

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

January 24, 2024

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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, January 24th, 2024 at 6:10 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 3 Samuel Cohen
- District 4 Todd Olinger
- District 5 Patty Boone

And those absent: District 2 Robert Bondi

Also present were County Clerk Scott Erickson and State’s Attorney Jeremy Karlin. Department Heads present were Nursing Home Administrator Jodi Mines, Highway Administrator Duane Ratermann, Landfill Administrator Rod Clear, and Mary Davis Home Administrator Wendi Steck.

Clerk Erickson 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 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.

Steve Cheesman said that he is a resident of District 2. He wanted to speak to Chair Hawkinson and the Board about the Knox County Nursing Home. Instead of people just coming to speak about the negatives of things. He wanted to speak about the positives that his dad had at the facility while he was there for rehab. He said that his dad was at the facility from the first of December to the first of the New Year. He said that his dad had amazing care from the CNA, nursing, Occupational Therapy, and administrative staff. They had great expertise on getting his dad to where he wanted to be to get home. They are great people and he wanted to have them hear the positives. He asked that it be passed on to them to hear.

Ken Springer the President of Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development said he wanted to speak about the Knox County CEO 2024-2025 class. He said that this will be their 7th class. They are starting to begin the CEO class search that will be Junior and Seniors in the fall. They are looking for hard working motivated individuals. They are not so much focused on what their grades are but more on having good character traits. He said if the Board has anyone that would be interested they go to www.knoxcountyilceo.com and click on the blue student recruitment bar at the top of the page. They will have to do a presentation to apply for the 7th year class. This is for public, private and home-schooled students. He said that they plan on having another great year.

Craig Dietz said that he lives in District 4 in rural Knox County. He spoke about wanting to install roof mount solar but he had a setback due to Zoning turning him down due to the Individual Solar Ordinance article 7.2.06 that is just one sentence. It says “Those parts of existing buildings that violate yard regulations may be repaired and remodeled, but not reconstructed or structurally altered. He said that this is not a structural alteration like the zoning department says. He said about 50% of solar installed are roof mounted due to being cheaper. He said that many have been denied for this exact reason. He emailed several counties and they answered back saying that it would be allowed in their counties. No emails returned saying that they would not allow it. He was told that he could pay \$500 to send it to the Board of Appeals for them to review. He let the Board know that he can supply more information to anyone that would like and to all Board Members.

Chair Hawkinson thanked everyone for speaking.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Weiss to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Special Board Meeting on December 21, 2023 and the regular Board Meeting on December 27, 2023 and 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of October 2023 in the amounts of \$143,366.30 and \$36,510.31 and public safety tax in the amount of \$243,697.37. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Davidson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Resolution on Deeds on Conveyance. Chair Hawkinson said that this was presented for the Chair since there were so many and they did not receive them in time for Ways and Means last week. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Davidson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the contract between Sheriff and City of Abingdon for Police Protection. Chair Hawkinson said that the contract is finalized, well semi finalized. The City of Abingdon's attorney Jack Ball sent the contract to State's Attorney Karlin. State's Attorney Karlin reviewed it and added section 25 that shows all the figures. He said that the City of Abingdon has no police force. This contract would give them 24-hour coverage indefinitely. He read through some of the highlights of the contract, reading that they would pay \$98,920 per person for four full time officers and that the dollar amount increases year two and three. They would pay \$10,000 per year for any overtime and cover the \$10,000 per year for utilities of the Abingdon annex building. The City of Abingdon will still own the building but we will use it for a facility. The \$10,000 will pay for the utilities such as gas, water and power. The evidence department at the annex will be taken over by Knox County and everything will be documented and logged. Four new police vehicles will be needed at a cost of \$82,934 per vehicle and equipment installed. He said that is the combined total per vehicle and \$5,000 per year for maintenance of the vehicles. All rifles along with all police cars will become property of Knox County and transferred to us. It will cost them \$499,614 for the first year to provide protection. He said that they have received all positive feedback from how Knox County has been doing so far and businesses appreciate that they have been leaving business cards after they have checked on their businesses. This contract has been signed off by their attorney and by our State's Attorney.

Member Davidson asked if \$520,000 would be going over to us every year.

Chair Hawkinson said \$499,614 to the County of Knox.

Member Davidson asked the first year.

Chair Hawkinson said correct.

Member Davidson said that she thinks it is great for Knox County but was wondering about the long haul, if the City of Abingdon will be able to continue to pay with the amount going up every year the next three years. They would be paying out \$107,000 per patrol officer and overtime. She said she knows with smaller areas it is hard on their tax base. She said that she will be voting yes but just does not want it to be a financial crunch for them.

Chair Hawkinson said yes, they took that into consideration.

Member Nache spoke about the four new cars at \$80 some thousand dollars and if they can hand over their cars to us for trade in.

Chair Hawkinson said that everything the City has for equipment will be handed over. They have 2 sedans and one SUV. The SUV is new and can be modified to be used for the SRO (school resource officer). The other two sedans Chief May feels are not what we need and not worth that much.

Member Bacon asked if the computer system upgrade would be all on us.

Chair Hawkinson said no the computer system is already paid for and we are allotted \$10,000 for the annex.

Member Smith asked the reasoning for this if it was the personal and pay.

Chair Hawkinson said that they just cannot get the personal and it is not the pay. He said that Knoxville is having the same issue that no body wants to work for small towns. This is better coverage then what they have had, with Knox County covering the area now.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Davidson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Member Friedrich said that the monthly report from the Ways and Means Committees are in the packet. He said that this was the shortest meeting they have had in a long time with everyone wanting to get out and home due to the bad weather. He said for the budgets they had already bought a program last year but the Treasurer's office was busy and were unable to get everything inputted to use it this year. Next year they will work more with it and he will get with Treasurer Davis on this.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Resolution on Abating Series 2010A and 2010B Alternate Revenue Bonds. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Davidson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Resolution on Abating Series 2022 Alternate Revenue Bonds. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Davidson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve purchase of vehicle for Sheriff's Department. Member Friedrich said that he is going to refer this to Kramer since it did not make his Public Safety and Justice meeting on Monday.

Member Kramer said that this is for a 2023 Dodge Ram and it is in the Sheriff's Department's Budget. There is \$50,495 in the budget for this to add to the fleet to work out older units.

Member Nache asked why it did not make it to your meeting. She said I know things happen.

Member Kramer said that on Monday they did not have the information to get it on the agenda.

Member Nache asked how many is this in the last year.

Member Kramer said he would have to look.

Member Nache asked that he let her know and get back to her.

Member Davidson asked why we are not having Ford SUV Explorers since they are \$20,000 cheaper under government issued. She said that the City has a whole fleet.

Member Kramer said that they have had Explorers and they just did not hold up. The City is different from the County use. He said that they feel the Dodges hold up better than the Ford.

Chair Hawkinson said that the Fords are almost a year out and the Dodges are available now.

Member Kramer said that the Ford is 18 months out from Intercept.

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

Member Kramer said that the monthly report from the Public Safety and Justice Committees are in the packet. He said that he wanted to give recognition to the responders during the blizzard. He said that the Knox County Sheriff's Department had a plan and executed it along with using the snow mobile rescue team which are all volunteers who did approximately a dozen rescues. He said thank you to the Sheriff's Department, snow mobile rescue team and snow removal crews during the storm.

Member Thierry presented the monthly report from the Infrastructure Committee. She stated that the monthly report is in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Thierry and seconded by Member Weiss to approve payment of \$37,756.06 Quarterly Tonnage Fee for Landfill. Member Thierry said that this is to approve the invoice for \$37,756.06 to the IEPA for the quarterly tonnage fee. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Davidson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Thierry and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve Bid for 3-year Mowing/Bailing Contract at Stegall Landfill.

Member Davidson asked what it was.

Landfill Administrator Clear said that there were two bids that came in for \$8,100 and \$3,000. The bid for \$8,100 is two young men that will mow it.

Member Davidson asked through a machine.

Chair Hawkinson said no this happens every year but \$8,100 is the highest ever. He asked if they understand that they pay us that amount.

Landfill Administrator Clear said yes, he explained it to them very thoroughly.

Member Davidson asked about insurance.

Landfill Administrator Clear said yes, he has confirmation of insurance. They did not with the original but have now.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Davidson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Thierry and seconded by Member Weiss to approve purchase of Truck for Landfill from Yemm Chevrolet for \$14,899.90. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Davidson, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(13). Noes— (0). Abstain---Sandoval---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Thierry and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve purchase of Backhus Window Turner for Landfill for \$132,000.

Member Smith asked what it was.

Landfill Administrator Clear said that it turns compost. He said that they have always done this with bulldozers but takes about a week while using this machine would take a couple days. They would have a faster and quicker turn around to turn to black dirt so they can open it back up.

Member Nache asked what kind.

Landfill Administrator Clear said it is Backhus and said that it was completely rebuilt in 2021 so it is used.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Davidson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Thierry and seconded by Member Bacon to approve Performance Contract Phase 2 Invoice Application #13 for \$41,082.89. Chair Hawkinson said that this is for drawing down the retainage. The only part that is not complete is the laundry room due to the equipment has not arrived yet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Davidson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Thierry and seconded by Member Nache to approve Performance Contract Phase 2A Invoice Application #11 for \$118,135.97. Chair Hawkinson said that this is the same thing. They are drawing down the retainage. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Davidson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Thierry and seconded by Member Smith to approve Resolution for Supplemental 2024 Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance – Section 24-00000-00-GM. Chair Hawkinson said it is for \$920,927. Member Thierry and Member Smith agreed to the modification. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Davidson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Member Thierry said that concluded her presentation.

Member Bacon presented the report from the Health and Human Services committee and said the report is in the packet. He said that he thought that the census was now 105.

Nursing Home Administrator Mines confirmed that the census today was 105.

Member Bacon said that they have 1.2 million in the referendum and have not had to use any. They also have no budget changes this month and said that they are doing a good job at the nursing home.

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 there are no Budget Changes this month so no Item 19 or 21 needed. He said that the manual checks are in the packet on page 636.

Motion was 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 January 2024, Board Meetings in December, and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Chair Hawkinson said the total is \$4,346.90. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Davidson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Weiss and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of December 28, 2023 through January 24, 2024 (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 \$2,552,642.49. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Davidson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 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 Sandoval to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Davidson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.