

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

October 25, 2017

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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, October 25, 2017, at 6:35 p.m.

The Meeting was called to order by County Board Chairwoman Pamela Davidson and upon roll call the following Members reported present:

District 1	Lyle Johnson
District 2	John Hunigan
District 3	Tara Wilder
District 4	Jared Hawkinson
District 1	Cheryl Nache
District 2	David Amor
District 3	Pamela Davidson
District 4	David Erickson
District 5	Brian Friedrich
District 1	Richard Conklin
District 2	Robert Bondi
District 3	Trisha Hurst
District 4	Sara Varner

And those absent: District 5 Ricardo "Rick" Sandoval
 District 5 Todd Shreves

Also present were County Treasurer Robin Davis, State's Attorney John Pepmeyer and County Clerk Scott Erickson.

County Clerk Scott Erickson delivered the proclamation. Chairwoman Pamela Davidson led the Members in the pledge to the flag. In lieu of a formal invocation a moment of silence was observed.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none.

Chairman Davidson asked for public comments. She asked that those addressing the Board be orderly and refrain from the use of personal names. There are to be no verbal attacks directed at anyone.

Randy Lynch, staff representative from AFSCME # 31, addressed the Board in behalf of Local #1037, the Knox County Nursing Home. The County and union have successfully negotiated contracts for the Courthouse, State's Attorney's Office and Sheriff's Department. All of these contracts have been completed and ratified. They are still in the process of trying to get the Nursing Home contract resolved. They have been in negotiations since last August and they are hoping to move forward. One of the things that is a concern of the union is that the Nursing Home has come to the bargaining table with far more demands for concessions than what was included in any of the other collective bargaining agreements. They have dealt with some of the non-economic issues and are working on the economic issues. He feels that this will be a long process. About two weeks ago the union submitted an information request during the federal mediation process. He was told that that information is not available. There is no paper trail or documents for this financial information. This is very concerning. Then it was brought to his attention that on the agenda tonight the Board is to approve a review of the business office for the Nursing Home. This is to make sure that there have been proper billing procedures for Medicare and Medicaid. This is also very concerning. It is hard for the union to be able to negotiate in good faith and negotiate honestly and fairly with the County when they don't know what the financial condition of the Nursing Home is. He is not sure that the Board Members know either. The union stands united to fight to get the best contract that they can for the Knox County Nursing Home employees. The Nursing Home is still forcing their employees to work tremendous amounts of overtime. This is at a very costly rate to the County. They have not been able to attract new employees or retain employees. This is a big burden on the Nursing Home whose employees are present at this Meeting to demonstrate their solidarity. They plan to stand together and fight for what is fair to obtain a good fair contract for the Nursing Home employees.

Jody Hanen, president of the union at the Knox County Nursing Home, addressed the Board on the behalf of other employees who were also in attendance. Negotiations have been ongoing for over a year. She has worked at the Nursing Home for over thirty years. They have good benefits that they might lose and she does not think that that is right. Employees have worked there a very long time and have earned these benefits. It is not right that they might be taken away. All they want is a fair contract. They would like to get this settled and get it done as it has been over a year. They are standing together.

Linda Ledbetter addressed the Board concerning a fire hazard next to her property. A farmer has hay bales next to her fence, approximately two feet from her car. She has talked to various offices and departments and cannot get anyone to help. She shared photos with the Board Members. This hay has made her physically ill as these hay bales have mold spores which are sucked into her home through her furnace. She has family members with allergies and this hay has compounded their problems. They are sick all the time. They have asked the farmer to relocate these bales and he has not done so. Instead he brings more moldy hay over. She can't get the fire department to do anything. This is a desperate situation for her. She wants safety for her children and herself. Another problem is dealing with the rodents and snakes. Recently there was a large snake in her yard and two snakes in her home. These are large snakes. Recently she walked out the back door and there were ten raccoons over at the adjoining property. She has found no one to help her. She has been told to move but it is her house. This situation has devalued her property. The hay is there and her family is sick. She lives in the City and the neighboring property is in the County.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on September 27, 2017, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of October 2017 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of July 2017 in the amounts of \$114,408.98 and \$33,506.62 and public safety tax in the amount of \$182,965.60. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Nache to approve the business office review for the Nursing Home. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the employment contract for the Highway Engineer. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Friedrich presented the monthly report from the Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial and Clerk Committee. The monthly report is in the packet. He explained the resolutions for the Landfill. This is not an increase but a continuance of what they did last year. There are also resolutions that have to do with the disbursement of these fees. These resolutions have to be renewed every year. The gate fees to the public are not being increased as a result of these resolutions.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Conklin to approve the Resolution authorizing an additional \$2.00 gate fee to be charged at the Knox County Landfill. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Conklin to approve the Resolution authorizing the allocation of interest funds earned from certain accounts at the Knox County Landfill to the Special Contingency Fund. Member Friedrich stated that this is also a continuation of what they did last year. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Conklin to approve the Resolution authorizing the allocation of certain gate receipts at the Knox County Landfill to the Special Contingency Fund. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Wilder to approve the Resolution authorizing a transfer of a portion of the gate fees at the rate of a \$1.00 per ton to be charged at the Knox County Landfill. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Conklin to approve the Resolution on the use of the Special Contingency Fund. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Conklin to approve the renewal premium for liability/workman compensation insurance. The Workman's Compensation portion of the renewal decreased 8%. The Property/Casualty portion of the renewal increased 20% due to the reinsurance cost on law enforcement liability. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the asset inventory and valuation services proposal. Information is included in the packets. Member Friedrich explained that this would involve an inventory of all the County's capital assets. This has not been done for over ten years. Member Hawkinson inquired if there is a current policy in place to keep track of inventory. Chairwoman Davidson responded that there is a policy however, sometimes it is not followed.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(12). Noes—Hawkinson—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the surrender deed of conveyance in reference to PIN 99-11-351-039. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Member Friedrich reported there was an error in the paperwork. County Clerk Scott Erickson stated that this will clean it up. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the annual membership dues for the National Association of County Officials (NACO) in the amount of \$1,058.00. A copy of the invoice is included in the packets. County Clerk Scott Erickson added that this is a group who has previously assisted the County with some grants. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the display of the County Levy FY2017-2018 Budget. Member Friedrich thanked everybody on the Finance Committee who attended all of those meetings, all of the department heads who worked with them and County Treasurer Robin Davis. There was a lot of work involved with this process. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the display of the County Budget FY2017-2018.

Member Conklin commented that he read in the paper that the Mary Davis Home had collected some money. He questioned if this had an impact on the budget. Does the budget need to be changed to reflect this collection?

Chairwoman Davidson confirmed that the County did receive some checks. This was money that was owed to the County from 2017. They filed a hardship with Springfield and received checks totaling \$258,917.65. These are funds that were owed to the County.

Member Friedrich also explained that at the conclusion of this Meeting, the Board will be in recess to keep the budget open and allow changes to be made next month as needed.

County Clerk Scott Erickson stated that a copy of the budget would be posted online and a paper copy would be available for review in that office.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Johnson presented the monthly Building, Courthouse and Annex Committee Report. He reported that Otto Baum submitted an invoice in the amount of \$84,984.34. The packet does not include the committee minutes but they were provided to the Members.

Member Bondi presented the monthly Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Nursing Home Committee report. The October meeting reports were e-mailed to the Board Members. The current census of the Nursing Home is 129. The outstanding aged report is \$1,478,872. The State still owes the Mary Davis Home \$323,000. Member Friedrich stated that he had been in contact with the State Representative. They are trying to work on this back payment. Member Bondi reported that the average census of the Mary Davis Home is 26.8. Of that number 23.5 are outside of the County. Within the County the census is 3.3.

Member Hunigan presented the monthly Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Recorder's Office, Highway Department and Landfill Committee report. The minutes and reports are included in the packets. The Highway Department did bring to their attention that IDOT has taken \$50,000,000 out of the Motor Fuel Tax budget. This does affect Knox County as their portion of the Motor Fuel Tax will be reduced \$84,778. This is quite a blow to their budget. There is information in the packet about this decrease of the Motor Fuel Tax.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the low bid submitted from West Central FS for the fuel purchase for the Landfill and Highway Departments. The West Central FS bid includes the following: on road diesel at \$2.157 per

gallon, off road diesel (normal) at \$1.945 per gallon, winter blend on road at \$2.258 per gallon, and off road \$2.045 per gallon. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Nache to approve the five year intergovernmental agreement with the City of Galesburg regarding the use of the Knox County Landfill. Landfill Administrator Rod Clear reported that this contract will begin January 1, 2018. The terms of the contract will continue as they have been with some increases in their fees. The fee will increase a \$1.00 per ton for the first year and \$.75 per ton for the remaining four years of the contract. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to table the motion to approve to write off delinquent accounts at the Landfill. Member Hunigan explained that the committee would like to have more information. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. The meeting was held October 12th. The financial report from the end of September indicates a surplus of \$126,243 on revenues of \$3,200,000. They were presented with a couple of grant opportunities. The flu season is underway and their drive thru flu vaccination program was successful. They are trying to increase screening for colorectal cancer among 50-75 year olds. The Health Department is trying to increase the scope of psychiatric services both in house and off site.

Member Varner presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. She reported that meeting was held October 24th. They put their strategic plan on hold as they are looking for a new director. There have been many applicants for this position. There are several events coming up. Those details are on their website www.visitgalesburg.com. The next meeting is November 28th at the Chamber Office.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 committee. He was not able to attend this meeting but he did have information to share. Currently the 9-1-1 fund has approximately \$1,200,000. Previously they had voted to replace repeater systems in six rural fire departments. Their current repeaters are 20-30 years old. The generator for the Public Safety Building will also be replaced. That is scheduled to be installed next month. The federal government did approve a 160 ft. tower to be erected in Galesburg. Local fire departments and all communications devices will then be able to use this tower instead of paying rent for other buildings.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. He spoke of “Site Choices Services,” which is one of the services that this organization provides. This is intended to be a one stop shop for all types of businesses that

are looking for spaces either buildings or sites. They maintain an online searchable data base of properties available in the Knox County area. They help a lot of businesses who are looking for new locations. They also have some complex and analytical tools available. This is a free service.

They have chosen a date for the KCAP 2018 annual meeting and it will be held the morning of January 30, 2018. More information will be provided at a later date.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. They held an executive board meeting in September which covered a lot of ground. A lot of different policies were adopted including one for a small business loan portfolio. They also adopted a non-conservation land policy and a record policy which has to do with keeping their records safe. Additionally they adopted an emergency staff succession policy and a land conservation easement policy. Appointments were made to the finance committee for loan applications. Two small business loan applications were reviewed. They are applying again this year for the Brownfield Committee wide assessment. They applied last year and did not get it so they are trying again this year.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. There was no meeting this month but there is a meeting coming up soon.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Ad Hoc Committee of Technology Services. A copy of this report is included in the packets. Chairwoman Davidson expressed her thanks to Mr. Rowe as there was a small issue with a computer problem in the Veterans' Office. He was over there and fixed it right away. He did a fine job.

Member Conklin presented the monthly report from the Knox County Mental Health 708 Board. He reported that there was nothing new to report. The next meeting will be November 3rd.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the opening of the budget for line item changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Proposed line item changes include the following departments or funds: Sheriff's Department, the Public Defender's Office, the general fund, the Nursing Home, health insurance, public safety bond, insurance tort, and the County Board as presented in the packets. Department heads had made their presentations to the Finance Committee.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Nache to approve the proposed specific line item changes as presented. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, , Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Varner to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of September 28, 2017 through Oct 25, 2017 (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, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson had no comments at this time.

Member Hunigan commented that this was his first budget session with the County Board and it has been a real learning experience. He applauded the leadership of County Board Chairwoman Pamela Davidson, County Treasurer Robin Davis, and Finance Committee Chairman Brian Friedrich. To get that down is an eye opening experience. He congratulated all who are involved in this process.

Member Wilder and Member Hawkinson had no comments at this time.

Member Nache agreed with Member Hunigan. She expressed her thanks to all who are involved in the budget process. Every year the budget grows larger and larger. She doesn't know how County Treasurer Robin Davis does it.

Member Amor also commented that it was his first year to be involved in the budget process. He agreed with the comments of Member Hunigan and Member Nache. He thanked department heads and all who were involved in this collaborative process.

Member Davidson expressed her thanks to County Treasurer Robin Davis and Finance Committee Chairman Brian Friedrich for all the long hours spent on the budget process. She also thanked the Board Members that participated.

Member Erickson had no comments at this time.

Member Friedrich expressed his thanks to all Board Members. He also thanked Ken Springer working with economic development. There are a lot of resources available through that organization.

Member Conklin thanked Chairwoman Davidson and County Treasurer Robin Davis who worked so hard to get the money for the Mary Davis Home.

Member Bondi reiterated the previous comments about the budget. He is glad for the collection of funds for the Mary Davis Home. Although Randy Lynch painted a picture of an issue with negotiations at the Nursing Home, Member Bondi knows that they are making every good faith effort to bring negotiations to an end. The Nursing Home Administrator and the Nursing Home Committee are working to bring negotiations to an end. There are people of good faith on both sides.

Member Hurst and Member Varner had no comments at this time.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 22, 2017, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Varner to move to Closed Session to discuss personnel and pending litigation. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Board entered executive session at 7:44 p.m.

Board returned to Open Session at 8:15 p.m.

Chairwoman Davidson declared this Open Meeting to be recessed until the next scheduled Meeting of the Board. Meeting recessed at 8:15 p.m.