

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

March 25, 2020

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COUNTY OF KNOX)

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held via telephone conference on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, at 6:02 p.m. Due to the coronavirus pandemic and rules for social distancing, this action was necessary.

County Clerk Scott Erickson explained how this meeting would function.

The Meeting was called to order by County Board Chairman 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 5	Brian Friedrich
District 1	Roland “Rollie” Paulsgrove
District 2	John Hunigan
District 3	Kyle Rohweder
District 4	Sara Varner

And those absent:	District 3	Tara Wilder
	District 4	Todd Olinger
	District 5	Todd Shreves

Also present was 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 in remembrance of the former Board Members who have recently passed away as well as for all of the people affected by the corona virus and for our nation.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. Member Hunigan stated that agenda item #23, bid and bring back for bridge replacement, Galesburg Township, Section 19-05115-00-BR, should be “approved” and not bid and bring back.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for public comments.

Knud K. Ullerup, from Altona addressed the Board. He had attended the recent Zoning Committee Meeting. He commented in reference to the wind turbine project. This should not require 30,000 acres but it should be negotiated with the developer to a lower amount of 5,000 acres. This project would still be good for the County.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Nache to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meetings for February 26, 2020, 2) claims for Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of March 2020 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of December 2019 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of December 2019 in the amounts of \$131,019.73 and \$36,384.62 public safety tax in the amount of \$212,898.93. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairwoman Davidson expressed her thanks to everyone who thought outside of the box and worked with technology to make this telephone conference Board Meeting happen.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Proclamation of Emergency/Disaster in Knox County. This is due to the coronavirus. A copy of this proclamation is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Amor to approve the resolution on emergency action authorizing during emergency or disaster events. This is due to the coronavirus. Chairwoman Davidson stated that she feels this is necessary to approve this emergency resolution for Knox County. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Amor to approve the resolution for emergency paid in vacation authorization. This is due to the coronavirus. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Varner to approve the emergency policy for coronavirus/COVID-19. A copy of this policy is included in the packets. Chairwoman Davidson explained that in the event that a County employee or member of his/her family needs to be quarantined, the County will pay wages to that person for the length of time that they are out of work. As the news worsens about this virus, this is the guideline from the federal government and also approved by the County's labor attorney, Keith Braskitch.

Roll call vote to approve the emergency policy for coronavirus/COVID-19 is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the documentation form for capital assets and loans. Chairwoman Davidson added that this form will include information as to which budget line item will be affected. A copy of this form is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Varner to approve the authorization for bank loan signatures of County loans. Chairwoman Davidson explained that recently banks have been asking for the signature of the Chairperson of the Board or the Vice-Chairperson. These individuals will be the only authorized persons to be granted the authority to sign for these bank loans.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, Recorder, and Clerk Committee. A copy of the report is included in the packets. Due to the concerns with the corona virus, this meeting was held in the second floor courtroom at the Courthouse, March 18th. They discussed the County's response to this virus, as regards social distancing. The committee listened to several concerns regarding some County employees that work in tighter spaces. The committee advised that some Department heads explore the option as to whether some employees could work from home. They also discussed having committee meetings and the Board meeting held remotely.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the resolution on deed of conveyance for PIN-99-16-378-008.

Member Wilder logged into this telephone conference.

Roll call vote to approve the resolution on deed of conveyance for PIN-99-16-378-008 is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Wilder to approve to bid and bring back for health, life, dental and vision insurance. Member Amor stated that last year they approved a vendor for a one year contract. The committee would like to solicit bids for hopefully a three year contract.

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

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Nache to approve the ordinance for Knox County cannabis retailer's occupation tax. A copy of this ordinance is included in the packets. The tax will be 3.75% for any businesses in the unincorporated areas of the County and .75% on businesses in municipalities within the County.

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

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the purchase agreement for Albert Monitoring Services. Member Amor explained that this a company that works with internet security. They will be monitoring the internet activity to the County's internet infrastructure to guard against attacks and intrusions. There is an initial fee of \$900 and an annual fee of \$10,680. The total is \$11,580. Information is included in the packets.

County Clerk Scott Erickson added that this will help with the County's security protocols and will provide a high security level and monitoring. He recommended that the Board approve this agreement.

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

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve the letter of support for the Galesburg Tourism and Visitor's Bureau. Member Amor added that this is something that is done annually. A copy of this support letter is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairwoman Davidson stated that since the Nursing Home is now with the Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Highway Veterans, and Landfill Committee. Their agenda items will be presented with that committee.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Building Committee report. This meeting was held March 16th. This report had been provided to the Members.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Paulsgrove to approve the purchase for two transport vehicles for the Mary Davis Home. There were three bids. This is not a State bid. The committee is recommending the low bid from Bruce Foot in the amount of \$23,020 per vehicle. This vehicle is a Chevrolet Impala with four cylinders. These funds will come out of the special line item in the budget. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Hunigan presented the monthly report from the Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Highway Veterans, Landfill and Nursing Home Committee. This is their first meeting with the combined

committees. In order to practice social distancing due to the COVID-19 virus, he formally requested that this committee meeting be moved from the annex to the Courthouse. The monthly report from the Nursing Home is more of a status report presented from acting administrator Ms. Wiesen. There have been some interviews for the Administrator position. There have been some good candidates.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Amor to approve to bid and bring back for a food vendor for the Nursing Home. Member Hunigan added that the purpose of this is to improve the quality of the food as it has not been good. They would also like better pricing.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Wilder—(1). Motion carried. (Telephone connection with Member Wilder was temporarily lost.)

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Nache to approve temporary consultant services for Cory Huddleston and Stacey Bainter, who is the Nursing Director at Carl Sandburg College. She will be teaching the staff regarding proper coding and how to chart to provide documentation. Cory Huddleston was previously the dietary manager at the Nursing Home. He will be assisting to re-organize the kitchen and get it cleaned up.

Chairwoman Davidson corrected this motion and stated that the contract is just for Stacey as Mr. Huddleston is already a PRN employee. Member Hunigan and Member Nache agreed to amend their original motion.

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

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Bondi to approve bad debt write off in the amount of \$28,789.30 for the Nursing Home. Member Hunigan added that as they were going through the books, they found this amount that is not collectible. This is in addition to other amounts of bad debt that have been previously presented to the Board.

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

Member Hunigan presented the monthly Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Highway Department, Nursing Home, Veteran's, and Landfill Committee report. This meeting was held March 17th. The report is in the packets. The Landfill is trying to deal with this COVID-19. One way is to minimize employee interaction with the public. Some routine customers have set up an account, to minimize the transfer of cash. Other customers are using a charge card. They have set up a camera. They don't want to limit the services of the Landfill, but do want to minimize the public's interaction with the office. This is meant to be a temporary solution to something that is unprecedented. Really the County is trying to implement precautions in all of the departments.

Chairwoman Davidson disagreed with this plan and stated that this should have discussed prior to this Meeting. This should have been presented to the full Board before it was implemented. Customers should be able to take care of their business at the Landfill.

There was much discussion about these changes at the Landfill.

Member Hunigan responded that patrons can still do their business. They can set up an account during that visit or pay with their charge card. The Landfill is trying to minimize their possible exposure to this virus.

Landfill Administrator Rod Clear explained that they have discussed options with other landfills in the area. This is how some of these others sites are handling this. The only reason that someone would be turned away is if someone showed up with a mattress or a couch. The Landfill cannot accept credit cards and probably won't be able to do so until this virus passes. When this virus is over, they will resume business as usual. As some of these routine customers set up an account, they will be billed at the conclusion of each month. They are one of the few facilities that still does residential drop-offs. This is also the policy at the Kewanee Transfer Station. Their customers have to have an account. He has reviewed the current policies of about twenty other mid-western landfills. This is how they are handling business at this time. By nature this is very unclean business. This is also the recommendation from CDC.

Chairwoman Davidson reiterated that matters of this kind should go through the committee and then be presented to the full Board.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve to bid for bridge replacement, Galesburg Township, Section 19-05115-00-BR. Member Hunigan stated this is located a mile southwest of Galesburg on St. Joseph Road. The low bid was \$187,681.

Roll call vote to accept this low bid is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(12). Noes—Johnson—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve ZBA Case #CU-01-2020-construction of an agricultural facility for storage and sale of fertilizer, liquid petroleum gas, petroleum in bulk, seed, and feed in the "A" Agricultural District. Member Hunigan reported that the Zoning Board had no objections to this request.

Member Nache commented that it is difficult to vote on matters like this when it is not included in the Member's packets. It is hard to decide if it right or wrong.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Wilder, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(11). Noes—(0). Pass—Nache and Bondi—(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the proposal for GIS aerial imagining. Information is included in the packets. The cost for his proposal is \$77,000. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Knox County Board of Health. Members had been provided a copy of this report. He reported that the Health Department has been very busy with the COVID 19 issues. At the direction of the Governor they are doing their best to keep residents advised about this virus.

Member Hunigan presented the monthly report from the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. Due to the COVID virus the Visitors Bureau has been very quiet. However, they have narrowed down their search for their director's position to two candidates.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 Committee. He reported that there was no meeting this month. There will be an update next month.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. During this time of crisis they have updated their Facebook page to be an informational page. They are working with businesses to fill out applications for financial assistance in this time of crisis. They are providing information about the disaster relief funding that is available. That day there were two additional State relief programs implemented. They are updating their Facebook page constantly. They are advising small businesses to keep in contact with their lenders during this time of crisis. It is vitally important for small businesses to maintain communication with their banks and credit unions. He encouraged people to support local restaurants as some are still doing carry-outs. He noted that all KCAP events that were to be held this spring have been cancelled.

Chairwoman Davidson reported the Member Johnson has not been able to attend the Prairie Hills Resources Board or the United Council of Counties (UCCI). However due to this virus, the UCCI has not been having their meetings.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Western Illinois Regional Council. There is to be an audio meeting March 31. He will have a report after that date.

Member Rohweder reported that the monthly meeting for the Knox County Mental Health 708 Board had been cancelled due to that pandemic. That will be rescheduled.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the opening for the budget for line item changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Proposed line item changes are presented in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Nache to approve the proposed line item changes as presented. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of February 27, 2020 through March 25, 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. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache,

Bondi, Wilder, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0).
Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson had no comments at this time.

Member Amor offered praise to all the department heads and elected officials as we go through uncharted territory with this corona virus emergency. He was impressed with their consideration and thought as how to continue to provide the essential functions of the County while still protecting the County employees and the public. He also offered this praise to emergency personnel in the community, as well as the staff at the Health Department. It seems that the population of the County is taking this virus seriously. Although as of yet, there are no confirmed cases in the County, there are confirmed cases not that far away.

Chairwoman Davidson thanked the County Board Members, County employees, department heads and elected officials are all working and thinking outside the box to help our community. She echoed Member Amor's comments. Her thoughts and prayers are with those who are struggling as a result of this virus.

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

Member Nache echoed the comments of Member Amor and Chairwoman Davidson. Likewise her thoughts and prayers are with those in the community. The Health Department must be going crazy right now. Even still Michelle Gabriel was available to answer her questions. She wished Board Members and community residents to stay well and healthy. This is not just us but is around the world. We should continue to share the love.

Member Bondi commented that his thoughts and prayers are with everybody.

Member Wilder had no comments at this time.

Member Friedrich asked everyone to be careful. Everyone should take care of themselves so that they do not pass this virus on to others.

Member Paulsgrove encouraged everyone to stay in and stay safe. Continue to put the hearts in the windows and spread the love.

Member Hunigan thanked all the department heads for thinking outside the box

Member Rohweder thanked offered his thanks to the department heads. He feels for the blue collar workers during this virus emergency. He also offered his thanks to the Knox County Area Partnership. As a small business owner himself whose business has been deemed not essential, KCAP has done a great job of trying to help him and some of his friends to find helpful resources.

Member Varner encouraged everyone to stay at home and stay healthy.

Michelle Gabriel from the Knox County Health Department then brought an update to the Board regarding this virus. The Unified Command has been formed and they meet daily at 5:30 p.m. There is a lot of good in this community. She is proud of how this County has come together to help with food and volunteers. Testing is still going on, but so far they have not had a positive case. They are still asking for the public to stay home. If you are mildly ill, stay at home. The best advice is to stay home. There is a lot of good stuff going on.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, 6:00 p.m., at the Galesburg City Hall Council Chambers, Galesburg, Illinois, unless otherwise informed. This could be another telephone conference Meeting.

Chairwoman Davidson thanked the IT Department and County Clerk Scott Erickson for making this telephone conference possible.

Motion was made by Member Bondi 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 7:35 p.m.