

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

September 25, 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, September 25th, 2024 at 6:20 p.m. This meeting was presented via teleconference for viewing only. The YouTube channel link can be found on the County website. You can view the meeting on the Knox County YouTube channel. After the meeting is over you review it and are able to download it.

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 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 5	Patty Boone

And those absent:	District 5	Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval
	District 1	Amanda Smith
	District 4	Todd Olinger

Also present were County Clerk-Recorder Scott Erickson, Sheriff Jack Harlan and County Treasurer’s Chief Deputy Tracey Bailey. Department Heads present were Highway Administrator Duane Ratermann, Landfill Administrator Rod Clear, Knox County Public Health Administrator Michele Gabriel and Mary Davis Home Administrator Wendi Steck.

Chair Hawkinson said that he did want to make a mention before the Proclamation that in addition to the live feed on zoom which will come to an end after tonight. It will still be zooming for internal participants. We are now live on YouTube so any Board meeting or committee meeting can now be viewed on the YouTube channel by clicking on the link on the Knox County Boards homepage. All the meetings will be made available as soon as they are done, just like tonight's once the meeting is completed it is available for review and able to be downloaded at any time for anybody. He said that they have three viewers right now.

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 with additions for discussion only. He removed Item #6, 7 and 18 and there were no additions.

Chair Hawkinson asked if anyone had any objection. 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.

David Amor from District 2 said that he usually comes to complain about something but this time he wants to start on a positive note. He wanted to congratulate the Board for the creation of the roll of FOIA officer which he hopes will be done at this meeting. He thinks it is something we have needed for a long time. It was clear even when he was on the Board it was too much for an elected office that was filled with other obligations. He feels that is a very important development. He thanked Clerk Erickson as County Clerk for taking his suggestion to add the previous months minutes to the public packets. This made it much easier or possible to get a sense of the work of the committee. He expressed concern that the pages relating to MSI latest performance contract proposal Item #22 for the Mary Davis Home seemed to be blacked out in the packet. Final he ended with a plea that the Board Chair break the log jam or whatever is holding up the development of the new website. He said we really need it in an urgent sense. Thank you very much.

Ken Springer said he wanted to talk about some interesting trends that are impacting economic development. Two weeks ago, KCAP participated in an event that was put on by the Illinois Economic Development Association that was called the Sight Selectors forum. This is an annual event held by the association where national site selection consultants gather and provide industry updates and give a lot of advice to economic development officials. It is a high value event and learn a lot when they go up there. It provides real time access to site consultants. These consultants are important because when companies are making location decisions a lot of times they will work with a consultant that will then help a company find the right location for their project. It is very important stuff for them to be involved with. He wanted to share some trends

that are emerging and he thinks are very interesting. The first trend on a positive note is all the site consultants that participated in the event mentioned that the State of Illinois is starting to climb the ranking in terms of business that are attractive for new investment. There were a lot of factors that were sighted some legislative things and some operational changes at the State level. That was definitely a positive trend because in the past we have not heard these consultants talk positively about Illinois at this event in years past. Another trend that really dominated the discussion for an hour or two of the event was concerning power capacity for the projects in the United States. They are seeing significant power capacity issues across the United States. They are seeing areas being ruled out for types of projects simply because there is not enough electricity in order supply those new loads being connected. They are also seeing a trend that is reinforcing them in a negative way that the projects they are seeing are getting larger and larger. When he started in his career twenty years ago a big project might be a five-megawatt project. Today the average size of a project that we are seeing in this community is twenty-megawatts or more. The trend is the projects are getting bigger and the power capacity is getting smaller. The current wait time to upgrade power to a site in the United States is about four and a half years. That is due to some supply chain issues, some things going on with utilities and the grids. The last trend is that site selectors overwhelmingly enforce communities that are doing economic development well are the ones that have sites that are prepared and ready to go. Prepared sites are sites that have the zoning utilities and different regulatory aspects figured out ahead of time. So, when clients want to build a new project they can get it out to market at a quicker speed. Those are some trends just in summary form. He loves to talk about this stuff so if any of the Board members want to get more in-depth on this he is happy to meet one on one. He wanted to share these trends with the Board and thank you very much.

Pam Davidson said good afternoon everyone. She is president of the NAACP Galesburg Branch 3016B. They are having their fundraiser gala this Saturday at Cedar Creek Hall. The great, wonderful Jane Elliot will be their keynote speaker. If you haven't heard about her, she was a teacher in 1968 after the assassination of Martin Luther King she took this little class in Iowa of all white kids and divided them in blue eyes and brown eyes. She saw the discrimination that they showed each other just because of one color eyes and another. She instilled in those kids that discrimination was not the right thing to do. At the ripe age or youth age of the late eighties this might be her last speech. Her mind is crisp, she is funny and just truly delightful. She will be our keynote speaker. We will have a wonderful event and tickets can be sold at the door for fifty dollars. She wants to thank the Commerce and the Knox County Development, Ken Springer's office. They helped them get everything together. Please don't miss Saturday, doors open at five and the event opens at six for the NAACP Gala. Thank you.

Chair Hawkinson thanked everyone for speaking.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Weiss to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the regular Board Meeting on August 28, 2024 and 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of June 2024 in the amounts of \$140,819.32 and \$31,578.46 and public safety tax in the amount of \$245,971.41. Roll call vote is

recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone— (10). Noes— (0). Abstain---Davidson and Pugh---(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Weiss to approve the Proclamation for October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Chair Hawkinson read the proclamation into record. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve creation of position of First Assistant in State's Attorney Office. Chair Hawkinson said that item was in everyone's packet. It was requested by the State's Attorney to create on paper the position of First Assistant that handles additional duties within the office. It would basically be the same as all other constitutional offices that have chief deputies such as Chief Deputy Treasurer, Chief Deputy Clerk and Chief Deputy Circuit Clerk. There is no title of First Assistant State's Attorney to handle the business when the State's Attorney is gone. The three-page job description is in your packet as well. What the resolution does is authorizes the title that reports to the State's Attorney and creates the job description as attachment one of the resolution. Creation of the First Assistant is only to authorize to create the classification and not authorize the creation of additional staffing for the office. They are not authorizing any additional staff members. This is just a title change to have one person as the First Assistant. Upon approval if so ordered directs the Treasurer to contact the wage study folks to find out where it would fall into the job classification wage grid. Then it would go from there back to the Ways and Means committee for wage classification assignment. He spoke with the current State's Attorney and the acting First Assistant under Miss Lawson-Weaver and this is what they are requesting. This was also a discussion back in the day with Mr. Karlin that there needed to be a First Assistant so someone has the ability to discipline in the State's Attorney's absence or handle other business in the State's Attorney's absence.

Member Davidson said even though it might be needed she would not be voting yes for it until we know what the cost or the raise of whoever might be receiving this. She thinks the cost study should have been done prior to.

Member Nache said that she was going to say the same thing before Member Davidson even said it. We are kind of putting the cart before the horse. This needed to be known before we vote on this. So, she will be voting no on this as well.

Member Bacon asked if this is going to be an exempt position.

Chair Hawkinson said yes. He said all the ASA's are all exempt by the FLSA requirements but this would definitely be an exempt position due to the disciplinary ability.

Member Bacon asked even though we are creating a position and going through the time study will it come back to the Board for a vote again on this or is it a done deal.

Chair Hawkinson said that it does not create a position it creates the title. We are not adding any additional staffing. This would go once Item #5 once approved would go direct to the Treasurer to start the process to find out where that falls into the wage study. Then it goes back to the Ways and Means for placement in that wage grid.

Member Cohen asked if there was a reason we have to create the title and do the wage study at the same time or could be do the wage study then create the title later.

Chair Hawkinson said that there have been multiple answers to that. In the past we have gone the opposite direction. It was requested multiple times before that this is not an official title there for we are spending money to have pay point which costs us \$250 that we have to spend to have them review a title that is not even a real title yet. That is the explanation he got. He said that is up to the Board.

Member Cohen asked what happens if we do the wage study and it is not very viable. He asked if we just close out the title afterwards or just have the title then.

Chair Hawkinson said since it goes back to the Ways and Means committee the Ways and Means committee can always reverse the recommendation and then it comes back to the Board to reverse it.

Member Friedrich said just to clarify that voting on this doesn't authorize us to spend the money outside of the \$250 to see what the position is going to cost us. So, we are not voting on spending any money this is just to create the position and spend the \$250 to see what the wage study is going to be.

Chair Hawkinson read that it directs the Treasurer of Knox County to do a wage compensation analysis of such job description and report the findings to the Ways and Means committee for wage classification assignment.

Member Friedrich said thank you.

Member Boone asked the difference between just an average Assistant Attorney verses the First. She asked if there is going to be much difference in their job descriptions.

Chair Hawkinson said yes, the First Assistant would be primarily responsible for handling all responsibility for litigation, major felony cases including homicides, and all other major cases that are litigated in accordance of statutory requirements to insure fairness in access of prosecution and convictions. There are three pages of the responsibilities that differ somewhat from a regular ASA. Some ASA's are assigned just juveniles, some ASA's just traffic, some ASA's that are assigned non-felonies such as the misdemeanor court things, and a position that mirrors up with the State's Attorney to handle all the major cases.

Member Thierry said so this position is basically an administrative type where they are doing the discipline for staff.

Chair Hawkinson said that they have the ability to correct it. He said it is like a chief deputy in the County Clerk, Treasurer's, or the Circuit Clerk's office. Some one that can be in charge in the absence of the elected official.

Member Thierry said so their main purpose would be dealing with staff issues.

Chair Hawkinson said this one would be in charge of all the staffing in addition to all the prosecution stuff that is listed. He said that Miss Lawson-Weaver was going to try and come tonight but she had some other commitments.

Member Kramer said like we addressed all the other department heads have an assistant. He said as most of us should have learned in the last couple of years the State's Attorney has a lot more duties then just prosecuting cases. He is the lead representation for the Board. We've seen the work that comes along that we ask him to do. The cases we ask him to look into. This would take the burden of him having to manage the criminal side and his administrative duties or their administrative duties. To where the First Assistant would have the ability to take the cases assignments, the case loads and move them throughout the office. He thought that it was a

position that Knox County ultimately had. Maybe they had it back in the day but it got shuffled in the papers somewhere. It is definitely a position that office needs.

Chair Hawkinson said one other thing for the qualifications is that it is not an entry level position. It requires five years or more of trial experience verses and entry level ASA that can come right out of law school.

Member Cohen said that it sounds like the main issue for a few members is just the creation of the title without the wage study. It sounds like we don't need to do both at the same time. He asked if there was any objection to if we motion to amend to remove the creation or table the creation and just go through with the wage study that they do not necessarily have to be connected.

Chair Hawkinson said that we can add an item six another bullet point that if the wage classification comes back unfavorable at the direction of the Ways and Means committee that it could come back to the Board and be overturned. He said that is another option they have.

Member Boone said she was just wondering as far as budgeting since the department heads are getting towards the end of the year. That is why she is concerned if they go ahead and approve this and then they do get the wage study it would be one less step that the department head could budget for.

Chair Hawkinson said that this has no budgets to impact at this point. They have plenty of funding left through their office.

Member Bondi said he had two questions. He wanted to know who decides who is going to be the First Assistant and secondly if and when the State's Attorney changes will that person automatically not have that position again assuming the State's Attorney makes the decision.

Chair Hawkinson said correct that all the assistants are at the back and call and only the State's Attorney would hire.

Member Bondi asked so if and when it turns over will that title relax on that individual once a new State's Attorney is either appointed or elected.

Chair Hawkinson said correct, well sorry it will continue to be a position a title.

Member Bondi said a position but the individual may change.

Chair Hawkinson said correct.

Member Bondi said as a result of the State's Attorney.

Chair Hawkinson said correct.

Member Weiss said his question is if they approve the title do they immediately have the authority to step in without going through the wage study.

Chair Hawkinson said not according to this resolution. It has to go through the wage study, go back to the Ways and Means for insertion then we can add as Member Cohen suggested for it to come back for full approval pending the wage study.

Member Davidson said she would approve it if the Treasurer after the wage study give some input on it because even though they might have the means right now to pay for it. She does not know what their budget is going to be and also due to they are having the changing of the State's Attorney in three months. We will have a whole new State's Attorney. She thinks they should use those months or half of it to make sure what the wage study is and understand it better.

Member Bacon said it seems to him that it is going to be a job for the next budget cycle not this. He asked if anyone was planning on hiring anyone right now. It is just for the next State's Attorney that comes in will have the opportunity to have an assistant.

Chair Hawkinson said that the current State's Attorney is requesting this title to be created along with the incoming future State's Attorney is also requesting to make this motion go through.

Member Bacon said the way we move things around here this not going to happen until the next administration comes into the State's Attorney's office.

Chair Hawkinson said that they are ready to implement as soon as possible.

Member Nache said could we make a motion to amend it that the Treasurer of what Member Davidson just said to amend that.

Chair Hawkinson said that we can add an item seven as well pending the budget review. He said the Board is the final decision maker if it can be reviewed or not the Treasurer has no bearing if the Board moves on something or not outside of providing some feedback. She would probably be at the Ways and Means committee so she would have that read back at that Ways and Means committee.

Chair Hawkinson asked who made the motion.

Clerk Erickson said Member Friedrich and Member Kramer.

Chair Hawkinson asked if they were fine with adding item six for pending the wage study review which is duplicate of item number five and pending budgetary review which is also part of number five with Ways and Means.

Member Friedrich said no because it is coming back to Ways and Means anyways so it will all be discussed with the Treasurer and go through the budget program as well.

Chair Hawkinson said so under Parliamentary rule we would have to vote on it.

Clerk Erickson said that we could entertain a motion to amend from the floor after a motion and a second pending discussion then that motion could be voted on the amendment. If the amendment passes then it modifies the original motion. If it fails then it goes back to the motion that stands at this point.

Motion was made to amend to add items six and seven to the original resolution by Member Cohen and seconded by Member Davidson.

Member Kramer said so we are just adding language that is already on there. He asked if that was the amendment here.

Chair Hawkinson said just different terminology but all goes back to Ways and Means in his opinion but the motion is on the floor to make the amendment.

Clerk Erickson said on the amendment to the motion. This is not the actual motion. This is just to amend the original motion. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Pugh, Thierry and Cohen— (6). Noes— Hawkinson, Weiss, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, and Boone ---(6). Motion failed.

Chair Hawkinson stated that the motion failed for lack of majority and reverts back to the original motion as presented. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Hawkinson, Weiss, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi and Boone— (7). Noes—Nache, Davidson, Pugh, Thierry and Cohen---(5). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said good conversation.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Weiss to approve the Creation of Position of FOIA Officer. Chair Hawkinson said in everyone's packet is the creation of the FOIA Officer. He read that this position would be created to handle any and all FOIA requests for the County of Knox Illinois government. This position shall primarily handle FOIA

Officer duties, but may from time to time be assigned duties and responsibilities as needed. This position reports to the Board Chairperson or designee via a designated committee. He said same as the Nursing Director, Assessor, etc. He read item three creates a job description of such FOIA Officer as listed in Attachment one of this resolution. Requires the FOIA Officer, once hired to complete the required training provided by the Illinois Attorney General's office within six months of designation and annually thereafter, as mandated by law. Directs the Treasurer of Knox County to provide a wage compensation analysis of such job description and report the findings at the Ways and Means committee for wage/classification assignment. He said that the job description that is attached was reviewed by the State's Attorney's office. It was taken from multiple jurisdictions from around the state that have FOIA Officers. That have specific FOIA Officers not just by title. The requirement to have the training by the AG's office within six months that is statutorily required and annually thereafter. This is a much-needed position with the dramatic increase of FOIA requests. We have exceeded three hundred requests just this year alone. The City of Galesburg is just over five hundred. There is more to it then people thing of handling the FOIA requests from their time and a lot of requirements to redact. The minimum requirement is an Associate's Degree which is desired but not required. Two years of research and analysis work experience desired. The certification by the State of Illinois as a Freedom of Information Officer is required within six months of hire. If you have a lot of skills that could be applied towards this type of position then that would benefit that person come hiring time. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that Item #6 and #7 were removed from the packet.

Member Friedrich said that the monthly report from the Ways and Means Committees are in the packet. He said for budget meetings they had one scheduled for tomorrow but had to cancel it because he can not make it. They have them scheduled next week for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. An email will be sent out tomorrow after Member Kramer talks to people to see who he can get out for those days. The County Clerk will be in one of those days as well. They did have a special meeting on Ways and Means Monday to discuss item eleven.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Legal Holiday Calendar for 2025. Member Friedrich said this is the calendar that the judges put out and we have approved it every year. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Case # AP-01-24 – Request for Appeal to the Zoning Interpretation of Article 3, Section 3.1.01.1 and 3.1.67 of the Knox County Zoning Resolution, to Allow a Room Addition that includes a Breezeway, Garage, Kitchen, Bedroom, and Bathroom Attached to Existing Primary Structure/Dwelling in the “A” Agricultural Zoning District, Filed by Tept Trust for Tim Robbins Co-Trustee, 105 W. Main St, Victoria. Member Friedrich said what this is in the zoning

resolution there was kind of a gray area of how they can build two residents there and they needed clarification. Assessor Hochstettler thought that they needed clarification and it went through the Zoning Board of Appeals. They presented all the information and they approved it unanimously. He said that Assessor Hochstettler could not be here tonight. She had other conflicts. This individual did come to the Ways and Means Committee meeting. He asked for us to approve this months ago but he had to go through the process and got through it.

Member Kramer said the question he had is not necessarily for the Board. He said that it is unfortunate that the people have to pay \$500 for appeal to be heard and it is nonrefundable if it is overturned. He thinks it is something that should be looked at in the future.

Member Davidson said that she was not at the Ways and Means but she just looking at this and "A" Agricultural Zoning District she thought they could not have in the past a breezeway because it was another junction for a place to have two homes for a family thing.

Member Friedrich said that we modified that a couple of years ago Member Friedrich where we can have two what Assessor Hochstettler referred to as a mother-in-law's house. That is what this is but they did not define it enough. What he wanted to do with the two residents was not defined enough in the zoning resolution so he had to get clarification on it.

Member Davidson said so they identified it that it has to be a family person so he cannot rent it out correct.

Member Friedrich said no

Member Davidson said alright thank you.

Member Pugh said that she was actually there that day the gentleman came to talk about this. He said that it is the mom and dad from her knowledge and you can correct her if she is wrong. She said that they are getting older so they are adding on for them and then they are going to live in the older part of the house. The new part would be for the parents and the kids that are taking care of them will be on the other side.

Member Friedrich said part of the problem with the clarification is the breezeway and going to hook them together. Assessor Hochstettler did not know if it would be considered one residence since the breezeway is connecting them or if it would be two. That was the hold up through that. They just needed clarification on it.

Member Pugh said that she did agree with Member Kramer about the \$500.

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bacon to approve Bids for Workman's Compensation / Vehicle / Liability / Property Insurance. Member Friedrich said that they had a special Ways and Means meeting about it on Monday about this. Chad the insurance provider came and gave us the bad news. Our work comp insurance has gone up significantly because we have raised our wages throughout the county in every department. Every time you raise someone's wages the work comp has to go up to match that so everything went up. The work comp is the biggest part of it. The other reason work comp is going up is that we have had a lot of claims. They asked Chad to come and do a breakdown of what departments. If it was stuff that just happened or was it something that we can prevent. His people are going to go over that stuff and see if there is some kind of program that we can do to help educate different departments to see if we can prevent this. The insurance company is going to give us

some free training to the department heads and departments that need some help. He thanked Chief Deputy Treasurer Bailey for showing up tonight and she was also at the Ways and Means meeting on Monday. Treasurer Davis had something come up tonight so she could not be here. Chief Deputy Treasurer Bailey did bring the number of \$1,648,146,000 is the premium.

Chair Hawkinson said that the increase is 18.8% increase over last year. A big chunk of that as well is the property and liability claims because the property values have dramatically increased based on the market value. The liability cost also goes up which is passed on to us as well as the payroll has increased significantly. Member Friedrich also mentioned there is an uptick in workman's comp claims. They have the ability to break it down and they will come next month to the Ways and Means committee to provide if it is preventable or just society that is causing the increase. They did have multiple bids that went out and a couple had no interest in providing property insurance. The ICRMT did reduce their bid by \$28,182. The cost was based on information that was provided and was able to be changed.

Member Bacon said the 1.8 million that is spread out between the entities.

Member Friedrich said 1.6.

Member Bacon said 1.6 excuse me.

Member Bondi said that he does not know if it is the value of the property or if it is the replacement value whether it was something that was destroyed or a fire. That is what has gone up so drastically.

Member Davidson asked if they can use their liability insurance on having training like sometimes the Sheriff's Department has on how to lower our workman comp issues.

Member Friedrich said that is exactly what they are doing. That is what he was talking about that they are going to review and see if there is any one department. Then look over the claims and see what they can do to start narrowing them down.

Member Davidson said with the Sheriff's department and the nursing home they have a lot of liabilities because of lifting and back issues. They can teach them to lift correctly or just addressing different things.

Member Friedrich said hopefully they will come back next month and break it down by department and see what those claims are to see if they are ten back claims then we need some training on lifting and carrying.

Member Davidson said ok thank you.

Member Friedrich said that is their plan.

Member Thierry asked if this is not a service that is provided by the insurance company that provides our workman's comp coverage.

Member Friedrich said that they are going to do that. They are the ones that are going to do that.

Member Thierry asked if they are going to do it regularly then.

Member Friedrich said not regularly, not unless we ask.

Member Thierry asked if it was not part of their service.

Member Friedrich said that they will do it if we ask and we have now asked them.

Member Bacon said that they have done it before. They came in and gave them talks before.

Chair Hawkinson said that he thinks they came into the Sheriff's office last year and gave some information and training. He thinks they are also the same ones that hosted the emergency vehicle operations training for the Sheriff Deputies.

Member Friedrich said that there was on other bid that was slightly lower then this one but he had suggested us stay here because it was not worth the pain and suffering of transferring everything over to another insurance company. He said like Chair Hawkinson said they did lower their price because of that and got pretty close. So, it was an insignificant change to stay where they are at. He suggested to stay here then change everything over. It would make more work for the Treasurers department to switch the stuff over.

Chair Hawkinson said that it was the recommendation from IPRF.

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve Payment Application #1 for Courthouse Ramp Project. Member Friedrich asked Chair Hawkinson to speak on this.

Chair Hawkinson said that it is in the amount of \$67,950. The remainder to finish including the retainage is \$51,050. The project is complete 99% of it. We are just waiting on the sign off from the Department of Justice. They are the ones that handled the inspection of the handicapped ramp. He said he has been saying for three weeks that he hopes he gets it today but he hopes to get it this week. We did receive correspondence from Washington D.C. that they are working on getting the final documents signed and sent to our attorney's office in Chicago.

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Resolution for Expenditure Authorization from Special Contingency Fund for Nursing Home Project. Member Friedrich said we have a Special Contingency Fund that the money is put into from the landfill primarily. This is authorization that we can get the money to do the drawing for the solar project and all the other upgrades to know how much things are going to cost. Member Bacon can speak on the upgrades but this is to use that money from there then when this is done the nursing home will get the loan and pay the Contingency Fund money back. The county is basically funding the money for the drawings for a couple of months.

Member Nache asked when you say the solar aren't we kind of on a time line. Don't we have rebates to worry about. Shouldn't the solar be different from this due to we are on that time line. We are expecting rebates and doesn't it expire in December.

Member Bacon said no it does not end then Member Nache. They are still available next year. All of them are.

Member Friedrich said that this is the fastest way to get the money to them and to get this project going.

Chair Hawkinson said to answer your question Member Nache there was discussion two or three months ago that we were on a time schedule to respond to those types of rebates. He researched further and that is not the case.

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Resolution on Educational Incentive Program. Member Friedrich said he will let Chair Hawkinson speak on this since he has all the details on it.

Chair Hawkinson said the resolution is in the packet as well for everybody to review. He said several of the county employees are already covered by an education incentive program through their collective bargaining unit. Several have requested or asked why the county does not have a separate program that would allow them to attend college and take courses to better themselves at their current position. They made some phone calls to neighboring government agencies and came up with this program. They brought it through the Ways and Means committee for some good discussion. Education Incentive Program, exempt and non-represented employees are reimbursed a portion of the cost of books and tuition for courses that are taken in pursuit of an approved degree or professional certification above and beyond the minimum requirements for the position held by the employee and towards the same type of work currently held by the employee. It reimburses the employee not to exceed \$300 per course and not to exceed five eligible courses every six months for the cost there is a procedure in the resolution as well. So, for \$1,500 every six months for those employees that wish to better themselves. He feels we have an obligation to help our employees be better at their jobs as well as better themselves in their work and private life. There is a requirement of upon reimbursement those employees retain employment for at least eighteen months. Otherwise they must repay the County of Knox for all reimbursements. There is a grade point average requirement to receive the reimbursement and once the certifications or transcripts received for those courses that have been taken they are turned into the department head. They will then forward them to proper committee for review and approval. Then in turn transferred to the County Treasurer for adjustment. He said part of the discussion coming from the Ways and Means Committee the Treasurer made some good points that we need to have the ability to create specific line items. He left one of the bullet points which kind of left the Treasurer to create certain line item for expense of this fiscal year as well as making funding available from the proper Contingency Funds the current year training funds. The department has a training line item which would fall under for this current year and then for the next fiscal year there would be a separate line item created in general. There is still a cap on how much money is put into the next fiscal year. We have to limit it at some point. This is one step to bring us up to the twenty first century. City of Galesburg does \$300 per course. They do not limit it for the number of courses. Peoria City and Peoria County all have some type of education incentive for bettering their employees.

Member Nache said he does not know when but she is sure she could have Clerk Erickson find it for her if she could figure out about when we have done this before and it has come to bite us in our extremities. She said because they leave and yet they say they will pay it back. She remembers that some of them they had to issue and send out letters to them. She still never heard if those people paid us back because they decided to just up and run. She believes that everyone if they want the education but we just need a tighter rein on it or if they leave us we aren't sending letter after letter with no response to the letter. We need to be told if we got that back and some form of punishment if they don't pay us back after so many letters. She said she is going to vote no because of that.

Member Friedrich said that is all on our State's Attorney if this happens if we have to send out letters. The letters go out religiously and we get the money back. He feels that is on them. He said he remembers some of what Member Nache said but not whatever happened in the end.

Member Davidson said that it should be tied to the department instead of just general and taking it out of our general fund. For example, the nursing home the state is only going to have RNs instead of LPNs so if some of our nursing want to go to school and get their RN's. She thinks this will be a great asset for them to help further their education to get their RN. She said especially in the landfill for them if they want to go and get that extra education on getting their administrator certification or if they want to be a new FOIA Officer they want to better themselves and take some lawyer classes. She thinks it should be for the departments so they can issue it instead of coming out of the general fund.

Chair Hawkinson said that he agrees and the discussion during the Ways and Means committee was that the line items created for the next fiscal year would be in each individual department but it would be only entered as a dollar. If they put ten thousand dollars for education incentive each department then we may run into certain department if they run out of money on one item, that department head takes the ten thousand from here. Now they have defeated the whole purpose. He said Treasurer Davis' opinion is to create that one dollar per department and then as it is needed we would insert the proper funding.

Member Davidson said then she votes yes.

Member Nache asked so what you are saying it is going to be in each department's budget it is not going to come out of the general fund.

Chair Hawkinson said that it would still come out of the contingency because we would put money in the contingency. When there are people that want to participate then we would move money into that department's line item for education incentive.

Chair Hawkinson asked Chief Deputy Treasurer Bailey if that explains it properly.

Chief Deputy Treasurer Bailey said it would go into that fund then when needed go into that departments fund. The nursing home will have their own fund.

Chair Hawkinson said that is why he left it lose so the Treasurer has the ability to create the line items for revenue expense as needed. It could change at the Boards discretion at budget time. He said currently the departments that have the training line item, they could use money out of that if they so choose.

Member Nache said ok I will vote yes on this and hope it doesn't bite us in our extremities.

Member Thierry asked if there was a method of measuring if this is being financially beneficial to us. That people are actually finishing school. Following through on their commitment to the county and the success rates. To see if we are just throwing good money to bad or actually improving things.

Chair Hawkinson said that it will be a continuous improvement because they will not be able to request reimbursement until the course is completed and they have to provide their transcripts for those courses in order for reimbursement.

Member Thierry said there is no upfront funds.

Chair Hawkinson said no.

Member Weiss said you had mentioned upfront that there was going to be a GPA requirement and what is the GPA requirement.

Chair Hawkinson said that we can change it if you want. He said they just mirrored other places that coursework must be taken through an approved accredited institution and must receive a grade of “C” or above per course to be eligible for the reimbursement. If an employee is seeking an advanced degree such as Master’s or Doctorate they must receive a grade of “B” or higher. Again, there is no upfront cost to the county. Member Thierry for example if you were an employee and take your courses you pay and you get a “D” you are out that money. If you get a “C” then you provide the paperwork to your boss and the committee. It goes through proper channels and you get reimbursed.

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

Member Friedrich said that this concludes his report and thanked Chief Deputy Treasurer Bailey for coming and standing in since Treasurer Davis could not be here.

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

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Bondi to approve Purchase of Two 2024 Dodge Durango’s. Member Kramer said that the total for both patrol vehicles together is \$87,520.00. The Sheriff has \$62,287 in that line item right now. One of the vehicles is going to be used for a K9 unit. He is going to use \$25,233 on the offset to make the purchase of the Durango’s.

Member Nache asked if we are just about done getting vehicles for the Sheriff’s office because we have been doing it now for the last two years.

Chair Hawkinson said that we will never be done.

Member Kramer said when you say be done you get into bigger problems. He has a fleet alignment program that he is getting old units out right now. The old K9 unit has two hundred and some odd thousand miles on it. That is the one that is due to being replaced.

Member Friedrich said that Member Nache might be talking about when we were buying six or seven at a time. He said they should be done with that. We are always going to be buying a couple a year. We should be done buying the six or seven a year which might be what you are talking about.

Member Nache said yes and thank you.

Member Kramer said that was when they hadn’t bought any for a while. So, it was in a bad desperate need.

Member Bacon said that Member Kramer mentioned the other K9 unit. He asked if they are going to get ride of it.

Member Kramer said that he is sure what the Sheriff’s intentions are for it.

Member Bacon said that they are starting to get a used car lot on the corner.

Member Kramer said that they have gotten rid of quite a few.

Member Bacon asked if they were trading it in.

Member Kramer said that the military Humvee's are military surplus so they can not get rid of them.

Member Bacon said correct he knows.

Member Kramer said that they either need to come back and get them or have to take them to them.

Member Kramer said that he does not know what his intentions are on the old K9 unit. It has lived a long life.

Chair Hawkinson said that they will probably keep that one for back up if another K9 goes down. The K9 unit is specially equipped with the cage. Until the wheels fall off it still might be useful for short periods.

Member Bondi said wasn't the original K9 unit given to us by Howard Buffet.

Chair Hawkinson said correct.

Member Bondi said so we had no expense in the vehicle that we received and got the program going.

Chair Hawkinson said correct.

Member Kramer said that might actually be that vehicle and pretty sure it is.

Member Thierry asked if this puts it into a two vehicle a year rotation.

Member Kramer said that the Sheriff proposed to the committee about six months ago about a fleet rotation and it was like 1,2 or 3 vehicles a year. He said that he doesn't have it in front of him for confirmation.

Member Davidson asked if that includes Abingdon's vehicles and all the other little towns that he has acquired vehicles from. She asked if they are going to be used.

Member Kramer said that when they rolled that to the committee that was before the Abingdon Contract happened. Only one of the vehicles acquired from Abingdon was patrol adequate for them that they are using. The other ones that Member Bacon mentioned are in the side lot. He was hoping the Sheriff was still present to talk to answer your question but he does not see him. He will get the information at the next committee meeting.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Hawkinson, Weiss, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi and Boone—(9). Noes— Davidson, Pugh and Cohen---(3). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve Raising of Animal Control Fees. Member Kramer said that a couple months ago they had raised the fees on several things. This portion of the Animal Control was left out. It is in your Board packet. All the fees are raising by \$5 and these fees have not been raised in a long time. It is to stay in the trend of where they should be.

Chair Hawkinson said the cost of administering the licenses and such are also increasing. This will help offset that.

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

Member Kramer said that Item #18 was removed from the packet.

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 comments or questions. If not, he will go on to the action items.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve Change Order #4 for Leachate Collection System Project for \$5,004.90. Member Bondi read that a repair to installed fiber optic line was required. The line was damaged during normal landfill operations at the daylight point near the tank installation area. The cost of the repair is \$5,004.80. The change order was enclosed in the packet and unanimously approved during committee.

Chair Hawkinson said that he needs to modify the motion to approve the change order to \$5004.80 instead of \$5004.90.

Motion to modify was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich.

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

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Agreement with City of Galesburg to Construct Multi-Use Path on South Lake Storey Road Right of Way. Member Bondi read that the City of Galesburg has been working on constructing a multi-use path along the south side of Lake Storey for several years. The path will be utilized by bicyclists and walkers. The funding has been secured and construction/bidding documents are being developed. The multi-use path will be constructed on the north edge of the right of way for South Lake Storey Road. Since Knox County has jurisdiction of the right of way, the Illinois Department of Transportation is requesting Knox County and the City of Galesburg to execute an intergovernmental agreement, spelling out the terms of the construction and future maintenance of the multi-use path. Budget impact there is no cost to Knox County and therefore no budget impact for this agreement. It was recommended for approval.

Member Nache said heck no, she does not get involved into governmental agreements with the city because she has been on this Board a long time we were in a governmental agreement with them and they were jerks all the way. She says she does not care she says it the way it is. There is no way she has always said that she will not into another one with them and her vote will be no.

Member Davidson said this was several years ago when they made the path and it was on county property. We turned over some of our land for that walkway. She asked if this is a continuance of this.

Member Bondi said that he does not believe so. He asked Highway Administrator Ratermann to speak on that question.

Highway Administrator Ratermann said he is not aware of that.

Member Davidson asked what is the pathway from the village all the way down past the campground.

Highway Administrator Ratermann said that there is no path.

Chair Hawkinson said not yet. He said that Member Davidson might be thinking about when they awarded the City of Galesburg ARPA funding for a portion of the walkway that has

been constructed. This piece here stretches from West Lake Storey Road to the Villas there at Henderson and South Lake Storey Road.

Member Davidson said this will be the South side lake which is across from Carl Sandburg.

Member Bondi said that it stops short of Henderson St.

Chair Hawkinson said correct, this will allow the completion on our right of way since County Highway 30 is South Lake Storey Road which is maintained by the county.

Member Davidson asked if it would be somewhere they could ride their bicycles.

Chair Hawkinson said no, as it stands right now once this is completed you can start at North Lake Storey Road and Henderson St. to ride your bicycle or walk all the way around Lake Storey and end up back at the Villas. The hold up is to get form Lincoln Park to the Villas and their final is to work with IDOT to get permission to cross the highway.

Member Bondi said which is Highway 150.

Chair Hawkinson said it gets our stretch along our highway with no cost to us.

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

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Performance Contracting Projects for Mary Davis Home. Member Bondi said that the performance contract with MSI is in the packet along with the report and minutes. Member Bondi said that it is for \$253,080.00 and is self-explanatory with all the improvements associated with that property. Agonize the working drawings for heat and air, energy management, lighting, fire alarm, roof, soffits, exterior insulation, finishing systems. The description will provide for the engineering architectural services to construct the documents, specifications, bidding, contract administration and then allow to go to bid for everyone of those items.

Member Kramer said specifically it is also upgrading the security system.

Member Davidson said it has been updated shouldn't this have been bided out because of the updates.

Chair Hawkinson said no, this is just the perfectional fees to do the structural documents to work up the documents and designs. Then it will come back to the Board to go out for approval on Bid and Bring Back to allow for public bidding on all the items like Member Bondi stated. This still comes back to the Board to approve to go out for bids, then bids would go out, they come back to us just like the jail did and then they would review the bids. This is just the start of the design face for professional services.

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

Member Bacon presented the monthly report from the Health and Human Services committee. He said that the minutes are in the Google drive since they come in late. He wanted to thank Member Nache for taking the minutes and Member Smith is not here but thanked her for taking over for him last month.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Pugh to approve Increase Private Pay Room Rate by \$10 per Day (Effective December 1, 2024). Member Bacon said that we have not raised rates in three years and even with raising it \$10 per day we are still under everyone else. They aren't pricing themselves out of the market.

They would still not be above Seminary Manor and there is a county owned one down in Macomb and they are \$70 per day below them.

Member Nache said we are raising it but she thought that two years ago we also raised them.

Member Bacon said that they looked and it was three years ago.

Member Nache said ok as long as it was three years ago. Thank you.

Member Davidson said that she is still voting no just like she did during the committee meeting due to the hardship and cost of everything is going up. She said that this is a county home and is doing well financially that they should not raise the rates.

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

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Bid and Bring Back for Carpet in Staff Breakroom and Communication Hub. Member Bacon said that this is the last part of carpet to be replaced. It is hard to move things around on the carpet and in the breakroom has gotten frayed and they are running out of double sided duct tape.

Chair Hawkinson said that this is a Bid and Bring Back.

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

Member Bacon said as of last month they averaged 107 residents per day. In their bank account there is 1.8 million has of their last meeting since he did not get the figures today and 1.4 million in the referendum. That might have gone up due to a disbursement.

Chief Deputy Treasurer Bailey said that it will be deposited tomorrow and read the updated figures.

Member Bacon said thank you to Member Friedrich for bringing her.

Member Bacon said they are still in the black and have borrowed no money from the referendum to run. Thank you.

Chair Hawkinson stated that the reports from several 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 Weiss 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, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said the budget line item changes are in the packet for the Nursing Home, Health Department, Public Defender and Sheriff.

Motion made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Weiss for the approval of Proposed Line Item Changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that the manual check review is in the packet and there were no monthly out of the ordinary checks that were issued out of sequence.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Committee Meetings of September 2024, Board Meetings in August, and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Chair Hawkinson said the total was \$3,771.92. He said that they are in the G-drive as of this morning due to having to add the Monday and Tuesday meetings that needed to be added to the per diems. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of August 29, 2024 through September 25, 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 \$1,934,482.35. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 23, 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. The Knox County YouTube channel is available for live viewing or to download and watch later.

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, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.