PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD KNOX COUNTY, ILLINOIS

October 28, 2020

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COUNTY OF KNOX)	

And those absent:

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held via telephone conference on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, at 6:13 p.m. Due to the coronavirus pandemic and rules for social distancing, this action was necessary.

The Meeting was called to order by County Board Chair Pamela Davidson and upon roll call the following Members reported present:

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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 1	Lyle Johnson
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 our Nation.

Chair Davidson asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. Member Hunigan asked to remove Item #27 as the Zoning Department need to do some additional work on this prior to approval.

Chairwoman Davidson asked for public comments. Bill Lotz from the Knox County GIS Department addressed the Board with concerns about the County policy for random drug testing during the pandemic. He was made aware that an employee was sent for a random drug test and

was forced to sit in the waiting room for over an hour. The waiting room is shared with the Prompt Care office which is dealing with COVID-19 patients and when the employee asked if they could wait in their car, they were told no. He is asking that this process be suspended until the pandemic is over.

Rachel Sotelo from the Knox County Nursing Home addressed the Board about the issues at the Nursing Home. The staff at the Nursing Home is working through the pandemic and dealing with a variety of issues. They are requesting more money to help with the recruitment of new medical staff to the facility. This would help with mandating and overtime.

Sherry Novel also addressed issues at the Nursing Home. She had concerns about the employees being paid less than what you get to start working at Menards. They are taking care of family members and the Board is putting a price on people's lives. Both staff and the resident's families are upset.

Shiela Parkin addressed the Board about the transfer of supervision for the IT Department to a Committee. She urged the Board to reconsider their idea of taking the daily supervision of this Department from the County Clerk. The in-house supervision of that Department allows for faster response to emergency issues. This decision will slow the response time. A plan needs to be developed completely and not gone into quickly. She urged the Board to Table this action until a clear plan is developed.

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 September 23, 2020, 2) claims for Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of October 2020 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of July 2020 in the amount of \$117,216.85 and \$17,183.59 and public safety tax in the amount of \$195,968.75. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Nache to approve the Proclamation in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2020. Chair Davidson stated that the COVID threat has pushed this issue aside. We all need to be aware that this disease affects both men and women and everyone needs to make sure they are aware of the warning signs. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve the appointments to the Knox County Board Mental Health 708 Board of Deb Goodwin and Carol Maloney. Member Rohweder stated that it is a pleasure to work with both these individuals on the 708 Board and he highly recommends their re-appointments. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Varner to approve the appointment to the Maquon Fire Protection District Trustee of Tonya Donsbach. This is a new appointment. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson,

Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, and Rohweder—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Hunigan to approve the contract agreement with Duane Ratterman. Chair Davidson stated that this is a 1 year contract with a zero percent increase. She thanked Duane for working with the County during a pandemic and downfall in income to the County. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Nache to approve the creation of a new Knox County IT Ad Hoc Committee. Chair Davidson stated that this is due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Board needs to be more efficient. There has been a Committee in the past and the Committee can help the IT Department with its needs. Member Paulsgrove asked what is not getting done now that the Committee would be able to get done. He does not like the idea of another Committee. Chair Davidson stated this is a Committee of the Board to help the IT Department. The previous Committee had Member Bondi as a Member along with former Board Member Trisha Hurst. The Committee will relay concerns and issues from Department Heads to the IT Department. Member Bondi stated that previously those concerns were addressed by the Committee but overall supervision was handled by County Clerk Erickson. They wanted to make sure there was a method of communication back to the Board. Member Friedrich asked why this was not going through the Finance Committee. Member Amor stated that they want to get regular reports to the Committee and see the issues in print. The Board should set their priorities. Member Varner asked if Clerk Erickson would still be in charge of both the employees. Chair Davidson said they need to create the Committee first then they will change the supervision responsibilities. Member Bondi asked who would be on the Committee and who would be the chair. Chair Davidson stated that it would consist of Member Bondi, Member Hawkinson, and Member Hunigan with Member Bondi as Chair. Member Friedrich asked why this needs to be another Committee that will be collecting per Diems for meetings. Member Bondi stated he did not know that he was going to on this Committee let alone serve as the chair. Member Hawkinson stated that even if the supervision switch fails there still needs to be a Committee to report to the Board. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes-Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Wilder, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(9). Noes—Friedrich and Paulsgrove-(0). Abstain--Bondi and Olinger-(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Amor to approve the transfer of IT Department employees to the Building Committee for supervisory functions. Chair Davidson stated that the IT Department needs to report to a Committee like the Building Committee as it is involved in all parts of the County. The problem is that the Board does not have knowledge of their activities. The Department will be removed from Clerk Erickson as he is very busy. The Board is the IT Department employers and that responsibility should be with the County Board. They will run their own office at the direction of the Sheriff Committee Chair, followed by the Committee Vice Chair. The bills will be able to be seen. The biggest problem is that people are not filling out tickets and we will instruct all Departments to complete tickets so that workflow can be tracked. Member Bondi asked if Clerk Erickson will be

responsible for oversight of the Department. Chair Davidson said no. All Elected Officials will have the same amount of authority over the Department. The Department will report to the Building Committee for supervision. Member Friedrich asked if there was a transition plan in place as there are lots of things involved with the IT Department. Chair Davidson stated that the IT jobs did not change, just who they report to. Member Hawkinson stated that he has not spoken with Clerk Erickson, but they are not planning on transferring the supervision until after the Election as the IT is very involved in that process. He also expressed concern that there was some misunderstanding on social media in regards to this issue. He has received many calls about concerns that they are trying to remove Clerk Erickson from his job. This is not the case, as we are just looking to remove the IT Department supervision. Clerk Erickson runs a very tight ship and the IT Department is tighter than most any that he has ever seen. The fact that we have over 40 people signed in to listen to this meeting shows that there is a great concern for the safety of the Elections and the IT network. Member Hunigan echoed the concerns on the social media. We are in no way speaking negatively about the supervision by Clerk Erickson. Member Friedrich said that transparency is a huge issue. There is no information in the packet regarding this issue and that is what has led to some of the concerns about this change. He would like to see this item moved to next month so more discussion can take place. Member Nache was also concerned about the Department employees going amuck and starting a social media concern. Disciplinary action may be needed. Chair Davidson said that the Personnel Policy does address blogging and directs employees to not conduct any negativity to the County. Member Bondi expressed concern that it had not been discussed at the Committee prior to being brought to the Board. Chair Davidson stated that they did talk about this in Personnel Committee and they thought that the Chair should bring it forward to put the Building Committee in charge. Member Friedrich motioned and seconded by Member Varner to Table this issue. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Sandoval, Bondi, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, and Varner-(6). Noes--Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Nache, Wilder, Hunigan, and Rohweder-(7). Motion to Table failed. Member Hawkinson stated that that he wants to meet with all Departments and review their needs form the IT Department and will then meet with the IT Department to discuss the issues. Chair Davidson said this will give the IT employees a clear line of contact so they can do their jobs Member Friedrich asked if anyone had spoken with other Counties about how they handle IT. Chair Davidson said she did speak with City on how they handle the IT Department needs. She was told that they run their own departments with supervision by an employee in the department. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes-Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Nache, Wilder, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner-(7). Noes-Sandoval, Bondi, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, and Varner-(6). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the purchase of laptops for the County Board. Chair Davidson asked Treasurer Davis if this purchase could be covered under a COVID grant. Treasurer Davis stated that it could because it would allow the Board to see the bills that they cannot view in person due to COVID. Member Varner asked what happens if they don't approve the grant purchase once we have bought the equipment. Chair Davidson said that we would then have to pay the bill. Treasure Davis stated that the expenditures need to be submitted by the end of December so that the purchase needs to take place quickly. Member Amor stated that this would allow the Board to see report functions in CIC software that we can't now. Member Sandoval asked if they are guaranteed to be able to see what they are promising. He would hate to have us spend this money and not be able to see things. Chair Davidson stated that we are approving bills that we have not reviewed and are trusting the Committee Chairs to go through them. This is an injustice to the taxpayers. Member Friedrich asked the County Clerk to weigh in on the issue. County Clerk Erickson expressed concern that CIC is still developing the software to allow the Board to see the Bills in the way that they want. We have not seen any work product or final version of this program and therefore have not tested the capabilities of the program. He stated that it would be a very expensive project to undertake without any assurance that the program would work the way the Board desires. There are also some software costs that would be required in order to make the laptops work with the CIC software. The laptops could be used for the video meetings and would have larger screens than the IPad. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Nache, and Hunigan—(4). Noes—Hawkinson, Sandoval, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, and Varner-(8). Abstain-Rohweder-(1). Motion fails.

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. Several Funds are trending their expenditures ahead of their revenue.

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

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the Resolution authorizing an additional gate fee to be charged at the Knox County Landfill for the Building Fund. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the Resolution authorizing a transfer of portion of the gate fees to be charged at the Knox County Landfill. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the Resolution authorizing an additional gate fee to be charged at the Knox County Landfill for General Fund. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the Resolution authorizing allocation of interest funds earned from certain accounts at the Knox County Landfill to the Special Contingency Fund. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Nache to approve the Resolution authorizing allocation of certain gate receipts at the Knox County Landfill to the Special Contingency Fund. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, 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 Resolution on use of the Special Contingency Fund. Member Amor stated that these funds can be used for the Mary Davis Home, Building, and other funds. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the Letters of Engagement for annual audit with WIPFLI. Member Amor stated there are 3 letters this year. The general audit will include the Veterans Assistance Commission. There are also audit for the Circuit Clerk and Jail Commissary funds.. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve placing the County Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 on display. Member Amor stated that the Equalized Assessed Value for the County went up slightly. The County was able to actually able to reduce the County tax rate slightly. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Bondi to approve placing the County budget for Fiacal Year 2020-2021 on display. Member Amor thanked the Finance Committee, the Treasurer, and all the Budget Managers for their hard work on the budget. It is a very conservative budget. There has been revenue shortfalls this year and we expect more to come in the next Fiscal year. Member Nache is opposed to the budget as there are some Departments that have approve raises in the 10% to 15% range and while others have been asked to take no increases. It is an injustice to our workers. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(12). Noes—Nache--(1). 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 external repairs are completed but the inside repairs have not started yet.

Motion was made by Member Hawkinson and seconded by Member Amor to approve the appointment to the Sheriff Merit Commission of Darin Pitchford. Member Hawkinson reported that Mr. Pitchford is a great candidate for this position as he has a background in law enforcement. Member Nache stated that in 2020 there are 3 men serving on this Commission and there are no women or people of color. It is hard to believe that there are no other candidates available. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Bondi,

Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, and Varner—(8). Noes—Nache, and Wilder--(2). Abstain – Davidson, Hunigan, and Rohweder-(3). Motion 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. Revenue shortfalls and COVID-19 have affected the Nursing Home and their ability to take care of new residents.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Amor to approve the text amendment addition to the Knox County Zoning Resolution under Section 5.2 the "C" conservation zoning District and Section 5.202 Conditional Use. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes--Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(12). Noes—(0). Abstain—Friedrich—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Amor to approve the text amendment addition to the Knox County Zoning Resolution under Section 5.3 the "A" Agricultural Zoning District and Section 5.302 Conditional Use. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes--Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the bid for fuel at Landfill. Member Hunigan reported that they were recommending the lowest bidder which was Herr Petroleum. This is a substantial savings over the last contract. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes--Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the rate increase at the Landfill for calendar year 2021. Member Hunigan reported thatthey are proposing to increase the rates by \$1.00 for both in County and out of Couty customers. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes--Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the minimum charge increase for the Landfill. Member Hunigan stated that they are proposing to raise the minimum fee for 500 pounds rate from \$10 to \$12, and the 1000 pound rate from \$20 to \$24. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes--Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(12). Noes—Friedrich--(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Paulsgrove to approve the purchase of a truck body and accessories for the new tandem dump chassis at the Highway Department. These purchases have all been budgeted. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes--Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Motion was made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Hawkinson to approve the engineering agreement, supplement 2 for County Highway 10 bridge rehabilitation, Section 18-00043-01-BR. Member Hunigan reported that this bridge has had multiple issues and is in need of repair work. This project will be funded 80% from the State with the remaining 20% coming from the County and IDOT. This will be rehabilitation and not a replacement. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes--Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Friedrich, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, Rohweder, 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 welcomed their newest member to the Board after their approval last month by the County Board.

Member Hunigan reported on the Galesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. He stated that they discussed building renovations and employment agreements with the assistance of the new Executive Director.

Member Hawkinson reported on the 9-1-1 Committee meeting. He stated that there was another 911 telephone outage in the County. This is the fourth time that there has been an outage in 9 months. They had 3 close calls reported during this outage. When issues occur it takes about 5 hours to get all of the calls re-routed and person notified. This process gets reversed when the phone come back. They will be looking into the issues and the possibility of a new 911 system

Ken Springer reported on the Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development. He announced that UBER has started recruiting for drivers in the Galesburg area. He also reminded citizens that with the cold weather approaching, local businesses will have to cease outdoor dining. Please order take out or delivery from our local restaurants to help them during these restrictions.

There was no report for Prairie Hills Resources.

Chair Davidson reported that United Council of Counties are continuing with their Zoom meetings.

Member Amor reported on the Western Illinois Regional Council. They did not have a meeting this month. Now that the budget is completed for the County he will be able to redirect his attention to the group as there were always meeting conflicts.

Cahir Davidson reported on the Knox County mental Health 708 Board. She reported that Steve Watts has taken over as the Chair of this Board.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Varner to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of September 24, 2020 through October 28, 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—Amor, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Nache, Bondi, Wilder, Olinger, Paulsgrove, Hunigan, and Varner—(11). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Amor stated that we have 2 problems in the State – COVID resurgence and COVID fatigue. With COVID deaths increasing in the County we need to be even more vigilante for ourselves and others. Please wear your masks. He also encouraged everyone to make sure they vote. Vote for the Fair Tax amendment. He encouraged everyone to stay calm as the Election process in Knox County will be fine.

Chair Davidson thanked all the Elected Officials and Treasurer Davis for the long hours and dedication spent on the budget. This budget was not like any other we have done. We did great things and were still able to avoid layoffs. Please wear a mask for everyone.

Member Hawkinson thanked Treasurer Davis and employees for their budget work. He appreciates the County Clerk's office as they prepare for a big turnout on Election Day. We are looking at record turnout and the Clerk and his staff does a great job.

Member Sandoval stated that even with 15 Members on this Board we still come together to make the hard decisions. He thanked Treasurer Davis and Member Amor for all the work they did on the budget.

Member Nache thanked Treasurer Davis for the budget. She pulled another rabbit out of her hat. She also thanked the Department Heads for their work on the budget also. She asked everyone to wear masks and practice proper distancing. These precautions are not political as they affect everyone. Also please watch out for kids at Halloween.

Member Bondi echoed that everyone needs to be safe..

Member Wilde and Member Olinger had no comment at this time.

Member Paulsgrove thanked everyone for caring about our Country and for doing what we need to do to get through these tough times.

Member Hunigan thanked the Treasurer and Member Amor for their leadership. He also said that the simple thing of wearing a mask will do great things. He encouraged everyone to vote as this is the most important Election for us all.

Member Varner had no comment at this time.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 25, 2020, 6:00 p.m., via Zoom teleconference.

Chair Davidson declared this meeting stands in recess until the November meeting at 9:01PM.