

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

**September 27, 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, September 27th, 2023 at 6:05 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 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             |

All members present

Also present were County Clerk Scott Erickson, Sheriff Jack Harlan, and Treasurer Robin Davis. Department Heads present were Nursing Home Administrator Jodi Mines, Highway Administrator Duane Ratermann, Landfill Administrator Rod Cleair, 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. There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

Chair Hawkinson asked for public comment.

Ken Springer the President of Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development said that he wanted to invite everyone to a cool event of Manufacturing Skills on Thursday, October 26 from 8:30am-2pm. There will be students from 8 schools that are part of the GAVC program. He said that there was about one thousand people last year that went. They hope to have even more this year. He said that everyone from the public is invited.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7-9am there will be coffee with the CEO program students at Orange Cup. They have now been in the program for one month and they are ready to turn them loose on the public. He asked the public to stop by say hello and come meet them.

There website is [www.knoxpartnership.com](http://www.knoxpartnership.com). You can always contact him at 309-343-1194 or by email at [ken@knoxpartnership.com](mailto:ken@knoxpartnership.com).

Marshall Schrader said he is from the Galesburg Sanitary District and encourages everyone to come out and tour the facility. He said give them a call and they will be glad to give you a tour. He wanted to publicly recognize Richard Allen for all his wonderful work he did while on the Board of Trustee's for the Galesburg Sanitary District. He listed some of his accomplishments such as serving in the US Army from 1956-1958, running a small business for 47 years, being a Galesburg Election Judge, a member of the First United Methodist Church, member of the Jaycees, member of the Rotary Club and was on the Knox County Board. His replacement will be filling a big hole. He said thank you to Richard Allen for his years and years of service for the community.

Chair Hawkinson said that for himself and every Board Chair before him such as Member Bacon, Member Davidson, and Member Friedrich he is sure they would agree that it has been a pleasure to always reappoint Richard Allen.

Drew DeSutter said he is a member of the Farm Bureau and is one of the 853 farmers in Knox County. He is here about the Resolution in Support of Allies in Agriculture Program. That shows support of this industry and is the supplier of food, fuel, fiber, community resources, and more. He is a fourth-generation farmer with a wife and four children. They grow corn, soybeans, hay and raise cattle. He said that agriculture supports 2,327 jobs which accounts for an estimated 9% of the total jobs in Knox County which is \$692 ½ million and 23% of taxable sales. He wanted to thank Knox County for the continued support to Knox County agriculture and farmers.

Hailey Hennenfent said she is here with Drew DeSutter representing the Farm Bureau in support of Allies in Agriculture Program. They are a grass roots non-profit that represent and give voice, answer lots of questions, and help local elected officers. She said that she is inviting anyone that would like to join them for harvest to come out and get in a combine, grain cart, or go to a local elevator with them. They are more than welcome to join them to see what they do. They have their 106-annual meeting in January. She wanted to thank the ARPA task force and David Amor for the work they do and continue to do to work with and support agriculture.

Chair Hawkinson thanked everyone for speaking.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on August 23, 2023 and 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of June 2023 in the amounts of \$150,614.59 and \$39,375.72 and public safety tax in the amount of \$254,010.29. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Randy Newcomb the Executive Director of the Galesburg Area Tourism and Visitor Bureau gave their update. He said that the State finally released the economic tourism results from 2022. Visitor expenditures hit \$97 million which is the highest ever up \$13.1 million from 2021. The total economic impact in 2022 was \$168.7 million. That figures to be \$131.20 per person per day that they are spending when visiting Knox County. That generated 631 tourism and hospitality jobs resulting in labor income of \$22.4 million. That is a savings of \$455 in taxes for each household in Knox County. He said thank you for the ARPA funding which helped with research to know where the visitors come from democratically moving from Amtrak to Orpheum to Lake Storey. He said it is weird but they can now do this by cellphone usage being pinged and counted of their location where they came from and where they went to. He said it counts the visitor once. He spoke about having data now knowing the main cities that people are coming from. He plans on increasing the numbers by as he calls it putting heads in beds. Meaning having people spend the night and their money here through advertisement. The largest age group is the 25-64 age bracket and people that make \$75,000 plus a year. They have TV ads streaming, influencers that wrote eight different stories that will be publishing, [experiencegalesburg.com](http://experiencegalesburg.com) and a billboard on Interstate Highway 280 and 74. They have a local artist doing a mural. He said through Facebook and Instagram they have seen a 300.1% increase. He said that Tessa Jones is doing an excellent job with their social media website. They plan on having a new visitors guide. He told everyone to get ready for a fun outline and playbook over the next five years. Again, he said thank you for the ARPA funds that helped for part of their research and murals. He said for the artists, locations, what they are painting and the dates for unveiling will be released once the contracts are signed. Within the next year they will have two if not three completed. They plan on doing two murals a year for the next five years.

Member Nache asked if the new website and visitors' pamphlet will have more minorities.

Mr. Newcomb was unsure what Member Nache meant by saying visitors' pamphlet.

Member Davidson said news booklet.

Member Nache asked if on the cover and in the advertisements.

Mr. Newcomb said yes, we will.

Member Nache said thank you.

Member Davidson said her friends have electric cars and plan their places they visit around where there are electric stations to plug in. She asked if we are pushing into the new century for stations.

Mr. Newcomb said that he has been contacted about having charging stations at the welcome center.

Member Weiss asked about the percent of increase what is driving it.

Mr. Newcomb said that a consumer survey is the only true way to know or they could look at the weeks and dates of events or by asking visitors but 1.2 million of the visitors we do not have contact with. They could put a survey at the hotels and attractions.

Member Weiss said thank you.

Chair Hawkinson said thank you to Mr. Newcomb.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve appointment to Knoxville Fire Protection District of Jeff Jefferson and Donald L. Moffitt. Chair Hawkinson said that these are reappointments and the information is in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Olinger to approve appointment to Galesburg Sanitary District of Rick Welty. Chair Hawkinson asked Richard Allen if he would indorse Mr. Welty.

Mr. Allen said that he certainly would.

Chair Hawkinson said that the legend himself indorses Mr. Welty and said thank you to Mr. Allen. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve appointment to Orpheum Theater Board of Karen Cates. Chair Hawkinson said that her letter and resume is in the packet like requested. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Weiss to appointment to Knox County Board of Health of Dr. Erin Jain. Chair Hawkinson said that the information was added to the G-drive since we did not have it before the packet went out. He said that she is a local orthodontist. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by member Sandoval to approve the Resolution in Support of Allies in Agriculture Program. Chair Hawkinson said that there are at least 12 Farm Bureau Members present.

Clerk Erickson said that he is a member also.

Chair Hawkinson said that they are hidden everywhere. He said that 9% of the total jobs generates \$692.5 million and provides 23.6% of the taxable value in the county. He thanked Hailey Hennenfent for all she does and says she is a well-supported person by the Board. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said thank you to the Farm Bureau Members for attending.

Member Friedrich said that the monthly report from the Ways and Means Committees are in the packet. He said we are hitting the Budget hard and picking up more meetings. He said he will be talking to Treasurer Davis tomorrow to set up more meetings. He also said that a couple more departments are also doing negotiations.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Bids for County Insurance for 2024. Member Friedrich asked Treasurer Davis if she had any information to add.

Treasurer Davis said it is in the packet.

Chair Hawkinson said the agent on Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust (ICRT) updates the current rates and what to look for. He said that there is an 8.5% increase. It would have been tremendously higher if we went other routes. It is up 20% for other government entities. He said this is a decent package.

Member Kramer said that it would be nice to have a representative out to train Department Heads.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Membership Renewal with Western Illinois Regional Council. Member Friedrich said this is for annual dues.

Clerk Erickson said the amount is \$5,460.

Member Davidson said that she would like to say that this is very good for our community. She said she was on the council until she had to step down due to not being able to get from the Quad Cities to Macomb in time for the meetings.

Chair Hawkinson said that they do the recycling for the County. They will have an office on Main St. on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Bondi Building. This will be a local benefit and help the citizens.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Resolution on Deed of Conveyance. Member Friedrich said that this is for one Deed of Conveyance to be put back on the tax role. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve renewal of Property Tax Software Support from Devnet. Member Friedrich said that this is software that the Treasurer Davis and Clerk Erickson use in their offices.

Chair Hawkinson said that this is a renew contract for 3 years broke down into three years of 12 monthly payments totaling \$51,299.04 for the 1<sup>st</sup> year, \$52,342.92 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and \$53,371.44 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. This will be paid with manual checks during the mid-cycle. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Resolution Amending Knox County Travel Policy. Member Friedrich said that we are behind the times on updating this policy. This is just mirroring with the Federal policy. It will change when they change.

Chair Hawkinson said the current one says \$28/day. This will update it to if the government changes their policy ours will change also.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Member Friedrich said to the Board to check their emails for anyone on the Budget Committee because after he checks with Treasurer Davis he plans on scheduling 6 days next week of budget meetings. He said so make sure everyone looks at their emails.

Chair Hawkinson said that they are at a \$3.2 million deficit going into the budget which is about normal. He said that they will be cutting budgets and some will be tough.

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

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the Resolution Amending Impounded Vehicle Ordinance. Member Kramer said the information is in the packet. He said this is amending ordinance 2009-25 section 8.2. He said the offences and \$500 impound fee will instead be mirroring the State. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

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 Friedrich to approve Bid and BUY for County Fuel for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Member Bondi said that Landfill Administrator Clair does this every year at the full Board meeting. The bids will be opened at 11am on October 25, 2023 in the Clerk Erickson's Office. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Performance Contract Phase 2 Invoice Application #9 for \$20,035.62. Member Bondi said that all the documentation and lien releases are in the packet.

Chair Hawkinson said they put in 4,000 linear feet of precast silicone joint seals and now putting the tinted sealant on by the end of October.

Member Nache asked if the sealant and the roof are all holding up. She said yes, I know they need to finish.

Chair Hawkinson said that the whole project should be done by the end of the year and the exterior by the end of October.

Member Bacon said so the projection for the project to be complete is by the end of the year.

Chair Hawkinson said yes for the project.

Member Davidson asked about the tinted sealant.

Chair Hawkinson said it is to seal up the porous parts. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the Performance Contract Phase 2A Invoice Application #7 for \$43,278.39. Member Bondi said that all the documentation is in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache,

Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve Bid and Bring Back for Courthouse ADA Ramp. Member Bondi said that the estimate by Klinger and Associates for the east ramp is \$150,000 and for the south ramp is \$100,000. He said it is in the packet along with the drawings that they will use to get bids from contractors.

Member Davidson asked if the east was the front.

Member Bondi said yes, the current entrance.

Member Nache said that she is going to speak for her disabled daughter that planned on speaking on zoom. She said that her daughter wants the east entrance for respect and dignity. She said that for parking there she knows we have four but there are three more perfect parking spots by the front doors to use. They only need one ramp even though the design with both ramps looks nice. She said her daughter thinks it is undignified to have them go through the basement. The same place the garbage is taken out to the dumpsters. Her daughter feels they are saying that they are no better than the stuff they put in the garbage. She said that these are her daughters' words. Member Nache said that she does not care if it costs more money. They should be brought through the same doors as we are brought through.

Member Bacon asked where we are getting the money from.

Chair Hawkinson said that it is not decided. This is just putting it out for bids.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve 5 Year Contract with Stratus for SD-WAN Services and Courthouse Fiber Upgrade. Member Bondi said that this is a 5-year contract with Stratus and was presented during Infrastructure.

IT Nate Appler said that this is just a straight upgrade. Right now, we are paying \$1700 per month and we would go to paying \$3,770 per month. This is a management thing for cost savings and then able to get rid of firewalls.

Member Davidson asked if they put this out for bid.

IT Appler said that it was under \$20,000.

Member Davidson asked if he talked to others.

IT Appler said that it would be an upgrade to an existing.

Chair Hawkinson said for technology and performance since it is under \$20,000 it is not required to go out for bid.

Member Bacon asked firewalls.

IT Appler said this is for all of the courthouse to have private.

Member Bacon said OK.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). 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 Kramer to approve Bid for Nursing Home Kitchen Wall Replacement for \$77,215.00 from MSI. Member Bacon said the low bid was for \$77,215 from MSI. He said that they are getting a new dishwasher and going to lease instead of buy. This is to replace the walls since the old one leaks. They will work on this and it will not affect meal service. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Member Bacon said that this is another month in the black and no referendum money was used.

Chair Hawkinson stated that the reports from the outside committees 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.

Member Davidson said you said that you would remove my name from the outside committee and it is still on there.

Chair Hawkinson said yes last month.

Member Davidson said no three months ago.

Chair Hawkinson said sure Member Davidson.

Motion made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve Opening of Budget for Line Item Changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Friedrich for the approval of Proposed Line Item Changes. Chair Hawkinson said that the changes are in the packet and there are several. He said that there are usually a lot this time of year to get things squared away before the end of the year. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that the Treasurer provided manual checks in the packet and are circled.

Motion made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Committee Meetings of September 2023,

Board Meetings in August, and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Chair Hawkinson said the total is \$8,189.89.

Member Cohen asked if Chair Hawkinson had heard back from the State's Attorney.

Chair Hawkinson said that the State's Attorney supplied his opinion and he is asking for him to provide documentation.

Member Davidson said the per diems were not ported at 2:30pm when she looked and asked if they can receive them earlier. She said Member Nache for instance did not have her computer or internet and did not receive it at the proper time.

Chair Hawkinson said that the information will be reported more promptly and passed along.

Member Nache said that she would be voting no even though it affects her since it was not in the packet until late. She said that she had to make 2 trips to the courthouse. The Clerk said that he had been busy but Member Smith, Member Davidson, and Member Cohen need to have the information and this is taxpayer's money. So, she said she will be voting no.

Member Sandoval said call the question.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes—Nache--- (1). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of August 24, 2023 through September 27, 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 \$2,316,875.86. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 25, 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 Kramer and seconded by Member Friedrich to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone—(15). Noes— (0). Motion carried. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.