

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

**August 26, 2009**

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 August 26, 2009 at 6:02 p.m.

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

District 1	Allen Pickrel
District 2	Greg “Chops” Bacon
District 3	Barbara Foster
District 4	Lowell Mannhardt
District 5	Jeff Jefferson
District 2	Paul Stewart
District 4	George Knapp
District 5	Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval
District 1	Lyle Johnson
District 2	William Abel
District 3	Janet Occhi
District 5	David Serven

And those absent:                District 4        Wayne Saline

Also present were Sheriff Dave Clague, Treasurer Robin Davis, State’s Attorney John Pempeyer, and County Clerk Scott Erickson.

Sheriff Dave Clague delivered the proclamation. Chairman Bacon led the Members in the pledge to the flag. Rev. David Scholl of the Galesburg Rescue Mission delivered the invocation.

Chairman Bacon asked for additions to the agenda. Member Occhi asked that item # 12, resolution to modify previous resolution, be dropped from this agenda.

Chairman Bacon asked for public comments. Anna Sophia Johnson, of Wataga, addressed the Board. She stated that she had attended most of the Building Committee Meetings. However most of the discussions are held in executive session. Therefore, most of what she has learned has come from either the Register-Mail or interviewing committee members. She had read Member Knapp’s opinion in the newspaper and his proposal that the Courthouse be used solely for judicial purposes and that the non-judicial

offices be located elsewhere. The Board had authorized two companies, Bruner, Cooper, and Zuck as well as Durrant to draft proposals on how to deal with the problems at the Courthouse. However, neither of these firms specializes in the renovation of historic buildings. The Board should contact the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and seek their expertise.

The Board should share all their information with the residents of the County so that the taxpayers can better understand the situation and the full range of possibilities. There should be open discussion.

James Jacobs, of Galesburg, addressed that Board saying that he agreed with the previous comments about the future of the Courthouse. This building should not be destroyed or abandoned but should at least be used for judicial processes and responsibilities. Perhaps other offices could be located elsewhere. He agrees that the County should consult with experts about preservation. Too many historic buildings have been knocked down.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Mannhardt to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on July 29, 2009, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of August 26, 2009, and other claims for per diem from Meetings, 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of May 2009 in the amounts of \$99,375.75 and \$17,814.18 and public safety tax in the amount of \$84,430.86. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes - Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Serven to approve the proclamation for Labor Day 2009. Chairman Bacon read aloud this proclamation. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Resolution of the Designation of Workforce Development Week, beginning August 31, 2009. Chairman Bacon read aloud this resolution. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairman Bacon asked that recently retired Board Member Dale Parsons step forward. Chairman Bacon presented to him a plaque and thanked him for serving faithfully for 15 years. Mr. Parsons thanked the citizens of Knox County and fellow Board Members.

Chairman Bacon also had a plaque for former Board Member Bernie Damm who recently resigned. Mr. Damm did not serve as long, yet his service is so appreciated. Since he was unable to attend this Meeting, Member Occhi accepted his plaque.

County Clerk Scott Erickson reminded Board Members that a couple of years ago the roll call Pro-System was presented to the County Board. He introduced representatives from this company who presented a video highlighting the features of this electronic voting system.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Abel to approve the purchase of this roll call Pro-System for the County Board at a cost of \$4,400.00, for entire system. There is also an annual maintenance fee of 10%. When using this system everyone votes at once; it is a secret ballot until everyone has voted. This system would improve efficiency and record keeping. It will record who spoke and for how long. Mr. Erickson stated that this program is available at this price for a limited time only. In October the program will increase dramatically in cost to \$11,400.00. If we purchase this program now they will provide the software upgrades. In dealing with FOI laws and requirements, this program will make it easier for the public to monitor the vote, as there will be a visual display. It will also make it easier for the press to record the vote. The City of Galesburg has a mechanical voting system in place.

Member Stewart stated that he is not in favor of this system. We should not be spending the extra money.

Member Serven agreed with Member Stewart. At this time we do not need to be spending the extra money on it. He thinks that some people would be sitting and fumbling with the system rather than paying attention.

Member Johnson commented that he liked the system. If several people desire to speak at the same time, with this system it is easy to establish speaking order. He likes that the votes are displayed after the vote is finished.

Member Occhi spoke in favor of the system. People sometimes cannot hear during the Meeting, and this would allow them to see who voted for or against a particular motion.

Chairman Bacon spoke in favor of system. With this system you are expressing your opinion and not just following the crowd.

Board Members were allowed to preview this system and vote with it. Electronic vote to approve the purchase of the roll call Pro-System for the County Board at a cost of \$4,400.00, is recorded as follows: Ayes— Ayes - Pickrel, Bacon, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, and Occhi—(6). Noes— Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Stewart, Knapp, and Serven (6). Motion failed.

Motion to reconsider by Member Occhi, second by Member Pickrel. Vote is recorded as follows: Ayes - Pickrel, Bacon, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, and Occhi—(6). Noes— Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Stewart, Knapp, and Serven (6). Motion failed.

Motion was made by Member Pickrel and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the directive on the date for County Board Meetings. During months that have five Wednesdays, the Board Meeting will be held on the fifth Wednesday. There has been some confusion in the past. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the appointment of the Board Chairman to standing committees. Chairman Bacon explained that this matter has to do with the fact that since two Members recently resigned, some committees are short. This motion would make him a voting member of these committees. He will not be requesting a per diem for these extra committees. As it is now, he is not a voting member of these committees.

Member Pickrel suggested an amendment to the motion that the Chairman would only be allowed to vote to break a tie or when there is no quorum. He called for the question. Voice vote for the call to the question is recorded as follows: Ayes—(11). Noes—(1). Motion carried.

Voice vote to approve the appointment of the Board Chairman to standing committees is recorded as follows: Ayes—(11). Noes—(1). Motion carried.

Gary Tomlin presented the economic development report. He presented packets of information to the Members. There are economic possibilities of fruit and vegetable production in Knox County and the leadership role that County Government can take in developing these possibilities. Recent legislation in Springfield was passed that mandates the establishment of local food procurement for state agencies to locally purchase 20% of their food by 2020. State funded institutions such as schools, the Mary Davis Home, the Knox County Jail, and the Knox County Nursing Home, would have a goal of 10% by 2020. The Illinois local food, farms, and jobs council will be established to work with State agencies, Illinois businesses, organizations, and Illinois residents to build an active local farm and food market. Additionally, the number of farmers' markets is on the rise and there is a growing demand for local produce.

It makes good economic sense for Knox County to promote fruit and vegetable production within the County as additional jobs would be generated. Knox County has a strong agricultural base and access to transportation. It would make sense for economic development to come from agriculture. Every dollar spent here on local produce gets spent seven times over in downstream economic activity. Perhaps land in the economic incubator could be used for that purpose. Knox County could work with various local agencies such as the Farm Service Agency, the University of Illinois Knox County Extension Service, the Entrepreneurship Center, and GREDA to promote and assist small businesses in fruit and vegetable production. There are financial resources available for small businesses to get started. We should consider establishing a Knox County Food Council comprised of specific organizations and food growers to work together to make this a reality. Next month there will be a resolution on the agenda in reference to the establishment of the Knox County Food Council. This could be an economic engine that is sustainable and recession proof.

Member Stewart agreed with this concept to use local farms.

Member Serven commented that Mr. Tomlin has spent a lot of work on this. It is a great idea. It could be tough to get people involved in this. Still it is well worth the effort.

Chairman Bacon stated that the unemployment rate in Knox County is 10%. We are thinking outside the box. We are no longer the manufacturing center that we used to be. We are a railroad and agricultural community. It will be hard to get the ball rolling and get interested individuals involved. If it does not work, we tried. We have got to do something.

Mr. Tomlin stated that Knox County would not own this industry but be encouraging it. He asked for direction from the Board whether to proceed with this plan. Member Occhi suggested that he go ahead. Perhaps by the next growing season they could get this stated.

Chairman Bacon stated that they really need to look into this. The Board gave their consensus to proceed.

The Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, and Clerk Committee report was presented by Member Occhi. The monthly report and committee minutes are in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Serven to approve the postage machine lease with Pitney Bowes. Treasurer Robin Davis reported that they are seeking an increase in the lease amount of \$20.00 per month. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Building Committee Chairman George Knapp stated there was no report from the Building Committee.

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

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Pickrel to approve the bid for the clothes dryer for the Mary Davis Home submitted by Lindstrom's TV and Appliance in the amount of \$8,700.00. This is the only bid that was received. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Knapp to approve the reappointment of James Nelson to the Sheriff Merit Commission. This term will expire August 31, 2015. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Serven—(11). Noes—(0). Pass—Foster—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Occhi to approve proposed County ordinances. A copy of these ordinances is included in the Board packets.

Sheriff Dave Clague explained that these proposed ordinances would give offenders a second chance. The violation would not go on their record, and these administrative fines would generate additional revenue. Right now a certain percent of the fine money goes to the State. Recently Judge Mathers spoke to the Building Committee reporting the number of the arrests has decreased, but court has increased. By doing an administrative ticket, it will eliminate some people from going to court. Most of those are either minor traffic violations or a state violation for a criminal code, such as disorderly conduct. Typically they would be fined \$100 plus court costs. Now we would issue an administrative ticket, and that individual would pay a fine of \$50.00. If they have not paid after the tenth day, then it is automatically turned over to the State's Attorney's Office or we make a petition to the State asking for a review to make that arrest and go through the actual criminal process.

The City of Galesburg already does this and other county sheriff's departments do this as well. This is primarily to generate revenue. After purposing this to the committee, he has received numerous calls suggesting that it is a good idea. This would give the offender a second chance. These proposed ordinances were presented to State's Attorney John Pepmeyer.

Mr. Pepmeyer stated that it was good idea.

When asked about how much revenue this would generate, Sheriff Clague stated it would only be speculation at this point. However, the entire \$50.00 fine amount would stay within Knox County; no portion of it would go to the State.

Member Stewart stated he is in favor of this and appreciates that Sheriff Clague is bringing forward other revenue options to the Board. The Sheriff's Department is the most expensive department in the County.

Roll call vote to approve proposed County ordinances is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Mannhardt to bid and bring back for the County maintenance contract. Sheriff Clague stated that this contract is soon to expire. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Highway, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman George Knapp. Reports are included in the packets. Debbie Younger was recently hired as Zoning Clerk.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Pickrel to approve the low bid submitted by America's Parking Remarking for annual pavement striping program at a cost of \$0.0515 per lineal foot. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Mannhardt to approve the lowest bid submitted by Vulcan Signs for various highway signs for use during the 2009 maintenance season at a cost of \$6,021.00. Roll call is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Mannhardt to approve the bid submitted by Illowa Culvert for steel culvert pipes at a cost of \$18,741.60. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pickrel and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the renewal of the employment contract for GIS Coordinator Bill Lotz. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson,

Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Landfill and Nursing Home Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Lyle Johnson. The committee minutes and reports are included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Serven to approve the Central Management Services Surplus Property Agreement. This would allow various County departments to purchase excess federal property from the State at a reduced price. There is no cost to participate in this program. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Mannhardt to approve the opening of the budget for approving specific line item adjustments. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Occhi to approve specific line item adjustments in the budget. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of July 30, 2009 through August 26, 2009 (ordering that invoices be accepted and approved and that the County Clerk and County Treasurer be authorized and directed to issue County Warrants in payment of the bills.) Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Pickrel commented about the lap top computers and said that they are working out wonderfully. He would like to receive more e-mails. There should be a list of the e-mail addresses of County Board Members which would be made available to the public.

Member Bacon, Member Foster, Member Mannhardt, Member Jefferson, Member Stewart, Member Knapp, Member Sandoval, Member Johnson, and Member Abel had no comments at this time.

Member Occhi suggested that the Board Members' e-mail addresses be made available on the web-site.

Member Serven had no comments at this time.

The next regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2009, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Foster to adjourn. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.