

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

**September 28, 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, September 28, 2016, at 6:06 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 3	Pamela Davidson
District 4	David Erickson
District 2	Robert "Bob" Bondi
District 4	Shawn Pitman
District 5	Jeff Jefferson

And those absent:

District 2	John Hunigan
District 5	Ricardo "Rick" Sandoval
District 1	Richard Conklin
District 3	Trisha Hurst

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. Rev. 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. There were none.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on August 24, 2016, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of September 2016 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes

for the month of June 2016 in the amounts of \$109,571.11 and \$21,424.31 and public safety tax in the amount of \$182,879.80. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Erickson, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(11). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Wes Frennell of the Galesburg Salvation Army delivered a presentation about the Veteran's program offered through the Salvation Army. They were able to begin this program October 1, 2015. This program which is funded from a grant through Veteran's Affairs, offers support services for veterans and their families. Their emphasis is to prevent homelessness among veterans in Knox County, but they work within a seven county area. For the past few months, they have been trying unsuccessfully to collaborate with the Knox County Veteran's Assistance Commission. It would be beneficial if these organizations could work together to assist area veterans. In recent months this support services program has been awarded a couple of grants in over \$100,000 in funding. Some of these funds can be utilized for individuals to pay power bills. He encouraged veterans to phone for an appointment so that they can be instructed about the necessary documentation.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the appointment of John Mason to the Abingdon Fire Protection District. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Erickson, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(11). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Erickson and seconded by Member Pitman to approve an increase in the number of trustees for the Maquon Fire Protection District from three members to five members and appoint new trustees.

Member Bondi questioned why this request is being presented.

County Clerk Scott Erickson stated that apparently they are having problems getting a quorum for their meetings. They want to increase the number of trustees to increase their probability of getting a quorum.

Member Bondi questioned the current number of trustees.

Mr. Erickson responded that they have three trustees and want to increase that to five. Some other bodies have five trustees. The majority of similar bodies have three.

Member Davidson questioned if increasing it to five trustees would really help.

Mr. Erickson stated that he had the same problem with this request.

Member Bondi suggested that the trustees that don't show up could be replaced.

Member Bacon noted that this item is not included in the packets.

Member Jefferson suggested that more and more of these rural fire protection districts are having difficulty coming up with volunteers willing to serve as trustees.

Member Johnson stated that they could try this and see what happens.

Member Davidson stated that those trustees who fail to attend these meetings should be replaced. She will be voting against this motion.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Pitman and Jefferson—(7). Noes—Nache, Davidson, Erickson, and Bondi—(4). 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.

Bruce DeLashmit from Bellweather presented the fee study. A copy of this report was provided to the County Board Chairman and the County Clerk and is included in the Members' packets. Legally the County can charge a fee for their services up to the actual demonstrated cost of actually providing that service. The Board will have the position of deciding whether and or how much to increase the cost of these services. Or perhaps the Board could even establish the fee below that actual cost.

There are two parts of the costs of services. One is the direct cost which includes the labor and materials for the person providing that service. The second part of that has to do with indirect costs as if that service were a stand-alone service. This would include the cost of the square footage of the office space, utilities and other costs related to operating that space. The intent of these fees is to establish the cost of government services as close as possible to the person receiving the benefits.

If the fee is not established at the cost to provide that service, then basically the decision has been made to subsidize that service. Different counties across the State make different decisions about this and establish different fees. The best example has to do with the cost to adopt an animal. Often some counties decide to subsidize that fee.

When establishing fees infrastructure costs also need to be considered. Indirect costs are relatively low. Most counties round these fees down to the next whole dollar. That simplifies the process.

According to their report, there is a potential revenue increase of \$433,944 in untapped fees available. In order to collect these fees, the Board would have to pass resolutions to authorize the increase of Recorder fees and Sheriff fees individually. Most of the time the County can begin to collect these fees immediately. However, the Recorder's Office would have to provide notification to title companies, etc. That can take four to six weeks. These increased fees could be included in the next budget cycle. This report includes pages that list how these cost increases would be distributed to various funds.

If these fee increases are implemented, the Recorder's Office for example would be totally funded through their fees including their infrastructure costs. The County Clerk's Office is slightly different as even though the vital records and tax processing is fully funded, the elections still are funded through the general fund. As Board Members review this information, they must consider how self-sufficient they want these departments to be versus how much they want the County to subsidize these transactions.

The Circuit Clerk's Office collects a significant number of fees and fines through the court. This matter will be addressed in the next report to be presented at the end of October. They have already talked about the local debt recovery plan and how to address its effectiveness. The Circuit Clerk's Office is also involved in court security fees.

The Highway Department requires a great deal of thought. Currently the County does not have a program to collect fees for oversize or overweight trucks. Included in the report is an example of another county's model. Knox County would not have to establish the same fees but it is an example of how to implement such fees.

The quoted amount of \$433,944 has to do with the cost of services. Another component of this has to do with employee benefits. Bellweather has partnered with Precise Benefits. The County Treasurer has spent many hours contributing information. Precise Benefits is a separate company and Bellweather has worked with them in other counties. They have reviewed the existing health care costs and claims pattern. After a review of this information, what they are

purposing is that offering a program of “as good or better” coverage would save the County approximately \$521,000 per year.

They use a conservative claims pattern. Bellweather has worked with other counties that have implemented this health care plan and have found their projected savings to be at least the estimated savings amount. Mercer County reported that this program was better than their previous one.

These two components added together equal approximately \$900,000. This is about 4,000 times the fee charged for this study.

The \$433,000 amount represents the top fee amount that could be charged for services. The elected officials are accepting these amounts.

There was some discussion about the reserve amount included in the budget for levies. He suggested that in most cases that two years’ worth be carried over to the next budget. Beyond that some of that should be spent and lesser amounts should be levied.

The next report will be available toward the end of October. A key part of this is employee feedback to better understand what activities are performed in each office.

These suggested changes would result in bankable savings.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Erickson to approve payment to Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development for the third quarter in the amount of \$5,000. The total annual fee is \$20,000. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Erickson, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(11). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Johnson to approve membership dues for the Western Illinois Regional Council in the amount of \$5,485.20 to be paid through the Building Fund. Member Bacon stated that included in the packet is a list of the grants that the County has received with the assistance of this organization. These grants total over \$400,000. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Erickson, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(11). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve emergency electrical work at the Nursing Home in the amount of \$62,872.00 to Shive-Hattery. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Erickson, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(11). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Knapp presented the monthly report for the Building Committee. The monthly report is in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Johnson to investigate the construction of a road from Henderson Road across to the Nursing Home. Member Knapp stated that this road has been talked about for several years. Previously there was not enough money in the budget to construct the road. Now as the County has sold some of that ground, a strip of that ground was kept for this purpose. It would seem that a concrete road would be cheapest. Member Bacon stated that this road would diminish emergency response time. Member

Knapp estimated that currently it is about four miles to get to the Nursing Home. The new road would reduce this distance 1.75 round trip. He considers this to be a life safety issue for the County.

Roll call to investigate the construction of a road from Henderson Road across to the Nursing Home vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Erickson, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(11). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Sheriff, Jail, Courthouse, Animal Control, Mary Davis Home, and Annex Committee report was presented by Member Bondi. Their monthly report is included in the packets.

The Nursing Home, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Member Jefferson. Their monthly report is included in the packets. He reported that the census of the Nursing Home is 139 residents.

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

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the preliminary engineering agreement for bridge design—Knox County, Section 12-00159-00-BR. This service is to be provided by Klingner and Associates in the amount not to exceed \$63,500.00. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Erickson, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(11). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Nache to approve the bid from Brandt Construction for County Highway 9 resurfacing in the amount of \$86,877.00. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Erickson, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(11). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Johnson to approve to bid and bring back for annual diesel fuel bids for the landfill and highway departments. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Erickson, Bondi, Pitman and Jefferson—(11). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Davidson presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. They are working to finalize their budget for the coming year.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors' Bureau. He reported that there was no meeting this month.

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

Chairman Friedrich stated that there was no meeting of the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development this month.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from Prairie Hills Resources Board. He stated that there was no meeting this month. The recent fundraiser dinner for Prairie Land Conservancy was very successful. They received a lot of good comments that Knox County was very cooperative at supporting this event. They netted approximately \$8,300 for this program.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. There was no meeting this month. There will be a meeting in October.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Ad Hoc Committee for Technology Services. There has been a problem in the Recorder's Office and other areas with condensation from the air conditioning unit dripping down on the work station and the computers. The condensation pans are overflowing. Maintenance personnel and the Sheriff's Office have been made aware. It is possible that the pumps in these units are undersized. They are looking at relocating these work stations. The IT department continues to work at the Nursing Home on the CMS Program.

Motion was made by Member Erickson and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period for August 25, 2016 through September 28, 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, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Erickson, Pitman and Jefferson—(10). Noes—(0). Pass—Bondi—(1). Motion carried.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

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

Chairman Friedrich wished everyone to be safe on the road during harvest season. Motorists should look out for the farm equipment on the roads.

Member Nache had no comments at this time.

Member Davidson invited those present to attend a fundraiser at the Knight of Columbus Hall with proceeds going to CASA. She wished everyone to be safe and careful during the Scenic Drive and have a wonderful time.

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

Member Jefferson voiced his concern that Member Bondi mentioned regarding the pumps in the AC units at the Courthouse. He would hope that the County would not have to pay for these modifications. These are relatively new units.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 26, 2016, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Foster to adjourn until the next scheduled Meeting of the Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(11). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.