

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

March 22, 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, March 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 2	Robert Bondi
District 3	Trisha Hurst
District 4	Sara Varner
District 5	Todd Shreves

And those absent: District 3 Michael Nelson
 District 4 David Erickson

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. In lieu of a formal invocation a moment of silence was observed.

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

Chairwoman Davidson asked for public comments. John Vanier, President of the Galesburg Sanitary District, addressed the Board in support of Dick Allen as trustee to be reappointed to the Galesburg Sanitary District. This appointment appears on this agenda. He stands in full support of Mr. Allen’s reappointment. He also extended a welcome to anyone

wanting to visit the Galesburg Sanitary District. They are a very valuable component of the infrastructure and very few people know anything about it.

Mark Rudolph a representative from KCCDD addressed the Board and thanked them for their leadership shown last December in putting the Mental Health Board on April's ballot. He thinks it is going really well and the community seems to be supporting it.

Randy Lynch, staff representative from AFSCME # 31 addressed the Board and shared some concerns about the Knox County Nursing Home. There have been some conversations with the Nursing Home committee and some petitions have been signed stating the staff's lack of confidence in the current management team at the Nursing Home. Several Nursing Home staff members were present at this meeting and willing to address the Board with their concerns over the way that employees are treated at the Nursing Home. There is a lack of respect and dignity demonstrated to the employees. There is intimidation on a daily basis. This is proven by the lack of the ability of the facility to hire new employees. There is a definite shortage of employees resulting in issues with excessive mandatory overtime. There are employees working 12-16 hour shifts several days a week. During the last few months there was an incident of a management member physically putting their hands on a union employee. Such action should not be accepted by the Knox County Board.

These issues need to be addressed. They tried to avoid discussing these issues in public. The employees are willing to stand up and fight back about the way that they are treated and the lack of respect shown to them. For the employees and the survivability of the Nursing Home these matters need to be addressed.

Jodi Hanen addressed the Board. She stated that she has been an employee of the Nursing Home for 29 years and union president for the last eight years. There have times when issues have come up and union and management do not agree. She thought there was a good working relationship with the administrators. When there have been issues, they have been able to sit down and discuss these issues and tried to come up with a solution that worked for both sides. With the current administrator she does not feel that there is a good working relationship. This administrator is not willing to sit and discuss these issues. For example, for some time there has been staffing problems. There have many instances of the LPNs doing 12-14 hour days for 5-7 days in a row. She has spoken to the administrator about these employees working long hours and are getting tired and burned out. We need to work together to find out why we do not have enough staff members to cover these shifts. Even though the situation continues, nothing has been done to solve this problem. Several grievances have been filed. Employees are getting mandated when they should not have been. There have many times when co-workers have left the human resources office crying because of how they have been spoken to. She has worked at the Nursing Home for 29 years and thinks that this is a great facility. There are a lot of issues that she feels are being ignored. We need to come up with a solution. She appreciates the Board listening to these concerns. Hopefully something can be done to make these issues go away.

Rachel Sopello, who has worked as a nurse at the Knox County Nursing Home for five years, addressed the Board. She had worked as a CNA for 26 years and really enjoys working with the elderly. In the last couple years, it has been a very short staff working very long hours. A lot of work has been poured onto them. It is totally unrealistic. The wage scale does not reflect

that this is a five star facility. She also works part time at a two star facility and makes a higher wage there. Other employees are turning in their two week notices. Nurses are working crazy hours. Nothing is being done or taken care of. People are getting mandated all the time. There are too many chiefs and not enough Indians. It is a great facility but something needs to change.

Jeremy Gerlatch addressed the Board. He was the Therapy Director at the Knox County Nursing Home from April 2014 to September 2016. He wanted to speak about how and why he was replaced. For the first few months that he began working at the Nursing Home he got along OK with the Nursing Home Administrator. After that it seemed like it was a constant battle as she wanted residents to continue in therapy longer than they needed. As therapists they must adhere to strict Medicare guidelines. This was a continuing problem. One day the Administrator came into his office and instructed him that he was not to tell her “No.” He was told to do what she said and he would never make her happy. He thinks that an administrator should surround herself with people who will think outside the box and look at a different point of view. Sometimes at the Nursing Home a patient would come in who was covered by Medicare A, but not necessarily appropriate for therapy. They would try for a couple of weeks and then discharge that patient. At times that patient would go from therapy to hospice. How can that be to go from Medicare A to hospice?

The Administrator put the therapy contract out for bid. She said she was looking for a company with better fit as a part of the strategic plan. She chose the highest bid not the lower bid from the company he worked for. The company that is there now does not have a full time occupational therapist. The patients’ needs are not being met right now. He understands that they have hired someone who is going to drive from Eldridge, IA. It would be better to hire local people. He moved from the Quad Cities to take this job and moved his family to Knox County. He worked for the Nursing Home for a year and half and was let go for no reason at all. Now he has to drive 50 miles one way to go to work. He gets e-mails and messages from the therapists that work there now asking him to come back as speech therapist but he will not as long as this administrator is there.

Randy Lynch, staff representative from AFSCME # 31, again addressed the Board. He has been a union representative for 13 years and worked with 4 administrators at the Nursing Home. This is the worst management team that there is. There really needs to be some intervention. The Board needs to step forward to help resolve these problems. For the employees and the betterment of the Nursing Home they are asking for the Board’s help.

Nicole Rogers addressed the Board. She has worked at the Knox County Nursing Home for 3 years and has been a CNA for 14 years. She has worked in numerous nursing homes in three different states. She loves the residents and other employees at the Nursing Home. She loves everybody but has a problem with one person. The Director of Nursing is disrespectful and rude. She screams at her in front of residents, family members and other staff members about how Ms. Rogers does not know how to do her job and needs to be retrained. This is not professional. She should have been told in the office not publicly yelled at. This has happened three or four times. This has also happened to other staff members.

Chairwoman Davidson thanked everyone for coming out that night. She thanked them for their public comments. The Board does listen.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on February 22, 2017, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of March 2017 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of December 2016 in the amounts of \$121,246.83 and \$17,632.92 and public safety tax in the amount of \$206,763.92. 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.

The proclamation from the Blue Ribbon Task Force to proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Knox County was presented to Sara Robison of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). She also shared information about the Blue Ribbon Task Force. A variety of social service agencies also support this proclamation. These organizations work together to educate the public about ways to prevent child abuse. The Hands around the Courthouse event will be held April 20, 2017 to draw awareness of child abuse in our community. There will be other events as well. A copy of this proclamation is included in the packets. This is something that has been done the last several years.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Amor to approve the letter of support for Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. A copy of this letter is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Hunigan—(1). Motion carried.

An update was presented on Clinton Health Matters Initiative by Knox County Regional Director, Emily Waygel. This area is the sixth community that they identified to work with. They work to improve the health and wellbeing of people across the nation. This organization is a facilitator to connect the dots. They have developed an action blue print which was launched in February and are glad to be in this community.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the reappointment of Richard Allen to Galesburg Sanitary District. Appropriate information is included in the packets. Member Bondi commented about the outstanding resume included in the packet. It is good to see that kind of application coming before the Board. Member Nache commented that once Mr. Allen was chairman of this Board.

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 reappointment of H. Eugene Saunders to the Elba-Salem Fire Protection District. Information is included in the packets. Member Bondi commented that no resume was included.

County Clerk Scott Erickson stated that it was his understanding that reappointments do not require a resume, as long as their board had reviewed them. He asked Board Members if they still wanted a resume for reappointments.

Member Bondi responded that he thought that was the plan that they had put together as Board Policy.

Member Conklin stated that if there is no resume he will pass.

Member Johnson commented that personally he feels that if this is a reappointment and they have been recommended by their current Board, then it gets into micromanagement if this Board requires a resume each time.

Roll call vote to approve the reappointment of H. Eugene Saunders to the Elba-Salem Fire Protection District is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(11). Noes—(0). Pass—Conklin and Bondi—(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the reappointment of Donald E. Smith to the Williamsfield Fire Protection District. Information is included in the packets. Member Bondi commented that no resume was included.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(11). Noes—(0). Pass—Conklin and Bondi—(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Varner to approve the reappointment of Harold E. Ziehr to the Wataga Sanitary District. Information is included in the packets. Member Bondi again commented that no resume was included. Chairwoman Davidson inquired if anyone on the Board knows this individual. Member Johnson responded that he does know this man. He is very conscientious and takes his volunteer work very seriously.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(11). Noes—(0). Pass—Conklin and Bondi—(2). Motion carried.

Member Friedrich presented the monthly report from the Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial and Clerk committee. The monthly report is in the packet. There were lengthy discussions about credit cards and health insurance. They also discussed rebidding the health insurance. County Treasurer Robin Davis presented the financial reports. He noted that some of these accounts should be closely monitored in the coming months. They will keep an eye on these four or five accounts and keep the Board updated.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the resolution on the deed of conveyance for PIN 99-15-154-038. 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 bid for the farming lease on the Nursing Home Farm Ground. Specific information is included in the packets. There were two bidders from Knox County. They accepted the higher bid from Tim Eagle who farms some ground that is nearby.

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 Varner to approve the resolution amending the Knox County Credit Card Policy. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Member Friedrich stated that this has been a long time coming as they were talking about this last October. In reality they cannot get rid of the credit cards all together. He and Rod Clear, Administrator of the Mary Davis Home, have spent hours discussing this. He and County Treasurer Robin Davis have also discussed this. One of the complications is that every department operates so differently. To get everyone on one policy, this is the best that they could come up with.

Member Amor questioned if a debit card or gift card could be used instead of a credit card.

Member Nache stated that they really like the way that Mr. Clear handles their credit cards.

Chairwoman Davidson stated that each department has the right to manage their cards. Mr. Clear calls in all of the department credit cards and keeps them in one place. When an employee uses the card, for example for gas, there is a shut off date on the credit card. This helps with billing. In total the County has 177 charge cards.

Member Bondi stated that banking institutions do offer the County the opportunity to use debit cards and charge cards for an annual fee as opposed to a monthly fee.

Chairwoman Davidson added that some departments such as the landfill use the credit cards for their clothing allowance. For them a debit card would serve the purpose. This policy is long overdue.

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, Courthouse and Annex Committee Report. A copy of the report is included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve bids for repairs at the Sheriff Department. 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 Johnson and seconded by Member Hurst to approve bids for exterior repairs at the Courthouse. He added that this includes the steps, caulking, and tuck pointing. The bid tabs are included in the packets.

Member Conklin questioned an alternative for the steps.

Member Johnson responded that several alternatives were presented. The committee chose granite for the steps. They also chose an aluminum railing instead of steel, with the possibility of a change order at a later date. Otto Baum received the bid as they were the low bidder. The base bid was \$134,385.00. The granite steps were \$29,975.00. The tuck pointing was \$41,870.00. The sealant alternative was \$47,600.00 and the aluminum railing was \$42,690.00. The railing will be looked at. But rather than rebid the entire project they will handle this as a change order. There was some discussion in the committee meeting about the granite steps versus concrete steps. The thought was that the granite steps would last much longer than the concrete steps and fit in with the building as it is now.

Member Friedrich stated that he voted against the full bid. They can make concrete look like granite. He does not think that this is money well spent. The people that he talked to agreed.

Member Hawkinson asked about the durability of the granite steps versus concrete.

Member Johnson responded that the granite steps will last much longer.

Member Hawkinson asked about replacing the north steps as it seems they are not used. Why does the County need to spend this much money when the County faces financial struggles?

Member Nache commented that there must be more cost effective way to do this.

Member Johnson commented that they are paying the price now for what County Boards have done in the past. They did not do things as they should have been done. While the Board is at it, they should do it the right way.

Chairwoman Davidson stated that this is part of the five year plan that the Board approved. This plan includes repairs to the interior and exterior of the Courthouse. The Board voted to stay in the Courthouse. There are a lot of things that our forefathers and other Board Members neglected. Now the Board has to face the bills of getting it done. Our contractor recommended the granite because of the durability.

Roll call is to approve bids for exterior repairs at the Courthouse recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Nache, Armor, Davidson, Bondi, Hurst, and Shreves—(8). Noes—Hawkinson, Sandoval, Friedrich, Conklin, and Varner—(5). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the contract for plumbing, HVAC, electrical, drain service, and fire protection services from Mechanical Services Inc., (MSI). Member Johnson added that this is something that should have been done a couple of months ago. A copy of this service agreement 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.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the bid for the Annex Conference Room remodel project. Information is included in the packets.

Member Conklin asked what is involved in this project.

Member Johnson responded that carpeting, ceiling, furniture, and walls are included. The ceiling and walls will mostly be done in house by the County's maintenance people. The ceiling will be done where it is needed. They do not plan to replace all of the ceiling.

Member Nache spoke of the need for new floor covering in the bathroom as currently there is carpet.

Chairwoman Davidson agreed that it is horrible in that bathroom. The existing tables will be moved to the Courthouse basement.

Member Bondi reported that the total cost of this project in \$12,237.

Sheriff Dave Clague reported that bids for furniture were obtained from Office Specialists in Peoria.

Chairwoman Davidson commented that they plan to use some carpet remnant that they already have. The cost for that would be for labor.

Member Friedrich stated that even though there are a lot of people that use this building, he cannot justify spending the money. He did ask other people and they agreed.

Member Hunigan inquired that even though these repairs need to be done if there is urgency in doing so.

Member Johnson responded that this needs to be done, especially the bathroom floor. He would prefer to do it all and get it done. These funds would come from the building fund.

Member Hawkinson stated that they ask each department to plan and to budget. The approximate cost of this project is \$13,000. He can't see spending that much money. This project could wait.

Chairwoman Davidson commented about the leaks in the bathroom ceiling and added that other groups use the annex.

Member Varner stated that while the Board is discussing the annex remodel project, there is still a crack in fourth floor of the Courthouse.

Chairwoman Davidson agreed and there are still things that fall off the ceiling and the walls of some Courthouse offices. The five year plan is to complete exterior work on the Courthouse and then move inside. That crack was up there before the Board decided to remodel the courtroom that they are currently meeting in.

Roll call vote approve the bid for the Annex Conference Room remodel project is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Bondi, Hurst, and Shreves—(6). Noes—Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Friedrich, Conklin, and Varner—(7). Motion failed.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the invoice for Klinger & Associates for \$539.35 for bid documents. Information is included in the packets.

Member Hunigan stated that he had voted incorrectly on the previous vote.

County Clerk Scott Erickson stated that a vote is considered to be final once it is cast.

Roll call vote on the current motion 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 Bondi presented the monthly Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Nursing Home committee report. A copy of the report is included in the packets. The Mary Davis Home is owed \$616,000 from the State and that amount is through February. In executive session the committee did review the concerns submitted from the employees of the Nursing Home. The State still owes the Nursing Home \$750,000. The previous Medicaid company is still behind \$250,000. They are looking into ways to try to get that money collected. The committee also reviewed any potential lawsuits and workman's compensation claims.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the purchase of Tasers for use at the jail in the amount of \$13,479.20 to be funded through the inmate fund. 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. For the Landfill there were 7,004.12 tons in February which is a significant increase over January. They are moving forward to replace the current Administrator, Jerry Reynolds,

who will be retiring in May 2017. The Landfill website has been updated and includes better visuals. The Assessor's Office is working toward getting three new parking spots in front of the Annex building. These spots are to be marked for short term parking or less. This should help senior or disabled people who are frequent visitors to the Annex building. There are working toward getting some gravel there at the corner of Prairie and Tompkins Street.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the decision on Zoning Board of Appeals Case #CU-01-07—Conditional Use Permit for roadside stand to display and sell agricultural products raised on the premises under the “A” agricultural zoning district. The request was submitted by Donald and Ruby Jones. The ZBA did vote unanimously to approve this request. Specific information 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.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Hurst to approve the decision on Zoning Board of Appeals Case # AM-01-17—Text Amendment to amend and add to definition 3.1.79 “Structure” in the Zoning Resolution as shown on the recommendation from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Specific information 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.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Hurst to approve the decision on Zoning Board of Appeals Case # AM-02-17—Text Amendment to amend and add to definition 3.1.67 “Principal/Primary Structure” in the Zoning Resolution on shown on the recommendation from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Information 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.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve bids for various bituminous materials—Section 17-XX000-00-GM. Member Hunigan reported that this has to do with the Township Motor Fuel Tax and materials for the townships. The townships spend approximately \$400,000 on bituminous materials. Specific information 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.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve to bid and bring back for a new tandem dump truck and snow wing for the Highway Department. Member Hunigan stated that they are seeking to replace a 2004 Sterling dump truck with 343,600 miles on it. Member Friedrich added that Mr. Ratermann wanted to do this last year but they put him off. They definitely need to replace this truck. Information is included in the packets. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. A copy of this report is included in the packets. He presented an update regarding lead abatement. There are twenty open cases in need of abatement. Letters have been sent to homeowners. The City has applied for a Healthy Homes Grant which would provide additional funds for the abatement. The Illinois Department of Public Health is revamping regulations and is lowering the threshold from 10 to 5 micrograms per deciliter to be acceptable. Although in reality there is no safe level of lead.

Member Varner presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. Recently it was announced that this organization had won an Illinois Excellence in Tourism Award.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 committee. He stated that there was no meeting this month.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. Lead activity in March was slow. The State is still working on a replacing the old tax credit program, Edge, and are moving forward with that. This new program has several advantages.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from Prairie Hills Resource Board. Their annual meeting was held the previous evening. They will begin working on the Banner Marsh project which involves a 55 acre parcel of ground.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from United Council of Counties. He reported that there were 2,000 pieces of legislation in the House and 1,000 in the Senate. The budget still is at a stalemate. Legislators had purposed a package deal of ten bills to pass collectively as one package that would keep things moving. There was much talk about legislation that is not moving. There are several bills that they are watching.

Member Hurst presented the monthly report from the Ad Hoc Committee for Technology Services. A copy of this report is included in the packets. They discussed backup software and the forwarding of County e-mail to private e-mail accounts. There have been some security questions about the possibility of hacking private accounts. They also discussed the Landfill's website which is up and going. Bid specifications are ready for the Nursing Home phone system. They talked a little bit about the time clock. More training is coming up.

Member Bondi added that he had opportunity to visit the place where the County gets its backup software, Southern Computer Warehouse in Atlanta. Although he had never heard of them, they are one of the largest in the country and are outstanding vendors. He enjoyed a wonderful tour of their facility.

Member Bondi presented a report from the Workforce Investment Board. This meeting was held in Macomb. They operate on approximately a \$2,000,000 annual budget and work with people to develop their job skills. This program is federally funded through the State of Illinois with matching dollars. Macomb is the regional headquarters for our area. They work closely with area junior colleges and do an outstanding job.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich 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, Hunigan, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

County Clerk Scott Erickson stated that there was one budget line that needed to be changed for the Highway Department. Information is included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the proposed line item change. 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 Hurst to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of February 23, 2017 through March 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.)

Member Friedrich stated that he has spoken to the Regional Superintendent that day and one of those bills is being pulled and will not be paid until next month.

Member Bondi noted that there were late bills received again this month and those bills have been reviewed by the Board.

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

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson had no comments at this time.

Member Hunigan commented about his vote earlier in the meeting for the Annex remodel project. It is one of those votes that he was really on the fence about. If he could change his vote he would.

Member Hawkinson reminded everyone of House Bill 477 which if approved would allow a phone surcharge to be utilized for a trauma center in Cook County. He encouraged everyone to contact their legislators to vote against this bill. He thinks a vote will be taken April 22, 2017. 9-1-1 funds should not be used for this purpose. We should not be paying for something that we will never see and especially with 9-1-1 funds.

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

Member Amor commented regarding a solar panel project at Farmington High School. Recently he had opportunity to visit this school and look at their solar panels. The tour at this facility was very interesting. There could be options available for governmental and nonprofit organizations as well and thousands of dollars could be saved each year. Tax credits are available. It is something the County should investigate.

Chairwoman Davidson thanked Member Bondi for attending the Workforce Investment Meeting. She also thanked the Nursing Home employees who came to address the Board to share their thoughts and concerns.

Member Friedrich echoed Member Hawkinson's concerns about this pending House Bill 477. The Board needs to keep an eye on this. Member Friedrich also thanked the Nursing Home employees for attending this Meeting and addressing the Board.

Member Conklin questioned if there is a County policy regarding any Board Member endorsing a candidate for a local or state wide or national office. It is not appropriate for any Board Member to endorse candidate in their official capacity. It sets a precedent that the County or County Board is endorsing a candidate.

Member Bondi also thanked the Nursing Home employees appearing before the Board. He wants to reassure them that they are reviewing these situations and communicating with management. They are trying to create some oversight in that effort and are trying to work to make things better. Management seems receptive to this communication.

Recently he visited the International Union of Operating Engineers facility over at Bartonville, Illinois. This is an outstanding facility that provides education and certification over a four year period. This was a very impressive tour of the facility. He encouraged others to visit.

Member Hurst expressed her thanks for receiving the informational pamphlet from the Knox County Mental Health Board. It contains good information for voting.

Member Varner also thanked the Nursing Home employees for coming out.

Member Shreves had no comments at this time.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2017, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Johnson to adjourn from this Regular Meeting. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Open Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.