

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

April 22, 2020

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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COUNTY OF KNOX) SS

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held via telephone conference on Wednesday, April 22, 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 4	Todd Olinger
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 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 for all of the people affected by the corona virus and for our nation.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. No items were added or deleted.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for public comments.

Adam Jayquit, from the Henry/Knox County line area addressed the Board. He expressed his strong support for the creation of the wind farm project in Knox County

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Nache to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meetings for March 25, 2020, 2) claims for Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of April 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 January 2030 in the amounts of \$95,216.49 and \$27,884.23 public safety tax in the amount of \$159,744.27. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the Proclamation of May as Motorcycle Awareness Month in Knox County. 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, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Varner to approve the appointment of Zach Crawl to the Emergency Telephone Safety Board of Knox County. A copy of his resume is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Nache to approve the appointment of Richard Allen as Trustee to the Galesburg Sanitary District. This is a re-appointment for Mr. Allen. A copy of this request is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the appointment of Larry Mackie as Trustee to the Williamsfield Sanitary District. This is a re-appointment for Mr. Allen. A copy of this request is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Varner to approve the appointments of Mike Morris and Donovan Godsil as Trustees to the Oneida-Wataga Fire Protection District. This is a re-appointment for Mr. Morris and a new appointment for Mr. Godsil. A copy of this request is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). 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. He reminded the Board that there will be contract negotiations starting this year for 5 of our collective bargaining agreements.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the ordinance authorizing issuance of not to exceed General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) Series 2020 in amount not to exceed \$3,300,000. Bond Counsel Kevin McCann explained that the refinancing of these existing bonds could realize a substantial savings to the County. They are asking for approval to put out the bid and allow the Treasurer to authorize the issuance of the bonds only if there is a savings realized. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the annual County Audit. Representatives from the auditing firm of Wipfli addressed the Board and reviewed the audit. Matt Schueler, senior manager with Wipfli, stated that the audit was actual completed a month earlier than usual and he thanked everyone for their hard work on the project. The County financial position is good the fund balance is currently at 51 days. Member Hawkinson asked about the 51 day cash on hand. Mr. Schueler stated that was for the general fund only. Member Nache asked about any concerns or issues that the pandemic might present to the County financials. Mr. Schueler stated that they are monitoring events and that there should be a decrease in the flow of funds from the State. Member Amor thanked them for their presentation. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Abstain – Bondi (1). Motion carried.

Member Wilder logged into this telephone conference at 6:40 P.M.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Health, Life, Dental, and Vision insurance for FY2020-2021. Treasurer Davis explained that the stop loss on this proposal was up slightly, but the rest of the program remained the same. There would be no increase to the fixed costs for coverage. The County contribution to the health savings plan this year will be suspended. If the financial situation allows, this could be re-visited later in the year. The blood draw for participants to receive the discounted rate is waived and the blood draw is not required to get the discount. Participants can still utilize the preventative blood draw if they choose. 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). Abstain – Olinger (1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve Resolution postponing the due dates for the 2019 (payable in 2020) property tax payments. Member Amor stated that with the current situation in the State and Nation, it was the Board's hope to ease the burden to our taxpayers by delaying the due dates for the property taxes. The new due dates have the first installment due on July 15, 2020 and the second installment due on September 15, 2020. Member Nache expressed concern that the 15th date will coincide with the

new due dates for Federal and State income taxes. Treasurer Davis expressed the concerns of some school districts that the further delay of the due dates will put an increased hardship on their finances. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Rohweder, and Varner—(12). Noes—Nache (1). Abstain – Hunigan (1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the Resolution on modifications to fees and due dates for the 2020 County liquor license holders. County Clerk Erickson explained that the due dates for the liquor license renewals are normally May and October. Due to the fact that many of these establishments cannot be doing business during the stay-at-home orders from the Governor, he proposed to delay the first installment until after the business restrictions have been lifted and that they can start generating income again. There will also be a rebate for some of the fee during the months that they could not open. Hopefully this will allow the businesses to continue to operate in the future. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Hawkinson reported that there was no meeting this month for the Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, animal Control, and Building Committee.

Member Hunigan presented the monthly report from the Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Highway Veterans, Landfill and Nursing Home Committee. The Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a hearing on April 28 regarding the proposed wind farm project for Knox County. The search for a new Nursing Home Administrator is narrowing.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Amor to approve the purchase of three roll off containers for the Landfill. They need replaced and the remaining two containers will be repaired. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the low bids for the purchase of various motor fuel tax and non motor fuel tax items for the Highway Department. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the preliminary engineering services agreement for County Highway 3. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the contract for a new food vendor at the Nursing Home. Multiple bids were received and the recommendation is to go with the bid from Kohl foods. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Wilder to approve the distribution of nursing home shirts to employees honored in March. This is a good thing to recognize employees and to gain some free advertising when they wear the shirts in public. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Nache to approve the bid and bring back for therapy services at the Nursing Home. This was last bid in 2016. The acting Nursing Home Administrator has suggested that the revenue is less than it should be and the bidding process could help that situation. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Amor to approve the increased payment to CenturyLink in order to eliminate late charges. Due to the way the billing cycle is set, the CenturyLink bill at the Nursing Home is always past due. By paying one month ahead, the late fees can be avoided.. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the bid for lawn services at the Nursing Home. There was discussion about the validity of these bids. As the bids were never properly published, there was concern that the process should be rejected and bid properly. The motion to approve and second were withdrawn. Motion by Member Amor and second by Member Sandoval to bid and bring back for the lawn services at the Nursing Home. The acting Nursing Home Administrator stated that the same company that has already mowed once would do it again at a cost of \$425 per cut. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Amor to approve the write-off of a billing rate error for a deceased resident at the Nursing Home. It was discovered that the auditing company that is assisting with the billing made an error in the rate charged to a resident. That resident has since passed away, and they need to have this charge removed from their billing. The Nursing Home is going to ask that the Wipfli absorb this cost as it was their error.. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Nache to approve the bad debt write-off for the Nursing Home in the amount of \$41,171.80. This is just the latest in the bad debt write-offs that will need to be done. There should only be a few more months of these to process. The Acting Nursing Home Administrator has asked that the small amount bills that need corrected be done in-house and that only the large amounts be handled by Wipfli as we are paying them \$90/hour for their services. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). 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 pandemic the search for a new Director has been delayed.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report from the 9-1-1 Committee. He reported that there was no meeting this month.

Ken Springer presented the monthly report from the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. He is very excited about the upcoming wind farm project as it will be an economic boost to the County and other taxing bodies. He also spoke about the efforts that KCAP are focusing on in regards to business retention during the pandemic. The youth CEO program has had to move their showcase to the virtual format. This was a great group of students to work with.

Member Johnson reported on the Prairie Hills Resources Board. They held their meeting by phone and he was again elected President of that Board. He also stated that there was no call for the United Council of Counties.

Member Amor presented the monthly report from the Western Illinois Regional Council. They had to cancel their meeting this month.

Member Rohweder reported that the monthly meeting for the Knox County Mental Health 708 Board had been cancelled. They are working on plans to return back to business as soon as possible.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Amor 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, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Proposed line item changes are presented in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Amor 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, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois , for the period of March 26, 2020 through April 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. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson had no comments at this time.

Member Amor thanked everyone for their efforts during this emergency response. He knows that the masks and shelter requirements are hard on many, but it is helping. Keep up the good work.

Chairwoman Davidson thanked the County employees for their work during these hard times. She would like to showcase some positive things going on with the County employees on the County website. She loves seeing all the hearts in the windows around town..

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

Member Nache agreed with the previous comments. Please keep your distance and do not be hurtful on social media.

Member Bondi commented that everyone stay safe and you will all be in his prayers.

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

Member Friedrich thanked County Clerk Erickson and the IT staff for settings up and working the meetings..

Member Paulsgrove thanked Acting Nursing Home Administrator Marianne Wiesen for all her hard work and help. He liked that we would be saving money on the late charges from the phone company now. He also expressed his concern about Galesburg taking back the bus transportation system and how it would affect the work the County has done to set up a County wide system.

Member Hunigan thanked all the first responders on the front line and encouraged everyone to continue to follow the procedures for the pandemic.

Member Rohweder is excited about the proposed wind farm project coming next month. Even though some are concerned, the dire conditions that we are in will be greatly aided with the increased revenue.

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

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.

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—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.