

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

September 27, 2017

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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COUNTY OF KNOX) SS

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois on Wednesday, September 27, 2017, at 6:07 p.m.

The Meeting was called to order by County Board Chairwoman Pamela Davidson and upon roll call the following Members reported present:

District 1	Lyle Johnson
District 3	Tara Wilder
District 4	Jared Hawkinson
District 5	Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval
District 2	David Amor
District 3	Pamela Davidson
District 4	David Erickson
District 5	Brian Friedrich
District 1	Richard Conklin
District 2	Robert Bondi
District 3	Trisha Hurst
District 4	Sara Varner
District 5	Todd Shreves

And those absent: District 2 John Hunigan
 District 1 Cheryl Nache

Also present were County Treasurer Robin Davis, Sheriff David Clague, and County Clerk Scott Erickson.

Sheriff David Clague delivered the proclamation. Chairwoman Pamela Davidson led the Members in the pledge to the flag. In lieu of a formal invocation a moment of silence was observed.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. Member Bondi asked for an addition to the agenda to include an update from the Workforce Investment Group. Chairwoman Davidson added that update at agenda item #31A.

Chairman Davidson asked for public comments. There were none.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on August 23, 2017, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of September 2017 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of June 2017 in the amounts of \$117,736.85 and \$30,168.93 and public safety tax in the amount of \$190,008.19. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Erickson and seconded by Member Varner to approve the appointment of Ryan J. West to the Altona Fire Protection District. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Wilder to approve the appointment of Michael D. Gibbs to the Williamsfield Fire Protection District. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the authorization to accept bids for surplus property. Chairwoman Davidson explained that this would involve the sale of some vehicles that the County no longer uses. This would provide a little revenue for the County.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Friedrich presented the monthly report from the Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial and Clerk Committee. The monthly report is in the packet. The Committee discussed budget issues. There was a budget meeting September 25th. Additional budget meetings are scheduled. Moving forward there will be two or three budget meetings a week.

6:12 p.m. Member Nache entered the room.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the modification of County Board Rules regarding meeting location. Information is included in the packets. County Clerk Scott Erickson reported that there have been comments in the past about how to improve the County Board Meetings. There have been some problems with the courtroom that they currently use. The Board Members sit with their backs to the audience. There are no microphones so sometimes the audience cannot hear the discussion from the County Board. This is not a perfect scenario for Board Meetings as the room was designed to be a courtroom. They have looked into alternate options and locations. The best current option is an offer from the City of Galesburg to use their council chambers. They have discussed this with their technology staff and their coordinators. The calendar is open each month for the fourth

Wednesday. Each Board Member would have a microphone and would be able to see the audience. There is also more technology available in that room. The County does have an electronic voting system and it would be possible to utilize this system in this room to record the votes of the County Board. The first step is getting the Board into a room where the people can see the Board and Board can see them. Since every Member will be wearing a microphone, this room will make it easier to record these Meetings. This is not intended to be a perfect or permanent solution. But it is a good solution for the time being.

With the current system in the Courthouse, the Board is transient. If there is a jury trial, the Board gets to move to another courtroom. This alternate location in the City Hall's Council Chambers would allow for a move permanent location. If the Board chooses to meet at the Courthouse, that is still possible. This change to the Council Chambers will be at no cost to the County, unless the County chooses to use some of their technology such as the Channel 7 broadcast system and such things. For closed sessions the Board would go next door to the Erickson Conference Room. There will be a learning curve as the Board makes this move.

Member Johnson commented that this is a great idea and will make Meetings much more accessible to people.

Member Hawkinson stated that this would provide much more room.

Mr. Erickson added that if the Board approves this, the Board could meet at the new location next month, in October.

Roll call vote to approve the modification of County Board Rules regarding meeting location is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve bids for electrical and gas services. Bids were presented during this Meeting. These contracts would be for 36 or 48 months. The bids are only good for twenty four hours. County Clerk Scott Erickson reviewed the bids. Champion Energy is the County's current provider and just completing their current three year contract. The current rate on the power energy is \$.04978. Constellation Energy submitted the low bid and it is lower than what the County is now paying. The County will be choosing the duration of the contract and which vendor to choose. The original motion was amended to state to approve a 48 month contract with Constellation Energy.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve to bid and bring back for auditing services for the County. Member Friedrich stated that this had not been bid out for eight years. Information had been given to the Members. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Friedrich added that the Finance Committee had passed a resolution last year about line item changes. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. He asked that Members read that resolution.

Member Johnson presented the monthly Building, Courthouse and Annex Committee Report. A copy of the report is included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve payment to Klingner and Associates in the amount of \$22,218.00. A copy of the invoice is included in the packets. Member Johnson explained that this has to do with getting some things ready for bid inside the Courthouse. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve payment to Otto Baum in the amount of \$63,394.80. Information is included in the packets. Member Johnson reported that this has to do with the exterior work on the Courthouse. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made to Member Johnson and seconded by Member Shreves to approve payment to Hein Construction in the amount of \$2,700 and \$2,900. Member Johnson reported that this has to do with work at the Knox County Jail. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Bondi presented the monthly Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Nursing Home Committee report. These reports are included in the packets. There are some line item changes for the Nursing Home and the Mary Davis Home.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Hurst to approve emergency repair of an air conditioner at the Nursing Home. The estimated bill for this repair is \$7,500-\$8,000. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Amor to approve to bid and bring back for a truck, snow plow blade, and salt spreader for the Nursing Home. Member Bondi reported that the current truck is a rusty 12 year vehicle. They are hoping to trade it in. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Hurst to approve to bid and bring back for a lawn mower for the Nursing Home. Member Bondi added that they are also exploring the option of hiring an individual who has their own equipment to care for the grounds at the Nursing Home. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Hawkinson,

Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Varner presented the monthly Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Recorder's Office, Highway Department and Landfill Committee reports. The minutes and reports are included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Varner and seconded by Member Shreves to approve Zoning Board of Appeals Case #CU-06-17 to deny a conditional use permit for a "Gun Test Site" under the Shooting Range Definition in the "A" District filed by Tyson Woolridge. Information is included in the packets. County Clerk Scott Erickson stated that an "aye" vote is to vote to uphold the decision from the ZBA to deny this request. County Assessor Chris Gray reported that Mr. Woolridge did submit a letter to withdraw this request.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Armor, Davidson, Erickson, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(10). Noes—(0). Pass—Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache and Friedrich—(4). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Varner and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the resolution for the reappointment of the County Engineer. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Chairwoman Davidson stated that this is done every six years. This approval goes to the State of Illinois Department of Transportation.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Varner and seconded by Member Erickson to approve to bid and bring back for the fuel purchase for the Landfill and Highway Departments. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Varner and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve legal counsel for the development of Landfill #4. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. A copy of this report was provided to the Board Members. At that meeting, Treasurer Doug Gibb presented the financial report. As of August 31, 2107, the Health Department showed a surplus of \$26,229 on revenues of \$2.807 million and expenses of \$2.781 million. Grants constituted 61% of revenues, program fees 23% and property taxes 13%. Personnel costs made up 75% of expenditures, followed by IT expenses and supplies, both at 5%. Director Gabriel shared the status of FY 2018 grants planned, applied for and awarded, which currently total \$2.119 million. Director of Health Protection Sam Jarvis reported on the upcoming flu season. He also reported on the State's performance review of the Local Health Protection Grant. Changes are being made to the Health Department's food safety procedures to bring these procedures back into

compliance. Changes will also have to be made to the County's Food Safety Ordinance. These changes will be brought to the County in the near future. The Health Board also discussed the FY 2018 budget, which is still under review.

Member Varner presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. She reported that there was no meeting in September.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 committee. He reported that that was no meeting in September. The next meeting is scheduled October 19th.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. August 30th, they held their CEO Launch Event. They invited students from Sterling and Carthage CEO Programs to share their experiences. There was positive feedback about how this program can change the lives of students. They are still looking for mentors for this program and host sites for the class. They are also looking for financial support for this program. Progress with this program is going well.

Saturday, October 21, 2017, they are partnering with the Village of Avon for a Job Fair to be held at the Abingdon-Avon Junior High School.

Regarding the report from KCAP, lead activity has been good through the summer and into the fall. They are currently seeing a lot of interest in downtown Galesburg. KCAP is looking good this year.

The response for the "Fireball Run" was great. There was much community support. This will air on Amazon in 2018. This is a great opportunity to showcase our community. Another focus of this production is missing children. They put out many fliers and create more awareness for missing children. They have recovered 56 children. He expressed his thanks also to the Chamber of Commerce for all of their hard work with this event.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. He attended two meetings this month. The first meeting was a personnel committee meeting. The assistant executive director has resigned and the committee needs to start looking for another one. The second meeting had to do with the accreditation for the land trusts. They found out that the accreditation process is a little more than what was originally thought. A lot of current policies must be revised.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. The meeting was held September 25th. This was a unique meeting in that it only addressed one topic. The subject was "Alert Training for Possible Incidents or Shootings." There have been several shootings in the news. Two downstate state's attorneys made their presentations as well as the Sheriff of St. Clair County. Many of these downstate smaller counties do not have a big budget for security. They talked about what to do in terms of safety. They stressed the need for training prevention, response and planning. This was a very informative meeting. They also discussed the need for assistance for victims and witnesses. He thinks that there should be regular drills in the workplace to make sure that people are prepared.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Ad Hoc Committee for Technology Services. The committee reviewed the phone upgrades system for the Nursing

Home. They also reviewed the Highway phone system and determined that nothing needs to be done at this time. There have been time clock updates. Stratus brought in their fiber into the building. IT Director Andy Rowe submitted a comprehensive preliminary budget, which not only affects his department but all other departments in the County. This budget will be forwarded to other departments for their review. They are still working on a better network answer for the Landfill and the Highway Department.

Member Conklin presented a report from the Knox County Mental Health 708 Board. They have been meeting about every three or four weeks since they were authorized. He thinks that they are in pretty good shape. They have the bylaws approved and the grant guidelines drawn up. These forms have been compared to other 708 Mental Health Boards. They requested to levy the full amount that they are authorized to levy. They may not need the full amount this first year but that will allow them to carry some funds over to the following year. The time line will be February 14 – April 1, 2018 to submit forms for grant requests. The next meeting will be November 3, 2017 and they plan to draw up a three year plan.

Member Bondi presented an update from the Workforce Investment Group. He attended the recent meeting, August 31, in Macomb. They reviewed the Regional Plan Update and the budget. In the budget for 2017-2018, they have a surplus of \$557,000 which they will carry over into the next budget. This gives them a little breathing room in the budget. This group provides training to those individuals who have lost their jobs and need to be retrained for the workplace. This is a very active board.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve opening of the budget for specific line item changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairwoman Davidson reminded Members of a resolution that the Board approved over a year ago that has to do with line item changes. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. She asked the department heads who are requesting these line item changes to address the Board and explain what these line item changes are.

Michelle Gabrielle requested line items changes for the Health Department for contractual labor.

County Treasurer Robin Davis requested line item changes for the general fund for legal notices. This has to do with legal notices for the Circuit Clerk's Office and the State's Attorney's Office. This will be increased in next year's budget. Line item transfers were also requested for wellness testing and life insurance.

Nursing Home Administrator, Rachel Secrist, requested three line item changes. One is for contractual services. Another is for pharmacy stock for medications and another for patient refunds.

Landfill Director, Rod Clair, stated that since he started at the Landfill they have had terrible luck with equipment breaking down. He requested line item changes for professional services as well as the line item changes for phone lines that have to do with the time clock. He also requested a line item change for overtime wages.

Director of the Mary Davis Home, Wendy Steck, asked for a line item transfer from contingency to building and grounds for resurfacing of their parking lot.

Chairwoman Davidson asked that department heads attend the finance committee meeting to explain why these line item changes are needed.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Varner to approve these proposed line item changes in the budget. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Varner to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of August 24, 2017 through September 27, 2017 (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, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Hurst, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Pass—Bondi—(1). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson, Member Wilder, Member Hawkinson, Member Sandoval, and Member Nache had no comments at this time.

Member Amor commented that he is pleased with the initiative to move the County Board Meetings to City Hall.

Chairwoman Davidson commented that they should pray for all of the people affected by the hurricane especially Puerto Rico. This hurricane is affecting millions of lives. She also invited everyone to CASA's fundraiser to be held September 28th.

Member Erickson had no comments at this time.

Member Friedrich directed his comments to department heads. The goal is to reduce line item changes. He asked department heads to really study their budgets for the coming year. It would be good to avoid some of these line item changes before their budgets are approved.

Member Conklin had no comments at this time.

Member Bondi commented that they should keep CASA in mind for their fund raiser. He also commented that a mural is going up on the side of the Kensington Building. This is going to be a beautiful project and will be done without defacing the existing brick surface.

Member Hurst, Member Varner and Member Shreves had no comments at this time.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 25, 2017, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Varner to adjourn from this Meeting. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—14. Noes—(0). Motion carried. Open Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.