

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

December 23, 2008

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 Tuesday, December 23, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

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

District 1	Allen Pickrel
District 2	Greg “Chops” Bacon
District 3	Barbara Foster
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

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

Sheriff Dave Clague delivered the proclamation. Chairman Bacon led the Members in the pledge to the flag. Ms. Bonnie Ericson of the First Church of God, Galesburg, delivered the invocation.

Chairman Bacon asked for additions to the agenda. There were none.

Chairman Bacon asked for public comments. There were none.

Motion was made by Member Parsons and seconded by Member Abel to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting of November 25, 2008, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of December 23, 2008 and other claims for per diem from meetings, 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of September 2008 in the amounts of \$100,747.52 and

\$19,159.00 and public safety tax in the amount of \$85,393.01. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Saline—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pickrel and seconded by Member Mannhardt to approve the appointment of David L. Serven to fill the vacancy for County Board District 5. This term will end in 2010. This vacancy was created when Stephen Johnson resigned. This is the unanimous recommendation of the Knox County Republican Central Committee. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Saline—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

County Clerk Scott Erickson administered the oath of office to David Serven and he was officially welcomed to the County Board.

Motion was made by Member Parsons and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the appointment of Tom Dunker to complete the remaining term of a vacant position on the Knox County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. This is the unanimous recommendation from this body. This term will expire in May of 2010. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made of Member Occhi and seconded by Member Parsons to approve the appointment of Daniel Erickson to Knox County Zoning Board of Appeals. This is their unanimous recommendation. Member Pickrel stated that he would be voting against this appointment. He knows of three others who had expressed interest in this position and they were not even given a courtesy phone call. We need to get away from the “good old boys’ syndrome.” Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(13). Noes—Pickrel—(1). Pass—Sandoval—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Pickrel to approve the removal of the per diem for the Organization Meeting held December 1, 2008. Chairman Bacon commented that this was done following the last Organizational Meeting. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairman Bacon announced the following committee assignments for Knox County Board Members:

- 1) Highway, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, Recorder Committee: Chairman George Knapp.
Members: Barbara Foster, Bernie Damm, David Serven, and Dale Parsons.
- 2) Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Clerk, Judicial Committee: Chairman Wayne Saline.
Members: Jan Occhi, Jeff Jefferson, Lyle Johnson, Bill Abel, and Greg Bacon.
- 3) Nursing Home, Landfill: Chairman Lyle Johnson.

- Members: Dale Parsons, Lowell Mannhardt, Allen Pickrel, and Paul Stewart.
- 4) Sheriff, Jail, Courthouse, Mary Davis Home, Animal Control, Annex Committee:
Chairman Rick Sandoval.
Members: Bill Abel, David Serven, Bernie Damm, and Jeff Jefferson.
- 5) Building Committee: Co-Chairmen Greg Bacon and George Knapp.
Members: Barbara Foster, Paul Stewart, Wayne Saline, Lowell Mannhardt, Rick Sandoval, and Allen Pickrel.
- 6) Ad Hoc Negotiations Committee: Chairman Jan Occhi.
Members: Allen Pickrel, Bernie Damm, and the Head of Department being negotiated.
- Outside committee assignments were also announced. Chairman Bacon asked for anyone interested in serving on the United Council of Counties to contact him. After the first of the year, he is also planning to establish an Economic Development Subcommittee

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Parsons to approve the resolution to authorize the County Clerk and County Treasurer to issue County warrants for certain claims during the period that the County Board is not in session. This is also a normal housekeeping measure. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the resolution to authorize the County Clerk and County Treasurer to issue County warrants for certain recurring claims. A specific list was included in the packets. This is a normal housekeeping measure. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Parsons and seconded by Member Knapp to approve the contract for Centrex Service. County Clerk Scott Erickson explained that a few years ago a digital switch was installed at the Courthouse. This proposed contract covers the hard copper land lines that are not included in the switch. This contract will extend the phone service until 2013 and lock in the same rate that the County is currently paying. If this contract is not approved, there would be additional costs per line.

Member Stewart questioned a related matter that of the incorrect number listed in the phone book for the assessor's office. He questioned if there is a way to correct that so that the public could have the correct contact information.

Mr. Erickson responded that some of that incorrect information had been cleaned up when the new phone switch was installed. In all likelihood it is too late to include changes in the new phone book, but they will try. The automatic phone attendant has contact information for County Offices. The County Clerk's Office also serves as directory assistance. Additionally, department listings with phone numbers are included on the County Clerk's website. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel,

Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the United Council of Counties dues. Chairman Bacon reported that last year the County got back all of the money they had paid. He would still like to appoint someone to attend these meetings. If someone is interested they should contact him. Member Occhi stated that there is usually one meeting each month, and quarterly meetings as well. These meetings do provide valuable information on a variety of topics. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the letter of support for the freight rail infrastructure capacity expansion act. Chairman Bacon explained that he had received an e-mail from Congressman Phil Hare's Office asking for letters of support. Member Occhi stated that she had received information from Brad Rosenburg, who is a lobbyist for the rail road industry. He is also requesting letters of support. There is pending legislation in Congress that would put reregulation back in place. Regulation was not good for the rail industry. There is another piece of pending legislation that supports grants for infrastructure. Unlike other entities, the rail industry does control its own infrastructure. They are actually requesting two letters be sent to state legislators; one would be in support of these grants (HR 2116) and the other letter stating opposition to railroad reregulation (HR 2125). Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(15). Noes—(0).

Chairman Bacon asked that Mr. Erickson draft those letters.

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

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Parsons to approve the resolution authorizing the transfer of funds from the landfill to the tort fund. Due to some costs related to liability insurance, this year the tort fund has gone over budget. The total amount transferred may not exceed \$250,000.00 and shall be repaid no later than November 30, 2009. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Stewart to approve the contract with alternate public defender Daniel O'Brien. A copy of this contract is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(14). Noes—Pickrel—(1). Motion carried.

There was no report from the Ad Hoc Building Committee.

The Sheriff, Jail, Courthouse, Animal Control, Mary Davis Home, and Annex Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Pro Tem Bill Abel. The monthly reports are in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Pickrel and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the purchase of five radios in the total amount of \$7,993.70 from Supreme Radio for the new squad cars, to be funded through the Public Safety Fund. Supreme Radio is the only vendor able to provide these radios and install them. Sheriff Dave Clague explained that currently they use a very narrow frequency band and the government is forcing law enforcement agencies to make that band even narrower yet. Their current radios cannot be modified. These radios would be for intercommunications, for example between the Sheriff's Department and Abingdon or Yates City. A different radio system will be used for emergencies or disasters. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Johnson to approve to bid and bring back for three heating units for the Mary Davis Home. Rod Clair explained that the current units are approximately 15 - 20 years old and need to be replaced. The estimated cost is \$7,000.00 per unit for a total price of \$21,000.00 and will be funded through the Mary Davis Home bond money.

Member Stewart questioned Mr. Clair regarding the purchase of gasoline. Mr. Clair responded that recently they had purchased 40,000 gallons, which should last them for a year. They had received two bids. One bid was for \$1.71 per gallon and the other bid for \$2.60 per gallon. Of course, they accepted the lower bid.

Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairman Bacon commented that the Highway, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee scheduled for December 16, was cancelled due to snowy and icy road conditions. Those reports are included in the packets. There are no action items from that committee.

The Landfill Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Lowell Mannhardt. The Committee minutes and landfill report are included in the packets. Last year the landfill completed the year \$1,771, 000 in revenue over expenses, in spite of the hundreds of thousands of dollars spent on equipment and engineering costs. During the year the construction of new cell #13 was completed and is now in use.

The EPA is asking the landfill to do something with the compost. Chairman Bacon questioned that at one time he thought that someone was going to establish a compost business. Jerry Reynolds confirmed that is true. However, they planned to use borrowed money. Due to the changes in the economy, there have been problems securing financing. Mr. Reynolds has been in negotiations with this business owner and has offered to be his creditor for awhile. This would allow this business to get up and going. The landfill would recoup their costs at a later date.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve the landfill union contract. A copy of this contract was included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Stewart to approve the Kewanee refuse contract. Member Mannhardt explained that if this three year contract is approved, it will be necessary to purchase a spotter truck and four trailers to haul this trash. They still anticipate a profit of approximately \$150,000 per year. There is a bit of urgency. If this contract is approved; it is to begin January 1, 2009. If this contract works out, it may be extended. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Stewart complimented Mr. Reynolds for negotiating this contract which will generate additional income. Chairman Bacon agreed and stated that Mr. Reynolds had done a good job.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve the purchase of a used 2005 fully reconditioned, yard dog truck for the Kewanee contract at a cost of \$41,000.00 from Jim Hawk Truck & Trailer from East Peoria. This truck is to be delivered. Mr. Reynolds confirmed that this truck is under his original estimate of \$65,000. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Serven to approve the purchase of four refuse trailers at a cost of \$32,000 each for the Kewanee contract. Mr. Reynolds stated that these units are under his original estimate of \$40,000 each. They are to be delivered on site. He is expecting delivery December 24 and December 26.

Member Stewart questioned if these funds are included in the budget. Mr. Reynolds responded that he had budgeted \$350,000 for equipment purchases for this year. Since they got a better deal than anticipated on the John Deere dozer/crawler, there is enough money left over to cover most of the trailer expense. However, there will a difference of \$9,000 and there will be a shortfall for the truck. They did include a sizeable line item for fuel expense relating to the hauling. Since they are not hauling as much as they expected, they should be able to transfer \$50,000 -\$60,000 from that appropriation line to cover the cost of this equipment. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Knapp to approve the contract agreement with Foth Engineering. A copy of this agreement is included in the packets. Member Mannhardt stated that potentially the cost could be approximately \$225,000. Mr. Reynolds has stated that he will do his best to try to

minimize these engineering fees. Last year the budgeted amount was \$370,000, and they spent \$277,000. Member Mannhardt described this contract as a “necessary evil.” Mr. Reynolds reminded Members that last year engineering fees included costs for the new cell. Member Saline stated that he would be voting against this motion. Others know his feeling about this subject. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Serven—(13). Noes—Jefferson and Saline—(2). Motion carried.

Member Pickrel questioned the Sparta Road. Mr. Reynolds responded that he had received an estimate from Mr. Ratterman that the cost to blacktop that road would be approximately \$585,000. He suggested that a good road could be built with everything except the blacktop for a cost of approximately \$300,000. However, this time of year that would not be possible. This will be a topic of future discussion for the landfill committee.

The Nursing Home Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Lowell Mannhardt. The Committee minutes and Nursing Home report are included in the packets. The new rehab care provider could increase the revenues of the nursing home approximately \$180,000 for this coming year. The entryway for the nursing home is not completed. There have been unanticipated delays.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Parsons to approve to bid and bring back for a new generator for the nursing home. Member Mannhardt explained that the old generator is over 40 years old and will cost over \$70,000 to replace it. This project is really overdue and will be funded through the nursing home referendum fund. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Damm to approve to open the budget FY 2007-2008 for year end adjustments and also the budget FY 2008-2009. Member Stewart questioned if all of the line item changes are included. Treasurer Robin Davis confirmed that these are the final changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Saline to approve the specific changes for the budget FY 2007-2008 and budget FY 2008-2009. Chairman Bacon commented that he hoped that during this year they would not have as many of these kinds of changes as in the previous year. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Damm to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of November 26, 2008 – December 23, 2008 (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—Pickrel, Foster,

Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Saline, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Pass—Bacon and Occhi—(2). Motion carried.

Member Pickrel inquired how Andy Rowe is doing as the IT person. County Clerk Scott Erickson responded that Mr. Rowe has been very busy as it seems that during the month of December computer servers have been taking a dive. He has been working hard and working late. He is definitely an asset to the County.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Pickrel extended his greetings for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chairman Bacon expressed his wishes to have the County Yearbook updated. Former Board Member Jerry Link had contacted him and would like one. As regards the committee assignments, Chairman Bacon commented that as they work through them, there might have to be some changes. Some Board Members have been assigned to different committees to allow them to learn more about other departments.

He also addressed the subject of Board Comments. They are good things. He enjoys them. However, over the course of the last couple years, comments have been made that are directed at someone that does not have the chance to respond. This is not the place for that. If a Board Member has a problem with a department head or an elected official or anyone else, the best thing would be to contact them directly. It is not fair to make comments during this portion of the Meeting when they do not have the chance to respond. Board comments are good for us when used appropriately. Further Members should be civil about their comments.

Member Foster wished everyone a safe holiday.

Member Mannhardt agreed with the request for a revised County Yearbook.

Member Jefferson commented that as a new Board Member he has found a lot of this overwhelming. He does appreciate the help that others have given to him. He would like to meet with Treasurer Robin Davis to discuss the budget. He has a lot of questions.

Member Damm echoed wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He appreciates the help and consideration that others have given to him.

Member Stewart welcomed new Board Member David Serven.

Member Parsons commented that recently he had fallen on the ice and bruised his back. He thanked other Board Members for their phone calls and their concerns. He also extended his greetings for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and welcomed David Serven to the Board.

Member Knapp wished everyone a good holiday season and welcomed David Serven to the Board.

Member Sandoval wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Member Johnson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He commented that is nice to sit next to Mr. Serven instead of an empty chair.

Member Abel wished everyone a Happy Holiday season.

Member Occhi commented about the upcoming workshops with United Counties Council of Illinois and with the Institute of Government and Public Affairs through the University of Illinois. These workshops are great to attend and very worthwhile. She also wished everyone a Happy Holiday season.

Member Saline had no comments at this time.

Member Serven expressed this thanks for this opportunity to serve on this Board. He looks forward to the opportunity to get to know other Board Members and work with them. He is looking forward to the challenge.

The next regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 28, 2009, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

There was some discussion regarding the committee calendar. Chairman Bacon suggested changing the date of the Landfill/Nursing Home Committee to the third Thursday of the month. Since the former Ad Hoc Building Committee will become a standing committee and meet monthly, they could meet that second Tuesday of the month. That committee would have no bills to submit. The other committees would continue with the former schedule. Details will be announced later.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Foster to adjourn until the next scheduled Meeting of the Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.