

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

**April 27, 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, April 27, 2016, at 6:26 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 4        Shawn Pitman
- District 5        Jeff Jefferson

And those absent:        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. 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. Judy Guenseth, director of the Child Advocacy Center, invited those in attendance to participate in the “Hands Around the Courthouse” event to be held at the Courthouse the following day. This event is held in coordination with the Blue Ribbon Task Force and seeks to draw awareness to child abuse.

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 March 23, 2016, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of April 27, 2016 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of January 2016 in the amounts of \$92,449.04 and \$14,918.38 and public safety tax in the amount of \$155,405.29. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Proclamation of May as Motorcycle Awareness Month in Knox County. This is something that ABATE has sponsored for several years. Chairman Friedrich read aloud this proclamation, a copy of which is included in the packets. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Bondi to approve Member assignment changes to the County Personnel Committee. Chairman Friedrich explained that both Member Jefferson and Member Bacon will not be continuing with the County Board. It is necessary to have individuals with experience on this committee before labor contract negotiations begin. Member Conklin has volunteered to serve on this committee. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Pass—Conklin—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the purchase of a canine for the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Clague reminded Members of a previous grant in the amount of \$82,000 that had been awarded to the Sheriff's Department to fund the purchase of a dog, the training of that dog, the education for the handler, the vehicle to transport the dog and the cage. This has worked out so well that the Sheriff's Department would like to purchase another dog to be used for narcotics detection and tracking purposes. Their current canine is being used a lot, but it is hard to cover the entire area of the County. A Supreme Court decision states that upon making a traffic stop, law enforcement can only detain the driver for ten minutes to get a canine to respond. The money to purchase this animal and the expense to train the handler would come out of the public safety tax.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Erickson to approve the reappointments to the Oneida Wataga Fire Protection District of Ryan Dillbeck and Lynn Bowman. Member Bondi inquired about the progress of the review process for these appointments. County Clerk Scott Erickson responded that he had prepared a list for the committee of the different places that the Board makes these appointments. Policy changes have not yet been implemented. Member Bacon inquired that as the County progresses with changes to this process, if the County is going to notify these entities that some sort of a bio of these individuals will be required.

Mr. Erickson responded that once the committee gives directive and comes up with a final plan, then he will forward that information to the contact persons of these various entities.

Member Erickson commented that perhaps the Board is overthinking this approval process. These individuals are nominated by these various bodies that are responsible to the taxpayers as well. Surely they are presenting people who are qualified and able to serve. He also commented that as Board Members are out and about in the community, someone on this Board would have personal knowledge of these individuals.

Chairman Friedrich commented that the Board should not make it too difficult or people will not be willing to serve.

Member Bacon agreed that it is hard to get volunteers.

Roll call vote to approve the reappointments to the Oneida Wataga Fire Protection District of Ryan Dillbeck and Lynn Bowman is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Pass—Bondi—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Foster to approve the appointments of Paul Stewart and Paula Sanford to the Knox County Housing Authority Board. Member Davidson commented that Board Members do know Paul Stewart since he was a former Member of the Knox County Board. Member Conklin stated that there was good information in the packet regarding these appointments and why these persons are being recommended. Member Bondi agreed. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Davidson and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve the resolutions on deeds of conveyance for the following six parcel numbers: 99-16-384-007, 99-10-352-024, 99-13-453-004, 99-14-107-011, 99-15-154-004, and 99-15-155-018. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Johnson to approve personnel wage increases for specific employees at the Health Department and Sheriff's Office. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, and Pitman—(12). Noes—Nache and Jefferson—(2). 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 Foster to approve depositing of the farmland sale funds in the amount of \$768,322.81. The finance committee approved that a portion of these funds be used to fund a new road to be built between the new Love's Truck Stop and the Knox County Nursing Home. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Pitman to approve a contract for a fee and employment study by Bellwether, LLC. Information is included in the packets. President of Bellwether, Bruce DeLashmit, brought his presentation to the Board. Additionally, he presented handouts to the Board Members. This firm has worked with multiple counties around the State on aggressive revenue and expense reduction programs. They are recommending some of these programs to Knox County. There are really three categories they utilize.

The first category is about fee revenue. This is really focused on the budget. There are several State statutes that allow the county to collect a fee that is equal to providing that service. The fee charged should equal the actual expense. If the fee does not, then the County taxpayers are subsidizing these fees. There are exceptions to this such as for the Highway Department that provides snow plowing services that are accepted services that the County provides. This firm has proposed multiple department reviews. They are estimating that there is the potential for new revenue in the amount of \$200,000-\$250,000. The numbers are comparable to other counties of similar population. Several surrounding counties have gone through this process with this firm. Labor costs do make up about 80% of the expense in the fee category. Technology continues to change rapidly and this increases costs, such as for circuit court.

The expense of the service not covered in the fee schedule is an unknown drain on the general fund. One example of this is animal control. Often the fee does not equal the total cost of the animal's adoption. Usually they find that that county subsidizes the remainder of that fee in order to make these pet adoptions affordable.

The second category has to do with the information that he had presented to the Members. This has to do with finding an "As good or Better" health care insurance program. This firm has had great success with this approach with Mercer County for example. This county saved over \$500,000 on their health care costs. He would expect a similar cost savings for Knox County. This category is not currently included in this proposal, but it is a free service. If the County is interested in exploring this option, they would be willing to work with Knox County. This program bypasses the insurance broker, so there is a 20% savings. This works even in counties that are self-insured.

The third category has to do with an activity inventory in each of these courthouse departments. They look at those activities that State statutes require these offices to do. They then inventory everything that is happening in those departments. This approach allows the Board to see what the necessary and unnecessary activities are. This information allows the Board to make a more informed decision. They also prepare a multi-year attrition projection. There are generally many activities that counties routinely provide that are not State mandated.

Chairman Friedrich inquired when they would be able to get the results back.

Mr. DeLashmit responded that currently they are busy with other counties and would not be able to begin until the second or third week of May. Meaningful data collection could not begin until after Memorial Day. He anticipates that it would take 6-8 weeks to complete this project. The total cost is \$21,600. He expects to find additional revenue in the amount of \$200,000-\$250,000 in additional fees. Based on the number of county employees, on the health care part, he would anticipate saving over \$500,000.

Member Foster asked what budget line item would be paying for this study.

Member Bacon responded that the finance committee is suggesting that the funds come from the landfill.

Member Bondi asked if these funds would later be reallocated back to the landfill.

Chairman Friedrich responded that this matter has not been discussed.

Member Foster asked if there was any guarantee that this program would result in actual savings.

Mr. DeLashmit replied that he was confident that there would be savings more than five times that cost of the initial fees.

Member Davidson stated that the Board needs to know if these departments are running as efficiently as possible.

Member Foster shared her concerns for County taxpayers in that some can hardly pay the fees now and yet these fees are going to be increased. It seems like everyone is stretched to the max.

Roll call vote to approve a contract for a fee and employment study by Bellwether, LLC is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the health insurance plan for 2016-2017 plan year. Member Bacon stated that the insurance premiums will not be increased this year. The changes for this year's plan include: Employees will receive a 30% wellness discount instead of the 25% if they participate in the blood draw; Preventative drugs will be for generic drugs on the list to be provided with \$0.00 copay; There will be an internet MyIdealDoctor service available 24/7 for employee utilization; and a Health Savings account contribution of \$750 for each individual account will be included for each account opened prior to July 1, 2016. Member Bacon noted that the County employees are getting healthier and the County is able to give more back to the employees. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Knapp presented the monthly report for the Building Committee. Their monthly report is included in the packets. The main topic in the committee meeting was the fire escape at the Courthouse. The committee voted unanimously to accept this bid. As a result, a special Board Meeting was called to officially approve this bid and allow this project to begin immediately.

Sheriff David Clague reported that TMI, the company that installed the heating and cooling system in the Courthouse, had finished replacing the sensors. That should remedy the heating problem in the building.

The Sheriff, Jail, Courthouse, Animal Control, Mary Davis Home, and Annex Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Ricardo Sandoval. Their monthly report is included in the packets. The Sheriff's Department has been assigned a radio frequency for the new radios in the squad cars. The current census at the Mary Davis Home is 16 and 2 of those are from Knox County. Currently there are 106 inmates at the Knox County Jail and of that number 16 are federal inmates.

The Nursing Home, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Member Jefferson. Their monthly report is included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Bondi to approve Zoning Board of Appeals Case # AM-02-16—Adding Definition of “Privacy Fence” to the Zoning Resolution. Member Jefferson explained that this resolution and next one are submitted to add clarification to the existing resolutions upon the advice of the adjudication hearing attorney. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Nache to approve Zoning Board of Appeals Case # AM-03-16—Amend Section 5.801, Conditional uses, under “M-2” Heavy Industrial Zoning District, under Unclassified Industries and Uses—Add word “solid” before wall/add the words “solid privacy” before the word fence. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the renewal of antivirus/firewall contract for the Nursing Home computers in the total amount of \$2,016.00. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Davidson to approve to bid and bring back for the therapy contract with RehabCare at the Nursing Home. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Jefferson reported that the current census of the Nursing Home is 138. He announced a Pizza Night fundraiser to be held the following evening to raise funds for a van for the residents of the Nursing Home.

The Highway and Landfill Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Shawn Pitman. The monthly report is in the packet. The tonnage is going up at the landfill as the season warms up.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve bids for MFT and Non-MFT materials, Section KC-2016 and 16-XX000-00-GM. Specific information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Davidson presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. They have been working diligently with the City of Galesburg, to inform residents of the County and of the City about the situation with the lead in the water pipes. Residents with young children need to be aware of the possibly of lead in old paint in their older homes as well. The source of lead is not limited to the water pipes.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. The repairs to the Visitors' Center are about completed. The Sandburg Days Festival is coming up. The official dedication of the Sandburg statue on the square will be April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Member Knapp presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 committee. The financial report looks pretty good. They also discussed some new equipment and some numbers for property owners.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. The community observed the formal groundbreaking for the new Love's facility. He offered thanks and appreciation to many people including County Clerk Scott Erickson, State's Attorney John Pepmeyer, County Board Chairman Brian Friedrich, Member Bacon, and many more who worked together to make this happen. This was a real team effort. He also reported a current research project being done by students at Monmouth College as they research what it is that attracts talented young people to a community. Their findings were very enlightening. He shared a written summary of this study with the Board Members. The cost of living and nightlife ranked very high in the selection process.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resource Board. This Board is announcing that a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House will be held June 18<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 p.m. at the Prairie Hills Center. They also discussed their loan program. Right now they are not getting new applications for the small business loans that are offered through this organization. They are looking at purchasing a piece of property near Carthage that was the former site of a Methodist camp. The property would then be in a reserve. They are investigating the possibility of acquiring reclamation funds to help fund this project.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. This group met the end of March. A couple of months ago the County Board passed a resolution supporting a lawsuit against Springfield's requirement to increase juror fees. This is still another unfunded State mandate. The stalemate continues with the State budget. In terms of what is happening State wide, nothing is moving forward.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Ad Hoc Committee for Technology Services. The requests for technology services were reviewed and it seems like these are being processed and responded to in a timely way.

Motion was made by Member Davidson and seconded by Member Nache to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of March 24, 2016 through April 27, 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, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson, Member Bacon, Member Foster, and Member Knapp had no comments at this time.

Chairman Friedrich thanked the Knox County Farm Bureau for their attendance and their support.

Member Nache and Member Hunnigan had no comments at this time.

Member Davidson noted that the following day would be observed as Workers Memorial Day. This is always observed April 28<sup>th</sup>, and it is the time to remember those who lost their lives or who were injured while on the job.

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

Member Jefferson thanked the ABATE group for all of the fine things that they do for a lot of different organizations. They do a lot of good work in Knox County.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 25, 2016, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Pitman to adjourn from this Open Meeting. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Open Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.