

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

**October 28, 2015**

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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, October 28, 2015, at 6:23 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 2	Robert “Bob” Bondi
District 3	Trisha Hurst
District 4	Shawn Pitman
District 5	Jeff Jefferson

Also present were County Treasurer Robin Davis 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 Jefferson asked that agenda item # 22, re-approve ZBA Case #CU-01-15—Conditional use permit for construction of a machine shed in the M-2 Heavy Industrial Zoning District for Berg’s Towing without the 100 foot disconnection of city property, be removed from this agenda.

Chairman Friedrich asked for public comments. He commented that there were several people who wanted to address the Board. Those choosing to do so would be limited to two minutes each. No derogatory comments would be permitted.

Jerry Ryberg addressed the Board regarding personnel matters at the landfill. He read from a prepared statement which was similar to the editorial that he had submitted to the Galesburg Register Mail. He reminded Board Members that he had contacted them previously about the longstanding adverse conditions at the landfill. After he met with Marty Short and Brad Turner who were fired from the landfill, other former landfill employees had contacted him to validate the unfair treatment of these employees. He spoke of reported incidents of bullying, verbal harassment and employees bringing guns to the landfill. Employees reported their fear of the union steward. A number of labor laws have been violated at the landfill.

Jim Harris addressed the Board about the landfill. Before retirement he was a refuse hauler. In 2011 when he took his load to the Knox County landfill, he was told that his load was doubled and penalties were immediately given. He was arrested and charged with unbelievable things. As his case went to court, he was found not guilty. Still he was sent a letter telling him never to come back to the landfill. The community may need notoriety to get this situation settled. It is a scary situation when those in authority at the landfill can do whatever they want to do and the whole force of the County is on their side.

Marty Short addressed the Board about the landfill. He commented that the Board Members know what goes on at the landfill. He had sent them a letter. Employees at the landfill know what he went through and they are going through it as well. They deserve better. Management needs to move on.

Elisha Hodge addressed the Board. She is a lifelong resident of Galesburg and is concerned about what the County policy is regarding signs on County property. Specifically she spoke of the "Black Lives Matter" movement. Recently the Sheriff put up a sign stating, "Police Lives Matter." Black residents of the community are voters too. She would really like to know what that policy is.

Sally Short addressed the Board. She is the spouse of Marty Short. This matter was brought to the Board last March. She has watched her husband become a very distraught man about what goes on at the landfill. The paperwork that comes home to her is very disturbing. Her husband was written up for a text message that he sent. This matter should have been dismissed. At the time her husband had already been terminated; he was no longer an employee of the landfill. This situation has affected the whole family and she took a temporary leave to try to help him deal with the stress resulting from this situation.

Wesley Fields addressed the Board. He worked at the landfill from June 2006-September 2010. During that time, he worked in a very hostile environment. He was wrongfully fired three days after his mother passed away. This whole situation led to his divorce and he has seen similar things happen to other employees.

Bill Sharp addressed the Board. He has worked at the County landfill for eleven years. One of the issues is that people do not like to take responsibility for their own actions. Any issue out there is self-induced. Employees at the landfill like their jobs.

Carol Scottin, a resident on Fleisher Rd, addressed the Board regarding the December 2013 recommendation from the Zoning Board of Appeals to grant a conditional use permit to operate a winery for Hidden Hills Vineyards. She supports their decision.

David Holden, business representative for Hidden Hills Vineyard, addressed the Board. He is glad to see this on the agenda. The judge made a ruling on this last year.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on September 23, 2015, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of October 28, 2015 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of July 2015 in the amounts of \$105,579.46 and \$18,363.54 and public safety tax in the amount of \$172,105.94. Chairman Friedrich reported that finally the County is receiving 9-1-1 funds. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Proclamation of National 4-H Month in Knox County to be observed in October. 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, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Erickson to approve the appointment of Connie Tippitt to the Wataga Sanitary District. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). 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 Pitman to approve the quarterly payment to the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development in the amount of \$5,000.00. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Nache to approve the resolution authorizing an additional gate fee in the amount of \$2.00 to be charged at the Knox County Landfill. 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, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the resolution authorizing allocation of interest funds earned from certain accounts at the Knox

County Landfill to the Special Contingency Fund. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Member Davidson asked for an explanation.

Member Bacon responded that these resolutions have been done in the past but these resolutions need to be approved each year. This interest is approximately \$300,000 per year. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the resolution authorizing allocation of certain gate receipts at the Knox County Landfill to the Special Contingency fund. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Member Bacon stated that these three resolutions generate approximately \$700,000 per year. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve the resolution on the use of the Special Contingency Fund. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Member Bacon explained that this resolution allows the County to use these funds anyway they need to. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the renewal premium for Workman's Compensation and Liability insurance. Member Conklin asked how often that this is put out for bid. Member Bacon responded that this happens every year.

County Treasurer Robin Davis reported that the premium for the Liability insurance is \$410,772. This is a decrease of \$35,122. The premium for Workman's compensation is \$577,188. This is an increase in the amount of \$93,079 or 5.9%. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Conklin to approve the placing of the County Tax Levy for FY2015-2016 on display prior to final approval. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the placing of the County Budget for FY2015-2016 on display prior to final approval.

Member Erickson asked about the legal requirements concerning placing a balanced budget on display. Member Bacon responded that the budget must be balanced by the end of November. Member Erickson commented that they apparently still would have 30 days to balance this budget. Chairman Friedrich agreed.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Building Committee report was presented by Building Committee Co-Chairman George Knapp. The committee minutes and the monthly reports are included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Foster to approve the payment of invoices for consulting, engineering, and administrative services to Klingner & Associates in the amounts of \$3,000.00, \$2,700.00 and \$2,135.00. Member Knapp added that there is still another bill in the amount of \$403.47 for services which are not completed. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Sheriff, Jail, Courthouse, Animal Control, Mary Davis Home, and Annex Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Ricardo Sandoval. Currently there are seven federal inmates and earlier in the week there had been ten. Rod Clair, administrator of the Mary Davis Home, reported a census of 29 juveniles and 3 of those from Knox County.

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 Bacon to approve the Resolution to increase fees for Knox County GIS. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets.

Bill Lotz, GIS coordinator, stated that he had done a cost study to compare the current GIS fee to that charged by other area Illinois counties. A copy of this information is included in the packets. Originally he was looking at an \$8.00 increase but as the research progressed, he is now recommending an increase of \$10.00. In 2003 when the GIS fee was increased, it was to cover the cost of the GIS and not to divert money from the general fund.

Member Jefferson added that \$2.00 of this increased fee will go back to the Recorder's Office. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Erickson to approve the appointment of John Durfee to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Additional information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve ZBA Case #CU-10-13—Conditional use permit to operate a winery in the agricultural district filed by Hidden Hills Vineyards, LLC as ordered by the Judge, with a winery being defined as,

“a place where wine is made.” Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Highway and Landfill Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Shawn Pitman. The monthly report is in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Johnson to approve emergency repairs to the scale at the landfill in the amount of \$2,443.00. Services are to be performed by Walz Scale & Calibration Services. Member Pitman explained that in April this scale must be recertified. They were hoping to wait to do these repairs until April to avoid repetitive recertification fees. If the scale is not operational, then the business at the landfill stops. If the scales were to go down, this approval would allow immediate repairs to be made.

Member Davidson commented that if these repairs could wait until April than this approval could wait. It seems like the landfill is regularly on the agenda needing still more money.

Chairman Friedrich responded that it requires at least two days to call a special meeting to get those repairs approved. Member Johnson stated that he had voted to approve this in the committee meeting. This is the way to go to make sure that this repair could be handled in a timely fashion. Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds reported that the recertification fee is \$250.00. He is still hoping that this can wait until April so that they can avoid paying this fee again. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Hunigan, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—Nache and Davidson—(2). Motion carried.

Member Pitman added that the new trash compactor has arrived at the landfill and is ready to go.

Member Davidson presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. She was unable to attend the meeting and Member Hunigan attended instead. Member Hunigan stated that the Health Department continues to struggle with budgetary issues some of which are related to the lack of a State budget. They also discussed some personnel changes.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. The camera system is now up and going. Channel 7 is operating. The renovation of the I-74 entrance to Galesburg on East Main is nearly complete. Talks continue in Springfield in regards to funding Amtrak. The calendar of events for the coming year is almost ready for publication, and those will be available at the Visitor’s Center.

Member Knapp presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 committee. They had no quorum and therefore there was no meeting.

Chairman Friedrich presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. At the most recent meeting, the District Superintendent for School District #205 spoke and was sharing some of the same financial concerns that Knox County faces.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resource Board. The recent fundraiser dinner for Prairie Table was very successful and a sellout. Some of these funds that are raised are used for park services or to purchase land to set aside. Recently this organization awarded two loans to small businesses.

Member Davidson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. She reported that Member Johnson also attended this recent meeting. Other counties are experiencing some of the same budgetary problems as Knox County. This was a very good meeting. One of the topics discussed was the Knox County Nursing Home and how it is continuing to remain above water.

Member Johnson reported that it was a very good informational meeting on a variety of topics. He also went to the meeting this month and found it to be very interesting. One of the subjects had to do with the State budget. This was not a very pretty picture and was interesting but very discouraging. Another topic was the Freedom of Information Act. They stressed adherence to the Open Meetings Act and the necessity of maintaining accurate records. They also addressed the subject of the prayer given before a meeting. He appreciates the opportunity to attend these meetings.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Nache 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, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Foster to approve specific budget line item changes to the budget to the following funds or departments: FQHC at the Health Department, Nursing Home, and Highway Department. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Pass—Foster—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of September 23, 2015 through October 28, 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, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Erickson, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Friedrich, Sandoval, and Bondi—(3). Motion carried.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

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

Member Nache asked that everyone watch out for the Trick or Treaters. It is should be safety first.

Member Hunigan commented about the public comments that were presented earlier in this Meeting. There should be a follow up. He also commented about “Black Lives Matter.” He did phone Sheriff Clague and they had a very productive conversation. Sheriff Clague understood why a sign saying, “Police Lives Matter,” would be offensive to some people; yet he was trying to make a point to support the police. Member Hunigan thanked Sheriff Clague for submitting a letter of apology to the Register Mail. Personal matters should be kept separate.

Member Davidson commented about the “Police Lives Matter” signs placed on County property and asked for a clear ruling on what the policy is about placing signs on County property. She does respect the apology letter written by Sheriff Clague. Numerous of her constituents had contacted her stating that these signs bothered them and they wanted to know why these signs were placed on Knox County owned property. She would like to know what the policy is and if there is no such policy in place, there should be such a written policy established.

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

Member Bondi commented that thoughts and prayers go to the Sheriff Clague and the family. Member Bondi wished him a speedy recovery.

Member Hurst had no comments at this time.

Member Pitman commented about the hours of hard work for the last couple months that had gone into the budget process. They began with at \$1,200,000 deficit in the general fund. The Board may not like every aspect of how they do business. The committee and the Board need to come together as a group and look at new ways of doing the County’s business. It may mean consolidation and shared services. Every year it becomes a bit more painful. Otherwise eventually the County will bankrupt the landfill which will lead to a bankrupt county. Hard decisions are going to have to be made.

Member Jefferson took the time to thank the department heads which have worked so hard on making concessions that were made at the finance committee meeting. A lot of those were not easy. The budget process has not been easy and it is not done yet. They have stepped up and made some sacrifices. He appreciates their efforts.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 25, 2015, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

The Board recessed until the next the Regular Meeting. Open Meeting recessed at 7:30 p.m.