

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

**November 21, 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 Knox County Courthouse on Tuesday, November 21st, 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 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 2	Erin Pugh
	District 4	Todd Olinger

Also present were County Clerk Scott Erickson, State’s Attorney Jeremy Karlin, Sheriff Jack Harlan, and Treasurer Robin Davis. 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 or deletions.

Chair Hawkinson asked for public comment.

Pam Davidson said hello. She said that she sits on the County Board and the President of the NAACP. She said we as government officials send out brochures we need to have Hispanic, Black and Asian people represented. We are starting a new year and need to always keep that in front of our mind. On the County website we need to have farmers, city people, Asians, Blacks, and Hispanics. We all make up Knox County so let's start now.

Ken Springer the President of Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development spoke about the end of the year sparking people to open new businesses. He wanted everyone to know that KCCAP can help new business with demographics, business plans, surveying suites, graphic design, social media, insurance payment information, lenders, and financial tools. They are able to help them with all these questions and help walk them through the process. He said they can be reached by calling 309-343-1191 or by web at [knoxpartnership.com](http://knoxpartnership.com). He said come see us if you plan on starting a business during the holiday season.

Chair Hawkinson said thank you to everyone that spoke.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Cohen to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on October 25, 2023 and Special Meeting on November 7, 2023 and 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of August 2023 in the amounts of \$141,821.10 and \$41,335.68 and public safety tax in the amount of \$245,247.02. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi and Cohen—(11). Noes— (0). Abstain----Bacon and Boone---(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Davidson and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the appointment to Knox County Board of Health of Taren Cowan. Chair Hawkinson said her information is in the packet.

Member Davidson said she would like to give her recommendation for Taren Cowen saying she is educated, great in nursing, a Nurse Practitioner and will be great for the Knox County Board of Health.

Chair Hawkinson said that in the Knox Board of Health meeting she was unanimously approved and asked Dan Harris if he wanted to add anything.

Dan Harris said she would be a great candidate.

Chair Hawkinson apologized to Mr. Harris for putting him on the spot.

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 appointment to Knox County Metropolitan Exposition Auditorium and Office Building (Orpheum) Board of Jaclyn Smith-Esters. Chair Hawkinson said that her information is 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.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Nache to approve the appointment to Knox County 708 Mental Health Board of Kyle Rohweder. Chair Hawkinson said that the information is in the packet.

Member Davidson said that he should have been there.

Chair Hawkinson said that he will relay that to him tomorrow when he gets his haircut.

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 Cohen to approve the appointment to Knox County 708 Mental Health Board of Luke Raymond. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen and Boone —(12). Noes—Hawkinson---(1). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson acknowledged that he received the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Circuit Clerk Union today and it has been executed.

Member Friedrich said that the monthly report from the Ways and Means Committees are in the packet. He thanked all the Department Heads. He said they struggled through the Budget and got through with Treasurer Davis and her staffs help.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve Resolution on Deeds 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 Weiss to approve renewal of membership dues for Illinois Association of County Board Members. Member Friedrich said that the cost is \$1500 for yearly dues. 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 Nache to approve Letters of Engagement with County Auditors. Member Friedrich said that this is to get started with the auditors to get with Treasurer Davis to start the audit process.

Chair Hawkinson said they still need the documentation from Wipfli for the Circuit Clerk's Office. He said December 1<sup>st</sup> this takes effect but that documentation is the missing piece right now.

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 Resolution on Paid in Vacation Vouchers. Member Friedrich said that the wording is weird but this is to approve Treasurer Davis and Clerk Erickson to pay bills that if not paid would get charged a late fee.

Member Nache asked if they did this ahead.

Clerk Erickson said these are for mid-month bills. These bills are ones that the due dates cannot be adjusted to meet the end of month regular bills. He said that they have attached a list of these bills to the resolution.

Member Nache said thank you she was wondering how it went together.

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 Sandoval to approve Collective Bargaining Agreements. Member Friedrich said that this is for the Courthouse, State's Attorney, and Highway Department agreements.

Member Nache asked if they got the thing settled between us and the other contract.

Member Friedrich said no.

Member Nache said thanks. Then she will be voting no.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi and Cohen—(11). Noes—Nache---(1). Abstain---Boone---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve Resolution ARPA Resolution on Century Enterprises (MidCentury) Project. Member Friedrich

said that it is in the packet. He said for the financial side Member Bondi can tell you the nuts and bolts.

Member Nache said that we had this in ARPA originally. Now it is included in the whole total package. She said she voted no the first time so she is going to again.

Chair Hawkinson said this project will run fiber to the Highway Department, serve nine residents and the campground.

Member Bacon asked if there would also be a Federal grant or our money only.

Chair Hawkinson said that they will provide a discounted business price for 2 years for the Highway Department.

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.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Resolution on use of Appellate Prosecutor. Member Friedrich said that we do this every year and the amount is for \$18,000. This is a decrease of \$1,000 from last year.

Chair Hawkinson asked if everyone understood what the Appellate Prosecutor does for us. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi and Cohen—(12). Noes—(0). Abstain---Boone---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve Budget Changes for FY2023-2024 Budget. Member Friedrich said that the changes are in the packet. He said the line item changes for items have been on display.

Chair Hawkinson read aloud all the changes.

Member Davidson said it shows that we are hurting. She said we are at a deficit this budget and need to stay within the budget.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi and Boone—(7). Noes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Smith and Cohen---(5). Abstain---Thierry---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve Tax Levy for Knox County for FY2023-2024 with Amendments as necessary. Member Friedrich said that the rate did not change just some of the amounts.

Chair Hawkinson read aloud all the changes of amounts.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Smith and Boone—(10). Noes—Nache, Davidson and Cohen---(3). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Budget for Knox County for FY2023-2024 with Amendments as necessary. Chair Hawkinson said with the amendment the total is \$84,624,926 and less then last years budget of \$91,165,647.

Member Nache said that it is top heavy and some areas need to do a few more changes then they did. She wants to remind everyone that they are starting at a \$1.3 million-dollar deficit. She said that she is just reminding you all.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi and Boone—(8). Noes— Nache, Bacon, Davidson and Cohen---(4). Abstain---Thierry---(1). Motion carried.

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

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve Resolution Amending Chapter 9 of Ordinance 2009-025 – Careless Driving Ordinance. Member Kramer said it adds unlawful reckless or careless driving and should say County instead of State citation.

Member Bacon said that this is the first step.

Member Kramer said this would be an ordinance violation.

Member Davidson asked if this is for vehicles and ATVs.

Sheriff Harlan said any motorized vehicles.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Smith and Boone—(10). Noes—Nache, Davidson and Cohen---(3). Motion carried.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Infrastructure Committee. He stated that the reports are in the packet. He thanked Vice Chair of the Infrastructure Committee Member Thierry for taking notes in his absence and said she did an outstanding job.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Weiss to approve Complete Certified Rebuild of CAT 826K Compactor by Altorfer. Member Bondi said that the estimated cost is \$543,689.72. He said that the rebuild was discussed at the February 2023 committee meeting and also during the budget process. It had planned on being a summer project, but it was brought to his attention that the price of parts and labor were going to increase soon. He said submitting a work order now should decrease the turnaround time to complete the project. If approved this would be financed over four or five years with the monthly payments coming out of line item 012-000750000-45 Equipment Payments. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Smith, Bondi, Cohen and Boone—(12). Noes—(0). Abstain---Friedrich---(1). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Nache to approve Resolution for Motor Fuel Tax Salary – Section 24-00000-00-CS. Member Bondi said the current salary is \$140,500. He said that this is to pass the resolution to pay the salary of the Engineer of \$155,500 that will be from December 1, 2023 to November 30, 2024 and is part of the budget.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi and Cohen—(12). Noes—(0). Abstain---Boone---(1). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Weiss to approve Performance Contract Phase 2 Invoice Application #11 for \$17,888.84. Member Bondi said that the remaining balance is \$218,646.38 and all the liens and waivers are in the packet.

Member Bacon asked if it is still on track to be done by the end of the year.

Member Bondi said he thinks so.

Chair Hawkinson said yes other than the laundry room.

Member Friedrich said that was an add on and not part of the original project correct.

Chair Hawkinson said yes.

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 Friedrich to approve Performance Contract Phase 2A Invoice Application #9 for \$90,011.31. Member Bondi said that the remaining balance is \$51,082.89 and all the liens and waivers are 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.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Letter of Agreement for MidCentury Broadband Extension Proposal. Member Bondi said this is for \$20,000 in ARPA funds to go towards the project. He said that the letter document is in the packet. 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 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.

Motion made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve Bid and Bring Back for new basement door. Member Bacon said they did not get tagged but when the springer system was checked it was recommended to replace this rusted door before it became a problem.

Member asked about it being rusted.

Member Bacon said that it is in bad shape.

Member Bondi asked about it being the fire door to the springer room.

Member Bacon said that there was no tag it was a recommendation.

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 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.

Motion made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Weiss 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 Kramer and seconded by Member Nache for the approval of Proposed Line Item Changes. Chair Hawkinson said that there is a number of them. He said that there are some from the Health Department, Nursing Home and I am not finding the rest.

Treasurer Davis said that there should be several departments and those are just the ones that she did today.

Clerk Erickson said the others are on the Google drive.

Treasurer Davis said they should be attached to your Ways & Means report and be on the minutes from Ways & Means.

Member Nache asked who takes the minutes.

Treasurer Davis said Chair Hawkinson. She said that she could go get them from her office but it would take her a bit.

Treasurer Davis returned with the documentation.

Chair Hawkinson said that you just sent them to me today.

Treasurer Davis said no these are from Ways & Means.

Chair Hawkinson said that the Nursing Home is in the packet and read the rest that were handed to him from Treasurer Davis. He said Sheriff for equipment replacement and housing, CAC, Public Defender had several, Health Department which was also in the packet, Assessor's Office, Several VIP for FICA and unemployment, FICA and IMRF, permanent and contingency CBA increase, Recorder permanent, IT used contingency for wage of new hire, Mary Davis Home, Health, Life, Insurance for number of employees, postage and contingency for postage rate increase. He asked if anyone wanted to visually look at them to approve he has them now to review.

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 the manual checks are in the Board packet along with the mid cycle for approval of the facility, County Clerk, and Illinois State Police.

Member Nache asked about the review of Treasurer Davis and Clerk Erickson.

Chair Hawkinson said that was 6 months ago.



Motion made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Committee Meetings of November 2023, Board Meetings in October, and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Chair Hawkinson said the total is \$5,980.18.

Member Davidson said that she would like to make an amendment to the per diem for herself since she was paid \$25 which would be a second meeting the same day and does not want paid for two. She said that they removed the \$25 for per diems for the second meeting for negotiations.

Member Friedrich said that he questioned that.

Chair Hawkinson said that we can amend and reduce it by \$25 but to re-appropriate it does not take effect until then. He said that we can amend to remove if you make a motion.

Member Davidson said yes please.

Motion made to amend by Member Davidson and seconded by Member Cohen.

Member Kramer and Member Friedrich agreed to have their motion amended.

Member Nache said to take my \$25 out also.

Chair Hawkinson said that the new total with the two \$25 amounts taken out would be \$5,913.18.

Member Thierry asked about Member Friedrich being paid for two.

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.

\*\*\* (Note, \$5,930.18 minus \$60.00 for meeting and mileage for Member Friedrich = \$5,847.91 Total paid)

Motion made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Nache to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of October 26, 2023 through November 21, 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 \$1,473,608.33.

Member Davidson asked if this is the correct amount with taking out the \$50 for herself and Member Nache.

Chair Hawkinson said that this would not reflect on this total.

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

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 27, 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 Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to adjourn the meeting. Chair Hawkinson said Happy Thanksgiving and if anyone is traveling travel safely and fill up on those Thanksgiving goodies. 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.