

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

**February 6, 2019**

STATE OF ILLINOIS        )  
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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, February 6, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

The Meeting was called to order by County Board Chairwoman Pamela Davidson and upon roll call the following Members reported present:

District 2	David Amor
District 3	Pamela Davidson
District 4	Jared Hawkinson
District 5	Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval
District 1	Cheryl Nache
District 2	Robert Bondi
District 3	Tara Wilder
District 4	Todd Olinger
District 5	Brian Friedrich
District 1	Patrick Harlan
District 2	John Hunigan
District 3	Kyle Rohweder
District 4	Sara Varner
District 5	Todd Shreves

And those absent:        District 1        Lyle Johnson

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 that a moment of silence be observed.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. Member Friedrich asked that agenda item 11B, approve Landfill Benefit Day for work during the November blizzard in 2018, be removed from this agenda.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for public comments. County Clerk Scott Erickson had stated that those who choose to speak during public comments are required to sign in and are limited to three minutes.

Attorney Dan Alcorn addressed the Board in reference to the Altona-Oneida-Wataga Ambulance Service. He represents Mike and Candy Kalb and they have put together 343 signatures on a petition that they want to bring to the Board's attention. For forty-two years the communities of Altona, Oneida and Wataga have been served by the volunteer ambulance service known as the AOW Ambulance Service. That service has been provided by an agreement between two fire protection districts: the Altona Fire Protection District and the Oneida-Wataga Fire Protection District. The funding for this service comes in part from a special real estate tax that is levied by these two fire protection districts. This dates back to a referendum passed in 1976. There is absolutely nothing wrong with the AOW Ambulance Service. Overwhelmingly members of the community want this service to continue. There are 343 signatures on this petition to say they are in favor of keeping this service. However, the trustees of the Altona-Oneida-Wataga Fire Protection District voted in October 2018 to terminate this agreement and dissolve this ambulance service effective April 30, 2019. This was done despite the fact that none of these three communities have an alternate plan in place. The citizens of this area have lost confidence in certain trustees of the Altona-Oneida-Wataga Fire Protection District. These trustees are to provide for the emergency needs of the citizens in this area. These community members have gathered these signatures to say that they have no confidence in these trustees who voted to dissolve this ambulance service despite the fact that there is no alternative plan. As the Knox County Board approves the appointments of these three trustees, then this petition asks that as much as the law allows, the Board should vote to replace them or at least not approve the reappointments of these trustees. The Board should approve the appointments of three individuals who will serve the needs of the northern part of the County. He has provided the names of six individuals who have stepped forward to volunteer to serve these communities in the Altona-Oneida-Wataga Fire Protection District. He presented this petition with the 343 signatures to County Clerk Scott Erickson.

Al Christy commented in reference to the Altona-Oneida-Wataga Ambulance Service. He is comparatively new to this area and has spent most of his adult life in emergency/rescue services. He chose to share two paraphrased quotes...one from Abraham Lincoln who stated "Sometimes it becomes necessary to cut off the limbs in order to save the body; however, it is never acceptable to sacrifice the body while trying to save the limb." In this the case the Altona-Oneida-Wataga Ambulance Service and the community are the body. These trustees are the effected limbs that need to be severed in order to save this body. Martin Luther King Jr. stated "That it is always the right time to do what is right."

Fran Moore, who has been a resident of the Oneida community for forty-nine years, addressed the Board in reference to the Altona-Oneida-Wataga Ambulance Service. These communities are in turmoil. After the announcement was made that this ambulance service will be dissolved, residents have been wondering what will happen to them in emergency or traumatic situations. The reasons for disbanding this ambulance service are flimsy at best. The alternative plan proposed by the fire chief has been found to be unworkable or unlawful. The community has no trust left in these three trustees as they have ignored the pleas of the citizens that they are supposed to serve, in favor of serving the fire chief's wishes. The citizens of this area are prepared to offer other candidates who are willing to serve the needs of the community. These trustees need to be fair and unbiased in the decisions that affect all of them.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Amor to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on December 26, 2018, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of January 2019 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of October 2018 in the amounts of \$113,765.30 and \$24,222.81 and public safety tax in the amount of \$184,966.42. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the proclamation of appreciation for the Knox County Snowmobile Search and Rescue Team. This has to do with their efforts in assisting citizens during the blizzard of November 26, 2018. A copy of this proclamation is included in the packets. Pat Henenfent, coordinator of this volunteer group, and members of this rescue team were in attendance and received the applause and gratitude of the Board Members and others in attendance. Mr. Henenfent stated that during the storm they were in Knox County, Warren County and Henry County doing rescues and a couple saves. He spoke of the members of this group that can always be depended on no matter how bad the weather conditions are. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Wilder and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the proclamation on February as Black History Month. Brittany Grimes and some local members of the NAACP were in attendance to receive a copy of this proclamation. Chairwoman Davidson read aloud this proclamation. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the reappointment of Joey K. Tusek as a trustee to the Elba-Salem Fire Protection District. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Amor to approve the appointment of Mark Rudolph to the Illinois Region 5 Human Services Transportation Plan (HTSP) Steering Committee. This is a new appointment. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the re-appointments of Steve Watts and John Schalf to the Knox County 708 Mental Health Board. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial and Clerk Committee. A copy of the report is included in the packets. There were two meetings. One was held January 16<sup>th</sup> and a special committee meeting was held February 4<sup>th</sup>.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the resolution to abate the Levy for General Obligation Alternate Revenue Bonds, Series 2010A and Series 2010B for Tax Year 2018. (Build America Bonds and Recovery Zone Bonds) A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Member Amor explained that this is a resolution that is usually passed every year. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve an employee wage in excess worksheet for the Public Defender's Office. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Bondi, Wilder, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(11). Noes—Davidson and Nache—(2). Pass—Olinger—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the request for an additional attorney for juvenile and compliance officer matters, for the State's Attorney's Office. Member Amor explained that this request is due to the increased work load in that office. Members had been provided a copy of the job description. The salary is to be \$47,500. For this year only this position will be funded through a variety of resources without having to open the budget for any additional appropriations. The committee will be working with State's Attorney John Pepmeyer during the budget process for the next year regarding how to provide funding for this position.

Chairwoman Davidson stated that as County Board Chairperson it should be noted the County has policies and procedures that must be followed and one of them has to do with the budget. When the County was working on the current budget, State's Attorney John Pepmeyer did not come to them and talk about this issue. Recently he has come to the Finance Committee Meeting and the Board Meeting but he did not ask for this request to be placed on the agenda. County Board Members do want their County to be safe. If he needs an additional State's Attorney, that request should have been presented at the proper time, during the budget process. The budget has already been approved. It is hard to find funding for this request when the budget has already been approved. If the County needs another Assistant State's Attorney, then the County needs one. It is hard for her to grasp why this need was not presented last August during the budget process, or even before the budget was approved. She will be voting to approve this request because an additional attorney is needed. They will begin working on next year's budget in April. They need all the departments to be in communication with the Board about their needs so that the taxpayers will not be spending dollars that the County does not have. Things should be done properly.

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

Member Wilder presented the monthly report from the Nursing Home Committee. They held their meeting January 8<sup>th</sup>. That report is included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Wilder and seconded by Member Amor to approve to remove from the table the motion to approve the resolution on the establishment of a Nursing Home Advisory Committee. County Clerk Scott Erickson stated that this motion is just to remove this item from the table to allow discussion and a vote. Chairwoman Davidson commented that is not a committee that will be voting. This is an advisory committee. Some people have compared this committee to the Health Department and these committees are different in their functions.

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

Motion was made by Member Wilder and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the resolution on the establishment of a Nursing Home Advisory Committee. Member Wilder stated that this will be a committee of various community professionals. Some have already expressed interest in being appointed to this committee to provide input and help the Nursing Home. They hope to have no more than ten members on this committee.

Member Amor reported that McLean County has a similar Nursing Home Advisory committee and have stated that it works well for them.

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

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Nursing Home Committee report. This meeting was held January 14<sup>th</sup>. The report is included in the packets. The minutes had been provided to the Members. Highlights included the Mary Davis Home's average population for December 2018 of 19 clients per day. As a result, they billed out \$67,875.00 for those clients outside of the County. The Mary Davis Home did receive a payment check from the State in the amount of \$173,981.14 for the months of July and August of 2018. The State has informed them that they will not be reimbursing some salaries as they had in the past. Hard choices will have to be made. He encouraged Board Members and other concerned citizens to contact their legislators in Springfield to initiate a conversation back and forth.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Shreves to approve the authorization to sell a 1999 Dodge Ram utility van from the Mary Davis Home as surplus property. It is not cost effective to do the necessary repairs. Information is included in the packets. Member Hawkinson reported that this vehicle is no longer needed. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Hunigan presented the monthly Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Recorder's Office, Highway Department, Veteran's, and Landfill Committee report. The monthly report is included

in the packets. This meeting was held January 15<sup>th</sup>. He recognized the efforts of the Highway Department for their incredible work during the snow days and getting out there to try to make the roads safe for travel. He also recognized other departments that had to work through the cold and the snow. This is unlike anything that they have seen in a long time. During the committee meeting there was some clarification on the proper protocol on how to handle these snow days that result in closures. The department heads contact the committee chair who then contacts the Board Chairperson to determine whether they need to shut down that department that day.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve Case #ZA-01-19—Request for Zoning District Change from “R” Rural Residence Zoning District to the “A” Agricultural Zoning District for property owned by T & J Mottaz located at 414 Knox Rd. 2300E, Yates City, Illinois. Member Hunigan explained that this is for use as a solar farm. This will not cause any conservation issues and there is more than a 500 foot set back. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Amor to approve Case #CU-01-19—Request for Conditional Use Permit to construct and operate a 2-MW community solar farm in the “A” agricultural zoning district on property owned by T & J Mottaz, leased by Trajectory Energy, located at 414 Knox Rd. 2300E, Yates City, Illinois. Member Hunigan reported that this project will serve 300-400 homes in that area. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Varner to approve Case #ZA-02-19—Request for a Zoning District Change from the “R” Rural Residence Zoning District to the “A” Agricultural Zoning District for property owned by T. Swanson, located at 395 Rova Dr. Oneida, Illinois. Member Hunigan added that this project is expected to serve the needs of the ROWVA School District. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Varner to approve Case #CU-02-19—Request for Conditional Use Permit to construct and operate a 360 KW solar garden on property owned by T. Swanson, leased by Clean Energy Design Group, to serve the electrical needs of ROWVA School District, located at 395 Rova Dr. Oneida, Illinois. Member Hunigan explained that this solar garden project is expected to offset 93% of the electrical needs of the school. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Amor to approve Case #CU-03-19—Request for Conditional Use Permit to construct and operate two 2-MW solar farms on property owned by G & M Inness, leased by SolAmerica Energy, LLC, located at 1440 Knox Hwy 32, Galesburg, Illinois. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor,

Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Shreves to approve to bid and bring back for the construction of a concrete work area at the Landfill Mechanic/Maintenance Building. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the resolution of 2019 Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance in the amount of \$944,895. This resolution is an annual requirement appropriating Motor Fuel Tax Funds to purchase materials to be used in the maintenance of the County Highway system for the year. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. This meeting was held January 10<sup>th</sup>. The state of the Health Department is strong. Medicaid reimbursement rate will be staying flat. They were updated on some legislative issues.

Member Varner presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. There was no meeting that month. She did report that recently the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau was nominated in two categories for awards. One was for their best coop partnership and the other was an award for their Best Excellence in Tourism Award in connection to their “One State Together in the Arts Conference” held in Galesburg October 21-23, 2018. Galesburg Director of Tourism Michelle Kim had reported that his event was very successful as it brought many people into the community. In other news they have hired a new marketing manager.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 committee. There was no meeting last month.

Ken Springer was not in attendance to present the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. Chairwoman Davidson presented the report. She stated that it was a very good meeting. The juniors in the CEO program were present and expected to attend the January Board Meeting to bring their presentation to the Board but the weather caused that Board Meeting to be rescheduled. They were unable to attend this meeting. They did their selling of hot chocolate at their fund raiser. Member Bondi added that their annual meeting will be held February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Member Johnson was not in attendance to present the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. It was noted that there was no meeting in January.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. He stated that he did not attend, but Member Johnson did attend. Chairwoman Davidson reported

that she also attended this meeting. They had a training session for County Board Members and County Chairpersons. They talked about the Open Meetings Act and what Counties can do. They also talked about development and freedom of speech. She did bring back some extra packets to share with other Board Members. This is valuable information.

Member Rohweder presented the monthly report from the Knox County Mental Health 708 Board. He began by thanking Chairwoman Davidson for allowing him to serve on what is already the single most rewarding thing that he has had an opportunity to contribute to regarding public service. Last year was the first year that the 708 Mental Health Board was able to implement programs. It is amazing to hear some of these stories. After the next meeting he will have a better presentation.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Western Illinois Regional Council. He reported that there was no meeting that month.

Since there were no budget line item transfers, agenda item 33, approve opening of the budget for line item changes; agenda item 34, presentation of the proposed budget line item changes; and agenda item 35, approval of the proposed line item changes, were removed from the agenda.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Amor to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of December 27, 2018 through January 23, 2019 (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.) Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Amor, Chairwoman Davidson, Member Hawkinson, Member Sandoval, Member Nache, Member Bondi, Member Wilder, Member Olinger, and Member Friedrich had no comments at this time.

Member Harlan commented about a couple of things. He reported that he had received calls about the inhuman treatment of animals during this recent cold snap. He also expressed his concerns about the proposed State mandated hike in minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour. This would negatively affect the County. He asked that other Members contact their State legislators. They should be pro-active. Let them know how this wage increase will affect the County.

Member Hunigan agreed with Member Harlan's comments as he had also received some calls about the inhuman treatment of animals. He encouraged pet owners to be mindful of these conditions and how their pets are affected.

Member Rohweder commented about the CEO students who are working with the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development as he has had opportunity to work with this



great group of kids. They are truly exceptional. It would be good for the community to keep a finger hold on this project. He would encourage Board Members to engage with this group as much as possible.

Member Varner and Member Shreves had no comments at this time.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 27, 2019, 6:00 p.m. at the Galesburg City Hall Council Chambers, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and second by Member Hawkinson to adjourn from this meeting. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Open Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.