

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

May 27, 2020

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF KNOX)

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held via telephone conference on Wednesday, May 27, 2020, at 6:10 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 Chair 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 3	Tara Wilder
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
District 5	Todd Shreves

And those absent: None

Also present was County Clerk Scott Erickson, County Treasurer Robin Davis, Circuit Clerk Kelly Cheesman, and County Coroner Mark Thomas.

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.

Chair Davidson asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. Chair Davidson added an update from EMA Chief Randy Hovind on the COVID-19 pandemic. Member Rohweder asked to remove the setback variance action item as it was not necessary for the County Board to approve.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for public comments. There were 25 people who addressed the Board in regards to the wind farm project. There were comments of both support and opposition to the project.

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 April 22, 2020, 2) claims for Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of May 2020 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of February 2020 and other claims for per diem from meetings. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Wilder, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Abstain—Bondi, Olinger—(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Amor to approve the appointment of Josh Hopping as a Trustee to the Galva Fire Protection District. Member Bondi asked about requiring the submission of resumes for all appointments. Member Nache stated that this was required only for new appointments. Member Bondi objected stating that we approved this requirement. County Clerk Erickson will check the resolutions to confirm the approved process. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Galesburg Fire Chief Randy Hovind addressed the Board about the COVID-19 pandemic and the emergency management team activities during this disaster. He said that we are at day 65 of having the Unified Command Center open and operating. With the decrease in the positive cases, the daily briefings that were happening 5 days a week will now be dropped to 3 days a week. Phase 3 of the Governor's reopening plan will start on Friday and they have been working with local restaurants to prepare outdoor seating that is allowed under this phase. Retail can also start to reopen and all will need to abide by the social distancing and mask requirements. The Phase 4 requirement for positive cases being lowered to 20% are currently being met. The County has had a high of 11% and is currently at 6% so we will have no problem making that criteria for the next Phase. He also thanked Michelle Gabriel from the Knox County Health Department for all her hard work with him during this crisis.

Member Hunigan presented the monthly report from the Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Highway Veterans, Landfill and Nursing Home Committee. He noted that action item for the setback variance was reviewed by the State's Attorney's office and that it did not require a vote by the County Board.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Amor to approve the decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals on Case#CU-02-2020 – request for a conditional use permit to locate and operate the Knox County Wind Farm as filed by Knox County Wind Farm

LLC. Member Bondi asked about the rights of adjoining property owners to build on their own land next to the wind towers. He was concerned that the adjacent property owners would not be able to build what they want on their land if it was next to a wind turbine. Mark Gershon from Orion stated that there would be no restrictions on the adjacent property. Member Friedrich asked about the issue with a 600 foot turbine versus a 50 foot turbine. Chad Long responded that the Knox County Ordinance is from around 2006 and it out of date with current technology. It is hard to find turbines under 500 feet and with 600 foot turbines it would require fewer turbines to get the desired output of power. Members appreciated the input from the persons who spoke during public comment. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—Friedrich--(1). Motion carried

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Amor to approve the employment contract with Marcos Perez as the Knox County Nursing Home Administrator. Member Hunigan stated that this was a two year contract with performance bonuses available each year. Member Nache stated that she could to agree with the salary amount. The amount was above that which was identified in the wage study and we should abide by the rates in that study. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Bondi, Wilder, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, and Rohweder—(9). Noes—Sandoval, Nache, and Varner--(3). Abstain—Olinger, Hunigan, and Shreves—(3). Motion carried

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the use of credit cards for payments by residents and families at the Nursing Home. Member Hunigan stated that the convenience fees charged by the credit card companies will be passed along to the card holder for each transaction. This will be a no cost option for the Nursing Home. 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 and Shreves—(2). Motion carried

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the bid for lawn care services at the Nursing Home of Bush's option number 2. Member Hunigan stated that he did not think this was a fair process as there were issues with the bidding last month. Bush is currently doing the work and they are happy with the service. County Clerk Erickson stated that when the new bid notice went out, there were no bidders that met the bid deadline. The previous bids should have been re-submitted and the only new bid to be submitted was received after the deadline time for bids. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(15). Noes—Olinger and Friedrich--(2). Abstain—Shreves—(1). Motion carried

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the bid and bring back for replacement exit doors, van, and bus for the Nursing Home. Member Hunigan explained that the doors are in bad shape and will cost around \$5,000 per door with 6 doors to replace. The van and bus are in bad shape and need to be replaced. Member Johnson said that the bus and van are bad as he has been riding in them. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich,

Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—Hawkinson--(1). Motion carried

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Varner to approve the bad debt write off for the Nursing Home in the amount of \$45,419.04. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the bid for County Highway 17 bridge project, Section 19-00161-00-BR. The cost of the project will be \$253,131 from Curnyn Construction. 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 Johnson to approve the Resolution on 2019 Supplemental Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance, Section 19-00000-00-GM. This is for the motor fuel tax maintenance of the highway system. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Paulsgrove to approve the purchase of a new tandem truck cab and chassis for the Highway Department. This will be to replace a 2007 tandem truck with over 157,000 miles. They will replace it with a 2021 Kenworth at a cost of \$112,941.00. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report for the Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Building Committee.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve the bid for masonry repair at the Mary Davis Home. There are funds in contingency to do this project, but it would wipe out the reserve. There will be an action item later to go out for bids for a loan for this project. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—Shreves--(1). 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 packet. He reported that the Committee was developing a letter to the budget managers to inform them to be prepared to present their plans for budget reductions in the amount of at least 15%.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the ordinance updating the Knox County Emergency Management. This is to update the emergency

management plan for the County at the request of the State. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Varner to approve the Resolution on deeds of conveyance. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve the intergovernmental agreement with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (Title IV-D grant) with the Knox County State's Attorney's office. Sabrina Stroops from the State's Attorney's office informed the Board that this grant pays for a portion of two attorneys salaries and is a three year contract. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve the Resolution on establishment of elected official's salaries for the offices to be elected in November of 2020. Member Amor stated that we must pass this salary recommendation at least 180 days prior to them taking office. There was discussion after the Finance Committee meeting that brought forward the fact that the Circuit Clerk salary was covered through 2022 by a resolution passed in 2018 that would have that salary match the County Clerk and County Treasurer salaries. The 2 remaining years of the Circuit Clerk salary would be set at 1-1/2% per year for each year. As for the Coroner, the proposed raise will be 1-1/2% each year for the 4 years of the term. Coroner Mark Thomas addressed the Board and stated that he should receive the same pay increases that the County Clerk and Treasurer received the last time they were elected. He stated that he works 24 hours a day every day as he is on call for the position. The fees for cremations are set to double next year which would provide plenty of funding for the raise. He feels the raises the other elected officials received were much higher than what he received and wants to be more equitable. Member Olinger stated that he has worked with the Coroner and he has a valid point of being on call 24 hours a day. There was discussion about splitting up the Resolution and voting on the offices separately.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the salary resolution for the Coroner to be at the following rates: 2021 at 7.5%, 2022 at 7.5%, 2023 at 1.5%, and 2024 at 1.5%. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Wilder, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(10). Noes—Bondi, Olinger, and Shreves--(3). Abstain—Nache--(1). Motion carried.

The original motion for the salary for the Circuit Clerk was voted next. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Wilder, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Shreves—(11). Noes—Bondi and Olinger--(2). Abstain—Nache—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the bid and bring back for financing the masonry repairs at the Mary Davis Home. Member Amor reported that the funding of this project would deplete the contingency and that financing options

would be the best way to handle the situation. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—Shreves--(1). Motion carried.

Chair Davidson announced that due to the length of this meeting that the reports from the external committees would be skipped. Please contact the Members that serve on those Committees if you have any questions.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Amor to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois , for the period of April 23, 2020 through May 27, 2020 (ordering that invoices be accepted and approved and that the County Clerk and County Treasurer by authorized and directed to issue County Warrants in payment of the bills. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Nache, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Shreves—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson stated he was glad to see everyone and he had received many calls on the wind farm project.

Member Amor, Cahir Davidson, and Member Hawkinson had no comment at this time.

Member Nache stated that even with the COVID-19 restrictions and precautions she hopes that everyone will continue to go about their days and think about those who cannot get out.

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

Member Friedrich hoped that we would get back to meeting in person soon.

Member Paulsgrove had no comment at this time.

Member Hunigan thanked Terri from the Zoning Department for all her hard work with the wind farm project. He will find a way to post the answers to the questions presented about the project to the County website.

Member Rohweder and Member Shreves had no comment at this time.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 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 Johnson to adjourn until the next scheduled Meeting of the Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.