

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

**June 26, 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, June 26, 2019 at 6:02 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 1       Cheryl Nache
- District 2       Robert Bondi
- District 3       Tara Wilder
- District 4       Todd Olinger
- District 5       Brian Friedrich
- District 2       John Hunigan
- District 3       Kyle Rohweder
- District 4       Sara Varner
- District 5       Todd Shreves

And those absent:       District 1       Patrick Harlan

Also present was County Clerk Scott Erickson.

County Clerk Scott Erickson delivered the Proclamation. Chairwoman Pamela Davidson led the Members in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. In lieu of a formal invocation Chairwoman Davidson asked that a moment of silence be observed in honor of the fallen deputy in Fulton County who was killed the previous day in the line of duty.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for additions or deletions to the agenda.

Member Bondi expressed his concern that the County is getting ahead of the City of Galesburg regarding incorporating the City and rural transit district. There is more negotiation that needs to be done. He doesn’t anticipate that this would be more than a thirty day delay.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Amor to table agenda item 4A, the resolution incorporating municipal and rural Knox County Transit District.

Chairwoman Davidson asked Dedra Mannon, HandiVan Coordinator, to address the Board regarding the time line and procedures associated with this resolution. Ms. Mannon reported that they had approached Wayne Karl from the City of Galesburg in early May regarding this proposed rural transit district. The plan would be to merge the current transit system in Galesburg with a plan that would provide transit service in the County. Currently the City of Galesburg budgets \$2,500,000 per year for transit. The City uses only \$1,200,000 of that amount. There are also federal funds that are allocated for transit. There have been some meetings with the City of Galesburg and some postponed meetings. They have been approached by various local groups such as KCDD, veteran's groups and the 708 Mental Health Board who are all sharing their support for an expanded transit system into the County. There is a desperate need for this transit program.

It is important to get this resolution done and approved. She does understand the City of Galesburg wanting to delay this a bit and to get feedback from the City Council.

Chairwoman Davidson asked how a possible 30 day delay would affect this schedule.

Ms. Mannon responded that the goal is to be up and fully functional by July 1, 2020. Within the intervening year they need to acquire the needed funding, get the service contracts finalized, and work with service providers to determine their needs as well. They will also need to be acquiring insurance. There is a lot of work that needs to be done. Thirty days may not seem like a lot, but they need this time to get some of this work accomplished.

Member Nache commented that it seems like thirty days is as long as the City of Galesburg can drag their feet. This service is vital for our community.

Ms. Mannon stated that she wanted the Board to focus on the fact that for some members of the community this is an emergency situation for people who desperately need transportation to go to school, to work, or to the doctor. Transportation is not a service for just low income people, because sometimes people need to go somewhere and their car won't start.

Member Hunigan commented that he knows the needs to be outlined by the City and the County is a huge demand. It sounds like they have things in place to make it happen, regardless of what the City Council necessarily needs to discuss. He doesn't see the need for the County Board to delay this process.

Ms. Mannon commented that she doesn't want to burn any bridges. It works better when everyone works together for a common goal.

Chairwoman Davidson stated that as a County Board Chair and a resident of Galesburg and the County, she sees that people need this service so much and she will be voting not to stretch this out any longer.

Member Amor questioned this resolution. If it were to be approved, what matters of business would occur in the next thirty days?

Ms. Mannon responded that they would be approving board appointments and drafting the articles of incorporation. These documents would be registered with the State's Attorney Office and the Attorney General's Office. That is priority number one.

Chairwoman Davidson called for the question.

Roll call vote to table agenda item 4A, the resolution incorporating municipal and rural Knox County Transit District is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor and Bondi—(2). Noes—Johnson, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(12). Motion to table this item failed.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for public comments.

Connie Main from Altona again addressed the Board regarding stray dogs on her property. She stated that she has addressed the Board for six months in a row about this same subject. According to the County's animal ordinance violations, these dog owners should be subject to progressive fines for allowing their dogs to run loose. For three years these dogs that have not been inoculated or registered, have been straying onto her property. These dog owners put a temporary restraining order against her and her family for stalking. The law seems to work the opposite way for her and nothing was ever done about these stray dogs. This Board should stop this conspiracy and corruption. She is really fed up with this situation. This should not happen.

Tiffany Barracks from Wataga addressed the Board regarding the need for rural transit in the County and the proposed items on the agenda. This is really a dire need for many citizens in our community. Some people have problems getting to the grocery store, to the doctor, to employment or to higher education. She is willing to offer her services in working to implement this rural transit system. They are in process of applying for a couple of grants.

Tom Simkins also addressed the Board in support of the proposed municipal and rural Knox County Transit District. This is an excellent and exciting idea that goes along with the value statement from the Heart and Soul community group.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Amor to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meetings on May 9, 2019 and May 22, 2019, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of June 2019 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of March 2019 in the amounts of \$113,826.29 and \$23,948.52 and public safety tax in the amount of \$182,587.80. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Pass—Hawkinson—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the proclamation of support for a rural transit district. County Clerk Scott Erickson read aloud this proclamation, a copy of which is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Varner to approve the resolution incorporating a municipal and rural Knox County Transit District. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Amor to approve the proclamation of Disaster Recovery Support in Knox County. County Clerk Scott Erickson read aloud this proclamation, a copy of which is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the reappointment to the Williamsfield Sanitary District of Trustee Larry Mackie. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve the new appointment of Dr. Clifford Martin and the reappointment of Dan Harris to the Knox County Board of Health. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Olinger and seconded by Member Nache to approve the appointments to the Rural Transit Development Working Committee. Member Bondi questioned if these candidates had submitted resumes. County Clerk Scott Erickson stated that he had not received them. Chairwoman Davidson stated that the Board requires candidates to submit resumes and asked if these resumes could be submitted by next month.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to table the motion to approve the appointments to the Rural Transit Development Working Committee. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion to table this motion carried.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial and Clerk Committee. The meeting was held June 19<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the minutes had been provided to the Board Members.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the resolution on the Deeds of Conveyance for PIN 12-20-100-047 and PIN 99-13-106-002. Copies of these resolutions are included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Amor reported that they are moving forward with budget meetings. There has been one meeting so far and additional meetings are scheduled.

Member Wilder presented the monthly report from the Nursing Home Committee. This meeting was held June 20<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the monthly report is included in the packets. They addressed the subject of the LPN shortage and did some brainstorming about ideas to get more LPNs. They also discussed becoming part of OSF Preferred Provider Network. There are changes coming to Medicare, one of which is requiring patients to be a part of a community care plan. The therapy department is switching the way that they bill for their services. Next month they are hoping to have people come and be a part of their Advisory Committee.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Building Committee report. This meeting was held June 18th. He stated that he was not in attendance at that meeting.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the bid for the County Electrical Maintenance Contract for MSI. Information is included in the packets. Member Hawkinson stated that this item was not discussed at the Sheriff's Committee Meeting but was discussed at the Finance Committee Meeting. This contract would begin July 1, 2019 and run through June 30, 2021. Bids were submitted by MSI and by AMP.

Chairwoman Davidson stated that it had been brought to her attention that the Knox County Nursing Home wanted to choose AMP as their service provider. It should be up to the department who they would like to provide this service.

Member Hawkinson read aloud the bid information which stated that the Nursing Home was to be included. Any project being in excess of \$5,000 has to be put out for bid.

Member Hunigan asked for clarification that the Nursing Home wants to choose their own vendor.

County Clerk Scott Erickson stated that to allow flexibility the original motion could be amended to allow the Nursing Home to accept this bid from AMP.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Rodweder to amend the original motion to allow the Nursing Home to approve AMP and MSI would provide the Electrical Maintenance for the remaining buildings.

Member Friedrich commented that the bidders bid on the whole package, not just part of it. They may not like this being separated.

Member Bondi stated that both of these vendors should be informed of this change in the original bid. This was bid on a certain basis.

Mr. Erickson responded that these vendors would be contacted to verify that they are willing to accept these changes. This amended motion could be amended to add "pending the approval of both parties". Member Hawkinson and Member Friedrich agreed to this amendment to their amended motion.

Roll call vote on the amended motion to allow the Nursing Home to approve AMP as their service provider and MSI would provide the Electrical Maintenance for the remaining buildings, pending approval of both parties. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Nache, Wilder, Hunigan, and Rohweder—(6). Noes—Johnson, Hawkinson, Bondi, Friedrich, Varner and Shreves—(6). Pass—Sandoval and Olinger—(2). The amended motion ended in tie vote and failed for lack of a majority.

Roll call vote on the original motion to approve the bid for the County Electrical Maintenance Contract for MSI for all of the County's buildings is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Hawkinson, Bondi, Friedrich, Varner and Shreves—(7). Noes—(0). Noes—Davidson, Nache, Hunigan, and Rohweder—(4). Pass—Sandoval, Wilder and Olinger—(3). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the bid for the County plumbing, HVAC, sheet metal work, pipefitting and drain cleaning contract for MSI. Member Hawkinson reported that both MSI and AMP submitted bids.

Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote to approve the bid for the County plumbing, HVAC, sheet metal work, pipefitting and drain cleaning contract for MSI is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Hawkinson, Bondi, Wilder, Friedrich, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(9). Noes—(0). Pass—Davidson, Sandoval, Nache, Olinger and Hunigan—(5). Motion carried.

Member Hunigan presented the monthly Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Highway Department, Veteran's, and Landfill Committee report. The monthly report is included in the packets. The tax bills were mailed out June 7<sup>th</sup>. The Zoning Department has received their first inquiry about growing industrial hemp. The Illinois Industrial Hemp Act was signed into law in August 2018. The zoning request has to do with drying the hemp and that permit is on hold. Hemp will be considered an agricultural crop so the County cannot prevent anyone growing it as long as they have been approved for a grower's license. The new State law which goes into effect January 1, 2020 permits State residents age 21 and older to possess 30 grams of cannabis and sets other parameters for weed products. Non-residents can possess up to 15 grams of pot.

Regarding the Highway Department, the County Highway 4 construction project has been completed and that Highway opened for traffic June 13<sup>th</sup>. The County is working on bridge replacement projects which should be completed by the end of September.

Regarding the Landfill they are waiting for Stratus to install the cable. They also talked about the trash compactor and will be discussing that more next month.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the repair of the drain/culvert on the Landfill Road and award the bid to the lowest bidder in the amount of \$4,590. Bid information was provided to the Members. Member Hunigan read aloud the bid amounts. There was over a \$50,000 difference between the high bid and the low bid.

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

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. This meeting was held June 13<sup>th</sup>. They have been consulting an architect about repairing the drainage issue in the parking lot. They also discussed that coming changes in the law concerning possession of cannabis.

Member Varner presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitor's Bureau. She reported that there was no meeting this month. She is excited about the newly designed visitors' guides that are coming out soon. Their next meeting will be held July 16<sup>th</sup>.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly 9-1-1 Committee Report. He stated that the meeting will be held the following day.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. The old Maytag property has been sold to new owners. This new group that bought the property intends to do some renovations in order to find a new tenant to lease it. That is important is there is a lot of deferred maintenance on that building. This is a positive announcement.

KCAP is also pleased to announce that Wordsmith Book Shop will be opening downtown Galesburg. They plan to offer books in 59 different genres and have over 1,500 magazine titles. It is good to have an independent book store in downtown Galesburg. They plan to open in August of this year.

July 30<sup>th</sup>, KCAP will be hosting their 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Economy Update Event. This keynote speaker is coming from the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank. He will be speaking about training the workforce in this region. They will also have another speaker from the Illinois Manufacturers Association. The CEO program will be restarting in August with six new students.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. He reported that they had their quarterly meeting this month. They approved the audit for last year. They also approved new small business loans. They are still working on a land acquisition that they have been working on for about five years. This parcel would be a valuable addition to their property as it is between two pieces of property that they already have. The Brownfield Assessment is moving along slowly. They have received 24 applications. Currently they don't have any from Knox County. They have received a challenge grant which is 3 to 1 matching funds in the amount of \$7,000.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. He reported that there was no meeting this month.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Western Illinois Regional Council. This group did not have a meeting this month. However, as a representative of the County, he did attend a meeting of the Chief Elected Officials of Western Illinois. This is made up of the communities of the mayors of Quincy, Macomb and Galesburg along with the surrounding counties. Part of the meeting dealt with local workforce development topics. There was also a presentation given by a group called "Fore Front" about the upcoming census. Census Day will be April 1, 2020. The State of Illinois is likely going to lose a congressional seat. Whether that happens or not depends on the census count. Due to declining population, it is possible that Illinois could lose two seats, depending on this census count. It is crucially important to have an accurate complete count. The redistricting that will occur depends on the census count. They estimate that approximately thirty billion dollars comes into the State each year from federal programs and that allocation is based on the census count. They estimate that every person in Illinois that is not counted and should have been costs the State \$1,400. They estimate that usually they average a 70% count rate. Knox County is slightly better at 80%. It is very important to increase that percentage as much as possible. The challenge this year is that the main way of submitting census data is going to be digital. One additional challenge is that a significant portion of the population does not have easy excess to internet in their homes. Further the population is aging. Public libraries will be locations to submit the census forms. Citizens will need to be informed of the change in the forms as well as the importance of the census count. The citizenship question is still unanswered. They are still waiting on the Supreme Court ruling to prepare census materials. The City and County should work together to try to obtain a local complete census count. There will be grant money available to fund initiatives to help out with the census.

Member Rohweder presented the monthly report from the Knox County Mental Health 708 Board. They will be meeting June 28<sup>th</sup> to finish reviewing the remaining applications to receive funding. After that they will be voting on applications. Next month he should have a comprehensive list of those who were awarded funding and also including the amounts of that funding. He commented that this has been incredibly overwhelming to read through all of the information in a comparative short length of time. This has been very rewarding. He also declared the support of the Mental Health 708 Board for proposed rural transit development. One of the challenges in Knox County is making available resources accessible.

Since there were no line item transfers, Agenda item 24, approve opening of the budget for line item changes, Agenda item 25, presentation of the proposed budget line item changes, and agenda item 26, approval of the proposed line item changes were removed from this agenda.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Amor to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of May 23, 2019 through June 26, 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, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Pass—Sandoval—(1). Motion carried.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson wished everyone a Happy and Safe Fourth of July.

Member Amor had no comments at this time.

Chairwoman Davidson addressed several topics. She spoke of the recent shooting in rural Avon, in which a Fulton County Deputy was shot and killed while in the performance of his duty. She expressed her thanks to the Knox County Sheriff's Department for sending aid to the scene. In law enforcement, anyone that steps out to help another and loses their life, it just shouldn't be. She wished everyone to be safe on the Fourth of July. Regarding the public comments of Connie Main, the Board has heard her and answered her questions. Elected officials can only do so much. There is really nothing further that the Board can do.

Member Hawkinson thanked Chairwoman Davidson for having a moment of silence in honor of the murdered deputy. He and Member Varner participated in a procession that day as this deputy was transported to Lewistown. There was a huge outpouring of public support as thousands of people were a part of this procession. They were displaying their support of law enforcement personnel. It is mind blowing to him to comprehend that a deputy was shot and killed in the line of duty, in response to a call. This was only about twenty five miles away. These things shouldn't happen. He also wanted to thank the Board for their support of mass transit. This is so needed by so many citizens of the City and the County. He also wished everyone a Happy and Safe Fourth of July.

Member Sandoval had no comments at this time.



Member Nache reminded everyone that the County Board is the keeper of the budget. She wished everyone a safe and Happy Fourth of July.

Member Bondi echoed the remarks regarding the fallen deputy. He also expressed his thanks to Chairwoman Davidson for reaching out to the Governor Pritzker.

Member Wilder commented that she is excited about the possibility of the rural transit system in the County. As a social worker she sees many people that have need of such a service.

Member Olinger commented that it isn't always easy to put on the uniform and know there you might not be coming home that night. These things are senseless and shouldn't happen.

Member Friedrich also commented about the shooting in Avon as this just a few miles from his residence. He feels bad for the citizens in Fulton County and for everybody. Fulton County is just a few miles from his house.

Member Hunigan shared his support and thoughts for the family of the fallen officer. This kind of hits home. Member Hawkinson and Member Olinger are also officers and first responders. The Board appreciates those who put their lives on the line for the betterment of our community.

Member Rohweder commented that tragedies like this cause us to refocus on the assets of our community. We all have a moral obligation to be bridge builders rather than trench diggers. We need to be working to develop strong communication between various groups in our community. We need to be working to make life a little better for others and grow together.

Member Varner shared her concern for the fallen officer's family.

Member Shreves had no comments at this time.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday July 24, 2019, 6:00 p.m., at the **Galesburg City Hall Council Chambers, Galesburg, Illinois.**

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Sandoval to adjourn. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Open Session adjourned at 7:33 p.m.