

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

May 23, 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, May 23, 2018 at 6:12 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
District 5	Todd Shreves

Also present was County Treasurer Robin Davis, State’s Attorney John Pepmeyer, Supervisor of Assessments Chris Gray, and County Clerk Scott Erickson.

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. There were none.

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. Those choosing to address the Board had been required to sign in beforehand. They would then be addressing the Board in that order. Thirteen people had signed in.

Knud Ullerup, from Altona, addressed the Board saying that although his real estate taxes have increased, he is not satisfied with local fire and ambulance service for Oneida and Wataga.

Erin Glasnovich addressed the Board in support of Geronimo Energy's proposed solar projects. This is an example of a new direction for the area. Other counties have embraced new renewable energy while Knox County has remained stagnant. She thinks that this project can lead the way in a new direction.

David Scharfenberg addressed the Board saying that landowners have the legal right to do as they want with their property. There are disadvantages to all forms of energy production.

Ken Springer, from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development, addressed the Board for the fourth time in strong support of Geronimo Energy's proposed solar projects. He hopes that this will be the first of additional solar projects in Knox County. These projects will bring additional jobs and property tax revenue to Knox County. This project currently meets all the requirements of Knox County's ordinances and needs no further variances.

Peter Schwartzman, from the City of Galesburg, addressed the Board in support of the solar energy projects which will benefit both the City and the County. In the next few years millions of dollars will be invested in renewable energy. It would be good for the City and the County to be recipients of some of these dollars. There is nothing in the law to hold this project back.

John Pritchard, Mayor of the City of Galesburg, addressed the Board in support of the solar energy projects. The most important reason is that it will generate property tax revenues.

Dale Carlson addressed the Board in opposition to the proposed solar energy projects. It is alarming that 31,000,000 acres of farm land have disappeared in the last 20 years. The loss of farm ground is a serious concern. We need the farm ground to feed us and sustain our economy. He had prepared a model of his farm and displayed it to the Board. This proposed project will take away valuable farm ground. He questioned why this is being built in Knox County as other areas in the country have more sunny days than Knox County. He doubts this project will create that many additional jobs. There are better locations for solar projects in the area that will not take away precious farm land.

Steve Tolley addressed the Board in opposition to the proposed solar energy projects. He is a property owner on Knox Highway 7. He questioned Geronimo Energy's use of the word "typically" in response to many questions presented before the County Zoning Board of Appeals. Geronimo Energy did not state specifics. Further, his household was not notified of this proposed solar project. He is the closest resident to one of the sites. He should have been notified. Many of the local residents' questions have not been answered. There needs to be more transparency.

Dan Tolley addressed the Board in opposition to the proposed solar energy projects. He farms property that is directly north of one of the proposed projects. One of his concerns is that valuable farm land will be wasted by this project for 20 years if not forever. The Zoning Board of Appeals has a scoring method, the LESA numbers, (Land Evaluation Site Assessment), to use as a tool to preserve farm land. But these projects were not scored properly. If scored correctly they would realize that this site is not suitable for this project. He is also concerned about the

visibility of the project to neighboring residents. There are requirements for solar energy projects according to the County's ordinances that are not being followed. This project has been rushed from the beginning and when things get rushed, mistakes are easily made.

Patricia Weaver addressed the Board in opposition to the solar energy projects. When so many people have spoken in opposition to this project it should be apparent that this project should be relocated. The LESA (Land Evaluation Site Assessment) numbers were originally incorrect and not shared with neighboring property owners. Residents filed a Freedom of Information Request to obtain this information. The Zoning Board of Appeals had the wrong LESA numbers when they voted. Further, there was no traffic study on County Highway 9 and County Highway 7. Additionally, proper notification was not sent to neighboring property owners. Things have not been done correctly and done wrong. This is not the right location for this project. This should go back to Zoning with the correct LESA numbers.

Patrick Burns addressed the Board in opposition to the solar energy projects. The LESA land evaluation system is a requirement according to the County's solar energy ordinances. The purpose of LESA is to protect agricultural soil. The original LESA scores stood for nearly two months before questions arose about their correctness. The Zoning Board of Appeals used the incorrect scores. Two days ago the new accurate numbers were received. These new numbers place these two parcels at a high rate for protection. This is prime farm ground. Less productive land is to be used for urbanization. He also calculated his own scores. He questioned how Geronimo Energy plans to limit the light reflection. He also has additional questions that have not been addressed.

Betsy Larson addressed the Board in opposition to the solar energy projects at these locations. LESA is intended to be a guideline; it is a piece of advice that should be taken into consideration. This is not the right place for these projects. It would be better to find another location with lower LESA numbers. Then there would still be the additional property tax revenue and the additional jobs.

Brad Larson addressed the Board in opposition to the solar energy projects. Research has indicated that the newer forms of energy with their transmission lines and infrastructure produce more carbon than they will ever save. One thing that has enraged local residents is the way that they were treated from the beginning of this process. It has seemed like a corrupt charade. Why are these people so dead set on moving this forward when there is all of this resistance? They will continue to fight this.

Jamie Yemm addressed the Board in opposition to the solar energy projects at these locations. It seems the County is going against its own land use plan. This is among the most productive farm ground in Knox County. This project should be located elsewhere. It would make sense to develop a solar energy zone similar to an enterprise zone. The County should uphold the land use plan that it developed.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on April 25, 2018, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of May 2018 and other

claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of February 2018 in the amounts of \$98,655.72 and \$25,608.10 and public safety tax in the amount of \$158,590.54. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Wilder to approve the appointment for the vacancy in office for County Board Member for District 3 of Kyle Rohweder. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

County Clerk Scott Erickson administered the oath of office to newly appointed County Board Member Kyle Rohweder. Board Members welcomed him to the Board as he was officially sworn in. Clerk Erickson reported that the Board had fifteen Members seated.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to accept the annual County audit report for FY2016-2017. Matt Schueler, Senior Manager of Wipfli, LLP of Sterling, Illinois, presented an overview of the auditor's report FY2017, a copy of which had been provided to the Board Members.

Mr. Schueler commented that due to the length of this meeting, his report will be shorter than in previous years. They performed their individual audits for the Health Department and the Circuit Clerk's Office. There were no problems there. Overall the County gets a clean passing grade. The liability for pensions is better than it has previously been. The investment income increased from \$341,000 for the previous year to \$4,700,000 for this past year. The majority of the County's funds are in restricted funds.

Sara McKenna, of Wipfli, addressed the Board regarding the five year study comparison for specific fund balances of Knox County, copies of which had been provided to the Members. The assessed evaluation has increased progressively during this time frame. Likewise the cash investments increased 53% over the last five years. However, the General Fund has decreased 20% over the same period of time. They like to point out the number of days in the General Fund balance. This has decreased 15% overall. That current number is 25-26 days and that is getting borderline low. They like to see this number at four-six months. This is something to keep an eye on.

Member Hawkinson questioned how much the computerized time clock system influences the communication with the auditors.

Mr. Schueler responded that when they request payroll information from department heads they realize that some departments are utilizing the time clock system and some are not. There was a discussion during last year's audit. When the Board passed this time clock policy it should be followed Countywide, not just certain departments.

Member Hawkinson questioned that reasons why the auditors had requested that a time clock policy be adopted.

Ms. McKenna responded that one example has to do with auditing vacation time for County employees. It is difficult to do those calculations without necessary documentation.

Member Bondi questioned the changes in fund balance for the Nursing Home. There is an alarming current loss of receivables. He questioned the process of getting to these numbers. He finds it surprising that this has not been presented to the Board until this time.

Mr. Schueler reported that they have noticed similar situations elsewhere. The State has had their budget impasse problems and they have been slower and slower to pay their bills. Part of this is slow payment history.

Member Bondi questioned if this raised a red flag to them as they performed their audit.

Ms. McKenna responded that when these issues started the State had no budget and the problem was attributed to that. They did question this when they saw that balance.

Roll call vote to accept the annual County audit report for FY2016-2017 is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—Bondi—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Amor to approve committee assignment changes. Chairwoman Davidson stated that newly appointed Member Rohweder will be assigned to the Building, Courthouse and Annex Committee and also the Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Recorder's Office, Highway Department and Landfill Committee. Member Amor will be added to the Personnel Committee. Member Wilder will be assigned to the Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Nursing Home Committee and the Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Recorder's Office, Highway Department and Landfill Committee. These changes are to be effective June 1, 2018.

Roll call vote to approve these committee assignment changes is recorded as follows: Ayes—Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Pass—Johnson—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Wilder to approve a release of funds form for the Knox County Housing Authority. Member Hawkinson explained that this has to do with approving a form for federal funds and grants. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Pass—Hawkinson—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the reappointments of Lomac Payton and Wayne Allen to the Knox County Housing Authority. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Pass—Hunigan—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Erickson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the reappointment of Robert Hennenfent and the new appointment of Blake Woodruff to the Oneida-Wataga Fire Protection. 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, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the reappointments of Bruce Bobochak D.D.S. and Dr. Kevin Satsky to the Knox County Board of Health. 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, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Erickson to approve the deed of conveyance for PIN 11-03-276-006. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Wilder to approve the bid for a labor attorney. Member Friedrich reported that after conducting interviews with two applicants, contacting references and speaking to other counties, it is the Committee's recommendation to continue with the current labor attorney Keith Braskitch. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Wilder to approve the bid for a wage compensation study. Information is included in the packets. County Clerk Scott Erickson stated that he had been asked to do background checks and contact the references on an applicant PaypointHR. They received two reports back which sent glowing reviews. Company representatives expect to be on site five or six days. A lot of their work will be done on a computer. They were the low bidder.

Chairwoman Davidson commented that she feels that this study is necessary for the County employees doing similar work for different pay scales.

Member Friedrich stated that the committee was going to try to do this project themselves but realized that it is over their heads.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Erickson to approve the resolution authorizing an addendum to the Professional Services Agreement with the County Trustee. A copy of this addendum is included in the packet.

Member Friedrich stated that this has to do with the people that sell the County's tax properties. This concerns residents who have not paid their property taxes for several years. If those properties are not bought by the tax buyer, then the County Trustee can purchase these properties and resell them. This fee has not been raised for ten years. The minimum cost is currently \$600 and that cost will increase to \$750.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Amor, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(12). Noes—Nache, Davidson, and Bondi—(3). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Wilder to approve the purchase of upgrades to the computer operating systems and software for the County Network (Microsoft Licenses). Information is included in the packets. The three year total cost of this investment is \$144,157.14. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve to bid and bring back for computer upgrades for certain departments. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the resolution regarding the Health Savings Account Contribution for Plan Year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. Member Friedrich explained that under the terms of this resolution, the County will contribute \$700 for an individual and \$900 for a family. Member Bondi explained that these funds come from the health insurance funds. A copy of this resolution 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, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Nache to approve the resolution establishing elected officials' salaries. Member Friedrich stated that according to State Statute that salary schedule has to be set before the end of this month, before the November election. A few years ago these salaries were frozen. This is an attempt to get them caught back up. These officials include the County Clerk, County Treasurer, and County Sheriff. This includes a four year schedule to begin December 1, 2018. These salaries will increase \$5,000 the first year and the second year, and then 2% the third and fourth years. At the end of the four years these salaries are still below some of the surrounding counties. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets.

Member Bondi added that these salaries are not for the person but rather for the position.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Johnson presented the monthly Building, Courthouse and Annex Committee Report. He stated that the report is included in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the utility bills review with Smartwatt, Inc. A representative from Smartwatt, Inc., from North Brook, Illinois, addressed the Board. They are proposing to do a utility analysis and a facility

assessment of all of the County facilities with the goal of improving energy efficiency. There will be no cost to the County.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve to bid and bring back for IT Office renovations. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). 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 Friedrich to approve the settlement of dismissed employee case at a cost of \$7,500. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the confirmation of the fuel purchase with Herr Petroleum at the Mary Davis Home. This is for all County departments other than the Highway and Landfill. Member Erickson suggested that in the future there might be an advantage to wrap all of the fuel bids up together at the same time. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). 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. Many residents have expressed their concerns about the proposed Geronimo Solar Farm Projects. Because of these concerns this was tabled last month, pending further review. During the recent committee meeting, some residents addressed the committee in favor of these projects and other residents are definitely opposed. Although the committee members are not experts in solar energy farms, they have reviewed the information that was presented to them.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Amor to approve the decision on ZBA Case #CU-03-18 for conditional use to construct and operate 2MW solar farm in the "A" Agricultural Zoning District, filed by Geronimo Energy for Galesburg Solar, LLC on property located at 1698 Knox Highway 9, Galesburg, Illinois. The recommendation from the Zoning Board of Appeals is to approve this request. Information is included in the packets.

A lengthy question and answer time occurred with Amber Miller, a representative from Geronimo Energy; Chris Gray, Supervisor of Assessments; and Ken Springer from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development, answering questions.

Many of the questions brought forward in public comment were addressed as well as additional questions which include the following subjects: the reflectivity on the solar panels, the anticipated build out, Geronimo Energy's use of the word "typically" when applied to the

construction of their projects, the sufficiency of the escrow amount for the decommissioning of the project, the durability of the solar panels during hail storms, the possibility of hazardous materials in this project, the possibility of the solar farms decreasing adjacent property values, the recycling of solar panels, the potential environmental impact, the estimated amount of tax revenues that will come back to the County, the apparent lack of notification of property owners in the area, the suitability of this location compared to other possible locations within the County, the location of the power lines, (whether underground or over ground), the tiling of the property and related drainage problems to adjoining properties, the source of the information provided by Mr. Springer about the anticipated tax revenue to the County, the LESA process (Land Evaluation Site Assessment), the State application process for energy credits, the time frame for the conditional use permit, and the oversight of the building process.

Member Johnson commented that he is not against solar energy but he is against this location and taking away prime farm land.

Roll call vote to approve the decision on ZBA Case #CU-03-18 for conditional use to construct and operate 2MW solar farm in the “A” Agricultural Zoning District, filed by Geronimo Energy for Galesburg Solar, LLC on property located at 1698 Knox Highway 9, Galesburg, Illinois, is recorded as follows: Ayes—Hunigan, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Bondi, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(10). Noes—Johnson, Sandoval, Erickson, and Conklin—(4). Pass—Wilder—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Sheves to approve the decision on ZBA case #CU-04-18 for conditional use to construct and operate 2MW solar farm in the “A” Agricultural Zoning District, filed by Geronimo Energy for East Galesburg Solar, LLC on property located at 670 Knox Highway 7, Galesburg, Illinois. The recommendation from the Zoning Board of Appeals is to approve the request. Information is included in the packets.

Member Erickson commented that he finds it interesting that he has heard many questions but not much discussion.

Member Friedrich compared this request to the winery’s request for a conditional use permit. The permit for this solar farm project has met all of the County’s requirements and the Board will have to approve it. There must be legal reasons to deny this that would hold up in court. If the Board does not approve this application and it goes to court, the County would lose.

Member Hunigan commented that he feels like Geronimo Energy has done their due diligence. The necessary conditions have been met. However, this is prime agricultural land.

Member Amor agreed that the conditions have been met. Yet he is concerned about the comments presented previously in this Meeting. He would be open for further discussion about the ordinances. These two applications must be approved as Geronimo Energy followed the existing regulations.

Member Friedrich commented that LESA (Land Evaluation Site Assessment) is a tool that is to be used as a guideline.

Member Conklin commented that there is one requirement that Geronimo Energy failed to comply with and that it is that it must be “minimally visible.”

Member Erickson stated that he would be voting against this request. He is not against solar energy. He believes that landowners do have rights about developing their property. There are zoning ordinances that help landowners develop their property in accordance with their neighbors. He feels that these solar projects should be located where there is not residential encroachment and not reduce prime farm land. He does not think that the County has done their

due diligence. Additionally he does not think that the County has fully vetted this project. There are still two pieces of pending legislation at the State level that he feels would assist the County.

Member Hawkinson commented that he voted to approve the previous solar energy project but he does not support this project due its location. It is too close to the roadway.

Chairwoman Davidson added that it was brought to her attention that there are solar panels at the Best Western Motel. Most people don't even notice them. The County has adopted policies and procedures. If the Board wants to make changes, then the Board can do so. For this project the existing rules and regulations have been followed. The recommendation from Zoning of Appeals is to approve this request. The Board should also approve this request.

Member Hunigan stated that Geronimo Energy is doing reasonable things to lessen the impact of these solar panels.

Chairwoman Davidson called for the question.

Roll call vote to approve the decision on ZBA case #CU-04-18 for conditional use to construct and operate 2MW solar farm in the "A" Agricultural Zoning District, filed by Geronimo Energy for East Galesburg Solar, LLC on property located at 670 Knox Highway 7, Galesburg, Illinois, is recorded as follows: Ayes—Hunigan, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Bondi, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(9). Noes—Johnson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Erickson, and Conklin—(5). Pass—Wilder—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve the decision on ZBA Case #AM-01-18 and AM-02-18 modifying the setback distance for a solar farm. The recommendation from the Zoning Board of Appeals is to approve this request. The recommendation from the committee is to deny this request. Information is included in the packets. This will have no impact on Geronimo Energy's planned projects.

Roll call vote approve the ZBA recommendation is recorded as follows: Ayes—(0). Noes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Motion failed.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the reappointments to the Knox County Board of Review of Mike Gehring and Julie A'Hearn for 2 year terms and Jeff Jefferson for a one year term. 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, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Pass—Bondi—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Nache to approve the resolution adopting the decision of the Knox County Board on the application for local siting approval for Knox County Landfill #4. A copy of this resolution 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, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the bid for a silt pond at the landfill. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the bid for a new tandem cab/chassis for the Highway Department. The committee is recommending the low bid submitted by Central Illinois Truck, Inc., from Morton, Illinois, in the amount of \$91,249.00 and includes the trade-in of the old vehicle. 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, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the professional services agreement, bridge condition report, Section 18-00043-01-BR. (Highway Department.) A copy of this agreement is included in the packets. This has to do with the overpass on County Highway 10. The professional services are not to exceed \$74,900. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. Some information regarding reorganization is included in the packets. This has to do with the meeting held May 10th. The major item of this meeting has to do with organizations changes. There is a flow chart and the rationale for these changes included in the packets. The Personnel Committee has been briefed about these changes. Two new positions will be created. The Health Center was recently informed that they will be receiving grant money in the amount of \$1,400,000 per year for the next three years. They will also be receiving a small grant in support of the Farmer's Market Program.

Member Varner presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. There was no meeting this month. She introduced the Executive Director of the Galesburg Chamber of Commerce Jessica Linder to bring an Amtrak update. Previously she had shared her concerns with the Board about the possibility of losing long distance rail service in Galesburg long term. They are keeping a very close eye on that situation. Mayor Pritchard has spearheaded a letter writing campaign to try to convince authorities of the value of the long distance rail service through Galesburg. She has met with local State representatives to ask for their support on this issue.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 committee. He stated that there was no meeting this past month.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. The Jupiter Machine Tools Project recently broke ground in south Galesburg and is now under construction. KCAP is working with a new business, TCL Cleaning, which is a new commercial cleaning company. Major announcements have been made concerning the Galesburg Crossings Project which is the former location of Walmart on North Henderson Street. Four tenants have been announced and include Harbor Freight Tools, Five Below, Pet Smart and Marshalls. Recently KCAP was part of a meeting which included representatives from different entities, the purpose of which was to draft a plan to help with

assisting the staffing issue at the Knox County Nursing Home. There were a number of different ideas. Another meeting is scheduled.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. There was no meeting this month.

Chairwoman Davidson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. This meeting was held May 21. They held a special meeting to discuss solar energy farms that are coming to that area. That is where she learned about the lottery process for those projects. There were representatives from thirty different counties in the room. They discussed locating in other areas not just farm ground, but rooftop locations of schools and nursing homes as well. Another meeting discussed labor relations and its impact on local government. She felt these were very productive meetings.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Ad Hoc Committee for Technology. A copy of this report is included in the packets. During this Meeting the Board already voted on two of the items there were discussed during this committee meeting. Other topics of discussion included the Nursing Home as earlier this month, the telephone service shut down for the Nursing Home and Knoxville as well. This outage was not limited to the Nursing Home. They are investigating how to implement a back-up plan to pick up Nursing Home calls.

Member Conklin presented the monthly report from the Knox County Mental Health 708 Board. There were nineteen applications for grants. The Mental Health Board did review about 10-12 of these applications and plan to complete their review next month.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve opening 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, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The proposed line item changes are included in the packet and include the tort fund, Highway Department and the Nursing Home.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the proposed line item changes. 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, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Nache to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of April 26, 2018 through May 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.) Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson had no comments at this time.

Member Hunigan commented about recent challenging committee meetings. He has seen the best in people and the worst in these contentious meetings. At the end he hopes that individuals can agree to disagree and act civilly.

Member Wilder had no comments at this time.

Member Hawkinson commented that he had said enough last month regarding the City of Galesburg Election Commission. He had no additional comments this month.

Member Sandoval welcomed Member Rohweder to the Board.

Member Nache also welcomed Member Rohweder to the Board. She also wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day.

Member Amor had no comments at this time.

Chairwoman Davidson welcomed Member Rohweder to the Board. Regarding the people who had now left this meeting, she would like them to know that she did hear them. She really appreciates being on this Board. Although the Board is comprised of different individuals they are able to work together and do what is best for Knox County.

Member Erickson had no comments at this time.

Member Friedrich welcomed Member Rohweder to the Board.

Member Conklin thanked Member Erickson for initiating the open discussion about the solar energy farms. He thought it was very beneficial.

Member Bondi also welcomed Member Rohweder to the Board.

Member Rohweder commented that he appreciates the opportunity to serve the community. There are a lot of Members that he has never met but looks forward to doing that. He does have a few friends who are Members of this Board. He looks forward to building new relationships and working together.

Member Varner commented that she would like to apologize to some of the home owners for screaming at them because of the way that she had voted during the committee meeting. She did a lot of research and tried to study every angle. She did the best that she could. She is happy that the solar farms are coming.

Member Sheves also welcomed Member Rohweder to the Board.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 27, 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. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.