

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

**October 24, 2018**

STATE OF ILLINOIS        )  
  )       SS  
COUNTY OF KNOX        )

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held at the Galesburg City Hall, Galesburg, Illinois on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 6:07 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 3	Kyle Rohweder
District 4	Sara Varner

And those absent:        District 2       Robert Bondi  
  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 Chairwoman Davidson asked for a moment of silence to be observed especially for all the people that died as a result of the hurricane.

Chairman Davidson asked for additions to the agenda. Member Hawkinson requested that agenda item 20, approve bid for security cameras for the Mary Davis Home, and agenda item 21, approve bid for intercom system for the Mary Davis Home, be removed from this agenda.

Chairman Davidson asked for public comments. There were none.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) Minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on September 26, 2018, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of October 2018 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of July 2018 in the amounts of \$114,952.96 and \$26,205.05 and public safety tax in the amount of \$183,994.99. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Rohweder and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the proclamation in support of National Cyber Security Awareness Month to be observed in October. A copy of this proclamation is included in the packets. County Clerk Scott Erickson stated that Cyber Security is in the news especially as elections are approaching, this topic has come to the forefront. October is National Cyber Security month. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Rohweder and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the memorandum of understanding with AFSCME. Chairwoman Davidson stated that this will be added to all of the union contracts. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Rohweder and Varner—(12). Noes—Johnson—(1). Motion carried.

Member Friedrich presented the monthly report from the Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial and Clerk Committee. The report is included in the packets. There was a lot of work this month getting the budget ready. There were a lot of budget meetings. He extended his thanks to the committee, along with County Treasurer Robin Davis and County Clerk Scott Erickson. There will be additional tweaking to the budget. This month at the conclusion of this Meeting the Board will “recess” to keep the budget open.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Erickson to approve the resolution on the deed of conveyance for PIN 11-01-352-042. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Rohweder and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the Resolution authorizing an additional gate fee to be charged at the Knox County Landfill for the Building Fund. 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, Rohweder and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Resolution authorizing a transfer of a portion of the gate fee to be charged at the Knox County Landfill. 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, Rohweder and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the Resolution authorizing an additional gate fee of \$2.00 to be charged at the Knox County Landfill for the General Fund. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Member Erickson stated that this is not a change from past practice. This is the same as what the Board did the last fiscal year. Although it almost reads like an increase it is not really an increase. Chairwoman Davidson added that this just continues from last year and must be brought to the Board each year for their approval.

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Erickson to approve the Resolution authorizing allocation of interest funds earned from certain accounts at the Knox County Landfill to the Special Contingency Fund. 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, Rohweder and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Wilder to approve the Resolution authorizing the allocation of certain gate receipts at the Landfill to the Special Contingency Fund. 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, Rohweder and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the Resolution on the use of Special Contingency Funds. Member Friedrich explained that this includes the Mary Davis Home, the Nursing Home, the Building Fund and the General Fund. As the need arises this fund would allow the County to help them out. 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, Rohweder and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the renewal premiums for liability, workman compensation, vehicle and property insurance. County Treasurer Robin Davis reported that the liability and workman's compensation rates both went down. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Rohweder and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the Public Defender salary increase. Information is included in the packets. Member Hawkinson stated that this is a State requirement. State law bases this salary on the salary of the State's Attorney which is currently \$166,579 and the Public Defender's Salary is in the amount of \$149,856.98, He would prefer to vote against this, however it is the State law. Even though a lot of this salary is reimbursed, people should know the salaries of these positions.

Member Amor added that the State does reimburse these salaries at a rate of 50%.

Member Conklin commented that this salary increase is 2.2%

Roll call vote to approve the Public Defender salary increase is recorded as follows:

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the Resolution to amend the previous resolution on budgetary line item changes to the County Budget-Personnel line items. 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, Rohweder and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Nache to approve the display of the County Tax Levy for FY 2018-2019. County Treasurer Robin Davis reported that the levy for the County has not raised again. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Rohweder and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Nache to approve the display of the County Budget for FY 2018-2019. Member Friedrich reported that they are at zero and it was a lot of work getting there. He extended his thanks to County Treasurer Robin Davis, County Clerk Scott Erickson and department heads.

Mrs. Davis reported that compared to last year the expenses are going down by almost \$1,600,000. The budget will be displayed in the County Clerk's Office and it will also be posted on the website.

Chairwoman Davidson extended her thanks to the IT Department as they were able to project the budget on the wall and see the changes as they were made.

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

Member Friedrich reminded Members that at the conclusion of this Meeting, it will stand in "Recess" to allow the budget to remain open until the next Meeting.

Member Johnson presented the monthly Building, Courthouse and Annex Committee Report. A copy of this report was presented to Board Members. There were no bills or action items for this meeting.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Nursing Home Committee report. The meeting was held October 15<sup>th</sup>. The monthly report had been provided to the Members. The Mary Davis Home averaged 31 clients for the month. They billed out \$105,500 in child care costs for those out of County clients. There was a discussion about updating the camera system but they have chosen to focus on the intercoms at this time. Director of the Mary Davis Home, Ms. Steck reported that they received a check from the State in the amount of \$89,332.60. However, the State still owes over \$46,000. Multiple

Board Members have sent letters to the State to share their concern that the State is cutting the funding for the Mary Davis Home.

The Sheriff's Department received a grant from the State of Illinois in the amount of \$20,000 to use for upgraded equipment for interviews. Interim Administrator of the Nursing Home Donna Motz reported that the census that day was 123 residents. The balance that day was \$380,899.37 before the Board Bills. They had received a Medicaid payment in the amount of \$32,905 for corrections and another payment of \$136,000 for September claims. They also received a payment from Molina in the amount of \$142,000. There still are some outstanding old claims that are being addressed. Two bids were presented for fire security panel replacement. Member Amor presented to the Committee a motion to move forward with the formation of an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee. They are still working on the appropriate legal language.

Member Amor added that this proposal will be officially presented to the Board. The idea is to form an advisory committee comprised of members of the community that have specific or appropriate skills pertaining to the operation of the Nursing Home. This would be a resource for the Committee and for the Nursing Home. The language of the proposal will be reviewed by County Clerk Scott Erickson and by the State's Attorney John Pempeyer.

Member Hawkinson commented that this Ad Hoc Committee would be similar to the Health Department. They would report their findings to the Committee. The purpose would be to provide oversight.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Amor to approve the bid for a fire security panel for the Knox County Nursing Home. Information is included in the packets. Member Hawkinson reported that the current panel had failed and is malfunctioning. It is useable but needs to be reset daily. There was some discussion about the bids but the committee voted to approve the bid submitted by Thompson Electric, from Peoria in the amount of \$3,485. This is not the lowest bid but the price difference is minor. The committee decided to go with a company that is more local.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Rohweder and Varner—(11). Noes—Nache—(1). Pass—Sandoval—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the bid for the Century Link maintenance contract for the Knox County Nursing Home in the amount of \$756.62. Member Hawkinson reported that this will be a continuation of the current contract. County Clerk Scott Erickson stated that they failed to renew this contract before it expired so there is a reinstatement fee. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Rohweder and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Hunigan presented the monthly Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Recorder's Office, Highway Department and Landfill Committee report. The monthly report is included in the packets. The Assessment Office reports that they received 115 applications for certificates of errors for tax year 2017. There was a strong turnout for the bus trip to the wind farm which was held October 9<sup>th</sup>. Three Board Members attended. The Orion Energy Group explained how the wind turbine process actually works. The Highway Department has completed their seal coating

for the year. They applied 90,000 gallons. The County Highway 4 reconstruction project is nearly complete. They are on track to get this project completed this year.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the reappointment of Nancy England to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a five year term. This term will begin January 1, 2019 and expire December 31, 2024. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Rohweder and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the increase of \$1.00 per ton in tipping fees for all incoming solid waste (effective January 1, 2019). Member Hunigan added that this increase is expected to generate approximately \$100,000 in revenue. Member Friedrich commented that this fee is increased a \$1.00 every year.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Hunigan, Wilder, Sandoval, Amor, Davidson, Erickson, Friedrich, Conklin, Rohweder and Varner—(11). Noes—Hawkinson, and Nache—(2). Motion carried.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. This meeting was held October 11<sup>th</sup>. Assistant Administrator Will Hayes directed this meeting. As of September 30, 2018 the revenues for the year are recorded as \$3,576,000 and expenditures in the amount of \$3,255,000. There is a surplus of approximately \$322,000. Wellness Director Erin Olson updated the Board on the roll out of ILHEAP. Within days of opening this program, they are completely booked for appointments until December 1. They are doing 24 appointments per day. This was quite an operation for them to get everything in place. They have done some outreach to inform the public about this service. Mr. Hayes presented a revised organizational chart. The Board approved the fiscal year 2019 draft budget.

Member Varner presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. There was no meeting this month. However, the Director wanted her to report about the upcoming Art Conference. Approximately 250 artists registered for this event and most of them are from the Chicagoland area.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 Committee. This meeting was held October 9<sup>th</sup>. For the months of June and July the total number of 9-1-1 and administrative calls answered were 24,572. Total number of 9-1-1 calls was 4,002. The number of cell phones calls continues to climb and the land line calls continue to decline. The number of abandoned 9-1-1- calls continues to climb, this time 329. He reminded everyone that these calls must be investigated by an officer. As these calls are investigated, most of them are a wild goose chase.

Stark County Sheriff's Department reports that their 9-1-1 system is being required by the State of Illinois to consolidate their Public Safety Answering Point. They don't have the staff or financial resources to handle the calls on their own and the State is requiring them to be absorbed by another county. They have approached every adjoining County and everyone else has rejected this consolidation. Such a consolidation with Knox County would require reorganization of the Knox County's ETSB Board. There was some discussion about possible options as to whether they will entertain the option for this consolidation or not.

They approved an extended warranty for the generator that they recently purchased. There is a committee member that will be setting down. Next month there will be a formal presentation to the Knox Board to approve the appointment of John Culver as a member at large for the 9-1-1 Committee.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. He reported that there will be a job fair November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Galesburg Public Library from 10 a.m.-noon. This event is being organized by Goodwill Industries and KCAP. Last week Galesburg welcomed a brand new business, the Knox County Brewing Company. They just had their grand opening October 20<sup>th</sup>. They are in the location that formally housed En Season Restaurant. This is a family run company. This family has recently located from Austin, TX.

Last week a group called “Stand for Children Illinois” released a lengthy study which focused on the subject of brain drain in Illinois. He has discussed this topic before as it relates to population loss. He shared one fact from this study. One half of the jobs in Illinois have to do with the industries of manufacturing, energy and health care. Yet only 12% of high school students are signing up for classes in manufacturing, energy or health care. This points to the problem that students are not interested in these industries that are employing people in Illinois. KCAP is working to address this issue in partnership with a number of entities in the community. October 30<sup>th</sup> they are putting together a manufacturing showcase for high school students. This will be held at two different high schools. They are bringing in a number a regional manufacturing employers and having them set up interactive exhibits and displays. They try to rotate these showcases in different high schools in the area.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. He reported that they did not have a meeting this month.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. That meeting is later this month.

County Clerk Scott Erickson presented the monthly report from the Ad Hoc Committee for Technology. He and Assistant IT Director Marlon Beal had a brief meeting. Things have been running smoothly.

Member Conklin presented the monthly report from the Knox County Mental Health 708 Board. There was no meeting this month but there is a meeting scheduled November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval 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, Rohweder and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Numerous line item changes are listed in the packets.

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, Rohweder and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of September 27, 2018 through October 24, 2018 (ordering the invoices be accepted and approved and that the County Clerk and County Treasurer be authorized and directed to issue County warrants in payment of the bills.) Member Varner asked that a bill from the Sheriff's Department for the payment of flowers be pulled pending further investigation. Chairwoman Davidson agreed.

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

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson had no comments at this time.

Member Hunigan commended County Treasurer Robin Davis and the Finance Committee for all of their hard work with the budget. This is a monumental task. He also stressed the importance of getting out and voting. He is disappointed that more Americans do not participate in the election process.

Member Wilder had no comments at this time.

Member Hawkinson echoed Member Hunigan's comments regarding the Finance Committee. A lot of work has gone into the budget process. The budget will be available for public viewing for the next thirty days. There could be a little bit more budget trimming. At least for the present, this is a balanced budget. He also thanked Member Erickson for his time that he has spent with the Board as well as his insight that he has shared with other Board Members. Member Erickson is not seeking reelection.

Member Sandoval had no comments at this time.

Member Nache echoed the thanks to the Finance Committee and all the hard work that went into the budget process through all of the special budget meetings. She also thanked County Treasurer Robin Davis as well as her staff for their help. She also thanked County Clerk Scott Erickson and everybody else that helped them out with the budget process.

Member Amor seconded what Member Hunigan said about the importance of voting. Mid-term elections are sometimes the elections when people stay home. However, both at the local level, state level and national level there are important matters that will be decided November 6<sup>th</sup>. He encouraged everyone to do their civic duty and vote.

Chairwoman Davidson commented that she agreed with the previous comments that were made and she encouraged everyone to go vote.



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

Member Conklin expressed his thanks to Member Friedrich, Chairwoman Davidson and County Treasurer Robin Davis for all of the extra hours of budget work behind the scenes. He appreciates all the hard work involved in the budget process.

Member Rohweder commented that soon there will be new faces of the Board. He considers it to be honor to get to work with the Board. He appreciates their wisdom and guidance.

Member Varner expressed her thanks to the County Clerk's office for all their hard work on the Elections.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 6:00 p.m., at the Galesburg City Hall Council Chambers, Galesburg, Illinois.

This meeting was recessed until the next scheduled Meeting of the Board. Open Meeting recessed at 7:10 p.m.