

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

February 28, 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, February 28th, 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 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, 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. 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.

Carol Scotton said that she is from District 4 and wanted to speak about the agenda that is available at the meeting and prior to the meeting. She said that when accessed now it is only a PDF version and no links of what is behind each item. She said that when looking at the minutes there is still not a whole lot more information. She said that with having these online versions with links it would be more open and transparent. She said having these links would be appreciated.

Ken Springer the President of Knox County Area Partnership for Economic Development said he wanted to speak about some upcoming events. The first is tomorrow February 29th from 8:30am until 2pm the GAVC Healthcare Career Showcase at 155 W. Fremont St. The GAVC Manufacturing and Trades Showcase at 155 W. Fremont St. on March 8th from 8:30am until 2pm that will have over 1300 people attend. He said that they have had an increase in vocation which is great. The CEO program is going to try something new and have a CEO pitch day like CBS Shark Tank where the students will pitch their business idea in front of the public and community on March 20 from 4:30pm-6pm. Then on Thursday April 28th in the small theater at GHS there will be a fast-fun event. He said that he is sure that the students will be terrified. Another event is on Thursday April 25 from 4:30pm-6:30pm at The Vault that is also sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce for the CEO program to show their final business plans. He wanted to welcome John Schlaf a small business owner to help with advisement. He is a former chief of police and they are excited to have Mr. Schlaf on the team.

Chair Hawkinson thanked everyone for speaking.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the regular Board Meeting on January 24, 2024 and 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of November 2023 in the amounts of \$140,387.25 and \$40,954.45 and public safety tax in the amount of \$239,092.38. 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 Bacon and seconded by Member Bondi to approve Knox County Health Department Annual Report. Chair Hawkinson invited Knox County Public Health Administrator Michele Gabriel up to speak about the Knox County Health Departments 2023 Annual Report.

Administrator Gabriel said she put the Annual Report together with the requirements of their financials, programs and stats. She said that she added items of interest such as their Board Members and facility achievements. She stated once the report is approved they will have it on their website and emailed out to some agencies. She asked if there were any questions.

Member Davidson asked about the numbers of women with breast cancer. She said that the number in 2021 was 36 and down in 2023 to 15. She asked if it was because the health department was not being used or a funding issue.

Administrator Gabriel said that this program is very well funded and she mentioned that men can also have breast cancer.

Chair Hawkinson asked about the behavioral health increase.

Administrator Gabriel said that the primary reason was they had staffing in 2021 and down in 2022 due to only having one behavioral health provider. She said that they were then back up to three providers in 2023 and now up to four. She said if they are there they are seeing patients.

Chair Hawkinson asked if they had helped to get WIRC up and running.

Administrator Gabriel said yes, staff did help WIRC transition along with fielding phone calls.

Chair Hawkinson said thank you.

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 the appointment to Knoxville Fire Protection District of Joseph Groeper Jr. Chair Hawkinson said that the information following the requirements 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 Bondi to approve the appointment of Trustee to Rio Fire Protection District of Chris Lagrow. Chair Hawkinson said that this is a new appointment and the information is in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Friedrich, Smith, Cohen, and Boone —(11). Noes— Hawkinson and Kramer--(2). Abstain---Bondi and Olinger---(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Olinger to approve the appointment of Western Illinois Fire Association Representative to Knox County Emergency

Telephone Systems Board of William Stone. Member Bondi asked if the resume for Mr. Stone was in the packet.

Member Friedrich said that Mr. Stone is the Fire Chief who was awarded for life saving measures at a recent Board meeting which proves his resume.

Member Bondi said thank you for reminding him of that and we can catch up later with that document.

Member Nache said yes, what he does speaks for itself but we have a resolution of what we request and it also speaks for itself.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Olinger and Boone —(10). Noes—Nache--(1). Abstain---Bacon, Davidson, Pugh and Cohen---(4). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the Bid for County Maintenance Contracts from MSI. Member Davidson said she does not have a question more of a debate or statement. We should rebid and not accept regular hourly for \$95 per hour, \$119 per hour overtime. She stated that just on 2,000 regular hours it would be \$190,000, on 500 overtime hours at \$119 per hour it would be \$59,500, holiday hours of 15 days and 120 hours \$50,000 and materials at 10% markup on \$500,000 would be \$317,980. That would be \$931,380 for a grand total. That is a lot of money for taxpayers and just an average. She said yes, we need maintenance but we as the County Board Members can reject for any reason. We should vote no and put out again for the county. She does not feel that \$931,000 is the best cost for our county.

Chair Hawkinson said that they were the only qualified bidder and \$95 is less then the last contract with MSI. With a business supplier we get a better rate then non-contract calls out. The holiday and weekends will be cheaper then what we currently pay. It is not as low as we would like but lower than the previous contract approved. Our current contract expires and we will be out of contract so we would have to pay the going rate until another contract is in place.

Member Kramer stated that they consulted with their legal counsel State's Attorney Karlin. He advised them to accept the contract that they have.

Member Cohen said that at the end of the day it is our own decision to reject with no disrespect of all the other Board Members.

Member Hawkinson said that it would be a poor decision to reject the soul bidder for the county. He said that the second bidder was disqualified for not complying with rules on submission.

Member Davidson said since the other one was disqualified she wanted to know if they were notified.

State's Attorney Karlin said that he was not asked to.

Member Thierry asked what the standard procedure was when one is disqualified.

Chair Hawkinson said that they have not had any disqualified in his eight years for compliance.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Kramer, Friedrich, Olinger and Boone —(8). Noes—Nache, Davidson, Pugh, Thierry, Smith and Cohen--(6). Abstain---Bondi---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Bondi to approve Change Order #4 for Jail Laundry and Medical Services Project. Chair Hawkinson said that this is another bill for the performance contract for the laundry project with the new washer and dryer. He said not a bill received earlier just retainage and billed accordingly, no services rendered. This is the master contract with the Sheriff's office. All the other projects are complete and this is the last. The bid went out 2-3 months ago for the washer and dryer. He asked how many have been in to see where currently is. This will be a better use of space for medical, mental health and behavioral health then the current space. The space they use now is currently smaller then the TV control room.

Member Bacon asked why it was not on Ways and Means and sent to Member Bondi.

Member Bondi said that it was emailed to him and apologized that he did not see it.

Member Friedrich said that Chair Hawkinson told me but that he did not get it put on the agenda.

Member Nache asked since it was laundry and jail it should have went to Public Safety Committee then to Member Friedrich to Ways and Means and not under Chair or Infrastructure.

Chair Hawkinson said Infrastructure always has outside of all of them. It goes to Ways & Means then Chair.

Member Bondi said that Chair Hawkinson and himself did a walk through and no one talked about needing these things beforehand. He said that we need to push department heads to fix things before we have issues. This is the original equipment and they plan to use the old for scrap iron.

Member Davidson asked how many bidders there were.

Chair Hawkinson said one bidder. He said that MSI will do the work and there was one sub bidder for the washer and dryer.

Member Smith said that the current medical nurses' room is dangerously small. They could get attacked and this new room would be much safer for the nurses to get away. She said that if you have not gone before you should go see.

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 Olinger and seconded by Member Bondi to approve Bid for Laundry Room Equipment for Jail from Hermes Commercial Laundry Equipment. Chair Hawkinson said that this is for the washer and dryer itself. 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 that the monthly report from the Ways and Means Committees are in the packet. He said that it was a short meeting and highway has some budget changes. He spoke to Treasurer Davis about the budget program. She started with it but stopped due to having

issues getting everything up and going. She will update us on it and has had it almost a year, it is still not up and going.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Animal Kill Claims for 2023. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Olinger and Boone—(14). Noes—Cohen---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve Bid and Bring Back for Health Insurance. 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 Kramer said that the monthly report from the Public Safety and Justice Committees are in the packet. He said that the Sheriff is working with the State's Attorney on the Safety Act calls. He asked to keep the Sheriff's office and Deputy Weiss family in their thoughts since the Richardson trial started this week for Deputy Weiss. He was an important person in this community.

Member Nache asked about services going out to other counties.

Member Kramer said they are providing meals to the Warren County Jail.

Member asked how many meals we are providing to Warren County Jail.

Member Kramer said 2-10 and they are paying for this.

Member Nache said they should talk to the County Board. It should go to State's Attorney Karlin then to the County Board and we vote on it even if it is 2-3 in a week or 10 meals. She said that it should be checked out by State's Attorney Karlin, then to the Board. She said she doesn't know but she knows it did not come to them.

Member Kramer said correct. How it came about is Knox County started housing for Warren County and they lost their food supplier. He said that you would have to talk to Sheriff Harlan on how it went down.

Member Nache said that it still needs rectified and protocol was not followed.

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

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Weiss to approve Closer Cost Line Item Increase. Member Bondi said that the letter explaining the increases is in the packet. In the budget meeting he requested \$250,000 which is allocated for in the budget. He said that Landfill Administrator Clear is present to answer any questions.

Member Bacon asked Administrator Clear if these all came from the post closer fund. Administrator Clear said yes.

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

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the purchase of new pickup truck. Member Bondi said that they are replacing a 2004 Ford pickup with 150,000 miles. He said this is for a new ½ ton pickup truck for \$41,970, utilizing the State of Illinois bid contract number 21-416CMS-BOSS4-P-29479. The truck is a fully equipped 2023 Ford F150 Extended Cab 4x2. The vehicle would be purchased from Morrow Brothers Ford in Greenfield, IL. The dealer does have the vehicle in stock and available for pickup once approved. The purchase price of the new pickup truck will be \$41,970. There is currently \$50,000 budgeted for this purchase in the Highway Fund, Equipment Replacement (006-000-750000-30) line item.

Chair Hawkinson said he just had one question of if it comes with some Turtle Wax. 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 and said the report is in the packet. He thanked Member Nache for taking the minutes and said that she does a good job. He said that the census today was 111.

Member Bacon said that they have 1.2 million in the referendum. He has worked diligently with Nursing Home Administrator Mines to get from 85 up to 111. There are no line item changes for the budget. He said that they will start a contractor list for taking the first steps to start spending some of the referendum money.

Member Friedrich thanked Member Bacon for all his work and time.

Member Bacon said that he spends a lot of time out there and he ate lunch there the other day and it was pretty good.

Member Davidson also said thank you for what Member Bacon has done and they need nurses and CNAs though every place does. She said that she has her mother and an aunt there and they notice when Board Members come in and they know them by name.

Member Bacon said that he has heard some complaints since they have had to work harder with the higher censes.

Member Davidson said she knows that they do not like working that hard but too bad. The good census is a good reason to work hard.

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 Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer 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.

Chair Hawkinson said that the budget line item changes are in the packet. He said that the Landfill one was already discussed and there are several for CAC due to a new grant that they received.

Member Davidson said that she does not see any for the jail or sheriff.

Chair Hawkinson said that they did not make it before committee but they have meet with Treasurer Davis.

Member Davidson said even the food.

Chair Hawkinson said that he is sure that they will see some next month.

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Weiss for the approval of Proposed Line Item Changes. Chair Hawkinson said that the changes are 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.

Chair Hawkinson said that there were five manual checks that are listed in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Committee Meetings of February 2024, Board Meetings in January, and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Chair Hawkinson said the total is \$3,604.11. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Abstain---Bondi----(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Olinger and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of January 25, 2024 through February 28, 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 \$2,175,396.13.

Member Friedrich asked Member Bacon if he received the documentation that he needed.

Member Bacon said yes, he received the documentation and then he signed. 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, March 27, 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 Bondi and seconded by Member Smith 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 and meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.