

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

January 28, 2009

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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COUNTY OF KNOX) SS

Proceedings of the regular meeting of the Knox County Board held at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois on January 28, 2009 at 6:02 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Greg Bacon and upon roll call the following members reported present:

District 2	Greg “Chops” Bacon
District 4	Lowell Mannhardt
District 5	Jeff Jefferson
District 1	C. B. “Bernie” Damm
District 2	Paul Stewart
District 3	Dale Parsons
District 4	George Knapp
District 5	Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval
District 1	Lyle Johnson
District 2	William Abel
District 3	Janet Occhi
District 4	Wayne Saline
District 5	David Serven

And those absent: District 1 Allen Pickrel
 District 3 Barbara Foster

Also present were Treasurer Robin Davis and County Clerk Scott Erickson.

Captain Dave Caslin, from the Sheriff’s Department, delivered the proclamation. Chairman Bacon led the Members in the pledge to the flag. Rev. Leigh Nygard of Galesburg delivered the invocation.

Chairman Bacon asked for additions to the agenda. Member Saline asked that a brief discussion/explanation be added concerning bidding out the electric rates for the County. Chairman Bacon added that at agenda item 7A. Member Sandoval asked for a correction to agenda item 14 as the committee is seeking to approve the bid for two heating/cooling units, not three as stated. Chairman Bacon asked that agenda item 22, approve changes for FY 2007-2008 and FY 2008-2009 budgets, be removed from this agenda.

Chairman Bacon asked for public comments. He requested that since there were so many individuals seeking to address the Board, that comments be kept as brief as possible.

Jon Vanier addressed the Board. This is his third time to publicly address Board Members. He has also attended zoning committee meetings. He is again asking that county building codes be established. In 1995 the State adopted building codes. Yet the County has not adopted those codes. Therefore, the contractors in the County are not following any codes. The citizens of the County are getting ripped off because there are no ordinances in place and no building inspector to enforce them. There are a lot of unjust things that are happening in the County. Other contractors are going to have to repair shoddy work. He then asked for those contractors who are in support of county wide building codes and their enforcement to stand. Various building contractors stood to demonstrate their support.

Rory Washburn, representative of the Tri-City Building and Construction Trades Council, addressed the Board concerning the same topic. Strong building codes provide strong buildings and protect the public. Further, strong building codes deserve stringent enforcement and inspection.

Mike Hall also addressed the Board on the same topic. He voiced his agreement of the need to establish county building codes and the need for a building inspector. This is about safety. He has had conversations with a couple of Board Members about the need for statutes and codes for the County.

Photographs representative of some serious problems with new construction in the County were shared with the Board Members.

Chairman Bacon reported that the Board has been researching how to proceed with the establishment of building codes. He invited these three individuals to attend the next zoning committee meeting to be held February 17. The County needs their help and expertise to get this going in the right direction.

The contractors left the meeting.

Motion was made by Member Stewart and seconded by Member Parsons to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on December 23, 2008, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of January 28, 2009 and other claims for per diem from meetings, 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of October 2008 in the amounts of \$89,848.19 and \$29,241.21 and public safety tax in the amount of \$80,968.71. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the proclamation on “Go Red for Women” month during February. This proclamation is to encourage the women of Knox County to make heart health a priority for themselves and their families. Chairman Bacon read aloud this proclamation and presented a signed copy to Gretchen Gonzales, from the Knox County Health Department. Ms. Gonzales thanked the Board for their support. Heart disease is the number one killer of women in the United States, killing more women than the next five

leading causes of death combined. In Knox County the rate of heart related deaths in 2004 is recorded as 337 out of 100,000 which far exceed the Illinois rate. Heart disease is preventable. “Go Red for Women” is seeking to change the misconception that heart disease is only a man’s disease. Voice vote to approve the proclamation on “Go Red for Women” month during February is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Damm and seconded by Member Serven to approve the appointment of Member Occhi as a United Counties Council of Illinois representative for the County Board. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve the following appointments to the Carver Center Board: Dale Parsons and Janet Occhi. Last month the Carver Center asked these individuals to continue their current terms. Yet the County Board also is required to approve these appointments. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, and Clerk Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Wayne Saline. Reports are included in the packets. Since it is early in the fiscal year, it is too early to determine a trend.

Member Saline reminded Members that two years ago deregulation changed electric rates. A couple companies have approached us and are willing to sell electricity to the County. Potentially this could result in a savings of 20-30%, or more per year. The finance committee will be taking bids for the various departments such as the Nursing Home and Mary Davis Home for a 12, 24, or 36 month basis. The bills would still go through each committee as is currently done. Right now this is still in the beginning stages. Ameren IP still would own and maintain the equipment.

Member Stewart inquired whether this would require public notice of a bid solicitation.

Member Saline responded that it is a special service and in this case these businesses approached the County.

County Clerk Scott Erickson stated that there are only a limited number of companies in the state that are eligible to provide these services. Therefore, it would fall under the description of a professional service.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Parsons to approve the addendum to the County auditors’ contract with Carpentier, Mitchell, Goddard & Company, LLC. Member Saline explained that auditing standards have changed which will require the auditors to perform additional procedures in reference to the inclusion of risk assessment. This additional fee is not expected to exceed \$5,000.00. It is the recommendation of the finance committee to accept this fee increase.

Member Stewart questioned if this is the last year of their five year contract.

Member Saline stated that is true. However, by terms of the contract due to extenuating circumstances a fee increase can be brought back to the County for acceptance or rejection. In reality the fee increase may not cost that much. Roll call vote to approve the addendum to the County auditors' contract with Carpentier, Mitchell, Goddard & Company, LLC., is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the resolution on the transfer of funds from the self-insurance fund to the hospitalization fund. Member Saline explained that this resolution was approved last year. This transfer shall not exceed \$500,000.00 for FY 2008-2009. It depends on how many claims are filed. It is important to be prepared. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Abel to approve the resolutions on the abatement of Public Safety Bonds Series 1999 and Series 2003. Member Saline explained that because of the 1/4 cent sales tax, the County is collecting enough revenues to pay off these bonds. In 2003 these bonds were refinanced. As these abatements are approved, then the County does not levy for either of these bonds. This has been done every year. Originally these bonds were for the construction of the jail. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

There was no Building Committee report

The Sheriff, Jail, Courthouse, Animal Control, Mary Davis Home, and Annex Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Rick Sandoval. The monthly reports and committee minutes are included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Damm to approve the purchase of a sex offender watch program called "Offender Watch," instituted by Watch Systems. Member Sandoval explained that this program will be set up as a link on the Sheriff's web site to provide information and will also be a way to track sex offenders. This program is designed to allow a search either by neighborhood or by the name of the sex offender. The cost will be \$4,500 for the first year and \$3,000 each succeeding year and funded through the public safety tax.

Captain Caslin reported that this is very user friendly program. Peoria County is already using this program. Citizens can set it up to provide e-mail alerts. Offender Watch will inform the user whether the sex offender is or is not being compliant in regards to reporting his address. The status is frequently updated to reflect changes.

Member Serven reported that during the committee meeting, Sheriff Clague had reminded Members that during the last election, this seemed to be the big topic that people kept repeatedly asking him about.

Member Abel stated that this would be good program for schools. This would make sex offenders more visible. Chairman Bacon stated that this program is being used in other states besides Illinois. Roll call vote to approve the purchase of a sex offender watch program is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Serven to approve the low bid from J. P. Benbow Plumbing & Heating Co. Inc., for two heating/air conditioning units in the amount of \$9,837.00 each for the Mary Davis Home. Member Sandoval reported that four bids were received.

Member Stewart questioned why the bids were for only two units as originally they had discussed replacing three units. Rod Clear explained that they had discovered that one of the units is connected to the boiler room and that would be quite a challenge to change and three times the cost. Therefore, they are just seeking to replace the other two units. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Highway, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman George Knapp. Reports are included in the packets. The Assessor's Office has been very busy. Board of Review Hearings will begin February 23. PTAB Hearings for two large buildings will be held February 26. It is possible that the State's Attorney's Office will reach an agreement with the property owners before that hearing. If this hearing does not go well, it could cost the taxpayers a lot of money. The highway department has been busy with the ice and snow.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Mannhardt to approve the low bid submitted by Stertil-Koni in the amount of \$30,773.00, for a new mobile column lift system for the highway department. Their current hoist system is over forty years old and has no safety feature to prevent a vehicle from falling.

Duane Ratterman reported that he had done additional research on the bids and the products since the committee meeting. Although the committee approved that low bid from Stertil-Koni, he has since changed his mind. He is now recommending the purchase of a unit from Automotive Resources, Inc., in the amount of \$28,200.00. This unit does not meet the original bid specifications because it is a unit that has to be plugged into an outlet. It is not battery powered. However, this unit would serve their needs. This company also sells their product to the military.

The original motion was withdrawn to allow this purchase to be rebid with revised bid specifications.

Mr. Ratterman asked about the recommended purchase of the mobile jack stands. This was bid as two separate items. He would recommend the approval of the low bid submitted by Automotive Resources, Inc. in the amount of \$2,160.00. Somehow this was

not included on the agenda. Since the cost is under \$5,000.00 and the committee did approve the purchase, he was given permission to proceed with the purchase of the jack stands.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Parsons to approve the proposal for structural engineering services for Section 05-00096-01-BR, with URS Corporation on a time and material basis not to exceed \$8,600.00. URS Corporation will provide structural engineering services to design a single span bridge to be installed on County Highway 16, 1.5 miles east of Illinois Route 180 in Lynn Township. This expenditure will be funded through the County Bridge Improvement fund. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Johnson to bid and bring back for the purchase of a new crawler dozer and a three cubic yard end loader for the highway department. Necessary funds are included in the budget. Member Knapp explained that currently they do not have a crawler dozer, which is needed for slope work. The end loader is five years old. The committee would recommend that they trade that unit in on a new one.

Mr. Ratermann stated that they can rent a dozer for \$4,000 for a month to do some slope work that needs to be done. Over a period of time, it would be less expensive to purchase a dozer. Right now that slope work is not being done.

Chairman Bacon asked if previously they had rented a dozer to do this work.

Mr. Ratermann responded that they had not done so.

Member Stewart questioned the cost.

Mr. Ratermann estimated that the dozer would be \$150,000 - \$160,000 and the end loader with the trade-in would be \$50,000 - \$60,000, or approximately \$200,000 for the total amount. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Serven—(12). Noes—Saline—(1). Motion carried.

The Landfill and Nursing Home Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Lyle Johnson. The committee minutes and reports are included in the packets. He noted a correction in the minutes of the committee minutes. The total amount for the bills of the nursing home referendum fund should be \$41,119.73. That is the amount that was approved.

The landfill project with Kewanee is going very well. They are happy and we are happy. The entryway project at the nursing home has experienced a delay with the doors, but it should be completed very soon.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Mannhardt to approve the contract with Greg Ingle, Landfill Superintendent. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Parsons and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of December 24, 2008 – January 28, 2009 (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.) Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Bacon commented that he was glad to see former Board Members Steve Johnson and Jerry Link in attendance at this meeting. Member Bacon reported that he did attend all of the committee meetings this month to see how things were working. He wanted to compliment the committee chairmen and the people assigned to these committees. They seem to be working well together and he is pleased. He does not see a problem with the committees.

Member Mannhardt commented that he was glad to see Steve and Judy Johnson in attendance as well as Jerry Link.

Member Jefferson had no comments at this time.

Member Damm commented so far so good.

Member Stewart, Member Parsons, and Member Knapp had no comments at this time.

Member Sandoval commented that he had picked up his laptop. Andy Rowe is a good guy to have. He explained everything and made the whole process pretty easy.

Member Johnson, Member Abel, and Member Occhi had no comments at this time.

Member Saline addressed the subject of the public comments at the beginning of the Meetings. This has been a concern and a problem for years. It is frustrating when people come in to stand up and ask for something from the Board. Yet as soon as they are done, they disrupt the whole Meeting and walk out. That shows a total lack of respect to this Board. If they are going to come and ask for something, they should at least show their respect and sit to wait for a pause, before getting up and disrupting the Meeting. It leads to a lack of creditability on their part. He will be voting against anything someone brings to the Board and then gets up and walks out in that manner.

Member Serven had no comments at this time.

The next regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2009, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Stewart to adjourn until the next scheduled Meeting of the Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.