

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

August 28, 2019

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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, August 28, 2019 at 6:05 p.m.

The Meeting was called to order by County Board Vice-Chairman David Amor and upon roll call the following Members reported present:

District 1	Lyle Johnson
District 2	David Amor
District 4	Jared Hawkinson
District 5	Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval
District 1	Cheryl Nache
District 2	Robert Bondi
District 4	Todd Olinger
District 5	Brian Friedrich
District 4	Sara Varner

And those absent:	District 3	Pamela Davidson
	District 3	Tara Wilder
	District 1	Patrick Harlan
	District 2	John Hunigan
	District 3	Kyle Rohweder
	District 5	Todd Shreves

Also present were County Treasurer Robin Davis and County Clerk Scott Erickson.

County Clerk Scott Erickson delivered the Proclamation. Vice-Chairman David Amor led the Members in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. In lieu of a formal invocation Vice-Chairman Amor asked that a moment of silence be observed.

Vice-Chairman Amor asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none.

Vice-Chairman Amor asked for public comments.

Connie Main from Altona again addressed the Board. She commented that she has addressed them several times in the past about the same problem of stray dogs on her property and her problem neighbors. She has complained to the Sheriff multiple times and still received no answers from the Board. These neighbors are violating the law and so she is asking again.

There was another violation the previous night about illegal mufflers. These things are very disturbing to them. She continues to complain to the Sheriff's Office about the stray dogs and has done so for three years. These dogs have no registration, no vaccinations and no tags. There are no records for these dogs. Tickets for these stray dogs have not been prosecuted. No warrants have been issued, and there have been no consequences for their illegal actions. These neighbors have had loud music playing late at night. These neighbors have threatened them. She feels she and her family are being unfairly punished and held hostage. There have been false stalking orders against her and her family. These neighbors repeatedly break the law and yet she and her family are punished. These neighbors have not had to deal with any consequences for their actions. This is dictatorship. She wants answers.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meetings on July 24, 2019, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the meeting of August 2019 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of May 2019 in the amounts of \$119,304.50 and \$22,498.99 and public safety tax in the amount of \$198,172.06. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(9). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

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

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the Proclamation in Honor of the 127th Galesburg Labor Day Parade. Vice-Chairman Amor read aloud this proclamation. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

County Clerk Scott Erickson reported that recently he and Member Wilder were invited to a City Council Meeting. At that meeting the Historic Preservation Board presented this award from the Galesburg Landmark Commission to the County Board in recognition of Courthouse projects. Now he presents it to the full Board. It will be on display in the Courthouse Entry. Vice-Chairman Amor thanked the Landmark Commission for this award.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the new appointment of Emil Johnson as trustee to the Abingdon Fire Protection District. Information is included in the packets. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Varner to approve the re-appointment of Thomas E. Hoben as trustee to the Knoxville Fire Protection District. Information is included in the packets. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the new appointment of Dustin Courson as trustee to the Williamsfield Fire Protection District. Information is included in the packets. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the re-appointment of Paula Sanford and the new appointment of Sara Robison to the Knox County Housing Authority Board. Information is included in the packets. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Wilder to approve to bid and bring back for replacement computers. County Clerk Scott Erickson reported that last year this purchase was included in the budget of several departments. It is less costly to bid these replacement computers in bulk. Hopefully next month, the Board can approve the bids.

Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial and Clerk Committee. The meeting was held August 21. The monthly report is included in the packets. They have been busy during the summer with budget work sessions. So far they have had five of these meetings and have met with all of the major department heads. They are working to be able to present the over-all balanced budget for the County. He also brought a report about the County's compensation study. This study has been going on for several months. They have received a final draft of this study. However, the committee has not had the opportunity to thoroughly review it. It is not included on this agenda. Although, the Finance Committee has a copy of it, it is not yet a public document. The goal is to be able to present this compensation study to the full Board at next month's Meeting. They are moving forward.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the resolution on the deed of conveyance for PIN 99-13-106-003. Vice-Chairman Amor stated that this will put this piece of property back on the tax rolls. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the membership dues for the Western Illinois Regional Council for FY 2019-2020 in the amount of \$5,452.20. Vice-Chairman Amor explained that this organization consists of representatives from six area counties. In the past this organization has assisted the County to obtain some grants. The membership dues are based on the County's population. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich and Varner—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Nache to approve to bid and bring back for engineering services for the next two years. Vice-Chairman Amor explained that this hasn't been done for a while. Member Hawkinson added that the Board wants to exercise its due diligence. The committee is not unhappy with the services that have been provided. They are thinking of the tax payers. Member Friedrich added that the Board should remember that cheaper is not always better. There are other factors to consider. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Wilder presented the monthly report from the Nursing Home Committee. This meeting was held August 22nd. The minutes are in the packets. They discussed what they are going to do with lawn care, whether they will continue with the present arrangement or contract

it out to a lawn care business. They have tabled it until next season as they are almost done with lawn care for the season. The business manager of the Nursing Home will be moving on. They are looking closely at the candidates who have applied and forwarded these applications to Larry Lester for him to review and make his recommendation.

Motion was made by Member Wilder and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the bid for sewer repair work on Wing 4 of the Nursing Home. Member Wilder reported that the low bid is from AMP in the amount of \$17,659.00. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Hawkinson, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich and Varner—(9). Noes—(0). Pass—Sandoval—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Wilder and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the bid for roof repair at the Nursing Home. Member Wilder reported that the low bid is from Dowers Roofing in the amount of \$43,017.00. She added that the other bid was more than twice as much as the low bid. Information is included in the packets. Cody Basham from Klingner and Associates reported that that section of the roof dates back to the 80's.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich and Varner—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Wilder and seconded by Member Johnson to approve repairs to the Nursing Home van for \$5,187.71. Information is included in the packets. These repairs are for the 2005 van. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich and Varner—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Building Committee report. This meeting was held August 19th. They had some rather lengthy discussions. Last month he reported that the generator at the Mary Davis Home failed to activate due the failure of the automatic switch when they had the power outage. That has since been repaired. There will need to be some electrical repairs to the area around the generator. As regards the Sheriff's Department, the portable radios that the Sheriff's office uses were purchased about twelve or thirteen years ago, and are no longer being serviced. Right now when one fails, they are getting loaners. This subject will be addressed next month. The Sheriff's Department also replaced a kitchen stove. Also they learned that the roof is leaking more severely and is causing some issues.

Regarding the Building Committee, Member Johnson reported that he had met with the Smart Watt representative. There are three different levels of this suggested activity. No decisions have been made yet. There will probably be a special committee meeting to review these options and bring it before the full Board.

The spiral staircase in the Circuit Clerk's Office has been completed. The County Clerk will be issuing appropriate documents to bid and bring back for a storage facility at the Mary Davis Home. This will be presented next month. There was a discussion about looking at alternate locations for the non-judicial offices in the Courthouse. There are space limitations and they will be investigating other locations. The architects have advised that something needs to be done about storage in the Courthouse.

Member Friedrich presented the monthly Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Highway, Veteran's, and Landfill Committee report. Chris Gray is doing research about the new marijuana laws and how that will affect Knox County. She will present that information next month.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve ZBA Case # AM-02-19—Text Amendment to be added to Appendix C, The Solar Energy Ordinance, under the permitted/conditional uses: “Solar Energy Gardens for Schools/School Districts in all Zoning Districts will require a conditional use permit.” Information is included in the packets.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich and Varner—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve ZBA Case #CU-10-19—Conditional Use Permit for a Solar Garden in the “R” Zoning District filed by the Williamsfield Community School District #210, filed by Superintendent Tim Farquer. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich and Varner—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Sidwell Base Project Contract to Migrate Cadastral Data Sets into Parcel Fabric for the GIS Department. Information is included in the packets. GIS Director Bill Lotz explained that Sidwell has partnered with the County to develop a new model. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich and Varner—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Nache to approve the change orders for the concrete pad at the Landfill for a total cost of \$3,650. Member Friedrich explained that years ago when the maintenance shed was constructed they did not put a concrete pad in front of it. The change order is because they realized it needed to be a little thicker than what was originally planned for the heavy machinery to go into the building. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich and Varner—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the purchase of a pressure washer for the Landfill. Member Friedrich explained that the current pressure washer is old and has been there for a long time. They plan to keep this old one for parts. Mr. Clear estimated the total cost to be \$6,000. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich and Varner—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Varner to approve the low bid for bridge replacement in Elba Township; Section 148-04114-01-BR. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich and Varner—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the low bid submitted by Varsity Striping of Champaign, Illinois, for pavement striping, Knox County, Section 19-00000-00-KC, in the amount of \$85,519.20. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich and Varner—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. This meeting was held August 8th. Updates were presented about the food safety programs. Recently two awards were presented to the Health Center. The LIHEAP program is being wrapped up for the year. They recently conducted a performance survey to gauge their clients' satisfaction with the services that they receive at the Health Center. This study reveals that some clients do have transportation problems getting to and from this facility.

Member Varner presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. She reported that the Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, Jessica Linder has stepped down and they are looking for another individual to fill that position. They will greatly miss her and this is a huge loss. At this point the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau is investigating becoming its own entity, separate from the Chamber of Commerce.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 Committee. This meeting was held August 15th. He was not able to attend. However, he did get some information. Not much action was taken. They did discuss the retirement of Galesburg's Chief of Police. They also directed the treasurer to invest more funds into a CD.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. He announced that former Aldi's location will be the site of multiple retail spaces. The anchor store will be owned by Nature's Treatment of Illinois which is an adult use cannabis business. The main space will be subdivided into four businesses, one of which will be a coffee shop. In other news, recently two businesses have opened in downtown Galesburg. One is a bookstore, Wordsmith Book Shop, and the other is a nutrition store, Nutrition on Main. KCAP has worked with both of these businesses which are located in the downtown area and are close to each other. Their next CEO class started meeting last week. They began with business etiquette and will begin touring businesses next week. He also mentioned some local business that are hiring right now. Additionally, the Chamber of Commerce has a jobs page on their web site, www.galesburg.org.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the Prairie Hills Resources Board. This meeting was held August 15th. They are working on the final steps of putting some marsh property into their conservancy. They have a challenge grant for some funding for equipment and updating for trails in the Nature Preserve. According to the terms of this challenge grant, if Prairie Hills raises \$7,000 these sponsors will match it with \$21,000. The Brownsfield Assessment Project has been moving along. One parcel in Galesburg has been accepted for review.

Member Johnson presented the monthly report from the United Council of Counties. Member Johnson reported that there was no meeting in August. The next meeting is in September.

Vice-Chairman Amor presented the monthly report from the Western Illinois Regional Council. He reported that there was no meeting this month.

Member Rohweder was not in attendance to present the monthly report from the Knox County Mental Health 708 Board.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the opening of the budget for line item changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich and Varner—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Proposed budget line item changes are presented 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, Amor, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich and Varner—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Nache to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of July 25, 2019 through August 28, 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.) Member Hawkinson added that there was another bill for the Sheriff's Office to be included in the amount of \$150.00. The invoice is attached to that.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich and Varner—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson had no comments at this time.

Vice-Chairman Amor encouraged everyone to enjoy Labor Day and attend Galesburg's Labor Day Parade.

Member Hawkinson noted that this is his first year to be on the Finance Committee and to be a part of budget process. He has learned a lot. He encouraged the public to try to pay attention to the budget process. The revenue streams are shriveling and yet costs are increasing. We all need to pay attention to how elected officials and department heads are spending money. The County Board does have the final say on the purse strings. As the revenue streams are shriveling, some tough decisions will have to be made. Everyone should pay attention.

Member Sandoval had no comments at this time.

Member Nache wished everyone to enjoy the Labor Day Holiday. The Board should continue to do its due diligence for the taxpayers.

Member Bondi expressed his thanks to Vice-Chairman Amor for chairing this Meeting.

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

Member Friedrich thanked the department heads. The Assessor's Office has had a very challenging time in recent years, including challenges with the winery, the solar projects and next is the legalization of recreational marijuana.

Member Varner had no comments at this time.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2019, 6:00 p.m., at the Galesburg City Hall Council Chambers, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Olinger to adjourn from this Open Meeting until the next scheduled Meeting of the Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(10). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.