

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

May 28, 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 Wednesday, May 28, 2008 at 6:25 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 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 2	William "Bill" Abel
District 3	Janet Occhi
District 4	Wayne Saline
District 5	Stephen "Steve" Johnson

Those absent: District 2 Greg Bacon

Also present were State's Attorney John Pepmeyer, Sheriff Dave Clague, Treasurer Robin Davis, Recorder Nancy McCune, 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. He asked that item 9, appointments to the Maquon Fire Protection District be removed as there is some confusion regarding these appointments. There should be some clarification before the June Meeting. He asked for an addition at 33 A to bring an update concerning the special audits. Member Mannhardt asked that agenda item 29, purchase of a tractor for the landfill, be removed from this agenda. Chairman Pickrel agreed to this change.

Chairman Pickrel asked for public comments. There were none.

Chairman Pickrel presented the following items of the consent agenda for approval: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on April 23, 2008 and Special Board Meeting held May 7, 2008, 2) and claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of May 28, 2008, and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Motion was made by Member Parsons and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve these measures. Roll call vote to approve these measures is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Parsons asked that agenda item 4, appointment of Lomac Payton to the Knox County Housing Authority Board, be removed from the consent agenda and voted upon separately. Motion was made by Member Parsons and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the appointment of Lomac Payton to the Knox County Housing Authority Board. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, 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 remaining items of the consent agenda: 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of February 2008 in the amounts of \$86,670.30 and \$20, 354.22 and public safety tax in the amount of \$72,613.51, 5) approve appointments of Jeanne Harland, Doug Gibb, and Kimberly DeSutter to the Knox County Board of Health, 6) approve appointment of Gene Saunders to the Elba-Salem Fire Protection District, 7) approve appointment of Roger L. Anderson to the Galva Community Fire District, and 8) approve appointment of Edward L. Gullstrand to the Rio Fire Protection District. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Link and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the resolution of support for the University of Illinois Extension Office. Chairman Pickrel read aloud this resolution which requests that the Governor authorize the full release of any and all future appropriations to match funds raised by local extension offices. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

This resolution was presented to Tony Franklin who expressed his appreciation to the Board for their continued support. The University of Illinois Extension Office did receive 85% of their state funding for this current year. This office will remain open as long as they are able to do so.

Since Member Saline was unable to attend the committee meeting, the Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, and Clerk Committee report was presented by Member Occhi. The reports are included in the packets.

Jim Taylor from Carpentier, Mitchell, Goddard & Company, LLC, presented the annual County audit report for FY 2006-2007. Copies of this audit, charts and graphs, the auditors' letter, and other documents were presented to the Members, Treasurer Robin Davis, and County Clerk Scott Erickson. Mr. Taylor reminded Members that auditors are to stay out of the decision making process. It is up to the Board to take ownership of this report. He noted that some auditing standards had changed since last year's audit. Now the County's infrastructure including the roads and bridges has been recorded. Therefore, when compared to previous audits, this inclusion tends to distort the figures somewhat. This explains the recording of approximately \$48,000,000 now listed as an asset. Other funds are not affected by this change. Regarding the County's expenditures, there was no significant change since last year. The County's revenues are still very reliant upon property taxes, which is typically the norm for county governments. Members were encouraged to review this report and be prepared to vote on accepting this audit at the following Meeting, June 25th. Questions should be directed to Mrs. Davis by June 13th.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Saline to approve the establishment of salaries for County Officials to be elected in the November General Election, according to Option A included in the packets. The salary for the Circuit Clerk would increase by 3% for each of the following three years and equal the salary of the County Clerk and County Treasurer. The salary of the State's Attorney is established by the Courts. In reality this motion would only affect the County Coroner and County Recorder. According to Option A the salary for the Coroner would increase the first year to \$27,184.00 and includes a 3% increase for each of the following three years. The salary for the Recorder would increase this year to \$40,386.00 and includes a 3% increase for each of the following three years. Member Occhi reported that the committee had no recommendation and chose to bring this matter to the full Board.

Chairman Pickrel reported that Mark Thomas had a previous commitment and was unable to attend this meeting. He did provide a salary comparison with other counties. Henry, Fulton, and Knox Counties each have a part time coroner. Our coroner receives more notifications than some other area counties.

Member Porter stated that the Coroner's salary had not increased for years. She thinks that this salary is ridiculously low. Although it is not a full time position, it is almost a full time position. The coroner deals with very important matters and should be paid a lot more.

Member Occhi reminded Members that for the last four years that salary had been frozen as well as the salaries for the Circuit Clerk and Recorder. Now is the time to address these salaries. Previously the Board had decided that the Circuit Clerk's salary should match that of the Treasurer and County Clerk.

Chairman Pickrel verified that the salary for the Coroner is in addition to his reimbursements for mileage and body removal. Roll call to approve salary increases as per Option A included in the packets is recorded as follows: Ayes—Mannhardt, Link, Sanodval, Lyle Johnson, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(7). Noes—Porter, Hasten, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, and Abel—(7). Motion failed.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Stewart to approve the establishment of these salaries as per Option B included in the packets, which would increase the Coroner's salary to \$29,684.00 the first year and includes a 3%

increase for the following three years. The Recorder's salary would increase to \$42,886.00 and includes a 3% increase for the following three years. Roll call vote to approve these salaries as per Option B included in the packets is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Abel, and Occhi—(9). Noes—Link, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(5). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Stewart to approve increasing the fee for a marriage license from the current fee of \$15.00 to \$20.00 effective June 1, 2008. The General Assembly of the State of Illinois recently passed legislation creating the Married Families Domestic Violence Fund. This fund will be used to pay for domestic violence assistance in the State. In order to fund this program, the legislation requires that an additional \$5.00 fee be collected on each marriage license issued beginning June 1, 2008. This fee increase does not need to be tied to a fee study as it is a requirement of State law. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the resolution authorizing the transfer of funds from the self-insurance fund to the hospitalization fund, not to exceed the amount of \$500,000.00 for FY 2007-2008. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Steve Johnson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve a Workman's Compensation settlement in the amount of \$135,000 for Cheryl Icenogle. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Steve Johnson—(13). Noes—Saline—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve a Workman's Compensation settlement in the amount of \$7,359.50 for Lavern Addis. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Ad Hoc Building Committee report was brought by Committee Chairman Steve Johnson. He reminded Members that during the previous Meeting since it was not on the agenda, they were not allowed to vote to retain the services of an architect. A special committee meeting was held and an emergency situation was declared. During that committee meeting, they did approve hiring an architect to complete a facilities condition report for the Courthouse. There should be a full report to present during the next Board Meeting.

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

Motion was made by Member Steve Johnson and seconded by Member Lyle Johnson to approve the bid submitted by Pratt Audio-Visual & Video Corporation in the amount of \$17,332.00 for 13 new cameras for the Mary Davis Home to be used in the new addition and to monitor the gas pumps. This expenditure will be funded through Mary Davis Home bonds. This is the same company that has installed other cameras at this facility. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

There is a separate bid in the amount of \$2,350.00 submitted by Mechanical Services Inc. to provide the appropriate wiring services and installation of these cameras. Since this amount is less than \$5,000.00, the committee already has approved this bid.

Motion was made by Member Steve Johnson and seconded by Member Link to approve the low bid for seal coating and striping for the Courthouse parking lot submitted by Johnson Trucking and Blacktopping, Inc., in the amount of \$9,115.00. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Steve Johnson and seconded by Member Abel to approve the low bid submitted by Johnson Trucking and Blacktopping, Inc., in the amount of \$4,000.00 for seal coating and striping for the Jail parking lot. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, 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 request from the Galesburg Civic Art Center to supply water and power for the “Art in the Park” event, to be held at Standish Park, adjacent to the Courthouse. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Highway, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Jerry Link. He would like to set a date for another County road tour with the date to be announced during the next meeting. Last year there was not a good attendance. If Members have a date to suggest, they should contact him.

Motion was made by Member Link and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the addendum agreement for County Highway 9/County Highway 10, extension intersection project, Section 99-00123-02-SA. This project was completed in 2001. This addendum agreement is the mechanism that the Illinois Department of Transportation utilizes to appropriate the additional \$78,315.56 that is still owed to the County. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart,

Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Link and seconded by Member Parsons to approve appointing Chris Gray as County Zoning Administrator. Chairman Pickrel stated that this appointment is in title only for the purpose of dealing with some paperwork. The Health Department is still under contract to provide specific services for the County. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Link and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the following reappointments to the Board of Review: 1) Mike Gehring for 2 years—term expiring May 31, 2010, 2) George Knapp for 2 years—term expiring May 31, 2010, and 3) Lyle Johnson for 1 year—term expiring May 31, 2009. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Sandoval, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Knapp and Lyle Johnson—(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Link and seconded by Member Steve Johnson to approve the resolution establishing quadrant quadrennials within Knox County. This resolution would establish four assessment districts and would more evenly distribute the work load for county assessors. Each district would be assessed every fourth year. As Chris Gray contacted other counties who have adopted this program, she received only positive responses. Member Link reported that the committee has discussed this during the last two meetings. This is the committee's recommendation. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

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 Knapp to approve the low bid submitted by Dave Gill Trucks for a Sterling LT9513 tractor for the landfill. The cost of the tractor less the trade-in value would equal a net cost of \$63,053.00. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Porter to approve the bid submitted by Wisconsin U.P. Trailer for net cost of \$50,396.00 for a 2009 Trail King Red River trailer with a 63" belt to be used at the landfill. Member Saline explained that bid specifications were for a 60" belt or better. The bid submitted from Wilson Trailer Company only has a 48" belt. While it may appear to be a lower bid, it does not meet bid specifications. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter,

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

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Parsons to approve to bid and bring back for a liner and installation at the landfill. This would be for cell #13. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Mannhardt announced that the new Landfill Administrator, Jerry Reynolds' first day on the job will be June 2nd.

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 Mannhardt and seconded by Member Parsons to approve the low bid submitted from Bond Construction in the amount of \$351,341.00 for the fascia soffit project at the nursing home. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Steve Johnson to approve the low bid for therapy services submitted by Rehab Care for a rate of \$.96 per minute at the nursing home. Chairman Pickrel questioned if it customary to bid this at a rate per minute. Marianne Wiesen responded that it is common to bid it in this way. Rehab Care would be the better choice between the two companies who submitted bids as Rehab Care will provide better care and will also provide a full time therapy director. In the long run this program will be a cost savings for the nursing home. This bid would be her recommendation. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairman Pickrel presented a brief update concerning the special audits. By the order of the Judge, the copies were delivered to all of the appropriate parties. At this point these copies will not be released, until possibly another order from the Judge authorizes that release. He does not expect that to happen any time soon.

Motion was made by Member Hasten and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the opening of the budget for line item adjustments. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Abel, Occhi, and Saline—(12). Noes—Lyle Johnson and Steve Johnson—(2). Motion carried.

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

Motion was made by Member Hasten and seconded by Member Abel to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of April 24, 2008 – May 28, 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—Porter, Hasten, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(13). Noes—(0). Pass—Mannhardt—(1). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Porter commented in reference to the Ad Hoc Personnel Policy Committee. They have met three times in May and have reviewed the whole handbook. They do have some recommendations to make which should appear on the June agenda. She will mail copies of these recommendations to Board Members so that they will have time to review them before that Meeting.

Member Hasten, Member Mannhardt, Member Link and Chairman Pickrel had no comments at this time.

Member Stewart commented in reference to the upcoming discussions on the preliminary budget for the coming year. He would remind Finance Committee members that previously the Board had voted to include in that budget the funding for a County Administrator's salary. That should be part of their deliberations in this planning phase. Also, in the past he had mentioned the need for prosecuting zoning violations. He would appreciate any effort given in that regard. There is no sense in having these laws on the books if they are not going to be enforced. If we really want compliance, violators must be prosecuted.

Member Parsons, Member Knapp, Member Sandoval, Member Lyle Johnson, and Member Abel had no comments at this time.

Member Occhi expressed her thanks to Sheriff Dave Clague and the "Art in the Park" committee for bringing this matter to the full Board. She does not think that previously it was. She hopes that they have a wonderful event.

Member Saline and Member Steve Johnson had no comments at this time.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2008, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Steve Johnson to adjourn until the next scheduled meeting of the Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.