

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

March 26, 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, March 26th, 2025 at 6:26 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 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
District 5	Brian Friedrich

And those absent: District 5 Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval

Also present were County Clerk-Recorder Scott Erickson, County Treasurer Robin Davis and Sheriff Jack Harlan. Department Heads present were Knox County Public Health Administrator Michele Gabriel, Highway Administrator Duane Ratermann, Landfill Administrator Rod Clear and Supervisor of Assessments Sonia Hochstetler.

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

Chair Hawkinson asked for additions or deletions to the agenda with additions for discussion only. There were no additions or deletions from 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.

Patty Boone said as stewards of Knox County and representatives of its citizens it is our collective responsibility to insure that every decision we make upholds the principles of transparency, fairness and accountability. In light of the board's proposal to hire John Robertson, she must express her concerns and recommend a more thorough and impartial selection process for this critical position. We have a commitment to do diligence and it is imperative that we adhere to our duty to serve the best interest of the citizens of Knox County. This includes conducting a rigorous vetting process to identify the most qualified candidate for the roll by putting this position out for bids and initiating a formal interview process. This will allow us to evaluate a range of highly qualified attorneys ensuring that we select the one that best aligns with the needs of our county and its residents. We must address conflicts of interests and concerns of the proposed attorney's current position with the City of Galesburg Zoning and his long standing tenure as legal council for the Oak Run Property Owners Association. It expresses a clear conflict of interest. The association relationship with zoning matters in Knox County raises legitimate concerns about the attorney's ability to provide unbiased and objective council. While maintaining our integrity of our decision making process which requires us to maintain any appearance of impartiality or compromised judgement. Public confidence in transparency is a must by pursuing an open and competitive selection process we demonstrate to our constituents that their trust in us is well placed. Our actions must reflect the highest standards of governance by reinforcing confidence in our commitment to serve them with integrity and fairness. In light of these considerations she urges the board to reconsider the current proposal and take steps to advertise this position, solicit bids and conduct interviews with qualified candidates. This approach with insure or responsibility to Knox County citizens and select legal council who is exemplifies excellence, impartiality and dedication to public service. Thank you for your attention and thoughtful deliberation on this matter. Sincerely, Patty Boone Knox County Board District 5.

Pam Davidson stated that she is District 3. She said that April 1st is voting and everybody should vote because it is only 11% of Knox County people that vote from the City of Galesburg to out in the county. We have several different municipal races going on and we take this for granted and don't vote. She is asking everyone to vote April 1st. Thank you.

David Amor stated that he is here tonight to express his concern once again about the motion to add the new county administration building at 50 E. Main street to the county's existing Master Performance Contract. Last month in addition to his own remarks there was other public comment attesting. There are multiple local vendors willing and able to bid for the renovation work to be done at the new building. Importantly, potentially on a percentage basis maybe being significantly lower. Maybe even half again as low as the terms of the current

contract. Given that competitive and open bidding is a recognized best practice for local governments. Also, that there is the prospect of being able to save the taxpayers a significant amount of money and also in light of the repeated questions that have been raised going back several years about fairness of the counties bidding process for mechanical, electrical and HVAC services. He can see no reason why you would not want to put this new work out for bid. Whether under the guaranteed energy savings conditions of the performance contract or more simply soliciting bids for a general contractor. The only reason he has heard stated of going through the public bidding process now would mean a delay of some months in starting the work. While he understands the eagerness of getting into the new building on the part of the elected officials, department heads and employees that would move. He does not find this argument compelling. In fact it has echoes of the argument of so called emergencies that we have incurred over and over again in justification in getting around the requirement of open public bidding. MSI has had a good run for the past three years but it is never a good idea to stick with the same vendor for too long. Competition is a good thing as he is sure you all will agree. It gives our local and regional vendors an opportunity to show what they can do. It demonstrates to the public that local government is not in the business of playing favorites and it insures that our taxpayers dollars are being spent wisely and efficiently. He asks you all to kill this motion by voting no on item 30 to remove the previous bill from the table. This will clear the decks and allow you to craft a new set of bid specks and insure that the renovation of the new building proceeds in the full light of day. Thank you very much.

Drew DeSutter stated that he is President of the Knox County Farm Bureau. Thank you for having us back again to consider the Allies and Agriculture Resolution. As a farmer in northern Knox County raising cattle, hay, corn and soybeans the Knox County Farm Bureau represents 871 farmers and Agri-business professionals in the county. Thank you for the opportunity to share his thoughts with you tonight as he asks for support of the Agriculture Resolution on your agenda. He asks for the passage of this resolution which shares the importance of agriculture for our county and it shows the support to our industry. Agriculture is one of the oldest industries in our country and it provides food, fuel and fiber to our community, nation and world. In total there are more than 71,000 farms in Illinois and 853 of those farms reside within our great county. Multi-generational families take care of the land with in this county. He is a fourth-generation farmer. We care about what we do, how we do it, how it impacts our neighbors and our environment. A few points about agriculture in Knox County is agriculture supports 2,327 jobs. Which is an estimated 9% of the total jobs in Knox County. Agriculture and related industries generate total sales output estimated at \$400 million dollars. Farm property provides 23% of taxable value to this county. The revenue provides services to all residents in the county. He believes this resolution signifies the continued support for Knox County agriculture and farmers. It recognizes the contribution agriculture provides to our county the resolution further signifies the county is open to and welcomes agriculture in our county. Thank you.

Ken Springer stated that he is with the Knox County Partnership for Economic Development. He wanted to bring the attention to the board tonight some really cool workforce development activities for youth that are coming up here in the near future. On March 28th from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm is an event called Welcome to the Real World which is hosted out at Carl Sandburg College which is put together by a number of partners including Sandburg, ROE,

Western Illinois Works and others. This is an event for 8th graders where they learn about careers, fiscal responsibility, voting, all kinds of different things about becoming an adult. It is a great event that is open to the public and he encourages everyone to check it out. Again, it is Friday of this week from 9 am to 1:30 pm in the Sandburg gym.

Coming up next is the SkillsUSA State Championships at the Peoria Civic Center in April 24th thru 26th. It is a competition for vocational students in which Sandburg and Galesburg Area Vocational Students participate in. Vocational students will square off in competitions from other school is skills like welding, construction, masonry, fire science and culinary arts. It is a really cool event that is open to the public at the Civic Center in Peoria. It is a very high value event for employers in the room. They had students last year that received job offers on the floor while showing their skills off. Again, the event will be April 24th-26th.

Lastly, coming up is the Galesburg Area Vocational Centers annual signing day for career and technical education students on May 13th. It is a very important event that recognizes the students of choosing their careers in vocational fields. There will be between 70 to 75 students participating this year. Each year each student is individually recognized and moments for a photo with the employers that they will be working with from the area. It also recognizes students that are going to be going into the armed forces. This is really new and just started a few years ago. It is truly exciting and gives everyone a glimpse of what the future workforce is going to look like. He encourages everyone to check this out on May 13th at the auditorium at Galesburg High School. Lots of events coming up if you are interested in youth and workforce development. They are open to the public and he encourages everyone to check them out. Thank you so much.

Connie Main said members especially District 4 representatives of Hawkinson, Kramer and Olinger. She resides in Knox County in Altona, IL. Again, she is bringing the issues affecting them for over ten years. They continue to be denied their equal rights and civil protection by law enforcement. Particularly in matter related to themselves and their property several incidents of illegal activity and trespassers. Tonight she asks for immediate interreaction with several pressing matters as follows.

First, illegal dogs of unrestrained, unneutered, unregistered dangerous dogs chasing and trespassing on their properties which is all illegal. This is not enforced for them. The animals pose a serious threat to them, others safety, well being not to mention their elderly and disabled animals safety.

Secondly, this year they already reported another illegal dog but were denied all action and information from government departments. Claiming they did not provide enough information for investigation. She would have provided a picture of the dogs at the owners country home yesterday but did not due to children playing near the dog. Due to them being able to claim they were stalking their children as retaliation for complaining as others have done over the years. These illegal dangerous dogs and above the law people have proven to have more rights than them. Illegal vehicles revving their engines, no plates, completely blacked out windows and off road vehicles running highways with or without proper registration have become a prevalent issue. Also, whether they create a noise disturbance or not and more so at night.

Third, various trespasses without repercussion ever. This violates the sanctity of private property ownership. It instills fear and invulnerability of them knowing that there is nothing that they have been able or can do about it.

Fourth, assess to their properties free of duress will never return. Due to various forms of intimidation, false accusations, and or law enforcement involvement which is most distressing. If just once those that broke laws were held responsible and accountable this would have stopped long ago. That did not happen instead they were punished the repercussions of those decisions and continued repeated issues are far reaching, profoundly effecting their daily lives. Concerning these pressing issues, she urges all county board members to take immediate and decisive action to save guard their rights and well-being. It is well beyond time for this to be an urgent matter. Farming season is just beginning and they have already had many chases and attacks.

Derek Appell stated that he is Village Board President of the Village of Altona. He is here to talk about Item 33 on the agenda tonight. In their park the Village and Lions Club would like to construct a newer and bigger shelter for the public. This is currently the main park in town. There are two lots. One is zoned commercial and the south zoned residential. The set backs are 50 feet and 30 feet. He is fifty and it has always been a park. The buildings that used to be there back in the 20's are long gone. With the zoning change they would have more room to put the shelter were they want to. After this shelter goes up they are thinking of putting in a Pickle Ball court. They are not sure where they are going to put that yet. He said he is here if there are any questions when the action item comes up and he hopes for your blessings on approval.

Since he has a little time left he knows that they want to hire a new zoning judge and he encourages you all to do so. There are a lot of places in the county were there is junk around and its an eye sore. Since villages like them go by the county zoning laws and do not have their own encourages hiring a judge for that to be able to get things cleaned up. Thank you.

Clerk Erickson stated Member Friedrich is the temporary Chair.

Jared Hawkinson said he speaks her today on the public comment section today to address some public comment made last month when he was absent. It was stated that individuals were not in favor of adding 50 E. Main St. to the existing Master Proformance Contract and how years before that Mr. Amor was involved with other vendors for proformance contracts. He wanted to add some context to some of the comments made. Mr. Amor claimed that this was previously shot down by republican members of this board with no discussion and refusing to even have a feasibility study, that was September 2019 to be exact. The part of being struck down is accurate he will provide there were twelve members present at this meeting with Member Davidson leading the charge to defeat the item. This item was specifically shot down because the specific vendor was not guaranteeing use of local labor. When this issue came to a vote, seven of the twelve members present voted no. Four of those seven members were democrats and three of those were republicans. So, no republicans were not responsible for shooting this measure down. Mr. Amor also commented that it was clear then and clearer now that it was defeated in order to clear the way for a local vendor to step in which is not accurate. Not quite sure what Mr. Amor was insinuating but he is pretty sure he can read between the lines. Mr. Amor then advised him on September 25, 2019 that he was discussed by our colleagues at not making their objections known and it was disrespectful to the Building Committee who have worked on this project for over two years. He further went on to say it was unconscionable to turn down such a project that won't get done otherwise and could make it so much more energy efficient and save us money at the same time. So that debunks the notion that

the measure was defeated for a specific purpose that was insinuated. It was also claimed in comments that the emergency project of the jail was not part of the Performance Contract approval which is not correct. The master contract was vetted with the State's Attorney as well as approved as well as an emergency declaration for Phase 1 which was also vetted with the State's Attorney. While an emergency declaration didn't and still doesn't sit well with many board members along with himself included sometimes it is unavoidable unless someone has a crystal ball and predict the future. In this case they were on the hook by former administrations and were required to rectify the problem. It was also commented how millions of dollars have been spent and things are well worth doing but Mr. Amor claimed that every dollar spent goes to MSI which is entirely not true like the picture was painted. While the check is cut to MSI for services rendered as the counties publically bid, publically reviewed and publically approved general contractor that money is paid to the vendors who publically bid and were subsequently approved by the county board in a public meeting for items that he doesn't think he mentioned before were publically approved projects. Thank you.

Clerk Erickson stated that Member Hawkinson resumes the Chair.

Chair Hawkinson thanked everyone for speaking during public comment.

Motion was made by Member Weiss and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the regular Board Meeting on February 26, 2025 and 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of December 2024 in the amounts of \$161,085.74 and \$44,406.66 and public safety tax in the amount of \$275,856.77. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Weiss and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the Proclamation of National Public Health Week in Knox County. Chair Hawkinson read the proclamation into record for the week of April 7-13th, 2025 to be recognized as National Public Health Week in Knox County. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

****Member Robertson left at 6:54 p.m.**

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Resolution for Allies and Agriculture for 2025. Chair Hawkinson read the resolution into record. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that the Knox County Farm Bureau has provided a plaque. It will continue to be displayed in the County Clerk's Office of the courthouse. Thank you for what you do for agriculture not just in Knox County but for all of Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Resolution for Withdrawal from Agricultural Conservation and Protection Area. Chair Hawkinson stated that the item is in the packet and there is a spokesman for the petitioners present. In January, they established the authority to create an Agriculture committee that was required by the state statutes to consist of one sitting board member which was Member Kramer. As well as four farmers that have to be active farmers. Two have to be republican farmers and two have to be democate farmers. He said that it was a chore to get people that want to participate from the different parties. He did find after some conversation four that were willing to step up. The two republican were Phil Godeke and Tim Eagle. The two democrats were Jim Purlee and George Corsey. These individuals were confirmed with the Voter Registration Clerk in the Knox County Clerk's Office. The requirements were meet by publicly posting. The minimum is five conspicuous places which he posted them personally on February 20th in seven conspicuous places. Those being the Altona Post Office, Oneida Post Office, Wataga Post Office, Victoria Post Office, Knox County Farm Bureau and USDA Field Office in Galesburg. Pursuant to the statutes there has to be a public hearing as well held in a convenient location held close to the parcels in question. That public hearing was held on Thursday, March 13th at 5:30 p.m. at the Copley Township Building where all five members of that committee attended as well as two members of the general public and a spokesman for the petitioners. There were no comments or position filed. The parcels and petitions are also entered in the board packet. They have meet all the statutory requirements in a petition for withdrawal. It know comes to the board to either approve or deny that withdrawal.

Member Davidson stated that she is going to vote no because since January she sent Chair Hawkinson texts and put in information during the committee meeting asking who would support it. As the Chair of the Democratic Party she wanted to be a part of it and it was crickets with no response. Then she had to read in the packet everything that went on. First the chair of the committee said that he got to busy and had past it over to the chair. This is not two people running this county board. It is the whole board. Especially, as a Democratic Chair she has the right to look to see who was involved and has to assume that they were democrats since she was never informed. So she will be voting no.

Chair Hawkinson stated that the board packet was made available on Friday so there was the availability to confirm or ask questions since Friday. The statute requirements have been meet. It is now to decide wether to approve or deny the withdrawal of these parcels from the Agricultural Conservation and Protection Area.

Member Kramer said that he had the hearing and there was no public comment for or in opposition. Mr. Appell was there representing the family that was asking to have the parcels removed. He would ask that everyone votes yes. It was posted in all the locations as required by law. He doesn't feel that we should with hold from a family that is wanting to remove the parcels from that ag district.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Thierry, Kramer, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Olinger and Friedrich— (9). Noes—Nache, Davidson and Cohen---(3). Abstain---Pugh---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the settlement agreement for Hans vs. Knox County in the amount of \$7,500. Chair Hawkinson stated that information was discussed and is in the packet for the amount of \$7,500. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson,

Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the settlement agreement for Health Department in the amount of \$6,490. Chair Hawkinson stated that information has also been discussed in the appropriate location and is in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Weiss to approve the appointment to Knoxville Fire Protection District Trustee of Gary Eklund. Chair Hawkinson said that this is a new appointment and that information is in the packet. This information was submitted by the Trustee President Don Moffitt. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the appointment to the Galesburg Sanitary District Trustee of Kenneth Swanson. Chair Hawkinson said that this is a re-appointment, he is present and has been on the board for 16 years. That information is in the packet and would gladly have him back on there as a trustee for that department.

Member Davidson said that Mr. Swanson has been there when it was bad times and good times. We need someone that is dedicated which he is and they are doing great things out there. She wanted to say thank you for your service.

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

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Pugh to approve the payment from the ARPA Appropriation to Family Planning of Western Illinois in the amount of \$51,057.06. Chair Hawkinson said that this item would usually go through the Ways and Means Committee but it did not meet the time frame for the Ways and Means Committee. He was approached by this organizations lawyer on Friday afternoon. They have had a change in leadership at the organization and found that they are in dire need of some funding to keep doing some of the operational services that they provide to the community. He agreed to at least put it on an item for the chair at least for discussion with potential action from the board. These funds would come from the ARPA and this organization was granted \$100,000 from ARPA when the community grants were done so they went through all the vetting, interviews and reviews. They have already used almost \$49,000 and are just requesting the remainder of those funds to help continue giving proper resources. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss and Cohen— (9). Noes— (0). Abstain--Boone, Bondi, Olinger and Friedrich---(4). Motion carried.

Member Friedrich said that the monthly report from the Ways and Means Committees are in the packet. He said that they are starting to talk about budget scheduling like you will see on Item 13.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Resolutions on Deeds of Conveyance. Member Friedrich said that there is three of them and this puts them back on the tax roll. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Pugh to approve the Budget Schedule for FY2025-2026. Member Friedrich said that this is the same as they did last year except off a day because of when those dates fall. With this they will be able to get the ball rolling and meetings scheduled. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Intergovernmental Agreement with Warren County for Inmate Housing. Member Friedrich stated that this is the same contract as they have entered into with Cook County and federal inmates so it matches theirs. They need the option to get inmates in here if they need to.

Chair Hawkinson said that we have already had a contract with them. This one is just to renew and extend the original contract with them with no end date. It has a 30-day exit clause in it for either party.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes—Davidson---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve purchase of Glass Master CC206 Boat for Water Rescue Team. Member Friedrich said that the sheriff and their team have been looking for a boat for quite awhile to update their current one. This one is larger, safer and fits their needs better. This boat is in Indiana at a dealership over there. If this gets approved they would go over there and test the boat out to see if it meets their needs. It would cost \$14,000 which they have \$15,000 in this account. They have brought in from fundraisers \$8,000 thru a pancake fundraiser and also a chili cookoff. They had also talked about paying for some of this out of the ARPA fund which they do not need to do today but that would be forth coming which they talked about at Ways and Means.

Chair Hawkinson stated a correction of the used boat price being \$14,850 which is budgeted and there are funds available.

Member Davidson asked where they are going to store the boat and do we have ARPA money set aside for that.

Member Friedrich said that there is still money in the ARPA account but we have not set it aside yet for them but they have money in their account to pay for this.

Member Friedrich asked Sheriff Harlan to answer where they would store the boat.

Sheriff Harlan said out at the Mary Davis Home where the current boat is stored which they will get rid of and place the newer one there.

Member Friedrich said for the lights and stuff they will transfer from the old boat which is a minimal transfer fee or they will do it themselves. Then decommission the old boat is what he understands. They bought some of the rescue equipment on Black Friday which they kept him informed about that. They did everything they could to save money and keep it afloat.

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve purchase of 2021 Chevy Tahoe for Sheriff's Department. Member Friedrich stated that this is a used Tahoe from Green Valley which he will refer to Chair Hawkinson on the price.

Chair Hawkinson said that it has just over 22,000 miles and it will come equipped for \$43,000.

Member Friedrich said that they need to replace some vehicles due to deer. He thinks three vehicles now have been totaled due to deer. This one will get us up and going pretty quick faster then when we order one and it takes awhile to get. They will still have to install a laptop on it and a few other things but for the most part the equipment will be already installed.

Member Nache asked if our insurance reimburses a bit due to it being deer.

Member Friedrich said that they will give us some money to put back in the account but these squad cars we get a minimal amount out of them. We got like \$6,000 out of it. He asked the Sheriff to speak on it.

Sheriff Harlan said they got just over \$6,000 back. The vehicles hit by deer were a 2014 Taurus, 2016 Taurus and a Chevy Tahoe. This will help them to get another vehicle back on the fleet.

Member Nache said thank you.

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Intergovernmental Agreement with Regional Office of Education for Abingdon / Avon School Resource Officer. Member Friedrich said that they have a grant to pay for this. They are also going to go to Fulton County to get one in Avon. This would give them one in Abingdon with the exact same contract as we have been doing with the other school districts in the area.

Chair Hawkinson said that the Regional Office of Education received a grant for \$70,000 to pay for the SRO in Abingdon as well as a \$70,000 grant for the middle school that is in Avon that will be covered by Fulton County Sheriff's Office. We are only responsible for the Abingdon School. It still falls under the 75/25 contract. The same thing we did with the Rowva School District. The Sheriff let us know that it would not be effective immediately. He would need to start with an interview with the school district on June 1st. That way they have time to get the selection completed and the selected SRO to do the mandated training through the State of Illinois. That way if they have to put someone through PTI to back fill that position they have time to do that. They want to have that person ready for when the school session starts in the fall. This would be pending review from the State's Attorney as well as pending review and approval by the school board in Abingdon. They have not approved it yet but are moving that way.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes—Cohen---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve repairs to Muffin Monster for Jail. Member Friedrich said that someone at the jail discovered that this was not working and made a service call to our service contractor that takes care of repairs. The blades and knives on it are shot and were told it would be \$17,000 to repair it. Which they are in the process of doing. This machine shreds up stuff that leaves the jail through the sewer system such as blankets and pillows. The City of Galesburg made them put this in, otherwise they were going to fine us. We need to get this up and working since they will find out after this open meeting that it is not working. It is \$17,000 to get it repaired and up and going. It is just wore out.

Member Davidson asked how long it has been since we have put them in there. She remembers when people were putting magazines and stuff in there. She asked how many years it has been.

Member Friedrich said no he does not.

Member Davidson asked if it has a warranty.

Member Friedrich said he does not know but since they are not putting in a new one it probably will not have a warranty. They are just putting new knives on it and just repairing it.

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Fredrick to remove from the table – contract for Administrative Hearing Officer. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes—Boone---(1). Motion removed from table.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve contract for Administrative Hearing Officer.

Member Boone commented that they were not provided any kind of resume this month or last month. They do not know his credentials. We are told that he qualifies for this job and not given any past law offices that he has worked for. She said that she had to resort to phone books. She did some research and he had been an associate in a lot of law firms. So, there is plenty of conflicts of interests. Someone might have an attorney that works with him or has worked with him. He works for the City of Galesburg where there are zoning concerns within the City of Galesburg with a conflict with the county policy. She feels that we know who our candidate is. This person is not just going to be an advisor. They are going to make rulings and we as county board members are going to uphold these rulings. She feels that it is important that we truly vet this position. There would be a contract where we pay this person \$200 an hour and there might be a better deal somewhere else. It is just like everything else. She would like to know who and what she is voting for.

Member Nache asked if this should have went out for bid or did it go out for bid. Also, who chose this person. She said nothing has been in the packet and like everybody know she has to ask people. It does not seem right to put someone in there that we do not know about.

Chair Hawkinson said that he can answer some of those.

Member Friedrich said to go ahead.

Chair Hawkinson said since he was not present last month he wanted everyone to know that, Mr. Appell from the Village of Altona had the village attorney get in contact with him. Which is Mr. Karlin regarding people in the area that are approved and authorized people in the area that are currently doing adjudication work such as this. Mr. Karlin recommended Mr. Robertson because he is certified in the State of Illinois to do the adjudication process such as this. He did not call Mr. Robertson. Mr. Robertson call him asking for a meeting. Then he put this name forward to the Ways and Means committee and provided them the same information. The same questions were asked and same answers were provided thus coming to the full board. To answer some of the questions for a conflict. Mr. Robertson is the Administrative Hearing Officer for the City of Galesburg and Knox County Ordinances do not cover the City of Galesburg. So, he would not be able to have any conflict with the City of Galesburg because we do not have any authority within the City of Galesburg zoning. To answer Member Nache's question he said to go out for public bid, it is a professional service. He checked with the State's Attorney since it is professional service and it does not require it to go out for bid. However, it was brought to the committee and the committee brought it forward to come to the full board. He wanted to make sure it was put back on the agenda so they could either have a discussion to vote it up or vote it down and move on to the next if we need to. If they have to put it out for public bid after the direction of the board then that is what they will do. Our elected responsibility is not to keep tabling things but to address them and either vote them up or vote them down.

Member Thierry just wants to put it out that she will be abstaining since he has represented her before. I feel like there is a conflict but she does think he is well qualified and does a good job as an attorney. He is very ethical. She does not have a problem with him but because he has been her attorney she is going to abstain.

Member Davidson said that she has been on this board long enough when they first started having one when Chris Gray was there Zoning Administrator. At that time they looked at several of them before settling on Mr. Chad Long. We found which one was the perfect pick for Knox County and it just was not because they called her up. She brought several selections to the committee. They then discussed to see what their weaknesses and strengths were. She feels that Jeremy Karlin campaigned and called several of them up to use him. This is why they have committees to look at this type of situation to see what is best for Knox County. She feels that she does not know him personally but thinks that it should have been put out to other attorneys that can do just as well to see who would be the best fit for Knox County.

Member Olinger said that he would have to abstain because of his employment.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Kramer, Hawkinson, Weiss, Bondi, and Friedrich—(6). Noes—Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone and Cohen---(5). Abstain---Thierry and Olinger---(2). Motion carried.

Member Friedrich said that Treasurer Davis contacted him earlier this week and there was an extra voucher that did not go through our committee. He wanted to make everyone aware of it. She has a voucher for postage to mail our Real Estate Taxes out this year. She has changed vendors and they want their money upfront. So, this voucher is in there for \$15,900 since they just received it with their W9. In order for her to get taxes out she needs to have this bill approved so it can go out. If there are any questions then he would like to discuss them now before they get to the bills.

Member Thierry presented the monthly report from the Public Service Committees. She stated that they meet on the 17th which she was not in attendance at. Vice-Chair Sandoval of the committee ran the meeting and he is not in attendance today. She stated that they have no action items and everything is in the packet.

Member Davidson stated one of the issues they have is for the county committee meetings the departments do not show up at them. Especially at the Public Service Committee where only two showed up which were the Mary Davis Home and the Coroner. It is a shame that we ok the bills and sign off on their bills when they are not even there to represent there departments to tell them what is going on. It is truly an issue and we need to stop signing off on their bills if they cannot take the time to come to the committee meetings to inform us to make the best decision for Knox County. It is shameful and not just public service. It is not Infrastructure or Ways and Means because people show up there. She said we make decisions for this county and these departments. They should show up and educate us to tell us about the issue instead of just sending bills across the table. We as elected officials need to stop it. We have the power to come or don't send their bills.

Chair Hawkinson said that he does echo Member Davidson's demand that we do have our department heads show up. He does oppose as statutory constitutional officers they have gone that road before the bills that are submitted have to be paid if they have the allotment and have been appropriated. We cannot say just because you don't show up we can't pay your bills. However, it is needed that you do show up to provide updates to their budget and answer questions about their budgets. Answers question and give updates about staffing or activities going on for their office. They talked about it at the Ways and Means committee and will be having conversations one on one with those department heads and elected officials. Thank you to those that do show up and provide updates for your department.

Member Weiss said that he also wants to echo what Member Davidson said and he partially agrees with what Chair Hawkinson said as well. Where the problem is, if they have a specific question on a bill where it seems like it is out in right field he doesn't feel that they should have to approve that if there is not someone there to answer that.

Chair Hawkinson said he does agree and that is why during committee week they have a whole week to get those questions asked. In the past there has been questions on specific bills so the committee chair will pull the bill from that committee and request clarification. Then explain that bill during the full board meeting. He said yes, Member Weiss is correct.

***Member Thierry left at 7:38 p.m.

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 Weiss to approve the Bid and Buy for Financing of 2025 Kenworth Roll Off Truck for 4 years for the Landfill. Member Bondi said that it is being estimated cost of \$210,000.00 that is going to be financed. The new truck should be ready for delivery in April and line item 012-422-58590-45 (Truck Lease-Hauling) will be utilized. The bids went out to twelve different banks with six responses with the winning ways by Anderson State Bank with 2.90%. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh,

Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bondi and seconded by Member Pugh to approve the Professional Services Agreement with Hanson Professional Services, Section 25-00043-02-BR for the Highway. Member Bondi read the bridge carrying County Highway 10 over the Burlington Northern Santa Fe yard, south of Galesburg, was built in 1985. Per an Agreement put in place post construction, the Illinois Department of Transportation had been completing the routine inspections of the structure required by the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS). In 2023 there was a significant rehabilitation project completed on the County Highway 10 structure. The majority of the funding for that rehabilitation project was provided by the Illinois Commerce Commission. One of the terms of the funding agreement was that Knox County would assume all responsibility for completing routine bridge inspections as required by the NBIS. The rehabilitation project addressed several key elements of the bridge that were in “Poor” condition. This next inspection should reflect the improvements and hopefully upgrade the elements to “satisfactory” or “good”. In 2019, Hanson Professional Services completed an in-depth inspection and developed a Bridge Condition Report. That Bridge Condition Report was the guide that was used to determine the extent of the rehabilitation that was completed in 2023. Some of the key elements of the structure that were worked on were: replace expansion joints, partial and full depth deck patching, approach slabs, substructure concrete repairs and clean/paint some of the steel beam ends. The budget impact for an amount not to exceed \$40,000. There is \$230,000 in the 24/25 County Bridge Fund budget to cover this expense from line item 007-000-560400-30. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bondi and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Resolution for Certificate of Authority for County Engineer to Enter into Joint Participation Agreement for Salt Procurement for the Highway. Member Bondi read starting last year, all units of local government that participate in the state procurement process for rock salt are required to provide a Certificate of Authority. This grants the County Engineer official signatory authority to submit the required documents on behalf of Knox County in order to participate in the joint purchasing process for the acquisition of rock salt. This is already budgeted for and last year they did 1,000 tons. Prior years they did 2,000 tons and this year they are going to do 1,000 tons. There is no budget impact at this time. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bondi and seconded by Member Cohen to approve the Resolution Awarding MFT Aggregate Bids for Various Townships, Section 25-XX000-00-GM for the Highway. Member Bondi read each year the County Highway Department accepts bids for various items that will be utilized by the County and Townships in the annual maintenance programs. The bids were opened on March 17, 2025 at 10 a.m. at the Knox County Highway Department. Bidders are required to submit a 5% bid guarantee with their bid and that guarantee will be retained until the materials have been furnished or the work has been satisfactorily completed. This is part of the Township Motor Fuel Tax Funds. It appears the townships will

spend approximately \$225,000 on the delivery of various aggregates. That line item has a current balance of approximately \$2,800,000. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve payment request for MSI for Mary Davis Home Bid Package Design under Performance Contract – Draw 1 for \$189,810.00. Member Bondi said that this is part of the Performance Contract for Draw 1.

Member Davidson said with the Performance Contract it is supposed to say what the improvement is and how long for us to get our money back. She asked if there was anything stating what our savings is.

Member Bondi said that he cannot speak to that put a copy of the Performance Contract in the packet.

Member Davidson asked if there would be any savings or anything. She did not see that.

Member Bondi said that he cannot speak to that item and referred it to Chair Hawkinson.

Chair Hawkinson said that the only thing that this is for is the bid package design that was approved in September of 2024. This is not for any work. This is for the bid drawings all the engineering to go out for bid, which it is currently out for public bid right now.

Member Davidson asked if this is the one that they have already purchased the material.

Chair Hawkinson said that he is not aware of any material that has been purchased for it. This is for the Professional Services Bid Package Design like it says in the comments of the bill.

Member Bondi said that he thinks that Member Davidson is referring to a project that happened last year or two years ago.

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

Motion was made by Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the payment request for MSI for Fire Alarm System and Security under Performance Contract in the amount of \$9,243.50. Member Bondi said that this is in regards to the County Jail. The requests and invoices are in the packet. The overall project was \$415,040 and contract to date is still \$415,040. Total completed or stored to date is \$319,115.15, retainage for completed work on this draw is \$15,955.76, total earned less retainage to date is \$303,159.39, less the application for payment is \$293,915.89 and the current payment requested is \$9,243.50. Balance to finish including retainage is \$111,880.61. All releases, lien waivers and seals to demonstrate that this work has been completed is in hand.

Chair Hawkinson commented that the vendor that provided this waiver of lien for work completed is Tofo Hunden. That is who did the work as the vendor.

Member Bondi said it is Adison Wilkins isn't it of C & I Laundry Systems is the lien waiver. He asked if he was looking at a different document then what Chair Hawkinson had. There are several lien waivers Mid-Illinois Company, the actual lien waivers are for more then what the actual draw is. So, they must accumulate to the overall for the completion of this level of work.

Chair Hawkinson said that he is looking at page 169.

Member Bondi asked of his packet.

Chair Hawkinson said yes, it might have other lien holders for other work.

Member Bondi said that there is a total of two separate lien waivers and then there are a listing of lien waivers to date.

Chair Hawkinson said correct.

Member Bondi said the last lien waiver was Tofo Hunden Electronics like Chair Hawkinson said.

Chair Hawkinson said correct.

Member Bondi said that the other lien waivers that he just mentioned are also in the packet.

Chair Hawkinson said correct.

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

Motion was made by Bondi and seconded by Member Pugh to approve the Bid and Bring Back for Whole Courthouse Generator. Member Bondi said the Judicial team has received a grant from the State of Illinois Administrative Offices of the Courts to install a generator that would power the whole courthouse. He said to do the Bid and Bring back with give them a chance to see how much it will cost. They will put it out for public bid to see how much it will cost and to clear it with the Illinois Courts Administrative Office that they will accept it. They will pay 100% of it but wants to see what the bids would be and turned it over to Chair Hawkinson to explain more.

Chair Hawkinson said that he received this information from Administrative Judge Doyle for Knox County that he received notification from the Administrative Offices of the Illinois Courts that Knox County has received a \$600,000 grant to install a whole courthouse generator. Judge Doyle has been out of the office or away from his desk. Hopefully he will send him the actual requirements and the dates that it needs to be sent out for public bidding. If this is approved then the engineering firm of Klingner & Associates will gather the data do an electrical review of the courthouse to see what is needed and then it will go out for bid. Those bids would then be reviewed and move forward. Their was a question that the judge was going to get answered by the State of what the timeline is of when it has to be completed by since he thought it was by the end of the states fiscal year which is June. He said that is impossible. They think that there is wording in there that allows as long as it has been procured and approved then that money is locked in. There will be more to come on that but the judge would at least like to get the bidding process started.

Member Bondi asked if we would be compensated for the study that Klingner does.

Chair Hawkinson said that they are paying 100% of the whole thing.

Member Bondi asked if a bid from Klingner was needed to get that approved has the first step.

Chair Hawkinson said Klingner has been approved years ago.

Member Bondi said that it sounds like they are requiring bids on everything.

Chair Hawkinson said that they are not requiring bids on anything. It is our facility they just have the money. This is a bid and bring back for our engineering firm to gather the specs, to put it out for public bidding and then send it back to us.

Member Bondi said won't their be an expense from Klingner to do that.

Chair Hawkinson said that this grant pays for all the engineering.

Member Bondi said so we don't have to stair step this.

Chair Hawkinson said no, they are paying 100% associated with installing a courthouse generator.

Member Bondi asked what if the generator comes in at two million dollars which he knows it won't but they say they won't pay for that.

Chair Hawkinson said then they would vote it down he would hope.

Member Bondi asked if they vote it down would they get compensated for the study is.

Chair Hawkinson said yes, as far as what the judge has said. They are still paying 100% of all actions related to the generator.

Member Bondi said so all actions in the process of getting the generator.

Chair Hawkinson said correct.

Member Bondi said thank you.

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

Motion was made by Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to remove from Table - Amendment to Performance Contract Adding 50 East Main Street Building. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss and Friedrich— (9). Noes—Bondi and Cohen---(2). Abstain---Olinger---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Kramer and seconded by Member Weiss to approve Amendment to Performance Contracting Master Contract to add 50 East Main Street Building into the Contract. Member Bondi commented by saying that MSI is an outstanding excellent contractor in this area as well as Amp, Basio, Mangeri, Lambasio, Groom and Dowers. He thinks that Mr. Amor made some mistakes in his comments earlier today. Talking about the process they would use in performance contracting or otherwise to allow other contractors to come in an actually bid on this situation. He has to admit that we are probably imposing on MSI to expand their Performance Contract beyond the exciting agreements. He feels we are compromising them and putting them in a light that is not appropriate. That they would not only be the general contractor in this situation but also providing other services. He thinks for a matter of how things appear that it would be more appropriate to allow to have participation from all contractors. At least from the communication he has been receiving from in our community we are compromising MSI to take on this task and also compromising us by not getting other competitive bids. He thinks if the process goes through either open it up to other potentials for performance contract or just find a proper general contractor that has no subcontractors associated with their rolls. He thinks they would have a more even ended approach, better bids and someone that is independent in this process. He can't thank MSI enough for the willingness to take on additional responsibilities. Again, to make sure we are even handed in our approach on all the contractors and suppliers in our region that might participate that it is best at this time to limit them on this particular item and go forward with a more open approach.

Chair Hawkinson said thank you to Member Bondi. He said he will make his comment since he was not present last month to be part of the motion to table or the discussion. He had Clerk Erickson place it on the agenda this evening for the same reason as the other tabled item. We are elected to make the big decisions whether we like it or not with the information that was provided. His comments on this is when he came to the committee in January and provided the

first thing out of his mouth was how ever the committee votes then to forward it to the County Board is how it will be addressed. If the Board votes it down then it will be addressed for furtherance of what needs to be done to start the process at 50 E. Main St. Whether it be the additional building added to the master contract or it is voted down and goes out for public bidding for a general contractor or construction manager for that facility. At that committee meeting they went one by one to share their thoughts, concerns and asked questions of the current master contract general contractor. Everything was successfully answered and it came out of that committee to forward it to the full board. For everyone to get all excited it came from the committee. If you do not like what comes from the committees then start showing up at the committees then start participating and engage in a thoughtful manner. We have to move on with this at some point. If we do not go with the current status then that is fine but in his opinion like Member Bondi said the current general contractor has done an outstanding job in providing anything that they request or demand. Everything has been publicly bid contrary to what people think or say to paint a bad light. All the work has been done with exception of the emergency roofing project Phase 1 which was vetted by the States Attorney and approved by this Board in a public fashion. Everything this company does has been approved by this Board. Along with all the payments have been approved by this Board. It doesn't matter to him what way they go but they have to go somewhere.

Member Weiss stated that he thinks there is a little confusion of how this works. He said we are talking about a general contractor here. A lot of people make it sound like it doesn't go out for public bid but it still goes out for public bid. Every bit of the work that goes on with the buildings goes out for public bid. It is just managed by this company and need to keep that in mind as well.

Member Boone asked when the current contract expires and if they add this building on to it when as a Board do we renegotiate a new contract in the future. She asked how long would this building be on this contract.

Chair Hawkinson said that there is no expiration date on the master contract.

Member Boone said ok, she did not know that and thank you.

Member Nache said that we need to remember that the performance contract is not a maintenance contract. It is performance and it is to save us money. Right now on the East Main project we don't know how much money we are going to save. They can not tell us how much money we are going to save because we are not in there yet. She thinks that is the reason why everybody is so confused. To save us money we need to know what we are doing and we don't right now on a building that we have just purchased. Even though you have seen the designs and she doesn't need to hear that. She goes to meetings even the ones she doesn't get paid for. When the people come to us they want to know. What she can tell them is we do not know what we are going to save them. We need an analogy and go from there. The public just wants their questions answered.

Member Cohen said that he has to agree with Member Bondi that we have lots of great contractors and groups within our county that can fill this role. As we know from the past MSI won the previous one and that being said there is a solid chance they could win the next one. The point remains that he doesn't think he can look his constituents in the eye and he did his diligence if they did not go out for bid and give everyone a solid shot to see what the best offer is in this free market. He would like to see it go out for bid and he is staying consistent of what he said at committee he knows some people did not agree with him but there has been some public

outry and has seen this is what the public might want. He will stay consistent with his vote and be voting no.

Member Davidson said like Member Nache said a performance contract is a guaranteed savings. We pay Klingner an engineer to go out and set statutes, bids or tell the contractors what to do. They can put it up for bid. We should be putting all of our bids on our website that truly hasn't been updated in years. We should be doing that for it to be open to the public for everyone to see it. We have fabulous contractors that can do numerous of things. She said it seems like MSI got the performance contract and still hasn't seen anything from the Mary Davis Home or the Jail of how much savings we have had. We haven't even got in the building to see what needs done because the previous owner had it. She will be voting no because we need to put it out for bid. We need to put more things out for bid so we can get the best for Knox County and our finances.

Member Bondi said generally we do have a parameter. Klingner put the master plan together when we purchased this building. They were very conservative of what they thought it would be and it was a shade under two million dollars if he remembers correctly. They renovated the way we thought we would need it. There are some other revisions that will happen so that is a benchmark of what we could save. This is not throwing anyone under the bus. He feels that we are at a point in this process that for not only our public and constituents but also for our peace of mind to have an opportunity to take a look of what other general contractors might offer us. MSI might win this thing out but he doesn't know if we went through the process like we should. They were kind enough to step up to the bar and say they would do it. He thinks we are imposing on them. In competition they may still prevail but he thinks we need to look at all possibilities so everyone in this region has had a chance to take a look at it. This is going to be a Hallmark moment for the County. This building is going to make a difference of how our administrative process happens. It is going to not only be a benchmark for the City of Galesburg but also for the County. We want to be even handed and give everybody an opportunity to be a part of this process.

Member Kramer said that he has been a chairman of two committees now. On both of those committees he served with buildings that we had the Performance Contract with MSI on. He got questioned about different maintenance things and every time he called MSI he had an answer. If he didn't have an answer right away then they would say let me look into this matter and will get back to you. It was always a timely fashion. With our current Performance Contract with MSI they have stepped up and exceeded what he would perceive to receive in a performance contract. It is correct that they are set to save us money but they have also far exceeded of what they do in doing a performance contract.

Chair Hawkinson said he wanted to clarify in the performance contract the difference between energy savings measures and facility improvement measures. Sometimes we are not going to do the energy savings measures because that takes time and additional funding to install and measure the energy used before compared to current. You have to do the improvements and install the same measurement tools to measure afterwards. Most of these we voted as a Board in public forum to not use the energy savings measure but to use the facility improvement measures. Which this would fall under the facility improvement measure just for a clarification to answer Member Nache's question.

Member Davidson said that when they voted for the performance contract she remembers in the beginning that they were supposed to have reports stating the savings. She understands the emergencies with MSI but they are not the only contractors in town. She thinks if it goes up for bid and they win the bid that who we will be with. She isn't saying anything bad about MSI. They

employ union employees which she likes. Amp also has union employees which she likes that because that money stays right here in town. She wants the best for the taxpayers', to save money and do the best job there is. That's why she wants it to go out for bid and what everyone on the Board should be thinking about.

Member Pugh said that she has to agree with Member Bondi, Member Cohen and Member Davidson. We have other contractors. Nothing against MSI because they do a great job for us. She feels we need to give other people the opportunity.

Member Fredrick said that she was there the night that they talked about it at committee. She was one of the ones that agreed to stay with the Master Contract to keep things as is. She was also at the last Board meeting that the public spoke of what was best for the actual public and she will be one of the ones changing her answer tonight. She does think it is nothing against MSI. They have been nothing but great to us but does think it should go back out for bid.

Chair Hawkinson said a healthy debate.

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

Member Kramer presented the monthly report from the Health and Human Services committee. He said that the monthly report is in the packet. He said the Nursing Home as of last week had 114 residents. Expenses were over revenue due to a billing issue and Blue Cross Blue Shield was a little late getting our payment. So, it did not get deposited last month and the other issue was there was a change in Medicaid rates.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Weiss to approve Case ZA-01-25 – Request for Zoning District Change from “B2” Highway Business to the “R” Residential Zoning District, Under Section 5.4 of the Knox County Zoning Resolution, Filed by Applicant, Village of Altona, P.O. Box 235, Altona, along with Village President Derrick Appell, 612 N. Depot Street, Altona. Member Kramer said like Mr. Appell said during public comment there park is in two different sections and by moving this it would allow them to build what they want to build.

Member Davidson said she will vote yes because they truly need it and pickle ball is the the hot item of the year so yes.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). 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 Weiss to approve Opening of Budget for Line Item Changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Pugh, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that the budget line item changes are in the packet and there are not very many.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Cohen for the approval of Proposed Line Item Changes. Chair Hawkinson said that the proposed line item changes are in your packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Pugh, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that he has no special notes for manual check review.

Clerk Erickson said to be aware that with the election coming up on April 1st we will have to authorization for the election judges to be paid. It is under a blanket contract and will pay them as quickly as possible because we want them to be happy.

Chair Hawkinson said he agrees.

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 March 2025, Board Meeting in February, and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Chair Hawkinson said the total was \$3,274.60 and it is in the G-drive as well. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Pugh, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Weiss and seconded by Member Boone to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of February 27, 2025 through March 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). Chair Hawkinson reported that the vouchers submitted were in the amount of \$2,747,556.94.

Treasurer Davis stated that the \$51,057.06 from Item 10 was approved for ARPA funds to be release needed to be added into the total.

Chair Hawkinson stated that the new total is \$2,798,614.00.

Motion was made to amend by Member Weiss and seconded by Member Boone to change the total for approval to \$2,798,614.00. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Pugh, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 23rd, 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 Pugh and seconded by Member Cohen to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich — (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.