

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

**April 23, 2025**

STATE OF ILLINOIS        )  
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COUNTY OF KNOX        )        SS

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held in person at the Galesburg City Council chambers on Wednesday, April 23rd, 2025 at 6:02 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	Tracy Robertson
District 2	Erin Pugh
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 4	Jared Hawkinson
District 5	Patty Boone
District 1	Anthony Weiss
District 2	Robert Bondi
District 3	Samuel Cohen
District 4	Todd Olinger

And those absent:               District 5       Brian Friedrich

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

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.

Member Kramer asked to remove Item 35 from the agenda.

Chair Hawkinson said that Item 35 was asked to be removed and asked if there were any objections. There were no objections and no additions for the agenda.

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.

Pam Davidson said good afternoon everyone. She would like to say in our moment of silence our world is saddened with the death of Pope Francis. He was a person who was not like the others. He reached across the line to be personable with all. She has two other things. Since 2011 our Personal Policy has not been revised. We have kicked it down the line and things have changed. She demands that us as elected officials that we stop kicking the can especially with our Personal Policy that needs to be updated. It needs done for the best of every single employee of the county. Third of all, she will stand here every month because we do not have closing comments. So, she is having beginning comments of saying we as elected officials should be able to speak up and console or address our constituents. Thank you very much.

Bill French said he is the Regional Director of Development for Sun Vest Solar. They are here this evening seeking your approval for two projects in the county. They are Items 36 and 37 under the Committee on Health and Human Services. One is the 5 megawatt solar facility and the other is a 6 hour battery energy storage system. They have been through the process here and feels we have a stellar ordinance. They have meet it or excited it. They look for your favorable approval this evening. Thank you.

David Amor said he lives in District 1. He was going to speak about Item 35 but you have taken it off the agenda. He wanted to make very brief remarks about it. He does not know if it is going to come back. He understands that it was tabled in committee and there is a chance it will not return to the board. If it does he urges the board to vote against this motion. The state has a process for an incentive to reduce assessments for housing that is intended for low income or very low income. The ordinance would have allowed the county to opt out of that. He sees no good reason to opt out of it. We need to encourage people as much as possible to be building low income housing in the county. He urges when it comes back to allow that process to go forward. Thank you very much.

Connie Main said that she lives out in the county and back after being here last month. They were forced to come in here beginning about eight years ago. It has to do with illegal dogs and laws not being applied equally in the county. The laws not caring about safety of individuals let alone land owners. She was here last month complaining because again this year an illegal dog on their property and it is over a mile from its home. She is sure you want to forget but they are not going to forget. They are not going to stop complaining or coming in here. These dogs

who are illegal dangerous dogs that are not enoculated, at large and attacking. They have been bothering us and causing us legal trouble for about years or more. The most recent situation they reported and were told they refused to take any action. She knows that the ordinance was revised not that long ago and sure the revision was not done for free. Since nothing is done for free now days so some attorney had to revise that ordiance. She wants to know why the taxpayers are paying for ordinance that are to protect people and it is not being upheld. The next problem since they would not do anything was she wanted to see again if this dog was enoculated. She found out but not easily because the FOIA is like the ordinance. It is there to look good but it is really kind of crappy. They did not want to give her the proof of whether the dogs were enoculated or not. Just like the other issues out in the county that have caused her and her husband who are land owners legal problems and lots of money while these abusers walk with nothing. With FOIA they did not want to prove these dogs were enoculated or not. She said let alone do anything like a warning or anything. Just like in the past they do not even get warnings until after several attacks then they say it is their first warning or they arrest us for cussing at the dogs of veterinarians. She couldn't get it so she had to appeal to the Attorney General's Office to get the information of whether or not the dogs were enocualted let alone at large attacking the again. They finally got it out of them just recently. The dog that was on there property was not enocualted and also at large. She is not talking about fufu dogs. She is talking about dogs like pit bulls, Doberman's and rottweilers. They want some answers and some accountability for these laws that we pay for instead of them being punished as land owners.

Ken Springer stated that he is with the Knox County Partnership for Economic Development. He said he had two brief items tonight. First off, two weeks ago KCAP staff and board officers traveled to Washington D.C. to advocate for two community infrastructure projects. This was KCAP's first organized trip to D.C. Their stake holders had identified federal advocacy as a key objective in KCAP's 2024 strategic plan. Communities undertake these trips to D.C. in order to get in front of legislatures' and other agencies to ask for both funding and other types of support for local projects. This is a process that most major cities are already undertaking. Their team believes that this can be an important way to insure our region is receiving its share of federal spending. Over two days their team was able to meet face to face with Sentors Duckworth and Durbin, Representative Sorenson and staffers from the Federal Railroad Administration and U.S. Department of Transportation as well as key legislative staff with Representative LaHood's Office. This is a process that KCAP will be continuing to do in the future. They look forward to work with a range of community partners for future projects. He would like to mention as the county looks over their needs to think of potential projects that might be a good fit for this type of federal advocacy.

The Second item that he would like to mention tonight is the end of years trade show for our CEO Program is going to be held on May 1<sup>st</sup> from 4:30 p.m to 6 p.m. at the Carl Sandburg College Student Center. This is an event that they do every year that wraps up the class. All of the students will be exhibiting their new businesses. It is free, open to the public, open house style and a great networking event. It is also going to marketed as a Chamber of Commerce after hours. He encourages everyone to attend it. Again, it will be on May 1<sup>st</sup> from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Carl Sandburg College Student Center. Thank you very much.

Dan Thompson said that this is his first meeting of the County Board that he has ever been to so he is taking it on his own. He made a brief look at the lengthy items you go through

and the things he wanted to talk about were first the wind farm of Items 28 and 29. It is approve R/C which he does not know what that is but maybe he will learn later. He highly urges the board to approve Item's 28 and 29. Which to him they sound very simple and no cost to us. For 28 approve road use and for 29 approve engineering agreement with the company for the Knox County Wind Farm which is an agreement you have made. The other item is Item 36 for solar energy another R/C. Within that the first thing is approve ZBA case and he does not know what that means. Also, the solar energy farm which both of those is commonly know when they are put in place they help improve the problems with pollution of air and many other things. They will help to lower the cost of what we spend for electricity. He is very much in favor of those two and thank you to all of you.

Chair Hawkinson thanked everyone for speaking during public comment.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Olinger to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the regular Board Meeting on March 26, 2025 and 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of January 2025 in the amounts of \$38,388.31 and \$52,495.24 and public safety tax in the amount of \$233,633.78. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Olinger— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Olinger to approve the Proclamation of National Police Week in Knox County May 11-17, 2025. Chair Hawkinson read the proclamation into record. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Olinger— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Proclamation of National Correctional Officers Week in Knox County May 4-10, 2025. Chair Hawkinson read the proclamation into record. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Olinger— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Davidson to approve Proclamation of Motorcycle Awareness Month of May in Knox County. Chair Hawkinson read the proclamation into record. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Olinger— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Pugh to approve the appointment to Victoria-Copley Fire Protection District Trustee of Jerry Fox. Chair Hawkinson stated that this is a re-appointment and his information is in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Olinger— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Pugh to approve the appointment to Knox County Board of Health of Dan Harris and Dr. Carl Strauch. Chair Hawkinson said that these are re-appointments and their information is in the packet. He said that Mr. Harris is present.

Member Davidson stated that with Dan Harris's great leadership, compassion towards Knox County, his dealing through the Health Department and hiring of Administrator Michele Gabriel. She said that she is truly honored that Mr. Harris is the President and the things he does within Knox County. Thank you.

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

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Boone to approve the appointment to Williamsfield Sanitary District Trustees of Willard Kimler and Amanda Yerkey. Chair Hawkinson said that Kimler is a re-appointment and Yerkey is a new appointment. He said that their information is in the packet along with external request forms.

Member Nache said that she just wanted to make sure that for Yerkey's if everything was in the packet. She said like everyone knows she doesn't have internet. So, if it isn't they would have to let her know.

Chair Hawkinson said yes, both has their information and the new appointment has their resume also in there.

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

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the settlement for Sheriff's Office. Chair Hawkinson said that this is for \$4,623.60 less payroll deductions. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Olinger—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the Request for Proposal for General Contractor for 50 East Main Street. Chair Hawkinson said that this is pending State's Attorney's approval. The RFP is in the Board packet the State's Attorney is reviewing this and it is pending State's Attorney's approval. He won't sign the document until he gets confirmation in writing from the State's Attorney that it meets the threshold and her approval.

Member Davidson said that we should not vote on this until it is complete. She asked why we are voting on it while it is still sitting in the State's Attorney's office.

Chair Hawkinson said that we don't have to vote on it and can table it.

Motion was made by Member Davidson and seconded by Member Robertson to table.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss and Olinger—(12). Noes—Bondi and Cohen---(2). Motion tabled.

Chair Hawkinson reminded everyone that we passed a Resolution Establishing April 29<sup>th</sup> as Deputy Nicholas Weist Day in Knox County. He said that Deputy Nicholas Weist lost his life while performing services for this county. While protecting this county on April 29, 2022. He asked everyone on that date to say a special prayer for him and his family.

Chair Hawkinson stated is the presentation of Certificate of Completion from the Illinois Coroner Training Board to the Knox County Coroner Jacque Dare. He stated that this is a requirement under state statutes for any new coroners. Chair Hawkinson read the certificate into record saying she successfully completed the 40 hours of instruction on March 10-14, 2025. He presented Coroner Jacque Dare with her certificate of completion and told her Congratulations.

Chair Hawkinson said since Vice-Chair Friedrich is absent due to work this evening Committee Vice-Chair Member Kramer will take care of the Ways and Means report and subsequent action items.

Member Kramer said that the monthly report from the Ways and Means Committees are in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve Bid for Electrical Aggregation for the County for 48 Months Thru Tradition Energy from Dynergy. Member Kramer asked Clerk Erickson to speak on this.

Clerk Erickson said that we have a current contract for power and aggregation for all of the county facilities. Tradition Energy works like a state contract but it is at the national level through the National Association of County Officials. They do the aggregate work for a lot of the counties that are Members of NACO. So they go out to do the leg work instead of him having to send out bids to all the different electrical companies. Since they do not know him they might give him a bad rate. They have a leverage on a national leverage on the rates. It will not start until December when their current contract expires. It will pick up from then so there is no break in service or have to flip flop and dance around with energy providers.

Member Nache asked if we knew how much this would save us.

Clerk Erickson said that is close to the same rate that we have now. So it depends on how much we use depending if we have a high energy use due to a hot summer or a cold winter. It will fluctuate those rates a lot. We should not see a huge increase unless something drastic happens. It should keep us standard at status quo.

Member Nache said thank you.

Member Robertson asked if this was just for the courthouse or if it is for all the properties the county owns.

Clerk Erickson said that this is for all the properties that the county owns.

Member Robertson asked if it includes the new building at 50 E. Main St.

Clerk Erickson said that it does not include the new one yet but when we take full occupancy of that then it will be added to it. They are getting the ground work going for that.

Member Robertson asked if it does not save us more money if there is a way to opt out of it if it is not saving us money in the long run.

Clerk Erickson said that there is an escape clause in there for both parties involved. The way they explained the energy markets and how they are going we should be safe with the rates that they are providing.

Member Robertson said so you are basically locking into a certain rate for the winter and the summers.

Clerk Erickson said that we would lock it in for the whole forty-eight month term.

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

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Olinger to approve the Bids for Health, Life, Dental and Vision Insurance. Member Kramer asked Treasurer Davis to step up to the mic and help guide him through it. He said Steve Crader has been an excellent rep and has come to three Ways and Means meetings and special meetings trying to get the best rates for the county. Unfortunately, we have had a high spike in our health insurance claims so it has taken them a little further action to get the best rates that they can. He went through and read information in the packet and asked Treasurer Davis to add when she wanted. For Stoploss they chose the Evolution Option 1.

Treasurer Davis said that we have individual stoploss coverage. The county pays the first \$110,000 and then the individual stoploss kicks in. She said we also have aggregate stoploss so there is a total aggregate cost for the full policy. We do have significant claims last year and going into this year. Hopefully, the trend will start to dissipate. As of right now we have to plan accordingly. For the stoploss current carrier we have wanted a significant increase so they were able to bid it out and did get a lower stoploss increase.

We went with the company that there is one laser. That is just an employee that we have to pay a higher first cost before the stoploss would kick in. It is a 22% increase versus a 42% increase with the other company.

Member Kramer said for the pharmacy portion we are changing the pharmacy aspect of the insurance. However, if you are on the insurance now you are grandfathered in. This will be moving forward for new employees. We have gone with a company called SmithRx and it has a connect 360 option for the pharmacy portion of it.

Treasurer Davis said on the pharmacy portion what they are hoping with switching the company they also do step therapy. They will reach out if you are taking a certain medicine and there is an alternative that can be less costly to the plan then they will ask you to try that. Obviously, you do not have to, but then the plan will pay a higher portion of the cost if you do. Like anyone knows that is taking prescriptions they have gone through the roof. They have looked at all the drugs that the current members participate in and there should be no disruption to any projects. They are just trying to get a higher rebate on pharmaceuticals and also other avenues such as Amazon and GoodRx that can help to direct you too if the prescription is going to cost a lot out of pocket. Hopefully, it will prove beneficial and by doing this they are figuring a \$200,000 savings annually.

Member Kramer said that the other thing that was impressive with that is if there is a prescription that is hard to get they can help find discounts for it to get the rebates for the employee.

Chair Hawkinson said that he liked that through SmithRx they have an advocate to reach out to you like the Treasurer said. If there is alternative medicine that could potentially save you and the plan money that the advocate would let you know about. You don't have to try it but there is an advocate to help the employee try to save the employee some money and the plan.

Member Robertson asked if the employee does not want to take the other alternative is there a penalty that they will have if they chose the one the doctor wants them to have.

Treasurer Davis said no not necessarily. They will pay a higher co-pay for that medication. If they can assist you in going through GoodRx and get a discount you may pay zero but if you refuse to try GoodRx that is offering a rebate on then you may pay a higher premium for that drug.

Member Robertson said that she is concerned if a doctor prescribes a certain drug for you and that is the drug that works, if they go back to their doctor and asks if they can try the less expense drug. If he approves it then she doesn't have a problem with saying they need to take that other drug. She doesn't want the employee to feel like they are being told to take a lesser drug.

Treasurer Davis said that it is just a recommendation. It is an advocate that works with you to let you know that this opportunity is out there and if you go with this drug we can help you so you won't be paying anything versus maybe \$1,500 for some of these diabetic drugs that people are paying for. It is just a resource that would help benefit the employee but they do not have to do it but they would then possibly pay a higher cost for their drugs then.

Member Robertson said but we are still letting the doctor prescribe and not all of a sudden taking the advocates choice.

Member Kramer said it would come from the doctors prescription.

Member Thierry said that we did discuss in the meeting if the person could not take the generic. That is totally allowable to take the regular.

Treasurer Davis said that this isn't any disruption to the employees. This is alternatives that maybe you are paying \$40 a month for a co-pay and maybe we can get you a zero co-pay. Also, lower the cost for us as the employer and possibly higher rebates also.

Member Robertson said that she totally gets that but to piggy back on what Member Thierry said. If you can't take the alternative then you get penalized because you can't take the generic form of it.

Treasurer Davis said that you are already getting penalized if you can't take the generic form of it because name brands have a higher co-pay to them then generics. So if you truly cannot take the generic then you are going to pay a higher cost for the drug.

Member Kramer said that is how it works now unfortunately.

Member Robertson said ok.

Member Kramer said UMR Administers the program and raised their rate \$4,000 annually. Lincoln is who we have dental insurance through.

Robin said on the ancillary products employees pay 100% of these costs. The dental did go up 12% on the premium and vision stayed the same. The county is still honoring and paying for the life insurance with no cost to the employee.

Member Kramer said for funding the plan what we are voting on tonight is to move the deductible up to \$1,750 for single and \$3,500 for family. For out of pocket \$3,500 for single and \$7,000 for family which would save an estimated \$38,625 to the county. There is also an employees contribution increase of \$5 per month. They will still offer wellness preventative health screening which will save the employee if they choice to do the health screening which give the employee and \$30 monthly discount.

Treasurer Davis explained why the fees had to be raised due to catastrophic claims. The things they are trying to do will help to make our account more stable. They are going to have someone come in to help explain things to employees if they have questions. The portal will start



to be open May 1<sup>st</sup> and also the wellness blood draw that want to participate will end on June 20<sup>th</sup>. You get a \$30 monthly discount on your premium. Plus, it has proven successful in catching what could have been catastrophic illnesses.

Member Davidson said that we are self insured which some may not know.

Treasurer Davis said that we are self insured which we are technically the insurance company. We contract with UMR to be our TPA who are our third party administrator. They process the claims and apply the discounts and manage that part for us. She said we did look during our bidding this year on going back to being fully insured but at this time it was not a recommendation due to fully insured premiums are drastically higher. The higher premiums might limit who joins your health insurance if the premiums get too high. Then it becomes self destructive as we don't have healthy people on our plan just non-healthy people. We are here to offer health insurance that is affordable to everyone but also have to keep the stability of the account going.

Member Kramer thanked Treasurer Davis.

Treasurer Davis said you are welcome.

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

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Purchase of Two New Vehicles for Sheriff. Member Kramer said they have a quote for 2025 Tahoe's. This price is with everything installed road ready with lights, cameras and everything for \$97,104.74 and a grand total of \$194,209.48. This is in his budget and they have also received money from contracts for vehicles as well. The money has already been allotted for these purchases.

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

Member Sandoval presented the monthly report from the Public Service Committees. He said that they have no action items this month but might have a couple next month.

Member Davidson stated that she sits on this committee and once again they still do not have departments that come. The Public Defender sent a report and nobody knew what it had to say on it because it had initials. She said they probably had to Google to see what the initials stood for. She asked if they have a question on the information given and the departments are not there to answer their questions how are they able to vote properly. Also, with the report from the State's Attorney she was not there. She cleared up some of it because she wrote down what the initials stood for. She said we as elected officials that have these committees the department heads should be obligated to come to the committees to give us the information to make the best decisions for them. They have their bills and we just do not know and it has to stop.

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

Motion was made by Bondi and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Illinois EPA Invoice for Quarterly Tonnage for \$37,942.53 for the Landfill. Member Bondi read that all Landfills are required to pay the IEPA, a quarterly fee based on the amount of waste disposed of during the prior three months it is paid from line item 012-700-8700000-45. It is a constant and sometimes out of sequence bill but their obligation to the state.

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

Motion was made by Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve MSI Job 295-24 Mary Davis Home Boiler Replacement for \$7,846.30. Member Bondi said that this is the balance for materials and labor rate. The information is in your packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Olinger— (14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Final Payment for MSI Job 119-23 Knox County Jail General Trades Package, Draw 12 in amount of \$10,000. Member Bondi said the application for the \$10,000 is in hand and our final payment of a contract that was \$732,935.00. The lein waivers and all documentation is in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Olinger— (14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bondi and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Final Payment for MSI Job 195-22 – Knox County Jail Performance Contract Phase 2, Draw 14 in amount of \$30,000. Member Bondi said that the lein waivers and all documentation is in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Olinger— (14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Bid for Carpentry from Mid-Illinois in the amount of \$359,405. Member Bondi stated that there were two bidders which were HEIN Construction and Mid Illinois. Mid-Illinois was well over a \$100,000 better price and have good performance experience with Mid-Illinois where they did projects at the jail for carpentry.

Member Davidson asked if this was one of the bids with the performance contract that they bidded out for the Mary Davis Home.

Member Bondi said that Clerk Erickson's office did the bid opening. He asked Clerk Erickson if he was correct.

Clerk Erickson said yes, our office opened the bids. Then the tabulations are handled by the architects and get them back to us. Yes, it is part of that performance contract.

Member Davidson said so that is part of that 10% that we pay. She asked if they got 10% on top of that.

Member Bondi said he believes that is correct.

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

Motion was made by Bondi and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Bid for Roofing from Dower's Roofing in the amount of \$319,448. Member Bondi stated that there were two companies that bid on this. One was Sterling Roofing and the other was Dowers Roofing. Dower's Roofing came just less of a \$70,000 better price overall.

Member Davidson said she had the same question has before.

Member Bondi said it is part of the performance contract.

Member Davidson said so we should add 10% on to this price.

Member Bondi said that the proper order to consider is these bids stand on their own and then there is a performance contract amount that would be approved at the very end of all of this.

Member Davidson said either way we are paying 10%.

Member Bondi said correct.

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

Motion was made by Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Bid for Mechanical from MSI in the amount of \$468,630.

Member Davidson said so the performance contract is another bid that they do for MSI and we pay them 10%.

Member Bondi said right and for Member Davidson to keep in mind that anytime you have a general contractor overseeing a major project sometimes it is a percentage and sometimes it is a flat fee. It could range anywhere between 6% to 10%. It could be a fee on the overall project itself. It is not unique to have a general contractor oversea the sub-contractors for this process.

Member Davidson said that we also pay Klingner for our engineering to do the same.

Member Bondi said not for the general contracting administration but they do the inspection and the bid specifications for the work. The general contractor would not do that. You get your specifications from your architects and engineers.

Member Davidson stated which we pay.

Member Bondi said yes, we pay them for that.

Chair Hawkinson said that we cannot expect a company to do free work. So, they are going to get paid. The engineering portion of this was approved back in September of last year for \$253,000 which included Klingner's portion of the design work. As well as the bidding, all the specifications, contract information, administration and closeout costs. There were over 30 companies that showed up for the prebid. Twelve or thirteen companies requested the bidding documentation. Since we require a nondisclosure agreement.

Member Bondi said MSI was the only Mechanical that bid.

Chair Hawkinson said correct, they were the only bidder that responded.

Member Bondi said correct.

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

Motion was made by Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Bid for Electrical and Fire Alarm. Member Bondi said that they had three companies bid on it which were TriCity Electric, MSI and Teufel Hunden. Teufel Hunden came with a bid package but did not offer a bid. MSI had a \$40,000 better bid price and yes there will be a 10% fee associated with that.

Member Robertson asked if there was a 10% on each one individually or do they just get a 10% overall across the board. She said it just seems that 10% on all these amounts becomes a large amount.

Chair Hawkinson said that it is 10% of the overall project.

Member Robertson said ok.

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

Motion was made by Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Bid for Technology and Security. Member Bondi said they had two bidders who were SEICO and Teufel Hunden. Teufel Hunden came with a bid package but decided not to offer a bid. The bid up for approval is \$1,102,069.50. It is for all the security and technology associated with the Mary Davis Home with the specifications from Klingner and what came down from the Circuit Court.

Chair Hawkinson said that the amount is high because last year we included in the specific instructions for this bid that is not only for the camera system and automation for the locks and computer systems it is also includes the replacement camera system for the courthouse, knox county jail and sheriff's office. It is high because it includes three buildings.

Member Bondi stated that it is actually four if you include the Sheriff offices. He said the breakout is \$86,000 for the courthouse, Jail \$105,000, Sheriff \$20,000 and the Mary Davis Home \$900,000.

Member Thierry asked if this is our revised bid form that we revised to meet the specifications.

Member Bondi said that the RFP that we approved in our committee has nothing to do with this. He said that is yet to come out. He said that came from the chair and was tabled.

Member Thierry said she is talking about the Mary Davis Home Performance Contract.

Member Bondi said that we did not do that. You are talking about Item 31 which will be represented by the Chair.

Chair Hawkinson said that right now this is just the bid for technology and security.

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

Member Bondi asked the Chair if he could go onto Item 30 to keep the bids together so they do not get out of sequence.

Chair Hawkinson said that would be fine. He said that we will do Item 30 next to keep in sequence.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Bid for Condensing Unit for Mary Davis Home in the amount of \$28,700. Member Bondi asked Chair Hawkinson if he had the information to go ahead.

Chair Hawkinson said that it is page 135 of our packet. With the HVAC equipment replacement at the Mary Davis Home on the mechanical side they went out and solicited or looked around to see what the pricing were with the R-410a refrigerant for the HVAC system is \$28,700 and there is only one left. There was a total of four different prices and the next one up was \$40,210, then \$41,540.00. They wanted to go ahead and pre-purchase that item to get the lower rate for the county. Rather than once that is gone we would be spending \$18,000 more just to get the condensing unit. That was brought up at the committee meeting to move forward with that pre-purchase.

Member Bondi said the difference is the type of freon they use. The specifications are going to change in another year.

Chair Hawkinson said the R-410a will no longer be manufactured after January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year but we can still use it and it is still going to be in rotation

Member Bondi said that the unit is not going to be manufactured anymore.

Chair Hawkinson said correct.

Member Bondi said the materials will still be manufactured for the next 18-20 years.

Chair Hawkinson said correct. The cost to upgrade the refrigeration unit, HVAC unit, condensers to the new freon and replace all the air handlers will be a lot higher cost than the \$28,700 expenditure.

Member Bondi said those other units are \$12-\$14,000 more, like \$41,000 if he remembers correctly.

Member Robertson asked about this being an older model and the freon is not going to be produced anymore correct.

Member Bondi said no, the freon is going to be produced just not the units that use that freon will not be.

Member Robertson asked if it breaks down if we would be able to get parts for it to service it.

Member Bondi said parts yes.

Member Robertson said it makes more sense to spend the money now to buy the unit that we would be able to get parts for.

Member Bondi said that we went over those numbers and they are incredibly higher as a result of the specifications associated with it. He said in round numbers it is a \$100,000 decision.

Chair Hawkinson said that we will still be able to get parts until probably 2036 or 2040.

Member Robertson said we are hoping.

Member Bondi said if it goes as it has before with the last freon change, it is still going on from the R92's. The manufacturing of those units are not being done anymore but still able to use the R92.

Chair Hawkinson said that Member Bondi asked in the committee to have the other Bob do some research if we would change to the new R-454B. It would be \$200,000 to the overall project.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Olinger— (10). Noes—Robertson, Pugh, Nache and Davidson---(4). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Road Use Agreement for Knox County Wind Farm LLC. Member Bondi said that the explanation is in your packet. This is a contract our County will be going into and we will be

reimbursed 100% for all the work associated with the transmission lines. Those windmills are going up 34 to that wind farm. We are still waiting for the State's Attorney's approval.

Highway Administrator Ratermann said that this has nothing to do with transmission lines.

Member Bondi said that this is for accessing our roads correct.

Chair Hawkinson asked Highway Administrator Ratermann to come down and speak.

Highway Administrator Ratermann said the title of the agreement pretty much explains what it is. In order for the wind farm developer to build their wind farm they will have to use township and country road. In the process of doing that, those roads are going to experience loads that they do not normally experience. Most of the township roads are going to have to be stabilized before the construction even takes place. Otherwise the construction vehicles would not be able to traverse those roads. So the townships will ultimately end up with a better road than what they have now. The county roads are in good shape now. He doesn't expect them to experience any damage. There are financial provisions in the contract that will protect us if there are damages. The townships involved are Ontario, Copley, Walnut Grove and Lynn. There are 52 turbines in total and two of them are south of Illinois Route 167 just east of the Landfill. The other 50 are North of 167 with the majority of them being East of Altona. The four Highway Commissioners also have to approve the agreement and he anticipates them doing that. The agreement is in line with any other agreements that have been used or are currently being used for wind farm developments. He said they utilized an attorney that worked on their behalf and feels the contact is fair. It is also used widely throughout the State of Illinois.

Member Bondi said that Administrator Ratermann is also in concert with the transmission lines that will be going up. That will be a separate thing that actually Ameren is doing.

Administrator Ratermann said that Ameren is doing that but that has never been a part of our discussion. They are not projects that are going hand in hand.

Member Bondi asked if the wind farm can go without the transmission lines going in.

Administrator Ratermann said that he does not know the answer to that but they have to take their energy somewhere. There are representatives here from the wind farm tonight if you wanted to ask them. He doesn't know if they are prepared to answer that question or not.

Chair Hawkinson said that they will stick with the road agreement and that is a whole other topic. That why we can give people a proper leeway to prepare for those questions on the transmission lines. He did speak with the State's Attorney and she is aware of the agreement. She had said to him that the Board approved this outside attorney Mis Sheryl Churney back in 2020 to act on the Counties behalf.

Administrator Ratermann stated in July of 2020.

Member Bondi said a copy of that agreement was in the packet.

Chair Hawkinson said correct. It was wrote by the attorney and negotiated by the attorney that we approved.

Member Davidson asked if Highway Administrator Raterman would be putting the culverts in. She said the part of the road condition.

Administrator Ratermann said that their was an inspection of all the culvert that will be crossed that are on the haul routes. The ones that need to be replaced before construction will be. The rest will be monitored while the construction takes place. If they need to be replaced afterwards then they will be replaced at that time. The wind farm would pay for all of that even if they had to hire contractors to do it.

Member Robertson said so this is to have the roads taken care of, allow them to have access to the road and they are paying for anything that needs done or are we eating that cost.

Administrator Ratermann said through the duration of construction and until it is completed there should not be any expense to Knox County or the townships.

Member Robertson said so we are just saying they have access to those road.

Administrator Ratermann said it have been negotiated of what road they would need to use as haul routes.

Member Robertson asked that all repairs prior to and after they would pay for that cost.

Administrator Ratermann said that will be at their expense. There are significant financial fines or violations if they deviate from the haul routes that were agreed upon. It is in there best interest to follow it.

Member Robertson asked if we have prelooked at all the haul routes to make sure they leave them in good condition. Also, that they are suitable now or they change them. She would hate to find out after the fact and they say it was like that when we used it. Then we are stuck with it.

Administrator Ratermann said that they are going to have improve the township roads which will be about 40 miles of township roads that will be impacted. Those roads will have to be improved before contruction.

Member Bondi said isn't the next item the engineering company that will be overseeing this whole process and specifying what needs done.

Administrator Ratermann said yes the next agenda item will be an engineering firm to work on our behalf to police the wind farm.

Member Bondi said that the wind farm is going to pay for that engineering as well to oversea it.

Administrator Ratermann said yes.

Member Bondi thanked Highway Administrator Ratermann.

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

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Pugh to approve Engineering Service Agreement with Hutchison Engineering Inc. for Knox County Wind Farm LLC. Member Bondi said like earlier stated this is the engineering firm that will be overseeing the project. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Olinger— (14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Bondi handed the next item over to the Chair.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Amendment to Performance Contracting Master Contract to add Mary Davis Home – placing final approved numbers into the contract for services stemming from the bids and approvals from September 2024. Chair Hawkinson said he had the Clerk add this item after all the others because it would not make since to have it earlier in the agenda to predate or prenumber the bids that were just approved by the Board. This enters the final numbers that are in your board packet and authorizes the work to be completed for the bids that were just approved. Those numbers are

also in your packet for Bid Package 1 for General Construction, Bid Package #2 for Roofing, Bid Package #3 for HVAC, Bid Package #4 for Electrical & Fire Alarm and Bid Package #5 for Technology & Security. As well as that \$28,700 of the prepurchasing of the condensing unit and the performance contract and general contractor fees which are listed. This is the same as was done with all the other performance contracts. Once they receive the bids they have to have the contract updated with those numbers to execute. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Olinger— (13). Noes—Davidson---(1). Motion carried.

Member Kramer presented the monthly report from the Health and Human Services committee. He said that the monthly report is in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Sandoval to accept the resignation from ZBA of Harry Flesner. Kramer said that Mr. Flesner's resignation letter is in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Olinger— (13). Noes—Hawkinson---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the appointment as Chair of ZBA Board of Sam Serven. Member Kramer said that his resume was updated and in the packet.

Member Olinger said to answer Mr. Thompson's question during public comment of what ZBA was. He asked if someone could explain it to him.

Member Kramer said that it is the Zoning Board of Appeals and they handle all the zoning questions that could come into the county.

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

Member Kramer stated that Item 35 was removed.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve ZBA Case CU-03-25 – a Request for Solar Energy Farm in the “M2” Heavy Industrial Zoning District, Under Appendix F, Knox Coounty Commercial Solar Energy Facility Siting Ordinance, filed by Applicant Sun Vest Solar LLC, DBA SVCSG Reeder Solar LLC, 330 W. State Street, Suite 1, Geneva, IL 60134 along with the owner Scott Reeder – Trustee, 620 Briarwood, Sherman, IL 62684. Member Kramer said that they came to committee and showed their outline and solar field. It has been approved in the past and follows all the state regulations.

Member Davidson said that she is going to vote yes but was asking if this is the area over by Swings Mobile Homes and St. Joes Cemetery. He said that nobody showed up. So she reached out on her own because that is her district. She reached out to see if anyone even received anything and they didn't. In the future the companies need to do a little more to try and reach the residents in that area and see how they feel. She knows that there is a lot of rotation of people in the trailer park. She thinks it is going to be good for our county but they still should go out and maybe have some knocking on the doors to let the people know what is going to be in their neighborhood.



Chair Hawkinson said that google maps was wrong but it is in the county.

Member Kramer said that they showed us a map at the committee meeting.

Member Robertson said she thought it was near Farm King.

Chair Hawkinson said West of Maytag.

Member Robertson said ok.

Member Kramer said that it was in the packet.

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

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve ZBA Case CU-04-25 – Request for a Tier 2 BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) in the “M2” Heavy Industrial Zoning District, under Appendix G, Knox County Battery Storage Systems, filed by Applicant Sun Vest Solar LLC, DBA SV CSG Reeder Solar LLC, 330 West State Street, Suite 1, Geneva, IL 60134 along with the Owner Scott E. Reeder – Trustee, 620 Briarwood, Sherman, IL 62684. Member Kramer said that this is for the solar field for battery storage capability. They gave a very good presentation at committee of showing how it worked. If there is an emergency situation how that gets handled. The fire districts will receive training on how to operate those systems. This is the first time that we have had a battery storage field for energy storage in Knox County that they had approved a year ago. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Olinger— (14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Nache to approve ZBA Case AM-01-25 – Article 3, Section 3.1.01, Accessory Building; A secondary/subordinate building or structure which is incidental to and associated with the principal / primary building located on the same property. There can be no accessory building without a principal / primary building. {Effective since February 27, 2013} filed by Sonia Hochstetler, Knox County Zoning Administrator, on Behalf of the Knox County Zoning Department, 121 South Prairie Street, Galesburg, IL 61401. Member Kramer said this is to allow if property and want to build pullbarn before they had to have a primary building on that property.

Member Weiss said he wanted to clarify that it is to build a pullbarn on an empty lot.

Member Kramer said yes, without a primary structure.

Assessor Hochstetler said she just wanted to clarify that this is only in A and C Districts.

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

Chair Hawkinson stated that the reports from some of the outside committees are in the packet along with the minutes if they submitted them. 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 was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve Opening of Budget for Line Item Changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—

Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Olinger— (14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that the budget line item changes are in the board packet. The special one that is probably confusing to everyone is they created Project 95 this is just moving money that they housed in an ARPA account into the Project 95 account. That way they can report that all the money has been appropriated appropriately. There are also a couple of other small budget changes. .

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

Chair Hawkinson said that the manual check review is in the packet. He said that there was a lot of information in the manual check section this month due to the Election Judge payouts.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Committee Meetings of April 2025, Board Meeting in March, and other claims for per diem from Meetings. The total was \$4,196.70. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Olinger— (14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Weiss to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of March 27, 2025 through April 23, 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). Chair Hawkinson reported that the vouchers submitted were in the amount of \$1,441,099.62 He clarified with Treasurer Davis that the \$28,700 preapproval could be added next month instead of this month. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Olinger— (14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 28, 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 Sandoval and seconded by Member Olinger to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Olinger— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.