

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

April 22, 2015

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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 22, 2015, at 6:30 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 3	Pamela Davidson
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

And those absent: District 2 Russell Nelson
 District 4 David Erickson

Also present were State’s Attorney John Pepmeyer, Sheriff David 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 Bondi and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on March 25, 2015, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of April 22, 2015 and

other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of January 2015 in the amounts of \$85,835.63 and \$16,711.76 and public safety tax in the amount of \$72,483.68. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairman Friedrich read aloud the Proclamation of May as Motorcycle Awareness Month, a copy of which is included in the packets. Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve this proclamation. A copy of this proclamation was presented to Member Bacon. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Bacon added that ABATE is all about education. Individuals from this chapter and others throughout the State have been trained to go into high school driving classes and make students aware of the presence of motorcycles on the roadways.

6:39 p.m. Member Bondi left the Meeting.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Knapp to approve the reappointments of Tim Carlson and Bob Hennenfent to the Oneida-Wataga Fire Protection District. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Matt Schueler, Senior Manager of Wipfli, LLP of Sterling, Illinois presented the auditor's report FY2014. Materials were distributed to the Board Members. Mr. Schueler stated that there had been detailed meetings with County Clerk Scott Erickson, County Treasurer Robin Davis and the Administrator of the Health Department, Michelle Fishburn. There are specific auditing requirements for the Health Department since they received federal funds of approximately \$2,300,000 for the previous year. There was also a specific audit of the Circuit Clerk's Office. There were no findings.

A two year comparison of the County's finances provides insight into how the County is doing. Total amount of the County's assets is approximately \$103,000,000. A large portion of the County's assets are the capital assets of approximately \$61,000,000, which includes such things as roads and bridges. Cash and deposits are recorded as approximately \$28,000,000. Approximately \$7,000,000 is reserved for the landfill closure and post closure liability. Regarding net position, those funds are recorded in the amount of \$76,500,000. The unrestricted amount is \$3,400,000. The majority of the County's resources are allocated for specific purposes, not the County's general fund. From the previous year the County's net income increased by \$1,100,000. Investments are comparable to the previous year.

Regarding the County's deposits and bank accounts, all of those funds are secure. The general fund did decrease before transfers by \$1,700,000. This amount is approximately what the County was anticipating, as the projected amount was \$1,800,000.

Next year a new accounting standard will be adopted with respect to pension funding. The County is fully funded with respect to the IMRF pension.

The number of days in the operating general fund for 2014 is 65 days as compared to 2010 and 111 days. If the County were to quit receiving funds, this is how long the general fund

could last. The Governor's new changes in taxes could have a significant impact on the County's general fund in the coming year.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the County Audit FY 2014. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

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 resolutions on the deed of conveyance for PIN 99-02-301-014, and PIN 99-14-276-009. Member Bacon stated that this is a normal process to restore these properties to the tax rolls. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Nache to approve the annual dues to NACo (National Association of Counties) in the amount of \$1,058.00. County Clerk Scott Erickson stated that one of the benefits of this organization is the discount drug prescription cards which are available at no cost. This organization also works with the County to secure grants. Additionally, they are a legislative watchdog group who monitor a lot a federal level legislation and share this information with the County. They are an asset to the County and he recommended approval of these annual dues. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve health/dental insurance for 2015-2016 to include a \$750 health savings account. Member Bacon stated that this will move all County employees to one plan. Under terms of the new plan, the annual deductible will increase from \$1,000 to \$1,500. The premiums will remain the same amount. It would be a good idea to make the NACo discount prescription cards available to County employees to help defray the cost of prescriptions. Under this insurance plan, the cost of the some of the prescriptions will increase.

Member Jefferson stated that he wanted the employees to know that the County Board is trying to do something to offset insurance costs, by offering the HSA accounts. This will help the employees.

Member Bacon reported that the County had not raised the insurance premiums for three years in a row. The deductible is increasing by \$500.00 and the County is offering a HSA account of \$750.00. Initially when this self insurance plan was established the employees were told that when the plan started making money, the County would try to give back a portion of this money. The finance committee decided not to lower premiums. There could be a bad year coming and premiums would have to be increased. He would rather not have a "rubber band effect."

Roll call vote to approve health/dental insurance for 2015-2016 to include a \$750 health savings account is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(12). Noes—(0). 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 Foster to approve the purchase of chairs for the Courtroom renovation project in the amount of \$6,082.00. Member Knapp stated that this is \$3,000 less than what it was. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(12). 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 are in the packets. The County Jail currently houses 6 federal inmates. The current census at the Mary Davis Home is 28 and 3 of those are Knox County residents.

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.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Nache to approve the appointment of Administrative Adjudication Hearing Officers of Wayne Statham and Chad Long at an hourly rate of \$135.00. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Highway and Landfill Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Shawn Pitman. The monthly reports and committee minutes are included in the packets. The new roof on the highway department office building has been completed. The highway project on County Highway 4 is expected to be completed at the end of May. Knox County Highway Engineer Mr. Ratermann is being installed as president of the National Association of County Engineers and only the second Illinois resident installed since 1956. His father also served as president of this organization.

Last month the landfill took in 6908 tons with a total tipping fee of \$242,260. As landfill funds were transferred to other funds, the landfill completed that month with a negative balance of \$88,741.

The committee did discuss the safety factor at the intersection of County Highway 2 and County Highway 6. Mr. Ratermann looked into additional signage to inform motorists to “Stop Ahead.” According to IDOT criteria, this intersection does not meet the requirements to be a 4 way stop.

Member Davidson presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. They will be hiring some additional personnel to handle the requirements of some new federal grants. They continue to also research new grants for the Health Department. Illinois is pushing

the “Yellow Dot Program.” If a yellow dot is displayed in the vehicle, this tells emergency responders, that the driver’s medical information is stored in the glove box of the vehicle.

Chairman Friedrich presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. They are still investigating getting some cameras on buildings or the overpasses. This will be shown on channel 7.

Member Knapp had no report from the 9-1-1 committee.

Chairman Friedrich presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. They are still working on approving a logo. They are excited about Love’s coming to the County.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hill Resource Board, The quarterly board meeting was held recently. They approved three small business loans totaling \$358,000. They haven’t had any applications for awhile. There are some funds available for small businesses. Applicants must be in small communities, smaller than Galesburg and are not limited to agricultural businesses.

Member Davidson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. She stated that the meeting will be held Monday, April 27th and she planned to attend.

Chairman Friedrich and County Clerk Scott Erickson noted that there was no need for agenda item 23, approve the opening of the budget for line item changes, and agenda item 24 approve specific budget line item changes to the budget, as there were no line item changes to the budget. These agenda items were removed from the agenda.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Nache to approve claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of March 26, 2015 through April 22, 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, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson had no comments at this time.

Member Bacon commented that this insurance package represents a lot of hard work from everybody including the finance committee and the Treasurer’s Office. He thanked everyone who worked so hard. This is the best thing that the County could give back. Insurance is a fickle thing. There could be one good year followed by four bad years.

Member Foster and Member Knapp had no comments at this time.

Chairman Friedrich stated that Member Pitman had contacted him about the possibility of establishing a committee to investigate consolidating resources with other communities. The coming governmental changes from Springfield will be hitting the County hard. Those interested in serving on this committee should contact him.

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

Member Hurst wished everyone “Happy Earth Day.”

Member Pitman had no comments at this time.

Member Jefferson thanked Nursing Home Administrator Rachel Secrist for setting up a meeting with Senator Sullivan, one of the area legislators. There was some good information that came out of this meeting. There are a couple more meetings that are scheduled with area legislators.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2015, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Johnson to adjourn from this Open Meeting until the next scheduled Meeting of the Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Open Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.