

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

May 26, 2021

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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, May 26, 2021, at 6:15 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:

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 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:	District 1	Roland Paulsgrove
	District 4	Todd Olinger

Also present was County Clerk Scott Erickson, County Sheriff David Clague, State’s Attorney Jeremy Karlin, 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. Member Hunigan asked about the late voucher for the Nursing Home from the Illinois Department of Public Health that needs to be added. Chair Hawkinson stated that he can discuss this during the Nursing Home

report and it has been added to the claims approval section. Member Friedrich asked to remove Item #11 Approve Personnel Changes as there was no information in the packet regarding this topic. He also asked to move Item #7 Approval of County Audit up in the agenda as the auditors are on the call. Without objection, Chair Hawkinson removed and advanced the items.

Chair Hawkinson asked for public comments. Nikki Malley spoke next in opposition to the Lake Storey expansion project. She thanked the Board for listening to their concerns. The residents felt heard. She is also thankful for the Resolution in opposition of the expansion project that is on the agenda for approval. It is refreshing to see action. Some Members may have been put in tough positions but still stood by the best interests of the County residents.

Liz Gardner spoke on the Resolution in opposition to the Lake Stoery expansion and land grab. She encouraged Members to approve this resolution.

Chair Hawkinson thanked those persons for their comments.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular Board Meetings for April 28, 2021, 2) claims for Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of May 2021 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of February 2021 in the amount of \$109,225.43 and \$23,296.94 and public safety tax in the amount of \$174,225.96. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the County audit for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Mat Schueler and Rebecca Powell from Wipfli auditing updated the Board on the recent audit. They reviewed various portions of the audit reports. The County has proper collateralization for their investments and deposits. Overall, the audit ran smooth and was able to be filed within the required timeframe. The number of fund balance days this year was estimated at 55 days. The previous audit amount was 51 days. They recommend that the County have at least 2 to 3 months of revenue on hand. Member Davidson asked how long they had for the 2 Departments that did not comply to submit information. Matt responded that there was no Statute requirement deadline as these were part of some extra options in the audit. Member Bondi asked if these non-complaint Departments put the rest of the County at risk. Matt responded that the Jail commissary account is from the Department of Corrections and the Veteran's Assistance is an agreed upon procedure with the County that has not been complied with. Member Nache stated that the Veterans Assistance should always comply. Matt stated that the Veterans Assistance is a pass through of funds and was to be part of the audit. Member Amor asked about the credit card discussion in the cover letter. Matt stated that it is always good to look at credit card policies and any other policy where controls can be overridden. Chair Hawkinson stated that the Veterans had submitted some screen shots of information but nothing that would meet the request. He suggested that State's Attorney Karlin look at this issue. State's Attorney Karlin stated he would look at the issues. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Rohweder and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Resolution in opposition to Lake Storey expansion project. Chair Hawkinson read the resolution into the record. Member Davidson stated that it was disrespectful for the City to not contact the County to discuss their plans. She liked the resolution as presented. Chair Hawkinson stated that State's Attorney Karlin and Member Amor drafted the resolution. It is his stance that he is 100% for economic development and adding to the tax base. He is not in favor of property and homes being annexed and finding it out in the newspaper. This was not handled in a good way. Member Nache said that she was always taught that if you did not stand up to what is wrong you would not stand up to anything. Member Amor stated that he would vote in favor of the resolution as he has been listening to his constituents. There is a clear majority opposed to this project. He hopes that in the future the City and County can have better communication and work together. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the creation and membership of the Ad Hoc Advisory Task Force for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 use. Chair Hawkinson reported that information is in your packet. Many Counties are creating task forces with public input for strategy and collaborative ideas. The County did receive \$4.8 million which is the first installment. This came along with about 150 pages in rules to follow. The task force will have both County Board and public members on it. We are not sure yet how to best spend the money but it is to be used to invest in the community. The County Board Members on the task force will be Chair Hawkinson, Vice Chair Amor, District 1 Member Krejci, District 2 Member Bondi, District 3 Member Davidson, District 4 Member Olinger, and District 5 Member Link. They will be joined by 5 members for the general public. If anyone is interested in serving on this task force, please send a letter of intent by June 9, 2021 to the County Clerk. A special e-mail address will be set up to handle questions or ideas from the public as well. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Friedrich presented the monthly report for the Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, Veterans, and Clerk/Recorder Committee. The reports are included in the packet. He reported that the information for Item #11 was not in the packet and therefore was removed from action at the meeting.

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve the Resolution on support of local control of zoning and land use administration. Member Friedrich stated that this was discussed in Finance about keeping the local control of zoning issues and not deferring it to the State. Member Amor stated that the State was trying to standardize renewable energy rules across the State. He is not in favor of these controls but is in favor of renewable energy. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve the distribution of FMLA guideline and policy. Member Friedrich stated that this was not a policy change. It is a reminder to Department Heads about the proper way to do things. There have been some issues and concerns in the past.. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve the light duty workman’s compensation policy. Member Friedrich said that this light duty policy will be beneficial to the County and will help get the employees back to work. Member Bondi asked if this had been reviewed. Treasurer Davis stated that both the labor attorney and workman’s compensation attorney have reviewed. Member Friedrich stated that in either this case or an FNMLA case, if anyone has any questions they should contact the Treasurer for details. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Sandoval presented the monthly report for the Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Building Committee. He reported that the information was in the Board packet. There are no action items. Chair Hawkinson added that the Mary Davis Home has received 2 payments from the State leaving only 1 outstanding for the Fiscal Year.

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 bid and bring back for a new tandem dump truck cab and chassis for the Highway Department. Member Bondi stated that these are not easy items to acquire and they would like to start this process early as a head start. This will also be in the FY2021-2022 budget as well. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the Topcon reference station host agreement for the Highway Department. Member Bondi reported that this company approached the Highway Department about placement of a station at the Highway Department. There is a weak area in the Quad Cities / Peoria area and this station will help with that issue. The station is used for GPS signals for all kinds of applications. The company will waive the subscription fees for the County if they agree to this agreement. They will need to purchase some equipment in order to use the station. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the purchase of two 30-tard containers from Gregory Containers, Inc. for the Landfill. Member Bondi reported that the cost will be around \$11,822. They contacted 3 companies and only 1 returned a bid. They will split this cost over several line items. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—

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

Member Hunigan presented the report from the Nursing Home Committee. The report is in the packet. There has been a fine from a finding from the Illinois Department of Public Health in the amount of \$25,000. If the bill is paid within 10 days there will be a 30% discount. This has been added as a voucher to the bills for this month.

Motion by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve room rate increase for the nursing home. Member Hunigan stated that they have conducted a competitive analysis of the market in 2020. The rate is now \$185/day. For private rooms in Wings 2, 3, and 4 the rate will be moved to \$195/day. Chair Hawkinson asked if these were comparable to neighboring facilities. Member Hunigan replied that they were. Member Davidson stated that the rates need to be increased as Medicare is requiring the rates for private rooms to be higher than the rate they reimburse. Member Hunigan stated that we are on the low end of the scale. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Amor to approve the changes to the educational requirements for the Business Office Manager at the Knox County Nursing Home. Member Hunigan reported that the original posting for the job required a Bachelor's degree. There have been no applications for the position. We want to change the requirement to 8 to 10 years of applicable experience instead. Member Rohweder stated that the 10 year experience requirement seems a bit extreme, but it does take that much experience to do the job properly. It is a reasonable request. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the addendum to consulting services agreement with Jordan Healthcare Group. Member Hunigan reported that Jordan Healthcare has been working with the new Administrator. They are providing consulting and oversight services. The cost is \$175 to \$295 depending on the person assisting. The amount was not to exceed \$29,999. They are getting to the point that the nursing home is less dependent on these services. They do need to get the business office functioning properly. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(12). Noes—Link--(1). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson reported that the reports from the outside committee assignments will be included in the packet if provided. 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 Rohweder to open the budget for line item changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson,

Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Nache to approve the budget changes as presented. Chair Hawkinson stated that there are changes for the line item changes are include in the packet. Treasurer Davis stated that the Nursing Home has an additional change that needs to be approved. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Rohweder and seconded by Member Amor to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of April 29, 2021 through May 26, 2021 (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. Treasurer Davis reported that the vouchers submitted amounted to \$1,914,720.67 this month. Chair Hawkinson asked if that amount included the IDPH fine for the nursing home. Treasurer Davis said that it does. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(11). Noes--(0). Abstain—Davidson and Nache—(2). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 23, 2021, 6:00 p.m., via Zoom teleconference and in person at the council chambers at Galesburg City Hall.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:29PM..