

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

**December 23, 2015**

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 Wednesday, December 23, 2015, at 6:07 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 4	George Knapp
District 5	Brian Friedrich
District 1	Cheryl Nache
District 2	John Hunigan
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

And those absent:	District 2	Greg "Chops" Bacon
	District 3	Barbara Foster
	District 5	Jeff Jefferson

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

Sheriff Dave Clague delivered the proclamation. Chairman Friedrich led the Members in the pledge to the flag. Stephen Descalzo of Hope Wesleyan Church of Galesburg delivered the invocation.

Chairman Friedrich asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. Member Knapp asked that agenda item #10, approve resolution to transfer funds from the landfill gate receipts to the building fund, be removed from this agenda. Member Bacon could not attend this meeting and he wants to be present when this matter is discussed. Chairman Friedrich stated that this item would be presented the following month.

Chairman Friedrich asked for public comments. He reminded those choosing to address the Board to limit their remarks to two minutes. Jerry Ryberg addressed the Board concerning conditions at the Landfill. He repeated some of his comments from previous meetings and stated that the landfill administrator should be fired.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on November 25, 2015, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of December 23, 2015 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of September 2015 in the amounts of \$104,010.42 and \$20,874.57 and public safety tax in the amount of \$176,431.55. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Pitman—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Nache to approve the authorization for the State's Attorney to pursue legal action for salary reimbursements from the State of Illinois. Chairman Friedrich explained that this will authorize the State's Attorney, John Pepmeyer, to sue the State of Illinois for salary reimbursements for the Assessor, the State's Attorney and the Public Defender. Each county individually has to do this to get the money that is due to them for these salary reimbursements. Following the Board's approval Mr. Pepmeyer will begin the paperwork process December 24<sup>th</sup>. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Pitman—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, and Clerk Committee report was presented by Chairman Friedrich. The monthly reports and committee minutes are included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Davidson and seconded by Member Nache to approve the contract for Rev. Tyson Parks III, compliance officer for Knox County. Chairman Friedrich stated Rev. Parks has been doing a good job. He has been successful at recovering some old money due to the County. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Pitman—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the resolution for appellate prosecutor. Assistant State's Attorney, Sabrina Stroops, explained that this resolution handles conflict cases and is a great benefit to the County. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Pitman—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the employment contract for County Assessor Chris Gray. Member Davidson wanted to make it clear that this contract allows the accumulation of up to 30 sick days. Member Davidson questioned if Ms. Gray used sick days even though she is a salaried employee.

Ms. Gray stated that she does use sick days when she needs to do so, but this is not often.

Member Davidson stated that some people who are salaried do not use sick days. This subject came up earlier on another contract.

County Treasurer Robin Davis stated that accumulated sick days are paid out upon retirement.

Chairman Friedrich stated that the unused sick days and vacation days go into an employee's IMRF account.

Roll call vote to approve the employment contract for County Assessor Chris Gray is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Pitman—(11). Noes—Davidson—(1). Motion carried.

The Building Committee report was presented by Building Committee Co-Chairman George Knapp. The committee minutes are included in the packets. The main topic of discussion for this meeting was the fire escape at the courthouse. They are having problems getting someone to repair it for a reasonable price. One business wanted to remove it, rebuild it and then reinstall it. The quoted price was very costly. The committee is looking for other people who can perform this work at a lower cost. They are looking for another contractor who can take care of this fire escape.

Chairman Friedrich introduced discussion of Courthouse HVAC issues. He stated that County Clerk Scott Erickson had sent out an e-mail to courthouse employees seeking input so that they can contact the manufacturer and Mechanical Services Inc., (MSI) to get some issues addressed. There was only one complaint.

Member Davidson stated that she heard one day that the courthouse was really cold.

Sheriff Clague confirmed that one day some sections of the courthouse were really cold.

Chairman Friedrich added that they were going to call MSI to come investigate some problems and see what can be done to remedy the situation. Apparently the system is not working correctly.

Member Davidson suggested the perhaps courthouse employees are adjusting the temperatures.

Chairman Friedrich guessed that perhaps the space heaters are too close to the thermostats.

Member Bondi stated that somehow the air conditioning element of the system should be turned off.

Sheriff Clague responded that they did that one year and the engineers directed them to turn it back on. The problem in the past has been that the heating part heats the room to 72° and then the heat function would shut off. Then the air conditioning function comes on and cools the room. The system was working 24 hours a day.

Chairman Friedrich suggested that perhaps the air conditioning element of the system needs to be turned off.

Member Bondi stated that the HVAC engineer should be involved in resolving these problems.

Member Nache questioned why courthouse employees are still using their heaters. Those units are costly to operate. Does it get that cold in the courthouse that the employees must use them?

Sheriff Clague responded that he knows there are a couple of sections that do get cold enough to use a heater. Additionally he has some safety concerns.

Member Nache agreed that there are safety concerns and the expense issue.

Member Bondi reminded Members that the County has spent a lot of money on the HVAC system which was supposed to fix that problem. Everything should work efficiently. The building has not changed.

Member Nache suggested that the space heaters be collected. It should not be necessary to use them.

Chairman Friedrich responded that employees should be able to use them if they need to do so. In the end it is the Sheriff's call.

The Sheriff, Jail, Courthouse, Animal Control, Mary Davis Home, and Annex Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Ricardo Sandoval. The monthly report is in the packet. Currently there are 92 inmates at the Knox County Jail and 13 of those are federal inmates. They are expecting 2 more federal inmates. The Mary Davis Home reported a census of 23 juveniles and 3 of those are from Knox County.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the purchase of radios and repeaters for the Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$91,602.68 to Supreme Radio Communications, LLC. Specific information is included in the packets.

Chairman Friedrich stated that Sheriff Clague did a good job negotiating a lower price than what was expected. There were two bids received.

Sheriff Clague reported that the other bid came in at over \$100,000 and although that system did have repeaters, that system would have lesser ability. He explained that currently the only radio communication that is available is with portable radios. There is not currently a fixed radio unit in the squad cars. This purchase will place permanent radio units in the squad cars. Five or six years ago, they looked into the issue of relying on the portable radios. Up until the last couple years the portable radios were effective. The situation has consistently gotten worse as far as the reception. There could be a bit of a delay in getting this new system operational as the licensing process for the repeaters can take a while. Once they get the license then the installation should not take that long.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Pitman—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Nursing Home, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Member Knapp. These monthly reports are included in the packets. The current census of the Nursing Home is 137. The nursing home staff has worked diligently to cut expenses. They managed to cut \$7,000 from the annual expenses compared to the previous year. The Assessor has been very busy with the Board of Review. Those hearings will be starting after the first of the coming year. The Recorder reported the she recently had to go to Springfield to get more revenue stamps.

The Highway and Landfill Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Shawn Pitman. The monthly reports are in the packet. The month has been uneventful and the actual tonnage had declined compared to busier months.

Member Davidson presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. A new board had been selected. Jackie Turner served many years as president and is stepping down from the board. There is a new president. Despite the budget crisis in Springfield, the Knox County Health Department is managing to stay afloat and doing well. They are still functioning and applying for grants. They have been awarded other grants but will not receive those funds until Illinois has passed a state budget.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. The entrance project by the Visitor's Center is nearly complete. The Holiday Express is complete and will be opening soon. They did receive confirmation that they will be receiving their state funds. The projected amount is approximately \$55,000 for the coming year. That is an adequate amount. The cameras associated with Channel 7 are up and operating. That video is shown on the City's website. The County Sheriff also has direct access to this camera on top of the Bondi Building. This also goes to a DVR. This a valuable tool to have available.

Member Knapp presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 committee. There was much discussion on the subject of getting 9-1-1 numbers on residential rural properties. When an ambulance or fire truck responds to some of these addresses, they really need these 9-1-1 numbers. The City of Galesburg is willing to actually make these numbers available. There was also discussion on where these numbers would be displayed, whether on poles or buildings.

Sheriff Clague reported that finally the State is disbursing to the counties their share of the 9-1-1 funds. It was brought to their attention a few months ago the need to have this numeric portion of the address visible to emergency responders. It might be beneficial for the Sheriff's Department to look into purchasing a machine that would produce vinyl adhesive numbers. It could give the inmates something to do. County residents could then purchase these numbers at a reduced cost. These numbers then could be affixed to a mailbox.

Chairman Friedrich presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. The Love's project is moving forward. They have paid earnest money for the purchase of the Knox County farmland.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. At their last meeting a summary was presented of the activities of the last year. This board approved five small business loans and two of those in Knox County. Since beginning this program about 13 years ago, they have approved approximately 78 small business loans which have resulted in approximately 78 new jobs.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. There was no meeting for the month of December.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the opening of the budget for line item changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Pitman—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Pitman to approve specific budget line changes to budget FY2014-2015 for the following departments or funds: General Fund (non-departmental), CT Document, County Clerk, County Coroner, State's Attorney, Child Advocacy, Public Defender, Sheriff, VIP, Superintendent of Schools, County Treasurer, Board of Review, JAG Grant, K-9 program, CAC, County Board, Juvenile Justice, Veteran's, Nursing Home, Nursing Home Referendum, Highway, Landfill, Animal Control, Social Security, Debt Service, Law Library, Sale in Error, Health Insurance, Insurance Tort, Health Department, Public Safety, FQHC, Special Contingency Fund, Building Fund, Arrestee Med, and Court Documents. Specific information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is to approve specific budget line changes to budget FY2014-2015 is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Pitman—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Davidson to approve claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of November 26, 2015 through December 23, 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, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, and Pitman—(11). Noes—(0). Pass—Bondi—(1). Motion carried.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson wished everyone to have a good Holiday and to be careful.

Member Knapp wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He hopes that everyone has a prosperous New Year.

Chairman Friedrich thanked everyone for coming out that night, this night before Christmas Eve.

Member Nache wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. She told everyone to be safe and to drive safely.

Member Hunigan wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to enjoy time with their loved ones.

Member Davidson wished everyone a safe Holiday and a Happy New Year. She also spoke of the upcoming celebration of Martin Luther King's Holiday and invited everyone to attend this annual breakfast.

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

Member Bondi wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Member Hurst wished everyone a safe happy New Year.  
Member Pitman had no comments at this time.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Pitman to adjourn from this Open Meeting. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Open Meeting adjourn at 6:50 p.m.