

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

**August 26, 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, August 26, 2020, at 6:09 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 all our military troops, our Country, and our Nation as a whole.

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 Bondi and seconded by Member Amor to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular Board Meetings for July 22, 2020, 2) claims for Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of August 2020 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of May 2020 in the amount of \$114,720.59 and \$16,488.44 and public safety tax in the amount of \$193,160.74. 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 Amor to approve the Proclamation in recognition of labor Day 2020. Chair Davidson stated that this will be a different type of celebration but we should still honor the hard working laborers. 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 Nache and seconded by Member Paulsgrove to approve the letter of support for freight railroads requested by GoRail organization. Chair Davidson stated that freight rail service is very important to Galesburg and Knox County. 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 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 the fines and fees revenue from the Circuit Clerk and Judicial. Court activity is down about 12% and this has hit the court security fund very hard. State income tax revenue is down about 36% and property tax revenue could be hit also if no unemployment relief is provided. We should be alright this fiscal year, but will need to monitor this situation into the next fiscal year. We need to plan for a significant reduction in revenue.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the recommendation to reject bids for the tiling project at Landfill #4. Member Amor stated that Rod Clair had requested this action as the only bid received was way over their estimate for the project. The project will be reviewed and options for modification of the scope will be discussed. 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 and bids rejected.

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

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the Holiday calendar for 2021. Member Amor stated that this is the calendar established by the

Judicial and we have always adopted what they recommend. 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 Amor and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the annual dues for the Western Illinois Regional Council (WIRC). Member Amor stated that a list of the benefits to Knox County is included in the packet. This group also worked as the pass-through agent for some Census grant money that the County acquired. They do a lot of good work. 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 Amor and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the declaration of surplus property. Member Amor stated that the Zoning Department has a vehicle that is dead and they want to get rid of it. There is probably not much more than scrap value for it. Chair Davidson responded that all Departments that have surplus property should go through the proper procedures to dispose of the items. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, and Varner—(12). 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 the Mary Davis Home reimbursement from the State is now at 100%. They are still working on foundation repairs In order to complete this prior to the winter months. No progress yet on the performance contracting proposal.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Amor to approve the bid for the HVAC enclosure at the Courthouse. Member Hawkinson reported that there were 2 bids on this project with Hein Construction being the low bid at \$36,000. Recommendation is to accept the low bid. 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 Nache asked that the emergency car approval for the Sheriff be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Chair Davidson agreed. Member Hawkinson said we would get it on the special meeting agenda that will be coming soon.

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 there was someone at the Landfill that was willing to take the exam for Landfill Administrator.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the phone system replacement for the Highway Department. The current system is about 20 years old and is having issues. The bid was from CenturyLink for \$3,432.87 and licensure cost at \$2,479.68. County IT will install the system to help save money. 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 bids for various pipe culverts for the Highway Department. Member Hunigan reported that there was 1 bid for the project at \$59,973.26. Engineering estimate for the project was at \$61,000. 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 Bondi to approve the bid for pavement striping for the Highway Department. They have planned to contract 1,147,495 lineal feet of striping for an estimated cost of \$91,940. There was only 1 bid at a cost of \$95,826.96. The project is to be completed by October 31, 2020. The bid was over the estimate. 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 Varner to approve the bid for exit doors for wings 3 and 4 of the Nursing Home. Member Hunigan reported that there were 2 bids on this project also. Hein Construction was the low bid at \$36,000. The recommendation is to approve the low bid. Chair Davidson expressed concerns about changing the doors during the pandemic. It would mean displacing residents during the construction and putting them at risk. Discussion about options and potential to reject or delay the implementation of the project were discussed. The bids are usually only good for a 30 day period. It was finally agreed that the bid should be accepted and that the start of the project be delayed to allow the Nursing Home Administrator and our Engineer to review the best time to proceed. 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. He reported that they are still very busy with COVID and that the contact tracing project is moving along. Member Nache asked if the Health Department can enforce the Governor's emergency orders. There have been many events with over 100 people in attendance and no masks or social distancing. When people call the Health Department says there is nothing they can do about it. She would like the Health Department or law enforcement to go and tell these gathering to disperse or be ticketed. Health Department Administrator Michelle Gabriel responded that they have spoken with the State's Attorney office about options. They are not sure they could staff an enforcement operation to address these issues. Member Nache referred to the Peoria Journal Star article about stricter compliance by businesses or they will be fined. It is very lax now on masks. Member Amor asked about tasking law enforcement to drive by these gatherings to disperse the group. Member Hawkinson stated that this already happens. The Statute is not clear as to fines. Chair Davidson said she saw a wedding this weekend with over 150 people. This is about saving lives

Member Bondi leaves meeting and Member Shreves was finally able to make connection to the meeting at 7:00PM.

Member Hunigan reported on the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. He stated that the meeting was cancelled but the new Executive Director was starting on September 1st.

Member Hawkinson reported on the 9-1-1 Committee meeting. The meeting was cancelled and rescheduled until September 3, 2020.

Ken Springer reported on the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. The Census reporting rate for the County is currently at 69%. The northern part of the County is lagging behind in responses. The rate of response in Illinois is similar to that of Minnesota, Iowa, and Michigan. All persons are encouraged to complete their Census forms and return them. Member Nache asked about the PPP grants and issues with local banks. Ken responded that the current program is now out of funding but new funding may be in the works.

Member Johnson reported that he has been in phone contact with the Executive Director of Prairie Hills Resources. They have 2 new hires and are working on Brownfield grants. They are starting their Fall projects with noxious weeds.

Cahir Davidson reported that United Council of Counties is sending out information but not conducting meetings.

Member Amor reported on the Western Illinois Regional Council. They were to interview candidates today but he was not able to attend. They are hopeful to get an offer accepted by one of the candidates.

Member Rohweder was not in attendance at the Board meeting so there was no report.

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

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the budget line item changes as provided. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Varner, and Shreves—(13). 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 July 23, 2020 through August 26, 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. Chair Davidson asked if a letter could be sent out to the departments reminding them to watch their budgets and personnel lines as money is getting tight closer to the end of the fiscal year. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval,

Nache, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Varner, and Shreves—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

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

Member Sandoval wished everyone a Happy Labor Day and reminded everyone to remember our Armed Forces.

Member Nache echoed Member Sandoval. She reminded all that we are better together than we are separate. Be careful and stay safe.

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

Member Paulsgrove stated asked all to remember the good that is being done at the Knox County Nursing Home. They took amazing care of his mother before she passed. They showed compassion and kindness to all their residents and we should be proud of their hard work.

Member Hunigan gave his condolences to Member Paulsgrove for the loss of his mother. He also agrees that the Nursing Home staff has not let up on their great work during the COVID-19 crisis.

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

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 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 Paulsgrove and seconded by Member Nache 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 7:28 p.m.