

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

**January 24, 2018**

STATE OF ILLINOIS        )  
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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 Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at 6:22 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 4	Jared Hawkinson
District 5	Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval
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

And those absent:        District 3       Trisha Hurst  
  District 5       Todd Shreves

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.

Chairman Davidson asked for public comments. She asked that those who address the Board state their names and refrain from using personal names in their comments.

Crissy Lynch, who works in the Knox County Assessment Office, addressed the Board in reference to the time clock policy. Not only are some offices in the Annex not using the time clock to verify their hours but that is also true of some offices in the Courthouse. She is sure that a lot of time and money was spent on research and the actual purchase of the time clock system

in order to verify the hours that employees are working. This is a check and balances system for the taxpayers of Knox County. She is not sure why this is not a mandatory requirement for all Knox County employees after all they are public servants of the taxpayers of Knox County. It is good to be able to verify when employees are coming and going. This is a way to show taxpayers where their tax dollars are going. All County employees should be required to use the time clock, regardless of whether they are hourly or salaried, union or non-union, appointed or elected. Every employee should be required to use the time clock. This system proves that employees are on the job and earning their benefits, including sick time, personal time, vacation time, etc. Taking long lunches, leaving early or coming in late and still accumulating benefits is a way of cheating and stealing from the taxpayers of the County. That is fraud. It is not fair to the taxpayers and it is unacceptable to those employees who are doing what the County Board had asked them to do in using the time clock.

Crissy Lynch stated that Tracey Bailey, an employee of the Treasurer's Office, could not attend this Meeting. However she had prepared a written statement and asked Ms. Lynch to read it to the Board. She asked the Board's permission to do so.

The Board did give their permission to read this prepared statement. Mrs. Bailey reported that she had worked in the Knox County Treasurer's Office for the last 25 years. She wanted to address the Board and share her concerns that offices closed early and allowed their employees to go home early November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, the day before Thanksgiving. These offices still allowed their employees to receive a full day's wages without using benefit time. Board Members should have received a letter about this subject. These offices include the State's Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Judges' Chambers and the Veterans' Assistance Office. A Freedom of Information request was filed for the payroll records that included November 22<sup>nd</sup>. This shows that benefit time was not used by all employees who worked that day and were allowed to go home early.

According to the union contracts, in order for employees to receive holiday pay, they must work the day before and the day after the holiday, unless benefit time is taken such as approved vacation time, sick time, bereavement time, or comp time. The State's Attorney's Office and the Public Defender's Office are not following the union contracts by paying their employees for November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>. These include the holidays but employees should not have been paid for them since they did not work their regular scheduled day on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The union contracts specify the established hours for all employees are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday- Friday. There is to be a one hour unpaid lunch period to be scheduled at the discretion of the department head. According to the payroll records, the Public Defender's Office is not following the union contract by allowing their employees to either work from 8:00 a.m. – 4 p.m. or 9:00 a.m. – 5:p.m and allowing them to work through their lunch periods. The Illinois Labor Law requires at least a 20 minute meal break after 5 hours of work.

The County Board established a committee to sit down and negotiate these contracts and they voted to approve such contracts. The County is listed as a co-employer. So why are the contracts not being followed by all of the offices that are included in these contracts? She is also aware that not all County offices are following the County time clock policy. But she was not aware that these offices are paying their employees for time not worked and without using benefit time. This is wrong and unfair to other County employees that do abide by the time clock policy. It is wrong to pay employees for time not worked and this matter needs to be addressed.

Falsifying payroll records is unethical and demonstrates the reason why every employee should be using the time clock system.

Some have stated that punching a time clock is unprofessional. Punching a time clock is being held accountable and provides accurate hours for employees that are paid by the taxpayers of Knox County. She is asking the Board to look at the payroll information for the period of November 13-November 24 and have the employees of the previously named offices submit corrected payroll information that reflects the actual hours that were worked and benefit time used for all of these employees. If they were using the time clock this would not have happened and actual hours worked would have been electronically reported. The Board needs to make sure that these union contracts are being followed.

Melanie Rice-Weik, an employee from the County Clerk's Office, also addressed the Board regarding the time clock policy. She would like to see all County employees using the time clock as all of these employees work for the taxpayers. Courthouse offices need to be available during normal business hours. Some people take time off work to come into the Courthouse to take care of their business. There have been people who would come into the County Clerk's Office to complain that the offices upstairs were closed and that there was no one available upstairs in those offices to assist them. She thinks that is unfair for the County Clerk's Office to tell these people that they do not know why those offices are closed. As a taxpayer that is frustrating. The time clock is actually very beneficial to employees showing accountability and overall honesty of the hours that they are working. If employees want to take time off they should be using benefit hours.

Chris King, a resident of the County, addressed the Board and encouraged them to vote in favor of the proclamation on anti-hate in Knox County. Other area cities have also adopted an anti-hate proclamation.

Jeremy Karlin, a resident of the County and President of the Board of Trustees of Temple Sholom of Galesburg, also addressed the Board and encouraged them to vote in favor of the proclamation on anti-hate in Knox County. It is the job of everyone to try to grow the population of Knox County and try to make this a thriving vibrant place where all are welcome, where all will want to reside and remain to raise their families. This should be a place of love, compassion and empathy. It is important that government welcomes diversity and inclusion. Fairness should be the watchword of what we do in government. It is important to approve this proclamation. As a Galesburg City Council member, he stated that soon they would be voting on a very similar proclamation.

Mary Christie, an employee of the County Assessment Office, also addressed the Board to say that some union members are not following the union contract in regards to article # 13 which deals with holidays. The union contract states that to be eligible for holiday pay an employee is required to work the day proceeding and the day following the holiday unless there is an approved vacation day, personal day, funeral leave, holiday or sick leave. Before a scheduled holiday, some County offices are closed or the employee only works half a day and still getting paid for the whole day and the holidays. The hourly employee is not using any benefit time. How does the County Board explain this to the taxpayer? Some County employees are not using the time clock system that the County Board passed and which was to become

effective June 12, 2017. Some County employees refuse to use the time clock. Some department heads are fraudulently entering time for their employees and in reality the County employees did not work those hours. Where is the accountability?

There has been an issue with the Veteran's Office. On December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017, that office had a sign posted on their door that the office was currently closed for training and the holiday. She filed a Freedom of Information Request on January 8, 2018 requesting registration forms from them for training purposes for two of their employees. She is still waiting for the information that she requested so she filed a second request. She has still not received an answer after eleven business days. The County seems to overlook when some employees do not work the day before and the day after a holiday. Some employees are not following the rules. Shouldn't every employee follow the rules as described in the "Employee Handbook"? She is in hopes that the County can get this issue resolved and make it fair for all employees.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on December 26, 2017, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of January 2018 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of October 2017 in the amounts of \$115,653.52 and \$53,752.89 and public safety tax in the amount of \$192,215.66. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Amor to approve the Proclamation on Anti-Hate in Knox County. Chairwoman Davidson asked County Clerk Scott Erickson to read aloud this Proclamation. She also asked everyone in attendance to stand in support. A copy of this proclamation is included in the packets.

Member Conklin commented that this is like voting against Mom, and apple pie; it is hard to disagree with it. However, this seems like a lot of fluff and he does not know what this proclamation really achieves. He will vote to approve it but it seems unnecessary.

Member Hunigan commented that the point of this is affirmation. This states that these are the types of values that this community upholds and supports. He thinks that this is a very important document which states vocally and on the record that this community supports these values.

Member Amor added that there are various organizations that have co-sponsored this proclamation including the City of Galesburg Community Relations Commission, the School Superintendent of Galesburg Community District Schools #205, the NAACP chapter of Galesburg, the Hispanic Latino Resources Group, the Support Group for African Americans, Temple Sholom, various other organizations, various churches in the community, other prominent residents in the community and others. In this environment acts of hate and violence are not so far away. He remembered that it was not so long ago when people came to this area to try to disrupt military funerals. It is important to go on record and publicly state that acts of hate are not the values of Knox County.

Chairwoman Davidson commented that she understands why some would consider this proclamation to be "fluff", but it will not be "fluff" if it starts with her. If she can make a change and say "no hate" in her home, and in her community, then it will be one person closer to making this a community that demonstrates respect to people of all kinds.

Member Nache spoke of her family that does not tolerate hate of anyone.

Roll call vote to approve the Proclamation on Anti-Hate in Knox County is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the appointment of David Amor to serve on the Western Illinois Regional Council Board. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Amor—(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. They discussed getting a bid document written up for the compensation analysis study for labor. The committee decided that they are in over their pay grade with this project. This would involve a great deal of time and they were not sure that they could do it justice. This is too much for the committee to handle. They did discuss various options. County Clerk Scott Erickson has prepared a sample bid document for the Board to consider during the next month. Then it will be brought back to the Board for final approval.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the resolution on deeds of conveyance for the following three PIN numbers: 04-14-300-021, 17-04-176-003, and 99-10-301-002. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the resolution to abate the levy for General Obligation Alternate Revenue Bonds, Series 2010A and Series 2010B for Tax Year 2017 (Build America Bonds and Recovery Zone Bonds.) Member Friedrich commented that this is something that is done every year. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Wilder to approve the resolution to abate the levy for Public Safety Bonds Series 2003 for Tax Year 2017. Member Friedrich added that this is the final year for these Public Safety Bonds that were issued for the jail. This is something that they do every year. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Friedrich introduced discussion of bid documents for compensation labor analysis and study. He asked Members to examine the sample bid packet and feel free to make suggestions. This will be discussed during the next Finance Committee Meeting.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve to bid and bring back for labor legal services. Member Friedrich explained that this is not because they have a problem with the current labor attorney but rather to see if they can get a better bid for the County. This has not been bid out for several years and they want to make sure that they are getting the best value for the County. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Johnson presented the monthly Building, Courthouse and Annex Committee Report. The monthly report is in the packets. The minutes were provided to the Members.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve payment to Otto Baum for \$3,079.08 for the Courthouse Exterior Project. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve payment to Hein Construction for \$4,530.00 for the Public Defender's Office wall project. A copy of the invoice is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). 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 Hawkinson to approve security lock upgrades at the Mary Davis Home. Information is included in the packets. Member Bondi reported that this has been something that has been a concern for a few years. The original bid that they received was \$1,480 per lock. Since this year they plan to replace 12 locks of the total 36 locks, the cost was reduced to \$1,387 per lock. The lock company is Sentry Security. The plan is to order two locks as a trial basic before they order the rest.

Member Friedrich added that this has been discussed for a long time and it is something that needs to be done. Chairwoman Davidson commented that local maintenance staff can install these locks so that will save the County some money.

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

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the installation of a security camera system on the Courthouse exterior for \$26,330.00. Information is included in the packets. Member Bondi commented that this has been discussed on numerous occasions. Especially for Courthouse employees who are around the Courthouse in the evening, this is a life safety issue. This system will include not only security cameras but also a DVR system to retain that information for a period of time. The price for the exterior cameras is

\$15,435. The cost of additional exterior cameras for the exterior of the Courthouse is \$5,875. The cost of the DVR system is \$5,020. The total cost is \$26,330.

Member Conklin questioned if this was bid out or are there only a limited number of companies that provide this service.

Member Bondi responded that the Sheriff has talked about doing this for quite a while.

Sheriff David Clague added that this is the same company that has done some of the work at the Courthouse but primarily over at the jail and the jail's parking lot. They do an outstanding job. They are familiar with the system at the Courthouse.

Member Bondi commented that in his experience with the committee, this is the best price quote that he has heard.

Member Hunigan questioned whether this system is an additional system or an upgrade.

Member Bondi responded that there is nothing on the Courthouse exterior at this point in time. There are interior cameras.

Chairwoman Davidson commented that a few months ago someone threw a rock through a window in the County Treasurer's Office.

Member Varner stated that while working at the Courthouse someone hit her car in the Courthouse parking lot in a hit and run situation. This would also be a good thing to have for some people as they go to court. Having this system will increase the safety of the Courthouse employees.

Member Nache stated that she had discussed this with Sheriff Clague several times. Sometimes people work late and it would be good to have a camera recording.

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

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the resolution authorizing the transfer of funds from the Knox County Nursing Home Tax Levy Account to the Knox County Nursing Home General Account. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Member Bondi added that this is to make up the shortfall from Medicaid and Medicare funds. The reimbursement from the State of Illinois has not been coming on a timely basis. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Amor to approve a memorandum of understanding with AFSCME Local # 1407 at the Nursing Home. Member Bondi explained that this document clears up some housekeeping items that failed to get documented. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Amor to approve the increase of 3% in the rate for private pay rooms at the Nursing Home. Member Bondi stated that it had been a period of time since any changes were made in the fee schedule. Information is included in the packets. Even with the rate increase, the Nursing Home is competitive with other nursing homes in the area. Information is included in the packets.

Roll call vote to approve the increase of 3% in the rate for private pay rooms at the Nursing Home is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Hunigan presented the monthly Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Recorder's Office, Highway Department and Landfill Committee report. The Assessment Office has been busy this past month. The Board of Review entered 144 cases but only had 38 actual hearings. They are working to prepare the final abstract for the Department of Revenue. Once all the steps have been completed they will roll the appropriate documentation to the County Clerk's Office for tax year 2017. Since Christmas Eve the Highway Department has had trucks plowing on twelve days and has applied 500-600 tons of rock salt. The committee report and the minutes are included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the appointment of Harry Flesner to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The recommendation and his information are included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Wilder to approve the decision on Zoning Board of Appeals Case # CU-01-18—Request for Conditional Use Permit to operate a light industrial metal machining business in the "A" Agriculture Zoning District, filed by Russell & Charlotte Holt. Information is included in the packets. The ZBA voted to approve this request. Member Hunigan added that the Holts have been operating a small business on this property. They have no intent on soliciting or expanding their business.

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

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Wilder to approve the quote for the installation of an air piping system from J. P. Benbow Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$5,662.00 for the Landfill Office. This is the low bid. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the bid for grass mowing/baling at the Stegall Landfill submitted by Trent and Donald Trowbridge. Member Hunigan added that they will be mowing eighty acres of grass at \$60 per acre. This was the highest bid in the amount of \$4,800.00. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Varner to approve the bid for County Highway 12 culvert replacement; Section 12-00160-00-BR. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder,



Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Varner to approve the engineering agreement for County Highway 4 bridge replacement, Section 07-00017-01-BR. Highway Engineer Duane Ratermann stated that this is 100% local funding and involves only engineering services provided by Hutchison Engineering not to exceed \$122,500. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. He stated that the meeting scheduled for January 11<sup>th</sup>, was cancelled due to the weather. Most of that business was postponed until the next meeting. There was special meeting called for the purpose of confirming the contract of the director, Michele Gabriel, for another three years.

Member Varner presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. She reported that the meeting had been rescheduled to January 30<sup>th</sup>. Michelle Kim is the new Galesburg Tourism Director. Chairwoman Davidson stated that they are already doing things with the NAACP for Black History Month in February.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 committee. He reported that there was no January meeting. This next meeting will be held February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. The first starting business workshop of the year is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. at their offices. This is a free event which is tailored to individuals who want to start new businesses. During this coming year additional workshops will be held. They are investigating other locations around the County that could host these workshops.

He stated that recently he met with Mark Peterson who is the new CEO of Intersect Illinois, which is the new State level economic development agency that was created a couple years ago. He is very excited to see what this new agency is doing in Illinois. This is a new approach that prioritizes marketing and communicating to the national audience. This agency was designed to be the marketing arm for the State. They are just getting started so it is too early to judge. This is a positive development.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from Prairie Hills Resources Board. He reported that there was a meeting the previous week. They have been working on their budget which will soon be adopted. The personnel committee interviewed three people for the administrative assistant position, which has been open since July.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. He reported that there were several meetings January 22<sup>nd</sup>. One of the topics of discussion was the amendment to the counties' auditing standards. They also had a sexual harassment workshop. He had given Members some of the material from this workshop. There are new requirements for the counties which have to do with compliance. They are recommending that counties establish a compliance commission composed of elected officials and employees to hear charges of sexual

harassment. Several counties have already established their compliance commissions. He would recommend that Knox County also do so. They would encourage counties to organize their own workshops on sexual harassment to include attendance by elected officials, employees and the county boards. The County does have a sexual harassment policy included in the personnel handbook. However, by the State's new guidelines, that needs to be updated. He would like to see the County host one of these workshops but he does not know what the cost would be.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Ad Hoc Committee for Technology Services. He reported that they met January 22<sup>nd</sup>. They reviewed old business which included the maintenance agreement for the Courthouse. They are looking at some bids to upgrade security at the Courthouse and will soon have information to bring back to the Board. They are working on a new wireless system and Instant Messaging at the Nursing Home.

The new air handlers which were recently installed in the Courthouse, have venting that goes through the IT director, Andy Rowe's office. This has increased the noise level in that office, which has made it a difficult issue to work around. For IT purposes it will be pretty much intolerable to work in that office environment. They are exploring other options. Relocating that office will not be a simple process and it could take a month or two to figure out what the best relocation spot would be. It could mean going off site of a County building. In the world of IT, as long as one has access to the internet, you can work from almost anywhere.

He reported that they had recently been able to install the payroll software into the time clock system.

Member Conklin presented the monthly report from the Knox County Mental Health 708 Board. He reported that there was no meeting in January. They will be meeting February 9th at the Annex.

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, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Line item changes are requested for the Nursing Home as presented in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Wilder to approve the proposed line item changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of December 27, 2017 through January 24, 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.)

Member Friedrich stated that the committee has some questions about a couple of the bills from the Health Department. Those bills have been pulled pending further investigation.

Roll call vote to approve these claims with the exception of those that were pulled from the Health Department is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson,

Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Bondi, and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Conklin—(1). Motion carried.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson, Member Hunigan, and Member Wilder had no comments at this time.

Member Hawkinson commented that in the Board Meeting of June of 2017, Member Erickson commented that a lot of personal agenda items from Board Members had come into the Board Meeting rather than public items. Earlier in this meeting that were several comments about the time clock policy. He personally thinks that the time clock is a good thing as it helps to facilitate transparency. It is the taxpayers' money. He has had residents phone him with their concerns that it seems that some employees are trying to hide the hours that they are working. If it comes down to a department that is working more than what is being recorded, than their budget needs to be adjusted for the next financial year. He also shared his concerns about a lack of information that is shared between department heads, Board Members and constituents.

Member Sandoval expressed his thanks to the City of Galesburg. In his 18 years on the Board this is the first time he has been able to see the faces of those in the audience as he hasn't been able to do that in past meetings. He wanted to thank the City of Galesburg.

Member Nache agreed with Member Sandoval. It is nice to be able to look at the audience.

Member Amor agreed with the advantages of being at the City Hall. People that attend these Meetings do not have to look at the backs of their heads. He also expressed his thanks to the City of Galesburg. He also agreed with Member Hawkinson on the subject of transparency. Also on the behalf of all of the groups that came forward, he thanked the Board for their unanimous support of the Anti-Hate Proclamation.

Member Davidson and Member Erickson had no comments at this time.

Member Friedrich also expressed his thanks to the City of Galesburg. It is good to see everybody and hear their concerns.

Member Conklin spoke of the time clock issue. He thanked the four individuals who spoke about the time clock issue. They did an excellent job to explain why every employee needs to use the time clock.

Member Bondi stated his endorsement of all of those who had addressed the Board about the time clock issue. He also thanked the City of Galesburg.

Member Varner commented that she agreed with the comments made. She also thanked Board Members for approving the purchase of the cameras on the Courthouse exterior.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, 6:00 p.m., at the Galesburg City Hall, Council Chambers, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Nache to adjourn from this Meeting. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.