

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

March 25, 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, March 25, 2015 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 3	Trisha Hurst
District 4	Shawn Pitman
District 5	Jeff Jefferson

And those absent: District 1 Cheryl Nache
 District 2 Russell Nelson

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

Chairman Friedrich led the Members in the pledge to the flag. Rev. Dave Scholl of the Galesburg Rescue Mission delivered the invocation.

Chairman Friedrich asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. Member Bacon asked that agenda item # 10, approve Health Department pay increases, be removed from this agenda.

Chairman Friedrich asked for public comments. Knox County resident Gene Holt addressed the Board concerning a safety issue near his home at the intersection of County Highway 2 and County Highway 6. Recently two individuals died at this intersection as a result of a traffic accident. In 1970 loved ones were also killed at this same location. At times kids have

taken down the warning signs He would suggest that signs be placed which warn, “Dangerous intersection ahead.” Motorists need to be warned to slow down.

Mike Holt also addressed the Board concerning this same subject. This is an emotional subject for their family. Five lives have been lost at this location. There is a stop sign for the east and west traffic. However, the north and south traffic does not stop. It would be inconvenient but would increase safety if the north and south traffic also stopped. This family would really like to see something done to improve the safety of this intersection. It is horribly unfortunate that five lives have been lost at this intersection. He expressed his thanks to the Board for all that they do.

Judy Johnson, AFSCME representative, addressed the Board about the proposed wage increases for some employees of the Knox County Health Department. This issue has been removed from this agenda for this Meeting. The news from Springfield is that county funding will be reduced. The State is already behind in their reimbursements to the Mary Davis Home and the Nursing Home. The County cannot afford pay raises of 23%. Those employees should get the same salary increases as other County employees. All County employees have taken on additional duties. It wasn't that long ago that the County Board was fighting with the City of Galesburg Election Commission and the Veteran's Assistance Office over proposed salary increases. This is not about one department or one person but what is best for our County.

Randy Lynch, AFSCME staff representative, also addressed the Board about the proposed wage increases for some employees of the Knox County Health Department. He is not happy with what he is hearing. In negotiations not that long ago, they fought long and hard to get the raises that they got. Everybody deserves a raise but this is excessive. During union negotiations other County employees were told that the County could only afford a 1.5% wage increase and this is so much more. According to this suggested wage increase one employee over the next four years would receive a 23% increase. Another employee would receive a 62% increase over four years, and the other employee would receive a 25% over four years. This is not fair. The union employees had to settle for an increase of 1.5%. There is no justification for this much of a salary increase. The Health Department will be going through some changes. The State budget is coming up. Governor Rauner is demanding serious cuts in all of these budgets. The County Board cannot justify approving these excessive salary increases. According to an opinion from the Attorney General's Office, the County Board does have the right to not grant these salary increases that are not included in the budget. He asked the County Board to reconsider this subject as it will be a huge issue if it goes through.

Dick Allen spoke of his support for John Vanier.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on February 25, 2015, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting on March 25, 2015 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for month of December 2014 in the amounts of \$117,047.89 and \$20,888.33 and public safety tax in the amount of \$100,212.14. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairman Friedrich read aloud the Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month to be observed during the month of April. A copy of this proclamation was presented to Sara Robinson of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). She also shared information about the Blue

Ribbon Task Force. Other social service agencies also support this proclamation. The Hands around the Courthouse event will be held April 23 to draw awareness of child abuse in our community. Judy Gunseth from Child Advocacy was also in attendance and thanked the Board for their continued support.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the appointment of Jon Vanier to the Galesburg Sanitary District. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Erickson and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve the appointments of Ty O. Landon and Daniel J. Gentry to the Williamsfield Fire Protection District. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the appointment of Brenda Dexter to the Williamsfield Sanitary District. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the ordinance increasing the rate of the public safety tax. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. County Clerk Scott Erickson explained that this ordinance had to be rewritten to satisfy the criteria of the Illinois Department of Revenue. The procedure has changed from what was previously required. This resolution mirrors what was previously submitted with some changes to the context. This tax increase is to start in July. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(13). 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 Johnson to approve to bid and buy for departmental hardware for the financial software conversion. Information Technology Coordinator Andy Rowe explained this involves the purchase of new computer software and hardware components such as scanners to run the new financial software which the Board has previously approved. Originally it was thought that the County could use existing scanners. However, that is not possible.

County Clerk Scott Erickson explained that these scanners will scan at a higher quality than what is possible with some of the existing multi-function units. This Kofax scanner scans at a higher graphic resolution which will be more compatible with the new financial software. He had worked with the financial software representatives and hoped to be able to utilize the existing scanners and hardware but it would not be nearly as efficient or secure. He recommended that these scanners be purchased. Mr. Rowe added that every department will

have one including the Mary Davis Home and the Sheriff's Department. Roll call vote to approve to bid and buy for departmental hardware for the financial software conversion is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the resolution calling for the Governor and General Assembly to protect necessary funding for the County Government. A copy of this resolution is included in the board packets. The UCCI (United Council of Counties) drafted this resolution and are encouraging all counties to pass this to advise Springfield not to take away the counties' share of the income tax revenue. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Davidson, Sandoval, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(11). Noes—(0). Pass—Erickson and Conklin—(2). 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 Johnson to approve payment to Klingner for the Courtroom renovation project in the amount of \$1,250.00. Specific information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the final payment to MSI (Mechanical Services, Inc.) for the Courthouse radon mitigation installation in the amount of \$3,624.00. Specific information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the purchase of gallery seating and juror seating for the Courtroom renovation project at a total cost of \$29,210.00. Member Foster voiced her concerns about the cost of \$561 per chair for gallery seating. That is excessive and the County should keep the existing chairs. She inquired if the vote could be divided between the gallery seating and the juror seating. County Clerk Scott Erickson responded that since it is all included on one bid, this cannot be separated. Member Foster stated that she is opposed to this and it is excessive.

Member Bacon stated that the attorney chairs are not included in the bid. This part was returned to the vendor to try to get a lower cost. The jury chairs will be on pedestals and will be able to be rotated and will have arms. The spectator chairs will not have arms. Both the jury chairs and the spectator chairs will be color coordinated to go with the new carpeting. Spectator chairs will be secured to the floor and will not move.

Member Jefferson added that the judges are contributing to the courtroom renovation project. He also thinks that this cost is a little excessive and yet the Board told the judges that the courtroom would be renovated.

Member Bacon stated that the judges are contributing approximately \$63,000 toward the courtroom renovation project.

Member Davidson also asked why the County cannot use the existing chairs.

Member Bacon responded that the new chairs will be better as they can turn. The whole jury box is being redesigned to make it handicapped accessible.

Roll call vote to approve the purchase of gallery seating and juror seating for the Courtroom renovation project at a total cost of \$29,210.00 is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Knapp, Friedrich, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(11). Noes—Foster and Davidson—(2). 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 74 inmates and of that number 6 are federal inmates. The current census at the Mary Davis Home is 23 and 1 of those is a Knox County resident.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the purchase of exterior security lighting for the Courthouse. Member Sandoval stated that this will go on the west side of the building. Member Davidson spoke of safety concerns and the need for exterior lighting. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

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 Knapp to approve the resolution on transferring funds from the Knox County Nursing Home Tax Referendum Account to the Knox County Nursing Home General Account. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Jefferson reported the census of the Nursing Home to be 138 residents. There was a recent article in the newspaper reporting their 5 star status, which is the highest rating that they can receive. He congratulated all the employees and the administration for this achievement.

The Highway and Landfill Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Shawn Pitman. The monthly reports and committee minutes are included in the packets. Last month the landfill took in 4,839 tons with that total tipping fee of \$172,580. Net profit is recorded as \$15,547. However, as landfill funds were transferred to other funds, the landfill completed that month with a negative balance of \$11,390.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Erickson to approve bids for the Motor Fuel Tax and Non-Motor Fuel Tax Materials, Section 15-XX000-00-GM for the Highway Department. Specific information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve a local agency agreement for Federal participation, Salem Township bridge replacement, Section 12-17121-00-BR for the Highway Department. A copy of this agreement is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Hurst to approve the Resolution for improvement by Knox County, Section 12-17121-00-BR for the Highway Department. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Knapp to approve the bid for replacement of un-loader trailers for the landfill. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Hurst to approve the lease for a CAT transport truck for the landfill. Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds explained that recently he had received a phone call from Caterpillar asking if the landfill planned to replace any of their trucks this year. The landfill had planned to retire a truck later this year. The representative stated that if the landfill was willing to replace this truck early, the manufacturer would provide an extended three year warranty at no cost. This is a major item to be considered on a transport truck. The landfill did put this out for bid and did receive another bid from Centre State which sells International trucks and also received a bid from Caterpillar for the CAT truck. A lot of these components are the same in each of these trucks. This free three year warranty will save the County approximately \$12,000 - \$15,000 for that three year timeframe. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Jefferson—(11). Noes—(0). Pass—Friedrich and Pitman—(2). Motion carried.

Member Davidson presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. She stated that the agenda item having to do with approving Health Department pay increases is not really an increase as it represents new classifications. There will be additional personnel hired to fill new positions as the Health Department has been awarded several grants and require staffing to handle those grants. These are new positions, not increased duties added to previous positions. She feels that the Board of Health is doing a really good job. They are expanding services to adults not just children. She is glad to be a part of it.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. The Visitors Center is working with the City of Galesburg and the Illinois Department of Transportation to provide direct access to the Visitors Center off of Main Street. They will be starting in the next 60 days. It should be a beautiful change from that they currently have. They are working at restoring Channel 7 through the City to provide a community calendar along with the aspect of weather reporting. Several other entities are interested in contributing to that.

Member Knapp presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 Committee. He attended two meetings. The first meeting was with the Sheriff and the City officials of Galesburg. They reviewed some matters which needed to be discussed. There seemed to be agreement on most of these matters. They also discussed the issue of funding for 9-1-1. Currently the City of Galesburg pays 60% and the County pays the remaining 40%. Originally this formula was based on population. However, population does not equal the number of phone calls. They are looking for the percentages to change. It could be 75% and 25%. The second meeting there was barely a quorum and not much business was transacted.

Chairman Friedrich presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. They are working on a new logo and an update to the website.

Member Bacon presented the report from the quarterly meeting of the Western Illinois Regional Council. This is the group that previously worked with the County to secure grants for Courthouse renovations and boilers. This organization is almost a clearing house for grants and federal funds. They are instrumental in securing funds for the sewer projects in Bushnell and Abingdon. Over the last two or three years, they have awarded the County \$200,000-\$300,000. Currently they are working on another grant for the County. They are also working on awarding grants to property owners to drill new wells. This is in conjunction with local health departments. This grant is in the form of a low interest 20 year loan.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. This past month a new program assistant was hired. They are currently involved with Rushville to try to obtain a bike trail to their park. They are in the process of ordering trees for the restoration on land that was obtained earlier in the year.

Chairman Friedrich presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. He had received a letter from the chairman saying that the Governor was going to address this organization. Governor Rauner spoke for about 2 hours and handouts of this meeting had been provided to the Members. This outlines the Governor's short term and long term plans for Illinois. Chairman Friedrich really enjoyed attending this meeting. If other Members would like to attend these meetings they should contact him.

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

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

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Johnson to approve claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of February 26, 2015 through March 25, 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, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Bondi—(1). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

None of the Board Members had any comments at this time.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 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—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.