

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

July 22, 2020

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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COUNTY OF KNOX)

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held via telephone conference on Wednesday, July 22, 2020, at 6:05 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

And those absent: 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 Congressman John Lewis and those who have passed during the pandemic.

Chair Davidson asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for public comments. There was no public comment

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular Board Meetings for June 24, 2020, 2) claims for Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of July 2020 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of April 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, Rohweder, and Varner—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Proclamation in recognition of American Wind Week 2020. Chair Davidson stated that this proclamation is a great addition to the start of our alternative energy journey in Knox County. 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 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. As April was a worse month in the pandemic these numbers will continue to decline.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Personnel notification directive. Member Amor discussed the reasoning behind the memo is to put departments on notice that we are watching the personnel expenses. Some are running high. Member Hawkinson shared his screen with some proposed language changes. Members Amor and Hawkinson will combine their language to complete the final version of the letter. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Roheweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

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

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the Bid and Bring Back for Workman's Compensation, Liability, and Vehicle insurance. Member Amor stated this will start the process of gathering information. 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 Amor and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the list of Election Judges for Knox County. Member Amor stated that the Party chairs had

reviewed and submitted the lists for approval. This will be for a two year appointment as is established by Statute. 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 Amor and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the wage increase for the Public Defender. Member Amor state dthat the State increased the salary of the State’s Attorney and the salary of the Public Defender must be 90% of that amount in order to be reimbursable through the State. 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 Amor and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the bid and bring back for Performance contracting services. Member Amor stated that the Sheriff Committee had deferred this action to the Finance Committee. The formal notification letter has been sent to SmartWatt to terminate the contract. We now need to formulate a Request for Proposal for this project that will be acceptable to the Board. We will need to check with the State’s Attorney and an engineer for advice on the development. Chair Davidson said that we will not be able to use Klingner for the engineering assistance as they are in the bidding process with MSI. We need to know what we are putting out for bid and without language we cannot go forward. Member Hawkinson stated that this has never happened before that we required language for the bid prior to the bid and bring back. Member Sandoval said we are putting the cart before the horse. Member Amor stated this is a language issue and the clock is ticking. With a long delay it may cause us to lose bidders. Member Hawkinson stated that we just approved a bid an bring back for workman’s compensation insurance without any language presented, now you want to change the rules and require it for this project. County Clerk Erickson stated that the language will need to be different than what was previously approved in order to avoid bidding issues. He also reminded the Board that this is a very specific type of RFP that could take some time to complete. Member Amor stated that we are not professionals in this field and will need to rely on the County Clerk to know his limitations in the drafting of the document and ask for assistance. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Pass-Davidson, Wilder-(2) Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Paulsgrove to approve the personnel time increases for staff working on Health Department pandemic response. Member Amor stated that this comes from the Board of Health and is a bonus for the front-line staff that have been working 7 days a week for the last 3 months. Chair Davidson stated that this was from grant money that the Health Department had secured.. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Hawkinson presented the monthly report for the Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Building Committee. He stated that he was absent from the meeting but that Member Amor ran the meeting. There were no action items to report

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 search for a County Assessor is still underway. The Nursing Home is starting weekly reports and have created a 6 month action plan.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the agreement for mowing and bailing at the landfill with Donald and Trent Trowbridge. This is a 3 year agreement. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Resolution establishing a speed zone on County Highway 15 on the East side of Oak Run. Member Hunigan reported that there have been concerns with the speed of drivers on this section of road. It about a 1-1.2 mile section and is very windy. A study was conducted and late May of 2020 and it was determined that this small section of the road should be reduced from 45 MPH to 35MPH. 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 Paulsgrove to approve the letter of engagement for legal representation for Orion Wind Farm road use agreement. Member Hunigan stated that this is common practice for Highway Departments to enter into legal assistance agreements for the development of the road use agreements. The cost will be paid by the wind farm developer.. 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 bid an dbring back for a commercial laundry dryer for the nursing home. Member Hunigan stated that with the onset of the COVID restrictions the Nursing Home has been forced to do its own laundry. They have 2 dryers on site and one of them is not in very good condition. They want to go out for bid to purchase a replacement dryer before the one goes completely out. Chair Davidson asked if it could be fixed. Member Hunigan stated that it was an old unit and parts are hard to find. Member Sandoval stated that he would hate to see the mess we would have if it went down. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Davidson and Nache-(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Nache to approve the bid and bring back for laboratory services at the Nursing Home. Member Hunigan stated that the Nursing Home Administrator is currently using a hospital lab for all tests. There are some issues of timely return of results. He desires to look for a vendor that can provide electronic response of results. It could be a cost savings as well. Member Amor asked if there is a current contract. Marco Perez responded that the contract was with the previous owners of the hospital. Since they have been sold, the contract is void. 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 draft minutes from the Board of Health meeting. The report is in the packet. He reported that they are still very busy with COVID pandemic and he appreciates the approval of the staff compensation.

Member Hunigan reported on the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. He stated that they have hired Randy Newcomb as the new Executive Director. He starts his new position on September 1st. he comes from Kentucky Lake Convention and Visitors Bureau and he is very excited to be in Knox County.

Member Hawkinson reported on the 9-1-1 Committee meeting. They will not have a meeting until August 20th.

Ken Springer reported on the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. They are still offering assistance to businesses that are applying for pandemic related grants and loans. Even though these are tough times there are some local businesses that are expanding and hiring..

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. Chair Davidson stated she joined a webinar from UCCI a couple weeks ago that was very informative.

Member Amor reported on the Western Illinois Regional Council. They were to interview candidates today but the COVID exposure has led to delays in the process. They will reschedule soon.

Member Rohweder reported on the Knox County Mental Health 708 Board. They have had a busy 2 weeks with grants submissions and presentations. They will be discussing applications and fund allocation soon. Despite many cuts this year they will be able to help a lot of organizations.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Nache 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 Rohweder—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Paulsgrove 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 Rohweder—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois , for the period of June 25, 2020 through July 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 Nache stated that the Veterans and Coroner did not have bills presented and therefore wanted them pulled from approval. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, and Rohweder—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson had no comment at this time.

Member Amor expressed his concerns about the first COVID death in the County and of the significant increases in positive cases. There are still major concerns that we need to pay attention to. Even though many are getting tired of the restrictions we should not return to the carefree lifestyles we had before this pandemic.

Chair Davidson stated that on July 17 we lost a strong and dedicated public servant in John Lewis. She had met him several times and he was instrumental in the Voting Rights Act.

Member Sandoval had no comment at this time.

Member Nache echoed the words of thanks for John Lewis. He was a good person. She has family members on both sides of the quarantine issue and has a family member that is afraid to leave their Chicago apartment. Do the right thing and be safe.

Member Bondi told everyone to stay safe.

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

Member Hunigan stated the civil rights movement lost a great man in John Lewis. He was a piece of walking history. He also stated that the pandemic is real and make sure you wear your masks.

Member Rohweder wished to thank Marcos Perez for his great work at the Nursing Home. There has been lots of positive progress. He also thanked Ken Springer for his hard work and service to the community. He also wanted to remind everyone that black lives matter..

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 26, 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—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.