

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

May 25, 2016

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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, May 25, 2016, at 6:11 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 5	Brian Friedrich
District 1	Cheryl Nache
District 2	John Hunigan
District 4	David Erickson
District 5	Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval
District 1	Richard Conklin
District 2	Robert “Bob” Bondi
District 3	Trisha Hurst
District 4	Shawn Pitman

And those absent:

District 4	George Knapp
District 3	Pamela Davidson
District 5	Jeff Jefferson

Also present were County Treasurer Robin Davis, State’s Attorney John Pepmeyer, and County Clerk Scott Erickson.

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 Bondi asked for an addition to the agenda at 3A to recognize the achievements of “Galesburg Shake”. Member Pitman asked that Item # 6, approve County Audit for FY 2015-2016, be moved up to 3B.

Chairman Friedrich asked for public comments. There were none.

Motion was made by Member Erickson and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on April 27, 2016, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of May 25, 2016 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of February 2016 in the amounts of \$93,879.78 and \$19,393.74 and public safety tax in the amount of \$153,149.06. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Pitman—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Bondi recognized the accomplishments of “Great Galesburg Shake” and announced the contest winner to be Lakota Beach. However, she was unable to attend this Meeting. A representative of this organization, Jodi McNally reported that this contest gives students in grades 4-12 the opportunity to use their manners and conversational skills in a professional environment. This competition began with 89 students and progressed through six rounds. The top five winners won a trip to Washington, DC, and were given the opportunity to tour the Capitol building and meet with local legislators. This trip was fully funded by the community rather than the school district. These students felt that this was a life changing experience. They plan to hold this event again next year.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the County audit for FY2015-2016. Matt Schueler, Senior Manager of Wipfli, LLP of Sterling, Illinois, presented an overview of the auditor’s report FY2015. Materials were distributed to the Board Members. Mr. Schueler stated that there had been detailed meetings with County Clerk Scott Erickson and County Treasurer Robin Davis

Regarding the County’s deposits and bank accounts, all of those funds are secure. 2015 is the first year that a new accounting standard has been implemented with respect to pension funding. The County is fully funded with respect to the IMRF pension fund.

A copy of the federal audit for the FQHC was also presented to the Board. There was also an audit of the Circuit Clerk’s Office, which is required by State statute.

The value of the total assets of the County is approximately \$108,000,000 and a large percentage of those assets are capital assets such as roads, bridges, infrastructure, and landfill equipment. The amount of the net position is approximately \$80,000,000 at the end of the year. This is favorable compared to other counties.

The fund balance is \$60,780,000. Of that amount, the majority are restricted funds.

The general fund did decrease by \$975,000. One major reason is that this past year the County did not receive as much federal inmate money. It should be noted that there is an increase in the net position of the landfill in the amount of \$438,000. That is before funds were transferred from the landfill to various other funds.

The number of days in the fund balance of the operating general fund for 2015 is 56 days or about 2 months as compared to 120-180 days in 2011. The optimal level for the balance is usually 90 to 120 days. If the County were to quit receiving funds, this is how long the general fund could last. The nursing home has approximately 180 days and the landfill approximately 100 days. Knox County is on the lower end of the fund balance side. Some of the reason is the late payments coming from Springfield.

Roll call vote to approve the County audit for FY2015-2016 is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Pitman—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

County Clerk Scott Erickson reported that it was time to have the drawing for the ballot party placement for the approaching November Election. Two golf balls were placed in a tin: one was designated with a “D” and one with an “R”. Sara McKenna from Wipfli was asked to select a ball. She chose a “D”. Democratic candidates will appear first on the ballot.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the appointment of Rory Todd Thomas to the Abingdon Fire Protection District. Member Bacon commented that he had known Mr. Thomas for a long time. Member Bondi asked if a resume was included with this request. Chairman Friedrich responded that a resume was not submitted. Member Conklin commented that no procedure is yet in place to review these appointments. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Erickson, Sandoval, Hurst, and Pitman—(10). Noes—(0). Pass—Conklin and Bondi—(2). Motion carried.

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 regarding the Health Savings Account Contribution for Plan Year July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Member Bacon stated that this has to do with establishing the \$750 Health Savings Accounts that the County is giving to County employees. Since the employees are healthier, the County is able to do this. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Pitman—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Coroner and Recorder’s wages for a four year term starting December 1, 2016. This is a 1% increase for each of them for each of the next four years. This increase must be established within so many days before the General Election. There was some discussion regarding the increase amount compared to that of other County elected officials. Member Nache stated that there is no more money in the budget. Member Bacon agreed that there are no funds for a larger rate increase. The auditor report states that there are only 56 days in the general fund. There is a shortfall in the general fund of approximately \$1,000,000. Member Foster suggested that pay increases should not just be a percentage but rather is given proportionally. It is different for a 1% increase on a base of \$100,000 than a 1% increase on a base of \$50,000. Chairman Friedrich expressed concern how this could actually be applied. Member Bacon stated that the County should hold at the 1% level across the board for all County employees. Maybe this can be revisited during that fourth year. Member Hunigan stated that this is far below the salary of other elected officials. This doesn’t seem fair.

County Treasurer Robin Davis reported that wages were frozen for a time.

County Recorder Carol Hallam reported that the former Recorder never received a raise. Two years ago four other elected officials received a large raise. Her wages are \$15,000 short in comparison. It seems like her job does not matter.

Chairman Friedrich commented that this vote is for the position not the individuals who hold these positions.

Member Bacon suggested that when the terms for the other elected positions are about to expire, then the Board could vote to freeze these salaries.

Roll call vote to approve the Coroner and Recorder's wages for a four year term starting December 1, 2016 to include a 1% increase for each of the four years is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Friedrich, Nache, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Pitman—(10). Noes—Foster and Hunigan—(2). Motion carried.

Member Bacon presented the monthly report for the Building Committee. Their monthly report is included in the packets. The main topic in the committee meeting was the fire escape at the Courthouse. This project is going very well and they expect to be finished at the end of the week. Upon completion the fire escape should be structurally sound for 15 years. The County still will have to follow up with upkeep for the paint. It might be advantageous to get a maintenance agreement with this company to do the painting and general maintenance. The committee talked about setting some funds aside to be designated as "paint money."

The committee is looking at the exterior steps for all three entrances of the courthouse to repair the masonry work. Some tuck pointing on the building also needs to be done. Additionally some calking around the courthouse windows also needs to be done as well as some plaster work on some walls in the offices on the third floor.

The committee is also looking into building an access road to the nursing home.

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 25 and 5 of those are from Knox County. Currently there are 123 inmates at the Knox County Jail and of that number 15 are federal inmates.

The Sheriff had been sharing safety concerns as soon 34 County inmates are to be transported to the Courthouse. Some of these have to do with 4 pending murder cases. This is a lot of people in a little space. For safety purposes, the Sheriff is requesting implementation of a video conference system that would allow the inmate to remain at the jail and make their video appearance in the court room.

Member Bacon reported that a first appearance video conference system is already in use.

Chairman Friedrich stated that the judges have agreed to this new system and plan to use this system more and more. This will be funded through public safety funds. This bill is to be included in the bills on this agenda.

County Treasurer Robin Davis reported that the bill is \$15,000 and that is for the first half.

The Nursing Home, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Member Hunigan. Before the committee meeting the committee members had opportunity to tour the Recorder's Office and the Assessor's Office. Member Hunigan reported that the tour was very informative. Their monthly report is included in the packets. The current census at the Nursing Home is 132. Their revenue has been down. The annual state survey has been underway.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the reappointments of Mike Gehring and George Knapp to the Knox County Board of Review. Roll call vote to approve the reappointments of Mike Gehring and George Knapp to the Knox County Board of Review is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Pitman—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Highway and Landfill Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Shawn Pitman. The monthly report is in the packet. The tonnage at the landfill has increased quite a bit.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the union contract with the Laborer's Local 538 for the Highway Department. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Pitman—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the MFT Salary Resolution for 2016 for County Highway Engineer's Salary-Section 16-00000-00-CS. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Pitman—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. The repairs at the Visitors' Center have been completed. This summer the Discovery Depot will observe their 20th anniversary. Annually this is a destination for 50,000 visitors. Café in the Park will be beginning soon at Park Plaza.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. He is trying to encourage greater cooperation with other communities in the Western Illinois region to promote their combined assets. They should work as a group and have more understanding of the strengths of the area. Economic development should be promoted in the mall area as well. Locally business has been slow.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resource Board. There has been no meeting since last month. Their recent fund raiser was very successful. The wine tasting event is very popular. In observance of their 40th anniversary they will be having an open house June 18, from 1-3 p.m.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. He stated that there was nothing to report.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Ad Hoc Committee for the Technology Services. He reported that he had met with County Clerk Scott Erickson. Work orders are being handled in a reasonable time frame.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the opening of the budget for specific line item changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Pitman—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

County Treasurer Robin Davis reported that there is a line item change from the Finance committee involves moving \$20,000 for the labor attorney and \$20,000 for jury money.

Member Bacon commented for this point in the fiscal year, the jury fund is severely depleted and over budget due to the new State statute. There is another need for a line item change for the GIS coordinator Bill Lotz to include his training. This would come out of the GIS fund. This request has the approval of the GIS and finance committees.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Johnson to approve these specific proposed line item changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Pitman—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the claims, with the addition of the bill that had been discussed from the Sheriff's Department, against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of April 28, 2016 through May 25, 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, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Pitman—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

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

Member Nache wished everyone a safe Memorial Day weekend.

Member Hunigan wished everyone a good Holiday.

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

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 22, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Bacon move into closed session for purposes of discussing pending litigation. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, and Pitman—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Open Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Open Meeting resumed at 8:09 p.m.

Motion was made by Member Foster and seconded by Member Pitman to adjourn from this Open Meeting. Voice vote is recorder as follows: Ayes—(12). Noes—(0). Open Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.