

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

September 26, 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, September 26, 2018 at 6:10 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 was 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 Amor asked to add a report from the Western Illinois Regional Council Meeting that he recently attended.

Chairman Davidson asked for public comments.

Sally Keener, former member and former chairwoman of the Knox County Board addressed the Board. She has been a member of the AOW (Altona, Oneida, and Wataga) Ambulance Service for 34 years. Currently she serves that organization as director. She has been

encouraged to address the County Board and seek input from them. There is a letter in their packets which addresses some of their concerns from their EMT's and first responders. They feel that some of the current members serving as trustees are not addressing the interests of the Ambulance Service but instead are representing the interests of the Oneida-Wataga Fire Protection District against the Ambulance Service. These trustees must represent both interests, both the Fire and the Ambulance Services. This is the way that it was set up back in 1977. The problems started more than two years ago. These trustees have objected that the same people were responding to the ambulance calls. Yet as long as the calls are answered why should they care? These are all volunteer responders. They respond to over 200 calls per year. They are on stand by for multiple events including sporting events during the year. They teach people how to recognize the signs and symptoms of a stroke. They also offer free blood pressure checks. They operate under the rules and regulations from the Illinois Department of Public Health. Complaints have been filed through the Illinois Department of Public Health against the Ambulance Service. They have alleged staffing issues and inadequate response times as well as additional complaints. After investigation and follow-up, no violations were found. During the September Meeting, the AOW Trustees said they would begin working on a long term contract. However, they also stated that same thing last February. They say a long term contract is necessary before they will invest in a new ambulance. They are currently operating one 2002 Ford ambulance and one 2006 Ford ambulance. Another pressing concern is the tax dollars that were raised through the ambulance tax implemented in 1977. These funds have been spent on fire trucks and fire stations, not on ambulance services. They believe that dollar amount to be over \$600,000. These are some of the problems they are dealing with.

Ken Springer, President of the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development, addressed the Board in support of the solar projects which are included on this Meeting's agenda. Renewable energy development projects are bringing in much needed taxable investment into areas like Knox County. Solar energy creates a minimal impact on surrounding properties and does not permanently take crop land out of production. Solar projects actually allow the land to rest. After the project is completed the site can be decommissioned and returned to agricultural use. Many land owners have entered into lease agreements with renewable energy developers. These agreements provide a steady stream of revenue to land owners. Both projects on tonight's agenda have followed the letter of the law and complied with the local zoning ordinances and require no variances whatsoever. Both projects will generate funds for the land owners and generate tax revenue to the County. He encouraged Board Members to approve these solar farm requests.

Tim Eagle addressed the Board. He is the current tenant of the Knox County farm ground, over near Knoxville. He had approached County Clerk Scott Erickson and also wanted to address the full board in regards to renewing his lease for that acreage for another two years, instead of putting this out for bid. He appreciates the opportunity to farm this ground. When he took it over the soil fertility was off and there was probably a dozen or more felled trees on that property. He tried to treat this ground as if it was his own. He has the soil fertility up where it should be. He cleaned up the fallen trees and some old fences. This property is two blocks from his shop. He asked the Board to extend the lease for another two years. He would like to continue to farm this property.

Dale Carlson, lifelong farmer of Knox County, addressed the Board and provided a written copy of his remarks to the Board Members. He spoke in opposition to agenda item 26, approve Zoning Board of Appeals Case # CU-12-18—Request for Conditional Use Permit to operate two 2mg solar farms under the Appendix C, Solar Energy Ordinance of Knox County, in the “A” agricultural zoning district filed by Geronimo Energy, aka Elba Solar LLC, located at 230 Knox Highway 11, Williamsfield, and agenda item 27, approve Zoning Board of Appeals Case # CU-13-18—Request for Conditional Use Permit to operate two 2mg solar farms under the Appendix C, Solar Energy Ordinance of Knox County, in the “M-2” heavy industrial Zoning District filed by AES Distributed Energy, aka Watters PV I and II, located at 174 and 175 St. Joe Road, Galesburg. He is strongly opposed to both of these solar farm projects. These projects would take valuable farm ground out of production. Decommissioning and clean up and returning the land to farming will never be the same as before. Further, the County needs a new Land Use Plan with teeth in it to protect our agricultural land. There are better locations for these solar projects than to take farm land out of production. He asked Board Members to vote to save the farm land.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Varner to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meetings on August 22, 2018, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of September 2018 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of June 2018 in the amounts of \$118,465.01 and \$26,924.04 and public safety tax in the amount of \$194,611.62. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Bondi, Rohweder and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Pass—Conklin—(1). Motion carried.

Chairwoman Davidson introduced Dr. Seamus Reilly, new President of Carl Sandburg College, to the Board. Dr. Reilly addressed the Board saying that he has had a wonderful welcome from the community. He is committed to the growth of Carl Sandburg College and its workforce development.

Motion was made by Member Erickson and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the appointment of Gerald “Jerry” Lichter to the Spoon Valley Sanitary District. This is a new appointment. 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 Bondi and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the appointment of Donna Motz as Interim Knox County Nursing Home Administrator. Chairwoman Davidson stated that Ms. Motz had been the Director of Nursing and has the appropriate license. Previously, she has filled in for the administrator. There needs to be a formal Board approval for Ms. Motz to fill this position until an administrator is hired.

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 Friedrich presented the monthly report from the Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial and Clerk Committee. The monthly report was distributed to the Members. During this meeting, there was a presentation from Smartwatt. There have been budget meetings and additional meetings are scheduled. There is a lot of work involved with the budget process. He thanked committee members for their hard work with the budget.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the resolution amending Knox County Health Ordinance—Food Safety (Health Department). A copy of this ordinance is included in the packets. Member Friedrich stated that Illinois changed their food ordinance and Knox County has to make changes as well to be in compliance.

Michele Gabriel, Administrator of the Knox County Health Department, reported that effective January 1, the State of Illinois implemented a new Food Safety Ordinance that is based on the federal food code. In order to be in compliance Knox County has to implement a new food ordinance to be effective January 1, 2019. Their recommendation is basically to repeal the old food ordinance and replace it with a new one. It would have been very wordy to amend the existing ordinance. This is actually a new ordinance. The State's Attorney has reviewed this and approved repealing the current ordinance and replacing it with this new ordinance. They also provided him with copies of other ordinances from across the state for him to compare. The Board of the Knox County Health Department has approved this ordinance.

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 Bondi to approve the renewal of the support contract for tax software from DevNet. Member Friedrich explained that this is a five year contract. Originally they requested a 5% increase. County Treasurer Robin Davis negotiated that increase down to 1% per year. Information is included in the packets.

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve an increase in election judge pay. Effective with the consolidated election in 2019 regular judges would be paid \$110 and certified judges would be paid \$150. County Clerk Scott Erickson had stated that this is an effort to recruit election judges. This would match what the City of Galesburg pays their election judges.

Chairwoman Davidson added that Mr. Erickson is always looking for election judges. Those interested in serving should contact the County Clerk's Office.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(12). Noes—Hunigan and Rohweder—(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve to bid and bring back for County Farm Land Rental. This involves approximately 26.5 acres. Member Friedrich commented that this was discussed in the committee meeting.

Member Erickson spoke in favor of the motion to bid and bring back and also shared his support of the current lease holder, Tim Eagle, who has done a very good job. Previously there has been a less than ideal relationship with the tenant of that land and it is much better now. Mr. Eagle has put a lot of work into this. This lease includes the option of a one or two year lease.

Member Friedrich commented that in this case they are looking for the high bid.

Member Erickson stated that in most cases they should consider the high bid but they should also consider the most responsible bid that the Board feels comfortable with. That may or may not be the highest bid.

Member Hawkinson agreed with Member Erickson's comments and stated that Mr. Eagle has done an outstanding job.

Roll call vote to approve to bid and bring back for County Farm Land Rental 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 Bondi to approve the resolution on the deed of conveyance for PIN 99-16-385-007. 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.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the telecommunications audit agreement with SpyGlass Group. A copy of this agreement is included in the packets.

County Clerk Scott Erickson explained that this is a contract proposal brought forward by SpyGlass Group. The purpose of this is to audit and review telecommunications. They will be examining the bills to look for savings in such areas as excise taxes, etc. Approximately ten years ago the County did a similar survey. With the savings that was generated they were able to buy new phones for the Courthouse. He does not expect that much of a savings this time. They will review and bring back potential cost savings.

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 Amor to approve the legal services agreement for Jeff W DeJoode of the law firm of McMillian, Hennenfent, DeJoode & Humbert P.C. of Macomb, Illinois in the amount of \$7,767.00. A copy of this agreement is included in the packets. Member Friedrich added that this has to do with the litigation concerning the time clock. 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. The report is included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Conklin to approve the resolution for request for qualifications for assistance in guaranteed energy savings project (Smartwatt Project). A copy of this resolution is included in the packets.

Member Erickson stated that he did get to sit in on Smartwatt's presentation. He thinks that this is a great approach to take to look for potential energy savings. He was hopeful that they could use the services of local businesses that have contracts with the County. Also he is unclear what the actual cost would be. He understands that they say that the County will get their money back through savings. However, some of that goes on for a pretty long period of time, up to twenty years. Right now he is not in favor of going forward with the project.

Member Hawkinson inquired if this resolution were passed during this meeting, what the actual cost would be.

Member Johnson responded that there is no cost. This resolution is to help put together the qualifications of the bidders. There is no cost at all to the County.

Member Conklin inquired if local providers could be qualified.

Member Johnson responded that he didn't think so. All they are doing is putting together possible bids. This is something that the County cannot do on their own.

Orry Cummings from Smartwatt addressed the Board. He stated that as far as the actual projects, they do utilize local contractors who would do the work. Smartwatt would be doing the design services. They have the necessary experience to guarantee this. Smartwatt provides a 100% guarantee on savings. They cannot and will not use additional taxpayer dollars. They will use local contractors who are often familiar with the buildings. Smartwatt will be providing project management and design services. They also bring a funding mechanism to these projects, so there is no out of pocket expense. According to their utility study the County could save \$200,000 annually. This is the money that the County could capture and use to finance some of these other projects. They come back every year to measure those savings and present a report to the County.

Chairwoman Davidson questioned if there is a timeline associated with this resolution concerning an expiration date when these actual projects would begin. There is current priority list of projects that need to be completed in the Courthouse like plumbing and electrical upgrades.

Mr. Cummings responded the once the County goes through procurement it is good for however long.

Chairwoman Davidson asked about the cost.

Mr. Cummings responded that there is no cost to this process. After the initial audit is completed they would discuss a fee at that time. The County will know the fee up front. The fee would be waived if the County decides to proceed with a project. They put \$50,000-\$60,000 of costs into the investment reality.

Chairwoman Davidson inquired how they make their money.

Mr. Cummings responded that there is a fee associated with these projects as they move forward. The policy is an open book and the fees will be explained up front. A list will be provided to outline all of the costs and all of the savings involved in each project. The County can pick which project that they want to do.

Chairwoman Davidson mentioned that Klingner and Associates are doing an evaluation of the all of the County's buildings.

Member Johnson responded that Klingner's evaluation is more about maintenance and upkeep and not about energy savings.

Member Hawkinson commented about the high electric bills at the jail. He asked for clarification that according to this resolution the County is just authorizing Smartwatt to start seeking proposals for qualified contractors. This does not cost the County anything at this time.

Mr. Cummings confirmed that there is no cost to the County at this time. This will also open the door to other firms who will come in and try to prove that they are better than Smartwatt. If Smartwatt is chosen then they will be willing to work with the County to finalize a contract. They will then be working with the contractors to find the best value for the County. Last year they moved through this process with fifteen Illinois counties and approximately 2/3 of those chose to move forward with an investment grade audit. This process is to see if this is a fit for the County.

Member Friedrich commented that really the Building committee should vote on this first.

Member Sandoval called for the question.

Roll call vote to approve the resolution for request for qualifications for assistance in guaranteed energy savings project (Smartwatt Project) is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder and Varner—(11). Noes—Sandoval, Davidson and Erickson—(3). 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 Hawkinson presented highlights of the meeting. During the month of August, the Mary Davis Home averaged 24 clients and 23 of those were from outside the County, resulting in the amount of \$94,125.00 being billed out. From the Sheriff's Department, Captain Dave Caslin has retired after 28 years of service with the Knox County Sheriff's Department. Jason Landers has been promoted to that position. The Nursing Home has a \$250,000 pending Medicaid payment. Their recruitment website is up and running. They have hired 8 CNA's both full and part time positions. They have also filled other positions.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Nache to approve an increase of the semi-private room rate at the Nursing Home to \$148 from the current rate of \$145 effective December 1, 2018. It has been three years since this fee was increased. Compared to other nursing homes in the area, they are still below other facilities.

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 Hawkinson and seconded by Member Amor to approve an increase in meal ticket costs at the Nursing Home. Employee meal tickets are currently \$3.00 and would increase to \$4.00. For guests the current cost is \$4.00 and would increase to \$5.00 effective December 1, 2018. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Bondi, and Varner—(11). Noes—Johnson, Hunigan and Rohweder—(3). 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. During this meeting there was a proposal from a Caterpillar representative to do a job

site solution regarding maintenance of heavy equipment at the landfill. For a monthly fee they would be monitoring and maintaining three pieces of heavy equipment. The goal would be to reduce some very costly repairs. This would be contract agreement for a monthly fee. The Assessment Office has been very busy with 105 certificates of error for tax year 2017. The committee also approved some line item adjustments for the Landfill.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Erickson to approve the purchase of a John Deere 9570R Scraper Tractor in the amount of \$416,600.00. There is a warranty of 2,000 hours. Bid information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Erickson, Conklin, Bondi, Rohweder and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Davidson and Friedrich—(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Amor to approve the purchase of a communications tower for the Landfill, with contingencies. Member Erickson stated that on a committee level that they had some questions and concerns. However, the committee is not opposed to this project. Information Technology Coordinator Andy Rowe had prepared an informational packet that was very helpful. The contingencies can be withdrawn as these questions have been addressed in this document.

Mr. Rowe addressed the Board. The original purpose of the communications tower was to improve internet services and phone services at the Landfill. One of the goals is to address a communications problem at the Landfill, even from one end of the area to the other. The radios that the employees are using are not adequate. They also wanted to have an automated phone system for the daily phone calls to address routine questions from the public. Additionally they are trying to improve the reliability and the speed of the County's software including the time clock. A wireless system would be best suited for the needs of the Landfill. This would also allow for the Landfill to accept credit cards at the scales.

Member Hawkinson questioned the total cost.

Mr. Rowe responded that for the tower installation the total cost is \$14,699. As for the time line for completion, he does know. But they reported to him that after the concrete base is poured, they allow thirty days for it to set up. He would hope they get power to it this year. He would anticipate that they would save \$80-\$100 per month in DSL expenses. This is a used tower that will include new equipment and fittings. A new 100 ft. tower would be double the price.

Rod Clear, Landfill Administrator, reported and he and Mr. Rowe have been working on this problem for months. Routinely he sends customers away to go to get cash as the Landfill cannot accept credit cards.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Bondi, Rohweder and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Pass—Conklin—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve an upgrade of the phone system at the Landfill. Member Hawkinson asked about the total cost. Information Technology Coordinator Andy Rowe responded that the equipment cost is \$4,568.22. The ongoing annual maintenance cost is \$637.92. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson,

Erickson, Friedrich, Bondi, Rohweder and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Pass—Conklin—(1).
Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Amor to approve to bid and BUY for diesel fuel for FY2018/2019. Member Erickson noted that there is a change from the past as this is a bid and BUY based on price quotes. Landfill Administrator Rod Clear reported that doing it this way does save money. Chairwoman Davidson added the bid is for the Highway Department, the Landfill and the Mary Davis Home.

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 Friedrich to approve Zoning Board of Appeals case #CU-11-18—Request for Conditional Use Permit for a township building in the “A” Agricultural Zoning District filed by Indian Point Township by Township Supervisor Todd Thompson. The recommendation from the ZBA is to approve this request. Information is included in the packets. Member Hunigan added that this is for a township building to be used for office space, to store equipment and hold township meetings.

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 Nache to approve Zoning Board of Appeals case #CU-12-18—Request for Conditional Use Permit to operate two 2 mg solar farms under the Appendix C, Solar Energy Ordinance of Knox County, in the “A” Agricultural Zoning District filed by Geronimo Energy, aka Elba Solar LLC, located at 230 Knox Highway 11, Williamsfield. The recommendation from the ZBA is to approve this request. Information is included in the packets.

Member Conklin noted that information in the packet records that four people were opposed to this request but does not indicate their objections. He would vote no on this unless he knows why these people are opposed to this request.

Knox County Assessor, Chris Gray, responded that Dale Carlson who previously addressed the Board in this meeting addressed the Zoning Board of Appeals. Neighbors who live NE of this location sent a letter to the ZBA requesting additional information. It appears that their questions were answered and they did not hear anything further from them. Another person asked questions and likewise those questions were answered. There is a map included in the packets. This neighbor is concerned about equipment trucks going past their home. One of the conditions of this conditional use permit is that Geronimo Energy must provide an additional access and entrance to this property so that all the trucks are not going by this house. The fourth person who is opposed to this lives to the east of this property and has a long driveway. His concern is about a chain link fence being placed around the solar farm, that snow will block his driveway. The ZBA does not feel like they can control the weather. The fence is to be set back 50 ft. from the property line. Those were the four people in opposition.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Bondi, Rohweder and Varner—(11). Noes—Sandoval, Erickson, and Conklin—(3). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Nache to approve Zoning Board of Appeals Case #CU-13-18—Request for Conditional Use Permit to operate two 2 mg solar farms under the Appendix C, Solar Energy Ordinance of Knox County in the “M-2” Heavy Industrial Zoning District filed by AES Distributed Energy, aka Watters PV I and II, located at 174 and 175 St. Joe Road, Galesburg. The recommendation from the ZBA is to approve this request. Information is included in the packets.

Member Conklin noted that Geronimo Energy has a figure included for decommissioning but he did not see that this company did include that information.

Member Erickson added that the information states that they have a plan but there is no dollar amount stated.

A representative from AES Distributed Energy addressed the Board. This is all preliminary planning. The State has a mitigation plan in place for the decommissioning of these projects. The goal of AES is to abide by the State decommissioning plan. They did not include a specific dollar amount. They will absolutely abide by the State regulations. The State will require a bond amount that will take care of the decommissioning. The program has been established but not the bond amount. They have deferred to the State and will do whatever the State requires.

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

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Erickson to approve the bid for dump body, salt spreader and snow wing for the Highway Department. The committee recommends the low bid of \$67,493.00, submitted by Monroe Truck Equipment, Monroe, Wisconsin. 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.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. This meeting was held September 13th. The major item of discussion was that the Knox County Board of Health was recently selected to administer the State’s LIHEAP program, which is a low income heating program for Knox County residents. This is a major responsibility to handle these applications. To support the supervision of this program they have hired two additional members to their clerical staff. They are reorganizing their office to accommodate these applicants. They have revised their tentative budget for the coming year to accommodate this program. The proposed budget changes will be presented to the Knox County Board of Health during their October meeting. As of August 31, 2018, the Health Department had total revenues of \$3,100,000 and expenditures of \$2,900,000 resulting in a surplus amount of approximately \$240,000. Assistant Public Health Administrator Will Hayes is organizing informational meetings about the new food safety ordinance. An update was also provided on the WIC program. There has been a significant decrease over the last five years in the case load for this program. It is down by about 1/3, which has resulted in reduced funding for this program.

Member Amor presented a report from the Western Illinois Regional Council. This was his first opportunity to attend one of their meetings. The meeting was held at their headquarters in Macomb, Illinois, September 12th. There were two action items. One was to approve the community action agency’s 2019 action plan which includes initiatives in areas of economic

development, education, income management and assistance, housing, emergency assistance and nutrition. The other action item was a request to develop an agency funding plan aimed at making it possible for this agency to move to a larger facility.

Member Varner presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. This meeting was held September 25th. They discussed the upcoming Art Conference to be held at separate locations October 21-23. This is estimated to bring 200-250 artists to Galesburg. Jay Sanchez attended this last meeting and they discussed how to make Galesburg a more attractive community. A “Food Truck Fest” will be held September 29th. The Scenic Drive is coming up, the first and second weekend of October. Their next meeting will be held November 27th.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 Committee. They did not meet this month. The next meeting will be held October 18th.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. He reported that the date for the Orion Wind Farm Tour had been moved to October 9th. The trip is open to elected officials. There is room on the bus for media as well. The intent for this is educational and an opportunity for questions to be answered. Representatives from Orion Renewable Resources and landowners will be on hand to respond to questions. He has been in communication with County Clerk Scott Erickson about posting this as an open meeting in order to comply with regulations about the Open Meetings Act.

Two weeks ago KCAP partnered with local school districts and Carl Sandburg College to take about 40 area high school students from all 5 of the County’s public school districts as well as Galesburg Christian School to the International Manufacturing Technology Show at McCormick Place in Chicago. This is the world’s largest manufacturing trade show and happens once every two years. KCAP organized this trip to get students interested in manufacturing. Regional manufactures are having problems finding workers. The goal is get more youth interested in the industries that are growing in our area. The highlight for some of the students was the booth that NASA had at this show. He thanked various area sponsors for their help with making this trip possible.

Knox College is hosting a series of meetings this coming week to inspire local entrepreneurs. He encouraged those interested to attend these meetings to be held beginning October 3rd.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. They recently had their kick-off meeting for the Brownfield Project. They discussed eligible uses for the grant funds. These funds are used primarily to do soil testing in contaminated sites. One of the project goals is to get these sites tested and do what needs to be done and make them eligible for development. They put together some plans to select projects in the six county area. Then they had an informational meeting with Illinois EPA on resources for Brownfield Assessment. They also reviewed eligible sites. With this \$600,000 grant they think approximately 25 sites will be eligible. In January they plan to get together to do more work on this.

Chairwoman Davidson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. September 11-14, UCCI paid for her to attend an event with the National Advisory of Chairs Organization in Washington DC. This event was held at the White House. They hosted a great event to speak with her area congresswoman, Cheri Bustos. The Senator also came to speak to them. The whole council of Illinois was invited. With the hurricane scare in Washington, DC, some of the elected officials had to leave early. The President asked to speak with each state. They were addressed from agriculture, housing and education. These elected officials were sharing their goals and how the counties can work with them to pass legislation. There was also a session about election equipment and how the Feds can provide money for election equipment as a lot of the current equipment is outdated. A new program will be coming through.

Monday she attended the UCCI meeting in Springfield and they reported that they are getting grants for IT only not for voting equipment. They are trying to insure that there are no cyber issues in the election. County Clerk Scott Erickson reported that they will be receiving \$13,400. She reported that the City of Galesburg will be receiving \$14,989.

While in Washington DC; they were also addressed by the Vice President. The sheriffs from Illinois were also in attendance. It was a very busy month for UCCI. They paid up to \$2,000 for them to attend this event in Washington DC, there was no money out of their pocket. The biggest current question is not only the upcoming election but also about wireless devices including cell phones. More laws and resolutions are coming. She is glad to be a part of this organization that keeps the County informed of upcoming changes.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Ad Hoc Committee for Technology Services. Some of the main topics had to do with the updates for Windows 10, the towers at the Landfill, automatic phone menus, and the phone system for the Landfill. As regards Windows 10 they have received the software for their servers. Some machines may not be able to accept this upgrade. They will have a better assessment in the next thirty days. The computers at the Highway Department and the Landfill will also have to be updated. Security awareness \ training is beginning with all departments. They are also working to update the servers at the Nursing Home.

Member Conklin presented the monthly report from the Mental Health 708 Board. They are working on reevaluating the application process and hope to make it go more smoothly. They hope to make it easier to applicants to use. They also want to increase awareness in the community of the application process. By state statute they are required to have a one and three year plan which they hope to have in place in December.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Friedrich 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 and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Numerous proposed line item changes are presented in the packets. There was an additional handout of requested changes from the Nursing Home.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the proposed line item changes as presented. 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 the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of August 23, 2018 through September 26, 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 and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson thanked Chairwoman Davidson for attending the UCCI meetings in his place as he was not able to attend. He appreciates that.

Member Hunigan commented that he thinks that the County is very fortunate to have someone to step in to the position at the Nursing Home as Interim Administrator. He expressed his thanks to Donna Motz for assuming this position.

Member Wilder agreed with Member Hunigan's comments. As former director of nursing, Ms. Motz has brought much to that position.

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

Member Nache also expressed her thanks to Donna Motz.

Member Amor had no comments at this time.

Chairwoman Davidson also thanked Donna Motz for stepping up and making hard changes at the Nursing Home and addressing all of the issues that the Nursing Home has.

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

Member Bondi also thanked Donna Motz for doing a great job at the Nursing Home. He also commented that the State is severely cutting the salaries for the employees of the Mary Davis Home. This past year the reduction has been in the amount of \$377,000. He encouraged other Board Members to contact their elected officials in Springfield. This is a serious shortfall and is not fair. There should be closer balance between mandation and appropriation.

Member Rohweder commented about the importance of the County learning to evolve if they want to survive as regards opportunities to introduce renewable energy resources and green energy. It is important to listen and vote accordingly. He is a firm believer that you cannot start a fire without a spark. Basically they meet on a monthly basis with a flint and steel. There is so

much friction it can be really hard to ignite that. The Board needs to look for opportunities to embrace that change.

Member Varner had no comments at this time.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 6:00 p.m., at the Galesburg City Hall Council Chambers, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Friedrich to adjourn from this Meeting until the next regularly scheduled Meeting of the Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Open Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.