

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

**October 27, 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 on Wednesday, October 27, at 6:36 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 3	Kyle Rohweder
District 5	Jeff Link
District 3	Tara Wilder
District 4	Todd Olinger

And those absent:	District 1	Roland Paulsgrove
	District 4	Sara Varner

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, Landfill Administrator Rod Clair, 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. No items were added or deleted.

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

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 and Closed Board Meetings for September 22, 2021, 2) claims for Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of October 2021 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of July 2021 in the amount of \$141,944.57 and \$26,550.21 and public safety tax in the amount of \$233,226.46, Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Link—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve a Proclamation for November as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Link—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Olinger and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the appointment to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Human Service Transportation Plan Rural Sub Committee of Kraig Boynton. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Link—(12). Noes—(0). Motion tabled.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the redistricting and per diem proposal. Member Friedrich reported that the redistricting map will remain at 5 districts and will keep the same system of keeping 15 total members which is 3 members per district. The Per Diem has not changed in 30 years. It would change to 60 cents per mile and \$25 consecutive meeting. Current district maps have one District being District 3 southeast inflated with Hill Correctional Facility, which is not accurate voting occupants. It is trying to be passed that anyone in lock up would be put back in the numbers of their home voting area, which would change the number. Knox 6 & 7 would consolidate to become Knox 6, Henderson 1 & 2 would become Henderson and Indian Point 1 & 2 would become Indian Point. County Clerk Erickson stated that the election judges would be at 1 table instead of 2. If the board does not come to an agreement by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month then four leaders of each political party would make the decision. Member Davidson and Chairman Hawkinson both agreed that changes to per diem would become effective on December 1, 2022. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Highway Engineer contract. Chairman Hawkinson stated that the position is a 6 year term expiring November 15, 2023 for employment and benefits. The current rate of salary expires on November 15, 2021. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson,

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the special prosecutor bill payment of \$10,062. Member Nache asked where the money would come from. State's Attorney Karlin recommendation is for it to come from nothing connected to the Sheriff's Department. He stated that the Tort Fund has enough money in it. Member Amor also asked where the Special Prosecutor would be paid from. Chairman Hawkinson stated that we do not have a choice we have to pay it and the Tort has enough in the fund, so it will come from that fund. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder and Link—(12). Noes—Nache---(1). 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 Sandoval to approve the resolutions on deeds of conveyance. Member Amor thanked everyone in the budget meetings that helped to narrow things down. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried

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

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

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve 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—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve 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—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve 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—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve resolution on use of Special Contingency Fund. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve membership dues for Illinois Association of County Board Members for a fee of \$15,000. Member Davidson stated it was a good choice and we get every penny back. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve bid and buy for electrical purchase for county. Member Friedrich reported that the contract for electrical service fuel bids were in the Google dock file. The current counties contract is with Nationwide NACO. There were 3 bidders and are listed in the Google dock file. The lowest bid was Dynegy for a 48 month term. Member Nache asked the reason why the switch from our current provider. Member Friedrich stated that our current provider is no longer the lowest price. County Clerk Erickson stated that the company would have no separate bills it would be listed on the regular power bill. We would just have some paperwork to change over. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to bid and bring back for revisions to the Knox County wage study. Member Amor reported that our current wage study is outdated and needs updated. Member Amor stated that getting the wage study before minimum wage increase might impede on certain collective bargaining sectors, for certain positions. We also need to visit the wage study for longevity up to 30 years, which is not in the current wage study. Member Hunigan stated that the amount spent on the wage study is quite an expense. Chairman Hawkinson stated that they would bid and bring back and then maybe go in house for the study to save on cost. Member Nache stated that she is a big fan of the wage study. It needs revised and yes, we need to bid it. If revised we need to go by it. Member Davidson stated that we need to make sure all department heads need to give the needed information to be able to make the changes that are necessary. Member Amor stated that they need to educate department heads that they need to give the HR department the information they don't have. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the sale of land by the Knox County Board. Member Friedrich reported that the county wants \$85,000 for the sale of the property. There was two bidders. One bidder was not moving on price. Hidden Hills Winery the other bidder came up with it. Chairman Hawkinson stated a clarification that the \$85,000 was pending work on a contract to make sure all I's are dotted. Member Rohweder stated that he does not drink the wine but his wife and he both enjoy the Yoga there. Member Friedrich wanted to thank Ken Springer for being an excellent resource. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve the display of county tax levy for FY 2021-2022. Member Friedrich reported that the tax rate last year to this year went down a miniscule. The county board has not raised taxes and have continued to stay within means and funds. Member Amor wanted to thank everyone involved for staying within their means and also thank Treasurer Davis. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the display of the county budget for FY 2021-2022. Chairman Hawkinson reported that the actual amount will change between now and budget committee meeting. Member Friedrich wanted to thank the budget committee members. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Member Sandoval presented that the monthly report from the Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Building Committee. He stated the reports are in the packet.

Motion by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Link to approve bids for county maintenance. Chairman Hawkinson reported that the bids went out different as separate bids as follows HVAC bid, Plumbing bid, Electrical bid, Drain Clean bid, and a Sheet Metal bid. Three bids came in. Member Rohweder reported that MSI has the bids for all five categories. Member Amor asked why low bids were not accepted. Member Rohweder stated that there was a licensing issue with the other bidder. MSI knows the building and that is a benefit. Ayes—Wilder, Hawkinson, Krejci, Friedrich, Rohweder and Link—(6). Noes—Bondi, Amor, Davidson, Nache and Hunigan (5). Abstain---Sandoval, Olinger--- (2). Motion carried

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 engineering services agreement for drainage structure design for Cedar Township, section 17-01132-00-BR. Member Bondi reported that the location is the south end of Lake Bracken. The

bridge built in 1974 over Brush Creek. It was inspected on September 22, 2021. It has 2 9ft steel beams that have rust on the waterline and the west side of the bank is crushed and separated. There is earth and debris in the pipe. Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the purchase of two new snow plows for the Highway Department. Member Bondi reported that the cost would be \$31,551.54. It would come from the 2021 Budget. The Highway Fund has \$85,000 currently. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the bid for county fuel for FY2021-2022 for the Landfill. Member Bondi reported that three bids came in. A bid for \$69,300, \$59,180, and \$60,180. The lowest bid was from Heir. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Member Hunigan presented the report from the Nursing Home committee. The report is in the packet. He wanted to congratulate Mines on passing her Administrator test. They are in current negotiations with AFSCME. On September 24<sup>th</sup> they had a single Covid-19 case. They were able to reopen after the 14 day protocol. Staff that is vaccinated only have to be tested once a month and non-vaccinated have to be tested weekly.

Motion made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the proposal for a room rate increase. Member Hunigan stated rate changes would be as follows Level 1 \$200, \$210, and \$220/day. Level 2 \$210, \$220, and \$230/day, Wing 2, 3, &4 \$210, \$220, and \$230/day. A private rooms \$230, \$235, and \$250/day. Wing 2 rate adjusting will occur. Member Nache stated that she agrees to the raise of fees but we need to remember this is county owned and for the people. We used to be a little low but we have to keep up with state. Member Davidson said that we are will not the highest or even middle but we give the best care. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve a contract for therapy services. Member Hunigan reported that they had 3 bids. Renewal Rehab was the lowest bid. Once the census picks up they will have greater funds. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder and Link—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried

Motion by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Olinger to approve the compliance policy for the Knox County Nursing Home. Member Hunigan stated that Cathy Bowton is the compliance officer and does legal, ethical record keeping and work place practices. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval,

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

Motion by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve renovation change orders for the Knox County Nursing Home. Hunigan reported Hein Construction \$474,000 for entire wing 3 & 4 and Shennell \$133,950 for asbestos of wing 3 & 4 for a total of \$607,950. Revised total less paint removal is \$512,355 for both wing 3 & 4. Just doing wing 4 would be \$268,143. Going with 1st revised 3 & 4 for \$512,355 with assurance that cost won't exceed this amount. Member Davidson asked why bring back when just spending less on paint removal and was not only for floors. Member Friedrich said he would like to hold off with current finances and with the state we are in right now. Member Hunigan stated we should move forward to approve but not act on it. Member Davidson said that the prices were for it to be done in the cold winter months. We already have the loan and should move forward so we can get more people in the facility and use less agency. Member Hunigan said it was brought back because of the change in numbers to \$512,355. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Nache, Hunigan, and Rohweder—(10). Noes—Sandoval, Friedrich, and Link-- (3). 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 Olinger and seconded by Member Sandoval to open the budget for line item changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder and Link—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the budget changes as presented. Chair Hawkinson stated that there are changes for the line item changes are include in the packet. The standardized form is easier consistency. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, 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 Rohweder and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of September 23, 2021 through October 27, 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 in aggregate amount approved by the County Board). Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Link—(12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 24, 2021, 6:00 p.m., in person and via zoom at the council chambers at Galesburg City Hall.

Chairman Hawkinson recessed the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

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