**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD**

**KNOX COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**February 26, 2025**

STATE OF ILLINOIS )

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COUNTY OF KNOX )

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held in person at the Galesburg City Council chambers on Wednesday, February 26th, 2025 at 6:01 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 Vice-Chair Brian Friedrich and upon roll call the following Members reported present:

District 1 Tracy Robertson

District 3 Kimberly Thierry

District 4 Joshua Kramer

District 5 Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval

District 1 Cheryl Nache

District 2 Jennifer Fredrick

District 3 Pamela Davidson

District 5 Patty Boone

District 2 Robert Bondi

District 3 Samuel Cohen

District 5 Brian Friedrich

And those absent: District 2 Erin Pugh

District 4 Jared Hawkinson

District 1 Anthony Weiss

District 4 Todd Olinger

Also present were County Clerk-Recorder Scott Erickson, County Treasurer Robin Davis, Sheriff Jack Harlan and Regional Superintendent of Schools Jodi Scott. Department Heads present were Nursing Home Administrator Jodi Mines, Knox County Public Health Administrator Michele Gabriel, Highway Administrator Duane Ratermann, Landfill Administrator Rod Cleair, and Mary Davis Home Administrator Wendi Steck and Supervisor of Assessments Sonia Hochstetler.

Sheriff Harlan delivered the Proclamation and Vice-Chair Friedrich led the Members in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. In lieu of a formal invocation, Vice-Chair Friedrich asked that a moment of silence be observed.

\*\*\*Member Weiss arrived at 6:04pm

Vice-Chair Friedrich asked for additions or deletions to the agenda with additions for discussion only.

Member Bondi said he has a correction under Infrastructure to change Brent to Trent on Item 14.

Vice-Chair Friedrich stated the correction to Item 14 changing Brent to Trent for the record and asked if there were any objections. There were no objection and there were no deletions to the agenda.

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

Pam Davidson stated that she is President of the NAACP and an elected official of the Knox County Board District 3. She would like to celebrate black history by celebrating one of our own. Siltha Mixon-Parrick as people called her “Lee” was the first female African American that worked for the Knox County Sherriff’s Department. She worked there for 20 years and served as a cook and other things. She would like to celebrate her. She retired in 1995 and served Knox County well. She died last year in November but we as Black History which is American History are celebrating Knox County’s own Siltha “Lee” Mixon-Parrick.

Nick Finguera said he is here with his colleague Andrew Hull they are the representatives of Cherry Grove Solar. He handed out their presentation that they gave a couple weeks ago at the Zoning Board hearing. The project is located just north of Abingdon occupying about 30 acres and owned by John Inness. He could not be there today due to personal reasons but he provided his letter of support. The project is intended to be a community solar project. Providing 5 megawatts of clean energy to Ameren customers while also saving them some money on their electric bill through the Illinois Shines program. They want to be good neighbors to the community so they included vegetative screening on all sides. They have reached out to the community and the neighbors. Included in their application is a fully funded and executed interconnection agreement, a decommissioning plan, environmental studies and financial reports estimation the tax revenue. They are looking forward to working on the county on this and thank you for you time. They are willing to answer any questions.

Shane Shields is the Director of Development for Birch Creek Energy they are the parent company of Moon Solar the second solar case tonight CU-02-25. He just wanted to provide a brief overview of the project and make himself available as a resource for any questions. The Moon Solar project is 45 megawatts in size just short of due west of Brimfield along Knox Road 2300 East. It is a mid-size solar project encompassing approximately 235 acres. He said a community solar project is 30-50 acres, transmission scale projects often take over 1,000 acres and this is a middle-sized project. They are excited to bring the benefits of the project to the county and the community. At the ZBA hearing they did have positive testimony both in person and through affidavits of support for the project from folks in the near by community. They did have expert testimony as well to speak about data and research on property value impacts and solar farms non-impact value of property value. A few of the highlights of the project that they are excited to bring to the county are that it is expected to contribute 19 million dollars in regional economic growth and the project alone with bring in $300,000 dollars in year one tax revenue. Over five million in tax revenue over the lifetime of the project. More then half of that will go directly to the school district and the rest will go to a variety of township services like the fire district and other services. They are excited to do business in Knox County and happy to answer any question, thank you.

David Amor stated that he is here tonight to express his concern of item number sixteen on the agenda the motion to add the new county administration building at 50 E. Main street to the counties existing Master Performance Contract. He said as many people know he served on the Knox County Board from 2019-2022 and the last four years as Vice-Chair of the board. He was closely involved with the initial creation of the Performance Contract Agreement with MSI and their subsidiary two group. He was also involved a couple of years before with an earlier performance contract from another vendor which was shot done by the Republican members of this board with no discussion and refusing even a feasibility study. It was clear then and even clearer now that the first performance contracting proposal was defeated in order to clear the way for a local vendor to step in. A couple of weeks later he got a call from the owner of MSI who over coffee at Innkeepers pitched to him that the company was ready and able to do the work for the county which nothing became of it at that time. A couple of years later when it became clear that the county jail needed immediate urgent attention they did enter into a performance contract-based agreement with MSI to evaluate the fiscal condition not only of the jail but also the counties other major buildings such as the nursing home and Mary Davis Home. Also, for them to serve as in event the general contractor for what the county would eventually approve. Because of the emergency situation at the jail the county did not bid out publicly this performance contracting opportunity. A controversial decision which did not sit well with many members of the board. Since that time the county has spent several million dollars on equipment, labor and professional services for work on the county jail, nursing home and the Mary Davis Home under this agreement. All things that are well worth doing and beneficial to the county but with a portion of every dollar spent going to MSI or their role as the county’s general contractor. He can not say what the actual percentage is because he does not have a copy of the contract and once again there is no copy in the board packet that is available to the public. MSI has had a good run for the past three years but he does not think that it is good to stick with the same vendor for too long. Competition is a good thing as he is sure you all would agree. It gives all of our local and regional vendors an opportunity to see what they can do. It demonstrates to the public that their local government is not in the business of playing favorites and insures that our taxpayers’ dollars are being spent wisely and efficiently. He calls on the board not to approve the extension of the current Performance Contract to cover the new building but instead to call for a public bid for these services, thank you.

Gavin Phillips stated that he is following up on what was just said. He asked if the counties taxpayer money for all of us to pay taxes in Knox County, is it our money or is it the Benedicts. If you go to every job and just hand it to them where is the transparency, where is the money coming from. You just give it to them and they get fifteen percent on top of every bid and every job. There is no general contractor in the country that will take fifteen percent. Six or eight percent is the percentage you would take for dealing with every body’s money. The county that he lives in and pays plenty of taxes in will give them fifteen percent. Monday, he went with Trent Benedict from MSI to the Mary Davis Home where all the materials were already bought and paid for that they paid for to get their mark up. He asked how is this fair for taxpayers’ dollars that they keep handing it and they have just been doing it. He stated that it is not right and doesn’t care if you are a democrat or republican. There has to be competitive bidding. If everyone on the board says MSI is the best company in this county, they don’t get a bid but just have them come do the work on their houses without asking for a price then maybe you guys are all right. Now if you don’t do it that way and get other people to come in to do work for you and you don’t just give it to them then why are we giving it to them now by just handing it all to MSI. There are plenty of them that live in Knox County and plenty of them that give money by donating it back. He said 100% it is not right.

Britt Ewalt stated that he is a business owner in Peoria but he lives in Knox County. He said with regard to the performance contract with MSI, he feels as a taxpayer the percentage is very high and has been in that type of business for years. As a competitor to MSI he doesn’t mind bidding against them and enjoys it actually. Now to bid, then give the contract to them to manage and then they get the percentage over the top of it. Usually that is a general contractor that we are bidding to or an architect engineering firm. He does not feel those fees are as high as what Knox County is paying for that type of service. He hadn’t heard about the performance contract until he was looking at the Mary Davis Home this week and as a taxpayer it just does not feel quite right the way it is going. He appreciates their time.

Jodi Scott stated she is the Regional Superintendent of Schools and has been with the Regional Office of Education for 25 years with 10 years in Knox County. She wanted to announce her retirement as of June 30, 2025 and introduce everyone to Katie Jennings who will be her replacement as of July 1, 2025. She wanted to give Katie Jennings most of the time to tell you about herself.

Katie Jennings said that she has served in Knox County as an educator for the last 17 years and very proud to do so. She is a resident of Knox County who lives in Abingdon. Her children attend the Abingdon-Avon School District. Her husband is the Sergeant of Investigations at the Knox County Sherriff’s Department. They are very proud to continue to serve the county. She has worked with Jodi Scott and has trained with her for the last four years to learn the work of the Regional Superintendent. She is very excited to continue to serve the community, schools and students in this county, thank you.

Ken Springer stated that he is with the Knox County Partnership for Economic Development and wanted to talk about two quick items. He wanted to give a report on the CEO recruitment for the Knox County CEO Program. They have visited all the schools except for Williamsfield and Galesburg Christian School which they are still working to schedule those. Applications are going well and they have fifteen applicants for the program and is likely to increase before the application window closes in April. They are always looking for hardworking and trustworthy students that are going to be a high school junior or senior this coming fall. Send them to the KCAP Office and they would be happy to talk to them. They can also find more information and knoxcountyilceo.com. If students are interested in joining the program they can come and hangout for a day with the current class to get a taste of what the program is like.

Secondly, there is going to be a Clean Energy Conference at Knox College. Which will be a two-day conference on March 20th and 21st of this year. The conference will focus on development issues around clean energy as well as impacts of renewable energy projects on communities. If anyone is interested in attending they can contact Emma Thompson at Knox College at her office line at 309-341-7121. Registration is $140 for non-students and $50 for students. Again, this will be on March 20th and 21st of this year at Knox College, thank you very much.

Sue Runyon stated that she is here to speak in favor of the development of the solar project on her land in Knox County which is Item 19 on the agenda. The development of the project with help insure her farm continues to stay in the family. The farmland has been raising crops since the 1800’s. A solar farm on this land will help to preserve the ground allowing the soil to lay fallow and to regenerate. Her father would be immensely proud she is sure and in support of his land being used as a solar farm to produce energy for the community where he lived and worked his entire life. She felt very happy when she learned that the tax revenue would go to local schools, fire districts and other agencies. She was a public-school teacher for 35 years so she was excited to know that the schools would be getting a benefit from this project. She believes the solar project will be good for everyone. These are some of the reasons that she is in favor of the solar project on her land. She hopes that the board will agree and approve the project, thank you.

Sean Pluta stated that he is also here on behalf of the Moon Solar Project that is Item 19 on the agenda. He wanted to shine light on Missy Wheeler, Sonia Hochstetler and your ZBA who had to work through a 300-page binder that is relating to your ordinance on solar facilities. It was a privilege to work with Missy Wheeler in particular who developed a checklist chart that we all had to fill out to prove that we meet with all of your terms of your ordinance. Which they did and she did a very through job looking through it. As did the ZBA on coming to there decision on recommending approval of the project. It is a real privilege to work in a community that understands the value of solar and also holds their feet to the fire to make sure to correspond with all of the solar requirements. Thank you for your time and requests that the board vote yes on their project.

Vice-Chair Friedrich thanked everyone for speaking during public comment.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Weiss to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the regular Board Meeting on January 29,2025 and 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of November 2024 in the amounts of $148,843.09 and $37,580.62 and public safety tax in the amount of $247,622.75. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen and Friedrich— (10). Noes— (0). Abstain---Nache and Bondi---(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Weiss to approve the Proclamation of March as Women’s History Month. Vice-Chair Friedrich said that it is in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that next is the presentation of the Annual Report for the Knox County Health Department and Administrator Michelle Gabriel will come up to give her presentation and thanked her for being present to give the report.

Health Department Administrator Michelle Gabriel stated that it is in their packet as well as in front of all the board members that she had given them a copy of the Knox County Health Departments Annual Report for 2024. As part of state code that regulates the Health Department, they are required to present an annual report to the county board within 90 days of the close of their fiscal year. Each year in February they bring the report to the board. In addition, they share it with other entities within the county, it goes on their website and to elected officials in the area. They use it as a way to showcase trends, what they are doing and provide information.

Member Nache asked if our health department or any other health departments in any danger of losing any federal grants like WIC that is very vital for women and children. That is one that she would give her life for. She asked if Administrator Gabriel was worried about losing any of these specifically the WIC program because she has been hearing a lot about SNAP.

Administrator Gabriel said that they do not have any current communication and at this moment they are not worried about any of their programs that a currently funded. She has been at the health department for 25 years. There is always a little back and forth with the political when elections occur but everything usually settles out. At this time there is a lot of discussion but does not see anything that is really concrete of their programs being in danger.

Member Nache said thank you.

Member Davidson stated that she thinks that the health department is a great asset to Knox County as a whole and even surrounding counties. If they have children that need a dentist they can come and get the assistance they need. She had reached out to Administrator Gabriel on getting forms in there for different languages and she addressed it and has the forms in their in other languages. For people that are Spanish or French speaking and they can read their language the forms are there for them so they can be educated on the services that they carry, she thanked Administer Gabriel for taking care of that.

Administrator Gabriel said that they also have a service called Voice that is a video translation service that can translate any language. You actually see someone speaking instead of just they text translation. It is more time consuming but it is a good service

Vice-Chair Friedrich thanked Administrator Gabriel for coming and giving her presentation.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the appointment to London Mills Fire Protection District Trustee of Stephanie Sampson. Vice-Chair Friedrich said that her information and resume are in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Bid for Landfill Scale House Deck Replacement from Laverdiere Construction for $77,352 for the Landfill. Vice-Chair asked Member Bondi to speak on it and why it ended up on the Chairman’s Items.

Member Bondi said that he would be happy to. He said that it was an item that was not on the agenda originally. The scale house deck has been in bad shape for a lot of years. Several people bid on it and Laverdiere Construction was the low bid for $77,352 which allows for a $10,000 contingency. He said that Landfill Administrator Rod Cleair is present if you have any questions on it and this is long overdue. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Vice-Chair Friedrich said that the monthly report from the Ways and Means Committees are in the packet. He said that most of the meeting was talking about the health insurance which is Item 8 which they came and gave a presentation about it.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Bid and Bring Back for Health Insurance. Vice-Chair Friedrich said Chad came to talk to them and told them to be prepared that rates are going to probably be a lot higher then they have been in the past. The county is currently self-insured and depending on how bids come back probably not this year but maybe next year they might have to look at their options of staying self-insured or what they need to do. The account is slowly going down and the prescriptions are killing them. Chad is going to look at it hard and see if he can save us some money with prescriptions. They have had some big claims. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrich to approve the Animal Kill Claims for 2024. Vice-Chair Friedrich said that they do not have any and have not had any since he has been on the board which is a good thing.

Member Nache asked about the one they are checking on but thought that they had called it in.

Vice-Chair Friedrich said that would not be in 2024 of anything we have now. We might have one next year is what they were talking about.

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

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Weiss to approve Contract for Administrative Hearing Officer. Vice-Friedrich said that they have not had a hearing administrator for quit awhile now. Chair Hawkinson gave the name of John Robertson who is the current one that does it for the City of Galesburg. He is their hearing officer. He has agreed to do it for the county at the same price as he does it for the City of Galesburg. Chair Hawkinson had explained it is this individual would look over the zoning rules as well as other things they have. Then the sheriff could give out administrative fines for it and make sure we are not doing anything illegal. When someone would protest it Mr. Robertson would come back. For example, in Altona they are having zoning issues there and we cannot address them because there is no zoning officer to step up to do anything. He said that he spoke to our assessor and she was not involved with any of the process of getting this person but is sure she can speak on the importance of it. He asked Assessor Hochstetler to come up to speak on the importance of needing one, what this person does and why they are needed.

Assessor Hochstetler said with their zoning they have chosen an adjudication section. So, when there are violations in zoning this person is who handles those issues and is licensed through the State of Illinois. For example, someone is piling used cars in their yard where it’s a problem and an eye sore. There are zoning rules saying you cannot have a junk yard in your yard unless you are approved to have a junk yard. A violation letter is served and if they do not clean it up in the required time. Then this person is licensed through the State of Illinois and has training to be a judication judge to handle these types of violations to decide on the fines or fees after both sides plead their case. The past one retired so that is why we need a new one.

Member Davidson stated that she truly believes that we need a judication judge. We had one in the past which was Attorney Statham Law and they did a wonderful job. She asked why it was not put up for bid instead of just one person choosing.

Assessor Hochstetler said that she does not have an exact answer but she thinks the state law says the States Attorney picks the adjudication judge but would have to get clarification on that. She is assuming that Chair Hawkinson got with the States Attorney and they picked the adjudication judge. She does not believe it’s a vote issue and that person has to go through the state training.

Motion was made by Member Boone and seconded by Member Fredrick to table.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi and Cohen— (11). Noes— Friedrich---(1). Motion tabled.

Member Thierry presented the monthly report from the Public Service Committees. She stated that they meet on the 17th of February and the minutes are in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Thierry and seconded by Member Kramer to approve payment of Invoice for Emergency Boiler Replacement at Mary Davis Home.

Member Davidson said that she was not at that meeting due to being in Springfield. She asked if this was the boiler that happened under the emergency several months ago.

Member Thierry said yes.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Boone, Weiss, Bondi and Friedrich— (8). Noes—Robertson, Davidson and Cohen--- (3). Abstain---Sandoval---(1). Motion carried.

Member Thierry thanked Member Fredrick who is their new secretary and did a great job taking the minutes.

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

Motion was made by Bondi and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Bid for 3 years for Mowing and Bailing Stegall Landfill from Trent Trowbridge. The bid is for $3750 for the year. The landfill only had two bids to mow and bail Stegall Landfill and Trent Trowbridge was the higher bid. He said Stegall Landfill is the joint landfill that is owned by the city and the county that currently has EPA issues so all we can do is mow it right now. They do have someone looking at it right now of possibly putting a solar farm on that property. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Resolution for 2025 Motor Fuel Tax Supplemental Maintenance, Section 25-00000-00-GM. Member Bondi asked Highway Administrator Duane Ratermann to assist him on it.

Highway Administrator Ratermann said that this is a supplemental maintenance resolution for their motor fuel tax account. Last December they approved one for $600,000 so they could buy rock salt. This one is for $1,024,794 which they will use this money to buy oil, rock and other maintenance items for this year’s maintenance program. There is a map of which road they are going to seal coat in the packet.

Member Bondi thanked Highway Administrator Ratermann.

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

Motion was made by Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Amendment to Performance Contracting Master Contract to Add 50 East Main Street Building into Contract.

Member Davidson asked whey they are doing a performance contract on a building that they have not even entered and if they say for future things, everything with the engineering is going to be new. She said we would be paying another fifteen percent for them to come in there and feels it is a conflict of interest if they would do the bids. Base is owned by MSI they turn around and they bid it. She stated that they get no bidders so they do the bid which is a conflict of interest. If we bid this and have several bidders which is better for the county and county dollars. A performance contract should not be done already before even entering the building. After there a year or so then yes but for now no. She will be voting no but only one vote. Taxpayers money should not be looped into just one company when there are several contractors from Peoria, Galesburg, and the Quad Cities that should be eligible to bid on these contracts.

Member Nache asked if there was a reason it could not go out for bid since there is no emergency. She asked what the harm is for it to go out for bid because it is taxpayer money.

Member Bondi stated that it is a good time to take a double look at this.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Sandoval to table.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Sandoval, Nache, Davidson, Bondi, Cohen and Friedrich— (8). Noes—Kramer, Fredrick, Boone and Weiss---(4). Motion tabled.

Member Kramer presented the monthly report from the Health and Human Services committee. He said that the monthly report is in the packet. He wanted to note that Bill Lotz is retiring. The GIS position is posted on the county website along with some other locations.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Case CU-01-25 – Request for Solar Energy Farm in the “A” Agricultural Zoning District Under Appendix F, filed by Cherry Grove Solar LLC Owned by Apex Clean Energy, along with Property Owners John & Kimberly Inness. Member Kramer said that everyone already heard a little bit in public forum about the project. It is located northeast of Abingdon and the property owners have asked for this project which is power into the grid.

Member Nache asked how long does it take for any of the people you named off to start getting an income from this if approved.

Andrew Hull from Cherry Grove Solar was asked to come up and answer the question.

Mr. Hull asked Member Nache a clarifying question what she means by income.

Member Nache said when Abingdon, the people that you mentioned earlier.

Mr. Hull said as soon as operations start. They would go through a building permit process, construction and once they have all the approvals are in operation then it would be the first month of operation.

Member Nache said thank you.

Vice-Chair Friedrich asked when they would start construction.

Mr. Hull said that it will depend on things but figures early 2027. It all depends on how long the studies take to get into the building permit process.

Member Kramer said the size is approximately 1-5 milliwatts which would power around 1,000 homes. He said this question get asked quite often.

Member Thierry asked how the community has perceived this. She asked if there have been any objections.

Member Kramer said that they did have some negotiating with one of the residents that was close to the property and that issue was resolved.

Member Thierry said people were in favor of it.

Member Kramer said yes, in that location there is not a lot of residents around there anyways. There is one to the west of were the project is going to be and they were happy with the outcome of the conversation.

Member Thierry said ok.

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

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Case CU-02-25 - Request for Solar Energy Farm in the “A” Agricultural Zoning District Under Appendix F, filed by the Applicant Moon Solar LLC along with Owner Sue Ann Runyon. Member Kramer said the land owner spoke during public comment. It is located northeast of Yates City on 2300 East. There is farmland out there and not too many residents in that area.   
There were no objections during the ZBA hearing.

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

Member Kramer said at the nursing home as of February 26th they had 111 residents out there. Twelve of those residents being on Medicare. This month expenses were over revenue but that was because it was a three-payroll month. He said that Nursing Home Administrator Mines is doing a great job out there. He appreciates everything and same for Assessor Hochstetler.

Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that the reports from some of the outside committees are on the G-drive. If anyone has a question in regards to an outside committee or their report, they should contact the Board Member that is serving on that committee and ask them directly. For committee reports make sure you get them to Clerk Erickson so he can put them in the packet so everyone can look at them and see what is going on.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Bondi to approve Opening of Budget for Line Item Changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, and Friedrich— (12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Vice-Chair Friedrich said that the budget line item changes are in the packet and they discussed them at the Ways and Means meeting.

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

Vice-Chair Friedrich said that the manual check review is in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Committee Meetings of February 2025, Board Meetings Organizational Meeting in January, and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Vice-Chair Friedrich said the total was $3,915.03 and it is in the G-drive as well. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Friedrich— (12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

\*\*\*Amended total $3,975.03.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Nache to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of January 30, 2025 through February 26, 2025 (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). Vice-Chair Friedrich reported that the vouchers submitted were in the amount of $1,579,794.36. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, and Friedrich— (12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 26th, 2025 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 Sandoval to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Friedrich. — (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.