

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

**October 23, 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, October 23rd, 2024 at 6:07 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 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-Recorder Scott Erickson and County Treasurer Robin Davis. Department Heads present were Highway Administrator Duane Ratermann, Landfill Administrator Rod Clear, Knox County Public Health Administrator Michele Gabriel, Mary Davis Home Administrator Wendi Steck and Supervisor of Assessments Sonia Hochstettler.

Clerk Erickson delivered the Proclamation and Chair Hawkinson led the Members in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. In lieu of a formal invocation, Chair Hawkinson asked that a moment of silence be observed.

Chair Hawkinson asked for additions or deletions to the agenda with additions for discussion only. He removed Item #5 and Member Friedrich asked to have Item #20 removed 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 noticed on agenda item 8 to approve Resolution on Emergency Replacement of Mary Davis Home Facility Heat Boiler he would like to ask the chairs of the relative committee and the Chair of the Board to explain how this could possibly be an emergency. He said that when he was on the Board back in 2022 and earlier we knew that the boiler was on limited life. If this is just a situation in which this is to avoid going out for bid for that so it can be awarded to the usual suspects then he thinks that is shameful and it is not doing due diligence to the tax payers. He would like for it to be explained how this reasonable behavior. He said thank you.

Chair Hawkinson thanked Mr. Amor for speaking.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Boone to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the regular Board Meeting on September 25, 2024 and 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of July 2024 in the amounts of \$140,299.41 and \$35,132.52 and public safety tax in the amount of \$242,183.74. 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 Kramer to approve the Proclamation for Veterans Day in Knox County. Chair Hawkinson read the proclamation into record. Chair Hawkinson said thank you to the Veterans on the Board, to the Veterans in the room and those that are watching. 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 Weiss to approve the appointment to Tri-County Regional Planning Commission of Kraig Boynton. Chair Hawkinson said that this is a re-appointment and the information is in the packet. He said that Mr. Boynton is already serving on that commission and leading it for the Galesburg Transit District. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Nache, Bacon, Davidson, Hawkinson, Sandoval, Weiss, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Friedrich, Bondi, Cohen, and Boone— (13). Noes— (0). Abstain--- Olinger---(1). Motion carried.

Item #5 was removed.

Chair Hawkinson said that Item #6 is the presentation of the Annual Report from the Knox County 708 Mental Health Board. He said that he spoke to the Mental Health Chairman Steve Watts on the phone as well as attended their last board meeting. He received some information on their annual report which is in the packet. He said that in 2024 applications for funding was received between February 1<sup>st</sup> and February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Sixteen organizations applied for funding totaling \$2,408,733.98. At a public meeting all those applicants were given an opportunity to answer all the questions concerning their application. Applications were reviewed and discussed. Votes were taken at two different meetings held on March 25<sup>th</sup> and April 8<sup>th</sup>. The final discussion was on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The grants were awarded to twelve organizations in the amount of \$1,637,503. Four applications were denied. In their annual report they did provide that they are in talks with another organization with the Director of Chestnut Health Services out of Bloomington to see what kind of mental health services they can provide for Knox County drug, alcohol and mental health needs. This organization is a large provider of those drug, alcohol and mental health treatment services with a budget of over \$60 million dollars in eight locations between St. Louis and Chicago. There are several terms of members coming due by the end of this year. He said it looks like two and their next board meeting is November 4<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at the Annex Conference Room. Anyone that has any questions reach out to Member Weiss or Mr. Watts directly. Mr. Watts will gladly share any information that you want to know. Chair Hawkinson said that he did have a lengthy conversation about the funding to the organizations that currently there is no meconium in place at the 708 level to review after those funds have been issued to confirm that the funds are being spent properly. They are working on having them have proof of funds spent with a detailed report explaining how funds were utilized.

Member Davidson asked to put in there if a company or person receives it several times if there is a limitation of how many times they can receive it back to back.

Chair Hawkinson said that currently there is no limitation on that.

Member Davidson said that we should not be funding every year the same entity. She said that is what she believes and other places should have the opportunity to get in.

Member Hawkinson said that there is an application process. People have to have the ability and self-desire to apply to go through the process. He said that he does recommend that she give Mr. Watts a call as well because that was actually a discussion at one point at their last board meeting. That while there are some agencies or organizations that have continued funding some of those response, interviews and reasons that they have those funding's for different purposes are legit.

Member Weiss said that if you noticed the requests were in excess of two million and they only rewarded one million six. That has to do with that there is an application process and some of the people that came to us requesting funds did not fit the criteria to qualify for the funds. The ones that do get repeated funds are good programs in place that are of assistance to the community for things that are needed. If they stopped some of that funding then they would lose those programs. They do not think it is a good idea to lose certain programs.

Member Boone asked about the two new positions coming up, if a deadline and if there is a place that people can go apply.

Member Weiss said that he is not aware of two positions coming up. He knows they had one person that resigned and they have already interviewed for that position. He said that it was

taken off the agenda because not everyone that was interviewed was informed of who was and was not going to be chosen.

Chair Hawkinson said for the ones at the end of the year he thinks that there are two like he stated and there were two listed in the annual report. He said when those become due the process that he worked with Mr. Watts on is the last opening was posted publicly, there was a large number of applicants that applied. They then interviewed. Mr. Watts contacted all the applicants and four were interviewed. That is the process that Mr. Watts is going to take going forward.

Member Davidson said that she stated that because some of the corporation or entities have received funds ever since we have had a 708 Board.

Member Nache said that it is not that she does not appreciate what Mr. Watts wants her to know or all of us to know. She would appreciate it more if someone could come here, go to the podium and speak at the microphone. So, she then can ask them some hard questions that she has to ask. She said talking to them on the phone is not going to let me see their face if to see if they are lying straight to my face. She said that her family is going through this and is not happy with who they are giving the money to.

Chair Hawkinson said that he will let Mr. Watts know.

Member Weiss said that they have there next meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup>. He asked Member Nache to please come to the meeting and ask us your questions then.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Lease Buyout Option for Administrative Building. Chair Hawkinson said we purchased the 50 E. Main St and signed on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The purchase price was \$850,000. Since then they have been in negotiations with Wells Fargo that had a lease on the first floor. They have been paying monthly lease payments of \$9,800 to the county. Member Bondi has been the one in contact with the Wells Fargo representative. Prior to the purchase their goal was to recoup \$300,000 from Wells Fargo. He is proud to report as of today the State's Attorney has reviewed the document as well as the Wells Fargo representative and Member Bondi it says that they will buy their portion out at \$241,000. Plus, the amount of money, they have paid since we have owned the building which will put us at \$299,800 that we have recouped back from the lease buyout. As of December 31, 2024, they walk away with no after audits from Wells Fargo or by the county. He asked Member Bondi if that was correct.

Member Bondi said that is correct. Plus, we will own all the furniture and fixtures in the building and nothing else will be removed except for the ATM that is in the drive-up teller area.

Chair Hawkinson said that is slated for deconstruction soon.

Member Bondi said that it is set to be removed on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Member Nache asked about them taking the ATM if that would give us two extra parking spots.

Member Bondi said we would not have to allow for a drive-up area which was part of the original parking plan so there should be some additional possibilities for parking but can not speak to how many.

Chair Hawkinson said that he thinks that the latest design with the city requirement they had to have a set back for the cars to be able to drive up that took up two maybe three parking spots. So, they should gain maybe two or three spots.

Member Davidson said that the Treasurer is in the room. She said she believes and also asked about the lease money from the rent if it was taxable.

Chair Hawkinson said that it was part of the lease part of their payment. He asked Member Bondi about the \$9,800 a month plus the \$241,00 that they are paying.

Member Bondi asked if Member Davidson was talking about property taxes or taxable income.

Member Davidson asked with them being a government entity if they lease something to a non-government entity it is taxable.

Member Bondi said that he is going to refer that to the Treasurer.

Treasurer Davis said the space that they were renting we will have to pay property taxes on that.

Chair Hawkinson said that they were aware of that. That is why it is prorated into that.

Member Bondi said he thinks Member Davidson's question is if we have income tax.

Member Davidson said she was asking property taxes and she thinks people should know that.

Member Bondi said that they paid those property taxes as part of the money received. It is not money out of our pocket. They are 58% of ownership for leasing amount of the property was also covered by the property tax equation.

Chair Hawkinson said that was within the settlement in June.

Treasurer Davis said what they paid you in June was the property taxes up to that point, the property taxes that have accrued since we took ownership we do not know what those would be since we have not paid those.

Member Bondi said that it is part of the \$9,800 being paid. We are probably equal to or better in the game.

Treasurer Davis said so we do not know if that \$9,800 is enough to pay those property taxes because we won't know what those will be until next year.

Member Bondi said right.

Treasurer Davis said ok.

Member Bondi said the evaluation of that building up until our purchase was well in excess of the \$850,000 we paid so the property taxes in theory could or should go down. It was a property listed well over a year.

Chair Hawkinson said that they received \$18,462.15 for county taxes on their behalf from January 1<sup>st</sup> through June 28<sup>th</sup>. He said that is what they shared with Treasurer Davis on Thursday.

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 Boone to approve the Resolution on Emergency Replacement of Mary Davis Home Facility Heat Boiler. Chair Hawkinson said last Thursday evening he was notified by process of the vendor responsible for repair along with a video and photographs. The Mary Davis Home has two heating boilers to heat the facility. One is no longer operational and the other one is crumbling as the video shows. You can see pieces of the internal metal of the boiler crumbling. As well as steam spraying out in locations of cracks and holes that should not be. As of right now with the one boiler down it will not make it through the winter because it is only 750 BTWs. We need to have two of those to heat the entire facility and since we have had a cold snap the last couple weeks the boiler kicked on. That is when it was noticed it was starting to disintegrate while it ran. He said he spoke with the chief judge. Due to the action of an immediate action if there is the heat to kick on with the

upcoming cold snap if the heat system was to fail because it crumbles or blows a pipe then there is no facility heat at all. Yes, to answer Mr. Amor's question earlier during public comment. Yes, we have known about this for two years that is why it was the number one thing listed on the performance contract replacement plan that was presented for budget pricing plan as well as at the committee. It was on the list to be replaced. Those were discussed at meetings that Mr. Amor was not at. As well as other members of the Board that were not at that committee meeting because it was not addressed at their committee. It is in the packet that the Board Members received last month that was one of the priorities as number one on the budget pricing sheet that was blacked out for the public packet because the budget pricing numbers are proprietary numbers and just budget numbers. Yes, we have been aware of it and it has been on the list to replace. Even Mary Davis Home Administrator Steck said it has been on their priority list as well. He said that the Board can vote it down but he is just afraid if next week or tomorrow even if the boiler disintegrates or blows a pipe and can not be repaired then they are without heat. Given the circumstances with litigation currently at the Mary Davis Home he really does not want to add another item to the list on something that we were made aware of and failed to take action. In the resolution it states in the absence of immediate action there is risk of heating system failure it could cause for immediate closure of the Knox County Mary Davis Home, removal of incarcerated juveniles which will result in increased costs to and/or lose of significant income to the county. Where as the lose of the use of the Knox County Mary Davis Home is harmful to the welfare and safety of the community. As well as other communities and judicial circuits that rely on the facility. We do not just house Knox County where we average two a month. We house from Rockford all the way to St. Louis. Scott County has even brought juveniles here when their system is full. It also says that Knox County Board while originally having recognized the need for a heating replacement and was listed as the previous performance contract item the need for immediate replacement to avoid heating failure. He said that he did speak with the chief judge and he advised to move forward with the replacement since he is responsible for the facility.

Member Kramer said he just wanted to reiterate a few things that the Chairman said. Last month they did approve the performance contract and the heating unit was on there. He wanted to note that he has been on the board for two years. The Mary Davis Home was on his committee. He said he has spoken to Administrator Steck monthly over reports and it is an aging facility. That boiler is probably thirty years old. Some how along the line it got kicked down the road. So now they are in an emergency situation that he was trying to not get in. That was his goal. They had the Sheriff's Department that had the emergency situation over there that they had to address which has concluded and then wanted to get the Mary Davis Home addressed because it is an aging infrastructure. There are security aspects to that not only the heating but the roof. He said unfortunately they did not make it into the whole performance contract and the boiler unit done. He said that we are responsible for heating the building and the safety of the individuals that are in the building. It is an unfortunate situation that he tried to avoid it and it did not happen.

Member Bondi asked if we have insurance on the building.

Chair Hawkinson said yes.

Member Bondi asked if this would fall under mechanical breakdown.

Chair Hawkinson said that he thinks they tried it with the courthouse. He said that it is thirty years old and the original but we can definitely try.

Member Bondi said the age as long as they have having it maintained and inspections each year has nothing to do with it. As long as you are maintaining and go through your boiler inspections each season it should qualify for mechanical breakdown.

Chair Hawkinson said that it doesn't hurt to try and can definitely try.

Member Nache said that she has been on the board for a long time. She said that they have been talking about this boiler system for a long time. It is not just this one but any of our places that they have are their responsibility they need to fix them when they need to be fixed. They have kicked the can down the road the fifteen years she has been here. Same as the jail and the rest of them. She said that they need to be more responsible to our constituents and fix it when we can do things the right way and bid out. She does not care about the performance contract and does not want to get into that. She said let's stop kicking things down the road because we owe this to the taxpayer to do the right thing. This time yes, it is an emergency we don't have an option but next time something like this comes up let's start then. Thank you.

Chair Hawkinson said that is why they have it listed for all the facilities to try and get repairs done and took out that Capital Improvement Bond so they can start making repairs to the facilities. That why they would not have to worry about an emergency but we are not moving fast enough.

Member Bacon asked Trent Benedict what the lead time on the boiler is.

Mr. Benedict said they could get one.

Member Bacon said so there is one available

Chair Hawkinson said correct.

Member Bacon said that is what he wanted to know.

Member Davidson said that she agrees with Member Nache said that when Ron was Administrator over Mary Davis office there was boiler issues back then. This is there second maintenance agreement and it was on there then. As we know through the courthouse we passed things by and it turned into millions of dollars. She said we has a county and as elected officials need to start doing things and making sure they aren't emergency. She agreed that they will always have emergency issues but they shouldn't have emergency issues on something that is already known about. She is going to be voting yes but it is wrong what we are doing as elected officials when nickel and diming one area to make sure other areas are overflowing with things they need.

Chair Hawkinson said that he agrees with not kicking the can down the road. That is why 3 or 3 ½ years ago they went in the performance contract and went facility to facility because we were kicking the can down the road. He said and here we are. They had it as a plan and as priority but again it did not make it that far. It is going to break.

Member Thierry said that part of the problem is that we are elected officials and as we change hands each election there is no consistency in maintaining the properties. She said it would be nice and recommend that they have some individual that is a paid employee. That over the years is responsible for making sure the buildings are maintained properly and up to code. Then they would not have these surprises.

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 it has been a very busy month with budgets and lots of hours but in

and people showing up. He appreciates everyone showing up and the time they have put in from the department heads and board members. He wanted to thank them all. He has been on the Board awhile. As Finance Chair most of his time on the Board and even Chairman of the Board. He said that these finance meetings have been the best they have ever had. The department heads and board members all got along. It was not the easiest but definitely the calmest. He appreciated everyone willing to work together and gave a shout out to Chief Treasurer Bailey for showing up when Treasurer Davis could come a few days. Sometimes she even showed up even when Treasurer Davis was there and helped out when they asked Treasurer Davis questions. Then Chief Deputy Bailey would get the answers. He is glad she was there to help out. He said that they have a bunch of items on the agenda that is nothing new. It is the same that they have to do every year. He said that at the end of the meeting this is the one time they recess instead of adjourn due to the tentative budget being on display for the entire month. When Chair Hawkinson ends the meeting, you will hear him say recess instead of adjourn and it happens every year.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Resolution on Deeds of Conveyance. Member Friedrich said this this is to put them back on the tax roll. 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 Membership Dues for Illinois Association of County Board Members. Member Friedrich confirmed with Clerk Erickson the amount of \$1,500. He said that it is a good organization that they are part of. 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 the Membership Dues for Western Illinois Regional Council. Member Friedrich said that they do this every year and are part of this group.

Member Davidson said that she was appointed to it but was able to attend due to her work schedule. Due to her working in the Quad Cities and it is in Macomb. She wanted to thank David Amor who is on this council and glad we still have some representation from Knox County.

Chair Hawkinson stated the amount is \$5,460.

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 the Resolution Authorizing an Additional Gate Fee to be Charged at the Knox County Landfill for Building Fund. Member Friedrich said that this is something that Member Bacon started years ago to create a revenue to fix the aging infrastructures so they do not have the emergency issues that was just discussed. He said that it is not nearly enough but it helps and thank you they have some in there. He is hankful to Member Bacon for starting it years ago.



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 the Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Portion of Gate Fees to be Charged at the Knox County Landfill. Member Friedrich said that it is the same thing that they do every year.

Chair Hawkinson stated just for clarification the last resolution was to charge the fee and this resolution is do the transfer of the fee.

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 Bacon to approve the Resolution Authorizing an Additional Gate Fee to be Charged at the Knox County Landfill for General Fund. Member Friedrich said that this is the authorization of the money and the next agenda item is where the money is to be distributed. 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 Bacon to approve the Resolution Authorizing Allocation of Certain Gate Receipts at the Knox County Landfill to the Special Contingency Fund. Member Friedrich asked Chair Hawkinson if this one was authorizing the money to be spent out of that account and this is where we added on correct.

Chair Hawkinson said no that one is the next one. This one allows the additional fee to be allocated to the Landfill Special Contingency Fund that shall be used to offset shortfalls in the General Fund.

Clerk Erickson said that was the previous one. This is the one that puts the Hospitalization Fund on.

Chair Hawkinson said sorry that is correct and adds the Hospitalization Fund.

Member Friedrich said that they added a Hospitalization Fund to which is their insurance fund. He said that we have not ran short yet but Treasurer Davis was concerned and thought they needed to add this in incase they do have shortages so they have an avenue to get that account up to were it needs to be. Treasurer Davis will monitor that and let them know if there is trouble in there and can transfer money out of this account if they need to.

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 the Resolution on Use of Special Contingency Fund. Member Friedrich said this authorizes us to use that money out of that account.

Member Nache said we need to remember when Member Bacon set this up that it takes years to build it up and it can take no time to use it all. She thinks that we should watch how we use it because it takes so long to build it up. She said to use it as we have to and not because we want to. 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.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Placement on Display of Knox County Tentative Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Member Friedrich said that this is putting the tentative tax levy on display. They did not raise it otherwise they would have had to do a Truth In Taxation Hearing. They will not be using Item #20 since they did not raise it. They stayed within their means by help with Treasurer Davis, Department Heads, and the County Board to get the money down to where they needed to. They had some cuts in different departments to chop that down to get to where they did not have to do any of that.

Member Davidson said that she wanted to make a comment to every single taxpayer out there and the ones listening. She said they need to take the time to look at this budget because that is why they put it on display for everybody. So, when people are complaining about one thing or another they need to look at these departments to see what the growth of their departments are, less of their budgets are, or how they have the means to make all these departments run. She is asking and begging everyone to look at the budget and if you have any questions do not hesitate to call an elected official, Member Friedrich, someone that is on that Finance Committee, or call Treasurer Davis about where the money goes. She asked everyone to take the time to look at the County Budget.

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 the Placement on Display of Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Member Friedrich said that this Tentative Budget will be on display for the month. There will be other changes throughout the month. As it gets closer to the end of the month people spend the money differently and they might have to change some things as they come up. They have until the end of November to make any changes. He said has Member Davidson encouraged the taxpayers to look at the budget. He encourages all the department heads to look at the budget to make sure it is what they talked about at the budget meetings and get ahold of your department head or committee chair if it is not. Treasurer Davis can make a mistake on there also and it can be caught. It is a lot harder to change in December then it is in November. If they see anything that needs fixed let them know because they have time. He encourages everyone to look at it because they had people last year call and said that is not what they agreed to. They are responsible at this point to look it over and tell them if it is not right so they can get it fixed. He thanked all the department heads and budget committee for helping do it. It was not easy but it was nice to work with a group that worked together.

Chair Hawkinson said thank you to those that attended the meetings during the budget process.

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.

Item #20 was removed.

Member Friedrich said that there will be more changes to the budgets. Sometimes people ask why they changed the budget between now and the end of November. He said for instance fuel bids for the Landfill just got done today so they might have to make some change due to not knowing what they would come in at. That is just one example that they did not know about until today and that concludes his report.

Member Kramer said that the monthly report from the Public Safety and Justice Committees are in the packet. He said that he wants to thank everyone that is on his committee since their meetings are on Mondays and lot of times it falls on a holiday. He said unfortunately government continues to work and they have to have their meetings. He appreciates and thanked everyone that shows up on the holidays and every month. He thanked Member Boone for taking the minutes and says she does a great job.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve Revised Animal Control Ordinance. Member Kramer said as the animal control has been coming up to date, a couple of months ago they raised the fees that were recommended that they raise. This is updating the Knox County Animal Control Ordinance as it is presented in the packet.

Chair Hawkinson said that a majority of this was typographical errors and language modifications.

Member Kramer said it is just updating the language.

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 Kramer said that he just wanted to reiterate thank you to his committee, everyone that shows up and what they do.

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 Nache to approve the Invoice from Illinois EPA for Quarterly Tonnage Fee in Amount of \$44,829.88. Member Bondi said that this comes at an awkward time since they have already paid it but they just want to bring it to not only their committee but also to the Board so they get to see what they are paying on the Quarterly Tonnage Fee which is a fixed amount that is paid to the IEPA. It is an amount that they are actually invoiced for. It has been paid but they want to disclose it to the Board. 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 Olinger to approve Bids for County Fuel. Member Bondi said that Chair Hawkinson has the bids were opened today.

Chair Hawkinson said that the bids were opened at 11am today and there were two bids that were submitted. The lowest bid was \$594,812 by Herr Petroleum. There was only one other

bid. He said this bid is \$101,333.60 less than last year's bid. He said that they need to amend their motions to approve Herr Petroleum with the lowest bid of \$594,812.

Motion was made to amend by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Olinger.

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 Kramer to approve the Rate Increases for 2025 at the Landfill. Member Bondi read that the enclosed proposed increase for the most part is \$1.00 per ton across the board. The increase coincides with the current contract with the City of Galesburg and was discussed in the budget process. The rate increase was disclosed during their Infrastructure Meeting.

Member Nache said that she is not for raising anything right now with things the way they are. She said that she also said this during the Infrastructure Meeting. Landfill Administrator Clear assured her that they are still under other people and the prices are still excellent compared to others. She will be saying yes but things like that always bother her because she never wants to hurt the little guy. The big guys are not going to feel things but the little guys are always going to feel something. He assured her that it will not hurt us. She reiterated again that she wanted to make it clear that she does not like raising fees if they absolutely don't have to.

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 Friedrich to approve the Purchase of 2017 STE Tanker Trailer from KTS Sales and Leasing in the Amount of \$55,000. Member Bondi read that the tanker that the Landfill has leased for the last two months is too big for the landfill needs. Landfill Administrator Clear is requesting we purchase this 2017 STE 6,200-gallon tanker from KTS Sales and Leasing in the amount of \$55,000 from line item 012-422-580590-45 Truck Lease-hauling will be utilized for the purchase and the invoice was enclosed.

Member Davidson said that she thinks that is a good deal for \$55,000 for one of them. That is cheaper than one of the Sheriff's vehicles. She thinks that it is always better to buy than to lease.

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 Kramer to approve the Installation of Three Monitoring Wells on Landfill 1-2 by Klingner Geotechnics for Estimated Amount of \$21,500. Member Bondi read that per the IEPA permit date of September 24, 2024, the IEPA is requiring that the Landfill install three new monitoring wells on Landfill 1-2. Foth has been going back with the IEPA for several years on the validity of adding the wells and the last permit issued states that the wells must be drilled. Foth reached out to three companies from the general area that install monitoring wells and Klingner was the only one that responded. It would come from line item 012-750-590690-45, Well Drilling will be utilized and it will be paid for in fiscal year 2024-2025. The contract is enclosed.

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 Bondi said that he appreciates all the Department Heads on the good information for their meetings and all the committee members associated with the Infrastructure Committee.

Member Bacon presented the monthly report from the Health and Human Services committee. He said that the monthly report is in the packet and thanked Member Nache for taking notes for every month.

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Bid and Buy for New Ice Machine. Member Bacon said that this is in their budget for this year. They were going to wait and save it for next year. They have two ice machines but one of them is falling apart. They have money in the budget so they thought that they better buy it this year.

Member Nache commented that this is like kicking the can down the road. She said when she was out there in 1984 they beat it and it did not work properly then. Member Davidson also said the same thing when she worked out there. This is what she means by kicking the can down the road.

Member Bacon said look at all the money they saved by not purchasing it sooner.

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

Motion was made by Member Bacon and seconded by Member Olinger to approve Bid and Buy for Wander Guard System. Member Bacon said on their Memory Care Unit the patients will be supplied a bracelet which will control locks on the doors and gives alerts if they try to get out. It is something that has been coming for a long time now. The State and IDPH is starting to recommend these types of things and they are just trying to get ahead of the book. He said that they are not kicking the can this time and are ahead of the game.

Member Thierry said that at their committee meeting she had mentioned if they knew what the State's policy is on those.

Member Bacon said there is none yet but the people that do their surveys said that sooner or later it is going to start coming down the lines. This is them trying to get ahead of the game. He said right now there is no policy that he is aware of.

Member Thierry said so we do not have to get permission.

Member Bacon said no, not that he is aware of. He said that he thinks that Nursing Home Administrator Mines checked into it before she left. They do not have to do anything yet but they will eventually have rules on it and they are trying to get ahead of the game.

Member Thierry asked if this was Member Bacon's last meeting.

Member Bacon said no, next month.

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 a couple of facts that he would like to share with everyone that he does every month. Last month at the end of September they had 110 residents average the month of September. They had 56 referrals that they switched 23 to admissions. They are still trying to hire people and are in Union negotiations right now. Last month they made a total profit of \$84,000 and there was a couple of extra paydays. In the bank they have \$1.9 million and in referendum they have \$1.5 million. They are getting ready to do some projects so some of that will dwindle and it is running smooth.

Member Kramer said good job to Member Bacon.

Member Bacon said thank you and they work hard out there. He said he got a trophy of County Board Member of the Year. He said last month their committee meeting was held at the nursing home and they had treats. They might do that again.

Chair Hawkinson stated that the reports from some of the outside committees are in the packet. If anyone has a question in regards to an outside committee or their report, they should contact the Board Member that is serving on that committee and ask them directly. He said that Mr. Springer did give his apologies for not being present due to being under the weather today. He advised that next time he will give a double report next month.

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

Chair Hawkinson said the budget line item changes are in the packet, online and the G-drive and public packet for several departments.

Member Nache said that like everyone knows she is down a computer at home but had someone send it to her. They were nice enough to do it for her. She noticed that there were more changes in the Sheriff's Budget then were in most. Some significant ones were in the patrol and jail area. She wanted Member Kramer or Chair Hawkinson to explain to her why they are so high. They are pretty significant.

Chair Hawkinson said correct, that a majority of that or a large amount of that figure is when they approved the budget last year they put the wages into contingency because they did not have the final numbers. They estimated and put those numbers into contingency as well as other salary employees. The salaries were put into contingencies such as the Jail Administrators Salary. That is the largest part of those numbers.

Member Nache said ok, so for the jailers and patrol it covers all that because she will be the first to say she does not do that job. She does not understand it like you guys do.

Chair Hawkinson said that the amount listed in the budget change will take them through to the end of the year.

Member Nache said ok, thank you.

Member Friedrich said that the reason why the Sheriff has the most budget changes is because they have the biggest budget and the most line items by far. As the Budget Committee knows like we just went through it, they are going to have the biggest number of them because they have a number of line items. He can not speak on the actual detail on them but that is why there is a number of them.

Member Nache said ok, thank you.

Motion made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Friedrich 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 is in the packet. There are six of them and there were none out of the ordinary otherwise the Treasurer would have definitely notified him and the Finance Committee.

Motion was made by Member Olinger and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Committee Meetings of October 2024, Board Meetings in September, and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Chair Hawkinson said the total was \$5,859.28. 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 Bondi to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of September 26, 2024 through October 23, 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 \$3,128,560.25. 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 notice the date change will be held on Monday, November 25th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., at Galesburg City Hall Council Chambers. This is due to the holiday of Thanksgiving and the day after Thanksgiving being the last two days of the month. The Treasurer's Office needs time to process the bills along with trying to start the closing for the fiscal year. 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 watched later.

Meeting recessed at 7:21pm.