

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

**January 25, 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, January 25, 2017, at 6:25 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, and County Clerk Scott Erickson.

Sheriff David Clague delivered the proclamation. Chairwoman Pamela Davidson led the Members in the pledge to the flag. Rev. Stephen Descaizo of the Hope Wesleyan Church 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 Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 28, 2016, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of January

2017 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of October 2016 in the amounts of \$103,819.97 and \$24,946.80 and public safety tax in the amount of \$176,668.32. Member Hawkinson and Member Amor asked for corrections to the minutes of the Meeting of December 28, 2016. The original motion was amended to include these changes.

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 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 the resolution of the deed of conveyance for PIN 13-33-383-005. Member Friedrich stated that this action will restore this property to the tax rolls. 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 Conklin to approve the resolution on amending the fees for the County Recorder's Office. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Two fees will be increased. Land record fees will be increased to \$70.00 and non-land record fees will be increased to \$61.00. This increase will not be immediate as businesses must be informed of this rate increase. This increase has to do with the fee study conducted by Bellweather, LLC. In this case, they decided to go to the maximum allowable. Chairwoman Davidson added that these fees are still lower than some other counties. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(13). Noes—Nache—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the resolution on amending the fees for the County Clerk's Office. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Member Friedrich explained that several fees in that office are being increased. County Clerk Scott Erickson added that these fees are still lower than some counties. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner, and Shreves—(13). Noes—Nache—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the resolution to abate levy for General Obligation Alternate Revenue Bonds, Series 2010A and Series 2010B for tax year 2016 (Build America Bonds and Recovery Zone Bonds.) A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Member Friedrich stated that this is a normal routine business matter that is done every 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 Friedrich invited all department heads to attend next month's finance committee meeting as credit cards will be discussed.

Member Johnson presented the monthly Building Committee Report. A copy of the report is included in the packets. They discussed renovation work on the Annex Building and are trying to get some figures together. The highway engineer has been given the direction to obtain figures to put out for bid for the road to the winery.

Member Bondi added that he and Member Shreves had gone out to visit that site and it was really slippery out there. They walked from the Nursing Home side to where Love's road will connect. There is moving water in that area that is quite deep in places. They do plan to proceed with the road to the winery and fulfill that obligation but are still researching the best course for the road to the Nursing Home. If the County could get some State assistance to help fund this project it would be easier to build this access road.

Member Friedrich responded that Klingner is not hopeful that the State will help with the funding, but still the County should ask.

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. The State did submit their May and June payments to the Mary Davis Home in the total amount of \$174,407. However, the State still owes \$525,175. The State reimbursement is 85% of the operating cost and the other counties that utilize the services of the Mary Davis Home pay the balance.

The Sheriff had reported that the State is now requiring all deputies to do professional development courses and this will add to the budget for the tuition cost and overtime pay. This is another unfunded State mandate. They plan to send the deputies to Carl Sandburg College at a tuition cost of \$96,480. As the budget was being prepared, the Sheriff did not know of this new requirement.

The Nursing Home is owed \$1,000,000 in Medicare funds. The State owes \$750,000 and Health Care Alliance owes \$250,000. Health Care Alliance is being very difficult to work with. Nursing Home Administrator Rachel Secrist reported that some of these claims are filed up to eight times before they are finally paid. These are separate claims for separate individuals. Health Care Alliance no longer participates in the State of Illinois MMAI (Medicare-Medicaid Alignment Initiative program).

Member Bondi reported that there are further details in the report included in the packet.

The committee also reviewed pending lawsuits and workman compensation claims.

Chairwoman Davidson commented about the funds that are owed by Health Care Alliance, that since this is money that is owed to the County, the County should look into bringing litigation even on a case by case basis to get these funds.

Member Hawkinson questioned if it would be appropriate to give direction to State's Attorney John Pepmeyer to send some kind of demand letter as a first step.

Chairwoman Davidson agreed that that would be a good first step.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the resolution authorizing the transfer of funds from the Knox County Nursing Home Tax Levy Account to the Nursing Home General Account. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. The purpose of this resolution is to cover existing shortfalls.

Member Conklin questioned if the County is required to pay these funds back at the end of the year. What if the County does not have the funds to do so?

Member Bondi responded that in the past the County has been able to pay this back.

Member Friedrich reminded Members that last year it was down to the wire and they fought with the State a couple days before the County finally received those funds. Hopefully the County will be in better financial shape this year.

Roll call vote to approve the resolution authorizing the transfer of funds from the Knox County Nursing Home Tax Levy Account to the Nursing Home General Account 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.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Hurst to approve the resolution on the Motor Fuel Tax Salary for the County Engineer. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—Nache—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Hurst to approve the resolution for 2017 County Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance. A copy of this resolution 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 Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the Zoning Board of Appeals recommendation for Case # CU-08-12-Request for conditional use permit in the "A" Agricultural Zoning District for a vehicle repair shop with conditions, submitted by David Brown III. (The recommendation from the ZBA was to approve this request.) Information is included in the packets.

Supervisor of Assessment Chris Gray explained that the property owner was in violation as a pole barn was built on his property and used for automobile storage. He had stated on the application that the pole barn was to be utilized for farm use. He built an accessory building on a parcel of land that does not have a primary or principle building on it. That is in direct violation of the zoning resolutions. Several options were discussed that would allow the building to remain on this property. The property owner approached the ZBA with plans to use this building as a location for a classic car repair business which he plans to operate himself. He plans to build an attachment to the building for the business and a residence. The ZBA approved this request with these five stated conditions.

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 Zoning Board of Appeals recommendation for Case # AP-01-17-Request to appeal the zoning resolutions in the “C” Conservation Zoning District submitted by Kevin and Joan Boesen. The recommendation from the ZBA was to deny this request. Information is included in the packets.

Supervisor of Assessments Chris Gray explained that the property owners are interested in conversation of that acreage and plans to build a saw mill for their use and additionally plans to store equipment in this building. There is no primary building or residence on the property. Zoning resolutions require a principle building on the property before an accessory building be constructed unless the purpose of the accessory building is strictly for farm use. As a way to try to resolve this, the ZBA presented several options without building a home on this property. This is zoned for general conservation. Even though the zoning office recommended that the property owners not appeal the zoning resolutions, the property owners did file an appeal.

Member Friedrich reminded Members that a “yes” vote on this motion is to uphold the decision from the ZBA to deny this request. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Pass—Conklin—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve re-tipping the wheels on the 826H Compactor at the landfill. Member Hunigan explained that it is more cost effective to re-tip the wheels than to replace the compactor. The estimated cost is \$45,000.

Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds stated that over time the tips of the compactor get worn off. These tips start off at a length of 6 ½ or 7 inches and are now 3 or 3 ½ inches. It just is not doing the job that it did.

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

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. His report is also included in the packets. He stated that this was his first time to attend this meeting as the County Board’s representative. They are doing good work in a professional way. They make a positive impact on the community.

Member Varner presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. She stated that she had not yet attended a meeting. There was no January meeting.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 Committee. There was no meeting. They are moving toward quarterly meetings instead of monthly. He has been talking to Sheriff Clague. They are working on the new technology that goes with the new enhanced 9-1-1 system.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. They recently held their annual meeting. Adam Vitale was elected as Chairman. Lead activity has been strong, although it was slow during the holidays. He announced a new sushi restaurant that will be opening in downtown Galesburg. The Partnership

will be hosting another workshop for entrepreneurs. This is a free event and offers advice for those who want to start up a new business. They also plan to put this information on their website.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. He recently attended their annual meeting. They adopted their new budget for the coming year and established plans. Among their goals for the coming year is to increase membership and work closer within their communities to develop opportunities for funding. With Trump's presidency there is some concern for the EPA and consequently the Brownfield Project. They hope to increase small business loans. They also plan to do some leadership development training sessions. They have scheduled their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Winery Tour, for April 29<sup>th</sup>. He was re-elected as Chairman of this Board.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. He stated that he just returned that day. They had their annual meeting with the legislators and also a training session. They did not get opportunity to meet with the senators as at the last minute they were called back in session. The Senate did put together a 13 point plan and if successful in the Senate will forward it to the House. The problem is that it is all-inclusive. They cannot separate the points from this plan. Some points include revising the minimum wage, reducing local government, amending the general obligation bond authorization, creating a Chicago Casino, creating an Ethics Commission, creating a tax on sugary beverages, amending Illinois pension code, etc. There was opportunity to talk with our local representatives and that was very beneficial. There were three work sessions that very informative.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Ad Hoc Committee for Technology Services. Recently there was an inquiry from Henry County about how Knox County works with their IT Department. The committee reviewed the bid from Stratus Network in the amount of \$575 a month. They reviewed the Century Link software upgrade. They also discussed the phone equipment for the Mary Davis Home.

Since there were no line item transfers, agenda item 25, (approve opening the budget for line item changes), agenda item 26, (presentation of the proposed budget line item changes), and agenda item 27, (approval of proposed line item changes) were removed from this agenda.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Nache to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of December 29, 2016 through January 25, 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.)

Member Varner questioned some bills from the Sheriff's Department, whether the County receives a discount for normal maintenance such as oil changes. Sheriff Clague responded that the County does receive a discount.

Member Varner also questioned some bills from the Health Department and the Public Defender's Office. She was told that those bills would be reviewed.

Member Varner shared her concerns that some of the bills had not been signed. She has a problem in approving bills that are not signed. The original motion was amended to state that the bills would be approved subject to being signed.

Roll call vote to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of December 29, 2016 through January 25, 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) is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Pass—Sandoval—(1). Motion carried.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson had no comments at this time.

Member Hunigan commented that he had opportunity to attend the Women's March in Washington, DC the previous Saturday. This was quite an experience. The estimated attendance was 250,000.

Member Hawkinson commented about a Town Hall Meeting for District 4 to be held in February. This will be an opportunity to greet people and share information.

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

Member Amor commented that in the last year nationally there has been a surge in acts of violence aimed at members of ethnic minorities. Locally he is not aware of any hate crimes. He feels that people should be prepared in advance. People should demonstrate unity. He announced a public event and discussion to be held February 21, 2017 at Temple Shalom. They have invited a well-known author who will speak on the current state of hate crime. He will also moderate at a discussion on how a community should respond to any such acts of violence. Member Amor encouraged all Board Members to attend.

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

Member Friedrich commented in reference to the Bellweather Cost study. In preparing this study they worked with the department heads and elected officials. Bellweather reminded Board Members that these people are doing their jobs and doing it quite well. Because of that the County does not need an administrator. Member Friedrich thanked these department heads and elected officials.

Member Conklin, Member Bondi, and Member Hurst had no comments at this time.

Member Varner commented that some courthouse employees had expressed general concern about a blue car that had been parked in the courthouse parking lot for several years. It takes up a valuable parking spot. She has been told it is County property. Then it should be sold. This matter should be addressed.

Member Shreves had no comments at this time.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Hawkinson to adjourn until the next scheduled meeting of the Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Open Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.