

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

**January 22, 2020**

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, January 22, 2020 at 6:07 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 1	Roland “Rollie” Paulsgrove
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. Member Hawkinson asked that agenda item # 19, approve to bid and bring back for climate controlled storage at the Mary Davis Home, be removed from this agenda. This has already been taken care of.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for public comments.

Patricia Ripperger addressed the Board. She read aloud a copy of the complimentary letter that she had sent to the employees of the Knox County Nursing Home. Despite the budgetary challenges, they have a great facility. Her husband was a patient in this facility for almost two years before his recent passing. She was there to feed him nearly every day and witnessed the wonderful loving care that he received. She cannot thank these employees enough. It gave her great peace of mind to know that he was cared for and his room was always clean. This staff shall continue to be in her prayers and she encouraged them to keep up the good work. The County has a great facility and they need to keep it up.

Lynn Sutton addressed the Board. He lives near the boundary line between Henry and Knox County and is a Knox County farmer. He spoke in support of Orion Wind Energy Project as it would bring additional tax revenue into the local communities, the schools, and the County. Last year the tax revenue from the three wind farms in Henry County was \$1,900,000. The schools receive 40% of that revenue. Henry County's budget is in the black and they even have a surplus. That is the county perspective of this. From a farmer's point of view, last year was a difficult growing season. It is good to have incidental income that is not tied to agriculture. The average pay out to the land owner for the wind turbines was approximately \$9,000. The private sector received approximately \$2,000,000. In the future as this project is presented to the Board, they should consider the advantages in approving this wind energy project.

Deja Jenkins addressed the Board. She works in the Courthouse as an Illinois Justice Corps Fellow. This organization offers legal advice to Court House patrons. She asked for the Board's assistance in obtaining access to a law library in the Courthouse. This would be very beneficial for their clients.

Chairwoman Davidson responded that there is no extra room in the Courthouse. It is pretty much land locked inside and outside.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Amor to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meetings on December 30, 2019, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of January 2020 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of October 2019 in the amounts of \$110,523.01 and \$24,726.41 and public safety tax in the amount of \$181,717.59. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Varner and Shreves—(12). Noes—Paulsgrove—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the proclamation of February as Black History Month in Knox County. Chairwoman Davidson read aloud a copy of this proclamation, a copy of which is included in the packets. Five Members of the local NAACP came forward to accept this proclamation. There will be various upcoming free community events highlighting Black History. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the memorandum of understanding for census complete count expenses with Western Illinois Regional Council. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets.

Member Amor stated that there will be statewide efforts in every County to insure as complete census count as possible. From the standpoint of representation and federal dollars, this is crucially important. Some State, County and local funding is directly dependent on the census which determines the population totals. There is an administrative grant from the State of Illinois to help fund this census count to the various committees that are being set up. It would be advantageous if Knox County also could be involved in such a committee, beyond just the City of Galesburg. In order to qualify for funding assistance, the County would have to approve and sign this memorandum of understanding with WIRC (Western Illinois Regional Council).

Roll call vote to approve the memorandum of understanding for census complete count expenses with Western Illinois Regional Council 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 Sandoval and seconded by Member Nache to approve the request for permission to nuisance trap on Stegall Landfill.

County Clerk Scott Erickson explained that this has to do with trapping beaver at that location. A letter was forwarded to him to forward to the Board from someone who wants to nuisance trap at the Stegall Landfill, which is managed jointly by the City of Galesburg and Knox County. A copy of this intergovernmental agreement to maintain post closure of this facility, is included in the packets. One of the County's responsibilities is to control the population of the beaver at that landfill. This person contacted the County that he wants to nuisance trap beaver at this landfill. He is not asking for any reimbursement for animals caught.

Member Hawkinson questioned if there is an indemnity agreement and if this person has the proper licenses. He asked that the original motion be amended to reflect "pending verification of proper licenses".

Chairwoman Davidson agreed that proper licenses should be verified. Additionally proper insurance should be verified.

Member Bondi questioned if there is a starting date and an ending date.

Mr. Erickson replied that he did not know.

Member Hunigan questioned if this is an actual contract or more a matter of written permission. The County should not enter into any contracts if they don't have to do so.

Chairwoman Davidson suggested that this agreement run for one calendar year ending December 31, 2020.

Member Sandoval and Member Nache agreed to amend their original motion.

Roll call vote on the amended motion to approve this permission to nuisance trap on the Stegall Landfill pending verification of proper licenses and insurance and such permission to expire December 31, 2020 with provision to renew this permission for the following year, 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 Amor presented the monthly report from the Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, Recorder and Clerk Committee. The meeting was held January 15th. The monthly report is included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the resolution to abate the levy for General Obligation Alternate Revenue Bonds, Series 2010A and

Series 2010B for tax year 2019 (Build America and Recovery Zone Bonds.) A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Member Amor added that this is something that they do every year, as the County does have some alternate forms of revenue.

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 Bondi to approve the annual dues to Prairie Hills Resources in the amount of \$300.00. 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 budget change for Knox County Mass Transit Grant Acceptance. Member Amor explained that this is basically to create a revenue line to make the County eligible to receive a grant for the Knox County Mass Transit System. There is a good possibility that the County could receive this grant. Information is included in the packets.

Chairwoman Davidson added that this would include any funds given to the County for any transportation grants. For now they would just a put a dollar in there to keep it open.

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 Friedrich to approve the contract for online sales of County surplus equipment with Purplewave. Member Amor explained that it the past the County did not have a uniform way of handling surplus equipment. This is a company that will advertise this equipment on line. The County will then receive revenue from the sales of this surplus property. 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 Amor and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the financing option for the compactor at the Landfill. Information is included in the packets. Member Amor explained that this was put out for bids and they received two bids. The County will be financing \$537,270.90. The bid that that committee is recommending is from First Midwest Bank at an interest rate of 2.9% for a term of forty eight months.

Member Bondi commented that this is good rate. However, he feels that the Treasurer should be handling these financing options as she is in a better position to deal with the banks.

Chairwoman Davidson responded that they can look into it but they don't want to overwhelm that office with a group of 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 Amor and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the contract with Equitable Life Insurance Company. Member Amor added that this is to allow the County to establish a 457B plan which would be similar to an IRA plan or 401K for government employees.

County Treasurer Robin Davis stated that this would offer this service to County employees.

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 Wilder presented the monthly report from the Nursing Home Committee. The report is included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Wilder and seconded by Member Shreves to approve to bid and bring back for financing options for Nursing Home flooring and remodel projects. Chairwoman Davidson reported that they had starting working on the floors in Wing 2 January 20<sup>th</sup>.

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.

Motion was made by Member Wilder and seconded by Member Amor to approve a billing program change to Eprovider Solutions. Member Wilder explained that the company that is currently doing the billing at the Nursing Home is recommending this company as it is easier to work with. It is also \$100 cheaper per month.

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 write-offs for the Nursing Home in the amount of \$47,491.62. Member Wilder explained that the accounting firm WIPFLI, that is currently assisting the County to collect on these old accounts, recommends that this amount be written off as it too old to be collectible. Some of these accounts date back to 2015.

Member Amor questioned why this didn't turn up sooner.

Chairwoman Davidson responded that the previous billing person left only paper copies of some of these filings. As WIPFLI continues to review the records there might be additional bills that will also need to be written off.

Member Nache noted that in her experience with the County Board and the Nursing Home Committee, recently there have been a lot of write-offs and questioned why now this is happening. This is worse than she has ever seen it.

Chairwoman Davidson added that the new billing person is cleaning up the records and more of these old bills are being discovered. They are finding every little thing, some of which they didn't know about.

Member Friedrich commented that there were years when there were no write-offs at the Nursing Home and there should have been.

Member Bondi questioned if they have reserved funds for bad debt.

Chairwoman Davidson responded that they have not done so.

Roll call vote to approve write-offs for the Nursing Home in the amount of \$47,491.62 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.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Building Committee report. He was absent from this meeting was held January 13<sup>th</sup>. The minutes are in the packet. The Mary Davis Home did receive another payment from the State. This one is the amount of \$85,473.17. They also discussed the Senior Police Academy Program.

Member Hunigan presented the monthly Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Highway Department, Veteran's, and Landfill Committee report. This meeting was held January 14<sup>th</sup>. The report is in the packets. He presented an update from the Veteran's Affairs Office. They revisited their bylaws. According to those bylaws, they can do advertising. The committee advised them to advertise the services that they provide. Another matter of business is that the Landfill received a letter from the Illinois EPA. For some reason after a lot of years, they have been subject to a potential fine that apparently exempt trash has not been reported properly. Mr. Clair drafted his response as to how the Landfill is going to go forward. He also is looking into how larger landfills handle this, which also received the same letter saying that this matter was reported incorrectly. There could be a very significant fine, depending if the Illinois EPA decides to pursue it. The Assessment Office reports that the Board of Review Hearings are coming up. There are 102 hearings that are scheduled.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the ordinance for recreational marijuana in Knox County. A copy of this ordinance and details are included in the packets. Knox County will not be allowing any on-site consumption of cannabis. The State's Attorney believes that this ordinance does meet the legal requirements. Ken Springer and the Assessment Office worked the language of this ordinance.

Member Nache commented that she doesn't see how this is legal on a local level when it is not legal on a national level. She is against the legalization of recreational marijuana.

Member Paulsgrove commented that despite what people say that this will not bring any more crime in our area, he believes that it will. There will be increased problems in the City of Galesburg, Knox County and the State of Illinois. It is still not legal federally.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Bondi, Wilder, Hunigan and Shreves—(6). Noes—Hawkinson Sandoval, Nache, Friedrich, and Paulsgrove—(5). Pass—Olinger and Varner—(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance Resolution, Section 20-00000-00-GM for 2020. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets.

Member Hungan reported that the County is required to pass this resolution every year which appropriates the funds for the Motor Fuel Tax, for purchasing materials for the maintenance of County highways. This year's amount is \$1,147,226. The majority of these funds

will be earmarked to stabilize 5.4 miles between Highway 15 and Highway 4 in Victoria. They will also use part of these funds to purchase 1,600 tons of rock salt at an estimated cost of \$120,000.

Roll call vote to approve the Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance Resolution, Section 20-00000-00-GM for 2020 is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Varner and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairwoman Davidson reminded Members who are assigned to outside committees that they are to send their minutes to County Clerk Scott Erickson so that they can be included in the packets. Members are to keep their comments brief.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. A copy of the minutes had been provided to them. In the future, meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. instead of 6:30 p.m.

Member Hunigan presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. There was not an actual meeting this month. They are still searching for an executive director for the Visitors Bureau. The Children's Museum will be hosting the Midwest Museum Roundtable Conference March 23. This will bring 75-125 people to Galesburg and the County.

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

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. He clarified that on the cannabis ordinance, Chris Gray did all of the writing on that. He presented a few highlights from KCAP. They are still recruiting for their CEO Program. They have been visiting Knox County High Schools to promote this program. Information is also available online at [knoxcountyilceo.com](http://knoxcountyilceo.com). KCAP will be hosting an Industry Showcase, spotlighting healthcare, March 5th. KCAP's offices are located at 220 E Main St, Galesburg, above the YMCA.

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

Chairwoman Davidson reported that there was no United Council of Counties meeting this month. The next meeting is February 22.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Western Illinois Regional Council. He reported that the next meeting will be held February 5<sup>th</sup> and he hopes to attend remotely. The executive director has resigned. They are looking for another person to temporarily fill this position until they hire a full time director.

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

Since there were no budget line item transfers, the following items were removed from this agenda: Item # 31, approve opening of the budget for line item changes,; Item # 32, presentation of proposed line item changes; and Item # 33, approval of proposed line items changes.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Amor to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of December 31, 2019 through January 22, 2020 (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 Varner questioned if proper documentation had been submitted for a bill from the Sheriff's Office, which has to do with someone attending a special conference. This is actually a credit card bill.

County Clerk Scott Erickson responded that he had not received such documentation.

Member Varner also questioned a bill for paint from the Nursing Home.

Chairwoman Davidson responded that this has to do with the remodeling for Wing 2. This bill did come through the committee.

Member Varner questioned how much per hour someone is being paid.

Chairwoman Davidson responded that the amount of this bill is \$3,900. The committee did approve this with the other bills.

Member Wilder added that this was discussed in the November committee meeting.

Chairwoman Davidson suggested that the Sheriff's bill in question could be pulled.

There was much discussion about paying this bill, due in part to the nature of it being a credit card bill.

County Treasurer Robin Davis responded that it could create a problem with the credit card company, as there could be additional interest charges. This is a County credit card.

Mr. Erickson questioned if Member Nache and Member Amor were willing to amend their original motion to pull this bill from the Sheriff's Department. They were willing to do so. Mr. Erickson stated that the policy has been that if the Board denies payment of a credit card bill that it goes back to the that department will reasons for that denial. The original policy stated that interest fees would be paid by that individual card holder. But that part of the policy had never been enforced.

Chairwoman Davidson stated that the issue is that the documentation should come from the Sheriff's Department.

Mrs. Davis stated that they should be able to get that documentation in about a week.

Member Hawkinson stated that protocol should be followed. This is the County's money.

Roll call vote to pay all of the bills with the exception of this bill from the Sheriff's Department, pending further documentation, 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, Chairwoman Davidson, Member Hawkinson, Member Sandoval and Member Nache had no comments at this time.



Member Bondi thanked Michelle Gabriel, Public Health Administrator from the Knox County Health Department, and Wayne Carl, Director of Planning and Public Works for the City of Galesburg, for attending this Meeting.

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

Member Paulsgrove commented in reference to the consent agenda and paying per diem claims for meetings. Even though a Member cannot physically attend a committee meeting they can attend remotely and they would still receive compensation? He does not agree with this policy. Members should only get paid if they are physically in attendance.

Member Hunigan commented in reference to the marijuana ordinance. Subjects like this invoke quite a bit of emotion. It is inappropriate when someone disagrees with someone to think abnormally. We need to agree to disagree. Legalization of recreational marijuana is a state law.

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

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 6:00 p.m., at the Galesburg City Hall Council Chambers, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to adjourn from this Meeting until the next scheduled Meeting of the Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.