

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

**February 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, February 22, 2017, at 6:00 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 5	Brian Friedrich
District 1	Richard Conklin
District 3	Trisha Hurst
District 4	Sara Varner
District 5	Todd Shreves

And those absent:	District 3	Michael Nelson
	District 4	David Erickson
	District 2	Robert Bondi

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. Rev. Leigh Nygard of Galesburg delivered the invocation.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for public comments. There were none.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Amor to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on January 25, 2017, and 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of February 2017

and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of November 2016 in the amounts of \$105,949.36 and \$14,939.91 and public safety tax in the amount of \$180,350.14. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Conklin, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve a contract for a rate allowance at the Landfill. Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds explained that the previous week he was contacted by an independent hauler who is bidding on a five year collection contract with a municipality that is not in Knox County. The Landfill is not currently getting any material from this hauler. If this individual gets this contract the Landfill would receive approximately 3,000 tons of material per year. The current out of County rate is \$40 per ton and the in County rate is \$36 per ton. At the in County rate the County would be receiving \$108,000 per year or slightly over \$500,000 over 5 years. This rate allowance is not something that the Landfill normally does. However, it would benefit the County over \$500,000 over the course of the 5 year contract. No one would be getting a lower rate than anyone else. This rate is not lower than a Knox County resident receives but it would be the same rate. He would appreciate the Board's approval.

Chairwoman Davidson recalled other occasions when the Board has approved similar contracts. As Chairwoman any business that comes to the County is good business.

Member Conklin recalled that as this matter was discussed during the Finance Committee Meeting, it was stated that other counties charge a higher in county rate than Knox County does. Their out of county rate is even higher. He is questioning why the County needs to lower the rate. He also has a problem awarding someone a lower rate than someone else.

Mr. Reynolds noted that the other landfills that are in the same general area are not public landfills but are owned by a particular company. Private companies can negotiate their rate at any time at any rate that they choose. However, at the County Landfill, the Knox County Board sets those rates. He does not vary from those rates but this is an opportunity to get a potential of nearly \$500,000 that they would not be getting otherwise. The current hauler who has this contract now is not bringing any of that to the Knox County Landfill so the County is not receiving this benefit. If the County does approve this lower rate, there is the potential of \$100,000 per year or \$500,000 over the 5 year duration of the contract. That could be extra money that goes into the contingency fund, the building fund or the general fund.

Member Varner stated she would like extra income for the County. Yet, there are others that do business at the Landfill and are not awarded that lower rate. She has concerns that some of these out of County businesses would get mad and take their business elsewhere. Someone else got a better deal than they did.

Member Friedrich explained the two tiered fee schedule at the landfill. The citizens of Knox County are financially responsible for the landfill forever. He understands both sides of this request for a rate allowance. It would be good to have additional funds coming in. Yet the citizens of the County are the ones who are responsible forever for the landfill.

Member Hunigan stated that due to the financial situation in the County, he would encourage the Board to approve it. There does not seem to be many people clamoring for a rate request. The County needs this revenue.

Member Nache agreed that the County needs this revenue. This is a five year contract. She is in favor of this request.

6:14 p.m. Member Bondi entered the room.

Member Hawkinson expressed a concern that the individual asking for the rate allowance is nameless. The public does have a right to know.

Chairwoman Davidson called for the question.

Roll call vote to approve a contract for a rate allowance at the Landfill is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Hurst, and Shreves—(7). Noes—Hawkinson, Sandoval, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(6). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the reappointment of Josh Hopping to the Galva Community Fire Protection District Board.

Member Conklin noted that a resume was not included in the packet.

County Clerk Scott Erickson responded that he did not have a chance to obtain one. Mr. Hopping has served one term already.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Conklin—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the policy for County Payroll Processing for the time clock system. A copy of this policy is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Director of Wellness and Health Education of the Knox County Health Department, Erin Olson, presented the 2016 Annual Report on the State of the Knox County Health Department. Copies of this report were distributed to the Board Members. According to Illinois County Codes this report must be presented to the Board and the community within ninety days of the conclusion of the fiscal year. This report highlights the main points of the previous year. The Illinois Food Code is changing and is to be implemented statewide July 1, 2018. The Health Department will be conducting training and education throughout the County in 2017. The report also contains information about the WIC program and the eligibility requirements. There is also information regarding the role of the Health Department when it comes to food inspections, potable water safety, wastewater disposal programs, immunizations, communicable diseases, flu clinics, health education programs, the Health Center, as well as other information. Financial information is also included and illustrates their revenues and expenditures for 2016. They are proud of the grants that they have received.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Amor to approve the Knox County Board of Health Annual Report as presented. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Nache—(1). Motion carried.

Member Friedrich presented the monthly report from the Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial and Clerk committee. The monthly report is in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve animal kill claims in the amount of \$0.00. Member Friedrich explained that they are required to pay these claims every year. However, for the past several years there have not been any. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the resolution of the deed of conveyance for PIN 99-22-226-006. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the resolution amending fees for the County Recorder's Office. Member Friedrich explained that this resolution is to clear up an incorrect dollar amount approved at the previous Meeting. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(12). Noes—Nache—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Conklin to approve Western Illinois Regional Council 2017 invoice for transporting and processing residential paint and electronics for recycling and/or disposal in the amount of \$11,200.00. Member Friedrich explained that the County joins with the City of Galesburg for this program as these are items that cannot be accepted at the Landfill. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Johnson to approve annual dues to the Prairie Hills Resource Conservation and Development in the amount of \$225.00. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Johnson presented the monthly Building Committee Report. A copy of the report is included in the packets. He reported that they are going to be working on the road to the winery as soon as the weather allows. The County Highway Department has agreed to do this road construction. It is a benefit to the County and a cost savings.

Member Bondi presented the monthly Sheriff, Jail, Courthouse, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Nursing Home committee report. The minutes and reports are included in the packet. He stated that staff from the Nursing Home attended that meeting and expressed their concerns. Union Representative Randy Lynch was also in attendance. In response a committee has been formed and will be meeting to review the minutes from the disciplinary committee. They will then report to the committee and then the Board.

The Mary Davis Home recently received State reimbursement in the total amount of \$174,407.29 for May and June of 2016.

The Sheriff reported that bids had been obtained for furniture, carpeting and painting for the annex. That will be forwarded to the building committee next month.

The Nursing Home recently received \$145,000 in reimbursement from back billing for Medicaid. They are still owed approximately \$500,000 from the State. Health Alliance still owes approximately \$250,000. They are considering asking the State's Attorney for help with this collection.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the bid submitted by Mechanical Services Inc., (MSI) for a new HVAC unit for wing 1 at the Nursing Home in the amount of \$12,260.00. Member Bondi explained that the industry is moving to R410A Freon which includes this unit. It would be better to replace the unit than to repair it. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve to bid and bring back for a midsize conversion van for the Nursing Home. Member Bondi explained that the Nursing Home has done fundraising and have \$20,000 to contribute towards this purchase. The estimated cost is \$60,000 and they are hoping to purchase this vehicle locally. Information is included in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(13). 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. He announced that Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds has submitted his resignation effective May 5, 2017. Foth Engineering will assist the County in the search for a new administrator. Under the leadership and direction of Jerry Reynolds the Landfill has created a positive revenue stream for the County. Mr. Reynolds has stated his willingness to help out until another administration is hired. The County Recorder noted that an error had occurred in last month's resolution amending their fees. That matter was resolved earlier in this Meeting.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the bids for 2017 Township Motor Fuel Aggregate Furnish and Spread/Stockpile, Section 17-XX000-00-GM. Specific information is included in the packets. Highway Engineer Duane Ratermann explained that this is something that is done every year. This year there were eight bidders that participated.

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

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. The report is included in the packet.

Member Varner presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. She attended her first meeting the previous day. She learned that they do a lot

and work hard for Galesburg. She distributed a handout to the Members that lists schedules and events to be held in the area. They are working on getting more information on their website.

Chairwoman Davidson commented that as a person of diversity and color she noted that in these handouts, there are never enough photos that reflect the community to include photos of people with color. They should work on that and include such pictures also on their website.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 committee. He reported that he had recently attended his first meeting as they meet every other month. This was a good meeting with a lot of good discussion. During the months of December 2016 and January 2017 dispatch responded to nearly 3,000 9-1-1 phone calls. The majority of those calls were from cell phones. They approved replacement of a radio tower antenna. They received three price quotes for fiber optics. They approved the quote from Status. This will enhance the ability to transmit text for 9-1-1 services. They addressed 9-1-1 concerns from dispatchers to campgrounds, where mapping is not adequate. They hope to work with GIS and are sending letters to campgrounds.

There was some discussion concerning Illinois House Bill 477 would include an additional surcharge for telephone services to fund a trauma center in Chicago. He feels that we should not have to pay for buildings that we would never see. This House Bill would open the door for 9-1-1 surcharges to be used for other services. He encouraged Board Members and citizens to contact their legislators to vote against this House Bill. That vote is to be April 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. He thanked everyone who attended that recent ribbon cutting at Love's Travel Stop. Thanks to the efforts of local corn growers and others, Love's Travel Stop will have an E-85 pump. The partnership hosted an entrepreneurship workshop the previous evening. They try to do these about every six months. They are averaging about 15 start-ups every time they host one of these events. There are new faces at each event. They are recording these workshops and putting this information on their website. There is a new section of their website set up for entrepreneurs. On a state level there is a new economic development tool included in Senate Bill 2071. This is a new tax credit that would replace a very old tax credit program, Edge. This new tool is more flexible and would work well for small businesses. This would make Illinois more competitive with our neighboring states. So far it is just a bill but it does have bipartisan support. It is an example of the State moving in the right direction.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. He stated that there was no meeting this month.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. He stated that the February meeting will be held February 27<sup>th</sup> and he will present his report at the next Board meeting.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Ad Hoc Committee for Technology Services. They reviewed the Stratus circuit that is coming in. They hope to get that completed in the next month or 60 days. They discussed conference calls. They also discussed e-mailing and the security that is associated with that. There should be a future meeting to discuss this topic in detail. They also discussed replacing the phone system at the Nursing Home. They

are getting bids on that. They are also looking at backup software for the Courthouse. What is currently in place will not be supported after this year. They are looking into establishing an independent website for the Landfill that would aid in finding a replacement for the current Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds.

Chairwoman Davidson expressed her thanks to Andy Rowe and Marlin Beal for their hard work on getting the time clock technology going throughout the whole County.

Member Bondi added that County Treasurer Robin Davis had worked hard to create a super system for the time clocks. It looks to be very user friendly.

Since there were no line item transfers, agenda item 26, (approve opening the budget for line item changes), agenda item 27, (presentation of the proposed budget line item changes), and agenda item 28, (approval of proposed line item changes) were removed from this agenda.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Bondi to approve claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of January 25, 2017 through February 22, 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.)

Chairwoman Davidson explained that some of the Sheriff's bills were not received in time for presentation to either the Sheriff's or Finance committees. Since these credit card bills were received that day, these bills were presented to the Board Members at this time for their review. She did not want Board Members to vote to approve bills that they had not seen. She apologized for the delay in this Meeting but this is the only time to look at the bills. She asked department heads to get the bills to the Board in time for review. The Members did review the bills and asked questions of Sheriff's Clague about some of them.

Specific questions were asked in regards to the clothing allowance. Some Members commented that the clothing allowance should only be used for the uniform or related clothing. Member Hurst stated that Board really needs to look into the definition of a uniform as related to this clothing allowance.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Davidson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(10). Noes—Nache—(1). Pass—Sandoval and Amor—(2). Motion carried.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson had no comments at this time.

Member Hunigan commented about Chairwoman Davidson's remarks about the lack of diversity in the Galesburg Tourism pamphlet. This should be addressed with Galesburg Tourism and Visitors Bureau. He thanked her for bringing it to the Board's attention. He also extended his thanks to Member Amor for helping to organize such as fantastic event as "Galesburg United Against Hate" held at Temple Sholom the previous evening.

Member Hawkinson asked Members to contact their legislators in regards to the 9-1-1 bill to pay a surcharge to fund a trauma center in Chicago. He encouraged Members and others to make their voices heard. He has already informed local representatives of his opposition to this House Bill.

Member Sandoval and Member Nache had no comments at this time.

Member Amor commented about the “Galesburg United Against Hate” event held the previous evening at Temple Shalom. He thanked all of the elected officials who attended. There was a wonderful turnout from all segments of the community and an excellent presentation by the outreach director.

Chairwoman Davidson thanked elected officials and department heads who have worked together to implement the payroll processing program for the time clock. She had spent the day at the annex with department heads, County employees and the IT department as this program was introduced. The IT department has been great. She is glad that they are moving forward with something that was brought forward over a year ago. This program will be betterment for the County.

Member Friedrich commented that he had opportunity to visit some local downtown shops recently. He encouraged others to do the same.

Member Conklin announced a public forum to be held at the Broadview Restaurant February 27<sup>th</sup>. School board candidates and other candidates will be present. Mark Randolph from KCCDD will be present to discuss the levy for the Mental Health Authority and referendum.

Member Bondi commented that it is actually the Birthday of the first President, George Washington. He commented about Member Hawkinson’s advice to contact local representatives in reference to House Bill 477. It is important to get on the internet and say something about this 9-1-1 tax. Perhaps elected officials should prepare something more formal to submit. He attended the “Galesburg United Against Hate” event and was very impressed. This event was a fabulous experience.

Member Hurst had no comments at this time.

Member Varner thanked Chairwoman Davidson for the opportunity to review the bills that were just received.

Member Sheves had no comments at this time.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 22, 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 open session. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.