

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

November 25, 2015

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, November 25, 2015, at 6:05 p.m.

The Meeting was called to order by County Board Chairman Brian Friedrich and upon roll call the following Members reported present:

District 1	Lyle Johnson
District 2	Greg “Chops” Bacon
District 3	Barbara Foster
District 4	George Knapp
District 5	Brian Friedrich
District 1	Cheryl Nache
District 2	John Hunigan
District 3	Pamela Davidson
District 4	David Erickson
District 5	Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval
District 1	Richard Conklin
District 3	Trisha Hurst
District 4	Shawn Pitman
District 5	Jeff Jefferson

And those absent: District 2 Robert “Bob” Bondi

Also present were County Treasurer Robin Davis and County Clerk Scott Erickson.

Chairman Friedrich led the Members in the pledge to the flag. Rev. Tyson Parks III of Galesburg delivered the invocation.

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

Chairman Friedrich asked for public comments. He stated that comments would be restricted to two minutes each. Jerry Ryberg addressed the Board concerning the abusive working conditions at the landfill. He repeated some of his comments from the previous Board Meeting. The Board has failed to take action to rectify this situation and should have done so long ago. It is time for a landfill audit.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on October 28, 2015, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of November 25, 2015 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of August 2015 in the amounts of \$106,167.89 and \$17,328.23 and public safety tax in the amount of \$177,983.81. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the resolution to transfer funds from the Mary Davis Home Fund to the Public Safety Fund in the amount of \$250,000.

Member Bacon explained that a few years ago the Mary Davis Home had received \$500,000 for the Public Safety Fund to keep their head above water. Right now they are being paid. There is a little cushion there. The Board does not want to take the entire amount of \$500,000 but only transfer \$250,000 back into the Public Safety Fund.

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, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the resolution to transfer funds from the Public Safety Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$250,000.00.

Member Bacon explained that this action will help to balance the budget for this year. The plan is to only take as much money as is required.

County Treasurer Robin Davis asked that that amount be increased to be safe. As all the bills have been entered she has concerns that this amount will not be enough to cover this expense. There is still payroll and the deficit is \$1,100,000. She would feel safer if the amount of the transfer would be increased to \$500,000.

Member Davidson commented that the Treasurer should have come to the Board with this request. Things should have been worked out about what the transferred amount should be. Before the finance committee meeting, she should have contacted each department to determine if they would be over budget or not.

Member Nache commented that during the finance committee meeting, Mrs. Davis had reported that the bills had not yet been entered. At that time she did not know what the amount would be.

Member Bacon stated that at that time, the committee increased the amount by \$100,000 just to cover incidental expenses.

Mrs. Davis stated that the problem is that the general fund must have a positive balance by the end of the fiscal year. These bills are more than she estimated. She cannot know the amount for sure until all of the bills have been entered. That process was completed earlier that afternoon.

Member Jefferson stated that he understands some of the Board's disgust and yet the bills still have to be paid. He doesn't like this any more than anyone else but does not see an alternate solution.

Chairman Friedrich stated that it would have been nice to know of this problem before this Meeting began.

Mrs. Davis responded that she only found out at 3:30 p.m. that afternoon. She did not know what bills had been turned in. Her guess is that they are \$447,000 short.

Chairman Friedrich commented that he did not want to take any more funds from the Public Safety Fund.

Member Bacon stated that he understands that these bills have to be paid but he doesn't like it. During the finance committee meeting they thought that they had this shortfall all taken care of.

Mrs. Davis stated that this current resolution being considered has a cap of \$250,000. This cap needs to be changed and there are not a lot of options as to where this money comes from.

Member Bacon and Chairman Friedrich stated that they should have been advised of this problem, even two minutes before the Meeting would have helped.

Mrs. Davis reported that she still did not have an exact dollar amount of the shortfall.

Member Bacon commented that as bad as this situation has been this year, it will be even worse next year. Right now the County is being stuck for \$1,100,000. Look out for next year.

Member Jefferson agreed.

Member Bacon asked County Clerk Scott Erickson how to proceed to increase this amount to \$500,000.

Mr. Erickson responded that the original motion could be modified to state this increased amount of \$500,000. Member Bacon, who made the original motion and Member Pitman, who made the second to this motion agreed to modify the original motion to reflect this transfer amount to be changed to \$500,000.

Mrs. Davis stated that no more money that what is actually needed would be transferred.

Member Bacon asked to amend the motion that when and if the County receives State salary reimbursements for the State's Attorney, the Supervisor of Assessments, and the Public Defender, that the County reimburse those funds back to the Public Safety Fund. To date the County has not received any of those salary reimbursements for six months. Member Pitman agreed to this amendment. The anticipated amount of those salary reimbursements should be \$130,000-\$140,000. The State not paying their financial obligations to the County is really hurting.

Roll call vote on the modified and amended resolution to reflect a change in this amount of funds to be transferred from the Public Safety Fund to the General Fund not to exceed \$500,000 and only what is necessary with the provision that State salary reimbursements for State's Attorney, Public Defender and Superintendent of Assessments to be put back into the Public Safety Fund is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Nache to approve the resolution to transfer funds from the Contingency Fund to the County General Fund for FY2014-2015. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the continuation of the County hiring freeze for the next year.

Member Nache stated that the County really needs to stand firm on this position.

Chairman Friedrich commented that one of the nice things to come out of this is that the Board has a better idea of who is being hiring and what the staffing requirements really are, such as at the Nursing Home.

Member Hunigan commented that department heads can still come to the Board with their requests.

Roll call vote to approve the continuation of the County hiring freeze for the next year is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—Johnson—(1). Motion carried.

The Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, and Clerk Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Greg 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 membership dues to the United Council of Counties in the amount of \$440.00.

Member Davidson commented that when Board Members attend these meetings, those fees are reimbursed back to the County. This is a great organization to be a part of.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the membership renewal dues to NACo in the amount of \$1,058.00. County Clerk Scott Erickson explained that this is the County wide drug prescription program. This is a fee based program to allow for low cost insurance. This organization also has a warehouse for grants. They are promoting federal legislation and keep the County updated on their work. This association has many resources available. It is a great organization and the cost is not outrageous. He requested that the Board approve renewal of this membership.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the resolution authorizing the County Clerk and the County Treasurer to issue County Warrants for certain claims during the period that the County Board is not in session. 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, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the monthly manual check list. This list is included in the packets. Roll call to approve the monthly manual check list vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich,

Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the renewal of life insurance with Dearborn Life. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Foster to approve the renewal of vision insurance with VSP. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Pitman to approve agreed upon procedures for the County audit with Wipfli LLP. Specific information is included in the packets. Member Bacon explained that this firm is under contract and was initially requesting a larger fee this year due to the new financial software. Since they are under contract, this additional fee will not be considered. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Resolution on Budgetary Line Item Changes to the County Budget for FY2015-2016. A copy of the resolution is included in the packets.

Member Bacon explained that the Board is now asking department heads to come before the finance committee when they are seeking budgetary line item changes. As this new budget was drafted additional lines were created. When a budget line runs out of money, the Board wants the department head to explain why this happened. They will have to go before the appropriate committee meeting and then the finance committee meeting.

Member Davidson stated that she understands the reasoning behind this resolution but she feels that some meat has been taken out of the other committees by not being able to approve line item changes.

Member Bacon responded that some committees are not delving into this matter as they should.

Member Nache recalled that this matter has been discussed before and department heads were informed last year that unless there was an emergency, they were not to make line item transfers. Yet department heads continue to make these changes.

Member Davidson expressed concern that some power was being taken away from the committees.

Chairman Friedrich responded that there are serious budget problems and the Board needs to make some changes for next year.

Member Bacon stated that the finance committee went through the budget line by line. As a result, the finance committee has learned what to look at. The committees don't exactly look at things with a fine tooth comb. The responsibility of the finance committee is to look at the money. They will examine why that line item is over budget.

Member Jefferson spoke in favor of this resolution. He stated that this would help the Board to better monitor spending. The full Board will still see the information on budget line changes. The Board needs to rein things in as this situation is not going to get any better.

Member Davidson reiterated her concerns that this takes away some power from the committees.

Member Jefferson responded that the committees will still be informed. The committees can still discuss the changes but those requests for changes should go before the finance committee.

Chairman Friedrich stated that the finance committee will have to approve the changes before these changes go before the full Board for final approval. This resolution will just add an additional step to the process.

Member Davidson called for the question.

Roll call vote to approve the Resolution on Budgetary Line Item Changes to the County Budget for FY2015-2016 is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(12). Noes—Johnson and Hunigan—(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the County Tax Levy for FY-2015-2016.

Member Johnson questioned if the County is at the maximum levy on things.

Member Bacon stated that the County is not.

County Treasurer Robin Davis stated that there is no maximum on some areas such as pension, tort and social security. The Health Department has never asked for the maximum.

Member Johnson shared his concern that the Governor wants to freeze all levies at the current rate for the next two years. If it happens the County's current levy rate will be set and the County will not be able to change it. Many counties are going to levy the maximum to prepare in case this should happen.

Member Bacon commented that he understands this approach. His concern is what will happen when the freeze is lifted. He questioned whether the levy would return to the previous level.

Member Johnson stated that they can return to the previous level.

Member Bacon commented the once they get the money, they will never give it back.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(10). Noes—Johnson, Nache, Hunigan and Davidson—(4). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the County Budget for FY2015-2016 with presented modifications. Specific information is included in the packets.

County Treasurer Robin Davis stated that there were a few changes to the IMRF and the Mary Davis Home.

Member Bacon thanked the members of the finance committee. As difficult as this process has been, it is not going to get any easier. He thanked the department heads and elected officials. Many hours of hard work were invested in trying to balance this budget. He is still not happy with it but it is a balanced budget to move forward.

Member Nache questioned if the tax levy is part of the budget.

Member Jefferson responded that it is.

Roll call to vote to approve the County Budget for FY2015-2016 with presented modifications is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(11). Noes—Nache, Hunigan, and Davidson—(3). Motion carried.

The Building Committee report was presented by Building Committee Co-Chairman George Knapp.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the final payment to Hein Construction for Courthouse renovations in the amount of \$11,283.02. A copy of this invoice is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Johnson to approve payment in amount of \$403.47 to Klingner and Associates for Courthouse renovations. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Sheriff, Jail, Courthouse, Animal Control, Mary Davis Home, and Annex Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Ricardo Sandoval. The monthly report is in the packet. Currently there are 96 inmates at the Knox County Jail and 7 of those are federal inmates. The Mary Davis Home reported a census of 22 juveniles and 1 of those is from Knox County. There was some discussion about the need to update the radios in the squads. There has been a problem with the repeaters.

The Nursing Home, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Jeff Jefferson. These monthly reports are included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve text amendments and definitions to Zoning Resolution AM-01-15 thru AM-12-15 (Except AM-07-15 and 08-15). Member Foster asked Superintendent of Assessments Chris Gray for an explanation.

Chris Gray responded that AM-07-15 was a request to remove the conditional use of a winery and a banquet facility from the conservation zoning district. Text amendment AM-08-15 was a request to remove the winery and the banquet facility from the agricultural zoning district. Her reason for asking these to be removed was concerning the situation the County is in right now. She would like time to do further research on these two amendments. This is a busy time of year in her office. In the spring or summer she wants to research this and determine how these amendments would fit appropriately into the zoning resolutions. She would like to avoid another situation such as the County has right now. Removing these amendments right now will have no effect on the current situation.

Chairman Friedrich suggested another possibility would be to allow her six months to consult with the State's Attorney John Pepmeyer to complete these amendments. These amendments could be removed for six months.

Chris Gray explained that there are twelve different things that are included in these zoning resolutions and there are also definitions included in these resolutions. Copies of these text amendments and definitions are included in the packets. She reviewed these items with the Board Members.

Member Conklin asked why these two items are being removed.

Chris Gray explained that she relied on the previous zoning person who did research and she made a mistake. The appropriate stuff was not included in the zoning resolutions to prevent situations like what the County is in right now from happening. She has not had time to do the research herself.

Member Jefferson stated that the committee wanted these removed. There apparently was some misunderstanding and that is why it did not go as the Zoning Board of Appeals and Ms. Gray had requested. There seemed to be some fear that this would restrict the growth in the County which was not the intent of this. Much time has been spent on this issue and they really want to get it right. They want to try to avoid problems such as what they experienced last time. This will not affect the current winery in any way.

Chairman Friedrich again suggested the Ms. Gray be given six months to get these amendments ready to present to the Board for approval.

Chris Gray stated that six months should be enough time.

Member Jefferson commented that Board has spent about two years trying to work through this. Originally there was much concern from the area neighbors. The Board is trying to eliminate those problems. They are not trying to eliminate people from bringing in another winery.

Member Conklin commented that it sounds like the Board is trying to preclude the possibility of having a banquet facility.

Member Jefferson responded to the contrary as they are not trying to eliminate banquet facilities or tasting rooms.

Member Davidson questioned whether a six month time frame would be adequate to complete this research. She also questioned if Mr. Pepmeyer could be doing something now to assist in this project.

Chairman Friedrich stated that they would have to work together on this.

Member Hunigan stated his concern that in the meantime someone may want to pursue opening a winery or a banquet facility in the County and the appropriate zoning regulations would not be in place.

Member Conklin suggested that the County leave it as it is for now until these regulations are completed.

Member Erickson stated that one of the problems is that the County has no legal definition beyond a dictionary for a winery or banquet facility. By leaving this in its current state, the County is limiting potential for growth. By drafting proper definitions perhaps the County can attract businesses to Knox County. He supports research if that is what it takes to get proper definitions in place.

Member Conklin stated that one reason that the County got in trouble is because there were not legal definitions in place for a winery and banquet facilities. There must be specific language to address this.

Chairman Friedrich stated that the vote would be on the current motion and winery and the banquet facility portion would remain the same.

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

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Foster to approve the decision from the Zoning Board of Appeals on Case #CU-03-15 which is a request for a conditional use permit for a storage building to store recreational vehicles on vacant land in the “A” zoning district. The recommendation from the ZBA was to deny this request. Specific information is included in the packets. The request was filed by Hank Botterman for a property in rural Galesburg.

Superintendent of Assessments Chris Gray stated that this request was presented to the ZBA. There is no principal building or dwelling on these premises. The zoning regulations state that unless the accessory building is for farm use, it is prohibited. The intent of this building is to store recreational vehicles such as a boat and four wheelers. As the property owner initially presented this request he was advised of these regulations. He was informed that the ZBA would probably deny this request. This is not a commercial business. Sheriff Clague has said that he would prefer not to see this type of building out on properties without a residence on them. This stipulation has been part of the zoning regulations for a long time.

Chairman Friedrich reminded members that a “yes” vote would uphold the recommendation from the ZBA to deny this request.

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

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve Zoning Board of Appeals Case # CU-05-15—request for a conditional use permit to allow livestock on a parcel of less than 5 acres as a commercial feed lot in the “A” zoning district. The ZBA approved this request. The request was filed by Todd and Jean Thomas for a property in rural Abingdon. Specific information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—Conklin—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Nache to approve room rate increase at the Knox County Nursing Home for private rooms and semiprivate rooms. This rate increase for semi-private rooms would be for \$3.00 per day and for private rooms the increase would be for \$2.50 per day. Nursing Home Administrator, Rachel Secrist stated that rates had not been increased since 2012. Annually this is anticipated to increase revenue for the Nursing Home in the estimated amount of \$53,000. Even with this increase the Knox County Nursing Home is less expensive than other nursing homes in the area.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Jefferson announced that the committee meeting will be moved to the third Tuesday of the month and will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Bondi Building Conference Room.

The Highway and Landfill Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Shawn Pitman. The monthly report is in the packet. The landfill certification has been accomplished. They have increased their build out date to 2030 to continue to accept trash until then. The newest technology with the trash compactors equipped with GPS has added years of life to the landfill. That represents added income as well. This is good news.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the preliminary engineering services agreement for bridge design, Lynn Township, Section 15-11119-00-BR. Services are to be provided by Hutchinson Engineering at a cost not to exceed \$42,750.00. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Johnson to approve to bid and bring back for diesel fuel for the landfill and the highway departments.

The current supplier let the County out of the contract. Member Pitman commented that he had been holding off on this and watching the fuel prices. The County will be going for the best bid. Cheapest is not always the best. There have been some mechanical problems with the cheaper fuel. In the long run that is more expensive.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Hurst to approve to bid and bring back for a heater unit for the truck shop area for the landfill at an estimated cost of \$6,085.00. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Johnson to approve to bid and bring back for a new replacement box for a compactor at the landfill at an estimated cost of \$11,500. This is for a replacement box over at Farmland. Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds explained that this is a roll off box that attaches to the compactor unit.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Davidson presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. Their new website is up. Some terms on the Board on Health expire this coming year and those members will be up for re-election. The County Board should work with this board to find volunteers in the community who are willing to serve on this board and are interested in the Health Department. Since the State still does not have a budget, the Health Department is still not receiving funds for some of their grants. They have received notification that they will be receiving another huge grant after the State budget is approved. The Health Department is doing very well.

Member Knapp presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 committee. The 9-1-1 program can stay in business because the County approved that 9-1-1 referendum. Other counties may have to shut down as they will have no choice. The County Board and the Sheriff worked hard to promote this referendum and it is making a huge difference.

Chairman Friedrich presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. The mayor of Galesburg was contacted by a group that wants to do a study about economic conditions in towns and communities such as Galesburg. They are interested in areas like Galesburg where previously in the 1970's the majority of the jobs were manufacturing jobs.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. There has not been a meeting since the previous month. The recent fundraiser dinner raised approximately \$6,000.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. He attended the most recent meeting and found it to be very interesting. One topic discussed has to do be rules and regulations. Illinois is 4th in the nation in wind power. Recently the Governor signed legislation making the State the authority to regulate the wind generators and not the individual counties.

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

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Pitman to approve specific line item changes to the budget for the following funds or departments: Landfill, Health Department, Sheriff's Department, Highway Department, Nursing Home and the Assessment Office. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Nache to approve claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of October 29, 2015 through November 25, 2015 (ordering that invoices be accepted and approved and that the County Clerk and County Treasurer be authorized and directed to issue County Warrants in payment of the bills.) Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson commented about the United Council of Counties Meeting. These are very interesting meeting and he hopes that he is bringing enough information back. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Member Bacon thanked the members of the finance committee. This budget process took a lot of time and much hard work. He also thanked the elected officials and County Treasurer Robin Davis who brought the figures that were needed. This was hard on everybody. But it was stuff that had to be done. He expressed his thanks to everyone. This was especially rough.

Member Foster wished everyone a Safe Holiday.

Member Knapp wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Chairman Friedrich echoed Member Bacon's comments. He thanked the elected officials and the department heads. He thanked County Treasurer Robin Davis and the committee members for all the time that they put in. They pretty much donated the month of October to working on this budget. As painful as this process was, it will be worse next year. He suggested that they begin this process in January for the next fiscal year. He also expressed his appreciation to all of those who worked so hard on the 9-1-1 referendum as well as the voters. The County would be in a world of hurt without that.

Member Nache wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Member Hunigan stated he attended the Heart and Soul meeting and was impressed by the community support. This program has helped other cities bring new business to their communities.

Member Davidson wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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

Member Conklin commented that as the budget meetings begin again, he would suggest that Members think outside the box.

Member Hurst and Member Pitman had no comments at this time.

Member Jefferson wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and also wished the Packers well.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 23, 2015, 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 open session until the next Regular Meeting. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.