

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

June 24, 2020

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COUNTY OF KNOX)

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held via telephone conference on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, at 6:28 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 4	Sara Varner

And those absent: District 3 Kyle Rohweder
 District 5 Todd Shreves

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

County Clerk Scott Erickson delivered the Proclamation. Chair Davidson led the Members in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. In lieu of a formal invocation, Chair Davidson asked that a moment of silence be observed for the death of George Floyd. Member Bondi asked for another moment of silence for the police and other heroes that are doing the right thing daily. Chair Davidson added essential workers and our Nation as a whole.

Chair Davidson asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. Member Hawkinson asked to remove the bid and bring back for performance contracting.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for public comments. Andrew Bowman addressed the Board and thanked them for their approval of the wind farm project last month. It is a thankless job to serve the public like they do and the Board did a great job in listening to all sides of the discussion.

Brittney Grimes spoke on behalf of the Galesburg Branch of the NAACP in support of the proposed statement of support to end systemic racism. Even though Galesburg was founded as an abolitionist town it is not free of segregation. She stated that black males earn 75% of white male's income. Black women are twice as likely to die in labor and the prison population is 40% black. This is an "all of us" problem and not just a "them problem". She thanked the Board for their attention to this issue and for the letter of support.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meetings for May 27, 2020, 2) claims for Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of June 2020 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of March 2020 and other claims for per diem from meetings. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the appointments of Donald Moffitt, Al Hayden, and Geoffrey Hurd as Trustees to the Knoxville Fire Protection District. The appointments of Moffitt and Hayden are re-appointments and the Hurd appointment is to replace the vacancy left after the death of Lowell Mannhardt. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the appointment of Russell Groeper as a Trustee to the Williamsfield Sanitary District. This is a re-appointment. Member Bondi asked about the lack of a resume for this position and asked if one could be obtained and added to the record. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Amor to approve the statement of support of the NAACP Galesburg branch request for demands to end systemic racism. Member Nache stated that this was the right thing to do. Member Amor stated that the present moment makes it hard to ignore the upsurge in our community. This gives us a chance to for widespread acceptance of the racial imbalance. This letter states what we support and encourage other agencies to work with the NAACP to address the shortcomings. He thanked the Sheriff for his going on record about his open door policy on this issue. Member Hunigan stated that racism is not just the use of the "n" word but comes in many forms. There are both direct and indirect forms and is an issue of community relations. Many people are not feeling that they

are not being heard. Chair Davidson stated that as an African-American woman and mother who has lived in Galesburg all her life she is saddened by the current events. The slogan should be “Make America Great Again no Hate Again”. Discussions should take place about these issues. Member Bondi emphasized the need for non-violent responses to the issues. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, and Varner—(10). 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 packet. He reported that the Committee was reviewing trends in the revenue and expenses and we are seeing a decline in revenue as expected. Circuit Clerk fines are down 12% but are expected to bounce back once the courts catch up on their backlog of cases.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the Resolution on Deeds of Conveyance. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the bid for the loan for Mary Davis Home project. The bid accepted was from Midwest Bank for a 10 year rate of 2.679% in the amount of \$355,000. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the stipend for the County Engineer for Landfill licensure for one year in the amount of \$2,000. Member Amor reported that over the past 3 years the Highway engineer has had his license to operate the Landfill. He has been paid \$6,000 a year for each of those years. Now the Landfill Administrator has his license and Duane’s license is up for renewal. There has been a consensus that it is valuable to have another person with a Landfill license to cover as a backup in case there are any issue at the landfill. The Finance Committee decided to reduce the stipend amount to \$2,000 for one year. Duane was alright with this reduction but did state that he wanted the full 46,000 if he were to have to do any work at the Landfill. As this information came after the agenda was set, it is not included in the motion. There was discussion about the modification of the action item. County Clerk Erickson stated that since the action item was specific in the details that it could not be modified. If they wanted to make changes, it would need to come back to the Board next. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(0). Noes--Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Nache, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, and Varner—(10). Abstain-Bondi-(1). Motion failed.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report for the Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Building Committee. In regards to the upcoming action item for performance contracting, Member Hawkinson was finally able to get a response from the State’s Attorney’s office in regards to the best way to proceed. They directed that a 10 day notice letter should be sent to SmartWatt notifying them that we are no longer going to use their performance

contract. This was voted down last September and legal stated that there was no time limit for the resolution.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Amor to approve the letter of intent for performance contracting with Mechanical Services Inc. Member Hawkinson stated that since February he has been trying to get a legal review of the options the County has for this project. Brian Kerr reviewed the letter from MSI and said that it was the same as the SmartWatt scope of services. The only change was the up-front costs that would be owed after the deliverables were provided. MSI will also finance the projects for the County up to \$2.5 million. This will be paid back with the cost savings we realize. It will also use local labor and resources that caused issues with the previous contract. Member Amor was fine with the SmartWatt plan as the breath of savings will be substantial. Chair Davidson asked County Clerk Erickson about the bid process for this type of project. County Clerk Erickson responded that this project was a 3 step process. When the bids went out for the performance contracting before, SmartWatt was the only company that bid the project. When the County decided to not pursue the project with SmartWatt, there were no other bidders to revert back to. MSI was a bidder in the final step of the process when the projects were identified, they did not bid on the performance contracting portion. Therefore, the project performance contracting portion needs to be re-bid with modifications so that we are compliant with bidding requirements. Motion to Table was made by Member Friedrich, and seconded by Member Johnson. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Davidson, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, and Varner—(10). Noes—Hawkinson--(1). Abstain—Amor and Paulsgrove—(2). Motion to table carried.

Member Hunigan presented the monthly report from the Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Highway Veterans, Landfill and Nursing Home Committee. The report is included in the packet. He reported to the Board that the nursing home will be required to do some COVID-19 restrictions with the residents and staff at the direction of the Illinois Department of Public Health. Also, dental care is being provided to the residents by the Health Department.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Nache to approve the therapy contract at the nursing home with ONR. Member Hunigan stated that the new company should be able to provide better service forms than the previous provider. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Davidson, Sandoval, Hawkinson, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Abstain –Amor—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the write-off of bad debt at the nursing home in the amount of \$42,620.31. Member Hunigan reported that there could be a few more months of bad debt to remove before it is over. Some of this debt goes back as far as 2015. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

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, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Bondi presented the draft minutes from the Board of Health meeting. The report is in the packet. Chair Davidson expressed her thanks to Michelle Gabriel and the Health Department team for their hard work during the pandemic.

Member Hunigan reported on the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. He stated that they are now down to 2 candidates for the executive director position. They will be conducting guided interviews with the candidates and the stakeholders.

Member Hawkinson reported on the 9-1-1 Committee meeting. New member Zack Crowl was sworn in at the meeting. There has been some interest in consolidation of services with some neighboring Counties. April presented the lowest call volume since 2015, but that trend quickly reversed in May. The call volume in May was the highest this year.

Ken Springer reported on the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. The group has secured a new business in Knox County that will utilize an existing building on the south side of Galesburg. They have 13 students signed up for the next CEO class. They are excited to get started with this group.

Member Johnson reported that he has been in phone contact with the Executive Director of Prairie Hills Resources but there is no news to report. The same goes for the UCCI group as they have not been conducting meetings.

Member Amor reported on the Western Illinois Regional Council. He had to miss the meeting last week but will forward any information to the Board.

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

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

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the budget line changes as presented. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson,

Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois , for the period of May 28, 2020 through June 24, 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, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson had no comment at this time.

Member Amor expressed his commendations to the NAACP group for their coming to the public bodies with their concerns and issues. He also thanked the Health Department and First Responders for their help during the pandemic. He hopes that this is heading in the right direction.

Chair Davidson thanked the NAACP and all those who stand up for justice.

Member Sandoval wished everyone a safe and happy Fourth of July holiday.

Member Nache thanked Michelle Gabriel and the Health Department for their hard work. She thanked State leaders that helped keep Illinois safe while other areas are having increases in cases. She encouraged all to wear their masks in public not just for themselves, but for the others who do not want to get sick.

Member Bondi told everyone to stay safe and to always look for the middle ground on issues.

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

Member Paulsgrove thanked Member Bondi for keeping a cool head in controversial times.

Member Hunigan thanked the NAACP for addressing the issues of racism. It is a difficult topic and will not just go away by itself.

Member Varner had no comment at this time.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 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 Amor 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 8:08 p.m.