

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

December 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, December 27th, 2023 at 6:01p.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 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 5	Patty Boone

And those absent:	District 3	Pamela Davidson
	District 4	Todd Olinger

Also present were County Clerk Scott Erickson and Sheriff Jack Harlan. Department Heads present were Nursing Home Administrator Jodi Mines, Highway Administrator Duane Ratermann, and Landfill Administrator Rod Clear,

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 and Chair Hawkinson removed Items 4 from the agenda.

Chair Hawkinson asked for public comment. He asked if there was anyone that did not get a chance to sign up before the meeting started.

Ken Springer the President of Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development spoke about two developments of properties. The first which is at 161 N. Cherry St. in the north part of Downtown Galesburg. The project will see the former Moose building renovated to become the new home of Smokin' Willies BBQ. The total project will cost \$290,000. The project involved a City Revolving Loan Fund loan, TIF and Façade incentives. The project is expected to create 8 part-time jobs (4 FTE) and the new restaurant will be open in the spring of 2024. Smokin' Willies started in 2016 initially as a caterer, later moved to a food truck and most recently operated the kitchen in Cedar Creek Hall.

The second property Sitka Seafood Market (formerly Sitka Salmon Shares) cut the ribbon on their new standalone facility at 1861 S. Henderson St. Sitka was launched in Galesburg in 2011 and over the years has grown to become a national brand. The company partners with small-scale fishing enterprises in Sitka Alaska and then processes and ships high-grade seafood products all across the continental United States. This investment further cements the company's presence in Knox County and will serve as a platform for future growth. KCAP worked with Sitka on the real estate part of this project back in 2021. The building required significant internal renovations to accommodate Sitka's freezer storage and shipping equipment.

He said that 52 businesses opened in the area which as made for another great year in economic development and they plan on having a great 2024.

Chair Hawkinson thanked Mr. Springer for speaking.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on November 21, 2023 and 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of September 2023 in the amounts of \$143,432.81 and \$38,711.99 and public safety tax in the amount of \$239,857.98. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen and Boone —(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson recognized everyone involved with the 9-1-1 call for the Village of Henderson, IL for an unresponsive 3-month-old infant that saved the infant's life. The hero's names are Jenny Gaard-Communications Clerk II, Galesburg/Knox County 911 Center, Victoria Dowdal-Communications Clerk II, Galesburg/Knox County 911 Center, Bill Stone-Chief, Henderson Fire Protection District, Shawn Bay-Sergeant, Knox County Sheriffs Office, Chris

Reynolds-Paramedic, GHAS, Luis Mata-Paramedic, GHAS, Jen Sampson-RN, OSF Life Flight, Kylie Ervin-RN, OSF Life Flight, Tommy Wojtowicz-Pilot, OSF Life Flight.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the Resolution Modifying Squad Car Resolution. Chair Hawkinson said that back in February 2023 the Board approved the purchase of all the equipment and Treasurer Davis found that the cages were not included. The \$10,500 was not part of the original resolution. He said that it was recommended by Treasurer Davis to make a modification to include the cages. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, 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 which January usually is but next month will start to ramp up.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Letter of Engagement for Audit for Circuit Clerk. Member Friedrich said that we need to do this since their audit is separate from ours. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, and Boone —(12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bacon to approve Resolution Amending Previous Knox County Paid Leave Policy. Member Friedrich said that this has to do with the new law that starts January 1st.

Chair Hawkinson said that the policy on January 1st provides paid time off for part time and full-time employees. He said that we are exempt if a policy is in place and adjust it to have it in place before January 1st. He said that it does not apply to CBA's. He said that they just did some language changes. They removed language saying only regular full-time employees and it is in the packet.

Member Friedrich asked if there were any questions.

Member Nache asked how it would affect the Council or Board Members.

Chair Hawkinson said that he asked the State's Attorney for legal aid on this since we get a W-2 and it was not clear if it applied to us. He said that the State's Attorney said that it does not apply to us. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen and Boone —(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Member Kramer said that the monthly report from the Public Safety and Justice Committees are in the packet. He said that not a lot is going on other than the 12-hour scheduling to start in January and the jail is almost done.

Chair Hawkinson said yes all but laundry.

Member Bacon asked if it was just the machines or renovation.

Chair Hawkinson said some remodeling. He highly recommended that the Board do a walk through and he will show a slideshow in closed session due to safety concerns.

Member Nache asked what the count was at the jail.

Sheriff Harlan said 44.

Member Nache asked if that included feds and everything. She also asked if the public could tour the jail.

Chair Hawkinson said that would be a public safety issue.

Member Bacon said well you can but not how you would like.

Member Thierry said that this is not about the action item but she just wanted to tell Sheriff Harlan that it was a wonderful thing of what he did with the Angel Tree for children of people that are incarcerated.

Sheriff Harlan said thank you and they helped 34 angels.

Chair Hawkinson said thank you for pointing that out.

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

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Weiss to approve Continuation of Service Agreement with Foth Infrastructure and Environment, LLC. Member Bondi said that this is to continue the relationship with Foth for Landfill's consulting, engineering and design needs for calendar year 2024. Foth is here to answer any questions and the information is in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen and Boone —(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Nache to approve Foth to Apply for Grant for Landfill 3-Phase Power System. Member Bondi said that this is for Foth Infrastructure and Environment, LLC to apply for a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant; administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency to pay for a 3-phase power system at the Landfill for an estimated cost of \$26,000.00. He said the landfill will need 3 phase power in the near future to facilitate the installation of the soon to be required gas collection system. Besides the 3-phase power system, the grant may also be utilized to help offset the cost of gas collection system and solar project, depending on the amount of proceeds acquired. He said that the grant Memorandum was in the packet. If approved Line Item 012-000560000-45 Professional Services will be used. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen and Boone —(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve Bid and Bring Back for 3-year Mowing/Bailing Contract at Stegall Landfill. Member Bondi said that the existing contract is set to expire on March 31, 2024. He said that this is at no expense to the

landfill and the new contract would go from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2027. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, 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 Performance Contract Phase 2 Invoice Application #12 for \$70,510.41. Member Bondi said that all lien waivers are in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, 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 Performance Contract Phase 2A Invoice Application #10 for \$14,436.14. Member Bondi said that all the lien waivers are in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen and Boone —(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Nache to approve Resolution for 2024 Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance – Section 24-00000-00-GM. Member Bondi said that the resolution amount is for \$650,000 and that this resolution will obligate \$150,000 to purchase rock salt. It will also obligate \$500,000 of MFT funds to enable us to reimburse the Highway fund at the end of 2024 for labor and equipment costs that we incur while doing MFT maintenance activities in 2024. He said that Highway Administrator Ratermann is here to answer any questions.

Chair Hawkinson asked about the amounts.

Highway Administrator Ratermann said that he just did one resolution this year instead of breaking it into two.

Chair Hawkinson said ok thank you. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen and Boone —(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Member Bondi said that this was the end of his presentation for 2023.

Member Bacon presented the report from the Health and Human Services committee. The report is in the packet. He said thank you to Member Nache for taking the minutes and that she does a fine job. He said that he has to butter her up so she keeps taking the minutes.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve Memorandum of Understanding with AFSCME Council 31 and Nursing Home. Member Bacon said that they can opt back in this one time only and go back to having benefits. He said maybe they can make it into the contract next year. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache,

Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen and Boone —(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve Write-Off for Medicare B from 2020 to 2022. Member Bacon said that this is for \$49,244.49. He said that Medicare only pays a certain amount and this is the difference that they do not pay.

Member Kramer asked if this was because we are government.

Member Bacon said no that everyone has to do this. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen and Boone —(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Smith to approve Bid for the Replacement of Sprinkler Room Door. Member Bacon said that is was for \$7,000 and some odd dollars.

Chair Hawkinson said \$7,796.00 for replacement by MSI.

Member Bacon asked if it was a tag or recommendation.

Nursing Home Administrator Mines said a recommendation.

Member Bacon said thank you. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen and Boone —(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve Bid for Replacement Flooring in Wing 1. Member Bacon said that he did not have the exact amount.

Chair Hawkinson said that it was for \$38,770.00. He said that there were 3 bids but MSI was the lowest.

Member Bacon said that it needs done and it would be getting rid of the carpet making it easier for wheelchairs. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen and Boone —(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Member Bacon said that they made it to the end of the year and thank you to Nursing Home Administrator Mines and her staff. He said that they never once had to borrow from the referendum. They also have no budget changes this month. He said that they have had them every month since he got here so good job. He asked what the census was.

Nursing Home Administrator Mines said 106.

Member Bacon said that the budget is based on 85 so they plan to make some and spend some.

Member Nache asked if they are masked up.

Member Bacon said yes per the Health Department protocol.

Nursing Home Administrator Mines said yes.

Member Bacon said he tips his hat and great people that we have there.

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.

Chair Hawkinson said that the list of manual checks was in the Board packet. He also read them as follows: Dev Net, Inc., McDonough County Clerk, Midwest Bank, Pitney Bowes Bank Inc Reserve Account and Kenneth Hogan.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Committee Meetings of December 2023, Board Meetings in November, and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Chair Hawkinson said the total is \$2,122.14.

Member Nache said that this is a month she can say she is proud of ourselves. Since only paid for 1 meeting even if had three in a day. She said that the per diems looked right, diligence to the tax payers and for this she thanks you.

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of November 22, 2023 through December 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 \$1,597,556.51. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen and Boone —(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 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 Friedrich and seconded by Member Pugh to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone—(13). Noes— (0). Motion carried. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.