

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

**February 22, 2023**

STATE OF ILLINOIS        )  
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COUNTY OF KNOX        )       SS

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held in person at the Galesburg City Council chambers on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 6:00 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 and still participate. The zoom code used tonight will stay the same for future meetings and can be found on the County website.

The Meeting was called to order by County Board Chair Jared Hawkinson and upon roll call the following Members reported present:

District 1	Cheryl Nache
District 2	Greg Bacon
District 3	Pamela Davidson
District 4	Jared Hawkinson
District 5	Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval
District 1	Anthony Weiss
District 3	Kimberly Thierry
District 4	Joshua Kramer
District 5	Brian Friedrich
District 1	Amanda Smith
District 2	Robert Bondi
District 3	Samuel Cohen
District 4	Todd Olinger
District 5	Patty Boone

And those absent:       District 2       Erin Pugh

Also present were County Clerk Scott Erickson, State’s Attorney Jeremy Karlin, and Sheriff Jack Harlan. Department Heads present were Nursing Home Administrator Jodi Mines, Landfill Administrator Rod Clair, and Knox County Public Health Administrator Michele Gabriel.

Sheriff Harlan delivered the Proclamation and 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. There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Chair Hawkinson asked for public comment.

Troy Fleisher said that last month he spoke opposing the assault weapon ban and spoke in favor of putting a resolution in place. He wanted to make sure that their voice is heard since he knew that it was coming up on the agenda. He asked to Board to vote in support of the resolution.

Barb Saline spoke in support of the resolution to up hold our constitutional rights. She read a list of names from Knox County that signed a petition Monday in support of the Board voting to approve action item 4 on the agenda. The list is as follows that was read: Barb Saline, Susan Vinson, Christine Brown, Troy Fleisher, Ryan Scalf, Darrell Garrett, Jeff Walton, Barb Bowen, Beth Kemp, John Young, Chris Banning, Cindy Bragg, Kenny Bragg, Karin Pierson, Kaye Cochran, Bruce Watkins, Randy Stufflebeam, Luella Ellison, Lynn Price, Debra Florio, Pam Bernand, Jean Peterson, Chuck Peterson, Micke Endicott, Dorrene Endicott, Dorrene Endicott, Todd Landon, Jeff Bowen, Holly Ogesby, Janet Benson Windish, Brittnay Strom, Catherine Pappas, Todd Jones, Tony Quinn, Rick Quinn, Deb Heinz, Patrick Harlan, Ty Landon, Dick Conklin, Nina Smith, Pauline McClay, Brian McClay, Matthew McFall, Jason Smith, Tom Schmidt, Steve Nichols, Chad Eiker, Lorraine Dundon, Brayden Bledsoe, Karen Bodine, Terri Bednar, Steve Gibbs, Nichole Fox, and Shawn Fox.

Chris Brown said that she just wanted to finish up reading the list. She read the names of Rob Bush and Abby Nichols.

Doug Summers said that he could have also read names out of a phone book. He said that they are listening to something coming up and is a lot of hate and racism. He talked about an issue he had due to a pin that he had worn on his hat. He said that he thought the wild west was over and done with. You all want everyone to have a gun without any training or certificate. He said to use bigotry and racism in Galesburg should no longer be tolerated.

Jerry Ryberg spoke about the details of the school shooting at a school in Michigan on that he said he will never forget that killed 16. He spoke about raising the age from 18 up to 21 to be able to purchase an AR-15. He said that of the 57 mass shootings mostly were with semi-automatic weapons. He said Republicans just want gun shops, gun shows and more guns. We need to protect our schools, universities and mosques. He spoke about the shooting in Las Vegas that killed 58 and wounded 156. He is against making Knox County a Gun Sanctuary. Patriots are not Patriots he said that they are part of the problem and the gun nuts are part of the problem.

Pam Davidson said that she is standing and speaking as a citizen of Knox County. She said that the law has not gone into effect yet on the high-powered rifles and magazines due to still being in the courts. No one wants to take them away. They just want you to register the high-powered rifles. People just like to take out key words. We have a court system that we need to let handle this. We register our vehicles every year. She is asking everyone to say no. She said that she could have gotten names after names to read. Also, a sample of when the State is not funding us how high our taxes will be.

Chair Hawkinson said thank you for the public comments. There was no public comment via zoom.

Motion was made by Member Weiss and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on January 25, 2023 and the Special Meetings on January 30, 2023 and February 8, 2023, and 2) claims for Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of February 2023 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of November 2022 in the amounts of \$142,816.69 and \$42,234.74 and public safety tax in the amount of \$241,847.95. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Resolution Opposing Public Act 102-1116 Protect Illinois Communities Act. Member Nache said that we do not need this. We need background checks and mental health help. She talked about when her son called her from school back in 2017 to tell her he loved her. When the school got shut down. She said you guys act like guns are more important than human life. These guns would shoot the hell out of an animal. She said that if her children get hurt she hopes that they hunt you guys down.

Chair Hawkinson said that Member Nache was out of line.

Member Cohen said that some of his statement got stolen by Jerry Ryberg. He said that we used to have legislation where they asked for registration of assault weapons and there was a drop-in school shootings. We need to comply or do we just disregard any laws. We need to refer this to the courts that are currently handling this right now.

Member Smith said that this legislation is in the middle of several court cases and whether it actually goes through is up in the air. This is not going to save anyone's guns. This is going to look like Knox County is ok with disregarding the State Law.

Member Boone said she took an Oath when coming on the Board to uphold the Constitution and part of that is to defend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. She spoke about when they took away the right to hunt inside and outside of camp during the Holocaust and people could not feed their families.

Member Cohen said that he is the 1<sup>st</sup> Jew on the Board and we should not talk about the Holocaust.

Member Bondi said that he is also Jewish and we should continue to talk about the Holocaust so people do not forget but this is separate.

Member Boone said that a lot of us have Hebrew heritage. We do not want our rights taken away and we need to defend our Constitution and the Second Amendment. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Olinger and Boone—(9). Noes—Nache, Davidson, Thierry, Smith, Cohen,--(5). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the Annual Report by Knox County Health Department. Knox County Public Health Administrator Michele Gabriel said that they are required to do this Annual Report due to Statutes. It provides Financials, Covid information, Programs, and additional information. She spoke about what they all offer at the Health Department such as help with food, water, sewage, immunizations, and LIHEAP along with the WIC program. The LIHEAP program was not renewed but another organization is wanting to take it over. She said that they have a new website that is easy to use and has great resources.

Chair Hawkinson asked if they had seen any program with dramatic increase over the last year.

Administrator Gabriel said that actually they have dropped some. She said that if SNAP goes up too much then other go down. She said that they are in the process of trying to get the childhood immunization rates back up.

Member Nache said that there is nothing better then the WIC program and that is all the help that her and her husband could get. She said utilize the program.

Member Thierry said that she used the program as a young mom.

Member Bondi said that the Western Illinois Regional Council & Community Action Agency is wanting a stronger presence in our area and they have applied for the LIHEAP program but not sure if they are approved yet.

Member Davidson said yes, they have been approved and looking for a facility downtown. She said that the new Health Department website is up, very bright and easy to use. She said kudos for moving up into the new century.

Chair Hawkinson thanked Administrator Gabriel for speaking. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the appointment to Henderson Fire Protection District of Brian Davison and Nicole Lincoln. Chair Hawkinson said that everything that we require of their information and resumes are in the packet. He is happy that people are still willing to take on these positions. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Weiss and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the appointments to the Altona Fire Protection District of John Andrews, Steve Main, Robert Nutzhorn, Carl Swanson, and Ryan West. Chair Hawkinson said that their required information is also in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Member Friedrich said that the monthly report from the Ways and Means Committees are in the packet. He said that it was a slow month and was pretty uneventful.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer for Resolution on Deed of Conveyance. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Authorization Letter for Fink Cemetery Clean Up by Spoon Valley Chapter of Daughters of American Revolution. Member Friedrich said that this is to be able to clean up the cemetery and the third time because they are not quite done with it.

Member Nache said that this is done by volunteers and thanked them for their services.

Member Friedrich said that this is hard work and we appreciate them. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Bid and Bring Back for Health/Life/Dental/Vision Insurance Coverage. Member Friedrich said that we are bidding this out one month early because our carrier wanted to get more bids. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bacon to approve Animal Kill Claims for 2022. Member Friedrich said that we do this every year. We had zero claims of wild animals hunting live stock to trigger an investigation.

Member Davidson said dogs have.

Member Bacon said that it has to be a wild animal that kills the livestock and dogs are not a wild animal. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, and Boone—(12). Noes—Cohen-- (1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Payment #5 for Emergency Work at the Jail. Chair Hawkinson said that this would be paid out of the Bond that was taken for County wide capitol for building improvements.

Member Davidson said that this was the best invoice statement that she has seen and what an invoice should look like. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Resolution for use of ARPA Lost Revenue Funds for Sheriff Vehicle Installation. Member Friedrich said that this is for the installation of equipment on the seven new Durango's'. There is a bill from Supreme Radio for \$23,683.91, Sign Depo for decals for \$2,980, and Dave's Auto for brush guards for \$ 3,724. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(12). Noes—Nache-- (1). Motion carried.

Member Friedrich said that there were no action items from Assessor. He is working with State's Attorney Karlin and have stuff coming.

Member Kramer said that the monthly report from the Public Safety and Justice Committees are in the packet and that there are no action items. He said that there is positive activity happening at the Mary Davis Home and every office.

Chair Hawkinson said that there are no outstanding issues.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Infrastructure Committee. He stated that the reports are in the packet.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve payment of Jail Phase 2 Payment Request #2.

Chair Hawkinson explained the amounts paid and said that the releases are in the packet.

Member Davidson said she is voting no because she wants more information wrote down by the Engineer and what was bided on with more details to know what we are spending taxpayer's money on. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(11). Noes—Nache and Davidson--(2). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the Bid and Bring Back for Purchase and Application of Lignin Sulfonate (Tree Sap) in Both Spring and Fall, for Approximately 1.5 Miles of Oversized Dirt/Gravel Road. Member Bondi said that the sealed Bids will go to the County Clerk's office at 200 S. Cherry St. and Bids will be opened on Thursday March 22, 2023. He said then will be reviewed by the Board.

Member Bacon said that the Tree Sap helped a lot.

Landfill Administrator Clair agreed that it did help a lot. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the Bid for a New Steel Tub Dump Trailer. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich for purchase of New Mini Excavator. Member Davidson said that she was voting no since it was not American made. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(11). Noes— Davidson--(1). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Bids for various MFT and Non-MFT Items, Section 23-XX000-00-XX. Member Bondi said that the Bid opening was February 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at the Highway Department. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the 2023 Motor Fuel Tax Supplemental Maintenance Resolution, Section 23-00000-00-GM. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Weiss to approve the Bid for Courthouse Server. Member Bondi said that it was for \$115,950. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Bid for Network Cisco Equipment. Member Bondi said that the Bid was for \$94,133. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Member Bacon presented the report from the Health and Human Services committee. The report is in the packet.

Motion made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve Amendment to Union Contract – Attendance Policy Modifications. Member Bacon said that this is about attendance on tardiness and call offs. It will be 180 days before they come off when it

used to be 90 days stuff would come off. The Nursing Home, Union, and Labor Attorney are all aware of the modification.

Member Nache asked if this was all good with Member Bacon.

Member Bacon said yes everything is all good. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(13). 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.

Motion made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve Opening of Budget for Line Item Changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Sandoval for the approval of Proposed Line Item Changes. Chair Hawkinson stated that there are several Proposed Line Item Changes are in the packet. He said that this was to move money due to the rate of pay increase. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that there were no manual checks out of the ordinary.

Motion made by Member Cohen and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of January 26, 2023 through February 22, 2023 (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). Chair Hawkinson reported that the vouchers submitted were in the amount of \$2,464,992.49. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., at Galesburg City Hall Council Chambers. The Zoom option will be available to the viewing public only. Board Members will be present in person for this meeting.

Chair Hawkinson wished Member Cohen a Happy Birthday.



Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Bondi to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

\*\*Amended at County Board meeting on April 29, 2023.

\*\*Member Davidson said she wanted a correction to the minutes that for public comment on zoom that Chair Hawkinson said that there were no emails sent to Clerk Erickson. Also, that he said Via zoom they have to email ahead of time.