

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

July 25, 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, July 25, 2018 at 6:35 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 3	Kyle Rohweder
District 4	Sara Varner

And those absent: District 5 Todd Shreves

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

County Clerk Scott Erickson delivered the Proclamation. Chairwoman Pamela Davidson led the Members in the pledge to the flag. In lieu of a formal invocation a moment of silence was observed.

Chairman Davidson asked for additions to the agenda. Member Hunigan asked for an addition to the agenda as an item was presented to the committee and was to be included on this agenda. However, it was not included. This would be to approve increasing the “not to exceed” amount for the purchase of a fuel truck or equivalent for the landfill not to \$20,000. This was added at agenda item # 17A.

Chairman Davidson asked for public comments.

Rob Benedict, owner of MSI (Mechanical Services, Inc.), addressed the Board. He referred to the Board Meeting of the previous month in which Chairwoman Davidson stated that MSI did not meet code for the emergency installation of the supplementary heating system installed last winter. He asked for specifics about that alleged code violations for the work that was performed.

Chairwoman Davidson responded that Cody Basham from Klingner and Associates had informed her of various violations. Questions should be directed to him.

Mr. Benedict stated that there is no proof of violations. He has the permits from the City of Galesburg which show a clean bill of health. He feels that he is in zero violations concerning any of this work. His workmen are qualified people and he feels that the Chairwoman owes him an apology. She had never asked him to come and discuss this matter with her. The Board should know that MSI did nothing wrong. He distributed copies of the permits to the Board.

Ken Springer, from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development, addressed the Board in support of agenda item #14 and #15, to approve requests for conditional use permits submitted by Orion Renewable Energy Group to construct wind data collection towers at two different locations. Renewable energy is a growing industry in Illinois. These projects can bring additional tax dollars into our State. By using a small amount of Illinois's 27,000,000 acres of land, renewable projects can provide tax revenue to local taxing bodies. From his investigation these applications have followed the rules established by the County. This is the first step in what KCAP hopes will be the County's first wind farm project. He encouraged the Board to approve these conditional use permits.

Judy Curtis, Dietary Manager at the Knox County Nursing Home, addressed the Board. She has been at the Nursing Home over a year and in long term care since 1989. She has seen many changes in regulations that are beyond their control. Each year the government makes it more and more challenging for nursing homes with Medicaid and Medicare residents and assigned unrealistic regulations. Since she came to the Knox County Nursing Home, she has been impressed with the Administrator and staff. She believes their Administrator is a good leader. She is disappointed to learn that the Knox County Board has come to this decision to possibly terminate their Administrator over issues that she feels can be resolved. She asked Members to consider what is best for the residents as they vote on this.

Ron Williams, Environmental Director at the Nursing Home, addressed the Board concerning agenda item # 10, approve evaluation proposals of individual County buildings. These agreements add up to \$36,000. He thinks that this amount is a little high and wonders why it did not go out for bids. He didn't see a specific amount for the Nursing Home. He also addressed agenda item #4, to approve resolution regarding the separation and severance agreement for the Knox County Nursing Home Administrator. He would like to see the Board and the Chairwoman have more communication with the employees and department heads on how the business is run. There are employees that have been there over twenty years and know what they are doing. In the future he would like to see more communication as the future Board Members and Chairman are voted in.

Dale Carlson, from rural Galesburg, addressed the Board in support of the County's efforts at the Landfill to look into generating renewable energy and revenue for the County. This

project would protect the farmland. However, he opposes the wind collection towers because they are a prelude to the development of a wind farm in Knox County. This request has no provision for ground cover of any type. A wind farm will take precious farmland out of production and due to soil compaction the farm fields will be changed forever. Knox County farmland should be preserved for future generations.

Randy Lynch, staff representative from AFSCME # 31, addressed the Board in regard to agenda item # 4A, to approve the resolution regarding the separation and severance agreement for the Knox County Nursing Home Administrator, and agenda item # 4B, to approve action regarding the employment agreement and employment of the Knox County Nursing Home Administrator. He has attended several committee meetings and knows why this is on the agenda. Previously they had been in union negotiations with the Nursing Home for sixteen months. At the time the Nursing Home was in bad shape financially. There was an announcement made that the Nursing Home was short \$1,700,000 due to improper billing of Medicaid and Medicare. The Board took this matter very seriously. Something has to be done. There is still \$1,200,000 owed to the Nursing Home that is pretty much uncollectable. They cannot continue to lose money at the rate that they are doing now. The residents and 150 employees depend upon this Nursing Home. Board Members need to make the right decision to guarantee that the Nursing Home survives.

Neal Detmers, Assistant Dietary Manager of the Knox County Nursing Home, addressed the Board in support of the current Nursing Home Administrator. He has been at this facility for over forty three years. He has seen the worst and the best. He is not happy with the Board at all in the way they are treating the Administrator. She has done her best. She is one of his picks of great administrators at the Nursing Home. The Board needs to decide to keep her.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Varner to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meetings on June 27, 2018, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of July 2018 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of April 2018 in the amounts of \$109,050.74 and \$23,453.35 and public safety tax in the amount of \$176,170.92. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the resolution regarding the separation and severance agreement between Knox County Nursing Home Administrator Rachel Secrist and Knox County.

Member Bondi commented that he thinks that probably the Board is making a big mistake. He thinks that the audit process within the County has not been done in a proper fashion. He has a problem with the receivables and the income sheet as reviewed by the County's auditors. The transparency between this building and other departments that have access to the financials has not been on a consistent basis and not been properly accessible through the computer system. Although they are working on it, it is still not performing as it should. He has doubts in the quoted figure of \$1,200,000 listed as an uncollectible amount. He is not sure that the auditors are doing all that they can do to help the County collect those funds.

Board Members as they vote on this need to consider if they will be actually digging themselves into a deeper hole or are they going to try to band together and work their way through this? In working with the employees through the negotiation process he has learned that there is an opportunity to communicate and work together. He is the one who insisted on the audit process to try to determine where the County stood on these things. He has sat on hospital boards and observed the troubles that they have gone through trying to collect Medicare and insurance bills. The collection process is not an easy one. He hopes that Members look seriously at this agreement and consider the possibility they might actually put the County in an even worse situation.

Member Erickson commented that he agrees with Member Bondi in that they started this process to find out where the deficiencies were. He thinks that it would be best to continue to work through the process. All the work has not been finished as the training has not been completed in some areas where they pledged to do that. The environment has changed in the nursing home business. The way that the County operates has not changed with the environment. It is the responsibility of Board Members to know when changes need to be made. This decision should not be based on emotion. He is not in favor of going ahead with the severance package.

Member Johnson commented that he agrees with Member Bondi and Member Erickson. He has been sitting on the Nursing Home Committee for many years and feels that the Board would be stepping backwards if they go through with this resolution. They have not done what they should have done in terms of the promised training. The Board approved the training in May and it has still not been done. They should be working through it instead of making a judgement like this.

Member Nache commented that she thinks that Members need to consider that they are establishing a precedent for the future. When they see something wrong, they should fix it. Still this is something that she does not like.

Member Hunigan stated that this is a very difficult decision. There are some things that were brought to the Board's attention that cannot be ignored. He reminded Members of the LPN's from the Nursing Home who have previously attended Board Meetings to say that they are working 9, 10-12 hour shifts and have shared their displeasure with how the Nursing Home is being run. That deserves some consideration. The staff is working this many hours and demonstrating their passion for what they do. This is not about popularity but providing a suitable environment for people to work in and an environment that functions appropriately.

Member Conklin stated that he would be voting against this resolution. This hasn't totally played out yet. Although Mrs. Secrist spoke to the committee to explain her position, she has not presented her side of this to the full Board which should have an opportunity to hear her side of the story.

Member Friedrich commented the he agrees with Member Erickson that the Board hasn't done their part.

Chairwoman Davidson stated that this is an agreement in which the Nursing Home Administrator, her attorney, the County's Labor Attorney and the County were all involved. They are voting on a resolution or agreement between two parties.

Roll call vote to approve the resolution regarding the separation and severance agreement between Knox County Nursing Home Administrator Rachel Secrist and Knox County is recorded as follows: Ayes—Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Rohweder, and Varner—(9). Noes—Johnson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conlin and Bondi—(5). Motion carried.

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the deed of conveyance for PIN 10-18-276-007. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the resolution amending the Health Savings Account contributions. Member Friedrich stated that this resolution would extend the deadline by thirty days. Some employees were not informed in a timely basis. 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, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

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

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve replacement of the security system in the County Jail in the amount of \$148,000 to Security Automation Systems. Information is included in the packets. Member Johnson stated that this will be funded through Life Safety Funds. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Bondi to approve building evaluation proposals for all of the buildings owned by the County.

Member Johnson explained that these will be done for individual buildings and bid and brought back for each building as they are approved.

Member Erickson shared some of his concerns. He does not see the Health Department Building as their responsibility to decide if or when maintenance is done on that building. His other concern is that this seems to be rather a “boiler plate sort of approach.” They are to inspect a roof at the Highway Department and at best that roof is approximately two years old. He does not like the fact that there are add-ons. They are using a firm that has done a considerable amount of work for the County. He believes that there should be “not to exceed” figures. This will be a multi-year list and he is unsure about the budgeting aspects involved. It might be better to look at what buildings need the most attention and prioritize in that way. That might make more sense from a cost stand point. He has several concerns in many of these areas.

Member Hawkinson questioned if they would voting tonight individually on these buildings.

Member Johnson responded that this is a process and will come back as individual buildings. He will keep Member Erickson’s thoughts in mind that they should consider which buildings need to be looked at first. The roof at the Highway Department should not need to be inspected. This is to establish a program to get all of the County’s buildings taken care of and establish a program to perform maintenance on a regular basis rather than put off indefinitely. This needed to be an organized approach.

Member Hawkinson referred to previous comments in this Meeting from the Ron Williams at the Nursing Home about this being put out for bids.

Cody Basham, from Klingner and Associates responded that the Nursing Home is not included in this proposal. These evaluations will be performed by himself or his associates.

Member Friedrich commented that the Health Department should be excluded as it is not their responsibility. The committee did talk about excluding this one.

County Clerk Scott Erickson stated that the individual reports with the costs are included in the packet.

Member Johnson stated that this process would just be for the evaluations. Before the work is done, it would go out for bids.

Member Conklin commented that this proposal is to make sure that the County's buildings are properly maintained so they are not caught unaware. He reminded Members of the problems and expenses associated with treating the stones on the Courthouse exterior. There needs to be a schedule to perform routine maintenance on the County's buildings.

Member Friedrich questioned the costs for the Highway Department.

Mr. Basham responded that the costs reflected the multiple buildings and the square footage which are involved.

Member Johnson added that the plan is to get a preventative maintenance plan in place instead of doing things on an emergency basis.

The original motion was amended to exclude the Nursing Home and the Health Department.

Roll call vote to approve building evaluation proposals for all of the buildings owned by the County with the exception of the Nursing Home and the Health Department is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—Erickson—(1). Motion carried.

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

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.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Erickson to approve Zoning Board of Appeals Case #CU-07-18—Request for Conditional Use Permit to operate a vehicle repair garage located at 765 IL Route 41, Galesburg, in the "A" Agricultural District, filed by George Woods, ETAL. The recommendation from the ZBA is to approve this request with conditions. Information is included in the packets.

Member Conklin questioned the conditions attached to this recommendation.

Supervisor of Assessments Chris Gray responded that one of the conditions is that inoperable motor vehicles are not to remain on this property for a period of over 30 days.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Varner to approve Zoning Board of Appeals Case #CU-08-18—Request for Conditional Use Permit to construct and operate a wind data collection tower, under Appendix B of the Wind Energy System Ordinance of the Zoning Resolution, in the “A” District, filed by Orion Renewable Resources LLC on the property owned by Una Bowman in the SE 1/4, Section 23 of Ontario Township. The recommendation from the ZBA was to approve with stipulation. Information is included in the packets.

Member Hunigan added that this will be a 60 meter tower that is constructed to collect wind data for two years.

Member Conklin questioned the process in determining the location for wind towers.

Member Erickson questioned if the Zoning Board or the County Board has seen a plat of options that the company has signed as some County residents had asked him. The Board should know what the potential location is. He also questioned the stipulation of complying with the seven year lease agreement with the land owner.

Supervisor of Assessments Chris Gray responded that Orion has said that they collect the data for at least two years. They have a seven year lease with the land owner so the stipulation is that the data collection tower cannot remain there any longer than seven years. The tower is to be removed before the seven year lease expires.

Member Erickson commented that to him this is a grave concern. A temporary permit should have a stated timeframe that it is allowed. Based on the County’s zoning ordinance, two years is not temporary. Seven years certainly isn’t temporary. He is not comfortable is approving a temporary special use permit that could last seven years. Everybody uses the argument that there is tax revenue here, but he does not see it as the Board’s responsibility to generate tax revenue. If this tower is going to be there for seven years, then it should be taxed. He has personally seen three of these, and they are not particularly well kept. Mr. Carlson is right that there is no requirement for ground cover. There are constantly cables that need to be tightened or repaired. Both of these towers are to be constructed in fields and not directly along the roads. He is concerned that this state of unkemptness could go on for seven years. He cannot answer when residents inquire about the potential footprint of this wind proposed wind farm if it were approved. They are opening the door to seven year temporary use permits, which he does not consider to be temporary.

Michael Cressner, developer with Orion Renewable Resources, stated that he oversees development for Illinois and other parts of the Midwest. He is willing to respond to questions. Orion is the owner and developer of several wind projects in Illinois and Indiana. This is the first step to gather data. They really do not know the possible specific locations until the data has been gathered and analyzed. They do have 15,000 acres of options in Knox County. He is there to discuss these two locations.

Member Hunigan inquired about the number of acres that are required.

Mr. Cressner responded that this is very different from a wind turbine as this is a smaller piece of equipment. The required space would be slightly under an acre. There is no permanent foundation or heavy equipment that is involved. This is pretty low maintenance. It is a very expensive piece of equipment so it in their best interest to make sure it is constantly operating

Member Amor questioned what kind of maintenance schedule is in place for these towers.

Mr. Cressner responded that these are very low maintenance facilities. There is no power line that needs to be connected to it. For the most part it can operate itself without issues. It is not

much more maintenance than to change the box and the batteries. If the land owner wants them to do weed management then they do. Sometimes the land owner will assist in doing that. Generally someone is only going out there to address problems that come up.

Member Amor questioned the need for a seven year lease when they are only collecting data for two years.

Mr. Cressner responded that this is a development period with the land owners. This is major project at a cost of \$300,000,000-\$400,000,000 with a massive amount of infrastructure that would need to be installed. There many steps involved in the paperwork aspect of this project. This requires multiple years for a project of this size. For a project of this size a quick development cycle would be 3-4 years. The seven year timeframe with the land owner is a bit of compromise as the collection tower is not going to be there forever but long enough for the project to be successful.

Member Conklin commented that he would probably be voting against this conditional use permit. It is hard to imagine all the possible problems that could occur with this project.

Member Rohweder asked about the complications involving the compaction of the soil once these towers are removed.

Mr. Cressner responded that this is a very low impact facility. Soil compaction does occur during the construction of these really large wind towers when they bring large cranes in that lift the wind turbines and large blades. For the wind data collection towers, soil compaction does not come into play. The farm equipment is much heavier. Orion does have other projects in the area. He would be willing to accompany Board Members out to visit these sites and address their questions on site. There is a good example of one what has been operating for ten years.

Member Amor questioned the options process.

Member Erickson responded that on those pieces of land that this company has options on, nobody else can come in that seven year period. In that timeframe they cannot sign an option with another company.

Member Amor responded that those options are signed whether the Board approves this conditional use permit or not.

Member Rohweder stated that he had done some research that morning and Knox County has 400,000 acres in agricultural land. They have heard the comments about protecting this finite amount of land. Right now they are looking at using two acres on a temporary basis.

Chairwoman Davidson called for the question.

Roll call vote to approve Zoning Board of Appeals Case #CU-08-18—Request for Conditional Use Permit to construct and operate a wind data collection tower, under Appendix B of the Wind Energy System Ordinance of the Zoning Resolution, in the “A” District, filed by Orion Renewable Resources LLC on the property owned by Una Bowman in the SE 1/4, Section 23 of Ontario Township, is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Bondi, Rohweder, and Varner—(10). Noes—Sandoval, Erickson, Friedrich, and Conklin—(4). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Varner to approve the Zoning Board of Appeals Case #CU-09-18—Request for Conditional Use Permit to construct and operate a wind data collection tower, under Appendix B of the Wind Energy System Ordinance of the Zoning Resolution, in the “A” District, filed by Orion Renewable Resources, LLC on property owned by Andrew Bowman, Trustee, located in SW 1/4, section 11 of Henderson Township. The recommendation from the ZBA is to approve this request with

stipulation. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Bondi, Rohweder, and Varner—(10). Noes—Sandoval, Erickson, Friedrich, and Conklin—(4). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Erickson to approve the bid for County Highway 10, micro-surfacing project, Section 18-00010-00-KC in the amount of \$251,184.97, which is the low bid. 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, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Amor to approve the expression of interest contract for a solar/renewable energy project of Landfills 1 and 2. Information, as well as a copy of this contract, is included in the packets.

Member Hunigan reported that this is a project that was presented to the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. The company is TerraNavigator and they want to add solar panels to the landfill. No monetary commitment is required from the County. However, they are asking for the expression of interest contract to be signed by July 27, 2018. They have had similar projects at other landfills.

Ken Springer, a representative from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development, recalled that the last couple of Board Meetings there have been suggestions about placing solar panels at the Landfill on those capped cells. There is interest in using this location as a site for renewable energy development. Acting on that interest they have identified a company, TerraNavigator, that specifically does solar and renewable energy projects on capped landfills. They have a lot of experience in this area. They have invested over fifteen billion dollars in their projects. This is the first step in exploring whether this project would be feasible at that location. This is a very preliminary analysis. TerraNavigator has indicated that up to eight megawatts might be possible. The time line on this project has to do with applying for State renewable tax credits as there is a window that will be opening quickly for that application process to begin in October. To allow this project to begin the County has to sign this expression of interest. There is a ninety day exclusivity period between the County and TerraNavigator.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Erickson to approve increasing the “not to exceed” amount for the purchase of a used fuel truck or equivalent to \$20,000 for the Landfill. Member Erickson added that this was presented to the Board previously at the amount not to exceed \$15,000 but the amount needs to be increased. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. He stated that he was not able to attend the meeting. Administrator Michele Gabriel did provide a summary of the meeting to him. At that meeting the Assistant Health Administrator gave a

presentation about County health ordinances and their plans for updating them. They are going to start with the Food Safety Ordinance Article 2 to ensure compliance with new State regulations, which will go into effect January 1, 2019.

Member Varner presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. She stated that they did not meet this month but Michelle Kim did have an update. Michelle Kim addressed the Board with an update on their strategic planning project and new positions that were being hired. They are also active with meetings with Amtrak and with an art program conference for the area. Member Varner expressed her gratitude for the Chamber and Knox County Area Partnership for helping to bring Culvers to Galesburg.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 Committee. He reported that there was no meeting that month.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. An increased number of employers are reporting their problems in finding employees in this region. Two factors come into play. One is that the national economy is pretty strong right now. Right now the unemployment rate in Knox County is approximately 4% which is as low as it has been since 2006. The labor force in Knox County continues to decline. According to his research he found 309 positions in Galesburg alone. This is an issue for employers who are seeking staff to run their businesses. KCAP has seen lead activity slow down over the course of the summer, compared to what they were seeing at the beginning of the year. There continues to be a lot of interest in renewable energy.

Member Hawkinson left the room.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. They had their quarterly meeting last month. They completed two land conservancy projects and there are two more that have applied. This is quite a process and requires a lot of time. Knox County was approved for the Brownfield Project. They had applied previously and were not approved.

Chairwoman Davidson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. She reported that she attended the meeting which was held in Galena. She was accompanied by Knox County Treasurer Robin Davis. The best part of the whole conference was the networking aspect of talking with attendees from over 70 counties. Personally her big push is for safety education for County employees in their workplace. She learned the UCCI will be making matching grants available for workplaces such as the Nursing Home to receive lifts. Further they will come out personally and help educate employees and do safety training throughout the entire County. The County should utilize these opportunities. The County Board needs to implement measures to keep the County employees safe. They also discussed cell phone towers which are particularly interesting as the Landfill is a dead zone. They also discussed home rule government. It seems like other counties are dealing with some of the same issues as Knox County.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Ad Hoc Committee for Technology. He reported that there was no meeting in July due to conflicting schedules. The IT Department has kept up with all of the work orders.

Member Conklin presented the monthly report from the 708 Mental Health Board. He reported that they did not have a meeting this month. He would invite new ideas as they move forward.

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

Proposed budget line item changes include changes for the Nursing Home, the Highway Department, the General Fund, Court Document Storage Fund, Sheriff's Department, Public Safety Fund, and the Public Defender's Office.

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

Motion was made by Member Wilder and seconded by Member Nache to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of June 28, 2018 through July 25, 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, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson had no comments at this time.

Member Hunigan thanked Superintendent of Assessments, Chris Gray for all the detailed ground work that she does. He also thanked Ken Springer from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development for his assistance and availability.

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

Chairwoman Pamela Davidson stated that she wished that Rob Benedict had stayed for the full meeting. She votes for the taxpayers as she represents them especially those in District 3. Six months ago the County had an emergency heating system installed in the IT room. Now they

are removing the same duct work that was installed at that time. Now they are placing the duct work in the ceiling so that there can be a more effective work place in the IT room. Klingner Associates informed them about what was going on. She agrees still with the way that she voted last month. They should be keepers of the taxpayers' dollars.

Member Erickson thanked Landfill Administrator Rod Clear, Member Hunigan, and Ken Springer, from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development, for their work with the proposed solar project at the Landfill. He appreciates their hard work to bring this to the Board.

Member Friedrich, Member Conklin, and Member Bondi had no comments at this time.

Member Rohweder thanked Member Hunigan for his hard work on the committee. Member Rohweder welcomes these new renewable energy businesses to the community. He thinks that this will be an excellent new direction. He also commented that the County does not have a recycling program in place. The County should set an example. A program should be implemented.

Member Varner had no comments at this time.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 22, 2018, 6:00 p.m., at the Galesburg City Hall Council Chambers, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Sandoval to adjourn from this Meeting until the next regularly scheduled Meeting of the Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.