

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

**December 30, 2019**

STATE OF ILLINOIS        )  
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COUNTY OF KNOX        )        SS

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held at the Galesburg City Hall, Galesburg, Illinois on Monday, December 30, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

The Meeting was called to order by County Board Chairman 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 2	John Hunigan
District 4	Sara Varner
District 5	Todd Shreves

And those absent:        District 1     Lyle Johnson  
                                  District 3     Kyle Rohweder

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

County Clerk Scott Erickson delivered the Proclamation. Chairwoman 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.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for public comments. Three individuals addressed the Board to voice their support for the Orion Wind Project.

Steve Gibbs addressed the Board in reference to the Orion Wind Project. He is a farmer and the Highway Commissioner for Copley Township. He noted that as a society we are shifting away from fossil fuels and moving toward renewable carbon free sources of energy such as wind generation. Wind energy provides the opportunity to harvest a natural renewable resource on our

land for the benefit of the community. This is a win-win opportunity all around. The Orion Wind Project would generate such power. Orion has worked with land owners to sign contracts that have eliminated problems that some wind farms have had. Local farmers have had a difficult growing season and need to diversify. Wind power would help to eliminate some of the unpredictable factors that farmers deal with. Upon completion of the project, Orion leaves the wind farms better than they found them. He believes that Orion will be a good partner to have in their community. The potential tax revenue should benefit the township and community. He would like to see this project proceed. He has a solar project on his farm and reports positive results and thanked the Board for approving his permit.

Ryan West, from Altona, addressed the Board. He has a small business in Altona. Approximately 80% of their work comes from local farmers. He spoke in favor of renewable energy, and the Orion Wind Energy Project. The tax revenue would benefit the community and the ROWVA School District. He is a member of the ROWVA School Board and the Altona Fire Protection Board. There are limited funds available unless they increase taxes. This wind farm project would generate tax revenue that would benefit the district.

Matt Johnson, from Altona and also on the ROWVA School Board, addressed the Board. He is a fourth generation farmer. There are currently two wind mills on farms in Henry County and there has been nothing but good results with them. There hasn't been any trouble with them damaging anything. He feels that there should be good results with Orion coming into their community. He signed up four pieces of property for the Orion Project, hoping to get two wind mills up. It should be a very beneficial project, not only for his family but also the ROWVA School District. They are anticipating an annual tax revenue of \$750,000 for the school. That money will go a long way towards educating more kids, or providing extra-curricular activities.

Andrew Bowman addressed the Board and also voiced his support of the Orion Wind Energy Project. There is a wind energy project out of Kewanee. Currently one of those turbines has a broken arm. When local contracts were presented to landowners, this matter was taken into consideration. These repairs will have to be made to keep these turbines operational. Thus the land owners would continue to be paid. They have thought about contingencies to protect land owners. These contracts address problems of construction, reconstruction, and destruction. If there is a problem such as a broken turbine blade, they will have to take care of it.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on November 26, 2019, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of December 2019 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of September 2019 in the amounts of \$109,980.77 and \$17,893.83 and public safety tax in the amount of \$179,403.12. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Proclamation for January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. A copy of this proclamation is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—

Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Nache to approve the reappointments of Luke Raymond and Greg Bacon to the Knox County Mental Health Board to serve a three year term. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the appointment of Roland “Rollie” Paulsgrove as a replacement County Board Member for County Board District 1. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

County Clerk Scott Erickson administered the oath of office to Roland “Rollie” Paulsgrove as the replacement County Board Member for District 1. The Board welcomed him back. Mr. Erickson reported that there were now thirteen Board Members in attendance.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the letter of support for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee. Mr. Dwight White, chairman of this Committee, came forward to accept this letter of support. Chairwoman Davidson read this letter aloud.

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

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the contract changes to the Highway Engineer’s contract for Duane Ratermann. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the contract changes to the County Assessor’s contract for Chris Gray. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Vice-Chairman of the Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, Recorder and Clerk Committee, Member Bondi presented the monthly report from that committee. The meeting was held December 18th. The monthly report is included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Amor to approve the membership dues to United Council of Counties (UCCI) in the amount of \$440.00. Information is included in the packets. Chairwoman Davidson added that the County gets back much more from this organization than they give.

Roll call vote to approve the membership dues to United Council of Counties (UCCI) in the amount of \$440.00 is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the following six deeds of conveyance: PIN-17-04-132-005, PIN-11-10-430-010. PIN-90-03-353-007, PIN-99-11-304-013, and PIN-99-14-204-010-, 011. Member Bondi commented that this action allows these properties to return to the tax rolls. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the bid for architectural services to be provided by Klingner and Associates. Information is included in the packets. Five companies presented bids. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Amor to approve an IT Training Program. This training consists of three courses at a total cost of \$9,900. Member Bondi added that this training addresses the subject of cyber security.

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

Member Bondi thanked County Treasurer Robin Davis and Member Amor for having this committee so well organized. This is a hard committee to chair.

Member Wilder presented the monthly report from the Nursing Home Committee. The report is included in the packets. Recently the Nursing Home received an award from the American Health Care Association for 2020 for their commitment to improving the lives of those they serve. They are very excited about that.

Motion was made by Member Wilder and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the bid for the engine software upgrade for the HVAC system at the Nursing Home in the amount of \$6,000. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Wilder and seconded by Member Olinger to approve the bid for asbestos abatement on Wing 2 at the Nursing Home in the amount of \$61,000. Member Wilder reported that the committee thought the bid might be higher than this amount. This bid was submitted by Schemel Companies, Inc. and they are scheduled to begin January 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

Motion was made by Member Wilder and seconded by Member Nache to approve the low bid submitted by Hein Construction for renovation on Wing 2 at the Nursing Home at an estimated cost of \$185,000.

Chairwoman Davidson reported that the residents had been moved from Wing 2 to Wing 3 for the renovation work. She is happy that they are moving forward and removing carpet that has been down for fifteen years and putting down new vinyl. She expressed her thanks to Cody Basham from Klingner and Associates for all of his assistance. She is upset with the maintenance staff at the Nursing Home as they have not done a thing. The Friends of the Nursing Home have purchased the paint. A beauty shop will be included in this area to be funded by the donations of residents' families. Since this is a dementia wing it will be good to have a beauty shop there. This is just one step in moving forward which will beautify the Nursing Home.

Mr. Basham reported that the asbestos removal is expected to take two or three weeks once they begin. There might be a delay with IDPH to get the necessary permits for the asbestos removal. Sometimes it takes sixty days to get this permit.

Chairwoman Davidson commented that she had called Dan Swanson in an effort to try to speed up the permitting process.

Mr. Basham also reported that there might be a moisture mitigation system that would have to be a part of this renovation. The estimated total cost would then be \$242,000.

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

Motion was made by Member Wilder and seconded by Member Bondi to approve to bid and bring back for new flooring and updates for Wings 3 and 4 at the Nursing Home.

Chairwoman Davidson reported that this was discussed during the Finance Committee Meeting. They are looking into obtaining a loan to do this. Before they proceed with the loan process, they need to determine the actual cost. The carpeting is just like Wing 2 and has been down for over fifteen years. It is really a bad idea to have carpeting in a nursing home facility.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—Friedrich—(1). Motion carried.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Building Committee report. This meeting was held December 16th. The Mary Davis Home did receive their second payment of the year from the State of Illinois. They are not as far behind as they have been in past years. The Unisex placards have been ordered, which will be installed on the doors of all single stall bathrooms.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the authorization to hire for a counselor position at the Mary Davis Home. Member Hawkinson reported that the Committee voted unanimously to approve hiring someone for the counselor position at the Mary Davis Home. This was also approved by the Personnel Committee. This

would add a third counselor position. Currently there are thirty five staff members at the Mary Davis Home. Of that number seven are funded by Knox County entirely. They are expecting the State of Illinois to fund this new position. The County's portion would be \$18,765.00 for each of the two current counselors. They are still the County's employees and the State reimburses the County. He doesn't foresee a problem with this.

Roll call vote to approve the authorization to hire for a counselor position at the Mary Davis Home is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Hunigan presented the monthly Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Highway Department, Veteran's, and Landfill Committee report. This meeting was held December 17th. The report is in the packets. They discussed a concern with the Veteran's Assistance Department as they are saying that they cannot advertise due to their bylaws which say that they are not allowed to advertise. The committee has asked that the State's Attorney review and suggest revisions to these bylaws. They want to be able to use some of their funds to advertise their services. Another concern is that office has an issue with their HVAC system as they say that it is either too hot or too cold. Member Hunigan did phone MSI to coordinate with them so they can take a look at that.

The Zoning Office reports that Chris Gray has been working with Ken Springer on the resolution for recreational marijuana. They have drafted such a resolution that is mostly modeled after the resolution from the State of Illinois. Mr. Springer had also worked with the City of Galesburg to draft their resolution. The County's version has been forwarded to the State's Attorney for him to review. The Board will probably be looking at approving this resolution in the near future.

The Landfill's communication tower is up and operational. Mr. Clair reports that the internet speed is a lot faster. The Highway Department has started their three man night crew December 1. There is a vacancy and that maintenance position has been offered to an individual. Another employee will be retiring this year so there will be another vacant position.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the reappointment of Jeff Jefferson to the Knox County Board of Review to serve a two year term. Member Hunigan stated that this term goes from January 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021. Information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Bondi—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve allocation of \$20,000 towards the purchase of a used fuel truck for the Landfill. Member Hunigan reported that this was something that was discussed last year. At the time they couldn't find anything that seemed to be suitable. They want to try again to find one.

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

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the bid for a pressure washer for the Highway Department. Member Hunigan reported that cost is \$7,830 to purchase a new pressure washer. Highway Engineer Duane Ratermann reported the existing unit is thirteen years old and rusted out.

Roll call vote to approve the bid for a pressure washer for the Highway Department is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. He reported that a draft of the minutes of this meeting is included in the packets. In the coming year they are anticipating 19,075 visitors.

Member Hungan presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. He reported that this was his first meeting with this organization. They are actively searching for a new executive director and hired a firm, Search Wide Global, to assist them with this search. They have put together a promotional packet for this purpose. However, the Board collectively was not impressed with this packet, which is now being revised. It will be updated and then presented to potential applicants. They have approved a three year tourism promotion agreement with the City of Galesburg, which will extend from January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2022 at a cost of \$190,000 per year, which will be prorated after the conclusion of each year. They also approved the lease agreement with for the Visitor's Bureau Building in Galesburg at a cost of \$10 per year.

There is an updated visitors' website at [visitgalesburgil.com](http://visitgalesburgil.com). Their next meeting is January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 Committee. He reported that there was no quorum and therefore there was no meeting. This meeting will be rescheduled in January.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. He reported that normally this is a slow part of the year. The Knox County CEO Program has been busy recruiting for next year's class. This is a program that has positively been changing young people's lives. KCAP has been busy planning events such a showcase that will focus on the health care industry to be held the first weekend of March. KCAP will be doing a planning process and would like input from the County Board and elected officials.

Member Johnson was not in attendance to present the monthly report from Prairie Hills Resources Board.

Chairwoman Davidson reported that there was no United Council of Counties Meeting last month.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Western Illinois Regional Council. He stated that he does have a written report but did not get it in time to include in the packet. They will be contracting with other organizations to promote and assist the census projects. He

also reported the executive director has stepped down. They have appointed an interim director and are working to establish a search committee.

Member Rohweder was not in attendance to present the monthly report from the Knox County Mental Health 718 Board.

Since there were no budget line item transfers, the following items were removed from this agenda: Item # 32, approve opening of the budget for line item changes,; Item # 33, presentation of proposed line item changes; and Item # 34, approval of proposed line items changes.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Olinger to approve claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of November 27, 2019 through December 30, 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—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

#### STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Amor had no comments at this time.

Chairwoman Davidson wished everyone a wonderful New Year and she is thankful that Member Paulsgrove has returned to the Board.

Member Hawkinson wished everyone a wonderful New Year and commented that he is glad that Member Paulsgrove is now part of the Board. As a child Member Hawkinson grew up with Member Paulsgrove's children.

Member Sandoval stated that as the old man on the Board he can wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Member Nache welcomed Member Paulsgrove to the Board and wished everyone a safe Happy New Year. She stated that it is a pleasure to be part of the Board.

Member Bondi wished everyone a Happy New Year. He also welcomed Member Paulsgrove back to the Board. He also commented that his thoughts and prayers are with Member Johnson and his family. He thanked Mayor Pritchard and the City Council for allowing the Board to the use the Chambers of the City Hall. He enjoys it very much.

Member Wilder wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed Member Paulsgrove back to the Board.

Member Olinger had no comments at this time.



Member Friedrich welcomed Member Paulsgrove back to the Board. This is long overdue.

Member Paulsgrove expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to be back on this Board. He appreciates Robin Davis for all of her hard work on the budget.

Member Hunigan welcomed Member Paulsgrove to the Board. He wished everyone a Happy Safe New Year. He commented that Hate Crimes across the Country have risen. There is much work there that needs to be done and we must work together.

Member Varner commented that other Members had said it all.

Member Shreves commented that he is glad to see Member Paulsgrove back on the Board. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 6:00 p.m., at the Galesburg City Hall Council Chambers, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Sandoval to adjourn until the next scheduled Meeting of the Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.