

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

August 27, 2008

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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, August 27, 2008 at 6:20 p.m.

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

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

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, Chaplain of the Beacon of Hope Hospice, delivered the invocation.

Chairman Pickrel asked for additions to the agenda. He asked that item 5, removal of a person from the general assistance program, be deleted. He added an item at 5 A, an item that has do to with the Knox County Housing Authority. Member Link asked that item 23, approval of an employee contract, be removed. Member Saline asked that item 13 B, approval of a union contract with the Sheriff and Fraternal Order of Police, also be removed from this agenda. Chairman Pickrel agreed to these changes.

Chairman Pickrel asked for public comment. Jon Vanier addressed the Board expressing his concerns that the County has no building inspector, or established building codes. He is building a home near Oak Run and spent \$540 for a building permit. Although there are building codes for the City of Galesburg, there are none in place for the County. There are provisions for building codes through the State but the County has not adopted them. Further there is no County building inspector. Mr. Vanier hired a local contractor to build his home, and quickly learned that the construction does not meet standard building codes. These problems would not have occurred if the County had adopted specific building codes and had a building inspector to enforce them. He would not want any other County resident to face similar problems.

Chairman Pickrel responded that the County is looking into this problem. Member Porter stated that the committee has discussed this situation.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Parsons to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on July 23, 2008, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of August 27, 2008 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales taxes and various taxes for the month of May, 2008 received in the amounts of \$108,091.93 and \$18,080.35 and public safety tax in the amount of \$91,130.58. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairman Pickrel introduced discussion regarding proposed amendments to the Knox County Food Safety Ordinance. Greg Change explained that these changes would increase the non-compliance penalty fee from \$25.00 to \$100.00 for the second re-inspection and \$200.00 for the third and all subsequent re-inspections. This is the recommendation from the Board of Health. The Health Department is seeing many repeat violations which require additional follow up inspections to ensure compliance with the Food Safety Ordinance. A copy of the revised ordinance is included in the packets. Next month the Board will be asked to approve this amendment.

Member Saline expressed some concerns that had been shared with him. Some food service managers are suggesting that since some funding for State grants to the Health Department is being reduced, that this is a way to increase funding. In effect they suggest that the Health Department will find violations and then find repeat violations as a way to generate additional revenue. As Member Saline read the report, he noted that the Health Department did have more violations this year than in previous years. The concern being raised is that the Health Department will find violations in order to balance their budget.

Mr. Chance responded that records of violations are shared with the owner of the establishment. They do have the right to contest those records. Some violations are very evident, especially regarding issues of time and temperature. Sometimes inspectors enter the restaurant to discover food that is sitting out and at a temperature of 50° - 60°, when it should be held below 40°. That is an obvious violation. When a restaurant is given a violation, they have 24 hours to correct it, without a penalty. The penalty would be applicable when the violation is not corrected within that 24 hour period of time. The

citizens of the County expect food safety. These proposed penalty increases come from the food service industry who has suggested that the present fines are too low. In his opinion they are seeing more violations because of tough economic times. People are not investing in equipment. For example, some older food service establishments utilize standard household refrigerators which cannot keep up with the demands of food service. There is also a high rate of turn over among food service personnel. In response to that the Health Department does offer to provide on site training.

Member Saline stated that he does better understand the situation. However, if in the next six months re-inspections have increased by 35%, this subject will be discussed again.

Mr. Chance responded that he would be more than willing to share that data. From January 1, 2007 – July 31, 2008 the Health Department had to do 242 initial follow-up inspections. They had to return for second follow-up inspections 127 times.

Member Abel questioned how many food service establishments have been closed for violations. Mr. Chance responded that in 15 years probably less than 20 establishments have been closed and the majority of those re-opened within 24-48 hours. Legally he does not have the authority to close a food service establishment, but he can ask them to do so and can remove their permit. If they do not voluntarily close, he has to consult with the State's Attorney or a judge and get an administrative warrant.

Member Stewart stated that he is support of these changes. Public health is paramount. This would be in the long term best interest of the public.

Mr. Chance commented that this change would not generate a lot of money. It is true that they will be losing some grant money through the State of Illinois as they are not paying their fair share to support local health departments.

Member Saline stated that he realizes that the Health Department can levy more than they do. Everyone wants safe food. These are just some concerns that were passed on to him.

Mr. Chance reiterated that these penalty fees are designed to get the attention of the business owner to make these changes or the penalty will hit them in the pocket book.

Chairman Pickrel read aloud a letter from Member Stewart stating that he has resigned his position on the Knox County Housing Authority Board. Previously the former State's Attorney Paul Mangieri had written a preliminary legal opinion that it was permissible for two Members of the County Board to serve on the Housing Authority Board. However, July 1, 2008, a letter was received from the Attorney General which stated that although it would be permissible to have two public officials appointed, the presence of a third public official, in this case Lomac Payton, alderman from the City of Galesburg, would violate this statutory definition. Therefore, Member Stewart has resigned from the Housing Authority. This appointment will be on next month's agenda.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Abel to approve to bid and bring back for laptops for the County Board. County Clerk Scott Erickson explained that due to the increased costs of preparing and distributing the board packets, this would be a less expensive option. Specific information detailing the costs associated with the preparation and distribution of the Board packets was provided to the Members. The projected cost for the packets for the current year is approximately \$8,791.00. Also

included were spread sheets to reflect the costs for the packets from 2004 to the current year. The costs for 2005 and 2006 are much higher because at that time the Board was meeting as a committee of the whole and two Board packets were prepared each month. Normally 18 Board packets are prepared: 15 for the Board Members and 3 for administrative purposes.

This year's budget includes the cost for laptops for Board Members. This would allow for Board packets to be prepared in an electronic format and distributed on a CD. Costs for supplies and postage would dramatically decrease. Currently Board packets are often \$4.60 each to mail. In a CD format the postage would be \$1.34 each. If the Board goes to this electronic format, it would result in an annual savings of approximately \$5,130. Paper costs and copy prices continue to increase dramatically. Although \$15,000 has been budgeted for this purchase of laptops, he expects bids to come in much lower. An amount of \$500 - \$600 per unit is more likely. At first Board packets will be sent on a disc, and perhaps later packets would be available on a secure site on-line. At this point, we are just looking to bid and bring back for the laptops. We already have the software in place to produce the packets.

Chairman Pickrel stated that in round figures it is costing approximately \$9,000 per year for the Board packets and he expects the total cost for the laptops to be approximately \$10,000.

Member Steve Johnson expressed his opposition to this measure. While it is lovely for the County Board to come into the twenty-first century, he does not think that the whole story has been told. If we are going to use laptop computers, we will have to have access to the internet. Each County Board Member will have to have internet access at home. Who is going to pay for that? Will the County be paying for it? Also he does not think that the quoted price for the laptops includes the software. This is a luxury item that the County cannot afford. The Galesburg City Council uses laptops and has gotten into some trouble using them. Every month the Finance Committee reports how tight the budget is. He understands that \$15,000 has been budgeted for this purpose. But it does not cover maintenance costs or maintenance agreements for the following years. This project is a waste of taxpayers' dollars.

Member Hasten responded that a CD would not require the internet. Later the internet option could be considered. The City Council got in trouble with the internet when council persons were exploring sites that they should not have been.

Mr. Erickson stated that there are ways to get around that problem.

Member Occhi commented that she attends a lot of meetings and gets a lot of her packets in an electronic format. It is efficient and it is instantaneous. We all have our own internet and that is what we use.

Member Stewart questioned why this matter was not discussed in the appropriate committee meeting. Normally before the Board approves to bid and bring back, the committee recommends it. He also had difficulty understanding the figures on the spread sheets. According to his calculations it is costing \$13.33 per Member per month for the packets. This cost multiplied by 15 Members would equal \$199.95 per year. Therefore, the combined total expense annually for all the 15 packets excluding supplies would be \$2,399.00. He does not see the need for some of these supplies as it could be stapled together. He would prefer to continue with the current format, rather than spending

\$15,000. This is unnecessary gadgetry. He agrees with Member Steve Johnson; this is not necessary.

Member Saline estimated the cost per laptop at \$800 each. He agrees with the figures that were provided. Of course, labor costs must also be considered. He would estimate a four year pay back period. Sometimes you have to move up in the world. Member Stewart wants to use that money to hire an Administrator instead of us doing our own work. We should do our own work as that is what we were elected to do. This measure will save the County money and is something that we should do.

Member Occhi reminded Members that years ago when they received their Board packets, they were not bound and just pieces of paper. By the conclusion of the Meeting no one could tell where they were, because their papers were scattered all over. She questioned if the costs in next year's budget were for an electronic format of the packets or a paper version.

Mr. Erickson responded that next year's budget includes the costs for paper packets, under the current format.

Member Steve Johnson agreed with the 4 – 5 year pay back period. What was also omitted in this discussion is that the laptops will be outdated in that length of time.

Member Saline disagreed and stated that for this purpose the laptops would not be outdated. Member Occhi agreed that a 4 year old computer should still be a good one.

Chairman Pickrel reminded Members of the motion on the floor to bid and bring back for laptops for the County Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(12). Noes—(3). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Abel to re-bid the County e-mail project. County Clerk Scott Erickson reminded Members that at the April 23, 2008 Meeting, a County e-mail software-server solution was approved. The Board voted to award the project to a local contract company. There have been a variety of road blocks and they still do not have this project up and going. It has not been completed and the contractor has no answers. Mr. Erickson's concern is that the longer we drag this project out, the longer we run the risk of being non-compliant for electronic discoveries and a variety of other legal issues. He wanted to advise the Board of this situation and ask for guidance on the next step. Previously there were two other local vendors that provided bids. Do we want to scrap the current project and solicit other bids? The current vendor is Galesburg Phone and Data.

Chairman Pickrel stated that it would be best to rebid the project. Mr. Erickson stated that so far no money has been spent on this project. Member Steve Johnson stated that a letter of termination should be sent to the current vendor. Mr. Erickson commented that there never was an actual contract with this vendor. A formal termination letter will be sent. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairman Pickrel spoke in reference to Steve Johnson's committee discussing the possibility of the County opening our own animal shelter. There are a lot of positives with that possibility. Animal Control Officer Roger Underwood and Member Hasten have done a lot of ground work and research. This has progressed to the point where the committee has asked that a sub-committee be established to pursue this possibility. He was impressed with the personnel policy committee under Member Porter and how well

they worked together. He announced the following five members be appointed to a committee to research the possibilities of opening our own County Animal Shelter: co-chairs Roger Underwood, and Member Tim Hasten; and committee members Jen Gibb, a veterinary technician; Dr. Joe Kinzer, a veterinarian who previously worked for the County; and John Kennedy, former animal control officer. This committee is to set up meeting times and report back to Member Steve Johnson. This is a group of very informed people who are excited to serve on this committee.

The Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, and Clerk Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Wayne Saline. Reports are included in the packets. At this point in the year, the revenues should be at 67% and are 65%. Expenses should also be at 67% and are 61%. Departments are staying within their budgets.

Motion was made by Member Steve Johnson and seconded by Member Link to approve the purchase of a one ton 1999 Dodge 15 passenger van with 36,000 miles on it from the Missouri State Police for a total cost of \$5,750.00 to be funded through the Mary Davis Home Bond. Member Steve Johnson explained that this purchase was discussed in the Sheriff and Jail committee meeting as well as the Finance committee meeting. The two Courthouse vehicles are no longer operational. The Courthouse should be acquiring a 2003 Chevy Impala from the Mary Davis Home when they purchase their four new vehicles. The Courthouse needs a van to transport election machines and supplies. Since previously the County has had good luck with vehicles obtained from the Missouri State Police, it was suggested that we again contact them about the purchase of a van. This is a first come, first served basis. Given the size of this van, it probably will not be fuel efficient, but it will not be making frequent long distance trips. Photos of the vehicle were shared with the Members.

Rod Clear stated that the remaining bond money must be spent by November 30, 2008 and the Mary Davis Home would be willing to purchase this vehicle with that funding.

Member Steve Johnson questioned what should be done with the two dysfunctional vehicles. Since the van does have new tires, perhaps the Sheriff's Department could use those tires. If not he would recommend hauling these vehicles to the scrap yard. Perhaps the car could be put up for bid.

Mr. Clear suggested sending the van to the auto auction. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—Lyle Johnson—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Parsons to approve the purchase of the coroner vehicle. Member Saline explained why this item is back on the agenda. Mark Thomas apparently wants to make some money and believes his vehicle has some equity. Previously the County offered to pay off his loan in the amount of \$19,000.00. Member Saline did some comparison shopping for a similar vehicle and discovered one for \$22,000.00. He could not find a less expensive one. This price would not include the customized equipment. It would be advantageous for the County to have their own vehicle. He would recommend that the Board approve this

measure to pay \$4,000.00 to be transferred from the coroner's mileage/removal line item. The balance will be paid in December under the new budget. After this purchase is approved, the County will no longer be paying mileage or removal fees. 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—Bacon and Saline—(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Steve Johnson to approve the Workman's Compensation settlement in the amount of \$39,151.00 to Patsy King. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the resolution to rescind a sale from the delinquent tax liquidation program, in reference to parcel number 95-33-276-003. County Clerk Scott Erickson explained that after an individual purchased this property at the surplus property sale, he became aware of previously unknown environment hazards within and about the property. The County's tax agent has recommended that the Board approve and accept this rescission. Then this parcel will return to the surplus property auction. This time the catalogue will list the EPA violations. Any new potential owner will know the full extent of what they are getting into.

Chairman Pickrel inquired if the County really has a choice in this matter. Treasurer Robin Davis responded that the County has to hold this property in trust. The trustees are highly recommending that the Board approve this resolution. According to State and Federal law, we have to refund his money. But we do not have to clean up this property.

Member Saline questioned if the County refunds his money, would the County be holding this property forever. Mrs. Davis responded that in the catalogue to potential bidders, it will be listed as a "bad parcel". Since the City of Galesburg has more funding sources available, they may purchase this property and clean it up. For now the County is the responsible party until someone else purchases it.

Chairman Pickrel expressed his concerns about taking over the ownership of this property, and the possibility that the County would have to pay to clean it up. Mrs. Davis reiterated that the County is not responsible for the clean up or maintenance of this property. If the County does not approve this resolution, it will still be a sale in error and the purchase price will still have to be refunded. This way you are actually giving it back to the trustee, where it should go.

Member Steve Johnson called for the question. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Hasten, Mannhardt, Stewart, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Steve Johnson—(8). Noes—Bacon, Link, Pickrel, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, and Saline—(7). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Hasten to approve the union contract with the Sheriff and ASCME Local 3217. Member Occhi stated that they worked long and hard on negotiating this contract. Roll call vote is recorded as

follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Saline announced that a special meeting of the Finance committee will be held September 10, 2008 to discuss insurance. Their regular meeting will be held September 17.

Ad Hoc Building Committee Chairman Steve Johnson stated that previously the Board had approved that Amnet prepare a facility condition report for the Courthouse. Last month this report was presented to the committee. Each Board Member received a copy of this report. There are several things to consider when it comes to doing construction work on the Courthouse. According to some research, the Knox County Courthouse is included on the National Registry of Historic Sites. Therefore, there are additional requirements and limitations regarding construction and remodeling. Member Mannhardt questioned that instead the old Courthouse in Knoxville is listed on that list of the National Registry of Historic Sites.

Al Varney, from Amnet, stated that the initial intent of this report was to look at the existing Courthouse and determine what it would require to bring it up to a level where the County could continue to use it for possibly the next 25 years. It was quickly apparent that additional space is necessary. They also investigated what it would cost to build an addition to the Courthouse. Architects and engineers were consulted to evaluate the present condition of the Courthouse. They looked at what it would involve to make this structure more modern. This is an old building with many deficiencies including proper sanitation facilities and adequate handicapped accessibility. The mechanical and electrical systems are old and outdated. Another matter of concern is the wide open stairwell which would allow for smoke migration up through the building. The storage space in the attic is a tinder box due to the exposed rafters and all of the paper documents that are stored there. This proposed new 24,000 square foot addition would include a space for improved sanitation facilities and improve handicapped accessibility. It would also include storage space for records.

Member Steve Johnson added that even with the proposed Courthouse addition, it does not address all the space needs of the Courthouse and outlying offices. Further the addition would decrease available parking spaces.

Mr. Varney stated that they sought to do a fair cost comparison between what it would cost to improve the Courthouse, or refit an existing structure to suit the County's needs. He speculated that even if the County were to immediately proceed with this plan to improve and expand the Courthouse, the project would take three or four years to complete.

Chairman Pickrel commented that originally Knox College donated the Courthouse property to the County. Therefore, there are additional limitations regarding what can be done to this property.

Member Steve Johnson expressed his appreciation to Al Varney and Amnet for their work on this project. Their report is quite detailed and specific. Sooner or later the Board is going to have to make some hard decisions. 1) What are we going to do to solve these problems? And 2) how are we going to pay for it? This report was very necessary to help us to more knowledgably make some decisions. This report was well worth it.

Chairman Pickrel commented that this report opened his eyes.

Member Abel suggested that the public be invited to attend an open forum.

Member Stewart agreed that the public should be involved and help us make the proper decision.

Chairman Pickrel expressed his appreciation to Member Steve Johnson and Mr. Varney for all their work. There should be a public forum and citizens of the County should be informed that it will require approximately \$20,000,000 to complete this proposed project to extend the functionality of the Courthouse.

For the record, Member Bacon asked for a price comparison to refit a box store to meet the needs of the Courthouse. Mr. Varney responded that for a 75,000 square foot building, to remodel and take care of the mechanical, plumbing, and electrical changes, the cost would be approximately \$12,000,000. The cost to build to new structure would be approximately \$16,500,000 - \$17,000,000. That option would be less expensive than doing work on this structure and building an addition.

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

Motion was made by Member Steve Johnson and seconded by Member Occhi to bid and bring back for four new squad cars for the Mary Davis Home to be funded through their bond money. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Steve Johnson asked that item #18 to approve the purchase of a UPS system for the Mary Davis Home, be removed from this agenda as this purchase will be approximately \$3,000.

Motion was made by Member Steve Johnson and seconded by Member Abel to approve the purchase of software for the Mary Davis Home to be funded through their bond money. Rod Clair explained that this software records visual checks on their clients while they are in their rooms. Their current system needs to be updated. He estimates the cost to be \$7,500 - \$8,500. Since there are only two companies that provide this service, he questioned if this purchase would have to be bid out. In view of the fact that one company does provide the better equipment, he would prefer to accept their bid. It could be considered a professional service. State's Attorney John Pepmeyer responded that he did not have enough information to make that judgment. Member Steve Johnson suggested that bids be obtained from both vendors, even though Mr. Clair plans to accept the bid for the better equipment. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Steve Johnson—(14). Noes—(0). Pass—Saline—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the resolution for medical reimbursement at the public aid rate. Member Steve Johnson explained that this has to do with reimbursements for the prisoners at the Knox

County Jail. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Steve Johnson and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the food service option at the jail to stay with Kohl Company for the food service and utilize current employees in the service of the food. Member Steve Johnson reported that this was the lowest bid. As the Sheriff and the committee did their research they discovered that some other bids included hidden or extra costs that were not included in the “per meal” prices. At the end of six months this contract will be re-evaluated. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Porter, Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

8:05 p.m. Member Porter left the room.

The Highway, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Jerry Link. The monthly reports and committee minutes are included in the packets. Previously during this Meeting Al Varney commented about the 4th floor of the Courthouse. Recently County Recorder Nancy McCune has moved some items to the Nursing Home for storage at that location. Member Link expressed his thanks to the State’s Attorney’s Office for working with the Zoning Office to clean up the Rodney Motz property. It does look much better.

8:07 p.m. Member Parsons left the room.

Member Link continued. The committee did discuss the need for a County building code and an inspector. Member Bacon has been appointed to research state building codes and bring a report to the next committee meeting. The highway department has done a lot of road work this summer, especially during the last 30 days.

Member Abel asked about the amount of salt available for the coming winter season. Member Link responded that there is salt on hand that should be enough. The committee did reject the bid from Gunther Construction for resurface work on County Highway 40. This bid was \$76,000.00 over the engineer’s estimate. The annual road tour went well. One of the most interesting stops was at the bridge on County Highway 20, south of Maquon. This bridge is under repair. It was an eye opening experience to see the damages caused by salt and corrosion.

Member Bacon commented in reference to the road tour. They did go by some zoning violations. They also saw some projects that the highway department is working on. It was amazing to see the deterioration on the steel beams of that bridge. More Members should take part in the road tour.

Member Stewart agreed that there needs to be building codes in the County. He is glad to see that the County is looking into this.

Chairman Pickrel expressed his concerns that Mr. Vanier’s house looks sad.

The Landfill Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Lowell Mannhardt. The Committee minutes and landfill report are included in the packets. Although the landfill has spent a lot of money, \$104,000.00 of that is for the new cell

liner for cell #13. The actual cost is \$116,000.00, but we will only pay 90% until the State approves it.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Stewart to approve the purchase of propane for the landfill in the amount of \$2.249 per gallon for 5,000 gallons from F.S. Although the Board did approve to bid and bring for this purchase, no bids were received.

8:09 p.m. Member Bacon left the room.

Member Link continued that previously the committee had received this proposal from F.S. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Abel to increase the tipping fees at the landfill from \$28.00 per ton to \$32.00 per ton for out of county residents effective October 1, 2008. Special waste rates would be established at \$32.00 per ton for County residents and \$34.00 per ton for out of County residents.

Chairman Pickrel questioned the rates for fluff contracts. Jerry Reynolds responded that basically there just is the one contract with Allied Metals. Since there is no contract with Behr, we can change those rates as we want. We are bound by a contract with Allied Metals until December 1, 2008, when that contract expires. The current rate is \$30.50 per ton. That includes the disposal and hauling costs.

Chairman Pickrel stated that he had tried to calculate the expenses of how much it costs per truck per day, fuel for those trucks per day, and for manpower per day. He was unable to calculate things like the wear and tear on those trucks. Since the County is making money on those fluff contracts, we should do whatever we can to keep those fluff contracts. We cannot afford to lose those contracts. He would caution Mr. Reynolds and the committee to do whatever is necessary to keep those contracts. He is not opposed to a rate increase but we must be careful when it comes to the fluff.

Member Saline stated that according to his calculations, the fluff earns \$24,000 per week.

8:16 p.m. Member Bacon returned to the room.

Member Saline continued that he would not have a problem with increasing those fees but not to the point where we would lose the fluff business.

Member Link agreed with Chairman Pickrel as to the importance of the fluff contracts. The tonnage is important. Member Stewart stated that it is important to maintain a profit margin.

Member Bacon spoke in reference to the life span of the landfill. Without more land, we are looking at the downhill side of it. The more tonnage that is put into the landfill, the more quickly available space is consumed. At some point we will have to decide if the fluff contracts are worth the longevity of the landfill. We are in the business to provide a landfill to the citizens of the County. Since the fluff is decreasing the lifespan of the landfill, he questioned if it is worth the money.

Member Steve Johnson responded that another way of looking at this is to question if the landfill would still be in the black without the fluff contract, just

depending on the revenues for the County use. If that is not possible, that is a disservice to the taxpayers, because rates would have to be increased.

Mr. Reynolds stated that for a comparison, the Quad Cities Landfill charges \$33 per ton for the same material; Peoria City/County Landfill charges \$41 per ton; Upper Rock Island Landfill charges \$39 per ton; and Environfill charges \$36 per ton. We would not be over-pricing ourselves completely out of it. We would probably be closer to where other counties would be. We might lose some of it. We should not be making any sweetheart deal with someone who is not from Knox County. If someone is going to be getting the best possible deal, it should be the citizens of the County.

Member Saline stated that sweetheart deals should not be made with anyone, whether they are a citizen of the County or not. He is not against raising the rates, because fuel costs and other costs have increased. We are in the business of running the landfill to make money. Otherwise to continue to provide this service, taxes would have to be increased. Currently we do not tax for any services at the landfill.

Chairman Pickrel stated that if we lose the fluff business, he would vote to sell the landfill, because then the landfill would not be making any money. Right now the landfill is an interest free bank for the County.

Member Bacon disagreed and stated that even if we lose the fluff contracts, we would not lose the landfill.

Chairman Pickrel responded that according to his figures, the fluff business generates a profit of approximately \$50,000 each month. He figures the cost of the trucks to be \$85 per day. He reiterated that the landfill earns \$24,000 per week from the fluff.

Member Bacon stated that he had not seen those figures. The figures that he had seen were not even close to that amount.

Chairman Pickrel stated that there are different ways of looking at this. Another viewpoint has to do with space consumed at the landfill resulting in a net loss. Roll call vote to increase the tipping fees at the landfill from \$28.00 per ton to \$32.00 per ton for out of county residents effective October 1, 2008 is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Stewart, Knapp, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(11). Noes—Pickrel and Sandoval—(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Bacon to approve a composting contract for the landfill with By-Products Solutions in the amount of \$2.00 per cubic yard. Under terms of this contract they will provide their own equipment. They will take all that we have. It is an “all or nothing” type of deal. They will convert the per yard price to a per ton price. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, 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 Stewart and seconded by Member Link to approve to bid and bring back for two leachate tanks for the landfill. Mr. Reynolds stated that they expect to get the permit and approval from the Illinois EPA within the next week or so. These would be 12,000-15,000 gallon tanks. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). 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. The IGT (Intergovernmental Transfer) program may end. Additionally the State says that they overpaid the Nursing Home. There are a lot of concerns about money at the nursing home. Nursing Home Administrator, Marianne Wiesen reported that the current census is 111 residents.

Motion was made by Member Stewart and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the highest bid received for the lease of the County farmland, which was received from LPT farms in the total amount of \$12,155.00. The committee recommends that we lease for one year and give an option for years two and three. The former tenant did not submit a bid. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, 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 Stewart and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the opening of the budget for line item adjustments. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, 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 Stewart and seconded by Member Occhi to approve line item adjustments in the budget. Specific information had been provided to the Members. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, 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 Mannhardt to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of July 24, 2008 – August 27, 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—Hasten, Mannhardt, Link, Pickrel, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Lyle Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Steve Johnson—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Bacon—(1). Motion carried.

County Clerk Scott Erickson presented the 2008 Yearbook to the Board Members. He stated that most of this information is also available on the web site.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Bacon, Member Hasten, and Member Mannhardt had no comments at this time.

Member Link expressed his sincere thanks for the Yearbook.
Chairman Pickrel also expressed his thanks for the Yearbook.

Member Stewart, Member Knapp, Member Sandoval, Member Lyle Johnson, Member Abel, Member Occhi, Member Saline, and Member Steve Johnson had no comments at this time.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday September 24, 2008, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Occhi to adjourn. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.