

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

**June 24, 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, June 24, 2015, at 6:12 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 3	Barbara Foster
District 5	Brian Friedrich
District 1	Cheryl Nache
District 3	Pamela Davidson
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	Greg “Chops” Bacon
	District 4	George Knapp
	District 4	David Erickson
	District 2	Robert “Bob” Bondi

Also present was 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. Lt. Brian Bump of the Galesburg Salvation Army delivered the invocation.

Chairman Friedrich asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. Member Sandoval asked that agenda item #17, approve financing of new police vehicles for the Sheriff’s Department, be removed from this agenda. Member Davidson added names to be appointed to the Knox County Board of Health, agenda item # 6A. Those names are Kevin Satsky, MD and Bruce Bobofchak, DDS.

Chairman Friedrich asked for public comments. Current Regional Superintendent of Education, Bonnie Harris, addressed the Board regarding agenda item #7, resolution on removal of County Employee position in the Regional Office of Education. Mrs. Harris will be leaving

this office July 1, and strongly disapproves of this measure to move this employee from a county position to a non-county position.

6:17 p.m. Member Knapp entered the room.

Mrs. Harris continued that she is concerned that this employee will lose her benefits. She does not think that this is a fair arrangement.

Jim Jacobs addressed the Board also about this same agenda item. He does not approve of this transfer.

Lt. Brian Bump from the Salvation Army of Galesburg introduced himself and stated that he assumed that position that day.

Betsy Larson from County Board District #4, addressed the Board in reference to a house that had burned down a few years ago. This remains a pile of rubble and a home for animals. It is a danger to the children that live next door. The basement is open and collecting water and mosquitoes. This site needs to be cleaned up and the owner has been unwilling to do so. She is asking the Board to help get this site cleaned up.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on May 27, 2015, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of June 24, 2015 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of March 2015 in the amounts of \$106,426.26 and \$29,408.18 and public safety tax in the amount of \$86,598.12. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Foster, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Davidson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the appointment of John Hunigan to fill the vacancy on Knox County Board from District #2. Member Davidson stated that John Hunigan would be a wonderful addition to the County Board. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Foster, Friedrich, Nache, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

County Clerk Scott Erickson administered the oath of office to John Hunigan who then officially took his seat. Board Members welcomed him.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the appointments of Jeanette Kleine and Suzie Meeker to the Knox County Metropolitan Exposition, Auditorium, and Office Building Authority Board. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Foster, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(11). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the appointment of Joyce Richard to the Maquon Fire Protection District. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Foster, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(11). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Davidson and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the appointment of Kevin Satsky, MD to the Knox County Board of Health. He is a psychiatrist and also works at the Veterans' Center. Currently he is the secretary on the Board of Health. This Board must have a specified number of doctors and dentists. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(11). Noes—Nache—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Davidson and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the appointment of Bruce Bobofchak, DDS to the Knox County Board of Health. Dr. Bobofchak will soon be retiring from his private practice. Currently he does serve on the Board of Health. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the resolution on the removal of the County employee position in the Regional Office of Education. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Beginning July 1, 2015 the Knox County Regional Office of Education will be consolidated with offices from Mercer, Warren and Henderson Counties. Knox and Warren Counties will maintain their current offices. The new Regional Superintendent of Education Jodi Scott has suggested that the assistant currently employed in that office, in effect should work for this new consolidated office and no longer be considered a Knox County employee.

Member Davidson stated that she would be voting against this resolution. She feels that this is a Knox County employee. She understands that the Regional Office has changed since more counties have been added. If the County is paying her salary, she should remain a Knox County employee.

Member Foster questioned if this employee would be retaining her benefits.

Chairman Friedrich responded that the County plans to buy out those benefits.

Member Davidson asked if there was a statement to this effect in writing that the employee would still have benefits.

Chairman Friedrich stated that she would have her benefits and insurance just like she has now.

Member Jefferson stated that other offices in this region are doing the same thing.

Chairman Friedrich added that some other offices have been doing this for years. Knox County is the only county in this region not doing this.

Member Foster questioned what would happen if the County voted this down.

Chairman Friedrich responded that this employee would then be the only employee in that office that would fall under Knox County's Handbook and rules. Then she would follow the County's guidelines.

Member Davidson again stated that this should be in writing before it is presented to the Board.

Motion was made by Member Foster and seconded by Member Hurst to table this motion. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(11). Noes—Johnson—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Nache to approve the County contribution of \$500.00 to the Elite Gold Program. Specific information is included in the packets. County Clerk Scott Erickson reported that local Channel 7 on the local cable access has been dormant for years. The City of Galesburg and the Convention and Visitors Bureau have been working for years to re-establish Channel 7. This program that is being presented is requesting a contribution from the County and will be a big step forward. The system will be able to scroll public information notices, time and weather information. This program will also display camera angles from different area locations. Law enforcement agencies will also have access to these cameras on a 24/7 basis. This information will also be archived. They are asking for a \$500.00 donation from the County. Other entities are contributing substantially more. Lots of people watch Channel 7. Member Bondi has donated the use of his building as a location for these cameras. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Landfill membership to the Illinois Farm Bureau. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, and Clerk Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Rick Sandoval. The monthly reports and committee minutes are included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the resolution on prevailing wage. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Member Conklin commented that he was not sure of the impact of this resolution. This is state mandated and Illinois tells us how to spend our money. What is the impact if the County Board does not sign this? The State of Illinois is in debt and doing nothing to get out of it. The County Board has been working very hard to save the County money. He has read that a prevailing wage can increase the cost of services 20%. Since the County is trying so hard to save the taxpayers some money, he would like to see the Board either reject or not sign this resolution.

Member Davidson disagreed and stated that the County should have prevailing wage. There should be a good wage for good service and labor. The County should stand up for labor. She will be voting in support of this resolution.

Member Jefferson asked if this something that is required by law and stated that he agreed with Member Conklin.

County Clerk Scott Erickson stated that this is something that is required every year.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Hurst, and Jefferson—(10). Noes—Conklin and Pitman—(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve the budget schedule for FY2015-2016. A copy of this schedule is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the resolution on increase of jury demand fee. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets.

Member Johnson questioned who pays the jury demand fee.

County Clerk Scott Erickson responded that the petitioner or the complainant would be paying. This would not apply to criminal cases.

Member Johnson commented that basically if you are poor, you will not get a jury trial. He will be voting against this resolution.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Sandoval, Conklin, Pitman and Jefferson—(8). Noes—Johnson, Hunigan, and Davidson—(3). Pass—Hurst—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Nache to approve the resolution on alternate juror fees. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets.

Member Johnson commented this makes it more impossible for a low income person to get a fair trial. He will be voting against this resolution.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Friedrich, Nache, Sandoval, Conklin, Pitman and Jefferson—(6). Noes—Johnson, Foster, Knapp, Hunigan, and Davidson—(5). Pass—Hurst—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Conklin to approve a six month hiring freeze for County Offices beginning June 25, 2015. Those departments seeking to hire an employee would require the approval of the personnel committee. Chairman Friedrich stated that this would be better than layoffs. There are some positions that by law will have to be filled such as the jail. The County cannot put public safety at risk.

Member Johnson commented that the County has department heads who know how to run their departments. If there is a hiring freeze, it can be impossible to run a program. Again he will be voting against this motion.

Member Sandoval stated that this is not about department heads. Rather the Board needs to look at the general fund balance and realize that the County is in financial trouble.

Chairman Friedrich reported that County Treasurer Robin Davis has warned that the County is in pretty bad financial shape. The County is trying to be pro-active with a hiring freeze.

Member Pitman agreed that the County is in financial trouble and has to deal with some hard questions.

Member Davidson questioned how this would affect some departments that have already posted a position for hiring.

Chairman Friedrich responded that the line has to be drawn someplace. If it is already posted, it should be all right. If it is not posted, then it would have to do go to the personnel committee for approval.

Member Jefferson agreed with that. There are going to be some hardships throughout the County. Eventually every facet of the County will be affected. This hiring freeze is something that is long overdue. This has been discussed and should not come as a surprise. As the Board studies the County's finances, it is apparent that this is not going to get better any time soon. This is only one of many steps that the County is going to have to take in the future.

Member Nache commented that as unhappy as this will make some people, layoffs would be even worse. This is mild compared to what the Board could do.

Mary Davis Home Administrator, Ron Clear stated that the law requires that he has a specified number of personnel for the number of beds at the facility, regardless of whether all the beds are filled or not. Currently there are three openings at the Mary Davis Home.

Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds added that one of the vacant positions at the Landfill is for a temporary employee for the summer. This would keep the Landfill in compliance with the State of Illinois EPA rules and regulations. There is also an opening for a full time staff position for a mechanic. If the Board chooses not to allow the full time position to be filled, he would accept that decision. However, he does need a temporary driver to satisfy the Illinois EPA.

Chairman Friedrich added that personnel positions would be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Member Davidson stated that she understands that some departments are legally mandated to maintain certain staffing levels. Those positions could not be frozen.

Nursing Home Administrator Rachel Secrist, added that by law the Nursing Home must maintain a certain level of staffing.

Administrator of the Knox County Health Department Michelle Fishburn, asked whether this includes grant funded employees.

Chairman Friedrich responded that this includes everyone. As positions open up, each department would have to present their request to the personnel committee.

Roll call vote to approve a six month hiring freeze for County Offices beginning June 25, 2015, with positions to be approved by the personnel committee, is recorded as follows: Ayes— Foster, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman and Jefferson—(9). Noes— Johnson, Knapp, and Davidson—(3). 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. Chairman Friedrich added that as regards the Courtroom renovation project, there are still just a few small things that need to be completed, such as the armrests on some chairs.

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 Nursing Home, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Jeff Jefferson. These monthly reports are included in the packets. The current census of the Nursing Home is 137.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the appointment of Harold Hawkinson to the Board of Review. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Highway and Landfill Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Shawn Pitman. The monthly reports are included in the packets. This month the landfill took in 7,591.1 tons for a tipping fee of \$268,321. Net profit was \$62,865. The recycling work on

County Highway 2, between County Highways 3 and 6 north of Oneida, has been completed. They will soon begin some summer seal coating.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the bid for a bridge replacement, Lynn Township Section 13-11118-00-BR. This is a wooden structure and is located approximately 4 miles east of Altona on 1900E. This bridge has been closed due to safety concerns. The project will be funded with 80% township bridge funds and the remaining 20% will be split between Knox County and Lynn Road District or \$21,332.20 each. The low bid from Curnyn Construction, Geneseo, IL is in the amount of \$213,322.00. Information and the bid tab are included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pitman and seconded by Member Davidson to bid and bring back for an automatic tarp for a roll-off truck. Information is included in the packets. Member Pitman stated that this is needed to prevent possible injuries or possible workman compensation claims. The anticipated cost is \$11,000. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Davidson presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. She reported that the Health Department is doing really good. They are doing free HIV tests June 25. The Health Department is looking into the feasibility of offering flu shots at local schools.

Member Knapp presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 committee. During the last meeting they discussed the problems of continued funding of 9-1-1 from Springfield. Sheriff Clague has attended several meeting in Springfield. He reported that if the Governor does not sign this bill by July 1 the State funding for 9-1-1 disappears. Various entities have worked together to draft legislation to consolidate 9-1-1 services and include all Illinois counties. Presently there are nine counties that do not have 9-1-1 services. The legislature has approved this bill. The Governor has indicated that he will veto it. Public safety is a huge issue in the State. Sheriff Clague encouraged citizens to write letters to the Governor in support of this 9-1-1 legislation. He expressed his concern that the 9-1-1 program could go away. This could be a real step backwards.

Chairman Friedrich asked Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development Director Ken Springer to present their monthly report. Mr. Springer reported that they have been busy during the past couple months and pursuing new leads from local industry. They are working on getting their web site launched. They are putting together their strategic plan and building their staff.

Member Johnson presented his monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resource Board and stated that there was nothing new.

Member Davidson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. Their golf tournament is coming up July 18.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Foster to approve the opening of the budget for line item changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Davidson and seconded by Member Nache to approve specific line item changes to the budget for the following departments or funds: Nursing Home, and Circuit Clerk Administration Fund. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Davidson and seconded by Member Johnson to approve claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of May 28, 2015 through June 24, 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, Foster, Knapp, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Davidson, Sandoval, Conklin, Hurst, Pitman, and Jefferson—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 2015, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson asked that they keep the people of South Carolina in their thoughts and prayers. Hopefully things will continue to move forward and everyone will take a positive approach to this situation.

Member Foster commented that the courtroom renovation is beautiful.

Member Knapp had no comments at this time.

Chairman Friedrich thanked the Board for working together. He welcomed new Board Member John Hunigan.

Member Nached also commented that the courtroom looks beautiful and welcomed Member Hunigan.

Member Hunigan thanked the Board for approving him. He also expressed his concern for the people of South Carolina.

Member Davidson welcomed Member Hunigan to the Board. It is good to have this seat filled. She wished everyone a joyful and safe 4<sup>th</sup> of July. She asked that Members keep the people of South Carolina in their prayers as well as those affected by recent tornadoes.

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

Member Hurst invited everyone to attend the upcoming Knox County Relay for Life, July 25.

Member Pitman commented about the hiring freeze and stated that they need to work together to come up with ideas to address the financial problems of the County. Everything needs to be reviewed just to figure out how to survive.

Member Jefferson commented that he wanted to add to Member Pitman's comment that the department heads and elected officials are doing everything that they can. As you look at the budget, the problem is not on the expense side but rather the revenue side. The County does not have a lot of control over that. He also welcomed Member Hunigan to the Board.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 2105, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Pitman to adjourn from this meeting until the next scheduled Meeting of the Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.