

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

September 23, 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, September 23, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

And those absent: District 4 David Erickson

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

Sheriff Dave Clague delivered the proclamation. Chairman Friedrich led the Members in the pledge to the flag. Pastor Mark Robinson of Fields Church of Galesburg delivered the invocation.

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

Chairman Friedrich asked for public comments. Bob Wager from the landfill addressed the Board regarding staff problems at the landfill. He does not understand why they listen to only one person and not the other 12. This involves the subject of sexual harassment. They should not trust just one person.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on August 26, 2015, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of September 23, 2015 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of June 2015 in the amounts of \$112,411.86 and \$23,224.94 and public safety tax in the amount of \$95,768.49. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Davidson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the appointment of Member Lyle Johnson as the County Board's representative to the United Council of Counties. Chairman Friedrich explained that Member Davidson has difficulty working this into her schedule and Member Johnson volunteered for this assignment. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

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. He asked committee members to come prepared to the upcoming special finance committee meeting. There is much hard work to do in the next couple weeks to draft next year's budget.

County Clerk Scott Erickson introduced the new website, www.co.knox.il.us. Last month Member Hurst had asked about the new website and at the time it was close to completion. This site has been modernized and revamped. There are links to County Departments and the County Board. It is possible to look up County Board committee assignments and their committee minutes. There is also a transparency link which will include budgets and audits. They have tried to make this website much more user friendly and accessible. The IT department and others have worked very hard to get this new website up and going.

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.

The Sheriff, Jail, Courthouse, Animal Control, Mary Davis Home, and Annex Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Ricardo Sandoval. The monthly reports are in the packets. The current census at the Mary Davis Home is 18 individuals and 3 of those are from Knox County. Presently the Knox County Jail has 92 inmates with 5 federal inmates.

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

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve ZBA Case# ZA-01-15—Zoning District Change from "R" Residential to "B-2" Highway Business Zoning District for Oak Run. The Zoning Board of Appeals recommends approval of

this zoning request. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Bondi to 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. The Zoning Board of Appeals recommends approval of this conditional use permit. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Conklin asked about the \$400,000 amount that Health Alliance owes the Nursing Home. Is there anything that can be done to move this process along?

Member Jefferson responded that he did not have an answer for that at this time. Payments are coming in extremely slow.

Member Bondi added that Nursing Home Administrator Rachel Secrist continues to be in frequent contact with our elected officials.

Member Jefferson stated that the Nursing Home had received a couple payments but now the payments are again delayed. Mrs. Secrist is in almost daily communication with officials to try to get this matter resolved.

Member Davidson suggested that State’s Attorney John Pepmeyer write a letter.

The Highway and Landfill Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Shawn Pitman. The monthly report is in the packet. The previous month the landfill took in 9,660 tons. Total revenue was \$283,623. Out of that amount, \$19,320 was transferred to the general fund; \$28,362 was transferred to the contingency fund. The net gain is \$71,598. That was more than the previous month. As the season changes he expects to see a downward trend.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Hurst to bid and bring back for a vehicle for the Highway Engineer.

Member Davidson commented that she does not feel like now is a good time to go out and purchase a vehicle. Ford and Chevy are vehicles that are made in America. She will not vote for a Toyota. She wants the County’s money to stay in the USA. The current vehicle has over 100,000 miles on it. Yet, there are Sheriff’s vehicles that are on the road every day and some of those have over 200,000 miles on them. This vehicle is a personal car for the Highway Engineer to drive when he is out in the County. Considering that the State does not have a budget and the County’s tight budget, now is not the right time to purchase this vehicle.

Member Bacon agreed with Member Davidson. Maybe at another time, but for now he thinks that he would be best to let it ride.

Chairman Friedrich commented that right now the County is asking people to cut back on expenses. Now is not a good time.

Member Pitman stated that as this request was presented to the committee, they felt it best to bring to the Board. Due to the County’s current financial situation, he does not think that this request should be approved right now. He has concerns about continuing to receive the County’s portion of the Motor Fuel Tax. If these funds and others dry up the County will need

money to survive. The County is in for the long haul. As winter approaches there could be a need for additional funds for overtime pay and additional salt. He is a conservative and is not in support of this purchase at this time.

Member Bacon asked for a roll call vote. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bondi, and Hurst—(3). Noes—Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Pitman and Jefferson—(11). Motion failed.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the professional service agreement with Hanson Engineering, Section 13-00001-01-RS for the Highway Department which concerns the east portion of County Highway #4 to acquire the right of way. A copy of this agreement is included in the packets with the fee not to exceed \$155,750. In the past this firm has handled similar projects for the County. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Johnson to approve a financing package for the Caterpillar 826K trash compactor for the landfill. Specific information is included in the packets. The County received three financing options for this machine. All quotes were based on \$700,000 total including a 20% down payment of \$140,000 which leaves a balance of \$560,000. The lowest interest rate is for 4 years from First Mid-Illinois Bank with an interest rate of 1.90%. The interest total amount would be \$26,850.30. This is the committee's recommendation. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(12). Pass—Friedrich—(1). Noes—Nache—(1). Motion carried.

Member Pitman added that the committee would probably come back to the Board next year to purchase an extended warranty for this machine. The estimated cost would be \$20,000-\$25,000 and would be money well spent. One breakdown could justify this expense.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Johnson to approve a Knox County Siting Ordinance for the Landfill. A copy of this ordinance is included in the packets. This would establish rules and guidelines for anyone who would want to open a solid waste facility. This would also protect the County financially. State's Attorney John Pepmeyer has reviewed this ordinance and stated that he is OK with it. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—(0). Pass—Conklin—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the bid for an auto tarp system for a roll-off truck at the landfill. Specific information is included in the packets. Only one bid was submitted and that is from Koenig Body and Equipment of Peoria in the amount of \$11,284.00. Member Pitman stated that this purchase would be well worth it when considering the possibility of workman's compensation cases without having a tarp system on the truck.

Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds agreed. This was a used truck when the landfill originally purchased it and it did not have a tarp system on it. There have been workman's compensation cases in the past.

Member Davidson agreed with the need of this device but questioned why they waited so long to purchase it.

Mr. Reynolds responded that he was waiting through the budget cycle and trying to do this at an opportune time. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Noes—Friedrich—(1). Motion carried.

Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds brought an update about the 826K trash compactor. Originally Caterpillar stated that delivery would take approximately 16-18 weeks. Still Mr. Reynolds thought they would take delivery the end of October or the first part of November. The good news is that it is to arrive at the landfill September 25.

Chairman Friedrich presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. They are waiting on State money but still have their head above water for now.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. He stated that there was no meeting in September. The renovation of the road project out on East Main Street, Galesburg, is going quite well. It is anticipated that the new hotel will be completed in November.

Member Knapp presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 committee. He expressed concern that the State of Illinois has no budget. That could start damaging the 9-1-1 program. This is a serious situation. Sheriff Clague stated that as 9-1-1 funds are collected and sent to Springfield, they are supposed to return a portion of these funds back to the counties. That is not happening. They have contacted State officials and they have no answer as to when these funds will be sent.

Chairman Friedrich presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. The newest member of this organization, Kyle Kelly was introduced to the Board. The Strategic Plan Meeting/Community Forum is coming up October 28, 2015.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. The fund raiser dinner is coming up in Carthage, Illinois. There has not been a meeting since last month.

Member Davidson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. September 28, 2015 there will be a UCC meeting. Member Johnson will be attending that meeting.

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

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Nache to approve specific line item changes to the following departments or funds: Recorder's Office, Nursing

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

Motion was made by Member Foster and seconded by Member Davidson to approve claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of August 27, 2015 through September 23, 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, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(13). Pass—Bondi—(1). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson had no comments at this time.

Member Bacon commented about the upcoming special finance committee meeting. He wanted to stress that the coming budget process will be “a pain in the butt.” Members should get ready and review the information and budgets that have been provided. This will be very stressful.

Member Foster and Member Knapp had no comments at this time.

Chairman Friedrich echoed Member Bacon’s comments. This could be a late night. He thanked Members in advance for all of their hard work and thanked them for all that they have done so far. He also thanked department heads for their hard work. The Board will have to question many more things than they have done in the past.

Member Nache had no comments at this time.

Member Hunigan commented about the tragedy that occurred on September 10, 2015. This draws attention to the continuing need for mental health services and the problems with the Illinois state budget. Often when making cuts to the budget, mental health services are targeted. Such services should not be considered to be a luxury but vital matters of life and safety.

Member Davidson spoke of an upcoming fundraiser for children at the Knights of Columbus.

Member Sandoval had no comments at this time.

Member Conklin commented that he is ready for the special finance committee meeting.

Member Bondi expressed his congratulations on the new website.

Member Hurst expressed her appreciation for the updated new website.

Member Pitman echoed the comments of Member Bacon and Chairman Friedrich regarding the special finance committee meeting. This is going to be stressful. Hard decisions will have to be made and some people will be unhappy. County revenues are dwindling. Everyone should be prepared.

Member Jefferson had no comments at this time.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2015, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Sandoval to adjourn until the next scheduled Meeting of the Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.