

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

March 24, 2021

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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COUNTY OF KNOX)

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held in person at the Galesburg City Council chambers and via telephone conference on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at 6:10 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 Jared Hawkinson and upon roll call the following Members reported present:

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| District 1 | Roland Paulsgrove |
| District 2 | Robert Bondi |
| District 3 | Tara Wilder |
| District 4 | Jared Hawkinson |
| District 5 | Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval |
| District 1 | Darla Krejci |
| District 2 | David Amor |
| District 3 | Pamela Davidson |
| District 4 | Todd Olinger |
| District 5 | Brian Friedrich |
| District 1 | Cheryl Nache |
| District 2 | John Hunigan |
| District 3 | Kyle Rohweder |
| District 4 | Sara Varner |
| District 5 | Jeff Link |

And those absent: None

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

County Clerk Erickson delivered the Proclamation. Chair Hawkinson led the Members in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. In lieu of a formal invocation, Chair Hawkinson asked that a moment of silence be observed.

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

Chairwoman Hawkinson asked for public comments. There was no public comment at this time.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Varner to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular Board Meetings for February 24, 2021, 2) claims for Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of February 2021 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of December 2020 in the amount of \$123,775.88 and \$15,587.13 and public safety tax in the amount of \$206,263.29. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Davidson and seconded by Member Varner to approve the Proclamation in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Chair Hawkinson read the proclamation into the record. Member Nache stated that she was going to pass on this vote as it is just words on paper and never enforced. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(15). Noes—(0). Abstain – Davidson, and Nache. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the letter of support for Galesburg Tourism and Visitors Board. Chair Hawkinson read the letter into the record. This is an annual action item. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the appointment of Susan Vinson to the Knox County Board of Health. Member Bondi stated that Ms. Vinson is available for questions if necessary. Member Hunigan stated that this is a strong candidate and will bring knowledge to this position. Ms. Vinson stated that she is looking forward to working with the Board of Health. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the appointment to the Knox County Housing Authority Board of Latoya Carson. Chair Hawkinson stated that she will be serving in the resident commissioner position as required by State Statute. Her term will expire August 31, 2024. Member Davidson stated that she hopes everyone approves this appointment. She is a wonderful person and grew up in Galesburg.. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve the appointment to the Henderson Fire Protection District of David Nelson. Chair Hawkinson stated that this was in response to a resignation of Gene Nelson. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Nache to approve the appointment of Marlon Beal to the Knox County Director of Technology. Chair Hawkinson stated that Mr. Beal was the lone applicant for this position. He is currently the IT Specialist for the County. As was presented with the previously approved plan to start him at \$45,000 salary. After a 120 day probationary period he will be increased to \$51,000. This is in compliance with the K009 scale grade in the salary study. Member Davidson stated that he is an excellent candidate for this position. We will just need to get help for him. Member Rohweder stated that Marlon is always great to work with. Member Nache echoed the previous statements and Marlon is the only one to ever get her iPad to work. Member Amor stated that this is a big job to step into and it will be important to backfill the positions to get things done. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the contract extension for the Knox County Assessor. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Friedrich presented the monthly report from the Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, Recorder, and Clerk Committee. A copy of the report is included in the packet. There have been discussions on the COVID-19 money and plans. Treasurer Davis is checking on the rules and what we need to do. We need to get the rules first.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the budget schedule for FY2021-2022. The current plan is to open the budget to the Department Heads on April 26 and allow then direct entry into the system. Budgets entry will be due May 28 and the Finance Committee will start reviewing in June. Chair Hawkinson that Department Heads have concerns about getting the budget done early but after last year we did just fine. This is always a work in progress. Member Hunigan asked that we consider creating a task force to look at automation improvements in the County. We want to make sure we are spending the money wisely. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve budget line creations for the State's Attorney Deferred Prosecution and Diversion Program. Member Friedrich stated that this is about the approval of line items and not a debate about the program. Member Davidson stated that the Board controls the budget and line items and we can't control the State's Attorney. But as a taxpayer and an elected official we do have a right to vote down this fee and not sacrifice justice for the General Fund. Member Nache echoed Member Davidson. She is tired of putting money ahead of people and not taking care of the people that we should. Member Amor stated that this is not a way to buy yourself out the justice system. This is exactly a people first program. Member Olinger wanted to know when we draw the line for the victims. State's Attorney Karlin stated that this is an issue of a line item creation. It is the intention to make sure that this is a transparent process. We will collect the

fees and give them to the Treasurer's office for deposit. This will not be for violent offenders but instead is for mostly first time offenders. Chair Hawkinson stated that we are not approving the program, just the line items. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(12). Noes—Davidson, Olinger, and Nache-(3). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the revised voucher payment policy. Member Friedrich stated that this is to help remove the last minute vouchers that slide in at the last minute. Chair Hawkinson stated that the plan is in the packet. The Treasurer and County Clerk have asked that more teeth be put into the policy. Unless there will be a financial loss, bank loan, or other similar item those late vouchers will be deferred to the next month. The Departments just need to get organized. Member Amor agrees that it is important to reach out to all the Department Heads to make sure that they are all aware of the changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Nache to approve the bid and bring back for Health, Life, Dental, and Vision insurance. Member Friedrich stated the plan is to bid the same type of plan as we currently have. We are also going to bid the plans with a reduced deductible to see what our cost. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the Union contract with the Circuit Clerk's office. Member Friedrich stated that Member Amor was the spearhead on this and it is in line with the previously approved Union contracts. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Paulsgrove presented the monthly report for the Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Building Committee. He reported that the Mary Davis Home has 14 clients with only 2 from Knox County. The Sheriff reports 35 Federal inmates in the jail. There were also 672 traffic accidents. This has been a very active month. He was also glad to see the revised voucher policy as there were 3 bills without vouchers. After the amount of money spent on covers for the HVAC units, we could have gone ahead and built a garage around the unit. We also have a maintenance agreement with MSI for coverage of repairs and work, yet they submitted a bill for maintenance of the HVAC units for a fall servicing.

Motion was made by Member Paulsgrove and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the final pay application for Courthouse work from MSI. Member Paulsgrove stated that this is the final pay application for the project. This will be a zero dollar charge just to close out the project. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(12). Noes—Davidson, Nache, and Hunigan—(3). Motion carried.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Highway, IT, and Landfill Committee. The report is included in the packet from each department.

Motion by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the purchase of a UTV for the Landfill. Member Bondi stated that when the surveyors come to the Landfill they charge us \$250 per day for the use of their UTV. Rod Clear stated that if he can find one for under \$5,000 he would just purchase, or go out for bid if it is over that amount. Member Friedrich asked about getting a used item instead of new. If he does, they will not hold it for us so he will need to be able to buy right away. Member Amor asked about the possibility of using the County credit card to pay for the item if necessary. Chair Hawkinson stated that we should approve this action up to a certain amount and if it is higher they would get bids. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the request for estimates on two 30 yard roll-off containers. Member Bondi stated that the 30 yard containers are the most popular ones to rent during the warm months. We get \$450 in rent for these. The estimated costs to purchase is around \$5,000 to \$6,000 per unit. Rod will bring this back next month. Rod Clear stated that during the bad weather nobody rents the unit. When the weather gets nice the rentals start ramping up fast. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve a bid and bring back for the purchase of a new $\frac{3}{4}$ ton 4X4 pickup truck for the Highway Department. Member Bondi stated that this will replace a 2006 unit with 210,000 miles and is used by the maintenance crew. The estimate for the cost is around \$38,000 and there is currently \$145,000 in the equipment replacement line items. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Nache to approve a bid and bring back for a new lawnmower for the Highway Department. Member Bondi stated that the Highway Department currently has a 2013 Cub Cadet unit with 1,200 hours. The unit has several issues and will be costly to fix. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Nache to approve the bids for motor fuel tax materials, Section 21-XX000-00-XX. Member Bondi stated that these are the bids for materials for County and Township road projects. They are all budgeted and will be paid for with motor fuel tax funds. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the appointments of Harry Flesner as Chair and Sam Serven as Vice-Chair of the Knox County Zoning Board of Appeals. Member Nache stated that as long as she has been on the Board they have never brought this up to the Board for a vote. Member Bondi stated that Sonia Hochstetler has been researching this issue and it does state in the Illinois Statutes that the County Board is to approve the office holders for the ZBA. Member Friedrich stated that he has great deal of respect for both Mr. Flesner and Mr. Serven. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Hunigan presented the report from the Nursing Home Committee. The report is in the packet. There has been a Business Office change in personnel which caused some issues in the closing of the books for February. Jordan Health Care was able to help complete the close out for the month. There have been no COVID cases since the middle of December which will now allow for the facility to start accepting new residents. The Illinois Department of Health visited again on February 11 and have approved the life safety plan. We are now in compliance.

Motion by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the bid for a zero turn radius mower for the Nursing Home. Member Hunigan reported that this purchase should save the County some money. There are currently 3 maintenance employees at the facility and one of them will take on the tasks of grounds maintenance. The low bid was from Scott's Equipment with a bid of \$11,799.00. This comes with a 2 year bumper to bumper warranty. Member Nache stated that she has been wanting to do this for a few years now. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson reported that he has made some changes to the agenda format in the hopes of creating a more efficient use of meeting time. Reports from any outside committee assignment will need to be submitted to the County Clerk for inclusion in the Board packet. There will no longer be presentations of the report at the meetings. If anyone has a question in regards to an outside committee or their report, they should contact the Board Member that is serving on that committee and ask them directly.

Motion by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to open the budget for line item changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion by Member Amor and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the budget changes as presented. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Nache to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of February 25, 2021 through March 24,

2021 (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 Hawkinson reported that the bank note payment for the radio purchase for the Sheriff's Department was missed again. We need to make sure that all bank notes are taken to the Treasurer for proper payment. Treasurer Davis reported that the total amount of the bills for this month is \$1,076,496.59. Member Davidson stated that she will continue to vote against the motion until the Board has access to the CIC accounting system to review the vouchers. Treasurer Davis asked who would be signing the authorization form as the Chair is out of town. Chair Hawkinson stated that Vice Chair Amor would be taking care of it this month. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Olinger, Friedrich, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(11). Noes—Davidson and Nache--(2). Abstain-Hunigan-(10). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 6:00 p.m., via Zoom teleconference and in person at the council chambers at Galesburg City Hall.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Friedrich to adjourn the meeting. . Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Paulsgrove, Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.