson thanked the Boy Scouts for attending this meeting and for their presentation of the colors earlier in the Meeting. He also invited all Board Members to attend the Nursing Home committee meeting next month, March 15. They will tour the Nursing Home prior to the meeting.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 23, 2016, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Jefferson to adjourn from this Open Meeting. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.