

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

September 22, 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 on Wednesday, September 22, at 6:21 p.m. Due to the coronavirus precautions, this meeting was presented via teleconference in order to alleviate the need for the public to be in person at the meeting.

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 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 4	Sara Varner
District 3	Kyle Rohweder
District 5	Jeff Link

And those absent:	District 1	Roland Paulsgrove
	District 3	Tara Wilder
	District 4	Todd Olinger

Also present was County Clerk Scott Erickson, State’s Attorney Jeremy Karlin, and County Treasurer Robin Davis. Department Heads present were Nursing Home Administrator Jodi Mines, Highway Administrator Duane Ratermann and from the Mary Davis Home Andy Bonis .

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 Hunnigan asked to remove Item #20 and #21 the approval of the loan return for the Knox County Nursing Home wing 3 and 4 renovation and the approval of bid for Therapy Services at the Nursing

Home. Chair Hawkinson asked to remove Item #9 the approval of the authorization for appeal by the labor attorney. Without objection, Chair Hawkinson removed and advanced the items.

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

Motion was made by Member Rohweder and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meetings for August 25, 2021, 2) claims for Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of September 2021 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of June 2021 in the amount of \$148,614.03 and \$29,492.59 and public safety tax in the amount of \$243,895.88. 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 was made by member Varner and seconded by member Amor to approve a Proclamation for October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. 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 was made by Member Rohweder and seconded by Member Varner to approve the appointment to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Human Service Transportation Plan Rural Sub Committee of Kraig Boynton. This is a new appointment. Member Davidson made a motion to table and member Friedrich seconded due to lack of a resume. 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 tabled.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Varner to approve the appointment of trustee to Maquon Fire Protection District of Robert Little. This is a re-appointment. . 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 was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Amor to approve the resolution for hazard pay for certain collective bargaining groups. 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 was made by Member Davidson and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve the resolution for American Rescue Plan Act disbursement transfer of \$20,000 from lost revenue for countywide communications upgrades. Chair Hawkinson reported that 6 months ago the board moved forward with email services, data and Google work space for the county board. The new proposal is to expand this countywide. This would help with current threats and remove the need for internal emails to check two systems. Uploading countywide communications would help increase communication. County money would be moved from the ARPA grant to cover this cost. This is the last step of upgrade needed for the county website for services to the public. Member Amor stated that this system would also help if the county had to go to remote. Chair

Hawkinson stated that the system is Fiber based so this system could handle full remote. 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 made by member Friedrich and seconded by Sandoval to approve the purchase of additional IT hours from Office Specialists. Chair Hawkinson reported \$9,000 was approved last month for a 90 day short term and we are 1/3-2/3 mark and need to get through the next hump of daily grind and will need continued remote service which will need another 100 hours from Office Specialists. Chair Hawkinson said Office Specialists have done a good job. Member Nache asked if the job had to be bid out. Chair Hawkinson said any job over \$20,000 has to be bid out 30-45 day and do a bid out and bring back.. Member Davidson agreed. Chair Hawkinson said with this \$9,000 additional they would still be under the \$20,000 but would have to bid out in the future. 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

Member Friedrich presented the monthly report for the Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, Veterans, and Clerk/Recorder Committee. The reports are included in the packet.

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the renewal premium for liability, workman compensation, vehicle and property insurance. 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 made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the legal holiday calendar for 2022. The calendar is established by the Judges and the County typically follows their recommendation. 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 made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve continuing with memorandum of understanding between Knox County/Knox County Nursing Home and AFSCME Local 1047 through November 30, 2021. Knox County Nursing home Administrator Mines reported that with raising wages the use of agency should slow down. Member Friedrich thanked the Nursing Home Administrator Mines for her hard work. 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

Member Sandoval presented the monthly report from the Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Building Committee. All Departments are busy with normal operations. Chairman Hawkinson reported that Member Paulsgrove is doing good and on the mend and he will be at the next board meeting.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report for the Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Highway, IT, and Landfill Committee. He stated that the reports are in the packet.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the bid and bring back for county fuel for FY2021-2022 for the Landfill. The bids will be due on the next Board meeting date as they are only good for 24 hours. 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

Member Hunigan presented the report from the Nursing Home committee. The report is in the packet. About 20 people attended the wine tasting that was put on by Hidden Hill Winery. There is a Covid-19 pop up clinic on Sept. 23. The Nursing Home is also working on reducing the amount of agency used and the census is going in the right direction.

Motion made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve the renewal agreement with Jordan Healthcare Group. Member Hunigan reported that after this round with Jordan they should be able to scale back since another person has been hired in the business office. Administrator Mines says that it is nice to have the backup of Jordan. Member Amor seconded the importance of Jordan and that the Administrator is in a strong position and is well trained and knowledgeable. Chairman Hawkinson reported the need to move forward and scale back on the consultant like has been discussed and the Administrator has become self-sufficient. Administrator Jodi reported that they found \$50,000 in copays that are now being billed. Member Davidson said that Jordan is just a small part. We have a dynamic Administrator and they would not let Jordan stay longer then needed. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner.—(11). 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 Sandoval to open the budget for line item changes. Member Friedrich stated that he went through them with everyone in the finance meeting. 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 Varner and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve the budget changes as presented. Chair Hawkinson stated that there are changes for the line item changes are include in the packet. 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.

Chair Hawkinson discussed the review of checks that were paid during the time the Board was not in session. There were only the regularly approved checks for this month.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Varner to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of August 26, 2021 through September 22,

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 in aggregate amount approved by the County Board). Treasurer Davis reported that the vouchers submitted amounted to \$964,270.43 this month. Member Friedrich stated that two bills need to be discussed more and will reduce that dollar amount if pulled. Chairman Hawkinson stated that those will be pulled if not approved and will be discussed in finance. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(11). Noes—Davidson (1). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 6:00 p.m., in person and via zoom at the council chambers at Galesburg City Hall.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to adjourn the meeting. 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 and meeting adjourned at 7:09PM.