

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

**April 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 Wednesday, April 23, 2008 at 6:15 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, and County Clerk Scott Erickson.

Sheriff Dave Clague delivered the proclamation. Chairman Pickrel led the Members in the pledge to the flag. Rev. Leigh Nygard of Galesburg delivered the invocation.

Chairman Pickrel asked for additions to the agenda. Member Link requested an addition to the agenda to discuss 4-H and the University of Illinois Knox County Extension Office regarding the Governor's decision not to release State matching funds. Chairman Pickrel agreed to this request and added this item at 13 A. Member Mannhardt asked that agenda item 29, approve the bid for the fascia and soffit project at the nursing home be removed from this agenda and a new item be added in its place to rebid this project. Chairman Pickrel agreed to this change. Member Steve Johnson asked for two

additions in connection with the Ad Hoc Building Committee. One addition would be to suspend the rules and the other would be the acceptance of a proposal for a facilities condition report. These items were inserted at 17 A and 17 B.

Chairman Pickrel asked for public comments. Tracy Bailey, an employee of the Treasurer's Office, spoke in reference to agenda item 11, decision on the County IT contract. She spoke in support of R-Cubed Technologies. They have bent over backwards to try to help us. When they are called, they respond within 15-60 minutes. They have invested many hours and developed a back-up system for the file server in the basement. A month ago we lost our financial software package. R-Cubed responded immediately and started working with Fundware to try to restore the system. Eventually with their help Fundware was restored. However, initially Fundware representatives advised that everything from the previous 10 days would have to be re-entered. This would have included payroll, board bills, everything. R-Cubed worked with Fundware representatives from 8:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. that day. Since R-Cubed is experienced with this software, the following day they had Fundware up and going. Although she cannot speak for other departments, as the Board reviews this IT contract, they should consider how successful R-Cubed has been in working with the Fundware problems in the Treasurer's office. If a new company is selected, they would have to basically start over to familiarize themselves with this program.

Chairman Pickrel presented the following items of the consent agenda for approval: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on March 26, 2008, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of April 23, 2008 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of January 2008 in the amounts of \$85,647.72 and \$18,664.52 and public safety tax in the amount of \$72,492.65. Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Parsons to approve these measures. Member Porter asked for a correction to the minutes of the Regular Minutes on page 9, as she had been referred to as the Vice Chairman of the Landfill committee. She does not hold that position. Member Knapp is the Vice Chairman. The original motion was amended to accept this change in the minutes. 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.

Motion was made by Member Parsons and seconded by Member Steve Johnson to approve the reappointment of Richard "Dick" Allen to the Galesburg Sanitary District. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Link to approve the reappointment of Dave Peck to the Knoxville Fire Protection District. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made Member Steve Johnson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the following reappointments: 1) Gale Adams to the Oneida Sanitary District, 2) Gerald Buckman to the Elba-Salem Fire Protection District, and 3) Harold E. Ziehr to the

Wataga Sanitary District. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairman Pickrel introduced Eric Gibson as a new assistant in the State's Attorney's Office.

The quarterly report from GREDA was presented by Jeff Klinck. He distributed handouts including the Annual Investor Report, the list of GREDA's Activities and Initiatives, and Community Profiles to the Members. Some of this promotional material is given to new prospects.

Highlights of the previous quarter include 22 presentations made by Greg Mangieri outside of the City of Galesburg. The State of Illinois has requested four requests of information from the community for a specific site. During the last quarter, four Chinese companies have visited this community. The Entrepreneurship Center has consulted with 34 new clients which resulted in two new jobs and one new business start up. There will probably be two more new business start ups which have not yet been announced. At the Business Development Incubator located at the former National Seal Building, there are 35-40 full time employees. GREDA does own this building. One tenant was graduated out of this building and into the former Butler facility. BDI has been informed that they are a finalist in the International Business Incubator Competition. Recently, the newspaper announced the possibility of a collection call center, CTI, setting up their central operation base in the former Maytag office building. The City of Galesburg has agreed to incentive loans if specific employment targets are met. The State of Illinois has also offered financial incentives.

Chairman Pickrel introduced Bob Fulton who is now the Chairman of GREDA's Executive Board.

Motion was made by Member Porter and seconded by Member Parsons to approve the settlement of claims from the Galesburg Election Commission for the fiscal years of 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. This negotiated settlement agreement involves the portion that the County owes for their wages. This will be split between the Galesburg Election Commission and the County. The County will be paying 2/3 and the Galesburg Election Commission will be paying 1/3. The County's total cost of this portion will be approximately \$5,200.00. 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 Link and seconded by Member Occhi to table the decision on the County IT contract. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Abel, and Occhi—(10). Noes—Pickrel, Lyle Johnson, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(4). Motion carried.

Member Link explained that he had made the motion to table this contract because since the committee meeting there has been another department head meeting and other things have been brought to his attention. He needs additional information before this decision is made.

Chairman Pickrel added that a lot of people did not know about this department head meeting.

Member Saline stated that it was inappropriate to discuss this matter after the matter has been tabled. Member Porter asked for a point of order.

County Clerk Scott Erickson confirmed that once an item is tabled, procedurally it is tabled.

Chairman Pickrel introduced discussion on the review of the County Personnel Policy. Member Porter stated that she wanted to present her opinion and share some information concerning this policy. She thanked Chairman Pickrel for allowing another discussion and allowing her to participate. This is about the residency requirement being forced upon County employees. The policy has not been strictly enforced for a number of years. In this job market last month's decision to inform employees that they have to relocate within the County within 90 days or lose their jobs is a very harsh decision. This decision is both impractical and unfair.

The Sheriff's Department has a 30 mile radius policy. The Health Department tries to hire employees who reside within the County. If necessary they will hire qualified applicants who reside elsewhere. The City of Galesburg has a 20 mile radius policy. She has contacted five area counties and none of them have a written residency requirement for their county employees. They do try to hire employees from within their own county.

Sometimes rules do not work and need to be changed. She questioned why the Board was choosing to focus their attention on the residency requirement. She has served on the Board for 3 ½ years and there are always people who are on some kind of a "witch hunt." She asked that the residency requirement not be enforced until the personnel policy is thoroughly reviewed by a committee. That committee would then bring their report and their recommendation to the full Board. She would like to be appointed to that committee. During the previous Board Meeting Member Mannhardt was also absent. He agrees with her about this residency requirement. Basically the Board is split down the middle on this issue. That is not enough of a mandate to begin firing County employees.

Member Saline responded that he wanted to set the record straight. This matter was not brought up to discuss the residency requirement but the personnel handbook which contains 32 pages and includes other topics such as drug testing and benefits. Union Representative Randy Lynch has some issues with the residency requirement as do some Board Members. Last month's discussion was not limited to just the residency requirement but the enforcement of the entire handbook. Although a handful of department heads have chosen to not enforce it, the majority of the department heads have enforced it. Member Porter's comments are out of line.

Member Porter responded that Member Saline always thinks her words are out of line.

Member Hasten agreed with Member Saline. This involves the whole policy and it is not a "witch hunt". The personnel policy does need to be reviewed and different things need to be set up within that policy. The County should not be looking at firing people.

Member Steve Johnson reminded Members of his suggestions made during the previous Meeting. He agrees with Member Saline. The policy in its entirety needs to be enforced. However, he does not believe that we are in the position to do that right now.

He also agrees with Member Porter that a committee needs to be established to review the personnel policy. Proposed changes should be submitted during the November Meeting. The Board could then approve these changes that would become effective December 1.

Member Porter stated that she had specifically asked Chairman Pickrel if the Board could revisit the decision that was made last month about the residency requirement. She assumed that this agenda item referred to her request.

Member Stewart stated that last month he had expressed a preference for a residency requirement. However, he does not see any harm in reviewing the whole personnel policy. It would be good to appoint a committee to look at that and bring their report back to the Board in November.

Chairman Pickrel stated that he agreed with what everyone had said. There is one issue remaining before them. During last month's Meeting a vote was taken regarding the residency requirement. Since this is not on the agenda for a vote, another vote cannot be taken during this meeting. He questioned what direction the Board wanted to take.

Member Steve Johnson suggested that a committee be appointed. Next month the Board could rescind the previous vote until the Board gets a total picture of the whole personnel policy.

Chairman Pickrel commented that he would like to get this matter settled quickly.

Chairman Pickrel read aloud a proclamation in recognition of the 155<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Allen Chapel AME Church. This church has remained at the same location since it was built in 1858. A copy of this proclamation will be presented to this church.

Member Link spoke in reference to the 4-H program and the University of Illinois Knox County Home Extension Office. Agriculture is the largest industry in Knox County. The future of the County is our young people. Since the 4-H Program and the Knox County Extension Office are vital to this County, Knox County included \$225,266 in the budget for this program with the promise from the State of Illinois that there would be matching funds. Every county in the state does this and it has been done for several years. On April 1, the Governor announced that these matching funds would be withheld, even though these funds of approximately \$18,000,000 are included in the State budget. This is terrible news to the 4-H program and the Knox County Home Extension Office. Statewide approximately 450 people could be laid off.

Chairman Pickrel reported that he has tried to phone officials in Springfield to discuss this matter. A similar thing happened to the Soil and Water Extension Office.

The Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, and Clerk Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Wayne Saline. The reports are included in the packets. The budgeting process for the coming fiscal year will begin in May or June.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Steve Johnson to approve the resolution on a deed of conveyance for parcel # 99-10-403-008. This is a normal housekeeping measure that returns this property to the tax rolls. 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 Saline and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the bids for an e-mail server and software in the amount of \$3,540 with Galesburg Phone and Data who would provide a hosted solution. County Clerk Scott Erickson explained that during the previous Board Meeting, the Board had approved to bid and bring back for an e-mail server and software. This will allow the County to become compliant with State and Federal regulations concerning records retention and allow us to archive the e-mails. Failure to comply with an electronic discovery could constitute huge settlements and/or fines. To avoid placing the County in this precarious position we need to address this situation fairly rapidly. This is a one year contract. One time training costs of \$2,500 are added to this contract. Funds have been included in the budget. The Finance Committee recommends Galesburg Phone and Data with their hosted solution. 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 Saline and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the agreement for defense coverage for Knox County with attorney Bill Butts effective May 18, 2008. This vacancy was created when Ray Kimbell resigned. According to this agreement Mr. Butt's salary would be the same salary that Mr. Kimbell received. Member Steve Johnson expressed his concerns that this action would reduce the total number of the County's contractual attorneys, because Mr. Butts is already under contract to provide legal services to the County. There could be potential problems regarding caseload and availability. We do not want to cut the County short. Member Occhi responded that Mr. Butts currently handles juvenile cases with Tom Pepmeyer. Mr. Kimbell handled other types of cases. There is another attorney from Peoria who handles some of these other types of cases as well. State's Attorney John Pepmeyer stated that on a practical matter, last year Mr. Kimbell only had one or two cases in which there was a conflict. In Mr. Pepmeyer's opinion, conflicts should not drag Mr. Butts away from his responsibilities. 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 Stewart to suspend the rules for the purpose of approving a professional services agreement. 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 the request for a facilities condition report on the Knox County Courthouse from Amnet Architects in the amount of \$10,500. Member Steve Johnson explained that Members have known for a long time that the Courthouse has some problems with leaky pipes, clogged downspouts, and other serious problems. It is time that a professional was

consulted to evaluate this situation, advise the Board on what needs to be done, and provide a cost estimate to remedy these problems. This report would also include a cost estimate for constructing a 36,000 square foot addition to the Courthouse as requested by one of the Board Members. This survey would require 4-6 weeks to complete. Services would be provided by an architect, a mechanical-electrical engineer, and possibly a site civil engineer. This report will be presented in its entirety to the full Board. Although the contract states that 15 copies will be prepared, he would request 17 copies. One copy could be kept on file with the County Clerk's Office.

Member Saline questioned whether it was appropriate to suspend the rules and vote on this agreement, since it was not included on the agenda. County Clerk Scott Erickson was asked for his opinion.

Member Steve Johnson explained that this is a pressing situation. Chairman Pickrel stated that emergencies do happen. Yet there are rules that must be followed.

Member Saline suggested that since this is a professional services agreement, it could be approved through the committee. Perhaps a special meeting could be called for the Ad Hoc Building Committee to approve this agreement. This would be better than waiting another month to bring it to the full Board.

Chairman Pickrel agreed that this option would be better. If the committee deems this to be an emergency situation, they can take appropriate action.

The original motion was withdrawn and Member Steve Johnson stated that he would call an emergency committee meeting soon to vote on this agreement.

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 Sandoval to approve to bid and bring back for a refrigerator, freezer, and dishwasher for the Mary Davis Home kitchen. These would be replacement appliances and paid for through remaining bond funds. Member Saline asked Rod Clear how much money was left in the bond fund account. He responded that there is approximately \$450,000 remaining. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

7:05 p.m. Member Parsons left the room.

Motion was made by Member Steve Johnson and seconded by Member Link to approve the purchase of two used squad cars from the Missouri State Police for the Mary Davis Home, at an estimated cost of \$50,000.00. Member Steve Johnson explained that currently only one front wheel drive vehicle, a 2004 model with 55,000 miles on it, is available for a price of \$9,900. Approving this motion would allow the Mary Davis Home to be placed on the list for the next available front wheel drive vehicle. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Highway, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Jerry Link. Member Stewart questioned a reference in the monthly report regarding the transfer of a vehicle to the zoning department. Member Link explained that as the Mary Davis Home receives another vehicle, their old one will be transferred to the zoning department.

Motion was made by Member Link and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the only bid received which was submitted by Roland Machinery in the amount of \$43,788.00 for a self-propelled broom for the highway department. The budgeted amount for this purchase is \$50,000.00 in the 2007/2008 highway fund budget. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Link and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the low bids submitted for various materials to be used during the 2008 maintenance season. This approval is contingent upon concurrence of the highway commissioners in various road districts. This is a housekeeping measure and is done every year. Specific bid information is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Stewart—(1). 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 Porter to bid and bring back for one tractor and trailer to be used to haul fluff for the landfill. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairman Pickrel expressed his thanks to Member Saline for working with Greg Ingle to revise the bid specifications.

Member Mannhardt reported that they are now working in the new scale house/office building and it is looking good.

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 Sandoval to approve membership with Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging. Membership is necessary for respite care referrals from WIAAA. This membership was approved last year. There is no cost involved with this approval. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Steve Johnson to approve the writing off of bad debt accounts at the nursing home in the

amount of \$55,337.00. It has been reviewed by the State's Attorney who agrees that these debts cannot be collected and need to be written off. These ten accounts date back to 2003 and 2004. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Occhi to approve to rebid the fascia and soffit project at the nursing home. Member Mannhardt explained that as this project was recently bid out, the bids surpassed the cost estimate by approximately \$400,000. The committee rejected the bids and is hoping to rebid this project with different specifications. He then presented Al Varney who spoke in reference to this project. Mr. Varney reminded Members that the original intent of this project was to replace the asbestos boards that are currently breaking and falling off. The original option that he had presented was based on last year's construction costs which have increased dramatically. His recommendation to the committee was to reject these bids and allow Amnet to offer other options. He presented three options and described some of the advantages and disadvantages of each option. Bid specifications would be available for each of these three options.

Member Steve Johnson asked Mr. Varney if there would be an additional fee for rebidding this project. Mr. Varney responded that there would be no additional fee. He considers this to be part of his job. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Porter to approve the low bid submitted by Laverdiere Construction in the amount of \$76,300.00 to construct the new entryway at the nursing home. Al Varney stated that this project would take 2 or 3 months to finish and is to be completed after the fascia and soffit project is completed. This project will create a vestibule and an extra wide doorway with sliding glass automatic doors. During this construction there will be a temporary entryway. Five bids were submitted for this project and all were higher than the cost estimate. This will be funded through the referendum fund. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Stewart to approve to bid and bring back for professional therapy services at the nursing home. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Stewart to approve the pursuit of a V.A. Clinic project to be located in the empty wing of the nursing home. Member Mannhardt stated that potentially this would provide \$6,000 additional monthly income. The committee did grant their approval. It is unlikely that the census of the nursing home will increase to the point where they will need to use this empty wing. Even with this wing closed, currently they do have space available for an additional 30 residents. If the V.A. approves this location a separate entrance to this wing

would be constructed. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Occhi to approve opening the budget for line item adjustments. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Abel, Occhi, and Saline—(11). Noes—Lyle Johnson and Steve Johnson—(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Stewart to approve specific line item adjustments in the budget. Specific information is included in the packets and other handouts were given to the Members. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Hasten to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of March 27, 2008 – April 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—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Porter, Member Hasten, Member Mannhardt, and Member Link had no comments as this time.

Chairman Pickrel announced the following appointments to an Ad Hoc Committee to review the personnel policy: Member Porter, Member Hasten, Member Mannhardt, Nancy McCune, Marianne Wiessen, and Louis Glossip. He wants some diversity on this committee. Member Porter was asked to contact these individuals and arrange a meeting. He would hope that they could bring a report to next month's Board Meeting.

He then commented in reference to a meeting held March 12<sup>th</sup> with elected officials and department heads. That meeting went very well. At that time it was agreed that such meetings should be held routinely, perhaps monthly or quarterly. It was the first such meeting in a long time.

Since then another meeting has been held and he does not know the purpose or the location. A lot of people did not know about it. Apparently some people did not get what they wanted and had their own private agenda because things were not going their way. He thinks that this meeting was wrong and out of line. Not all the Board Members were in on it or the members of the press. When future meetings are held, he plans to inform every department head and elected official. There should be a wide open door policy for these meetings. Apparently some people were not happy with what he had placed on the agenda, and decided to hold their own meeting and discuss the topics that they wanted to discuss. He is very disappointed. These were people that he trusted. He is

not a dictator. He wants everyone to get along and he wants to get along with them. Yet some people have proven that they do not want to get along. He would ask that the next time that a meeting is held that everyone should be invited. All of the Board Members, all of the department heads, and all of the elected officials should be invited so that we do not have a select few in attendance.

Member Stewart commented that he would like to echo Member Abel's comments made at the previous Meeting in reference to the audits. He questioned how much money had been spent and when to expect a report.

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

Member Abel expressed his frustration about the lack of an auditors report on the County ordered special audits. A year has gone by and still the Board has not received their report. Enough money has been spent. People need to know what is going on with their money. The Board should re-evaluate if this same firm should conduct the annual county audit.

Member Occhi commented that we should all see if we can be nicer to each other. We may not always agree with each other but we should still play nice.

Member Saline commented that he did not really want to have to bring up the need to have another special committee meeting. This will involve additional per diems. But we should do things properly. We have to follow the rules.

Member Steve Johnson announced that April 28<sup>th</sup> a special Ad Hoc Building Committee Meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the Annex. He also agreed with some of the comments made by Chairman Pickrel regarding the department head meeting held in March. At that time it was decided that since we do not have a County Administrator, that the County Board Chairman would also act as chairman of these meetings. He understands that a similar meeting was held within the last two or three days. We need to let the County Board Chairman handle those departmental meetings as our representative.

The next regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 28, 2008, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Steve Johnson and seconded by Member Sandoval 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 8:56 p.m.