

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

**November 25, 2008**

STATE OF ILLINOIS     )  
                                  )  
COUNTY OF KNOX     )     SS

Proceedings of the regular meeting of the Knox County Board held at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois on November 25, 2008 at 6:05 p.m.

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

District 1	Caroline Porter
District 2	Greg Bacon
District 3	Tim Hasten
District 4	Lowell Mannhardt
District 5	Gerald "Jerry" Link
District 1	Allen Pickrel
District 2	Paul Stewart
District 3	Dale Parsons
District 4	George Knapp
District 5	Ricardo "Rick" Sandoval
District 1	Lyle Johnson
District 3	Janet Occhi
District 4	Wayne Saline
District 5	Stephen "Steve" Johnson

Those absent:     District 2     William "Bill" Abel

Also present were Sheriff Dave Clague, Treasurer Robin Davis, and County Clerk Scott Erickson.

Sheriff Dave Clague delivered the proclamation. Chairman Pickrel led the Members in the pledge to the flag. David Scholl of the Galesburg Rescue Mission delivered the invocation.

Chairman Pickrel asked for additions to the agenda. Member Porter asked to bring an update about the personnel handbook. Chairman Pickrel added that item at 7 A. County Clerk Scott Erickson asked to bring a presentation regarding tax assignment. Chairman Pickrel added that item at 7 B.

Chairman Pickrel asked for public comments. Bob Fulton, Chairman of GREDA, addressed the Board. GREDA is coming back to the Board to ask for continued funding.

In response to the Board's direction, they have drafted another performance contract and have made several significant changes. This contract is for one year and specifies that three reports will be made available to each Board Member each quarter. Further GREDA is agreeing to place a voting Board Member on GREDA's executive committee provided that this individual is a participating functioning member of GREDA. Mr. Fulton has discussed this arrangement with the Chairman of the finance committee. GREDA reserves the right to allow the Board to appoint another Board Member if this appointee does not participate. The Board will have two chances at this.

Motion was made by Member Parsons and seconded by Member Steve Johnson to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on October 29, 2008, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of November 25, 2008 and other claims for per diem from Meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of August 2008 in the amounts of \$104,995.94 and \$23,369.27 and public safety tax in the amount of \$86,884.47. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Lyle Johnson to approve moving the December Board Meeting date to Tuesday, December 23, 2008. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Parsons to approve the wage re-opener for a three year contract for the highway department. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Hasten to approve the union contract with the State's Attorney's Office. Copies of this contract had been presented to Board Members. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Steve Johnson and seconded by Member Hasten to approve the resolution for use of the State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Porter brought an update regarding the personnel handbook. She explained that during the transition of moving this handbook from a computer to a CD in the State's Attorney's Office, and then to her computer, strange things happened. Headings disappeared. She has a lot of work to do on it. Even though she will be leaving the Board, she would like to have the Board's permission to complete this project, and

distribute this handbook. She anticipates that it will take two or three weeks. Board Members had no objections.

County Clerk Scott Erickson reported that the tax sale had just been completed. Afterwards the Knox County Trustee, who handles the parcels that were not sold during that sale, contacted the County. There is a tax buyer who is interested in purchasing the taxes from a parcel that the trustee has. It is normal procedure for them to go ahead and accept that. However, we do need to bring it before the Board. This action will allow three or four parcels to come back to the tax rolls. There will be a new tax buyer handling these taxes for these property owners. A \$10 charge per parcel will be applied for these fees. The Board Chairman was asked to sign the paperwork.

Member Mannhardt questioned the location of these parcels. Chris Gray responded that based on the parcel numbers, these are all located within the City of Galesburg.

The Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, and Clerk Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Wayne Saline. Reports are included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Lyle Johnson to approve the GREDA Service Agreement. Copies of this agreement were included with the packets.

Member Steve Johnson repeated his previous position. He will be voting against this agreement, not because of GREDA. They have been doing a fine job. However, their funding should be cut in half to \$15,000.

Member Porter reiterated her previous position. When things get rough, we need to spend money to encourage economic development and marketing. GREDA is worth the \$30,000.

Member Bacon stated that recently he had talked to Bob Fulton a couple of times. Previously Member Bacon's chief complaint had been the communication problem between GREDA and the County Board. Still, he does not particularly like the contract. However, since the previous Meeting communication has seemed to improve, as it does every year at this time when they want their money. They have made some changes and seem to be looking at the big picture. GREDA provides these services for \$30,000 and he doubts that the Board could obtain these services for this price anywhere else. He agrees with Member Porter that we are in a down economic time. This is not the time to get out of the GREDA contract.

Member Sandoval commented that he is not happy with GREDA. He agrees with Member Steve Johnson's suggestion to offer them one half of their previous funding amount. It is better than nothing.

Member Saline reported that the finance committee's vote on this agreement was 5-2 in favor of approval. It is a big step forward that a Board Member will be allowed to sit on the executive committee. Therefore, more information will be provided. This is a big step forward.

Member Link expressed his concerns with the \$30,000 amount.

Chairman Pickrel stated that he, Member Saline, and Member Bacon met with Bob Fulton and others from GREDA. During the finance committee meeting, Mr. Fulton

handed out information that the Board had never seen before. Mr. Fulton assured the Board that they will be seeing this type of information again. They are trying to improve the communication.

Member Steve Johnson complimented GREDA on the stance that they are currently taking on their reorganizational structure. It is long overdue. He thinks that they are headed in the right direction but the County Board needs to wait another year before they renew the funding at the previous level.

Member Porter repeated that we need to do our part to improve communication. In the past we have not actively sought information from them. At one time Member Occhi was very actively involved. That is what needs to be done.

Member Stewart addressed the members from GREDA. He has conflicting opinions about this. GREDA has a lot of good things in place. On the other hand, he feels that he is responsible to the public. He is concerned that the reorganizational efforts will be insufficient for the future. He was not in Galesburg when so many manufacturing jobs left the community. Unless things change at the federal level to lessen the incentives to move these jobs overseas, many other communities will be dealing with the same problems. One of his primary concerns is all the trips to China. We should not go down that path. He would support Member Steve Johnson's recommendation to decrease GREDA's funding level to \$15,000. Therefore, he will be voting against this agreement.

Member Occhi stated that GREDA does go to various other places including New York and Missouri to encourage businesses to relocate in this area.

Member Stewart responded that GREDA should consider some refocus.

Member Hasten stated that he had changed his mind and would be voting for this agreement because of what Bob Fulton produced during the finance committee meeting. Communication is improving. He suggests that the Board give it one year and see how it goes. By putting a Board Member on GREDA's executive board, there should be better communication.

Member Parsons stated that in the past he had always supported GREDA. Yet this time he has heard so many complaints. However, since GREDA has reorganized and brought to the Board a revised service contract, it is time for the County to work together with GREDA to market the County. He will be voting to approve this service agreement.

Chairman Pickrel read aloud a prepared statement from Member Abel who could not attend this Meeting. Copies of this letter were enclosed in the packets. Member Abel understands that he cannot vote in absentia but wanted the record to show that he is still opposed to approving this agreement.

Roll call vote to approve the one year GREDA Service Agreement is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Link, Pickrel, Parsons, Knapp, Lyle Johnson, Occhi, and Saline—(10). Noes—Mannhardt, Stewart, Sandoval, and Steve Johnson—(4). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Parsons to approve the contract renewal with Devnet. Member Saline explained that this five year contract is for the property tax software, license, maintenance, and support of this system. There will be a 5% total increase over the five years. A one year contract would have been a 5% increase per year. The fee is \$45,576.00 per year. The contract does include a 90 day out clause. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten,

Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the resolution for an early retirement incentive program. Member Saline explained that there is an explanation in the packet. This was also discussed during the finance committee meeting. In the long run, this program would save the County some money. This early retirement incentive program would be made available to eligible employees, but not all of those would accept an early buy out. At this time he does not know how many employees would be interested. Treasurer Robin Davis stated that to be eligible for this program, employees must be over 50 years of age and worked for the County over 20 years. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the three year IT agreement with Andy Rowe in the salary amount of \$28,000. A copy of this agreement is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the County Budget for fiscal year 2008-2009 (with revisions as presented). Member Saline explained that there have been revisions since the last Board Meeting. Included is a line item for the IT position and the necessary equipment.

Member Stewart stated that he would be voting against this budget as he has done previously because this budget does not contain a line item for a county administrator. We need a full time administrator to oversee County operations and implement cost saving measures. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(13). Noes—Stewart—(1). Motion carried.

Ad Hoc Building Committee Chairman Steve Johnson stated that the committee had nothing new to report.

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

Motion was made by Member Steve Johnson and seconded by Member Hasten to approve the transfer of funds from the landfill to the Mary Davis Home bond account to pay the Mary Davis Home debt. Member Steve Johnson explained that this is a yearly procedure. The Mary Davis Home has to reimburse this debt by December 1. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Steve Johnson and seconded by Member Parsons to approve the resolution allowing the Mary Davis Home to borrow money from the landfill. Member Steve Johnson explained that this is necessary due to the State's lack of reimbursement to the Mary Davis Home. This is also a yearly procedure. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Steve Johnson and seconded by Member Stewart to approve the bid for painting the State's Attorney's Office. Member Steve Johnson explained that bid came back in the amount of \$2,737.00. This bid is under the \$5,000.00 limit and really does not have to come to the full County Board. However, this bid arrived after the committee meeting. This work is scheduled to be done December 6. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Highway, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Jerry Link. The monthly reports and committee minutes are included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Link and seconded by Member Porter to approve the low bid from Office Specialists in the amount of \$5,102.60 for a Sharp digital copier/scanner for the Assessor's Office. This expenditure will come out of this year's budget. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Link and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the resolution establishing the County Engineer's salary and including a 1% increase. This is a routine housekeeping measure that is required to be done every year. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Occhi, and Steve Johnson—(13). Noes—Saline—(1). Motion carried.

Retiring Member Jerry Link commented that this has been an outstanding committee to work with. He expressed his appreciation for all of the support that they have given to him.

The Landfill Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Lowell Mannhardt. The Committee minutes and landfill report are included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Stewart to approve to bid and bring back for a new well at the landfill. Member Mannhardt explained that the existing well produces 1.25 gallons per minute. It does not produce

enough water to operate their pressure washer. This well will be located closer to the new scale house. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Nursing Home Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Lowell Mannhardt. The Committee minutes and Nursing Home report are included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Parsons to approve the opening of the budget for line item adjustments. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Occhi, and Saline—(13). Noes—Steve Johnson—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Saline to approve specific line item adjustments in the budget. Specific information has been provided to the Members. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Lyle Johnson and seconded by Member Occhi to approve claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of October 30, 2008 – November 25, 2008 (ordering that invoices be accepted and approved and that the County Clerk and County Treasurer be authorized and directed to issue warrants in payment of the bills.) Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Lyle Johnson, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Bacon and Sandoval—(2). Motion carried.

Chairman Pickrel recognized retiring Board Members Caroline Porter, Jerry Link, Tim Hasten, and resigning Board Member Steve Johnson.

Chairman Pickrel commented that Tim Hasten, District 3, had done a wonderful job.

Chairman Pickrel commented that Caroline Porter, District 1, has endured much during the last two years. She has continued her education and is teaching at Monmouth College. She recently lost a loved one and still has served the County. He personally has much admiration for her. Her efforts have been appreciated.

Chairman Pickrel commented that Steve Johnson, District 5, has announced that he will soon be moving from his district and is resigning. He will be missed. He has served as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Building Committee, and Chairman of the Jail, Sheriff Committee.

Chairman Pickrel commented that he has much respect for Jerry Link, District 5. He has done a great job and always been a gentleman. All of these individuals will be missed. Each Member was presented with a plaque commemorating their service to Knox County's Board.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Porter expressed her thanks for this recognition. She also thanked Allen Pickrel for his chairmanship. He has done a good job and it has been a rough couple of years.

Member Bacon commented in regards to a couple of things. Regarding GREDA, he has changed his mind. Communication has improved. Hopefully, GREDA will not disappoint him now. We need to work together to keep the communication going. To those who are leaving the Board, they have been a pleasure to work with. Each one of them has touched him in a different way. They are a wealth of knowledge and will be missed.

Member Hasten expressed his thanks to the Board for their assistance. He has learned much and this has been a real experience.

Member Mannhardt had no comments at this time.

Member Link shared both comments and concerns. He has served on this Board for ten years. When he first came to the Board, he had two goals. One was to downsize the Board and the other was to find a County Administrator. Both goals were met. The Board has been downsized from 25 Members to 15 Members and that is much better. Although there was a County Administrator, that did not work out too well. He remains very interested in County government and will continue to be in touch with some of the Board Members. He does have some concerns about the future of the Courthouse and how the County is going to pay for it. The Board will be facing big challenges. Another concern is the committee system. If the Board really believes in the committee system, they should accept the committees' recommendations.

Chairman Pickrel commented that this is his last meeting as County Board Chairman. Although he has been through a lot while he has served as Chairman, the most rewarding thing was putting medals around the necks of the veterans at the Knox County Nursing Home on Veteran's Day. That was most touching and most rewarding. He expressed his gratefulness to be able to share that special occasion. He thanked his wife and daughter for sharing him for the last two years. After tonight he is out of the limelight and things should settle down.

Member Stewart commented that he would like to bid farewell to the departing Board Members. The Board will certainly miss their experience and their wisdom.

Member Parsons thanked the departing Members and wished them good luck in the future. From time to time Board Members have leaned on each other. He may phone them once in awhile and surprise them.

Member Knapp commented that these four Board Members and their collective years of experience certainly will be missed. He thanked them for all of their help.

Member Sandoval shared a quote from Teddy Roosevelt and compared the departing Board Members to those in an arena who expend themselves for a worthy cause.

Member Lyle Johnson thanked the four retiring Members. In the last two years, he has learned a lot from working with them. He will carry on some of their lessons. He is proud of this Board for making the decision to continue to fund GREDA in the same amount. He is looking forward to next year. He will miss sitting next to Steve Johnson. No longer will there be "Johnson and Johnson."

Member Occhi thanked those that are leaving. They will not be forgotten as they have left their mark on the County Board and are welcome to return. She is sure that they will come back and offer advice.

Member Saline reiterated the comments of other Board Members. While departing Board Members will be missed, he teased that Jerry Link would still attend the Meeting when the 4-H clubs present their cookies to the Board Members.

Member Steve Johnson thanked the members of the two committees, the Jail and Sheriff's Committee, and the Ad Hoc Building Committee that he chaired. These are people who have done an outstanding job, and have really worked hard. He would also like to thank everyone for the experience gained in his many years on this Board. The challenge for the new Board will be to make tough decisions which are ahead. Such decisions may be contrary to their personal belief, because their constituents may have chosen the opposite side. He challenged them to have the fortitude to stand up and vote for the individuals that they represent. He also challenged them to work together as a group. To avoid hard feelings, both Republicans and Democrats are going to have to work together to get anything done and accomplish the common good for the citizens of Knox County.

County Clerk Scott Erickson also addressed the Board. He thanked the retiring Board Members for their dedication and years of service. It has been a pleasure working with them, as well as working with Allen Pickrel in his capacity as Board Chairman. Mr. Erickson looks forward to working the new Board.

The next regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 23, 2008, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Stewart and seconded by Member Hasten to adjourn. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING  
TRUTH IN TAXATION  
KNOX COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**November 25, 2008**

STATE OF ILLINOIS     )  
                                  )  
COUNTY OF KNOX     )     SS

Proceedings of the Public Hearing for Truth in Taxation held at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois on November 25, 2008 at 5:35 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Allen Pickrel and the following members were recorded as present:

District 2	Greg Bacon
District 3	Tim Hasten
District 4	Lowell Mannhardt
District 5	Gerald "Jerry" Link
District 1	Allen Pickrel
District 2	Paul Stewart
District 3	Dale Parsons
District 4	George Knapp
District 1	Lyle Johnson
District 3	Janet Occhi
District 4	Wayne Saline
District 5	Stephen "Steve" Johnson

Those absent:	District 1	Caroline Porter
	District 5	Ricardo "Rick" Sandoval
	District 2	William "Bill" Abel

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

Chairman Pickrel asked for any public comments or input in regards to the truth in taxation.

Treasurer Robin Davis reported that the EAV is expected to be \$655 million compared to \$637 million last year. Since this is higher than a 5% increase in expected revenue, it is required by law to have a truth in taxation hearing. Recently the tax sale was held.

A tape recording of this meeting is on file in the Office of the Knox County Clerk. Meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.