

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

July 29, 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 July 29, 2009 at 6:00p.m.

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

District 2	Greg “Chops” Bacon
District 3	Barbara Foster
District 4	Lowell Mannhardt
District 5	Jeff Jefferson
District 1	C. B. “Bernie” Damm
District 2	Paul Stewart
District 4	George Knapp
District 1	Lyle Johnson
District 2	William Abel
District 3	Janet Occhi
District 4	Wayne Saline
District 5	David Serven

And those absent:	District 1	Allen Pickrel
	District 3	Dale Parsons
	District 5	Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval

Also present were Sheriff Dave Clague, Treasurer Robin Davis, State’s Attorney John Pepmeyer, and Deputy County Clerk Jane Smith.

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. There were none.

Chairman Bacon asked for public comments. Peg Bivens, of Knoxville, addressed the Board in reference to planned renovation or relocation of the Courthouse. Whatever the decision is, she feels that the Courthouse should be a structure that would have a real presence in the community with sound architectural distinction. She feels that the location of any new courthouse was decided when the new County Jail was constructed;

as the courthouse should be in the same area. It is possible to remodel the existing courthouse and build an addition while still preserving the architectural integrity of the structure.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Abel to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on June 24, 2009, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of July 29, 2009 and other claims for per diem from meetings, 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of April 2009 in the amounts of \$91,872.67 and \$18,167.15 and public safety tax in the amount of \$77,818.24. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

A presentation was given by Al Smith regarding Knox County TRIAD. He briefly reviewed some of the services provided by that organization which serves the senior citizens of the County. The general population is growing older and they deserve the services of TRIAD. They are funded through a variety of fund raisers as well as donations from area businesses and private donations. One focus of TRIAD is to provide smoke and CO detectors to 15 fire stations in the County. These detectors are then installed by the firemen in the homes of the elderly. Last year they were able to purchase 105 of these units. Mr. Smith presented some of these detectors to Member Saline to deliver to the Rio Fire Department.

Chairman Bacon thanked Mr. Smith for TRIAD's services to the senior citizens of the County.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Damm to approve the appointments of Rollin Tye and Norman Gross to the Oneida Sanitary District Board. Mr. Tye will be reappointed with this term to expire in 2012. Mr. Gross will be completing the unexpired term of Gale Adams with that term ending in 2011. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, and Clerk Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Wayne Saline. They are just beginning their work through the budgetary process for the coming fiscal year. It is going to be a tough process. Reports are included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve to bid and bring back for County auditing services. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Building Committee Chairman George Knapp stated that there was no report other than what is included in the packet. There should be more information available next month.

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

Member Stewart noted that the Mary Davis Home had received \$84,000 from the State. He questioned if this payment was due for the previous year.

Mr. Clair responded that this payment is for December 2008. Their fiscal year is different than ours. Even though we received this payment the State still owes \$200,000.

Member Saline added that the State still owes for the last three or four years. The County will not be receiving that revenue.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Saline to bid and bring back for a clothes dryer for the Mary Davis Home to be funded through the bond fund. The current clothes dryer is over 20 years old. The new one is estimated to cost \$8,000-\$10,000. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Damm to approve the resolution to charge inmates a \$5.00 daily fee from their commissary accounts.

Sheriff Clague stated that two months ago he met with the Peoria County Sheriff who reported that they were going to start charging inmates to help defray the cost of running their County jail. Last month Sheriff Clague attended a Homeland Security Committee Meeting in Florida. There he learned that some departments are charging up to \$60.00 per inmate per day all the way down to the \$5.00 fee that he is proposing in this resolution. Some states give sheriffs the authority to charge fees. In Illinois the sheriff can immediately implement such a plan but he would prefer to bring it to the County Board for their approval. At the rate of an average daily inmate population of 104, not counting federal inmates as they cannot be charged, and subtracting a few that may not be able to pay this fee, if they just figure 60 inmates per day this could generate additional annual revenue in the amount of \$110,000.

The next question would be what to do about the inmates who cannot pay that fee. As they have reviewed the accounts, 92% of the inmates do have the funds in their commissary accounts to pay this fee. The commissary company has assured them that through their computerized system in the jail this fee can be automatically deducted from these accounts and a receipt given to the inmate. These funds will be deposited in the County's general fund.

About four weeks ago Sheriff Clague met with Chief Judge Mathers to discuss the possibility of establishing a work program with inmates from the County Jail. Inmates would be evaluated as to whether they could participate in such a program. For example, there should be inmates who could be trustworthy enough to pick up garbage along the ditches of the County's roads. Judge Mathers totally agreed with this idea and suggested a meeting with Judge Morrison who sets the bond for individuals. During the bond hearing the inmate could be informed as to the possibility of being assigned to a work program. A report of each inmate's participation would be presented to Judge Morrison. There could be the possibility of a reduction in the bond amount.

This resolution will not require additional personnel at this time. They would only take a small group of inmates out at any one time. He does not want an added expense to

the Sheriff's Department or the County. However, he does want to ensure the safety of the inmates and employees as well as prevent the possibility of escape. The screening process will be very thorough.

Member Stewart stated that this is a good idea to acquire some community effort. Since he has never been in jail, he is not familiar with the way the commissary accounts work.

Sherriff Clague explained that as inmates are booked, if they do have funds they can apply that toward a phone card or commissary items. Those records are computerized and the Sheriff's Office does not actually touch the money. They are later reimbursed for the phone cards and for the privilege of having that commissary. Often if the inmate does not have funds, family members help out.

Member Saline commented that this was brought to his attention several months ago. Other counties are doing the same thing. It is a good idea to do this. We should try to recoup some of our expenses.

Roll call vote to approve the resolution to charge inmates a \$5.00 daily fee from their commissary accounts is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(11). Noes—Johnson—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Stewart and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the bid for sprinkler and alarm repair at the Courthouse submitted by Ahern Fire Protection in the amount of \$11,771.00.

Sheriff Clague explained that this company has worked with the systems at the annex and jail besides the courthouse. They are familiar with the system and have prepared a list of priorities.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(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.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Saline to approve the intergovernmental agreements with the multi-township assessors for direct help desk access for DevNet. This service will cost \$1,500 annually from each of the two districts and will require this intergovernmental agreement. There will be no additional cost to the County. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Damm to approve the conditional use permit for CU—1-09, filed by Richard and Laura Collins, 1277 Knox Rd 1600 N, Knoxville, for a private use wind energy system which will involve a small wind tower. It is the unanimous recommendation from the Zoning Board of Appeals to approve this request. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster,

Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve the local agency agreement for federal participation for County Highway 1, Section 05-00107-04-RS. This is a resurfacing project to be funded with a combination of federal and county funds. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Serven to approve the local agency agreement for federal participation for the Elba bridge replacement, Section 08-0412-00BR. The estimated cost is \$181,000 and will be totally funded through economic stimulus funds. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, 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 Mannhardt to approve red flag rules for the prevention of identity theft at the nursing home. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the policy on interpreter services at the nursing home. This policy will meet the minimum standards for services for non-English speaking residents who reside at the nursing home in conformity to the Language Assistance Services Code.

Marianne Wiesen explained that this is a State requirement. She did not think that there would be any cost associated with this policy. They plan to utilize a service provided by AT & T and there is the possibility of seeking assistance from Stone-Hays to assist with any resident who would need to sign. She also suggested the possibility of an employee taking sign language classes at Carl Sandburg College. Currently there is a nursing home employee who speaks Spanish. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the DISH TV service bid for the nursing home. Member Johnson reported that their current service is not adequate and there are not enough channels available. The cost would be \$900 per month for one year for the equipment, and \$256 per month for three years for the service. Comcast cannot provide the service. There is no opportunity to bid it as there is no competing service. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(11). Noes—(0). Pass—Bacon—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Mannhardt to approve advertisement for hay cutting at the landfill. This is a routine matter. Last year approximately \$1,800 was generated. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Knapp to approve the bid submitted by Vermeer of Illinois in the amount of \$434,630.00 for a tub grinder at the landfill. This amount includes a trade-in allowance of \$62,000.00. State regulations mandate that a tub grinder be located on site or there could be resulting fines.

Member Stewart reported that this cost is within the anticipated range.

Chairman Bacon questioned the service agreement or warranty on this piece of machinery.

Jerry Reynolds responded that they had proposed a service agreement but we have not accepted or negotiated one. There is a one year warranty.

Member Saline expressed his concern that since this is a high wear and tear piece of equipment, a service agreement could be cost prohibitive.

Mr. Reynolds stated that at this point in time, he feels it is cost prohibitive. The cost of that per hour would be nearly double the cost for the bull dozer. It should not be that much higher. They chose to keep the purchase price and the matter of a service agreement as separate issues, hoping to later negotiate a better price for the service agreement. Then later he would bring that before the Board for approval.

Member Saline stated his concern to have a service agreement in place. This is a high wear item. A one year guarantee is not enough.

Mr. Reynolds agreed. He and the committee are fully aware of it. For now he did not want to cloud the issue of the purchase price of this tub grinder by bringing in a service agreement at the same time. Currently the bull dozer is costing \$9.50 per operational hour for the service agreement and the price for the tub grinder would be \$19.50 per operational hour, which is more than double the cost for the bull dozer. Therefore, he was not comfortable with that cost. Presently they are renting a tub grinder at a cost of \$22,000.00 per month. They average running that machine 16 hours per week or 900 – 1,000 hours per year. Service would have to be provided by this company.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Mannhardt to approve the low bid submitted by Wisconsin and Upper Peninsula Trailer in the amount of \$15,400.00 for a rock hauling trailer for the landfill. This includes the trade-in allowance of \$28,000.00 for two belt trailers. There was a lower bid submitted but it did not meet bid specifications. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the expenditure for the creation of specifications and a bid proposal for engineering services at the landfill with the fee not to exceed \$20,000.00.

Jerry Reynolds explained that Keith Gordon of Gordon Environmental Engineering of Bernalillo, New Mexico would prepare these specifications. This company would not be in consideration for a replacement company. They would completely be a disinterested third party. Mr. Reynolds had worked with this company in the past.

Member Saline stated his concern that the landfill is over engineered and over priced.

Member Stewart added that it is healthy to open up the process and allow others to bid. In the long run it might save the taxpayers some money.

Member Saline stated that the present engineering company, Foth Engineering, has provided service to the County for the last 20 – 30 years.

Roll call vote to approve the expenditure for the creation of specifications and a bid proposal for engineering services at the landfill with the fee not to exceed \$20,000.00 is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Stewart to approve the agreement to allow the landfill to contract the County Highway Department for access road engineering and construction for the road to the landfill. Duane Ratermann estimated the cost to be \$178,137. This amount is on a time and materials basis. Funds would be transferred from the landfill's fuel expense appropriation line. Actual construction cannot begin until October.

Member Stewart reminded Members that this road has been in considerable disrepair for years.

Member Saline stated that in the past there had been some disagreement about who was responsible for the maintenance of that road, whether it was Sparta Township or the County. However, if we are repairing that road, we should receive a share of the Motor Fuel Tax for that portion of the road.

Mr. Reynolds commented that to be a good neighbor it would be in the County's best interest to take care of that portion of this road.

Member Saline agreed that we should fix this road as we are the ones that use the road the most. Still if we maintain that road, then we should get a share of the Motor Fuel Tax money.

Member Stewart stated that since we use the road the most, it is our responsibility to maintain it. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

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

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Serven to approve specific line item adjustments in the budget. Chairman Bacon stated that some adjustments are noted in the packets and some others are included on the handouts. Due

to budgetary constraints, and the amount of revenue coming in he understands the need for these but he would still hope there would be less of them.

Member Saline stated that there are not as many as there were last year. Our revenue streams have changed drastically. Roll call vote to approve specific line items adjustments in the budget is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Abel to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of June 25 through July 29, 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—Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Chairman Bacon commented in reference to the resignation of Member Dale Parsons who served in this capacity for 12 years. Although he is not present at this Meeting, Chairman Bacon wishes him well in his new endeavors. He thanked him for his years of service to the County. He also thanked Jane Smith for filling in for Scott Erickson while he is on vacation.

Member Foster, Member Mannhardt, and Member Jefferson had no comments at this time.

Member Damm announced his resignation effective after this Meeting as he will be moving from the County. He thanked everyone for being so gracious to him. It has been a great experience. He is thankful for this opportunity to serve the County. He wished everyone well.

Chairman Bacon commented that he knew this was coming and he thanked Member Damm for his time on the Board. It has been a pleasure.

Member Stewart commented that he was caught off guard by these two resignations. It will be hard to fill both of these pairs of shoes. He hopes that we can find qualified replacements. On another subject he wanted to commend whoever is responsible for the maintenance of the flower garden around the Courthouse. It looks very nice.

Member Knapp thanked Member Damm for his contributions and wished him all the luck.

Member Johnson commented about Member Damm's resignation. It has been a pleasure working with him and Member Johnson wished him well.

Member Abel also commented about these two resignations and extended his best wishes to both of them.

Member Occhi thanked Member Damm. She also reminded Members of some paperwork that she obtained at the recent United Counties Council of Illinois meeting. She had made copies to share with them. There is some good valuable information.

Member Saline also expressed his thanks to Member Damm.

Member Serven also thanked Member Damm and wished him well. They had served together on committees. Member Damm will be missed.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 26, 2009, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Foster to adjourn until the next scheduled Meeting of the Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(12). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.