

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

December 26, 2017

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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COUNTY OF KNOX) SS

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois on Tuesday, December 26, 2017, at 6:07 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
District 5	Todd Shreves

And those absent: District 5 Ricardo "Rick" Sandoval

Also present were County Treasurer Robin Davis, 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. Member Wilder requested that agenda item # 8, approve the appointment of a County Board Member to serve on the Western Illinois Regional Board, be removed from this agenda.

Chairman Davidson asked for public comments. Sofia Tagkaloglou addressed the Board regarding agenda item # 20, approve removal of a tree on Courthouse grounds. She commented that the tree in question has a lot of value in terms of storm water runoff and air quality. She asked that the Board consider a larger array of options. This is a safety issue. They need to

develop a better management plan that would work with different strategies. They need to look into this matter a little further so that they can make a more informed decision.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Erickson to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meetings on November 22, 2017, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of December 2017 and other claims for per diem for meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of September 2017 in the amounts of \$114,891.47 and \$35,766.25 and public safety tax in the amounts of \$188,424.09. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the collective bargaining contract with AFSCME Local # 1047 (Nursing Home). Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Varner to approve the reappointments of Charles A. Cooley II, and Sam Mantooth to the Spoon Lake Sanitary District. Chairwoman Davidson commented that all of the appointees included on this agenda did submit the proper completed documentation which 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, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Amor to approve the appointments of Susan Lindsey and Kraig McCluskie to the Illinois Region 5 Human Services Transportation Plan Steering Committee. Information 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, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Erickson and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the appointment of Lowell Mannhardt to the Knoxville Fire Protection District. Information 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, 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. They held a meeting two weeks ago about the exempt employees for the purpose of getting a discussion started. This will be a lengthy process to address some salary issues of union employees compared with exempt or salaried employees. It will take a couple meetings to better understand what the next step should be. This process could require six months. They would rather make changes all at once than one department at a time.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the membership dues to United Counties Council of Illinois in the amount of \$440.00. Information 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, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Erickson to approve the resolution on the use of the State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor. Member Friedrich added that this is something this is done every year. The fee is \$18,000. 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, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the revised monthly manual checks list. Member Friedrich explained that there was an error in the list submitted last month and that has been corrected. A corrected copy of this list 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, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve a scope of service project—accounts receivable clean up at the Nursing Home. Information and the cost are included in the packets. Member Friedrich added that the quoted estimated fee for Wipfli, LLP is up to \$18,000 for 200 hours at \$90.00 per hour. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Hurst to approve a scope of service—operational review at the Nursing Home. Information and the cost are included in the packets. Member Friedrich added that the fee for Wipfli, LLP is \$15,600 plus out of pocket expenses which would include travel and motels. They are estimating three trips would be necessary. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Erickson to approve the final budget changes FY2016-2017 budget. A copy of these changes 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, 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 Friedrich to approve the invoice from Otto Baum for the Courthouse Project in the amount of \$3,358.39. A copy of

the invoice 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, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the invoice from Klinger and Associates for the Courthouse Project in the amount of \$3,376.75. A copy of the invoice 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, 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 was distributed to the Members.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the removal of a tree on the Courthouse grounds.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Wilder to refer this matter back to the committee to explore other options for moving the crows out of the trees. Member Amor added that due to the comments addressed to the committee and at this Meeting, it would seem that there are some comparatively low cost options that they could explore that might succeed in moving the birds out of that tree.

Chairwoman Davidson agreed and suggested that perhaps the Board was moving too quickly. They should look into other ways to save the tree and remove the crows.

Member Bondi stated that they were trying to carry information forward. Courthouse employees had shared their concerns about the mess that the crows have made. The committee is willing to explore other options rather than removing the tree.

Roll call vote to refer this matter back to the Sheriff's committee to consider other options is recorded as follows: Ayes—Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(13). Noes—Johnson—(1). Motion carried.

Member Bondi then addressed the subject of security cameras at the Courthouse. Since this item did not appear on the agenda, it will be presented for a vote next month.

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. He reported that twenty five properties in Knox County will be going into tax exempt status for the 2017 property tax year. This will amount to approximately \$1,500,000 in decreased property taxes. The Board of Review is down a board member. The Board will be voting on that replacement at this Meeting. The Landfill will be looking at their air piping system and seeking bids from vendors for replacement. They are also looking at dropping the contract with the company that cleans the mats. They plan to instead clean them in house and save the County some money. The Highway Department has finished mowing the roadsides. Last week they prepared the trucks for winter. Truck # 77 was sold to Indian Point Township. The County has already replaced that truck.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the appointment of Jeff Jefferson to the Knox County Board of Review. Information and a short resume are included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Erickson to approve to bid and bring back for grass mowing/baling at the old Stegall Landfill. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Shreves to approve the resolution for Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance for 2018, Section 18-00000-00-GM. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Member Hunigan explained that the County is required to pass a resolution appropriating the Motor Fuel Tax Funds. Chairwoman Davidson added that this is something that is done every year. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Shreves to approve the Resolution of Local Agency Appropriation, Section 13-00001-01-RS. 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, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Nache to approve the local agency agreement for Federal participation, County Highway 4 Reconstruction, Section 13-0000-01-RS. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. Due to a conflict with attending a special County finance committee meeting, he was not able to attend this meeting. He did meet with Administrator Gabriel and reviewed the agenda and the materials that were shared at that meeting. He presented a summary of that meeting. The Health Department was able to end the year in the black with a balance of \$288,571. Revenues were recorded as \$3,970,162. Administrator Gabriel updated the board about the Health Department's accreditation process. Some areas of concern in the Health Board operational plans were identified. The Health Department was given ninety days to submit a correction plan. There have been some changes at the federal level on the food code. There will be a local food advisory group that will be given the responsibility to oversee the implementation of these changes.

Member Varner presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. There was no meeting in December but there will be a meeting in January. They have completed their new website at www.gogalesburg.com this past week. She invited everyone to check it out.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 Committee. They met December 21st. He shared normal statistics. For the months of October and November there were 3,512 9-1-1 calls. The percentages of those calls that originate from a cell phone continue to increase. There were 338 abandoned 9-1-1 calls. Each of those calls has to be investigated. This can take resources away from other actual emergencies. The total number of calls received in the Public Safety Building for those two months is 19,215 calls. There were 5,729 calls for police service. There were 2,732 calls for fire and EMS. The new generator has been delivered to the Public Safety Building. The repeaters for the radios for the rural fire departments have been ordered.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. They reviewed membership opportunities and the CEO Program which develops students in their junior and senior years of their high school career. This program will go into effect this coming year. Students are encouraged to develop and create a business. They are partnered with a mentor. Hopefully 10-12 students will be identified and chosen to participate in this program for the first year. A similar number for the second and third years will be participating. There should be a kick-off in the fall of the coming year. Warren County already has a program going. The whole idea is to encourage kids to get their education and remain in this area. Their annual meeting will be January 30th at 7:30 A.M., at the Kensington. One of their board members will be leaving as Lori Sundberg, president of Carl Sandburg Junior College, will be leaving to assume another position in Iowa.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from Prairie Hills Resources Board. The executive board met December 14th. They did approve one loan application for a facility. Finally after a six year process, they did get the final approval for an industry mining land donation. This is 98.7 acres of mining land that Prairie Hills now owns. A lot of work will have to be done on this land, including the removal of noxious weeds. The goal is to restore this land. It will be an ongoing project for the next couple of years. They continue to work on other properties as well. The personnel committee will be meeting to review staff evaluations and review applications for the assistant to the administrator.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. He reported that there was no December meeting. There will be a January meeting just prior to the next County Board Meeting.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Ad Hoc Committee for Technology Services. He reported that the minutes are included in the packets. Instant Messaging is being worked on for the Nursing Home. Virus and malware upgrades are being reviewed for the County. They are still working on getting the Landfill and the Highway Department better wireless access. They are working on some bids to present in the first quarter of next year.

Member Conklin presented the monthly report from the Knox County Mental Health 708 Board. He reported that this meeting was postponed until January.

Since they were not needed, the following agenda items were removed from the agenda: agenda item #35, approve opening of the budget for line item changes; agenda item # 36, presentation of the proposed budget line item changes, and agenda item # 37, approval of proposed budget line item changes. There were no budget changes for the current budget.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of November 23, 2017 through December 26, 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, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson wished everyone a Happy New Year. May it be a successful year. The reason that he voted against agenda # 20, having to do with the removal of the tree from the Courthouse lawn, is that a lot of things have already been tried on the crows. He doubts other methods would be successful. It is a dead issue now.

Member Hunigan wished everyone a safe and healthy New Year. He encouraged people who are going out on New Year's Eve to take advantage of free cab services or arrange for a designated driver.

Member Wilder wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Member Hawkinson had no comments at this time.

Member Nache wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Member Amor commented about the new snow. Everyone must remember how to drive on snow.

Chairwoman Davidson wished everyone a Happy New Year and invited everyone to attend the Martin Luther King breakfast, to be held January 15th.

Member Erickson had no comments at this time.

Member Friedrich spoke of two items from the Finance Committee. The auditors commented how pleased they were with working with Nursing Home Administrator Rachel Secrist and other employees.

Member Conklin had no comments at this time.

Member Bondi wished everyone a healthy and safe New Year. He agrees with Member Friedrich's comments on how the Nursing Home is cooperating with the auditing process.

Member Bondi reported that he has received a lot of phone calls from constituents regarding tax reform. Because of these changes some taxpayers are seeking to pay their taxes early for 2018. Some statutes in the Illinois tax code seem to be in conflict with having that done. Many counties are allowing that to occur. Locally if there is any way that Knox County could allow for the early payment of those taxes, that would be money coming into the coffers. Long before there were computers, there were ledger sheets; there should be a way to account for it.

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

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 6:00 p.m., at the Galesburg City Hall Council Chambers, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to adjourn from this open Meeting. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Open Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.