

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

March 28, 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 Wednesday March 28, 2018 at 6:08 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 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 1	Cheryl Nache
	District 2	David Amor
	District 3	Trisha Hurst

Also present was County Clerk Scott Erickson.

County Clerk Scott Erickson 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 additions to the agenda. Member Bondi requested that agenda item #17, approve operational review phase for the Nursing Home, be moved to the items for the Chairman. It was added as agenda item #8A.

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.

Jody Hanen, president of the union of the Knox County Nursing Home, addressed the Board. She has been an employee of the Knox County Nursing Home for 30 years. She thought that one day she would be able to retire from this Nursing Home. Now she is not so sure that will happen due to all of the money problems that the Nursing Home is having. This story has made the front page of the local newspaper. The staff of the Nursing Home is wondering how these problems can go on for so long without something being done and still continues to happen. How can some management continue to be employed after bringing the Nursing Home \$1,200,000 into the red? There has been no explanation for it. They have been told that at the end of the month the Nursing Home will be out of money and they will have to borrow money. Staff members question how they will have the funds to pay it back. How does she respond to the residents who after reading the newspaper stories, are asking if they will have to find a new place to live? What is going to happen to them? How is it that some Nursing Home residents have been riding the bus for over a year now, free of charge, because they have not been getting billed for it? Some employees of the Nursing Home fear for their jobs and are ready to look for other jobs as they do not know what is going to happen. She is not confident to tell these employees to remain and be a team player when she is no longer confident that her job will still be there. The mandation issue is nothing new either. Some days there have been more agency personnel than their own staff working there. They have been told several times that the Nursing Home will not be shut down. There are a lot of different issues going on at the Nursing Home and there are no explanations as to how they are going to be fixed. There are a lot of nervous employees and residents that would feel a lot better if the Board would do what needs to be done and the Knox County Nursing Home can get back on their feet and be the Nursing Home that they know it is.

Randy Lynch, staff representative from AFSCME # 31, Local #1037, spoke on the behalf of the Knox County Nursing Home employees and residents. He commented that it was good to see the faces of the Board Members. (Previously when the Meetings were held at the Courthouse, he had looked at their backs.) During the last two years, he has spoken to the Board about other Nursing Home issues. Tonight, this is about a serious issue of \$1,276,000. There have been serious billing review problems at the Nursing Home and they are behind 30-90 days. There have been ongoing problems billing Medicare and Medicaid. The Nursing Home is in jeopardy. They will be out of money by the end of the month. Nursing Home employees are concerned about keeping their jobs. There is also concern if the residents will have to get a new place to live. It is terrible what has happened in this facility. There is a management that does not know how to draft a budget. The Board owes the employees and the residents an explanation.

6:20 p.m. Member Nache entered the room.

Mr. Lynch continued that this is the taxpayers' money and it is not being properly spent. If a Board Member had an employee who lost \$1,200,000 from their personal business would that individual continue in that position? It is the Board's responsibility to make sure that the Nursing Home is in sound fiscal condition. The Nursing Home needs someone who knows how to do the financial business that is connected to managing a five star nursing home. Tell the Nursing Home employees what the Board is going to do. Is the Board going to take action or allow the Nursing Home to fold?

Angela Powell addressed the Board. She has worked at the Knox County Nursing Home since 1991 and is very concerned about the future of the Nursing Home. She has had nine family members who have worked at this facility. There have been three generations working there at

one time. This is her home and her family. These employees and these residents are everything to her and she is very concerned about the future of the Nursing Home. She has been visiting the Nursing Home since she was four years old. She was anticipating that her grandchildren would be able to work there. She is hoping that somehow everything will be OK.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on February 27, 2018, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of March 2018 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of December 2017 in the amounts of \$120,045.67 and \$25,871.81 and public safety tax in the amount of \$196,776.54. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner, and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Proclamation of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. A copy of this proclamation is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the reappointment of Jon Vanier as a trustee to the Galesburg Sanitary District. Information is included in the Board packets. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Wilder to approve the reappointment of Connie Tippitt to the Wataga Sanitary District. 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, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Item 7, to approve the CenturyLink Maintenance Contract and item 8, to approve the CenturyLink software upgrades were removed from this agenda.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the operational review phase for the Nursing Home. There was no documentation available regarding the associated cost. The motion was pulled.

Member Friedrich presented the monthly report from the Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial and Clerk Committee. The monthly report is in the packet. Chad Morse, their insurance representative from Porter Hay Insurance, spoke to the committee about putting the insurance out for bid. There was a phone conference with Larry Lester from WIPFLI, regarding their analysis of the outstanding bills at the Nursing Home.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Erickson to approve to bid and bring back for Health, Life, Dental, and Vision Insurance. Member Friedrich reported that the bid specifications will match the current plans. The goal is to compare apples to apples.

Member Erickson stated that it is important to note that the County has had a well-run health plan for their employees. The cost to the employees has not increased. For the last two years the County has been able to provide a \$750 contribution to single employees for a HSA account (health savings account), to help offset their deductible. It is not that the committee feels that the current plan is ineffective but it the Board's responsibility to make sure that they are getting the best possible cost for the taxpayers as well.

Member Friedrich commented that there is nothing wrong with the insurance plans that are currently available. However, they want to do the best they can for the taxpayers.

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the storage server bid provided by Storcom in the amount of \$62,855. 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, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the bid for replacement of wireless networking and switching at the Nursing Home. The lowest bid submitted is in the amount of \$14,630.10, submitted by Zones. 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, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the purchase of a replacement coroner vehicle. Information is included in the packets. Member Friedrich stated the Coroner wanted to purchase this vehicle last year and he was asked to wait until this year. This is a similar vehicle that the Peoria County Coroner uses. There has been a change as this purchase will not include a trade-in vehicle as it could be used at the Landfill. It will take two or three months before the County takes possession of this vehicle. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Wilder to approve the purchase of a coroner forensic filer program at a cost of \$1,962.00 and an annual renewal fee of \$750.00. Member Friedrich stated that this will make the Coroner more transparent to the public. County Coroner Mark Thomas added that this program will help them keep track of their records. There have been problems locating some old files. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Johnson presented the monthly Building, Courthouse and Annex Committee Report. He stated that the monthly report is in the packet. During the committee meeting there was someone there to talk to them about a program that could save money on energy costs. The committee would like to do further investigation.

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. The committee is working with Larry Lester, from WIPFLI, to figure out possible solutions regarding accounts receivable at the Nursing Home. At the Mary Davis Home the receivables are starting to come a little better. They have received and installed some of the new locks. There are twenty one federal prisoners at the County jail.

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. There was some discussion about Landfill # 4. The Highway # 4 reconstruction project will be beginning soon. The tentative start date for the Highway # 12 is April 16 and will involve replacing some box culverts. The Assessment Office reports that the final year abstract for 2017 was sent over to the County Clerk's Office February 26th. He then signs this final abstract each year and forwards that to the Treasurer's Office. The Zoning Office reports that there were no adjudication hearings for the month. GIS coordinator Bill Lotz has been practicing flying the new drone.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Shreves to approve the purchase of an extended warranty for a Cat 6 bulldozer at the Landfill. The term would be for 48 months or 4,000 operating hours whichever comes first and the cost would be \$19,768.00. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Davidson, Erickson, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Friedrich—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the purchase of three 20 yard roll-off containers for the Landfill. Information is included in the packets. The low bid was submitted by Gregory Containers Inc., in the total amount of \$12,105.00. Member Hunigan explained that these containers are being used at Farmland Foods and will be replacing old containers. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Bondi to approve Motor Fuel Tax and non-motor fuel tax bids; Section 18-XX000-000-GM. 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, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve to bid and bring back for a new tandem dump truck and snow wing for the Highway Department. Member Hunigan reported that this new unit will replace a 2001 vehicle with 188,000 miles on it

and has some corrosion problems. They plan to trade in the old vehicle. The estimated cost is \$200,000. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote to approve to bid and bring back for a new tandem dump truck and snow wing for the Highway Department is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Since Member Amor was absent there was no monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health.

Member Varner presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. They are moving forward with the branding process and are currently working on restructuring as they try to sell Galesburg.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 Committee. There was no meeting in March. The next meeting is scheduled April 19th.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. Their Entrepreneurship Workshop which was held the previous week went very well. They do engage with these entrepreneurs on a one on one basis in these workshops. The next workshop will be held in June. March 26th, the Galesburg City Council approved a financial assistance package to Sitka Salmon Shares. This will aid the company as they continue to grow in our area. Over the next two years, they plan to add twenty jobs. Knox County Area Partnership is very pleased with this action that was taken. He also addressed the subject of solar energy projects that want to locate in Knox County. There have been some news stories in the local newspaper about this subject. One of these projects is spearheaded by Geronimo Energy and headed to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a conditional use permit. He reiterated that KCAP is extremely supportive of renewable energy development in Knox County. This is a method of generating new additional tax revenue for the County and other municipalities that levy property taxes.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. He reported that there was no meeting this month.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. He reported that he was not able to attend this meeting. He hopes to be able to attend next month's meeting.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Ad Hoc Committee for Technology Services. They reviewed the Century Link maintenance agreement. This item had to be pulled from this agenda. The server racks for the Nursing Home have been delivered. The new I-pads for the Board Members have been received and will be distributed to Board Members soon. The IT department is still investigating other areas in which to relocate.

Member Conklin presented the monthly report from the Knox County Mental Health 708 Board. April 1 is the cutoff date to receive the requests for the grants. By April 13th, the Board will begin reviewing these applications.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich 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, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Proposed budget line item changes include the Nursing Home and the Landfill. Information is included in the packets.

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

Motion was made by Member Wilder and seconded by Member Varner to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of February 28, 2018 through March 28, 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, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson announced that the next Building Committee Meeting will be held at the Knox County Nursing Home.

Member Hunigan spoke regarding the comments from the Nursing Home employees who spoke earlier in this Meeting. As a Member of this Board, he can say that the Board does listen very carefully. They do listen and they are aware of what is going on. Some of the concerns that were shared will be brought forward.

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

Member Nache wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Member Davidson commented that she was sorry that everyone had left. The County Board does try to do their due diligence to the taxpayers, to everyone in the County and to the County employees. The Board does listen. This Board works across party lines. The Board does care about this County and the people that work here.

Member Erickson stated that he would like to confirm that point of view. The County Board has taken a good look at what is going on at the Nursing Home. The Board does continue to be concerned. He feels that a few things have been taken out of context. He feels that some things have been exaggerated to make the situation seem worse than it really is. He

encouraged people to become educated on the issues and wait for some solid action from the Nursing Home committee. He looks forward to what this committee will bring to the full Board.

Member Friedrich agreed with Member Erickson's comments. They are the ones that started this process to investigate what is really going on. The Board is looking into the problems at the Nursing Home including the \$1,200,000. He also thanked County Coroner Mark Thomas for his patience, his willingness to answer questions, and waiting to purchase the new vehicle.

Member Conklin reiterated that the Board is listening to the Nursing Home employees. They are working at finding solutions.

Member Bondi commented that as the Chair of the Nursing Home committee, he can say that the Board is listening. Also thoughts and prayers are with Member Hurst.

Member Varner agreed with the comments of other Board Members.

Member Shreves had no comments at this time.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 6:00 p.m. at the Galesburg City Hall Council Chambers, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to adjourn from this Meeting until the next scheduled Meeting of the Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Open Meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.