

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

**April 26, 2017**

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 26, 2017, at 6:28 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 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 3 | Trisha Hurst            |
| District 4 | Sara Varner             |
| District 5 | Todd Shreves            |

And those absent:        District 3       Michael Nelson

Also present were County Treasurer Robin Davis, Sheriff David Clague, State’s Attorney John Pepmeyer 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 Hunigan asked that agenda item 22, approve the purchase of region-wide Goggle Ortho Imagery Intermediate Flights of Knox County, be removed from this agenda. Member Conklin asked for an update on the 708 Mental Health Board. Chairwoman Davidson added that update at agenda item 32A.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for public comments. Mark Rudolph spoke in reference to the 708 Mental Health Board. As this was placed on the ballot, they did not know what the results would be. As it turned out he was pleasantly surprised. He extended his thanks to the County Board.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on March 22, 2017, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of January 2017 in the amounts of \$91,188.92 and \$56,730.50 and public safety tax in the amount of \$153,437.12. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, 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 Sandoval to approve the Proclamation for May as Motorcycle Awareness Month. A copy of this proclamation was presented to A.B.A.T.E. representative Jeffery Pouch. He stated that their focus remains on education in the community and the protection rights of motorcyclists. Through fundraising efforts they have been able to give back \$250,000 to the community. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to table the Landfill union contract. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion to table carried.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the F.O.P union contract for the Sheriff's Department. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, 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 Nache to approve the liability settlement regarding the death of Joey Corbin in the amount of \$500,000. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, 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 Hawkinson to approve the reappointment of Russell Groeper to the Williamsfield Sanitary District. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Conklin and Bondi—(2). 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 discussed insurance matters and credit cards.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the resolution to include compensation directed into a retirement health savings plan as IMRF earnings. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Member Friedrich explained that this will allow Health Savings Account (HSA) benefits to be applied to IMRF benefits. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, 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 resolution amending the County Liquor Control Ordinance for a new license classification. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. A class K Caterer's license will be added to the classification and the annual fee will be \$1,000. This will allow those with a caterer's license to return the extra liquor they ordered to the distributor. Representatives of the Knox County Fair Board had approached County Clerk Scott Erickson about this.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, 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 Mary Davis Home credit cards limits. Specific information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, 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 Bondi to approve the health insurance plan for 2017-2018. Member Friedrich stated that the insurance remains the same except for the Health Savings Account (HSA) benefits. For single employees the amount will be \$750 and for families that amount will be increased to \$1,000. Everything else remains the same. There is \$2,900,000 in the insurance fund and the County can give part of that back to the employees. The premiums and deductible stay the same and have not changed in the last four years. This is a good deal for the employees. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, 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. A copy of the report is included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Shreves to approve the replacement of office equipment, carpeting, and repainting of the Annex conference room, at a total cost of \$7,831.28. Specific information is included in the packets.

Member Hawkinson stated that during the previous Board Meeting he voted against this project because of the cost. Even though this cost has now been reduced by \$4,300 he believes other matters in the Courthouse should be addressed first, before beginning work on the Annex project. Earlier that day as he visited various offices in the Courthouse and the Sheriff's Office, he took photos of some problem areas in those offices and visited with employees. The problems that he saw are astronomical. The County should be focusing their funds in these areas. There are

multiple cracks in the walls of the Recorder's Office. An Assistant State's Attorney must cover his work area in plastic every day as he leaves to prevent the plaster dust from damaging his laptop and hurting legal documents. He presented Members with copies of these photos. He will be voting against this motion. The County should be focusing on repairing the workplaces of these employees rather than improving the appearance of the Annex.

Chairwoman Davidson responded that the County is going to fix the problems in the Sheriff's Office and the Courthouse. There is a plan in effect and they are working on the outside right now. Photos have been shown to the building committee and there is a plan in place to make repairs to the inside. There is a five year plan in place to address these issues. They can only do one step at a time. Their architectural consultant from Klingner and Associates, Cody Basham, is working with them to review problems as they come up. Board Members are invited to attend all committee meetings not just the committees they are assigned to. The building committee is addressing these matters.

Superintendent of Assessments Chris Gray stated that the Annex Building also has leaky ceilings as well. Every time it rains you can see more rust on the ceiling tiles. Additionally there has to be mold under the carpet in the bathroom near the conference room. Not only is the smell the problem but GIS coordinator, Bill Lotz, has severe allergies and this is not a healthy environment for him and he is suffering.

Chairwoman Davidson added that there is green mold in the tile in the Annex.

Ms. Gray commented that unless these problems are addressed at the Annex the situation will result in the same conditions as in the Courthouse.

Member Hawkinson stated that he understands that things have to be done at the Annex but the Board should not jump the gun right now. As it is the County is finding more and more problems that need to be addressed. He cannot justify spending nearly \$8,000 for the Annex. Just that day, he learned of more problems in the State's Attorney's Office. He does not think that spending \$8,000 in the infant stages of these repair projects is a good idea at this time.

Member Hurst questioned how many groups use the Annex.

Ms. Gray responded that several groups use the Annex including the Board of Review and the Board of Appeals.

County Clerk Scott Erickson added that in the past election judge training has been held in the Annex conference room. Probation personnel also use that room as do a variety of other groups.

Chairwoman Davidson stated that recently when she was in that building she could see the problem with the bathroom carpet as the toilet sometimes overflows.

Member Amor questioned if the proposed changes would address potential health and safety. He does not think that spending money on this project will be wasted. Rather it seems to be a matter of priority.

Member Conklin thanked Member Hawkinson for taking the time to do this. Maybe there can be a compromise. Perhaps, the tables and chairs could be removed for now and then proceed with the things that need to be done.

Member Nache suggested that some of the chairs are a liability issue. If someone falls, the cost would be more than \$8,000.

Member Bondi questioned the roof leaks. He thought those had been repaired.

Member Friedrich stated that the repairs to the Annex should wait until the roof is repaired.

Sheriff Clague reported that repairs to the Annex roof were made about two years ago. Ms. Gray stated that the roof leaks are in her office. She is uncertain if there are additional leaks in the conference room.

Member Bondi stated that the roof should be fixed before other Annex repairs are made.

Member Nache commented that the roof should be inspected.

Member Hawkinson called for the question.

Roll call vote to approve the replacement of office equipment, carpeting, and repainting of the Annex conference room, at a total cost of \$7,831.28 is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Hurst, and Shreves—(7). Noes—Hawkinson, Sandoval, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi and Varner—(7). Motion failed.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve invoices to Klingner and Associates for various projects. Copies of invoices are included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, 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 Amor to approve the change order for the Courthouse exterior stairs. This has to do with the hand rails and changing them from steel to aluminum for three sets of stairs. This will result in a cost savings. Additionally steel tends to corrode and aluminum does not. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—Friedrich—(1). Motion carried.

Member Bondi presented the monthly Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Nursing Home committee report. A copy of the report is included in the packets. The Mary Davis Home is owed \$500,000 from the State. Recently they received \$87,000 from the State for last January. Receivables for the Nursing Home are improving but the State still owes \$506,000. Received but not posted is a check in the amount of \$319,000 leaving a balance of \$205,046. A former Medicaid insurance provider at the Nursing Home still owes \$195,000. The committee is investigating how to continue with collections on those accounts.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the purchase of replacement computer software for \$14,814.00 and a gas pump for \$8,500 from Oil Marketing Equipment. This is for the gas pump located at the Mary Davis Home. The Sheriff's Department uses 75% of the gas from that pump. The Mary Davis Home uses it 8-10% of the time. The intention was to pay this expenditure through the public safety fund.

County Treasurer Robin Davis stated that this should be paid through another fund. The public safety fund is to be used only for matters of public safety such as the construction of the jail facility. Since other offices besides the Mary Davis Home and Sheriff's Office use the gas pump it is not appropriate to use the public safety fund. Instead it should go through the general fund. Other offices such as the Treasurer's Office, Nursing Home, and Assessment Office also utilize this pump.

Chairwoman Davidson agreed that public safety funds should only be used for expenditures related to public safety. Originally it was used to fund the construction of the Knox County Jail facility. If only the Sheriff's Department and the Mary Davis Home used the pump,

she would not see a problem with using the public safety funds to fund this expense. However, since other offices also use this pump, that is not related to public safety, this should be funded differently. Public Safety funds are to be used for things that have to do with keeping people safe.

Member Bondi inquired if this could be prorated. The County should make the best use of these funds. At least 75% of this could go through the public safety fund.

Member Hawkinson inquired if the expenditure could be divided between these departments and then a portion still go to the public safety fund. The remainder would then go the general fund. Perhaps the State's Attorney Office could look into this.

Chairman Davidson explained that the motion is to approve this purchase of computer software and pump from Oil Marketing Equipment located at the Mary Davis Home. They will have to review the guidelines and regulations concerning the public safety fund.

Member Bondi called for the question.

Roll call vote approve the purchase of replacement computer software for \$14,814.00 and a gas pump for \$8,500 from Oil Marketing Equipment is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—Erickson—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the replacement of the phone system at the Nursing Home from CenturyLink in the amount of \$12,392.47. Member Bondi stated that IT Director Andy Rowe did a great job in drafting the bid specifications, which are included in the packets.

Member Hunigan questioned why this system must be replaced.

Member Bondi responded that they can no longer obtain parts for this old system. This system is not repairable. They cannot be without a phone system.

Member Conklin observed that this amount is under the budgeted amount and this was the low bid.

Member Friedrich stated that this has been a long time coming. They have working on this for over a year.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Hunigan presented the monthly Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Recorder's Office, Highway Department and Landfill committee reports. The minutes and reports are included in the packets. Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds will be retiring May 5, 2017. He thanked Mr. Reynolds for his service and making the Landfill profitable. The County has begun to go through the interview process and so far have interviewed three candidates. They have ninety days from the day Mr. Reynolds leaves to hire a replacement. One of the problems with Mr. Reynolds leaving has to do with finding someone with appropriate certification.

The Assessor's Office and Zoning Office has been busy with taxpayers applying for exemptions and splits.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the purchase of a used dump truck from Winnebago County not to exceed \$127,000 for the Highway Department. Information and photographs are included in the packets. Funds for this

purchase are included in the budget. Highway Engineer Duane Ratermann explained that this is a replacement truck. What is remaining on the existing manufacturer's warranty would be transferred to the County. This seems to be a great price for the condition of the truck.

Roll call vote to approve the purchase of a used dump truck from Winnebago County not to exceed \$127,000 for the Highway Department is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, 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 Friedrich to approve the road vacation agreement with Sparta Township. Member Hunigan stated that this will increase the capacity of the Landfill as the setback from the road can be decreased. A copy of this agreement is included in the packets. This has to do with Sparta Township Road 97 (2150N) and is located near the Landfill.

Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds reported that they have been working on this agreement since 2010.

Member Friedrich reported that the County has maintained this road for years. One significant advantage to this agreement is that if the Landfill owns property on both sides of the road, the landfill can be expanded to include an area closer to the road.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, 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 Friedrich to approve the financing for a new CAT D6 dozer with F&M Bank in the amount of \$284,281 with an interest rate of 2.6% over a 5 year contract and includes a 20% down payment. Member Hunigan reported that they did exercise due diligence as they investigated other banks and their financing terms. This does look like the best deal.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Pass—Bondi—(1). Motion carried.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. He presented some highlights of the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. The expenses are slightly ahead of revenues. An advanced practice registered psychiatric nurse is to begin working at the Health Department in July. This nurse will be able to fill prescriptions and provide psychological counselling. Their Section 330 Health Center Grant Application has been granted for three more years, pending federal appropriation.

Member Varner presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. She presented highlights of the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. They have chosen to partner with a marketing business in Pekin who is working with them on brand development. It is exciting to be working with them. Through research and analysis the goal is to develop a new brand and slogan. There has been increased traffic on their website [www.visitgalesburg.com](http://www.visitgalesburg.com). Sandburg Days will be observed April 27-29.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 committee. He presented highlights of the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. This group meets every other month. For the months of February and March the dispatchers answered 19,528 calls. Of those calls 3,027 were 9-1-1 calls. There were 298 abandoned 9-1-1 calls. Those calls still have to be investigated by a police officer. On a daily basis the dispatch center handles 331 calls. That call center is staffed by two or three employees. They are looking at investing some 9-1-1 funds that are not needed in the immediate future. They are still doing 9-1-1 locating at campgrounds. On the federal level they are petitioning to reclassify 9-1-1 operators as clerical staff and not first responders. He does not agree with this. When citizens call 9-1-1 they expect to receive professional services. Sometimes they can save your life before the first responders arrive. The text service to 9-1-1 is not operational yet but they hope it will be ready in the next couple of months.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. Recently he attended an event in Chicago that featured several major Chicago area site selectors. These individuals are consultants that work with companies to help these companies decide where to locate projects. This is an important group of people to work with to attract businesses to Knox County. This was an opportunity to visit with them about the key factors in driving their decisions. These site selectors say that uncertainty in Illinois is one of the key factors that is killing Illinois opportunity to win projects. Site selection is about eliminating risk. In their eyes they see Illinois as a giant risk, in terms of taxes, state incentives programs and wages. Site selectors also spoke of the importance of speed and preparedness in our communities. It is important to them to have things like a shovel ready site available.

There is an annual "Small Business Awards" event is to be held May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Lake Storey Pavilion. This recognizes businesses across Western Illinois.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. He had distributed a handout to Board Members which includes their annual report and explains some of their ongoing and different programs. Prairie Land Conservancy is one of the branches for Prairie Hills Resource Project. They are working to get accredited as a land trust organization. This would allow them to apply for grants.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. He distributed a handout to Members about the subject of privacy rights. Recently two bills passed the House and the Senate. There are certain things that employers can no longer ask. He also distributed a handout regarding social media policy.

Member Hurst presented the monthly report from the Ad Hoc Committee for Technology Services. She reported that due to the election held earlier this month, this meeting was cancelled.

Chairwoman Davidson brought an update regarding the 708 Mental Health Board. She reported that County Clerk Scott Erickson is taking resumes from individuals desiring to serve on this Board. She has spoken to Mark Rudolph and Doug Mustain who report that they have received applications and these will be forwarded to her. In May they will attend the finance committee and explain how this Mental Health Board will be formed. She is overwhelmed as several people want to be on this board. She asked that all of those individuals who desire to



serve on this board send in their resume to Mr. Erickson's Office. The County Board will be choosing a County Board Member to sit on the Mental Health Board. They are doing more research and gathering background information on how this board should be formed. She had asked Member Conklin to be County Board's representative on the Mental Health Board.

Mark Rudolph commented that the Health Department is a direct service provider and does an amazing service. The staff on the Mental Health Board will not be paid and will not be a direct service provider. Both of these boards have the goal of having a healthier community. He has also been overwhelmed with the number of people who have expressed an interest in serving on the Mental Health Board.

Since there were no line item transfers, agenda item 33, (approve opening the budget for line item changes), agenda item 34, (presentation of the proposed budget line item changes), and agenda item 35, (approval of proposed line item changes) were removed from this agenda.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Shreves to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of March 23, 2017 through April 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, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Bondi and Sandoval—(2). Motion carried.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson had no comments as this time.

Member Hunigan thanked retiring Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds for his service.

Member Hawkinson suggested that a workshop with Board Members should be held to review Roberts Rules of Order addressing how a public meeting should be held.

Member Sandoval had no comments as this time.

Member Nache thanked Jerry Reynolds for his service.

Member Amor, Chairwoman Davidson, and Member Erickson had no comments at this time.

Member Friedrich thanked the department heads for all of the hard work that they do. He appreciates them.

Member Conklin had no comments at this time.

Member Bondi reminded Members of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Carl Sandburg Festival in Galesburg to be held that weekend. He thanked the Members that serve on the committee that he currently chairs. They are working through some difficult issues including union negotiations

and are continuing to work to resolve the issues and concerns that have been shared by Nursing Home employees. He appreciates the employees of Knox County.

Member Hurst also thanked Jerry Reynolds for his service.

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

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday May 24, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to adjourn from this Regular Meeting. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried. The Open Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.