

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

**June 24, 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 June 24, 2009 at 6:05 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 1	C. B. "Bernie" Damm
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 4	Wayne Saline
District 5	David Serven

And those absent:             District 3     Dale Parsons

Also present were Treasurer Robin Davis and County Clerk Scott Erickson.

Captain Dave Caslin delivered the proclamation. Chairman Bacon led the Members in the pledge to the flag. Rev. Leigh Nygard of Galesburg delivered the invocation.

Chairman Bacon asked for additions to the agenda. There were none.

Chairman Bacon asked for public comments. There were none.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on May 27, 2009, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of June 24, 2009 and other claims for per diem from meetings, 3) sales tax and

various taxes for the month of March 2009 in the amounts of \$91,591.98 and \$12,625.34 and public safety tax in the amount of \$77,809.62. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairman Bacon read aloud a proclamation honoring Kenneth Johnson for his large donation to the Child Advocacy Center. This is the single largest donation ever given to the Child Advocacy Center. A copy of this proclamation was presented to Mr. Johnson.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve the reappointment of Gerald Buckman to the Elba-Salem Fire Protection District. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Serven and seconded by Member Saline to approve the reappointment of Gary Holt to the Rio Township Fire Protection District. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Stewart to approve the appointment of Wayne Allen to the Knox County Housing Authority Board to complete the unexpired term of Catherine Holland. This term will expire in 2013. Chairman Bacon stated that he would be voting against this motion as he feels that Member Stewart would be a better choice.

Member Stewart responded that although he appreciates that opinion he is in support of Mr. Allen's appointment. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Johnson, Abel, Saline, and Serven—(10). Noes—Pickrel, Bacon, Sandoval, and Occhi—(4). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Damm and seconded by Member Stewart to approve the County Holiday Calendar for 2010. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(12). Noes—(2). Motion carried.

The Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, and Clerk Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Wayne Saline. Reports are included in the packets.

Jim Taylor, representative from the accounting firm of Carpentier, Mitchell, Goddard & Company, presented the review of the County audit for fiscal year 2007-2008. He presented an overview of the information that had been given to the Members. This report includes over 100 pages. This year they had provided a draft a month early to allow Board Members the opportunity to review this report. Due to the level of federal funds involved in the County budget, there has to be a higher level of the audit and analysis which has been provided.

Especially considering the current economic conditions, overall the numbers for the County are still strong. Although some revenues, especially state funding, are down it is still within an acceptable range. All of the assets and liabilities of the County have been included in this audit. Compared to the previous year there was little decrease in the amount of the assets. Still some revenues have decreased and some expenditures have increased. The shortfall has been covered by reserves. The major funds are the same as last year.

The nursing home was 88.7% self sufficient. The State recalculated rates and is seeking reimbursement from previous years in the amount of \$430,000. It is still uncertain whether the entire amount will have to be repaid. The landfill again has been 100% self sufficient with a profit of \$303,917.

The debt service load represents 5.47% of the budget. This amount is a good indicator of financial solvency. The ratio of current assets compared to current liabilities is also a strong indicator.

Member Stewart questioned if previous recommendations from the special audit in reference to bookkeeping procedures had been taken care of. He also questioned whose responsibility it is to oversee those responsibilities.

Mr. Taylor responded that a lot of those issues have been resolved.

Member Stewart commented that a County Administrator could take care of supervising such procedures.

Mr. Taylor responded that is a good point. Having an administrator has worked well for some of their other clients. It depends upon the entity involved. The County is in good ground financially. They do have other clients that are not in such good financial shape.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the County audit for FY 2007-2008. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Mannhardt to approve the resolution on prevailing wage for 2009 for Knox County. Member Saline explained that this is something that is mandated to be done every year. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(13). Noes—Mannhardt—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the contract with Otis Elevator for the Courthouse elevator in the annual amount of \$6,480.00. Treasurer Robin Davis reported that recently they received this bill but could not find the current contract. They were able to negotiate a lower premium. The previous contract included an annual fee of \$12,235.56. This five year contract will include an additional five year extension clause. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the budget schedule for the FY 2009-2010 budget. Member Saline stated that this is a schedule to start with but it can be changed. A copy of this schedule is included in the packets. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

There was no Building Committee meeting and therefore no report.

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 resolution on creation of a special contingency fund. By terms of this resolution, 10% of the gate receipts from the Knox County Landfill would be set aside in a capital fund for the operations. The State of Illinois is not providing funding in an adequate or timely basis. Therefore, there is the need to create an alternate funding source.

Member Stewart stated that during the previous Meeting he had shared his concerns that the landfill committee had been bypassed with this plan. During the recent committee meeting they proposed an alternate plan. He asked Members to review the landfill committee report which contains details of this alternate plan. This proposal would instead take money from the interest on the landfill reserve funds. Half of the interest would be retained for the landfill and the other half would go toward this fund. The committee was not aware of this resolution during the previous committee meeting.

Member Johnson reported that the committee had voted unanimously against this proposal of using the gate receipts. They would rather take 50% off the interest of the reserve fund accounts. Informational sheets which compared the anticipated revenue from each plan were distributed to the Members. According to this comparison there would only be a difference of \$3,000. It is the opinion of the landfill committee that the operating funds should be left alone as the landfill does have ongoing and anticipated large expenses.

Member Saline disagreed with this alternate plan. It is his understanding that the interest on these designated funds is specified for the closure and post closure costs of the landfill. We cannot touch the closure or post closure funds. This proposal goes contrary to that. If we leave the interest in the closure and post closure funds, than there should be enough money to take care of those expenses. We need to go to a stable generated revenue source to fund the Mary Davis Home. They have investigated other revenue sources for almost a year. If it were instead the Nursing Home in need of extra funding, he feels that the committee would have no problem approving this resolution to fund this with the gate receipts. If the Nursing Home would be forced to close today, it would cost nothing. But if the Mary Davis Home would be forced to close, the related expenses to house Knox County youth would be \$750,000 - \$1,200,000 per year. We need to look at the big picture. The Mary Davis Home does impact lives. The landfill does have sufficient funds to care for itself. And the Mary Davis Home does not. We have talked about this for months and months. We need to understand that this is our commitment to the people of the County. We need to take care of the Mary Davis Home.

Member Mannhardt stated that the interest earned from the reserve account for the closure of the landfill must remain. There is more than enough in that fund. By taking revenue from the gate receipts you will put the landfill in the red. There will not be enough money to operate and we will have to take money from the reserves. It would be better to take money from the interest.

Member Stewart stated that this alternate plan should not be interpreted that the committee does not care about the Mary Davis Home and their financial difficulty. Actually there is the possibility that the alternate plan would produce a higher yield. He does agree with the second resolution. The committee unanimously supports this alternate plan.

Roll call vote to approve the resolution on creation of a special contingency fund to be funded with 10% of the gate receipts from the Knox County Landfill is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Jefferson, Damm, Sanodval, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(9). Noes—Pickrel, Mannhardt, Stewart, Knapp, and Johnson—(5). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Damm to approve the resolution on Mary Davis Home funding. By terms of this resolution the previously borrowed amount of \$450,000 would be paid with public safety funds. Monies from the special contingency fund would be appropriated beginning July 1, 2009. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(11). Noes—Pickrel, Mannhardt, and Johnson—(3). Motion carried.

The Highway, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman George Knapp. Reports are included in the packets. This month they held their committee meeting at the highway department. Committee members wanted to compliment Mr. Ratermann on how well the machinery is being maintained.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the work order for structural engineering services in Elba Township, Section 08-04126-00-BR. The bridge design will be provided by URS Corporation on a time and materials basis with fees not to exceed \$8,600.00. This will be for a single span bridge between Williamsfield and Yates City and construction fees to be funded through economic stimulus funds. Estimated cost of this bridge is \$200,000. This will be the second bridge built with economic stimulus money. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(14). 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 Sandoval to approve to bid and bring back for a tub grinder for the landfill. The cost is estimated to be \$400,000 - \$500,000. Their current tub grinder is not worth repairing. IEPA requires that

a tub grinder be available at the landfill. If there is not a working tub grinder on site, the landfill could be found to be in violation of those IEPA rules and daily fines could result. The funds to purchase this piece of equipment would come from investment funds.

Chairman Bacon asked if the committee has investigated any leasing options.

Member Johnson responded that the committee had received additional information but it was too late to include it in the packets. There is a machine that would be preferred which is manufactured by Vermeer. It would be possible to rent this machine for \$22,500 per month. This would avoid the possibility of fines from the IEPA. If this company is awarded the bid, the rental fees would go against the purchase price.

Jerry Reynolds reiterated that they are State mandated to have a tub grinder on site. Green waste is mandated to be ground up. Member Johnson stated it was his understanding that fines could be approximately \$5,000 per day of violation. Chairman Bacon stated that one of the reasons that there have now been so many equipment purchases is that for so many years, equipment was not replaced. Voice vote to approve to bid and bring back for a tub grinder for the landfill is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Damm and seconded by Member Abel to approve to bid and bring back for a rock hauling trailer for the landfill. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Serven to approve the extension of the landfill administrator contract with Jerry Reynolds. This will be a three year contract to include an annual evaluation. The vacation time would be extended from two weeks to four weeks and an annual pay increase of 2.5%.

Member Pickrel stated that he would be voting against this motion as other administrators have a one year contract. He would prefer to stay with that length. Especially in light of current economic conditions, most people are lucky to have jobs, let alone get raises. He would understand an additional two weeks of vacation time or the salary increase but not both.

Member Sandoval stated that he agreed with Member Pickrel.

Member Stewart reported that the committee had evaluated Mr. Reynolds' performance and feel that he has done an outstanding job. There is value in terms of stability. Constant turnovers are not good for the County. This is the same wage increase that is given to other employees. Mr. Reynolds is very well qualified and his salary is a reasonable amount.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, and Serven—(10). Noes—Pickrel, Bacon, Sandoval, and Saline—(4). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Abel to approve a pre-employment background check policy for the nursing home. This will include checks with the Inspector General's data base and the National Sex Offender Registry.

Marianne Wiesen explained that this has to do with the State of Illinois now mandating fingerprint checks. The nursing home is looking for a local vendor to do these fingerprints checks and is hoping that the Sheriff's Office can do this. Otherwise job

seekers would have to go 30-40 miles. Now the nursing home has to check four different internet sites for everyone who applies for a job. Voice vote to approve a pre-employment background check policy for the nursing home is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the opening of the budget for line item adjustments. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Johnson to approve specific line item adjustment in the budget. Chairman Bacon stated that he anticipated that they would be seeing more of these due to the financial situation in the State.

Member Saline agreed that it will be an ongoing situation for awhile and adjustments would have to be made.

Member Stewart questioned the summary sheet for the Alternate Public Defender #2, as they are over budget and there is no request for a line item adjustment.

Member Saline responded that if that is true, necessary adjustments will have to be made. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pickrel and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of May 28 through June 24, 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.)

Member Stewart stated that he would be voting against this motion because of that one line item in the budget of Alternate Defender # 2 that is over budget. Robin Davis stated that she would check on that the next day. Mr. Erickson suggested that it could be a typo on the summary sheet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(13). Noes—Stewart—(1). Motion carried.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Pickrel, Chairman Bacon, Member Foster, and Member Mannhardt had no comments at this time.

Member Jefferson commented that he would like to see a meeting the Monday before the Board Meeting for the purpose of bill review.

Chairman Bacon commented that for Members that would like to review the bills, they could attend a meeting July 27, the Monday before the Board Meeting, at the Annex building. There will be no per diem for this meeting. He does plan to attend.

Member Damm had no comments at this time.

Member Stewart commented that he would like to commend the Register-Mail and Jerry Reynolds for the recently published front page article about the landfill.

Member Knapp and Member Sandoval had no comments at this time.

Member Johnson commented that the next Board Meeting will be July 29, not July 22, as noted on the agenda. The landfill committee meeting will be July 23.

Member Abel, Member Occhi, Member Saline, and Member Serven had no comments at this time.

The next regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 29, 2009, 6:00 p.m. at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Pickrel to adjourn until the next scheduled meeting of the Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.