

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

February 27, 2018

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COUNTY OF KNOX)

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held at the Galesburg City Hall, Galesburg, Illinois on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 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 2	John Hunigan
District 3	Tara Wilder
District 1	Cheryl Nache
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 4	Sara Varner
District 5	Todd Shreves

And those absent:

District 4	Jared Hawkinson
District 5	Ricardo "Rick" Sandoval
District 3	Trisha Hurst

Also present were County Treasurer Robin Davis and County Clerk Scott Erickson.

County Clerk Scott Erickson delivered the proclamation. Chairwoman Pamela Davidson led the Members in the pledge to the flag. She asked that a moment of silence be observed in memory of former County Board Member George Knapp, who recently passed away. She also included the seventeen high school students in Florida who were recently killed.

Chairman Davidson asked for additions to the agenda. There were none.

Chairman Davidson asked for public comments. Rob Benedict addressed the Board regarding a property that he had recently acquired. If the County has space needs, this building when renovated might be appropriate. It is a free standing building with two parking lots. He anticipates that it will require about eight months to complete the exterior renovation work.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Amor to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on January 24, 2018, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of February 2018 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of November 2017 in the amounts of \$112,653.60 and \$26,018.07 and public safety tax in the amount of \$187,517.06. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Nick Pelech, Construction Manager of the Spoon River Transmission Project, addressed the Board. Other representatives of Ameren were also present. They were there to thank the Board for allowing them to build this project. This transmission line is essentially a highway that is forty-four miles long that will bring in renewable energy. This project will strengthen the power in and out of the Galesburg area. A short video about this project was presented. Handouts were also presented to the Board. The budget for this recently completed project was \$130,000,000 and 1.4 million ft. of transmission lines were installed. In order to reduce soil compaction for the farmers, helicopters were utilized to install the power lines. An appreciation certificate from Ameren was presented to County Board Chairwoman Pamela Davidson as the representative of Knox County.

Director of Wellness and Health Education of the Knox County Health Department, Erin Olson, presented the 2017 Annual Report on the state of the Knox County Health Department. Copies of this report were included in the Board packets. According to Illinois County Codes this report must be presented to the Board and the community within ninety days of the conclusion of the fiscal year. This report highlights the main points of the previous year.

Ms. Olson reported that 2017 marked their 25th year since their creation. This past year they really focused on celebrating these 25 years. This report shows that there are a lot of things to be proud of. Although they started out very small, they have grown and are growing even stronger. They want to thank the current Health Department Board but also the previous boards and officials. This report includes some interviews with past and present board members regarding the past history of the Health Department and what it is currently. Over the course of these 25 years, the Health Department has received over \$21,000,000 in federal and state grant funds. They have done over 14,000 food safety inspections. One thing that they are very proud of is the dental services that they provide.

Lori Quick reported on the progress of the dental services at the Health Department. Last year they saw a total of 3,649 dental patients. They have two full time dentists and one part time dentist. They do accept Medicaid and most dental insurances. Approximately 27% of their patients pay on a sliding scale, which is income based. A lot of people have health insurance but many people do not have dental insurance. They also offer specialized care for example for children with special needs. She credited the grants with being able to offer these programs. They are proud of the 25 years of service in Knox County.

Chairwoman Davidson expressed her thanks to the Health Department. It is a very important part of Knox County. They touch so many lives and help so many people. Their board members truly care about the Health Department.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the annual report from the Health Department. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson,

Hunigan, Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Erickson to approve the appointments of Gerald R Buckman and Joey K Tusek as trustees to the Elba-Salem Fire Protection District. Information is included in the packets. This is a reappointment for Mr. Buckman and a new appointment for Mr. Tusek. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the salary adjustment in the amount of \$375 from 2016 for the Nursing Home Administrator.

Member Conklin reported that the auditors had indicated that the County did not have to pay this salary adjustment. The decision is still with the County as regards what they want to do.

Member Bondi provided some background information. The Nursing Home Administrator negotiated in good faith to bring about a settlement with the union. This process took about 16-28 months. Therefore, a final financial consideration could not be awarded for those employees for the year of 2016. Instead the County did include a signing bonus in that contract for all of the employees who were employed in that 2016 time frame. The agreement for the administrator is that she only receives $\frac{3}{4}$ of any salary increase given to the union employees. It is his opinion that the signing bonus is a type of salary increase for the 2016 period and therefore it should be awarded to the Nursing Home Administrator. The signing bonus for the union employees is \$500. Therefore, $\frac{3}{4}$ of that amount would be \$375 as a one-time payment. She is the only person in the Nursing Home that did not have a financial consideration for 2016. Since he chairs the Nursing Home Committee he presented this background information.

Chairwoman Davidson commented that it was stated that the Nursing Home Administrator was the only person who did not receive financial consideration. However, at the Landfill during that same time frame those employees went almost the whole year. Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds did not receive any part of that signing bonus. The contract for the Nursing Home Administrator states that she is to receive a percentage of the salary increase awarded to the employees but the signing bonus was not included.

Roll call is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Erickson, Friedrich and Bondi—(4). Noes—Hunigan, Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Conklin and Shreves—(7). Pass—Varner—(1). Motion failed.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the resolution to approve the appointment of Special Prosecutor and to ratify and pursue litigation. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Member Johnson commented that he believes according to statute that the County would lose. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Hunigan, Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(11). Noes—Johnson—(1). Motion carried.

Member Friedrich presented the monthly report from the Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial and Clerk Committee. The monthly report is in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Erickson to approve the animal kill claims for 2017 in the amount of \$0.00. Member Friedrich explained that this is something that is done every year. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Wilder to approve the resolutions on deeds of conveyance for the following four PIN numbers: 13-33-382-025, 99-16-385-012, 99-16-385-013, and 99-15-378-007. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the Western Illinois Regional Council invoice for transporting and processing residential paint and electronics for recycling and/or disposal in the amount of \$11,424.00. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the membership dues for Prairie Hills in the amount of \$300. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the purchase of replacement iPads for the County Board. Information is included in the packets. The old I-Pads will be repurposed. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve to bid and bring back for an IT storage server. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the bid documents for compensation analysis and study. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Bondi presented the monthly Building, Courthouse and Annex Committee Report as Committee Chairman Lyle Johnson was not able to attend this meeting. The monthly report is in the packets. The minutes were provided to the Members. Primarily the substance of the meeting is the four action items included on the agenda.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the final payment to Otto Baum in the amount of \$33,506.80 for the Courthouse exterior project. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the payment to Hein Construction in the amount of \$1,260.00 for the Courthouse back stairwell project. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Varner and Shreves—(11). Noes—Bondi—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Shreves to approve the final payment to Klingner and Associates in the amount of \$500 for Courthouse exterior improvements. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Wilder to approve to ratify payment to Mechanical Services, Inc. in the amount of \$40,991.49 for emergency repair of the heating system at the Courthouse. Copies of the invoices are included in the packet.

Member Erickson expressed his concerns about the failure of the heating system. This repair is a sizeable expense that was unforeseen. He is curious as where the County stands on the original system. Has the County discussed this with the architectural firm, the engineering firm or the original contractor?

Member Bondi responded that the way they see it, the engineering of the system was not adequate for the Courthouse. The heat pump is not much good for temperatures below freezing. There was a stretch of 10-15 days with temperatures below zero. It was critical to do something to help the Courthouse employees. It was felt that the best solution was to install three air handlers in the basement area. This was to help with air circulation of the warmer air throughout the building.

Member Johnson stated that there was much discussion in the committee meeting as how to solve this problem before this decision was made.

Member Bondi stated that a heat pump can only do so much. This was not properly considered. In the future he would expect the contractors and suppliers to study the downside of the situation. The County chose poorly with this as to how the engineering system was set up. This is an unacceptable situation. He has some real concerns.

Member Conklin reported that there was some discussion in the committee meeting that maybe they would seek some kind of reimbursement costs. He questioned if there was a performance bond.

Member Bondi reported that some documentation was considered to send to the contractor and manufacturer of the system but he doesn't know if there was follow-up. There are instances on record within the one year period where he knows that he personally shared his concerns about this heating system.

Member Friedrich reported that the contractors did send people out to inspect it one time. And it is still under warranty. The system could not handle that cold snap.

Chairwoman Davidson commented that recent winters had not included below zero temperatures.

Member Bondi stated that a heat pump system will not work when temperatures are below zero. Some Courthouse employees brought in space heaters, which can be dangerous. There will be issues with such a system that does not have a supplemental support.

Chairwoman Davidson reported that currently they do have heat in the Courthouse. Some offices in the Courthouse were 48° before these air handlers were installed.

Roll call vote to approve to ratify payment to Mechanical Services, Inc. in the amount of \$40,991.49 for emergency repair of the heating system at the Courthouse is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(11). Noes—Nache—(1). Motion carried.

Member Bondi presented the monthly Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Nursing Home Committee report. The monthly report is included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Johnson to approve to bid and bring back for replacement wireless networking and switching at the Nursing Home. Member Bondi reported that currently some of their access points are 10-12 years old and are not able to be repaired or replaced. There already are some dead spots in the building. They anticipate that this cost will be in the \$15,000-\$18,000 range.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the purchase of IT racks for equipment relocation and security for the Nursing Home in the amount of \$1,200. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Hunigan presented the monthly Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Recorder's Office, Highway Department and Landfill Committee report. The monthly report is included in the packets. Ken Springer from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development had been invited to attend this committee meeting. He informed them about a public meeting in Yates City about a planned solar project. Residents were not overly excited about this project and the meeting became contentious. For now that project has been cancelled.

The Assessor's Office has been working and has completed the 2017 final abstracts. The report from the Zoning Department is that at the January adjudication hearing a case has finally been terminated after about two years. The property owner is in compliance. The Zoning Department will continue to monitor this situation. The GIS Department has purchased a drone. Once the snow melts, GIS coordinator, Bill Lotz, plans to begin using it for some mapping projects. The Highway Department was busy during the period of February 5-12 plowing and spreading salt. Bids were recently opened in Springfield for the County Highway #4 reconstruction project. The low bid was in the amount of \$4,167,746. The Landfill Department normally does not purchase extended warranties as they are considered to be not worth the expense. However, there is a particular instance where it was a good idea in the case of a

Caterpillar dozer. The repairs on this piece of equipment could have been as high as \$50,000 but because of having the extended warranty, the cost was \$1,600. There is to be a hearing February 28th for the citing of the landfill #4, to be held at the Watson-Thomas Funeral Home.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Shreves to approve the resolution to opt in to the consumer electronics recycling act. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. He stated that he was not able to attend this entire meeting because of a special meeting of the County Board. He did bring a report for the portion of the meeting that he was able to attend. Director of Health Protection Sam Jarvis brought an update about coming changes to the food program. More information will be coming. There was also an update about influenza activity both in the State and in the County. Administrator Michelle Gabrielle brought an update about their efforts with the State Public Health Accreditation Board. They also reviewed the annual Health Department report that the County Board approved earlier in this Meeting. They also updated the sliding fee schedule which is revised each year.

Member Varner presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. At this last meeting they officially welcomed the new Galesburg Tourism Director Michelle Kim. They are trying to establish a five year master strategic plan.

Member Hawkinson was absent and therefore could not present the monthly report from the 9-1-1 committee.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. Their first workshop of the year will be held March 21. This workshop will cover such topics as how to finance a new business. There will be special speakers. This is a free event and is open to anyone who is interested in learning about these topics. March 14th the local Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Local Government 101. This is a workshop for individuals to learn how different governments and non-profits work in the Knox County Area. There will be several different speakers. Also there is a new program which is a part of the new tax reform bill which was passed in December. This program creates opportunity zones which encourage individuals to invest in these specific areas. It looks like there are areas in Abingdon, Knoxville, and Galesburg that would meet their census criteria. They will be doing further investigation to learn how investors can take advantage of this program. It is a complex program.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. The annual meeting was held January 25th. He was re-elected Chairman of the Prairie Hills Resources Board. They passed their annual budget in the amount of \$1,160,407. During that meeting they had attorneys who spoke on the subject of the new tax bill and how it will affect organizations like the Prairie Hills Resources Board and other 501C3's. The feeling is that there will be some effect. They are still working on getting accredited. The final application is due in May.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. The February meeting was scheduled for February 27 and 28. Due to the change in the meeting date for the County Board he was not able to attend today's meeting.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Ad Hoc Committee for Technology Services. Many of the items that they talked about were included on this Meeting's agenda. The IT department is still looking into relocating. They are talking to the VA to see if there is space in the Annex. Currently the IT Department is using the Treasurer's Conference Room in the Courthouse basement.

Member Conklin presented the monthly report from the Mental Health 708 Board. They met in January and they now have an interactive application on the website. The deadline to apply for funds for the next fiscal year will be April 1. They will begin reviewing those applications April 13th.

Since there were no budget line item changes, the following items were removed from the agenda: # 35, approve opening of the budget for line item changes, # 36, presentation of the proposed budget line item changes, and # 36, approval of proposed line item changes.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Conklin to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of January 25, 2018 through February 27, 2018 (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, Hunigan, Wilder, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson had no comments at this time.

Member Hunigan extended his condolences to the family of former County Board Member George Knapp.

Member Wilder, Member Nache, Member Amor, Chairwoman Davidson, Member Erickson, and Member Friedrich had no comments at this time.

Member Conklin commented about the vote regarding the MSI emergency heating project. He would still like to see about some financial accommodations. He doesn't like to rely on someone else's advice.

Member Bondi commented that he was disappointed in the vote for the Nursing Home Administrator's bonus to her salary. He realizes that everyone has their own opinion. He also spoke of the declining health concerns for Board Member Hurst. She has been a tremendous asset to the Board.

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

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 28, 2018, 6:00 p.m., at the Galesburg City Hall Council Chambers, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Erickson to adjourn until the next scheduled meeting of the Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Open Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.