

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

**June 25, 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, June 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 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 2	William "Bill" Abel
District 3	Janet Occhi
District 4	Wayne Saline
District 5	Stephen "Steve" Johnson

Those absent:        District 1        Caroline Porter

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 delivered the invocation.

Chairman Pickrel asked for additions to the agenda. He would like to add a brief presentation to the agenda before the public comment section. Agenda item 5, appointments to the Maquon Fire Protection District, should again be removed from this agenda as there is still some confusion regarding these appointments. It would be good if they would contact the Board and let us know when their next meeting will be held. He would like to either attend their next meeting or send either Member Knapp or Member Link to discuss these appointments with them. He would also like to add some brief

comments regarding the special audits at 8 A. Member Saline asked that agenda item 16, opening of the Closed Minutes from 2005 through 2007 be removed from this agenda.

Al Smith, representing Knox County TRIAD, made a brief presentation. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them. This organization works through the Sheriff's Department. This year one of their projects is to raise funds to purchase combination smoke and CO detectors. They have purchased six units to make available to the Rio Fire Department to distribute to elderly Rio residents. These units were presented to Member Saline to deliver to that department. Chairman Pickrel and Member Saline expressed their thanks to Mr. Smith and TRIAD.

Chairman Pickrel asked for public comments. There were none.

Motion was made by Member Parsons and seconded by Member Hasten to approve the minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting held on May 28, 2008 and Special Board Meeting held June 10, 2008. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, 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 Occhi to approve the claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of June 25, 2008 and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairman Pickrel reported that sales tax and various taxes were received for the month of March 2008 in the amounts of \$100,235.27 and \$16,213.65 and public safety tax in the amount of \$81,392.22.

Motion was made by Member Parsons and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the appointment of Katherine Holland for a five year term and Marianne Wiesen for a four year term to the Knox County Housing Authority Board. Chairman Pickrel explained that although previously Thomas Chiles had been recommended to this position, due to personal reasons he has declined. Therefore Katherine Holland has been recommended to fill this position. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, 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 Occhi to approve the reappointment of Carol Scotton to the Knox County Board of Health. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, 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 the reappointment of Charles Cooley II to the Spoon Valley Lake Sanitary District. Roll

call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairman Pickrel brought a brief update regarding the special audits for the State's Attorney's Office and the Sheriff's Department. He handed out copies of the letter of engagement with Carpentier, Mitchell, Goddard & Company, LLC to conduct these audits. This letter was signed by him and initialed by Member Saline. Chairman Pickrel has spoken to Jim Taylor from this auditing firm as well as to representatives from two other firms to verify that we are all on the same page. In Chairman Pickrel's opinion we got what we wanted and what we asked for.

There is a general lack of understanding regarding the term "forensic" to describe an audit. In discussions with Mr. Taylor and these other two auditors, the term "forensic" cannot be applied unless wrongdoing can be established before the audit begins. Further research indicates that this term when applied to county audits is somewhat murky, but to avoid confusion should only be applied when it can already be established that someone has stolen funds. These experts all agree that without using the word "forensic" that is what the County got. You cannot use that word unless you can prove that something has been stolen. That is why this word was not used in the engagement letter to outline the agreed upon procedures. These experts confirm that according to the reports, these auditors conducted their investigations and did what they were hired to do. The auditors had a free run of every office. Nothing was withheld from these auditors as they conducted their investigations. These consultants also asked if this was turned over to the proper authorities, which it was. These consultants assure us that proper procedures were followed and as a county board we did all that we could do.

Member Abel expressed his frustration that this was the first time that he had seen this engagement letter that was signed over a year ago. He has received numerous phone calls about these audits. He asked several questions regarding these special audits including who signed this letter of engagement and why it was not filed in the County Clerk's Office. Why wasn't this letter previously shared with the County Board? Why didn't the County receive a forensic audit and shouldn't these auditors redo the audit at no additional expense to the County? A representative from this auditing firm should appear before this Board and explain why it wasn't the forensic audit that was requested. The audit that was received did not provide the information that was requested. The public should be given an explanation. Communication should have been clearer from the beginning. He read aloud portions from the Board minutes of April 25, 2007 regarding the discussion to approve these special audits. At that time Board Members believed this would be a forensic audit.

Member Steve Johnson stated that based on the explanation that Chairman Pickrel had provided for the term "forensic" and after reviewing the letter of agreement, it is his conclusion that we got exactly what they said we were going to get. Whether it is called a "forensic" or an "internal" audit, we got the best audit that we could get. We ought to say, "Enough is enough. We have the report; let us move on."

Member Stewart stated that he agreed with Member Abel. It would have been helpful for all of the Board Members to have seen this letter of understanding. It would have cleared up a lot of confusion for Board Members and the public. He agrees that

according to this document, the auditing firm did what was agreed upon. We all got confused.

Chairman Pickrel reiterated that the Board received nothing different than what a forensic audit would have been. It would have been the same type of an audit.

Member Stewart reminded Members that there are several areas that according to the auditors need improvement. When he first came on the Board, he was shocked that not enough information was provided regarding paying the bills. At that time information was not included to show the amount of money remaining in each line item. That has changed but there is still room for improvement. It would help to have uniform bookkeeping procedures for all County departments. A full time County Administrator could help to implement these standardized procedures.

Chairman Pickrel again stated that these audit reports have been turned over to law enforcement agencies. We are out of the process now.

Member Hasten stated that the auditors could not find some missing paperwork. This was not a “witch hunt.” The auditors were doing what they were supposed to be doing and they did discover missing paperwork. There was money spent that the Board did not approve of that exceeded the limit. There were bills submitted for the Sheriff’s Department for automobiles that were not approved by this Board. Yet the former Sheriff signed off on them and then says that the Board Members are out to get him. We are not out to get anyone, but we are trying to take care of the taxpayer’s money. If these departments cannot provide accurate documentation for their bills then the taxpayers should be repaid these funds. We could have paid for a County Administrator with the funds that have been wasted by withholding documentation in these two departments.

Chairman Pickrel reiterated that this is in the hand of the authorities now. Our challenge is to get our bookkeeping procedures in order.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve Knox County Personnel Policy Revisions as indicated in the packets. Louis Glossip, a representative of the Ad Hoc Personnel Committee, presented this revised policy to the Board. The committee met three times in May to review this policy and recommends these changes. He explained the high points of these recommended changes.

One of the additions to this policy has to do with an enforcement section. Without this section, the policy has no value. The committee decided to amend the equal employment opportunity section and bring it up to date. Since union contracts cover this subject, the longevity section has been removed. To avoid any confusion, the smoking policy will mirror the Smoke Free Illinois Act. There have also been a couple amendments to the business travel expenses. References to County Board Members in that section have been deleted as they have their own rules. Another amendment has to do with the drug and alcohol policy especially that section that previously stated that an employee was to notify their supervisor of the medications they were currently taking. That is a violation of HIPA as well as the employee’s privacy. Therefore, that particular section of the drug and alcohol portion was eliminated. Throughout the personnel handbook, all references to the County Administrator have been deleted. If later a County Administrator is hired, that can be changed. Regarding the residency requirement, all administrators would be required to live within Knox County and would be “encouraged” to hire employees who reside within the County. Residency would not be a requirement

for Knox County employees. Also included is a form to report harassment and another form to acknowledge receipt of this handbook which new hires would be required to sign. Originals would go to a central location such as the County Clerk's Office.

Member Steve Johnson suggested that an inclusion be added to the travel policy that County owned vehicles be utilized prior to an employee's own personal vehicle in regards to attending conferences or conventions.

Member Occhi stated that clause used to be included in the travel policy. She agreed that she would like to see it included in the travel policy. Board rules do not include travel or hotel stays. The County's insurance carrier would like to see one personnel policy for the entire County as it would reduce the County's liability. No one should be excluded from this policy. Chairman Pickrel agreed that it would be best if the Personnel policy includes all the departments.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Stewart to table the approval of this revised personnel policy. The committee should meet one more time. It would also be good for the insurance carrier to have an opportunity to review it. This will be on next month's agenda and a vote taken at that time. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(1). Motion carried.

Chairman Pickrel thanked the committee for their great job on this revised personnel policy.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Parsons to approve the Legal Holiday Schedule for the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court for 2009. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Steve Johnson and seconded by Member Bacon to approve the abatement of per diems for the Special Board Meeting of June 10, 2008. Member Steve Johnson commented that the Meeting lasted about 15 minutes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Knapp, Sandoval, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(11). Noes—Stewart and Parsons—(2). Pass—Lyle Johnson—(1). Motion carried.

The Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, and Clerk Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Wayne Saline. The reports are included in the packets. Member Stewart commented that he is pleased that according to newspaper reports the committee is looking into hiring a full time County Administrator. It is a good idea that the committee is looking at comparable salaries in the area.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the annual County Audit for FY 2006-2007. This audit was tentatively presented to the Board during the previous Meeting. This official copy has now been presented to the Board and is unchanged from the preliminary version. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, 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 Parsons to approve to lease with the option to purchase a vehicle for the County Coroner. Member Saline explained that this was discussed at the finance committee meeting. Presently there are some concerns regarding the County's liability insurance on the County Coroner's personal vehicle that he uses to respond to County business. It would be better if this customized vehicle actually was owned by the County. However, there are not enough funds remaining in this year's budget to purchase it at this time. For \$5,000 the County could lease this vehicle until the beginning of the next budget year when the County could finish paying for it. If the County owns this vehicle, the Coroner would no longer be receiving mileage reimbursements or body removal fees.

Member Steve Johnson questioned changing the license plates on this vehicle. He agrees that it is a good idea to make sure that the County's insurance would cover that vehicle. If the County leases this vehicle, we should follow through and put County license plates on this vehicle. This would protect the Coroner's personal liability.

Member Saline responded that this process is complicated by the fact that the County will not actually own this vehicle until December. Our insurance carrier, Bliss & McKnight, is aware of this plan to lease this vehicle with the intent to purchase it during the new budget year. The purchase price is \$22,000.00. Member Hasten suggested that perhaps the County could go through the Sheriff's Department to obtain County license plates for that vehicle.

Treasurer Robin Davis responded that the insurance company and the State's Attorney's Office approve of this plan. County Coroner Mark Thomas reported that currently this vehicle has 32,000 miles on it.

Member Abel questioned Mr. Thomas if he currently uses this vehicle for personal uses. Mr. Thomas responded that since currently it is his personal vehicle, he does.

Member Saline responded to Member Abel and stated that this topic was discussed at the finance committee meeting. Member Abel questioned whether Mr. Thomas could continue to use this vehicle for his own personal uses, if the County proceeds with this plan to lease this vehicle and put County license plates on it.

Member Lyle Johnson stated that this subject was discussed during the finance committee meeting. At that time it was decided that if this plan is approved, Mr. Thomas would not be using this vehicle for his personal or private uses. Member Abel stated that although he did attend that meeting, he did not hear that part.

Member Stewart questioned which budget line item would be funding this expenditure. Member Saline responded that the majority of it would be the mileage reimbursement and body removal appropriation lines with the remainder coming from the contingency fund. The committee does not want to pay the whole amount from contingency at this time but save that line item for other unplanned expenses. Mrs. Davis stated that the exact numbers from these line items would be not available until after the Board bills are paid.

Member Stewart agreed that this is an unplanned expense and he has no objection. He just wanted to know where the money would come from.

State's Attorney John Pepmeyer stated that he had reviewed this agreement and understands that its purpose would be to reduce the insurance liability for Mr. Thomas. Under terms of this agreement, the County would pay \$5,000 to lease this vehicle for six

months, and pay the remaining \$17,000 on or before December 15, 2008. Roll call vote to approve to lease with the option to purchase a vehicle for the County Coroner for the stated amount is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, 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 resolution on prevailing wage. Member Saline explained that this is a general housekeeping measure that annually the Board is required to approve. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Hasten, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(13). Noes—Mannhardt—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Steve Johnson to approve the appointment of county election judges. County Clerk Scott Erickson explained that county election judges serve two year terms. The last election that they were certified to serve in was the Primary Election held last February. This is standard procedure to reappoint the election judges. The submitted list contains the names of the serving election judges and the reserve judges as well. He requested that this list be approved. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(13). Noes—(0). Pass—Sandoval—(1). Motion carried.

Member Saline presented the statement on conditions of the banks as of March 31, 2008. This report is on file in the County Clerk's Office.

Ad Hoc Building Committee Chairman Steve Johnson announced that the committee will be meeting July 2 at 6:00 p.m. at the Annex. This meeting will be open to the public.

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. Member Bacon commented about the high mileage on some of the squad cars as well as their poor gas mileage. Member Steve Johnson responded that the committee is looking into purchasing four new vehicles as opposed to purchasing used ones.

The Sheriff's Department has instituted a gasoline conservation program. Sheriff Dave Clague assured Members that the coverage will not be compromised. Member Steve Johnson reported that the committee authorized Rod Clear to purchase up to 2,500 gallons of gasoline at the lowest bid. The price quote that the committee had at that meeting was \$4.15 per gallon. Fortunately, there were 500 gallons left from the previous purchase of 2,500 gallons. The following week he was able to purchase 2,000 gallons at \$3.59 per gallon. That saved a lot of money.

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

packets and committee minutes were distributed to the Members. The annual County highway tour will be on Saturday, July 26. Those attending should meet at the Courthouse at 9 a.m. and expect to return by 3:00 p.m.

Chris Gray brought an update on events that have transpired since the committee meeting. Regarding old zoning violation cases, State's Attorney John Pepmeyer was able to get a petition to show cause served against one of the violators. The hearing is scheduled July 8, at 10 a.m. before Judge Mathers. This violation case has been going on for a long time and is finally moving forward. The zoning department and GIS department are also excited because they have received their car.

Member Link stated that he appreciated the State's Attorney's efforts regarding these zoning violations.

Motion was made by Member Link and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Board of Appeals' recommendation which approves the conditional use permit filed by Scott Doubet of Williamsfield for a small wind energy system for case #CU-03-08. Member Link explained the Zoning Board of Appeals met May 28 and conducted this public hearing. This system would only involve one small wind turbine to supply power for a grain bin.

Member Stewart noted that this was not a unanimous decision as there was some opposition. Chairman Pickrel stated that he would be voting "No" on this wind energy system. He has a real problem with approving these systems until we can get more details. At some point an ad hoc committee will need to be established to study wind farms.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(12). Noes—Pickrel and Stewart—(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Link and seconded by Member Parsons to approve the zoning resolution text amendment regarding case #AM-02-08. Member Link explained that the Zoning Board of Appeals also considered this case during its May meeting. Their recommendation is to approve this text amendment. This petition has been filed by Kathy Wedell, Knox County Zoning Coordinator, regarding boat and recreational vehicle storage.

Chris Gray explained that Oak Run property owners are prohibited from storing their boats or recreational vehicles on their property. Therefore, some area farmers are turning their pole buildings into storage facilities for these boats and recreational vehicles. However, currently this practice is a violation of county zoning ordinances. This amendment would allow storage of these units. Mary Christie also thought that this revision would be a good idea. There is a need for this change. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, 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. Jerry Reynolds, the new landfill administrator, was officially introduced to the Board.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Stewart to approve the sale of surplus property at the landfill. This would include accepting bids to scrap out three 15,000 gallon steel storage tanks and accepting bids for a 2002 Caterpillar scraper. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, 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 the low bid for the HDPE liner and installation submitted by Clean Air & Water Systems, LLC from Dousman, Wisconsin in the amount of \$118,767.60 for cell # 13. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(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. A formal dedication of the new walking trail will be held June 28 at 1 p.m. Congressman Phil Hare and Representative Don Moffitt are both to be in attendance. Board Members are encouraged to attend.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Occhi to approve opening the budget for line item adjustments. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, 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 Stewart to approve line item adjustments in the budget. Member Stewart reminded Members that two line item changes included in the landfill minutes should be included in this motion.

Member Bacon suggested that in regards to the budget for the coming year it would be advantageous to more accurately estimate the costs for engineering services. That would be better than adjusting this amount each month with a line item adjustment. He realizes that still there will be unforeseen circumstances. More funds should be budgeted to start with.

Member Stewart stated that the landfill does have sufficient reserves. He agreed that it would be better to adjust this line item initially than to make monthly changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, 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 claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of May 29, 2008 – June 25, 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.)

Member Occhi voiced her concerns about the bills for court improvement to pay for art work in the Judge's Chambers. For six pictures, the County was billed over \$4,000.00. For a county that is financially stressed, this seems a little excessive. Even if it is for the judges, she still wanted to voice her protest. There is one picture of Abraham Lincoln, one of Thomas Jefferson, one of Franklin Roosevelt, one of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and one of the Declaration of Independence.

Member Steve Johnson commented that these are not taxpayers' dollars. These are funds that come from court service fees that are completely controlled by the judges. Although the County does write the check, they are not tax dollars.

Member Occhi agreed but stated that the Courthouse walls need to be improved. We need to do more than just hang pictures on these leaking walls. The judge has signed this bill.

Treasurer Robin Davis reminded Members that if the bills are not approved, than she cannot write the checks. Member Saline reported that during the finance committee meeting this bill was discussed but not actually pulled. Chairman Pickrel reminded Members of the current motion to approve paying the bills. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, and Steve Johnson—(9). Noes—Bacon, Stewart, Parsons, Occhi, and Saline—(5). Motion carried.

## **STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN**

Member Bacon commented that things like this last matter of business boggle his mind. The Courthouse is falling down around our ears and we just spent thousands of dollars to purchase pictures to place on the walls. In reality the leaky walls need to be repaired.

Member Hasten commented that earlier he had made his statement concerning the special audits. Some of this money should go back to the taxpayers. He does not like to see this much money being spent for pictures.

Member Mannhardt and Member Link had no comments at this time.

Chairman Pickrel commented the recently he had attended a judicial dinner for the 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit and received a check for \$48,000. Previously that check amount has been \$21,000 - \$23,000. Next month's agenda will have a policy change on cases to be heard by the Judges. Another business matter is that the County has three different public defenders assigned to three different spots. He is concerned that seemingly we are overloading Karl Johnson. Perhaps we are spreading him too thin.

Member Stewart had no comments at this time.

Member Parsons congratulated Member Jerry Link and his wife Marianne on their 47<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

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

Member Occhi commented that she had passed out forms to attend the leadership conference. These conferences are available to Board Members. Also, it is nice to see positive news about the MEG agency. She congratulated Sheriff Dave Clague on being named the Vice-Chairman of MEG.

Member Saline had no comments at this time.

Member Steve Johnson congratulated the Board Members who worked on the Personnel Policy. They did an outstanding job. There are still some minor changes that still need to be corrected. He realizes that it is a lot of work. This revision is a lot cleaner than it has ever been before and a lot more definitive. He appreciates their efforts.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 23, 2008, 6:00 p.m. at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Parsons to adjourn. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.