

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

May 29, 2024

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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COUNTY OF KNOX) SS

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held in person at the Galesburg City Council chambers on Wednesday, May 29th, 2024 at 6:02 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

And those absent: None.

Also present were County Clerk Scott Erickson, County Treasurer Robin Davis, and Sheriff Jack Harlan.

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 removed Item 13 from the agenda. Without objection, the item was removed.

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

Ken Springer from KCAP updated the Board with some good news. He announced the recent agreement with the Western Smokehouse Partners, Galesburg to expand their operations in Knox County with 15 new processing positions and 10 high paid office positions. He also invited everyone to the KCAP Annual meeting on June 26. They are going back to the keynote speaker model and have a great speaker scheduled. The link for tickets is on their Facebook page.

Connie Main from Altona said that she was here again and has tried to talk with the Sheriff. She has tried to provide the Sheriff's department with information like license plates and other information. People are still being allowed to trespass on her property. One has even taken pictures of our security system. There is also a dune buggy that is going by our home daily. The County ordinance states that they are not to drive on State roads, but the ordinance is muddy and conflicted. Our neighbor also continues to mow our ditches even though we do not want them to do so. We feel as if we are being targeted.

Pam Davidson from Galesburg addressed the Board about the upcoming Juneteenth Holiday. She encouraged everyone to learn more about the history of the holiday and its importance throughout the Country. The Galesburg library will be holding some events on that day to celebrate.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the regular Board Meeting on April 24, 2024 and 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of February 2024 in the amounts of \$131,281.07 and \$43,003.66 and public safety tax in the amount of \$212,113.29. 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). Abstain – Smith-(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the annual County audits. Matt Schueler from Wipfli presented the members with an audit recap handout. He reported that the County is in good financial shape. He reviewed the recap with the members and emphasized some highlights. They issued a clean unmodified opinion which means that the County is doing well. The replacement tax revenues are down, but the investment income is up. The IMRF plan had a significant loss and went from 122% funded down to 97% funded. The Sheriff's plan was at 91% funded. Member Bondi asked for recommendations to improve for next year. Mr. Schueler stated that they recommend that all activity be recorded on a monthly basis with the Treasurer. 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 Kramer and seconded by Member Weiss to approve the appointment of Jeff Bock to the Victoria-Copley Fire Protection District. His information was provided to the Board. 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 Kramer and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the appointments of Trustees to the Williamsfield Sanitary District of Brenda Dexter, Willard Kimler, and Charlie Sams. Chair Hawkinson said that these are 2 new appointments a 1 reappointment. 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, 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 the Board will be starting budget meetings earlier than normal so that they can be done in a reasonable time this year.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Resolution on salaries for the elected offices on the November 2024 ballot. Member Friedrich stated that the salaries must be set at least 180 days prior to the start of their new term in office. The salaries for the Circuit Clerk and Corner will need to be approved tonight. The Circuit Clerk salary will be set for 2 years as this office has the ability to have the salary set annually instead of for the full term of office. The Corner position will be set for the full 4-year term. The recommendation from the Ways and Means Committee was to set the Circuit Clerk salary at \$114,816 for year 1 and \$124,816 for year 2. The Coroner recommendation was for a salary of \$55,000, \$57,500, \$60,500, and \$64,000 accordingly. Member Davidson asked for the Coroner salary to be set for just 2 years as both candidates are new to the position. There would be a discussion in the future about the last 2 years salary at that time. Chair Hawkinson reminded the Board that the salary has to be set for the full 4 years for the Coroner. Member Davidson asked about changing that requirement. Chair Hawkinson responded that it can only be changed by legislative action in Springfield. Chair Hawkinson stated that the proposed Coroner salary was within the range established by the wage study and includes the educational bonus as well. Member Boone stated that there is no educational requirement for the Coroner position and it do is not require medical training. Both candidates do have further education than what is required. Member Olinger stated that the Coroner is on-call 24/7/365 and experiences tragic events. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, and Boone — (10). Noes— Nache, Davidson, Pugh, Cohen, and Olinger-(5). Motion carried.

County Clerk & Recorder Erickson conducted the ballot placement lottery for the November 2024 ballot. This lottery will determine which political party is listed first on the ballot in November. Ping pong balls with the letters “R” and “D” were placed in a container and Ken Springer drew out the winner. The Democratic party will have top placement on the ballot.

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

Motion made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Weiss to approve the Resolution modifying certain Sheriff's fees. Member Kramer reported that a fee study was conducted on the Sheriff's fees and that recommendations were brought forward to increase some fees. Chair Hawkinson stated that the study was completed by a third party and that was used as the basis for the increase request. Member Davidson said she was not big on raising fees but they were needed. She was concerned about fees from Medicaid patients not getting paid or collected. Member Kramer stated there are a lot of fees to process and we have to go forward with processing service. Most pay prior to the service being initiated. Member Nache asked about inmates from Cook County being housed in the jail and who pays for their medical costs. Member Kramer stated that the County pays for these costs. The Sheriff will then go after them for payments. 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— Smith-(1). Motion carried.

Motion by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Resolution amending Knox County animal kill claims. Member Kramer reported that these fees have not been changed since 1970. The rates have increase substantially since then. There are a lot of rates included in the USDA list provided. 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.

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 the Resolution for award and the joint funding agreement for the County Highway 3 construction project. This is a 5 mile stretch of road by Oneida. The project should start in July and be completed by the end of September 2024. 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 Bondi and seconded by Member Nache to approve the proposal for GIS services for asset management for the Highway Department. Member Bondi stated that they were awarded a grant of \$200,000 for this asset management project for transportation. This grant will reimburse funds after they are spent. 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 Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the pay request application #4 for the performance contract project at the Knox County Jail medical and laundry. This is draw #2 in the amount of \$54,644.25. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Cohen,

Olinger and Boone — (12). Noes— Nache, and Davidson - (2). 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. There were 110 residents today at the facility. The nursing home will be having some projects coming up in soon which will take some funding. He also wanted to thank Administrator Jodi Mines for her hard work.

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, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone — (15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that the budget changes are on the Google drive. There are some for the FQHC, Health Department, and Mary Davis Home.

Motion made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer 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, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone — (15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that the manual check review in the packet. 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 May 2024, Board Meetings in April, and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Member Davidson stated that the Board Chair receives a salary for extra duties and is questioning why he is charging for additional per diem amounts for meetings. Chair Hawkinson stated that he is just doing what previous Chairs have done including Member Davidson when she was Board Chair. Member Davidson said hers were not the same. She was a voting member of all the Committees. Why are you charging for an ROE stakeholder meeting and audit meeting? Can you clarify what is and is not covered under your salary? Chair Hawkinson said that her concerns were noted. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Smith, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Boone — (14). Noes— Davidson - (1). 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 April 25, 2024 through May 29, 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 \$2,969,206.18. 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, June 26, 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 Kramer and seconded by Member Weiss 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 7:02 p.m.