

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

**March 23, 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, March 23, 2016, at 6:20 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 5        Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval
- District 1        Richard Conklin
- District 2        Robert “Bob” Bondi
- District 3        Trisha Hurst
- District 4        Shawn Pitman
- District 5        Jeff Jefferson

And those absent:        District 4        David Erickson

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. Since no clergyman was present to deliver the invocation, Chairman Friedrich asked for a moment of silence.

Chairman Friedrich asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. Member Bacon asked for an addition for agenda item 33 A to present a report from the Western Illinois Regional Council.

Chairman Friedrich asked for public comments. There were none.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on February 24, 2016, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of March 2016 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of December 2015 in the amounts of \$115,729.03 and \$17,647.93 and public safety tax in the amount of \$200,864.22. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

County Clerk Scott Erickson introduced Annabeth Gibbons and Maddie Kalb as leaders of the Teens Take Charge Registration Initiative. This is a voter registration program that works with local high school students. Annabeth Gibbons and Maddie Kalb addressed the Board and stated that through their combined efforts they have registered over 300 students in 6 local schools to vote. As part of new State legislation, 17 year olds are allowed to vote in the primary election. Mr. Erickson added that these students received no class credit for this project and have worked diligently to encourage high school students to register to vote. He presented a certificate of appreciation to them.

Chairman Friedrich read aloud the Proclamation of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Knox County. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve this proclamation. Director of the Child Advocacy Center, Judy Gunseth, addressed the Board and gave an update of events scheduled in April. She also spoke of the Blue Ribbon Task Force. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

A presentation was given by Denise Bradburn, executive director of Discovery Depot, regarding upcoming planned projects. She distributed handouts to the Board Members. Discovery Depot is in the midst of a fund raising campaign to help fund a new water feature to be added to their facility. The plan is to add 750 square feet to include the water exhibit and a science learning lab. Annually 42,000 people visit this facility. It is anticipated that this expansion will increase the number of annual visitors to 50,000. This will have a huge positive impact to the local economy. Discovery Depot is not funded through taxpayer dollars, but instead through admission fees, membership fees and donations. The City of Galesburg has given them some TIF dollars to help fund things like an elevator for this project.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Pitman to approve to remove from the table the appointment to the Galesburg Sanitary District from the February Meeting. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the reappointment of Kenneth Swanson to the Galesburg Sanitary District. Member Pitman stated that last month he asked that this agenda item be tabled to allow time to look at this appointment. Some County residents had phoned him with their concerns about the Galesburg Sanitary

District. He and Chairman Friedrich did check into this and did not find sufficient information to warrant a change. The County needs to look at how to get the Sanitary District more involved in economic development. Moving forward there should be some changes. This group needs to be part of the discussion.

Member Bondi stated that he would like to see a resume for Mr. Swanson as none was provided. The Galesburg Sanitary District brings a lot to the table. Board Members should have a better idea of who they are voting for. The Board should take a hard look at these appointments. In order to grow Galesburg and Knox County, they should have the best people in each position. This should be similar to the Members reviewing all of the bills in the Board packet. Members receive this information and review it.

Member Bacon explained that the names of these individuals are brought to the County Board by the people who work with them in these multiple various entities. The County Board should trust the district representatives to do their homework on their recommendations for these appointments. There are four such appointments on this agenda.

There was much discussion about whether the Board should review all of these resumes and possibly interview all of these candidates.

Member Jefferson commented that the County Board does not need to micromanage these other boards who routinely present their names to the County Board. He would not be in favor of reviewing all of these resumes for these individuals.

Chairman Friedrich commented that he would not have the time to review these resumes or do interviews for these appointments.

Roll call vote to approve the reappointment of Kenneth Swanson to the Galesburg Sanitary District is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(12). Noes—Bondi—(1). Pass—Conklin—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Knapp to approve the appointment of William R. Shea to the Wataga Sanitary District. Member Conklin inquired how this process could be defined to review these appointments. Perhaps this matter could be included on next month's agenda. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Conklin and Bondi—(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the appointment of Larry Mackie to the Williamsfield Sanitary District. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(12). Noes—Bondi—(1). Pass—Conklin—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the reappointment of Gregory A Wessel to the Elba-Salem Fire Protection District. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(12). Noes—Bondi—(1). Pass—Conklin—(1). Motion carried.

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

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the resolutions of deeds of conveyance for the following fifteen parcels: 05-14-341-002, 10-18-230-013, 13-33-251-024, 13-33-357-009, 14-29-379-003, 15-20-302-001, 17-04-153-005, 99-11-276-008, 99-11-330-001, 99-11-331-024, 99-15-155-026, 99-15-427-007, 99-15-477-002, 99-23-103-014, and 11-24-188-016. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Foster to approve the resolution authorizing conveyance of County property sale. During the course of the sale of this acreage Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores, Inc. entered into an agreement for the conveyance of the property to Roserock Holdings, LLC. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the resolution to amend a resolution on budgetary line item changes to the County Budget. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. County Treasurer Robin Davis explained that the purpose of this resolution is to clarify the process of budget line transfers. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—Nache—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the bid for a roll off container for the landfill in the amount of \$11,582.00. Specific information is included in the packets. This container is for the Farmland contract. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the extended five year warranty for the compactor for the landfill in the amount of \$23,918.50. Member Pitman explained that this warranty will cover all of the major components of the compactor. If any one of the main components was to fail it would cost more than this amount to repair or replace it. This warranty is a good cost investment. When this compactor was originally purchased a one year warranty was included. There was some discussion as to whether this was actually a four or five year warranty. Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds stated that he would call and clarify the ending date. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Nache, Sandoval, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(10). Noes—(0). Pass—Friedrich, Hunigan, Davidson, and Conklin—(4). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Hurst to approve the bid for bridge replacement—County Highway 7—Section 13-00147-00-BR for the Highway

Department. Member Pitman reported that the low bid submitted by Hernan Construction Company came in \$50,000 less than the estimated amount. The County has worked with this company before. Roll call vote to approve the bid for bridge replacement—County Highway 7—Section 13-00147-00-BR for the Highway Department is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the preliminary engineering service agreement for bridge design—Henderson Township—Section 16-08128-00-BR for the Highway Department. Highway Engineer Duane Ratermann reported that this bridge is considered to be functionally obsolete. This is a narrow bridge only one lane and a half wide. Henderson Township does have the funds to replace this bridge. So it will be designed this year and built next year. Member Pitman reported that this bridge was originally constructed in 1966. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Knapp presented the monthly report for the Building Committee. Their monthly report is included in the packets.

The Sheriff, Jail, Courthouse, Animal Control, Mary Davis Home, and Annex Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Ricardo Sandoval. Their monthly report is included in the packets. The current census at the Mary Davis Home is 21 and 3 of those are from Knox County. Currently there are 122 inmates at the Knox County Jail and of that number 18 are federal inmates.

The Nursing Home, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Member Jefferson. Their monthly report is included in the packets. He thanked Nursing Home administrator Rachel Secrist for the tour of the facility at their last committee meeting. This is really a great facility that the County can be proud of.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the decision on Zoning Board of Appeals Case # AP-01-16—Appeal to remove a condition on a conditional use permit for Kristi Betts, to remove allowing outside parties and gatherings to be held on that property. The decision of the ZBA was to deny this request. Specific information is included in the packets.

Supervisor of Assessments Chris Gray explained this request has to do with some individuals who had requested to hold their weddings and celebrations outdoors. Currently according to the terms of their conditional use permit, that is not allowed. The petitioner asked that this condition be removed. Originally there was some concern about outside noise. During the hearing there were some neighbors who spoke in opposition to having outside events. There was some concern that although the wedding is usually regarded as quiet event, the reception following can be very noisy. There had been previous complaints to the police regarding the noise level inside the facility and also a call about a domestic disturbance. The neighbors testified that even though the music is inside this building, they were hearing it and feeling it inside their homes. Hopefully there will be some discussions between the neighbors and the

business owner to try to resolve these problems. On the first granting of the conditional use permit, the ZBA did allow a small smoking area outside. But they voted to deny this request to allow outside events and gatherings. The ZBA has also suggested that security guards be hired. These neighbors were very vocal to state their opposition to this request.

Chairman Friedrich stated that voting yes on this motion will be voting to uphold the decision of the ZBA which denies this request.

Roll call vote to approve the decision on Zoning Board of Appeals Case # AP-01-16—Appeal to remove a condition on a conditional use permit for Kristi Betts, to remove allowing outside parties and gatherings to be held on the property is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Friedrich, Sandoval, Bondi, Hurst, and Jefferson—(7). Noes—Johnson, Knapp, Nache, Hunigan, and Pitman—(5). Pass—Davidson and Conklin—(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the decision on Zoning Board of Appeals Case #AM-01-16—Request for text amendment to the Zoning Resolution in the “A” Agricultural Zoning District, under 5.302 conditional uses to add #32, Sawmill. The decision of the ZBA was to approve this request. Specific information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the decision on Zoning Board of Appeals Case #CU-01-16—Request for conditional use permit for a sawmill in the “A” Agricultural Zoning District, by Karl Kirvin, 1954 Knox Hwy 17, Gilson, Illinois. Specific information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Jefferson reported that the census at the Nursing Home was 137. He also spoke of upcoming fund raisers at the Nursing Home to fund the purchase a new vehicle for the Nursing Home to be used to transport residents. The Nursing Home will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary August 20, 2016. There will be a community barbeque cook-off to observe this occasion.

The Highway and Landfill Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Shawn Pitman. He reported that the tonnage at the landfill shows an upward trend as spring approaches.

Member Davidson presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. She was not able to attend this meeting.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors’ Bureau. Recently the new hotel had their grand opening. The bad news is that there was a major sewer backup at the Galesburg Convention and Visitors’ Center. Major damage occurred to the majority of the interior of the building. All of the flooring and a lot of the drywall will have to be replaced. The signage in that area has been completed.

Member Knapp presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 committee. This was a short meeting. They talked about some financial matters.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. He reported that about 135 people attended their recent breakfast. This was good response.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from Prairie Hills Resources Board. This group has not met this the last month but will be meeting next month. The upcoming wine tour is sold out.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. They have not met since the last Board Meeting. They are scheduled to meet March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Member Hurst presented the monthly report from the Ad Hoc Committee for Technology. They discussed the progress with the time clock. The election results are not yet finalized. Chairman Friedrich added that the County GIS feature is available on cell phones. This is a valuable tool to provide property information as well as maps.

Member Bacon presented the report from the Western Illinois Regional Council. This is a board that meets quarterly. In the past they have awarded the County two grants. There is still one grant in the process for the \$50,000 for the sidewalks that were placed around the Courthouse. This is held up by State government. This organization does a lot to help smaller communities. They have a low interest program to replace wells. They have not had much of a response to this program. Member Bacon has shared this information with the Health Department. This organization allocates funds for this program and would like to see more applications. He did inform this group of Knox County's need for financial assistance with the fire escape project at the Courthouse. There is really not much hope for financial help until the State of Illinois approves their budget.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the opening of the budget for line item changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Bacon presented the proposed line item changes. County Treasurer Robin Davis stated that handouts had been provided to the Members. This transfer has to do with back pay recently awarded to the sergeants and lieutenants.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Johnson to approve budget line item changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Nache to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of February 25, 2016 through March 23,

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, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Pass—Bondi—(1). Motion carried.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson and Member Bacon had no comments at this time.

Member Foster wished everyone a Safe Easter Holiday.

Member Knapp had no comments at this time.

Chairman Friedrich commented that the committee that week had toured the office of County Circuit Clerk Kelly Cheesman. It was a good tour of all three floors. More tours of County offices and facilities are scheduled.

Member Nache wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Member Hunigan expressed concern about the tragic loss of life to violence in the community recently.

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

Member Conklin commented that Thrushwood Farms recently had won some awards for some of their meat products. They have entered their products in an international contest in Germany. This is a local family owned business and they deserve a pat on the back. Knox County needs more businesses like this one.

Member Bondi asked that the community keep the family of Scott Boyden in their thoughts and prayers. This man contributed much to this community. Member Bondi also commented that there is a new face with Klingner and Associates and that is Michael Fries.

Member Hurst thanked Members for their support.

Member Pitman had no comments at this time.

Member Jefferson offered his congratulations to John Pepmeyer on his election win.

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

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Pitman to adjourn from this Meeting until the next scheduled Meeting of the Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Open Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.