

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

November 22, 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, November 22, 2017, at 6:05 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 5	Ricardo "Rick" Sandoval
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 4	Sara Varner
District 5	Todd Shreves

And those absent: District 3 Trisha Hurst

Also present were County Treasurer Robin Davis, Sheriff David Clague and County Clerk Scott Erickson.

Sheriff David Clague 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. Member Friedrich asked that agenda item # 4, resolution transferring funds from Public Safety to the General Fund, be removed from this agenda.

Chairman Davidson asked for public comments. She asked that those who address the Board state their names and refrain from using personal names in their comments.

Cheryl Lasley addressed the Board. She stated that she has worked at the Knox County Nursing Home for 30 years. She is questioning why the Board is taking away their benefits. In doing so, they will lose experienced workers who have worked at the Nursing Home for many years. This is not good for the residents. This is a 5 star home and in the top 25 in the State. This requires workers who know what they are doing. Without these benefits there is no incentive for new workers to stay. They will lose workers to jobs that pay more. Then they might lose that top spot where they deserve to be. The workers that have been there for years can train the new staff members the right way and this is best for the residents. She has worked there for years and knows the residents and their families. They are like family to her.

Jody Hanen, president of the union at the Knox County Nursing Home, addressed the Board about negotiation issues. They have been trying to negotiate a contract for over a year now. It is obvious to her that the Board wants to take away their benefits, which are very important to the workers. In negotiations they have asked if management will also lose the benefits that the County wants to take away from the union but have not received an answer. Some of the union workers are wondering how a management person can work for four years and still have five weeks of vacation time. It takes union employees twenty years to earn five weeks. That does not seem fair to them. The longer the process takes the worse the tension at the Nursing Home becomes. What was a fun place to work is far from happy right now. The residents and the families can sense the tension between management and the workers. A resident's family member recently asked her if the Board wins and the Nursing Home closes, what will happen to their family member? Where else could this resident go? The question broke her heart.

One of the nurses recently asked a worker if they always sit down when they do a 15 minute check. What is so wrong with sitting down? Many of the workers have done 10, 12, 16 hours a shift for several days in a row. Even if they are just doing an 8 hour shift, sitting down is not allowed for CNA's. They are on their feet all day long. Even if there is charting to do, management does not like them sitting down. Management has also made comments that four of the union members need to go away and it would be a happy place out there. There is all of this tension out there between union members and management but the residents and their families also feel it. And the Board is demanding their benefits. The union will continue to fight this as long as they have to. She asked the Board to hear what they are saying and come to the bargaining table to fix these issues and negotiate a fair contract.

Maggie Decker addressed the Board. She has worked at the Knox County Nursing Home for 25 years. She does not want to lose the benefits. She loves the residents and the Nursing Home but right now it is not a happy place.

Another employee of the Nursing Home commented that a lot of people are worried about the Nursing Home. Some employees are afraid that they are going to get mandated and are quitting. She asked why it is taking so long to reach an agreement on this contract and why they are trying to take everything away. She also questioned why people would bring their loved ones to the Nursing Home as it is not currently adequately staff. She would not take her parents there.

Katie Scofield addressed the Board. She has been at the Nursing Home for four years. She started out as a CNA and is now a nurse. The Knox County Nursing Home is a 5 Star Nursing Home and on the top 25 list in the State of Illinois. Currently most of the residents are

worried as they can feel the tension in the building between the union and management. She hopes that this contract can be settled soon and that it will be a contract that the union members deserve.

Randy Lynch, staff representative from AFSCME # 31, addressed the Board in behalf of Local #1037, the Knox County Nursing Home. Several of the union members were in attendance and some had previously addressed the Board. He stated that this is really a sad situation at the Nursing Home. It is time for the Board to go out to the Nursing Home and talk to these people. Union members have talked to the Board about mandation. They have also talked to the Board about their feelings about the benefit package so the Board is aware of their position. Member Bondi has been part of the negotiations since the beginning so understands where they are at.

Mandation numbers for the period of November 1-21, 24 CNA's on first shift have been mandated, 15 on second shift and 5 on third shift have been mandated. During this same time period for LPN's, 1 on first shift and one on third shift. That is because the LPN's are working together and calling each other in the middle of the night to get people to come in the middle of the night and cover for them so that they do not get mandated. But they are getting lots of overtime. Overtime hours excluding mandation paid on November 3, for CNA's 457.25 hours, for LPN's 98.25 hours. Overtime hours paid on November 17, for CNA's 551.75 hours, for LPN's 122.75 hours. That is outrageous. The County is working these people to death who show up to work every day. They make sure the residents are taken care of. These people love these residents and are there for them. This is a serious issue and the Board needs to do something. If not, the situation at the Nursing Home will only deteriorate further. The Board acts as the employer and they need to do something. The Board as the employer has the rights and responsibilities to correct things that are wrong. They are asking to the Board to get involved and do that.

Chairwoman Davidson thanked the Nursing Home employees and Mr. Lynch for their comments to the Board.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on October 25, 2017, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the meeting of November 2017 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of August 2017 in the amounts of \$117,607.32 and \$37,021.50 and public safety tax in the amount of \$188,876.36. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the settlement agreement in Case 16-CV-4079. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(14). 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. Most importantly they got the budget done but there are some changes. There will be a meeting December 14th to talk about

some union employees and non-union employees. They will be discussing comparative wages and somehow try to make this fair. Whiteside County has twenty three classifications or categories. As a starting point the Board will be looking at that. For the past few months they were focused on the budget.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Resolution authorizing the County Clerk and County Treasurer to issue County warrants for certain claims during the period the County Board is not in session. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the recurring monthly manual check list. A copy of this list is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the bid for auditing services. Member Friedrich reported that there were two bids. The Finance Committee is recommending the lower bid of the two and it is the company (Wipfli, LLP) that previously had the contract. The bid amount is \$45,500. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Erickson to approve Resolutions for the deeds of conveyance for following 21 PIN numbers: 10-33-127-012, 99-11-451-021, 99-16-279-010, 08-26-400-002, 10-02-100-007, 10-18-201-006, 10-18-201-007, 11-03-203-001, 13-14-400-002, 13-33-302-017, 13-33-404-002, 99-02-451-002, 99-10-403-055, 99-11-432-006, 99-13-152-003, 99-14-178-005, 99-14-204-003, 99-15-156-014, 99-15-454-001, 99-16-282-007 and 99-24-201-005. Member Friedrich reported that the auction was earlier that month and that is why there are so many parcels. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve changes to the displayed FY2017-2018 Budget. Member Friedrich explained that there were some changes since the previous Board Meeting. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve County Levy for FY2017-2018 Budget with the approved changes. Member Friedrich added that although there are changes, it does not actually change the levy amount. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor,

Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the County Budget for FY2017-2018 (with approved modifications from displayed budget.) Member Friedrich stated that this is the final amended budget that they worked on. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Johnson presented the monthly Building, Courthouse and Annex Committee Report. The monthly report is in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Varner to approve the bid for sound proofing in the Annex from Hein Construction in the amount of \$4,530. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the bid for the Circuit Clerk's stairwell enclosure from Hein Construction in the amount of \$1,260. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the invoice submitted for Courthouse repairs from Otto Baum in the amount of \$23,225.94. A copy of the invoice is included in the packets. Member Johnson added that the only thing that is left is to have the temporary railings replaced with permanent railings. This is included in the original bid but not included in this bill. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Bondi presented the monthly Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Nursing Home Committee report. The monthly report is in the packets. During the committee meeting there were representatives of the Nursing Home that communicated to the committee members.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Amor to approve the confirmation of an emergency purchase of three vehicles for the Sheriff's Department. Member Bondi reported that two of the Sheriff's vehicles became operable at the same time. Sheriff Clague contacted the Motor Vehicle Group in Chicago for replacement vehicles. This group specializes in police and sheriff's vehicles. He found three outstanding vehicles for replacement. The cost is \$35,321 which includes the trade in value of the old vehicles. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder,

Hawkinson, Sandoval, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Pass—Nache—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the purchase of a replacement truck and associated snow plowing equipment for the Nursing Home. Member Bondi reported that the truck that the Nursing Home uses in the winter for snow removal is on its last leg. They are concerned that this vehicle might not allow them to maintain a clear pathway. If there is an emergency and they would need to get a resident in or out, they could be limited because of the snow. The bid cost is \$34,321.94. The committee is suggesting that the Board finance this purchase over a four year period. This bid includes the truck, snow plow and salt spreader. This includes the trade in of the old, rusty, fifteen year old vehicle.

Chairwoman Davidson stated that she would be voting against this purchase because of financial concerns. This was on a ten year plan. The Nursing Home has three pay periods in December which are approximately \$200,000 each. Some expenses may have to be written off. The current audit is another cost. Additionally the contract negotiations are continuing. She thinks that this purchase should be pushed back. Perhaps this truck could be repaired. Funds are tight. She doesn't think that the money is there for this vehicle at this time.

Member Erickson commented that he wondered about that expense when they voted to bid and bring back. Did the Board look at contracting for snow removal?

Member Bondi responded that they did look into it. They interviewed several people.

Nursing Home Administrator Rachel Secrist reported that they talked to two individuals in Knoxville. The problem is that it would have to be an emergency type situation. And they do not have any time line whatsoever. There are state regulations dealing with requirements for snow removal for nursing homes. These areas must be plowed. Locally they could not find anyone willing to provide this service.

Chairwoman Davidson commented that the maintenance person should be taking care of snow removal.

Administrator Secrist responded that the problem is getting immediate service. The Nursing Home would be on a list like everyone else. She could not get anyone that would give a guarantee that they would respond right away, for example if they received five inches of snow.

Member Bondi responded that the maintenance person is willing to remove snow but there is a problem if equipment breaks down. This is a serious problem if there is an emergency situation at the Nursing Home and the ambulance can't get in to assist a resident.

Chairwoman Davidson suggested that the County still should look into contracting out the snow removal of the parking lot and the maintenance person could remove the snow in the entryways.

Member Bondi suggested that perhaps the County could pay to be prioritized if there was a big snow but it would be an additional cost.

Member Amor suggested that it might make more sense to contract out together the mowing and yard work in the summer with the snow removal in the winter. But in reality it is a lot to mow.

Member Bondi added that it is sixty acres.

Chairwoman Davidson reiterated that it is in the job description for the maintenance person to clear the snow from the sidewalks and entryways.

Member Johnson responded that the need is still to get the vehicles in.

Chairwoman Davidson stated that the County does not have the finances.

Member Johnson disagreed.

Member Hunigan questioned the amount of the fines that could result if vehicles cannot get to the Nursing Home. Would the State come down on the County?

Administrator Secrist responded that they would do so. There are regulations, perhaps the penalty would not come that day but they could charge a penalty of \$10,000 or more if vehicles cannot get in and out of the Nursing Home.

Member Bondi commented that if we get a winter like last year, it would not be a problem.

Administrator Secrist reported that earlier this year that was an emergency problem with an air conditioner at the Nursing Home. She would rather deal with problems before it becomes an emergency. She is not saying that the truck will break down but she would rather avoid an emergency. She questioned if the Board wants her to work ahead of these things or not?

The question was called.

Roll call vote to approve the purchase of a replacement truck and associated snow plowing equipment for the Nursing Home is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(8). Noes—Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, and Shreves—(5). Pass—Sandoval—(1). Motion carried.

Member Hunigan presented the monthly Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Recorder's Office, Highway Department and Landfill Committee report. The committee report and the minutes are included in the packets. The Assessment Office mailed the assessment notices and those were published in the paper. That office also wrote 179 certificates of errors for the 2016 assessment year. The GIS office purchased new software Blue Marble's GlobalMapper.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Resolution on 2018 Motor Fuel Tax Salary. A copy of this Resolution is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the Landfill tipping fee increase of \$1.00 per ton (effective January 1, 2018.) Member Hunigan stated that this increase should add approximately \$220,000 in additional revenue per year. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the reduction of the roll off rental period from 21 days to 14 days (effective January 1, 2018.) Member Hunigan reported that the reason is to make this more in line with industry standards. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Amor was out of town and did not attend the monthly meeting at the Knox County Board of Health. Chairwoman Davidson attended this meeting in his place. She reported

that the Health Department is celebrating their 25th year of existence. They plan a large celebration in April. She asked Members to contact local congressional representatives and senators to address the problems associated with passing a federal budget. Without a federal budget it will directly affect the Health Department which is dependent on State and federal funding. They recently received funds from the Susan G. Coleman Foundation for breast cancer. The Health Department is doing a great job.

Member Varner presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. She reported that there was no meeting this month. Chairwoman Davidson reminded everyone of Galesburg Express to be held in December 9th.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 committee. He reported that there was no meeting this month. The next meeting is December 21.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. He presented a couple of highlights. He reminded those present of Small Business Saturday. This is to encourage consumers to shop at local small businesses. This is important because consumer dollars can have a major impact on municipalities and local small businesses. Consumers have the opportunity to support local small businesses which are collecting sales taxes, and local property taxes. KCAP's annual meeting will be held January 30, 2018 at the Kensington. This is their big public annual event. November 30th they will be hosting a workshop for businesses which will deal with non-traditional apprenticeship programs.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. They did not have a meeting this month. He reported that they did get the Brownfield grant application submitted. They will be waiting to hear whether they were successful.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. They did have a meeting November 20th. This was a very good meeting. The speaker was the Lt. Governor who spoke of the opioid crisis in the nation and in Illinois. The Governor has established a task force to study and fight this serious problem. This is being headed by the Lt. Governor and the Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health. They are beginning by holding workshops in different areas. The opioid crisis is reaching some serious dangerous proportions. The point was made that we cannot get out of this crisis by merely arresting people. Instead these people need to be treated. Member Johnson would encourage the County to think about holding a similar workshop in this area.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Ad Hoc Committee for Technology Services. They met November 20th. The report had been made available to the Members. They are working on assisting departments with their webpages and possibly put those on the County's server. They are working with the Health Department and the 708 Mental Health Board to get webpages for those organizations. They are trying to make sure that all County departments have the best internet connectivity specifically working with the Landfill and the Highway Departments. They are trying to prepare for the transition from Windows 7 to Windows 10. Some programs in use in some departments will become obsolete. So they are looking at replacing those programs.

Member Conklin presented the monthly report from the Knox County Mental 708 Board. They are working on the paperwork and timelines connected to the applications of some grants. The next meeting will be December 15th.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the opening of the budget for line item changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Proposed budget line item changes are presented in the packets. County Treasurer Robin Davis reported that these were discussed during the Finance meeting. These changes include the following funds or departments: Health Department, Nursing Home, public safety, health insurance, insurance tort, Highway Department, Corner's Office, Sheriff's Department, and Public Defender's Office.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Amor to approve the proposed line item changes as presented. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Varner to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of October 26, 2017 through November 22, 2017 (ordering that invoices be accepted and approved that 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, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Sandoval and Bondi—(2). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Member Hunigan also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a safe holiday season.

Member Wilder wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Member Hawkinson wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Member Sandoval had no comments at this time.

Member Nache wished everyone a Happy Safe Thanksgiving.

Member Amor wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Chairwoman Davidson wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and extended her thanks to all the Board Members for working on the budget.

Member Erickson had no comments at this time.

Member Friedrich wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and also extended his thanks to Member Bondi and County Treasurer Robin Davis for all the hard work and lots of time spent on this budget.

Member Conklin had no comments at this time.

Member Bondi wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and wished everyone to enjoy their families. Nursing Home negotiations are continuing and he feels that they are negotiating in good faith to reach an agreement. Sometimes the rhetoric gets to be extreme. The reality is that everyone is working as hard as they can to come up with a proper resolution. He has no doubt that it will be in the not too distant future.

Member Varner had no comments at this time.

Member Shreves wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 26, 2017, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois. Committee meetings will be held on their usual dates.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Wilder to adjourn from this Meeting. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Open Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.