

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

**January 27, 2016**

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, January 27, 2016, at 6:10 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 2	Greg “Chops” Bacon
District 3	Barbara Foster
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 3	Trisha Hurst
District 4	Shawn Pitman
District 5	Jeff Jefferson

And those absent:           District 2       Robert “Bob” Bondi

Also present were County Treasurer Robin Davis, State’s Attorney John Pepmeyer, 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. Rev. Leigh Nygard of Galesburg delivered the invocation.

Chairman Friedrich asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none.

Chairman Friedrich asked for public comments. Jerry Ryberg again addressed the Board concerning allegations of sexual harassment at the landfill. He also spoke of racism in connection with an incident which occurred January 28, 2011. Trash hauler Jim Harris was banned from the landfill, even though the judge and the jury found him not guilty. Racism had a huge part in this. Jim Harris lost his business and his income. He should be compensated by the County Board.

Dan Swanson introduced himself as a candidate for the 74<sup>th</sup> State representative seat. There is a vacancy as a result of Don Moffit's retirement. Mr. Swanson is a 27 year veteran. He is visiting different organizations in the district and considered it to be a privilege to attend this Meeting.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Foster to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on December 23, 2015, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of January 27, 2016 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of October 2015 in the amounts of \$102,769.39 and \$21,385.82 and public safety tax in the amount of \$174,034.36. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

An update from Court Appointed Special Advocates of Knox County, CASA, was presented by executive director Sara Robison. She provided a handout to the Board Members. This organization provides advocates to children who are victims of abuse and neglect through the use of trained community volunteers. Consistently half of all of their cases involve substance abuse/misuse. Of those cases that involve drug use in 2015, 43% involved methamphetamine use or 20% of the total number of cases. Domestic violence was involved in 30% of those cases.

In 2015 they had two large successful fundraisers. There have been smaller fundraisers as well. In the last year, they were awarded some additional grant funding. They were able to expand their volunteer education and some programming. In the future they would like to include more children served directly by the volunteers. She thanked the Board for their continued supported.

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

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the resolution on the deed of conveyance for parcel number 99-16-388-01. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Johnson to approve membership dues for Prairie Hills Resource in the amount of \$225.00. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Johnson to approve Tri County Regional Recycling Program invoice in the amount of \$10,800.00. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Nache to approve payment for Knox County Area Partnership in the amount of \$5,000.00. Member Bacon explained that this is the organization that replaced GREDA. Currently Chairman Friedrich sits on this board. He cannot say enough good things about this organization. The County could not duplicate the services that this organization is able to provide. They have been very instrumental with the Love's Project. The County needs somebody who is knowledgeable to attract new businesses to Knox County. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the resolution to abate the levy for General Obligation Alternate Revenue Bonds, Series 2010A and Series 2010B for tax year 2015 (Build America Bonds and Recovery Zone Bonds.) Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Bacon then addressed the subject of the e-pay system that is in place to pay fines through the Circuit Clerk's Office. This matter was discussed during the finance committee meeting. He checked with Circuit Clerk Kelly Cheesman and this e-pay system program has been in place since 2001.

Ms. Cheesman stated that traffic tickets can be paid on line.

The Building Committee report was presented by Building Committee Co-Chairman George Knapp. The monthly reports and committee minutes are included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Bacon to approve payment to Klingner and Associates for bidding consultation fees in the amount of \$372.00. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Knapp reported that recently a meeting was held with the architects, the installers of the HVAC system, the Sheriff and others. This was a very thorough positive meeting. The architects listened to their concerns and took notes. It was noted that the previous complaints that were made when the system was still under warranty had not been taken care of. Indication was given that those concerns would be taken care of.

Sheriff Dave Clague agreed with Member Knapp. This is one of the better meetings as far as the Courthouse is concerned. These professionals did take a tour of some of the problem areas. They also looked at the condensers that are outside. They are working at getting things back to normal again.

Member Bacon added that a contractor had contacted the County regarding repairs to the fire escape at the Courthouse. This contractor will be looking at this and thinks that he can repair this at a lower cost.

The Sheriff, Jail, Courthouse, Animal Control, Mary Davis Home, and Annex Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Ricardo Sandoval. The monthly reports and committee minutes are included in the packets. Currently there are 19 residents at the Mary Davis Home and 2 of those are from Knox County. The Knox County Jail has 121 inmates and of that number 15 are federal prisoners. They are working on getting the licenses for the new radios for the squad cars. Sheriff Clague reminded Members that Motorola had informed them from the beginning that there could be a delay getting the actual licenses. They had done their research and found two or three possible frequencies in the bi-state area. They are working on it. The Sheriff's Office might be waiting until June or perhaps this licensing could be accomplished earlier than that.

The Nursing Home, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Member Jefferson. The monthly reports and committee minutes are included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Pitman to approve ZBA Case #CU-04-15—Request for Conditional Use Permit to allow “wholesale & retail sales of agricultural/commercial, perishable foods, such as meat from livestock and animal products raised on premises under the “A” District”—Filed by Rich and Nicole Collins, Knoxville, Illinois.

Supervisor of Assessments Chris Gray explained that actually the Collins's were operating this business prior to the County's knowledge. They were raising lambs and chickens and having them butchered. They were then selling and storing these animal products on their property. They did have to get a USDA permit and license. They also have to be licensed through the Health Department. This is a unique situation. It was decided that the best approach to remedy this situation would be for them to obtain a conditional use permit. Currently the business owners report that no one is coming to the property to purchase the meat but instead they are delivering it to various local restaurants. The Zoning Board of Appeals did approve this request. The business owners are not planning on having any kind of large store, because they are not planning on having a lot of animals. They are not looking at having a grocery store on this site. There could be some minimal traffic.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Pass—Conklin—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Knapp to approve text amendments to the Zoning Resolution: AM-13-15 to add clarity to the definition of “Structure” and AM-14-15 to clarify “Road Frontages” under Article 8. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Highway and Landfill Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Shawn Pitman. The monthly reports and committee minutes are included in the packets. The tonnage is down in the winter but it has been higher than last year. The Landfill is still in the black.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Johnson to approve bids for diesel fuel for the Highway and Landfill Departments. Specific information is included in the packets. Member Pitman reported that this is a decrease of 55% compared to last year. There were two bidders and approximately \$25,000.00 difference between these two bids. The low bid was submitted by West Central FS. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Hurst to approve the bid for a secondary heat unit at the Landfill in the total amount of \$5,492.00 to J.P. Benbow Plumbing and Heating Co, Inc. Member Pitman explained that this unit will be used in the shop. This is a secondary unit that is fueled by LP. Member Bacon added that the other heater is fueled by recycled oil. However, a lot of the machinery is now covered by maintenance agreements and the landfill does not get that oil. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Johnson to approve bid for a roll off container for the Landfill in the total amount of \$11,582.00.

Member Pitman reported that Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds had presented this bid proposal to him. They have been looking at the market. Member Pitman would like to look on line for any used containers that are in decent shape and try to secure a lower price on this container. It might take a month or two but it might save the County some money. Mr. Reynolds stated that this bid would expire in 60 days from the date prepared. Member Pitman stated that he hoped that they could get a better price.

Motion was made by Member Davidson and seconded by Member Bacon to table this motion. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—Johnson—(1). Motion to table carried.

Member Davidson presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. Recently the Health Department renewed Michelle Fishburn's contract. They are looking at how they can better serve their clients. Their web site is up and operational. One feature allows clients to schedule their appointments. Their data base also allows clients to view their records. This has been very helpful for the "no call, no show" clients. Reminders can be e-mailed to clients. The Health Department is still looking for another Board Member to fill the position of Jackie Turner. Those interested should contact the Health Department.

Member Knapp presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 committee. He reported that their meeting was held January 21. They discussed a couple things but no commitment was made. It was reported that the 9-1-1 program in Stark County is really having problems. They have a smaller population and are considering joining another county. The committee also continued discussion on getting 9-1-1 numbers available to put on County properties to aid emergency responders. There was still continued discussion on where these numbers should be placed. Member Knapp would prefer that these numbers are placed on the mail box. They should not be more than twenty feet from the road.

Sheriff Clague reported that he had recently attended meetings in Springfield. There is growing concern for the last ten months about the lack of money coming from Springfield, primarily due to the Governor withholding it. Recently Knox County did receive a check in payment of the months of May 2015-September 2015.

The Board may have to consider passing a resolution to define the appropriate place to put the 9-1-1 numbers. Emergency responders depend on these numbers to locate some addresses. There needs to be a designated place for these numbers. There is the issue of what to do if an ordinance is passed and a homeowner is not compliant. He will be looking into this and perhaps in the next month or two he will have a resolution for the Board to look at.

Chairman Friedrich presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. Ken Springer brought an update to the Board. He thanked the Board for their continued support. He reported that they had a good fourth quarter and were very busy. He spoke of an upcoming event at Hy-Vee on North Henderson Street in Galesburg. Their gas station will be opening soon and they will be offering E-85. This is good for the region and good for agriculture. He also spoke of the upcoming annual meeting of the Knox County Area Partnership. Soon they will be presenting their Strategic Plans. Chairman Friedrich added that at this last meeting a representative was there from Galesburg School District #205. He shared some of the challenges that they are going through and they are very similar to the challenges that the County faces.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. He presented a handout containing the annual report, which includes their projects for the previous year. During their recent meeting he was re-elected as chairman of this board. This year their annual Prairie Table Fundraising Dinner will be held in Galesburg. In addition to working with land conservation projects they continue to offer loans to small businesses.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. There was a council meeting January 25<sup>th</sup>. A legislative update was presented. It looks like nothing will be moving in the Legislature until after the primary election. The deadlock between the Governor and the Legislature continues. He did provide a copy of a resolution to County Clerk Scott Erickson. The Board needs to review this and approve this at the next Board Meeting. This resolution has to do with jury costs. The State wants to increase juror fees from \$25 to \$50. This would have a large financial impact especially if there were several large cases in any single year. UCCI wants all of the counties to approve this resolution. The feeling is that this is still another unfunded mandate. This could cost a lot of counties a lot of money. He also brought back a copy of the wage study for the County to complete and mail back in. The next meeting is to be a legislative luncheon and he is hoping to see several legislators in attendance.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Foster to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of December 24, 2015-January 27, 2016 (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, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson, Member Bacon, Member Foster, and Member Knapp had no comments at this time.

Chairman Friedrich thanked those Board Members that serve on outside committees.

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

Member Davidson commented that early voting will be starting soon and encouraged people to exercise their right to vote.

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

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Erickson to adjourn from this Meeting. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Open Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.