

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

April 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, April 24th, 2024 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 2 Erin Pugh
- District 3 Kimberly Thierry
- District 4 Joshua Kramer
- District 5 Brian Friedrich
- District 2 Robert Bondi
- District 3 Samuel Cohen
- District 4 Todd Olinger
- District 5 Patty Boone

And those absent: District 1 Amanda Smith

Also present were County Clerk Scott Erickson and Sheriff Jack Harlan. Department Heads present were Nursing Home Administrator Jodi Mines, 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. Chair Hawkinson added 2A to the agenda for a presentation by Ken Springer from KCAP about the wind farm. There were no deletions to the agenda. There were no objections.

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.

Connie Main from Altona said that she was here again and was here a couple years back complaining to the Board about some disruptive, disturbing, antagonizing and hate crimes out at their country home. It is also an elderly home. She said that they have reported many times over the years and they do nothing. She wanted to talk tonight and complain about the off-road vehicles that they are being harassed by now that they are supposedly legal. But she feels that they are illegal because they are violating statutes and ordinances to come over to their house. It is people they do not know. She said that it is not just these but many vehicle types used against them that display vulgar displays, yell vulgarities at them, and they make noise disturbances. She said that she is not talking about that they have a loud vehicle. They are just driving by their house which they make it look like to discredit her and try to make it look like she is crazy. She said that her husband is there and they have cameras for proof of what they say. It is either a hate crime or people in Altona, Oneida and everywhere else that get to run out to their house intentionally to disturb them. She feels that those people are getting some special privileges. She would like the Galesburg citizens to know about it. She said for some reason they can go with all blacked out windows, modified mufflers, no plates, expired plates, finger us and everything else. They are told that it is their freedom of speech and freedom of expression. People come to their house and then they are accused of what they are doing. It is a double standard. They have actually been punished criminally for this, for complaining then they have worse harassment. On, April 13th she said she called again and report to law enforcement that they had three ROHV they travel 2 miles in and out of Hwy 4 to the bar. Then they go to Woodhull bars or where ever they want to go. This particular day April 13th the reason she called, she knows she is not the highway patrol cop but they always make it to my house somehow and find her house. So, they know about them somehow and they decided to make a horrible noise in front of their house and display one of those horrible vulgar displays or say some horrible nasty meaning. Then they went on and they are tired of that. We called law enforcement and were told they are allowed to run Hwy 4 that is what your ordinance says. So, in following them to Woodhull they find that they have a huge shin dig of like 30 or 40 of them. It might have been even more by the time it was over but, on the way, they watched then throw cans out. After following then we saw that they had no registration on the vehicle but no one came because both counties told them that it was not their job. They did not even get names or vehicle registration numbers to see that these people were legal or not.

Chair Hawkinson said that Ms. Main's 3 minutes were up and thanked her 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 March 27, 2024 and 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of January 2024 in the amounts of \$149,678.71 and \$41,063.02 and public safety tax in the amount of \$252,178.29. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that Item 2A is the presentation by Ken Springer giving an update on the wind farm to give us a little bit on information.

Ken Springer thanked Chair Hawkinson for giving him a few minutes on the agenda to speak about the wind farm. He wanted to come forward with an update on the Knox County Wind Farm project. It has been quite a while since any updates have been given on this project. He wanted to supply some new information and go through some of the basics of the project. This project received conditional permits from the Knox County Board in May of 2020. The basic details of the project are as follows. The projects capacity is going to be up to 147 megawatts which will be produced from 52 and 55 total turbines. The project expects to pay approximately 40 million in total in new property taxes over the first 30 years of the project. These taxes will be split among the various taxing bodies. Rowva School District would be the largest recipient out of the taxing bodies. The project is expected to employ about 300 construction labors during the construction phase of the project. The project expects to make approximately 35 million in payments to land owners over the first 30 years of the project. Those are the numbers of the project and they have not really had a huge change in those since they went through permitting in 2020.

He wanted to give a couple of updates which would be new information. The project has been purchased by a company called Next Era Energy. Next Era will own and operate the program from here on out. If you are not familiar with Next Era, they are the largest generator of wind and solar energy. The company owns 119 wind projects across United States and Canada. It is a publicly traded company that you can find their information on the New York Stock Exchange. They are headquartered in Juno Beach, Florida.

The last update is approximate timeline of the project moving forward. The engineering is right now being completed on the project. The expectation is the project will begin construction in 2025 and be operational in 2026. For financial purposes the taxing bodies can expect to see their first tax payments from this project in the 2027 year for budgeting purposes. He wanted to bring forward this new information tonight. He is happy to address questions but he does not have a lot of other new information besides what he has just shared. If anyone has questions he would still be happy to answer them right now.

Chair Hawkinson thanked Mr. Springer and asked if anyone had any questions. We will have him back as the project moves forward with some additional information since KCAP and Mr. Springer were the spearhead of the company to bring economic development in the county.

Mr. Springer said thank you.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the Proclamation on National Police Week in Knox County. Chair Hawkinson read aloud the proclamation into record. He said that this will be the week of May 15 thru May 21, 2024. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Proclamation on National Correctional Officers and Employees Week in Knox County. Chair Hawkinson read aloud the proclamation into record. He said that this will be the week of May 5th thru May 11th, 2024. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Cohen to approve the appointments of Trustees to the Williamsfield Fire Protection District of Ty Landon and Bruce Bush. Chair Hawkinson said that these are reappointments. Their information and resumes are in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Nache to approve the appointments to Knox County Housing Authority of Dena Simkins and Dena St. George. Chair Hawkinson said that the information is in the Board Packet. Dena Simkins is a new appointment and Dena St. George is a reappointment. He said the Assistant Executive Director is present if you have any questions. They are required under Federal statues to have one resident commissioner Ms. Simkins has stepped up and wants to participate and provide service. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Weiss and seconded by Member Pugh to approve the appointments to Knox County Board of Health of Erin Jain DMD and Kevin Satsky MD. Chair Hawkinson said that these are both reappointments. Their information is in the packet and if you have any questions Knox County Public Health Administrator Michele Gabriel and Board of Health President Dan Harris is also here if you have any questions. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Cohen to approve the Resolution for Issuance of Health Care Facilities Revenue Bonds, Series 2024, Not to Exceed

\$12,650,000 – Graham Hospital Association Project. Chair Hawkinson said that a Public Hearing regarding this. Chair Hawkinson said that this resolution is regarding the Public Hearing that was just held from 5:45 p.m until 6 p.m. There was only one public comment and the President and CEO Bob Senneff provided some feedback. Mr. Senneff is here if there are any questions. He said if Mr. Senneff wanted to supply some information he could take the podium and open it up for comments or questions. You may come up and supply any information you would like since there are a couple extra people present now that did not participate in the hearing.

Graham Hospital President and CEO Mr. Senneff thanked Chair Hawkinson for allowing him to speak. He just wanted to reiterate of what he said in public comment in terms of we have seen some significant growth in the market. They are pleased that they have come to the Galesburg area in Knox County and have been very well received. They understand there are some shortages in terms of providers and physicians. They are actively recruiting Nurse Practitioners, PA, MD, and DO. They are also adding new facilities on north seminary. They will have three brand new buildings over the course of the next eighteen months. They are building a clinic on the south side of the community at Third and Seminary St. That will be open this summer. They will be rehabbing two facilities in the middle of town on Seminary St. He talked about some numbers earlier. They have seen patients come to this city from 208 different zip codes since they opened their clinics in the middle of the community. From an economic development perspective, it is obviously very positive just from the need for additional resources. There is a need in this market in this county in western Illinois. They are pleased to be able to be part of that growth. He said he is willing to answer any questions if there were any.

Chair Hawkinson asked if there were any questions for Mr. Senneff.

Member Nache asked if the reason for their popularity is the religious factor that goes with St. Mary's OSF where you do not have to do the same as they do religiously.

Mr. Senneff said no, OSF is a great organization and they partner with OSF every day. They collaborate with them on a number of different services. Yes, they would be competing with them in this market so to speak but the problem was Cottage which left a lot of patients under doctored so to speak. There are also some services it would be the same thing in Canton if we were trying to provide services without another hospital. If half of the providers in the area left they would be in trouble too. He can not say a single thing about OSF. There is a need in the market and we are very pleased to be able to fill that need. We will continue to grow this year and next year. They plan on being in it for the long haul and are investing millions of dollars and appreciate the support of the Board allowing us to use the vehicle of the City Canton but getting the Knox County Boards approval. He also wanted to give a sensor thank you to the Benedict Family. They allowed them to build that facility on the south side of town. A very fill anthropic gift from that family and their foundation for us to acquire that facility at a reasonable price. They are going to invest a significant amount of money in that facility. That is a part of town that has not had health care services for a long time. They are proud to be able to get that open this summer and start seeing patients. He said thank you to Rob and his entire family.

Chair Hawkinson said Mr. Senneff one last question. In the public hearing since this is a different forum the question was asked why do you need the Knox County Boards approval to move forward with the bond issuance.

Mr. Senneff said that it is a state statue. When they are borrowing money and the money is going to be borrowed at a tax-exempt rate through the City of Canton it is a revenue bond. Graham is solely responsible to paying those dollars back. There is no citizen of Knox County,

no citizen of Fulton County, no other entity is responsible except Graham Hospital Association to pay back up to \$12.6 million dollars through their revenue. The statute requires them to go to any other political body outside of the City of Canton where those dollars would be spent. He said obviously the Knox County is not inside the City of Canton or the County of Fulton. So, they need the Boards permission to be able to spend those dollars in the County. He again said that no Knox County citizen or entity would ever be responsible to pay back any of those bonds. They will sell the bonds to Commerce Bank in St. Louis who have already agreed to buy the entire offering so to speak. That is the same model they used in 2023.

Member Cohen said that he just wanted to thank Mr. Senneff on behalf of his constituents on the south side. The expansion to the south side is going to do wonders for health care accessibility and for equity on the south side.

Mr. Senneff said that they are very happy and excited to be in Galesburg period but the south side project is really something they are companionate about. They can not wait to get in there and get that open to start seeing patients that have not had that resource for a number of years. He said thank you.

Member Davidson said that she thinks when Mr. Senneff said that with Benedict and everything that is a conflict of interest. She was definitely going to vote yes but now she is going to vote no. Because yes that is here District also and we need things such as hospitals. It is a desert over there but we have several different contractors that are Union and that are out there. For them to give the building and everything. She thinks that is conflict of interest. As business are growing in the Galesburg and Knox County area she would like to know more in-depth why McDonough County voted no and you had to use the funds out of a different account or something that they voted no.

Mr. Senneff said that he guesses that these are two different questions and he may have misspoken. The Benedict Family did not give us the facility, the building that we are going to be rehabbing and opening a clinic in. They gave it to us at the cost of the dollars that they had into it. The building could have been sold at a profit but instead they sold it to just break even so they could develop the property. He does not want anyone thinking there was anything untarred between the relationship between the Benedict Family and Graham Hospital Association. They do work for them through a mechanical contracting perspective but so do a number of other Union contractors. He hopes that would clear that up.

Member Davidson said she is good.

Mr. Senneff said he apologizes if he made is sound like it was a gift. He views it as a gift because they were able to acquire it for much less for what it could have been on the open market. They gave them what they had in it plus the cost to close and the legal costs. So, it was not costing them to sell us the building. They were doing it to break even. He said that he can not speak for the McDonough County Board and their logic of going through that. There was a prior CEO who is no longer is there as the CEO. The new CEO and Graham Hospital get along very well and they are partnering with them on a number of different projects. They voted no feeling like they were coming in to compete with them. There was not the need for competition. He said that they have done very well on that market. They felt like there was a need and they are meeting that need and their clinic continues to grow but they are also partnering with them. That relationship has changed 180 degrees since the prior CEO was terminated by his Board. He said if that helps.

Member Pugh asked if Mr. Senneff could talk again about the services that they are going to have.

Mr. Senneff said across the total Galesburg market they will have specialty care in a number of different specialists in terms of urology, orthogeriatric and general surgery. They will have a room clinic, hypobaric oxygen, endoscopy center, ambulatory surgery center, MRI, CT, mammography, dexa, x-ray, ultrasound, and convenient care clinics. They will have 7 days a week 12 hours a day clinic like they have now, in the new facility, they will have a convenient care walk in clinic at our south side clinic. As they continue to grow they will have more specialty practices.

Member Pugh said she thought he had said speech therapy.

Mr. Senneff said yes, he is sorry. They will have occupational speech therapy, cardiac rehab in one of our building that they have today. It will get repurposed. That will take a little bit of time and money from a construction stand point.

Member Thierry asked about their services locally and if they need to be inpatient.

Mr. Senneff said that if they needed to be hospitalized they would come to Canton or they could go to St. Mary's. It would be up to them. They do have a transportation department that they are in Galesburg every day with one of their vans picking up Knox County residents taking them for care and bringing them back.

Member Thierry said ok and thank you.

Mr. Senneff said that if anyone has any other questions that he could answer he would be willing to answer and they are excited to be here.

Chair Hawkinson thanked Mr. Senneff.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi and Cohen—(11). Noes— (0). Abstain--- Thierry, Olinger and Boone---(3). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve Mutual Aid Agreement with Williamsfield Schools. Chair Hawkinson said the agreement is in the packet Knox County Emergency Management Agency led by Fire Chief Randy Hovind has come up with this plan. He asked him to come up and explain it.

Fire Chief Hovind said that the Mutual Aid Agreement is if you were ever in law enforcement or a volunteer fire department it is much like a mavirus box alarm card, a Mutual Aid Box Alarm card that they use in the fire service. There is no obligation for them to give us the resource and no obligation for us to take the resource. The only cost of the resource is if you had to pay a driver and a mileage rate by the IRS. The program is V2X stands for vehicle to everything. The program is in its infancy stage and would one of the first counties in the state to move towards using this resource. It would be used as a backup to a backup. Diesel and natural gas generators are still the most reliable for generators. If we ever lost a generator or fuel source it would be a big catastrophe then we could use it for the electrical school buses as a backup. It could be used for warming and cooling stations, law enforcement centers, fire and rescue stations. This would be paid for through FEMA grants as they become available. In the next few months the Hazard Mitigation grants are becoming available though FEMA. It would be typed into the County Emergency Operation Plan and requested for with a FEMA form. Then you would follow those protocols and would go to the fine x section sheet. Then billing would work that way and probably go through the Treasurer Davis. We do not have to take the resource and they do not have to offer us the resource. So, if they do not have the buses available then they can deny us.

Chair Hawkinson asked if anyone had any questions for Chief Hovind.

Member Davidson asked if this was a van like when we were going through Covid that they could ride around and help people.

Chief Hovind said that is a good point. We could use that resource if we needed it if they offered it but this is more for charging. These electrical school buses have about 180 kilowatts of power in each bus. So, if they are charged right you can plug them into a bi-directional charge which every building you are going to offer that to. Now one bus will only last for so long. So, if it was a house, you would use that to charge the house and once the power got down to a certain level they would have to rotate buses to keep that going. We would only use it if we did not have generator power of diesel or natural gas. This would just be a backup.

Member Davidson said so for a backup for an emergency if a person is in the house disabled and no power.

Chief Hovind said theoretically you could do that but you would have to have a charging station. You would use this more for a warming station. If we had them available we could use them to move people from point A to point B in an emergency situation.

Member Davidson stated that she thinks that this is a great thing and great for Knox County. She said good job.

Chair Hawkinson said thank you to Chief Hovind.

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

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve Premium Rate for Health Insurance. Chair Hawkinson said he will add a caveat to this pending the approval of item 12. He said what this is pending the approval of item 12 for health insurance. Last time they have increased any employee premium he found was in 2011. They have not raised the premium rates in over 10 years. The deductibles have gone up a little bit but the premium rate have not. Out of the Ways and Means committee they heard a presentation from their insurance broker as well as the Treasurer. They proposed a raising a 50/50 share, raising the cost of \$60. Which would be \$30 for an employee and \$30 for the county to equal the \$60. This would generate approximately \$164,160 towards the insurance fund which has rapidly being reduced due to an increase in claims and just the cost of everything is what the broker had shared.

Member Bacon said on the \$30 it was explained to them that night. It would be \$15 a pay period and if there are three pay periods in a month that third one would not be charged. So, it is \$30 a month period. Chair Hawkinson said correct.

Member Davidson said that it would be less then that if they take the blood draw. She said wouldn't it or no.

Chair Hawkinson said no, not this time.

Member Davidson said ok.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, 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 the majority of the meeting was spent on health insurance. Treasurer Davis gave us a short update on the budget software. Treasurer Davis told them that she is getting close to getting that up and running properly. It has been almost a year that they have been trying to get it going. She is having problems trying to get ahold of vendors which is nothing on her. She is getting that going for them. That was a short update on that and most of their meeting was spent on health care insurance. They had an update from the health insurance provider.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Bid for Health Insurance for 2024-2025. Member Friedrich said that this does not include the dental or vision. This is purely for the healthcare. He wanted to add what item 10 was, in years past when the account was doing well they gave back to employees with Health Savings Accounts or gift cards. Now it is not doing very well. It has been since 2011 since they have raised the rates of the premiums. The account is going down so they have to do something in order to keep providing health insurance. The health care provider went through everything and we are staying with the current stop loss provider that they stayed with before which is Tokio Marine.

Member Bacon said that he does not know if the people in the audience know this but the county is self-insured. We are our own insurance company. So, they have what is called a stop gap and if it goes over a certain amount we have insurance that pays for that reimburses them for that. They have not increased since 2011 since they were doing good. When they started it, they did a blood draw and tried to make people healthy with that to find the preexisting conditions early and address them. We have always been doing good but the last couple years they have gotten some big claims. They will get some money back on them but it is now getting to the point where they need to do something. He said he has never been at a place where they have not raised the insurance premiums every year. When he was Chairman and was on the Board they kept to not raising the premiums and when he left they kept to not raising the premiums on their employees trying to take care of them as much as they could on their insurance. He wanted to commend the Board over the years for not raising premiums.

Member Friedrich said that Member Bacon is exactly right of what he said. They have done their best since 2011. He has talked to the Treasurer several times throughout the day before the meeting about several different options. This is what the insurance provider thought was the best. The Treasurer and him also felt this were the best after going through several different scenarios for their stop gap that they could come up with.

Member Davidson said that they would have never raised them unless they had to raise them. She thinks the county should know that and all of the employees. She said that they even gave money back in the past when we had enough money in that account. Now with the high cost of medical and everything they are just back up against a wall. She felt like all the county should know that they would have never done this and she would not have voted for this if they had but know they have to do it. They are in dire needs right now.

Member Bacon said that when they started the self-insurance a long time ago they set a limit on how much money they would keep in the account for their insurance. He said that he cannot remember the exact amount but when they got to that point that is when they started giving money back to employees in the form of cards. He said that we try to keep two million in

the account. That covers when people get sick and stuff to pay the bills up to a certain point. When we did good we gave money back on little cards to buy health care stuff. They are down a little above a million now.

Chair Hawkinson said one million fifty-nine thousand.

Member Bacon said that they are well below their two million they said they would keep in case of an emergency. That is the only reason for the increase in premiums because we have taken some hits on some catastrophic illnesses over the years. It has depleted their funds. This is the only way they can get it back.

Member Nache said just to reiterate on what Member Davidson and Member Bacon said that she agrees that she would have not voted on it but we have five at the stop loss. They really do not have an option. She wants to keep things as low as possible for their employees and for the people that need it. At this point they do not have an option.

Chair Hawkinson said just a quick comment on the numbers. The hospitalization fund balance right now is \$1,059, 086.26. He said like Member Bacon said we like to keep it around 2 million. They do have 1.5 million dollars in tort. That they could move out of tort to lessen the blow on the hospitalization account. Since the tort would give another deposit in the tax cycle to help even everything out.

Member Friedrich said just to remind everyone the employee is paying \$30 and the county is paying \$30. So both are helping the fund out.

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve ZBA Case # CU-01-24 – Solar Energy Farm in the “A” Agricultural Zoning District, Under Appendix C, Knox County Solar Energy System Ordinance, filed by the applicant Damen Solar, LLC, a Limited Liability company owned by Cypress Creek Renewables, LLC 3402 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, CA along with Owner listed as Aaron T. King, 457 Hawthorne Blvd., Glen Ellyn, IL. Member Friedrich said that the zoning officer is here if they have any questions. They went over this and Member Bacon had several questions for them that he got answered that night. Any other comments or questions.

Assessor Hochstettler said that Ryan Anderson was there.

Member Friedrich asked if he wanted to come up and speak about it a little bit.

Ryan Anderson said he represents Damen Solar and Cypress Creek Renewables asking to be granted a conditional use permit. He said a large amount was in what they submitted and presented to the zoning board. This is a 4.99 community solar cell project. They believe it meet all the Knox County zoning ordinances. They did speak to the most impacted neighbor the Bryan family and worked out a deal with them to set back the solar farm further from the road to appease their concerns. There is a general 50-foot setback from all the property line. There is a 150 ft. set back from the Bryan family. Which is more then what is required by the zoning code. Some General details the solar panels at maximum tilt will be at about 12 feet. They rotate throughout the day to track the sun. There will be no noise on the property outside of the inverters. The inverter noise level will be at a conversational level and you would need to be within 15 feet of that. The inverters themselves are setback well into the property so there should

not be any noise spillage for any of the surrounding properties. He said that he is willing to answer any questions about the project.

Member Bacon asked if he recalled him saying that there would be goats or sheep on the property to take care of the weeds.

Mr. Anderson said that he cannot make that commitment but that is the current plan.

Member Bacon said that he thought he remembered that part.

Mr. Anderson said that he did speak about that. The next step of the project would be to submit to the State of Illinois for the credit for a program that part of the requirements are to do some kind of agricultural tax which is what you are talking about. The current plan to relieve some of the mowing through periodic sheep raising. That is not the final plan so he cannot commit to that but that is our current plan. That there might be sheep but there are alternative plans such as planting orchards or something like that but is yet to be decided.

Member Bacon said that we have others around the county and the weeds do not look like they are taken care of very well. He said that is the only reason he asked that question.

Mr. Anderson said that he has heard that concern before and they do have a number posted saying if this is out of order call. They would have something like that. Same thing like if he was driving badly they would have that type of thing. They have a national monitoring service that will monitor all the sites and that is where that number will call into. It is a 24/7hr call center if someone would see that issue and need to call.

Member Kramer asked if they would be mowing then.

Mr. Anderson said that there will be a mowing schedule created that will make it so it will not be so out of control.

Member Bacon said he likes the sheep idea.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen and Olinger—(13). Noes—(0). Abstain----Boone---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve ZBA Case # CU-04-24 – Request for Boat Storage in the “A” Agricultural Zoning District, under (18) Boat/Recreational Vehicle Storage for Commercial Purpose, filed by Applicant Jayme Roberts, 1542 Lakeview Rd., Dahinda, IL. Member Friedrich said that these next two items are filed by the same person but they are two different situations. So that is why they are two different items.

Chair Hawkinson said that he just had one comment when we talk about the ZBA findings that is on the G-drive as well. This item passed the ZBA on vote of 4-0. It was in unanimous favor.

Member Friedrich said that if he remembers right they made acceptance with the neighbors to move this setback as well to help appease the neighbors. Everyone was alright with it once they did that.

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Pugh to approve ZBA Case # CU-05-24 – Request for Marine Repair in the “A” Agricultural Zoning District, under (31) Vehicle Repair Garages, filed by Applicant Jayme Roberts, 1542 Lakeview Rd., Dahinda, IL. Member Friedrich said same thing here, same property just two different things. That is why they had to have two different cases.

Member Nache said that she was just wondering how they come up with the number 31 Vehicle Repair Garage.

Member Friedrich asked Assessor Hochstettler to answer that and said please.

Assessor Hochstettler said that is just in the zoning resolution under agricultural districts. There are at least 31 but she would have to look at it to know if there is a 32, 33 or 34. There are at least 31 items. It is the 31st item and it is titled that it is the Vehicle Repair Garage. Those number correlate with how many they have in the district.

Member Nache said thank you.

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

Member Friedrich said that concludes his report and they will start getting budget dates setup so they can start having budget meetings. They are going to get on them early. He said he looks forward to that.

Member Kramer said that the monthly report from the Public Safety and Justice Committees are in the packet. He wanted to discuss a few things on that. The Sheriff’s Office they are going to be migrating to the E-citation the E-crash report system which means that deputies on the road will be able to submit traffic citations and accident reports electronically. Versus filling out the carbon copy citations that we have all seen. It will help with the Clerk’s Office obviously and help with paper consumption. It is something they will be moving to in the near future. Another thing that was discussed is that the Sheriff is looking at buying the Flock system. Not purchasing but going with the Flock System. It is a license plate reader that you have heard a lot about in the City of Galesburg. They will be placed randomly throughout the county. They are working on the exact locations for that. The big thing about the license plate readers is they read license plates and then they can make what they call hot files. What hot files means is stolen motor vehicles, license plates that are suspended or revoked. A wide variety of whatever the Sheriff wants to make the hot files set up for. If you get a stolen motor vehicle that goes past and LPR it will alert the deputies on the road that a stolen motor vehicle has entered Knox County and whatever that location is. Something the Sheriff is discussing going to and thought it would be nice to discuss to the whole Board and people there. That the rumors are true and the Sheriff is looking at moving forward with that.

Member Bacon wanted to make sure that they cannot just randomly pick out and track a license plate. There has to be some kind of crime associated with that plate.

Member Kramer said correct.

Member Bacon said so it is not big brother looking at you unless you have done something.

Member Kramer said correct.

Member Bacon said ok.

Member Kramer said that the system itself is operated all over the United States in municipalities, counties and state agencies. It scans and reads the license plates and if that vehicle has been registered as stolen, the plates are suspended or revoked. Those types of things are what the system is looking for and that is it.

Member Thierry asked if as it is scanning if it is storing any of the information or is it just storing the information on a bad plate.

Member Kramer said that it is storing it for 30 days and after 30 days that cycle renews.

Member Thierry said so everyone that goes through.

Member Kramer said yes, every plate that goes past that for 30 days is registered in there correct.

Member Thierry said ok.

Member Kramer said that it is an investigation tool. So, say we have an overnight burglary out in the Oak Run area and there is an LPR out in that area. They could see which vehicles passed through at certain times. From an investigation aspect it is a very good tool to have.

Member Thierry asked what if the vehicle does not have a plate.

Member Kramer said then it will track the color of the car when it passes the LPR and what time it was.

Member Olinger said that it could be an Amber Alert and what plate is associated with it or a homicide situation. It does not just limit to tracking a stolen vehicle. The tool is very useful.

Member Friedrich said that the City of Galesburg is currently using it.

Member Olinger said yes.

Member Friedrich said that he just wanted it known that it is already out there and being used in the area.

Member Kramer said that it is being used throughout the Quad City area, Peoria, and a lot of municipalities and counties have gone to it.

Member Bacon said that this will come to a vote of the Board before we go through with this correct.

Member Kramer said that he believes that he is going to use his drug fund to fund the project. So, it will not be out of his budget. He said he does not believe it will have to come to the Board for any approval.

Chair Hawkinson said unless it exceeds his purchase authority.

Member Kramer said the only other thing he had to talk about was Mary Davis Home Administrator Steck was doing her superintendent duties and talked about the incident that happened at the Mary Davis Home. She reported that her employees all but one has returned back to work. He reiterated to her the thankfulness that her staff does over there and her dedication to her job as well. That is all unless anyone has any questions.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Infrastructure Committee. He stated that the monthly report and minutes are in your packet. He asked if there are any questions. If not, he will go on to the action items.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve invoice for EPA Quarterly Tonnage Fee of \$36,058.62. Member Bondi read that all landfills are

required to pay the IEPA, a quarterly fee based on the amount of waste disposed of during the prior three months. (Line item 012-700-870000-45: Other Charges/IEPA Fees) This fee must be paid by the 15th of the month. The IEPA paperwork is the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve Bid and Bring Back for Tri-Axle Roll-Off Truck. Member Bondi read that the roll-off truck would replace the benlee trailer system they presently use. The benlee system has limited use due to the size of the trailer. The tri-axel roll-off will give them greater flexibility for both commercial and residential uses. The trucks presently used with the benlee trailer will be used for hauling leachate. If approved the truck will need to be financed over four years. Line item 012-000-750000-45 (Equipment Payment) will be utilized. Bid specs are in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Weiss to approve authorization for Landfill to acquire separate SAM GOV Account. Member Bondi read that the stand-alone account would be used for possible future Federal grants. The Landfill having its own account would simplify the grant processing in the future the individual authorized beside Rod Claire would be Duane Raterman.

Member Davidson said that she just wanted to make a statement that it is really good that they are putting this in to try and get government grants. Every little thing helps.

Chair Hawkinson said the Sheriff's Office, and he believes the County Clerk and Treasurer there are a lot of department in the county that have their own SAM.GOV account. What this will do will expedite the submissions for grants if we receive funding or something like that. So, if the County Clerk or Treasurer is out of the office and not available to act on the behalf of the Landfill or both engineering they will be able to rapidly submit their documents the same day they take care of things.

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

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Nache to approve Change Order Request #2 – Installation of 3” SDR 9 HDPE Pipe for compressed air within the gas header pipe trench at cost of \$94,050. Member Bondi read that Foth solicited pricing for addition of a 3” HDPE pipe alongside the gas header pipe covered under the leachate force main contract with MTE. The 3” pipe would serve the delivery of dry compressed air to pneumatic pumps for liquid removal from future vertical gas extraction wells on LF 3. Future work on the site includes, a gas collection system, for active gas collection through a series of vertical gas extraction well. It's anticipated that these vertical wells will encounter blocked screens due to liquid buildup within the wells, as is common in landfills. The compressed air would operate

pneumatic pumps installed within the wells for liquid removal for enhanced gas collection. A compressed air and drier skid would be later designed for the colocation with the future gas extraction and flare system for air supply through the 3” pipe. The installation of this line with the contract would take advantage of the shared trenching costs and common utility alignment. An alternative air supply option would involve extension of yet to be installed 3 phase power for the air compressor and drier located adjacent to LF 3. It’s anticipated that the installation of this electric service would be costlier than extension of the 3” pipe to the landfill. By collocating the air compressor near the future flare on the north end of the site, additional use of the dried air, could include the flare skid components or potential extension to LF 4 in the future. Line item 011-000870230 (Closer Activity Cost) will be utilized. Change order information is enclosed in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Cohen to approve pay request 151-24 – Performance Contract – Jail Medical and Laundry – Application #1 for \$20,677.65. Member Bondi said that the original contract was \$415,040.00. The total completed and stored to date is \$22,975.17, 10% retainage of completed work is \$2,297.52. So, the total requested draw on this is \$20,677.65. This would conclude this contract minus the retainage as he understands it. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(12). Noes— Nache---(1). Abstain---Bondi---(1). Motion carried.

Member Bacon presented the report from the Health and Human Services committee and said the report is in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the renewal of Consultant Contract with Wipfli. Member Bacon said that Wipfli helps them with their billing part. It is hard to regulate that national governments rules and regulations. So, they help them when they have questions. They are looking into this and his committee had a lot of discussion on this and doing some investigating on keeping a consultant on board. Right now, they want to get this done. It is for \$39,995, they will use that money within 16 to 18 months. Since they have been using Wipfli they have been running in the black. There was a lot of years that they wrote off money because they could not collect it. They help them to collect the money.

Member Kramer said that we use Wipfli for our audits.

Member Bacon said correct.

Member Kramer asked if this was something they recommended in the audit to follow up with the professional services.

Member Bacon said no, he does not think so. He said not that he knows of.

Member Davidson said that they have had Wipfli for a long time and she understands that yes, they are in the black. Also, that they have a new billing person but, they did not hire Wipfli to be a lifelong partner of Knox County and paying all the time. She said in that process they did have long discussions but there are services that are free to us. She understands that they have a

new biller. They need educate them and help them. She said that she will be voting yes for it this time but, when it comes up again she will not. After doing long research the State calling the Comptroller, she said yes that if any new changes we have someone. She will give them a personal person that they can contact at any time. She has contacted her before and they have talked with Knox County Nursing Home. She said she also reached out to our federal Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth's office and they said yes, that there are facilities that will come in there. When they have new things, they do not just dump it on the counties, they have departments and people to help them. So yes, they need it at this time but it should not be a lifelong commitment with Wipfli.

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

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve Change Order of Flooring Bid. Member Bacon said that it is not an expansion it is a change order and this is for Wing 1. He said that they were doing the dayroom and around the common area putting new flooring. He said when he went out and looked at it he realized the hallways in that wing would be yellow. So, they are replacing all the flooring in the whole wing down the hallway so everything matches and that is what the change order is for.

Member Nache said so there will be no more carpet as we get all this done. There will be no more carpet.

Member Bacon said in Wing 1.

Administrator Mines said in offices but for resident care areas no carpet.

Member Nache said thank goodness.

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

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve Bid for Basement Cabling Project. Member Bacon said that they went through a State inspection and some cables have been attached to sprinkler pipes not the sprinklers just the pipes. Also, the State says you can not go through the same holes in walls that other things go through. They have to drill new holes in the walls so the cables have their own path. It is a State Law. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Pugh to Bid and Buy for Commercial Washing Machine at Nursing Home. Member Bacon said that he is sorry but this came to his attention right after the committee meeting. He said that they have two washing machines out there. He said that he went out there on his regular visit on a Friday. He started talking to the Maintenance Supervisor out there. One of the washing machines is getting ready to go down any day and to get a new washing machine is a 6-8-week lead time. He put it on the

agenda so they could start the process a little faster because they need to get it in the line a little quicker incase this one decides to go down. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Member Bacon said that he wanted to thank Member Nache for taking minutes. He said that he has to do that every month so she keeps doing it because he does not want to do it. Right now, as of last Thursday at their meeting they had \$1.4 million dollars in the bank in their account and their referendum count was \$1.1 million dollars. They are operating in the black every month.

Chair Hawkinson said that the census as of today was 106 with 9 Medicare so we are keeping steady so good job.

Chair Hawkinson stated that the reports from the outside committees are on the G-drive. 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 Kramer 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, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that in your G-drive there are two budget line item changes that require Board approval based on the former resolution that the Treasurer placed in there. One of them is a budget change for a receipt in disbursement of stipend of the State of Illinois. The revenue stream used to come for each office and now they come to the Treasurer's office to divvy them out. The revenue is \$35,500 and the proposed expense changes would be \$35,500 to go along with those elected officials that have statutory required stipends. He said the other one is the Illinois Court Technology Grant the revenue was \$575,546.00 and the expense is the same. This is a grant that the Circuit Judges received from the State for upgrading their technology in their courtrooms to the Nomad System that was installed last year in the middle of the summer. That bill is another item he will present when he gets to the bills. He said just those two budget changes that are required by a resolution.

Motion made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Nache for the approval of Proposed Line Item Changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that the manual check review in the packet page 187. There are no out of the ordinary mid-cycle manual checks issued.

Motion was made by Member Weiss and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Committee Meetings of April 2024, Board Meetings in March, and other claims for per diem from Meetings in the aggregate amount of \$3,551.15. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of March 28, 2024 through April 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 \$1,745,541.81. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 22, 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 Pugh to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone —(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

**Meeting was rescheduled to be held on Wednesday, May 29th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.