

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

March 23, 2022

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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, March 23, 2022 at 6:13 p.m. Chair Hawkinson apologized for starting a little late due to closed session running longer. 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 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: District 1 Roland Paulsgrove

Also present was County Clerk Scott Erickson and County Treasurer Robin Davis. Department Heads present were Nursing Home Administrator Jodi Mines, Highway Administrator Duane Ratermann, Landfill Administrator Rod Clair, and Supervisor of Assessments Sonia Hochstettler.

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 Friedrich asked to remove Item #12 the approval Memorandum of Understanding for Courthouse Union and Circuit Clerk Union. No items were added.

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

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 and Closed Board Meetings for February 23, 2022, 2) claims for Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of March 2022 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of December 2021 in the amount of \$153,418.33 and \$38,372.55 and public safety tax in the amount of \$266,421.15. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Link—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve a Proclamation for April as National County Government Month. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, 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 Rohweder to approve the appointment to the Galesburg Sanitary District of Kenneth C. Swanson for re-appointment. Member Friedrich states that Swanson has served since 2007. He has held the position of Vice President and is currently the President. Chair Hawkinson said thank-you for doing the communities dirty work. Member Davidson said she wouldn't know that it was dirty work since it is so clean out there and thank-you for running the department so smoothly. She is honored to vote yes. Member Nache stated that she is also honored to vote yes. Member Bondi specified that he appreciated Swanson's resume, said thank-you and welcome back. Swanson said that they are open for tours if anyone wants to learn about the facility. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, 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 Sandoval to approve the Authorization Letter for Spoon River Valley DAR for Cemetery Restoration at Fink Cemetery. Member Friedrich stated that their plan is to make the cemetery cleaner by fixing stones, cleaning them up, and fix anything dangerous with no compensation. They would report to the Board in one year of completed tasks. Member Davidson stated that the same thing was done with Maquon Cemetery. Chair Hawkinson said that it was a great idea. Member Rohweder said that Fink is a wonderful cemetery and people are dying to get into there. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Link—(14). 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 was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Amor to approve the Budget Schedule for Budget Preparation for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Member Friedrich said this is for elected officials to make sure they have their entire proposal either scanned or emailed by 4pm which is the cut off time. It is very important that Committee Chairs get everything turned in by that time also. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, 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 Resolution for American Rescue Plan Act Lost Revenue Allowance. Member Friedrich said the lost revenue information is in the packet and was talked about at finance. He asked if Member Amor could talk about what was in the notes. Chair Hawkinson asked if they could explain how it breaks down. Member Amor said that ARPA money accounted for a 10 million single allowance for all counties. Ours is less than 10 million. The advisory task force gives the county more flexibility and non-binding category. Forty something percent on standard expense, less than twenty-five percent to expand broadband for the seriously under serviced, thirteen percent on health and human services, and twelve to thirteen percent which is about one and a half million on community grants. They will have applications out soon explaining the guidelines needed to propose to the committee. Member Hunigan stated that the city has a broader allowance and our scope is too narrow with Covid related only. Member Amor said that the city has more latitude. We are held to certain criteria. He said he feels our criteria is fairly flexible. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, 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 Link to approve the Resolution for American Rescue Plan Act Disbursement for Community Broadband Survey. Member Amor said that a survey would be put out to identify the needed areas in Knox County so they can gather data from the underserved and unserved areas. So they can compete for federal and state dollars. April 1st is the roll out date and they would like to get as many people to respond as possible. Chair Hawkinson said that the survey is simple and you can use your computer or smart phone device to complete it. Member Davidson asked how it would be publicized to get the word out about it. Member Amor said that we will be using a variety of ways such as working with the schools by getting email to parents, press releases, radio, and the regional libraries will have post cards with QR codes on them that people can pick up. Township officials will use contacts to explore other options to get the word out. There will be links to the survey on the County and school district site. The radio station will also have a direct link on their site. Chair Hawkinson said that we could reach out to the Farm Bureau and Chamber of Commerce also. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, 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 Bondi to approve the Resolution for American Rescue Plan Act Disbursement for Cybersecurity Upgrade. Member Friedrich stated that this is to upgrade our IT security. It would require the use of ARPA funds. Member Davidson stated that she feels that the IT department should be allocating for this expense in their budget. They should have to pay a portion of this before ARPA funds are used. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, 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 Bondi to approve the Authorization of Bid for Health/Life/Dental/Vision Insurance Coverage. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Link—(14). 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 was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the Bid and Bring Back for purchase of Solenoid Flushometers for Knox County Jail. Member Sandoval stated that the inmates clog the toilets. This will give the ability to limit the amount of flushes, water use, and calls on fixing water damage issues. Member Rohweder stated that the inmate's flush blankets down the toilet which ends up costing tens of thousands of dollars to address the issues during the night. Member Nache asked if this prevents them from doing this. Member Sandoval stated that it limits the water and flushes so there is less chance of causing damage. Chair Hawkinson stated the blanket flushing causes three inches of standing water which becomes a safety hazard and this would restrict this from happening. Member Sandoval stated that the Mary Davis Home might look into this for them if everything goes well at the jail. Member Davidson stated that she will be voting yes and is happy it is a Bid and Bring Back. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Link—(14). Noes—(0). 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 Nache to approve the Bid and Bring Back for New Wheel Loader. Member Bondi stated that the current one is 17 years old and has 4,079 hours on it and is used for salt and seal coat. It has rust and buildup of creatine on it. It will take six to nine months for delivery. The cost will be around \$175,000 used or \$200,000 for new. They should be able to get between \$35,000-\$45,000 for trade in. Roll call vote is recorded

as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Link—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Link—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Hunigan presented the report from the Nursing Home committee. The report is in the packet. Hunigan said that Agency cost is down and applications are increasing which is helping with that. He said that wing 4 flooring started on March 14th and should take about 5 weeks to complete. This is the second month in a row that no referendum funding has been relied on. Every Friday Member Hunigan, Chair Hawkinson, and Treasurer Davis meet to discuss the financial side. Chair Hawkinson said that Administrator Mines is doing a wonderful job and that Member Hunigan, the group and committee is also doing a wonderful job of keeping it the Nursing Home a float. Member Bondi said that they are making great progress. Member Hunigan said that it has been a team effort.

Motion made by Member Hunigan and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve Write Offs for Nursing Home. Member Hunigan said the write off amount is \$25,000. Chair Hawkinson asked how they got to that number. Administrator Mines said it came from private pay, hospice and Medicaid from January 1, 2015- January 1, 2020 A-K and R-Z from Jordan and Meg auditing and clearing things up that were posted to the wrong accounts. They are in a good light going forward with L-Q. Then they will go to Dec. 31, 2018 prior to Medicaid. They have cleaned up millions of dollars in Accounts Receivable. Member Hunigan said that billing errors should drop and be paid in a timely manner. Chair Hawkinson stated that Auditors have started. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Link—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson stated that the reports from the outside committee assignments are in the packet. 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.

Chair Hawkinson stated that there were no line item changes this month.

Chair Hawkinson asked Treasurer Davis to address a finance concern. Treasurer Davis said that only bills on the approved list can be paid and no additional bills should be paid. There is just some concern of bills trying to be put in by departments after the approval process and wanted to make the Board aware of this.

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of February 24, 2022 through March 23, 2022 (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 the aggregate amount approved by the County Board). Treasurer Davis reported that the vouchers submitted amounted to \$1,154,751.68 plus an amount of \$4,165 for a total amount of \$1,158,916.68. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Link—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 6:00 p.m., in person and via zoom at the council chambers at Galesburg City Hall.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Bondi to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bondi, Wilder, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Krejci, Amor, Davidson, Olinger, Friedrich, Nache, Hunigan, Rohweder, Varner and Link—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.