

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

November 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 on Wednesday, November 24, at 6:10 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 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:	District 1	Roland Paulsgrove
	District 3	Tara Wilder

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, Supervisor of Assessment Sonia Hochstettler, Landfill Administrator Rod Clear, and Highway Administrator Duane Ratermann, Executive Director of Housing Authority Derek Antoine.

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 Rohweder and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meetings for October 27, 2021, 2) claims for Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of November 2021 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of August 2021 in the amount of \$136,128.61 and \$25,431.69 and public safety tax in the amount of \$230,147.11. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Varner to approve a Proclamation for December as National Safe Toy and Gift Month. Member Sandoval stated be careful you will shot your eye out! Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson introduced Ken Springer to talk about the Knox County Area Partnership Youth CEO Program and said thank you all for creating this for the students. Springer stated the program is a dual credit course for fourth year students. The course is 7:30-9am for seniors in public, private and home school. Fifty plus businesses was involved and the loss and gains are all real. The students learn from business lenders. Springer introduced Seniors Mia Hanegan and Alexandra Swarez to talk about the program. Springer asked them what they have benefitted from the program. Hanegan stated she likes working with people and it has helped her to be a better communicator. Swarez said it has helped her to get opportunities and agreed with what Hanegan said. Springer asked what their favorite business they have gone to was. Hanegan said Dahinda General Store. She has even become a customer and told friends and family about. They have also become customers. Swarez said her favorite was Dave's Auto Body because she liked how Dave taught them that you should always put your employees first and got to learn about the business from Dave himself. Springer stated that there are eight students in the class and they are working as a team to launch their own individual business. Hanegan said they have created Better Together the Treats and Traditions Package, which comes in a box. It can be shares with family and friends to help teach about other cultures. The three cultures covered are Swedish, African-American and Hispanic. They are accepting preorders on their website Treats and Traditions, emailing them at treatsandtraditions22@gmail.com or Instagram @treatandtraditions. Member Krejci asked how much would they cost? Hanegan stated that they are selling them for \$19.99 and there is an added fee for shipping if needed. Member Davidson stated that this is phenomenal that this is so diverse and will help teach and educate. She is thrilled to know how to order one and pay. She knows it is too soon to get by Thanksgiving but hopefully by Christmas. Member Nache agreed with member Davidson about being great for education and learning of other cultures. She is proud of all involved. Chair Hawkinson said he loved that both Hanegan and Swarez selected small and locally owned

businesses as their favorite business instead of a large box store. He said that the business owners have lived here their entire life and small business is what makes this community. He said thank you very much again.

Motion was made by Member Rohweder and seconded by Member Nache to approve the appointment to the London Mills Fire Protection District of Mark Semande. This is a new appointment. Member Rohweder made a motion to table and member Nache seconded due to lack of resume. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion tabled.

Motion was made by Member Rohweder and seconded by Member Amor to approve a policy for vaccine mandate for the Knox County Nursing Home only per CMS Directive. Hunigan stated that it would be done in phases and a memo went out to Knox County Nursing Home employees on November 29th. Weekly testing would not be an option instead of the vaccine to exempt them. There is a workshop scheduled for November 29th at 9am-10am and 1pm-2pm. Phase two they receive their first dose by January 4th. They will be able fill out a paper on why they would prefer not to have the vaccine due to religious or other situations and it would be reviewed. Chair Hawkinson asked how many facilities have a mandate. Administrator Mines said all have except assisted living Peterson House and Hawthorne Inn. She said the rule is not for assisted living because they are private pay. Chair Hawkinson asked CMS does not mandate. State's Attorney Karlin said he spoke with the labor attorney and the union is not required to bargain. Administrator Mines reached out to the union and it was acceptable to them. Administrator Mines also reached out to the Health Department. State's Attorney Karlin said kudos to Mines to getting the amount of work done in the last week. Chair Hawkinson said he is not a big fan of employee mandates but that is just a personal choice. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Amor, Davidson, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Link—(6). Noes—Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, and Olinger. (4). Abstain---Bondi, Friedrich, and Varner---(3). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve the purchase of bladder scanner for the Knox County Nursing Home. Hunigan said the purchase would be from McKesson Medical for \$7,127.01. They will use ARPA funding to purchase the scanner and are required to have one in house. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Bid and Bring Back for Getac Body Cam and Dash Cam wireless system for Sheriff Department. Member Friedrich stated it is an extravagant amount of money so it needs to be sent out for bid per County mandate. He said that by the end of 2023 every employee it is required for

every employee. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Varner to approve the Dissolution of the County Reapportionment Committee. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, 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.

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the Resolution on Deeds of Conveyance. This is a routine action item for the Board. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, 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 resolution on State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Nache to approve the letters of engagement with Auditor. Chair Hawkinson said to add in letter of audit of commissary amount. . Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the resolution authorizing the County Clerk and County Treasurer to issue County warrants for certain claims during the period the County Board is not in session. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Varner to approve the recurring monthly manual checks list. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Nache to approve the intergovernmental agreement between Knox County and Knox County Housing Authority. State's Attorney Karlin said Finance drafted after proposed and had spoken with Executive Director of Housing Authority Derek Antoine. He is here to answer questions. Executive Director Antoine said that a third of our families are without assistance. They are facing eviction or homelessness. This involves three hundred and some odd people. Member Davidson stated that families have gone through a lot with Covid and that she is honored to be a County Board member. Member Rohweder stated that Antoine does God's work. Member Nache stated that when people need you and have arms out we should help. Antoine stated that two hundred and sixty nine are currently signed up for financial classes. The cost is \$114,717.96, which would be split with the city and it is on their agenda for review. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the issuance of ARPA Funds to Knox County Housing Authority for Tenant Rent Reimbursement. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the Bid and Buy for IT server upgrade. Chair Hawkinson stated that our current tech people server domain control main server that everyone signs into is 8-10 years old. We want to keep it up to date before no one can sign in. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the changes to County Tax Levy and/or County Budget for FY 2021-2022. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the County Tax Levy for FY 2021-2022. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Varner to approve the County Budget for FY 2021-2022. Member Friedrich thanked everyone involved in the Budget

Committee and especially Member Amor. He also wanted to thank everyone that helped Treasurer Davis and all Department heads involved. He stated it was a lot of work, hectic but had a good ending. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Sandoval presented the monthly report from the Sheriff, Jail, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, and Building Committee. The reports are included in the packet. All Departments are busy with normal operations.

Motion made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the squad car purchase for Sheriff Department. Chair Hawkinson stated that during the budget sessions it was decided that the Department would spend \$100,000 from their current budget towards the purchase of new squads. This is to go along with some insurance claim money to be used as the down payment. The remainder would go through the ARPA fund request process. This would be to cover the purchase of up to 7 squads. The funding from ARPA would most likely come from the lost revenue reimbursement. There will not be any money in their new budget for these vehicles. Member Friedrich stated that this was to cover the 3 squads that should have been purchased last year and 4 for this year. Member Davidson was upset that ARPA money was to be spent instead of budgeting the costs in the Sheriff's budget. She is also concerned that there is excessive additional miles being put on vehicles being taken home by officers that live outside of Knox County. Member Sandoval stated he would hate to see a squad breakdown on the way to an emergency call. Member Friedrich stated that they could put the money into the Sheriff budget but then it will have to come out of another Departments budget. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(11). Noes—Davidson---(1). Abstain---Nache---(1). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Friedrich Bid and Buy for a generator for IT and courthouse heating system. Member Friedrich stated that the specifications have been sent out by Klingner. Chair Hawkinson stated that that these are not as cheap as he had hoped. They could run about \$30,000 to \$40,000. This is a bid and buy as it will take 3 to 5 months for the order to arrive. The longer we wait the more potential for risk. Member Nache responded that 3 years there was a bad winter and the Courthouse needed emergency heating units installed. A generator was discussed then and she wondered what would be powered by the generator. Chair Hawkinson stated that they are expecting to get a unit big enough for the server room and emergency heaters. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Highway, IT, and Landfill Committee. The reports are in the Board packet.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve the zoning district change for Case ZA-01-2021, a request for “Zoning District Change” from the “R” Residential Zoning District to “M” Restricted Industrial District, under Section 5.6.04(1) of the Knox County Zoning Resolution Section 5.6.01 Permissive Uses, (2) banks, stores, shops, and personal service establishments. Member Bondi explained that this is to allow for proper zoning for a Dollar General in the City of Oneida. Member Rohweder said that there is a representative from Dollar General on zoom to answer questions. Member Friedrich said he is excited for it. Member Nache asked how long the process is before they have a Dollar General. The representative said they have a one hundred and eighty day turn around. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Nache to approve the Motor Fuel Tax Salary Resolution, Section 22-00000-00-CS. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, 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. He stated that contract negotiations were productive Wednesday and they meet again next Monday. Today was the Thanksgiving feast and Thursday will be leftover day, which is the best part.

Motion made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Bondi to approve changes to AP/Payroll Clerk position salary. Member Hunigan stated the full time position of 80 hours to a part time position for \$24,752/year. The job description is in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(12). Noes—Friedrich---(1). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve the BOM wage. Member Hunigan stated it is a \$1 increase to go from \$25/hr to \$26/hr as they will be adding more duties to the position. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Hunigan, Rohweder, and Varner—(10). Noes—Friedrich and Link---(2). Abstain—Nache---(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. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson stated that today they sent out revisions with specific changes on record. Treasurer Davis said that they had to up the line items for the Nursing Home from \$250,000 to \$300,000 to get through to the end of the month.

Motion by Member Amor and seconded by Member Friedrich 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, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). 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 LiHeap Bill, Sherriff Cars, Payment, and fines from CMS for this month.

Motion was made by Member Amor and seconded by Member Rohweder to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of October 28, 2021 through November 24, 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 \$1,385,531.97 this month. Member Davidson stated that she will be voting yes for the first time in years because she now has a computer that she can see the bills on. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(12). Noes—Nache---(1). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, 6:00 p.m., in person at the council chambers at Galesburg City Hall.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner, and Link—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:30PM.