

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

February 27, 2019

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, February 27, 2019 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	David Amor
District 3	Pamela Davidson
District 4	Jared Hawkinson
District 5	Ricardo "Rick" Sandoval
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

And those absent: District 1 Cheryl Nache
 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 that a moment of silence be observed.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. Member Hawkinson asked that agenda item # 18, approve payments to Klingner for work performed, be removed from this agenda.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for public comments.

Kund Ullerup from Altona addressed the Board. He reminded Board Members that he had addressed the Board in December. He represents himself as a taxpayer who wants value for

his money. He is hopeful for the future. He has had some questions and various individuals including County Treasurer Robin Davis, County Clerk Scott Erickson, Chairwoman Davidson and the representatives in District #3 have helped him figure out how the money flow works. He appreciates their help.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Varner to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meetings on February 6, 2019, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of February 2019 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of November 2018 in the amounts of \$107,293.95 and \$18,609.80 and public safety tax in the amount of \$182,034.60.

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

6:12 p.m. Member Nache entered the room.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Varner to approve the Proclamation of March as National Nutritional Month in Knox County. Chairwoman Davidson read aloud this proclamation a copy of which was presented to the CEO of the Knox County Health Department, Michele Gabriel. A copy of this proclamation is also included in the packets. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The CEO of the Knox County Health Department, Michele Gabriel, presented the 2018 Annual Report on the state of the Knox County Health Department. Copies of this report were provided to Board Members and it is also included in the packets. According to Illinois County Codes this report must be presented to the Board and the community within ninety days of the conclusion of the fiscal year. This report highlights the main points of the previous year.

Ms. Gabriel reported that the 2018 Annual Report is very similar format to that of previous years. She spoke of some accomplishments of 2018. With the help of the County Board, they revised the Knox County Food Safety Ordinance. This last year they implemented LIHEAP (low income housing energy assistance program) for Knox County. She anticipates that they will continue to work with this program. Dr. Wiechert has joined the Health Department this past year. The financial reports are also included in this annual report.

Chairwoman Davidson welcomed the students from the CEO Program. Ken Springer from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development introduced the first class of students participating in this program. All of the students are select high school juniors and seniors from Knox County. The first class began in the fall of 2018. These students meet in businesses around the County ninety minutes per day. The lessons are taught by members of the business community. This is a way of transferring knowledge and experience from the business community to a new generation of business leaders in the County. Benjamin Beebe, Brayden Bledsoe, D. J. Cain, Gracie Gibbons, and Mason Martinez, introduced themselves and shared their experiences in this program. There is another student Dalton Sims, who could not attend this meeting. These classes spend a lot of time touring area businesses. These students were very positive and enthusiastic about this CEO program. Mr. Springer commented that are trying to

equip these students with the necessary skills to be successful business leaders and remain in this community. This class will conclude at the end of the school year in May. They are currently recruiting for the 2019 class. Applications are currently open. They anticipate a larger class next year. For more information about this program visit: knoxcountyilceo.com.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the annual report from the Health Department as presented. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder and Varner—(14). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Varner and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the appointments of Matt Wetterow from Wataga, Mike Morris from Oneida and Kevin Erickson from Oneida to the Oneida-Wataga Fire Protection District as trustees. Chairwoman Davidson explained that these are new appointments. There must be two trustees from Oneida and one trustee from Wataga.

Chairwoman Davidson thanked these individuals for stepping up to serve the Oneida-Wataga Fire Protection District. Last Friday, three people resigned. They had to move quickly to appoint new trustees. When she spoke to these candidates all of them stated that they would be willing to work for the betterment of their community. She also thanked the Board Members from District 4 for taking their time to meet with these candidates along with the Fire Department personnel and Paul Swanson as well as others. They discussed the issues that had been going on. She feels that the future looks bright for the Fire Protection District of Oneida and Wataga. The Knox County Board cares for the safety of all of Knox County. She thanked these Board Members for taking the extra steps to discuss these issues.

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the appointment of Leslie Phillips as trustee to the Maquon Fire Protection District. This is a new appointment. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder and Varner—(14). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Johnson to approve Jeremy Karlin as special prosecutor to represent the Knox County Board. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder and Varner—(14). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Nache to approve the Landfill benefit day for work during the November 2018 Blizzard. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder and Varner—(14). Motion carried.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial and Clerk Committee. There were two meetings. A Special Finance Committee Meeting

was held February 4th and the Regular Meeting was held February 20th. A copy of the report is included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the animal kill claims for 2018 in the amount of \$0.00. Member Amor explained that this is something that is required to be done every year. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder and Varner—(14). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the Western Illinois Regional invoice for transporting and processing residential paint and electronics to recycling and disposal in the amount of \$11,652.00. A copy of the 2018 invoice is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder and Varner—(14). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Olinger to approve the lease agreement with Pitney Bowes for the Courthouse mail machine in the amount of \$1,955.31 per quarter or \$7,821.24 per year. This is actually a reduction of approximately \$400 per quarter compared to last year. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder and Varner—(14). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the budget schedule for FY2019-FY2020 budget. A copy of this schedule is included in the packets. Member Amor explained that the plan for this schedule is to give them more time than they have had in the past. In the past there has been a real time crunch when the budget requests were not received until the end of the process, near middle of the summer. According to this schedule, proposed budgets are to be submitted by April 26th. That will allow budget work sessions to begin in May-October. This schedule should give them the opportunity to meet with every department head and make sure that every department is participating in the budget making process. This schedule would allow the Board to present a proposed budget in October and adopt a balanced budget November 28th.

Chairwoman Davidson stated that she will be asking all of the departments to submit very detailed budgets so that they can make the best decisions for the County.

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

Member Wilder presented the monthly report from the Nursing Home Committee. They held their meeting February 12th. She stated that there were no action items. Members had been provided with a copy of the minutes from this meeting. Nine residents attended their meeting. They are moving forward with hiring an administrator.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Building Committee report. This meeting was held February 18th. He presented

some highlights from this meeting. The Mary Davis Home averaged twenty three clients outside the County which allowed them to bill \$77,250.00 for child care costs. Knox County had three clients housed there at that time. They recently received a check from the State in the amount of \$84,489.42. The months of October and November have not yet been paid. Bids for their old 1999 Dodge van will be opened at the courthouse March 1. Last year the Board directed department heads to go out and get motor fuel bids for their fuel contracts. The Landfill and Highway department solicit their bids in November. The jail has 29 inmates. They have just begun the security updates at the jail and that project is expected to last six weeks. Regarding the building aspect of the committee, the SmartWatt representative will be attending this committee meeting next month. They are trying to save the County some money on energy costs. As that project progresses, they will need State's Attorney, John Pepmeyer, to review the contracts. Klingner has been doing some very detailed facility building evaluations. The committee also discussed the space problems at the Courthouse. Storage issues continue to be a problem. They are investigating off site options for storage.

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. The past winter has affected the County in many ways. For the Highway Department, since January 12, 2019, they have spent twenty one out of twenty seven days addressing snow or ice events, some of those days coming on weekends. They have spread approximately 1,800 tons of salt at a cost of approximately \$89,000. They have almost spent about half of the overtime budget. This winter has affected the County quite financially. The forecast for the coming weekend is cold again. Regarding the Landfill report, the post fire project at Farmland has been completed. So now Farmland is back to their pre-fire schedule.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the engineering services agreement for County Highway 17 Culvert Replacement, Section 19-00161-00-BR. Member Hunigan reported that this project was budgeted at \$50,000 and they are asking that no bids exceed \$49,000. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder and Varner—(14). Motion carried.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. That meeting was held February 14th. Their local Health Protection Grant funds will be increased. The minimum wage increase to \$15.00 per hour in 2025 will affect their budget and they will have to make adjustments accordingly. The Health Department is monitoring the possible legalization of the recreational use of marijuana. They also discussed temporary food permit rules.

Member Varner presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. She reported that there was no meeting that month. Galesburg Director of Tourism, Michelle Kim, introduced a new employee, Erin Hill, who was hired as their marketing and partner services specialist. She has been very busy learning about the community and its history and attractions. Earlier this month the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau was recognized at the Governor's Conference for Travel and Tourism, for their Art Conference that was presented in Galesburg last October. They were also nominated in another category

regarding festivals but did not win. Nevertheless this is a huge honor to win this award. The previous day was the ribbon cutting and grand opening for the new attractions at the Discovery Children's Museum, second floor renovation project. This was a \$2,000,000 project over a four year period. This is a really big deal for travel and tourism in Galesburg as it is a major attraction in the area.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 Committee. That meeting was held February 21. They have invested some additional funds to be used for future 9-1-1 upgrades which will be coming either the end of this year or the beginning of next year. The State is requiring these updates, which will be more of an IT based system versus the land line system. Currently there is \$1,300,000 in investments. During the previous two months, there were 2,132 dropped 9-1-1 calls and each of these calls must be investigated. The total number of calls received at the dispatch center last year was 134,129. For December 2018 and January 2019 the number of calls received was 11,347, many of these were weather related. Several months ago the 9-1-1 system failed. The Illinois Commerce Commission did investigate. The committee is waiting to receive that report. They are researching next generation 9-1-1. There are only four communities in Illinois that utilize CenturyLink and the County is one of the four. By this time next year, the County should have a new 9-1-1 system in place.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. Their first entrepreneurship workshop of the year is coming up and to be held March 4th. This free workshop is to be held in partnership with the local Galesburg chapter of the NAACP. He extended his thanks to Board Members and members of the County staff who attended their recent Annual Leadership Breakfast. Despite the weather conditions they had a wonderful turnout. The keynote speaker was the head of BNSF's economic development. He reported that the logistics park located between Galesburg and Knoxville was recently given a very important designation that is a certified "shovel ready site." BNSF will be working with KCAP to help market this site.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. He reported that there were two meetings. One was the Brownfield Committee Meeting in which they met with the Illinois EPA and the National EPA to try to come up with some possible funds once they get some sites approved for Brownfield. This is anticipated to be a two year project and they plan to begin next month. The second meeting was the Prairie Hills Board Annual Meeting. By the end of the month they anticipate receiving their national accreditation for nature conservation. He was also re-elected as chairman of this Board for another year.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. He presented a brochure to all of the Board Members. It is good information about the Open Meetings Act and FOI (Freedom of Information Act). Board Members need to become very aware of what is going on. Chairwoman Davidson reported that this information had already been shared with the Board Members. The Board does not want to violate the Open Meetings Act. Member Johnson commented that he plans to attend the next meeting in late March.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Western Illinois Regional Council. Their next meeting will be held March 7th and he plans to attend. There are two Galesburg

related items on this agenda. One is a presentation on the Galesburg Lead Abatement Program, which is informational to other counties. The other one has to do with the Community Block Grant Program and the authority to expand this program in Knox County. Previously this had been administered through the Carver Community Action Center.

Member Rohweder presented the monthly report from the Knox County Mental Health 708 Board. There was a scheduling conflict for the meeting date and there was no February Meeting. They will be meeting March 1.

Since there were no budget line item transfers, agenda item #29, approve opening of the budget for line item changes; agenda item #30, presentation of the proposed budget line item changes; and agenda item #31, approval of the proposed line item changes, were removed from this agenda.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of January 24, 2019 through February 27, 2019 (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, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Harlan, Hunigan, Rohweder and Varner—(14). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson and Member Amor had no comments at this time.

Chairwoman Davidson thanked the County Board Members who met with citizens of Oneida-Wataga to move forward with the safety of their community. She would like to thank all of the people that helped to secure a new board of trustees. She looks forward to hearing great things from this community and how they can provide safety for their people.

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

Member Bondi complimented Ken Springer from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development for the quality of the CEO Program. This presentation was a real highlight of the evening. This program is real first step for our community to educate young people in Galesburg and encourage them to remain in Galesburg.

Member Wilder and Member Olinger had no comments at this time.

Member Friedrich thanked Ken Springer from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development for all the work he does in our community. He provides a lot of resources for individuals who need some help with their businesses.

Member Harlin and Member Hunigan had no comments at this time.

Member Rohweder echoed Member Bondi's comments. There are some things happening in our community that are very disheartening. But, there are also positive things in our community that should make him proud. He is glad to see some resolution to the Oneida-Wataga Fire Protection District.

Member Varner agreed with Member Rohweder and thanked him for the work that he does.

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

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Amor to adjourn from this Meeting. Voice Vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Open Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.