

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

April 26, 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, April 26th, 2023 at 6:01 p.m. This meeting was presented via teleconference for viewing only. 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 2	Erin Pugh
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 3 Kimberly Thierry

Also present were County Clerk Scott Erickson, Sheriff Jack Harlan, State’s Attorney Jeremy Karlin, and Treasurer Robin Davis. Department Heads present were Highway Administrator Duane Ratermann, Landfill Administrator Rod Clear, Knox County Public Health Administrator Michele Gabriel, Mary Davis Home Administrator Wendi Steck and Supervisor of Assessments Sonia Hochstettler,

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. Member Friedrich requested for Item 9 to be deleted until they get more information. There were no additions to the agenda.

Chair Hawkinson asked for public comment.

Ken Springer the President of Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development spoke last month about the second round of back to business grant opportunity for local businesses that needs turned into the State by May 10th. This is for bars, restaurants, museums and performing arts. He said that they can also call the office for assistance at 309-343-1194. He said that this years CEO program will display at The Vault May 9th 4-6pm. This is a drop-in event. Also, Tuesday June 13th from 2-3:30 pm KCAP has an event at the Orpheum Theater.

Darcy Thorp from Knoxville, IL said that she has been on the Ag Board for 7 years and is asking for a donation in the amount of \$15,000 from the local community. Her hope is to raise \$368,000 in local donations and local business. She spoke about all the upgrades that they have been doing at the fairgrounds such as the bleachers being all refinished and the \$80,000 they spent the last 2 years for electrical that added 20 new camping sites. Which allows them to have bigger events book at the fairgrounds for events. Their new \$400,000 Knox County Community Center that was helped to be built by \$250,000 in ARPA funds. This building is handicap accessible and a space in the building host the Knox County Sheriff's Office along with hosting the 4H program. She invites the community to come out and check out the new building. She is proud to say that last year's concert with Josh Turner sold more tickets then the Galva Back Road Festival. They are hoping to sell even more tickets this year for Scotty McCreery and Sawyer Brown. She thanked the Board for allowing her to speak and said that she would be sending them emails.

Chair Hawkinson thanked Mr. Springer and Mrs. Thorp for speaking.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on March 29, 2023 and 2) claims for Members for per diem and mileage for the meetings of April 2023 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of January 2023 in the amounts of \$124,713.99 and \$34,222.40 and public safety tax in the amount of \$208,054.30. Member Davidson said she looking and looking again at the minutes. She is speaking about a tax payer not being allow to speak during public comment on zoom and the removal of the sheet prior to meeting.

Clerk Erickson said that the minutes are not for verbatim unless the Board so chooses to change them.

Member Friedrich and Member Bacon so moved for the record to have the minutes amended.

Member Davidson asked about paying per diems in April and mileage when they do not get to see what meetings everyone is being paid for. She said by the time they see the sheet and have an issue it has already been approved. She would like a more detailed sheet to make it clear what the additional meeting are for since some have several and some have none. She said the sign in sheets have to be turned in Friday prior to the meeting.

Chair Hawkinson said that the process and changes should be brought up at the committee level. If changes want done to the process and protocol.

Member Davidson said she wants transparency and by the time they see it to make a correction they have already voted on it.

Clerk Erickson said that a more detailed spreadsheet and data would increase time and work load. He said it had been the consensus of the Board and always been done this way.

Chair Hawkinson said that he did not hear any discussion about this at the committee meeting.

Member Friedrich was concerned with the additional work for Clerk Erickson.

Member Bacon asked what Member Davidson was trying to say.

Member Davidson said that she would like the sheet to show the name of the Board Member and what the names of the additional meeting are for that Board Member.

Member Bacon said she for UCCI it should say mileage and the name of the meeting. He said he understands now.

Member Davidson said yes. That ways they can know if incorrect and says thirty instead of three.

Chair Hawkinson said that this has been the same for the 6 ½ years he has been on the Board and the same under Member Davidson's leadership.

Member Davidson said that is incorrect.

Member Cohen said that just because we have been doing it this way does not mean we can not make changes to show more documentation. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(13). Noes—Davidson----(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the Proclamation of National Correctional Officers and Employees Week in Knox County. Chair Hawkinson said that it would be May 1st thru May 6th, 2023. He recognized the Correctional Facilities and officers who work in Knox County. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Olinger to approve the Proclamation of National Police Week in Knox County. Chair Hawkinson said that it would be observed May 14th thru May 20, 2023. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache,

Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Resolution Establishing April 29 as Deputy Nicholas Weist Day in Knox County. Chair Hawkinson said that this would be April 29th of every year. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Proclamation of May as Motorcycle Awareness Month in Knox County. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Weiss and seconded by Member Bondi to approve Memorandum of Understanding with AFSCME and State's Attorney Office. Member Bacon said that he is still thinking about all it. His concern is that it comes at a hard time and if it is a good idea or right for the county. His concern is that they do not punch a time clock and the tracking of benefits. He said he is still deciding on this.

Member Nache she is with Member Bacon on the concern with the timeclocks not being used. She said that she would like to table this until next month for them to have more time to decide.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Friedrich to table the Memorandum of Understanding with AFSCME and State's Attorney Office. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(14). Noes— (0). Motion tabled.

Member Friedrich said that the monthly report from the Ways and Means Committees are in the packet. He said that the composite information on the insurance was not in the packet. They might have to have a special meeting for the Wind and Solar Ordinance revisions since more time was needed to work on it.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Bid for Health/Life/Dental/Vision Insurance for 2023-2024. Member Friedrich said that Treasurer Davis just forwarded that information to him tonight and was thinking about tabling it due to late information.

Treasurer Davis said sorry she had thought she had sent it to him. She spoke about the 2% on stop loss with removing the \$400,000 in laser. She asked the Board not to table due to open enrollment starts on May 1st.

Chair Hawkinson said he thought this is why we started this process one month early. He asked if taking away the \$400,000 for laser hurt us.

Member Davidson said if you are going to start enrollment early, then this should have been started earlier.

Treasurer Davis said we can only start it 90 days out from renewal and that was the April meeting. Being self-insured you take that risk because you can not estimate every possibility of whether it would be catastrophic.

Member Davidson said that if wellness checks start next week May 1st then we should vote on it now.

Treasurer Davis said that these wellness checks are fasting blood draws and our employees have to have them done before July 1st. We have saved lives from these wellness checks.

Member Davidson said that they are a very good thing and was wondering if most of them say no.

Member Davis said most get them done.

Member Bacon said so if we approve this then we approve a rate increase or no increase. Or we are waiting for more information close to that.

Member Bondi said that Treasurer Davis did estimates.

Member Friedrich said that he had not received any communications from Member Davis or Steve Preader. He said he should not just be hearing about this right before the meeting.

Member Davidson agreed. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Kramer, Smith, Cohen, and Boone—(11). Noes— Friedrich, Bondi, and Olinger---(3). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Resolutions on Deeds of Conveyance. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, 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 Resolution Amending Fees for Records Office. Clerk Erickson said that this is the State of Illinois and the Rental House Support Act to help support and fund housing projects throughout the State. They are adding an additional \$9 fee to the current \$9 fee for a total fee of \$18, which becomes effective July 1st, 2023. An additional bill is going thru State Legislation on an additional \$1 fee but that has not passed yet.

Member Bacon asked how many transactions this would affect.

Clerk Erickson said it would affect land records and plat records but he does not have a solid number total.

Member Bacon said he is voting no just symbolic because the State of Illinois is still going to do what they want.

Member Nache said no matter if we vote yes or no the State is still going to have it happen. They are going to take it from us anyways and just symbolic. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Davidson, Hawkinson, Pugh, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(10). Noes—Bacon, Sandoval, and Weiss--- (3). Abstain---Olinger---(1). Motion carried.

Member Kramer said that the monthly report from the Public Safety and Justice Committees are in the packet.

Motion made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the purchase of 2003 Dodge Durango from Thomas Auto Group for \$42,346.00 to replace wrecked patrol car. Member Nache asked how much would be covered by our insurance.

Member Kramer said adjuster said the vehicle was worth \$17,650. Our insurance will offset the amount until the at fault driver's insurance pays.

Member Olinger asked if it is fully equipped.

Member Kramer said yes, all the essentials but not the radios. He said the Treasurer the \$24,696.00 would come out of Public Safety Disaster Fund. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(14). Noes— (0). Motion tabled.

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 Cohen to approve County Website Redesign Contract. Member Bondi said that they narrowed it down to three website companies and Clerk Erickson with the two IT employees have reviewed and advised us to go with Revize for \$30,000 with a \$6,500 yearly maintenance fee. He said the yearly fee might go down even lower.

Chair Hawkinson said he spoke with the VP of the company and got them to go down to \$5,400 for the yearly maintenance fee which would be on May 15th, 2024. He said that this would be a 4-year contract going to May 14, 2026. We would pay \$22,350.00 now, then \$7,450 in September and is a 20-week process before it goes live. Once the website is up the Department Head will have access to their page for updates. He said it is a very modern age website.

Member Cohen asked how much the City pays for their yearly reoccurring fee.

Chair Hawkinson said Orlee at the City let our IT know that they pay about the same yearly fee.

Member Nache said she had the same comment from a year ago that the people she talks to do not care how it looks just that it is understandable add easy to use. She is good with it if it is easy to get the information and to use.

Chair Hawkinson said that there will be a large citizen communication section, place for bid postings, job opportunities, document center, business phone numbers, online forms, capability for the State's Attorney office to email directly from the website, web calendars, blogging, bill pay online and security features for IT. The website would be user friendly and 100% mobile friendly.

Member Davidson said that she has had laptop issues. She said thank you to the new gentleman with IT that picked up and delivered her laptop back personally to her. She said with the website when bidding on online they are stamped with the time and date. We definitely need that for more transparency. She said thank you for moving forward with this.

Member Bondi said thank you.

Clerk Erickson said that they had a great Bid selection to work with. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Weiss to approve to approve payment for Draw 7 of Phase 1 Emergency for \$75,233.06. Member Bondi said that this is the last installment on Phase 1.

Chair Hawkinson said that there is no retainage. If his math is correct it took 1 year.

Member Bacon was confirming that with this payment it would be paid off.

Chair Hawkinson said yes.

Member Weiss said they have the documentation on the sign off on liens and everything needed.

Member Bondi said good questions. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(13). Noes— (0). Abstain--Davidson--(1). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve payment for Draw 4 of Phase 2 Scheduled Values of \$686,331.35. Member Bondi said they have the waiver. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Weiss to approve payment for Draw 2 of Phase 2A Scheduled Values of \$93,909.29.

Chair Hawkinson said there would be \$14,420.90 remaining and they have the waivers. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve Bridge Replacement Bid – Elba Township, Section 20-04117-77-BR. Member Bondi said that this project is located 2 miles northeast of Yates City on 700N. The existing drainage structure was built in 1972 and is a 35 ft long, single span concrete bridge. The bridge roadway width is 20 ft. The existing bridge-structure consists of timber piling that have severe deterioration. The bid was \$373,937, submitted by Curnyn Construction, Geneseo. The project should be completed by October 1, 2023. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the Bids for Motor Fuel Tax Materials, Section 23-XX000-00-XX. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Member Bacon presented the report from the Health and Human Services committee. The report is in the packet. He thanked Member Nache for taking the minutes. They should have a Director of Nursing by May 15th. Wing 3 is ready just waiting on IDPA to make the call and Swanson and Humes to sign off on. They have operated another month in the Black. He said they have a few budget changes and plans on being more involved to eliminate this.

Member Nache said that the Nursing Home is going well. She asked Public Health Administrator Gabriel if they had a dentist.

Administrator Gabriel said they have a contractual Dentist.

Member Nache asked her about a Psychologist and scheduling appointments because she feels calling Bridgeway is a waste of time. Mental illness is in some of her kids and they do not want to wait 6 months to talk to someone.

Administrator Gabriel said yes, they have counselors and have a new one but are not taking any new patients.

Member Nache wanted to go on the record saying they need help. They need some real help in the County.

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 Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve Opening of Budget for Line Item Changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Sandoval for the approval of Proposed Line Item Changes. Chair Hawkinson stated that there were 3 departments with Proposed Line Item Changes in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that for manual checks there was one out of state service for the State's Attorney office, trial reconstruction, and quarterly fee for EPA for the Landfill.

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of March 30, 2023 through April 26, 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 \$3,064,115.49. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., at Galesburg City Hall Council Chambers. The Zoom option is for public viewing only. Board Members will be present in person for this meeting.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.