

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

October 28, 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 October 28, 2009 at 6:03 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	Cheryl Nache
District 2	Paul Stewart
District 3	Tim Hasten
District 4	George Knapp
District 5	Ricardo "Rick" Sandoval
District 1	Lyle Johnson
District 2	William Abel
District 3	Jan Occhi
District 4	Wayne Saline
District 5	David Serven

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

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

Chairman Bacon asked for additions to the agenda. Member Saline asked that Item number 10 be removed from the agenda.

Chairman Bacon asked for public comments. Jon Vanier spoke in reference to the County Building codes. He said the City of Galesburg has had Building Codes since the 1940's. In 1958 they adopted the 1955 Building Codes. The purpose of these codes is to ensure that buildings are built safely. The public needs the protection of modern codes

and a code inspection program. This gives contractors a standard to build to. If you do not have them, you could get poor work done.

Judy Johnson of Galesburg spoke about the GREDA and Orpheum funding. She said she spoke to the Finance Committee with these same concerns. The contingency fund that was established to help the Mary Davis Home and Nursing Home is now going to have to help fund GREDA and the Orpheum. The recent Foreign Trade Zone announcement is great and she hopes it brings jobs to the area, but the County does not have \$30,000 to spare. If you do support GREDA, please only do it at \$5,000 or \$15,000 and not the full amount as last year. It is going to be hard enough to come up with the money to keep the Courthouse refurbished and back to code.

Joel Hawkins spoke in regards to the electric codes. If your contractor is poor, you will not be able to see that until it is too late. What would happen if you put a pool in and a kid got electrocuted?

Mark Sellen said that there is some new construction north of Wataga and the contractor under bid others. They built the home with floors like trampolines as no codes were followed. It will cost more to take the contractor to court than it did to build the house. You cannot always trust the contractor to do the right thing.

Motion by Member Occhi, second by Member Jefferson, to approve the consent agenda items 1 through 3. Roll call vote as follows: Ayes – Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven (15). Noes – (0). Motion carried.

Several members of local 4H groups presented the County Board members with bottled water and cookies in honor of 4-H week. Anne Geitner said thanks to the Board for their support of 4-H projects. The local 4-H groups teach skills like cooking, baking, sewing, and public speaking along with farming skills. The Board thanked them for the treats.

Motion by Member Sandoval, second by Member Occhi, to appoint Thomas E. Simkins as Emergency Management Services coordinator for Knox County. Roll call vote as follows: Ayes – Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven (15). Noes – (0). Motion carried.

Motion by Member Occhi, second by Member Stewart, to approve the Knox County Health Department Ordinance changes. Member Saline asked why the charge for a waste water permit for an individual is different than one for a contractor. Will Hayes, Environmental Health Director for the Knox County Health Department, responded that most home owners don't have the skills to install a septic system properly and require about 21 hours of assistance instead of the 4 hours that a contractor would require. The State law is clear on this topic. The home owners that want to do it themselves end up wanting the Health Department to do all their work for them. The number of permits has risen from around 2 in 2005 to a high of 11 in 2007. This year there have already been 7 issued. Member Abel asked about food handler health cards or inspections. The public deserves to have the food handlers pass a health test. Mr. Hayes responded that each

food facility must have a State certified food manager who knows proper procedures. This is a minimum requirement and we are not yet at the point of requiring tests. Roll call vote as follows: Ayes – Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven (14). Noes – Pickrel (1). Motion carried.

Motion by Member Occhi, second by Member Stewart, to approve the community health clinic proposal from the Health Department. Heidi Britton, Knox County Health Department Administrator, reported that this program was presented to the Board of Health in October. There will need to be an governing council put together for the clinic in order to qualify for Federal Health Center status. Chairman Bacon said that this program will work out well and be a benefit to the County. Roll call vote as follows: Ayes – Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven (15). Noes – (0). Motion carried.

Motion by Member Jefferson, second by Member Hasten, to approve the renewal of membership in the Illinois Association of County Board Members. Member Occhi stated that she has been attending many of their meetings and they always have a great deal of information. It is a good organization to affiliated with. Roll call vote as follows: Ayes – Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven (15). Noes – (0). Motion carried.

Motion by Member Stewart, second by Member Serven, to approve the revisions to the Knox County Personnel Policy. Chairman Bacon stated that these changes were grammar and legal spelling changes only. Roll call vote as follows: Ayes – Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven (15). Noes – (0). Motion carried.

Motion by Member Johnson, second by Member Pickrel, to approve support for Knox County CASA program. Chairman Bacon reminded the Board that this is a \$5,000.00 donation which is the same amount as last year. They gave a presentation at the last Board meeting. Roll call vote as follows: Ayes – Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven (15). Noes – (0). Motion carried.

The Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, and Clerk Committee report was presented by Member Saline. The monthly report and committee minutes are in the packet. Member Stewart asked about the health insurance renewal. Member Saline said that would be coming up later on the agenda.

Motion by member Saline, second by Member Abel, to approve a matching fund contribution to the Orpheum to be paid out over 3 years. Member Saline asked Kate Francis of the Orpheum to speak on this issue. Ms. Francis said that there was no formal economic impact study done to see how much money was brought into the County through the Orpheum. What she used was a software program from the Americans for the Arts group that gives a “snapshot” on the economic impact using some established

factors. The report was able to generate an estimated financial impact and a full time job equivalence. The software reported a \$40,000 annual impact and 33.8 equivalent full time positions. She said that Treasurer Davis was not able to get information back from the IRS regarding the breakdown of funds that Knox County receives. She said that she is property owner in Knox County and she could not pay her taxes without the Orpheum. Knox County will not be the sole contributor to the project and additional funds will need to be leveraged in order to apply for the grant program. The grant program requires a matching fund contribution prior to award. This grant will not be for salary or operating expenses, it will be put into the building renovations and repair. Even if all the funds are secured, the granting agency may lower the amount we receive. Member Stewart asked if this was in addition to the \$10,000 that we pay for insurance for the Orpheum. Member Saline said that it was and these funds would come from the contingency fund this year in the amount of \$16,333. He also stated that other donors have made their contribution contingent on the Orpheum obtaining the full amount of the grant. Ms. Francis stated that the City of Galesburg's \$100,000 donation is contingent on the grant being awarded. If the grant does not come through, then they will have to re-scope the work that needs to be done with the funds that are still available. The boiler and the air conditioner are in desperate need of repair or replacement. The Galesburg Community Foundation was less direct in their donation. Member Stewart asked about if the Landmark Commission had been approached to put the theater on as a landmark. He knows the Commission had rejected them before, but they may always reconsider. Ms. Francis said she did not want to speak for their Board but is not against approaching them again. The only problem is that the building construction is not conducive to modern theater productions. That was the Board's concern with landmark status. Member Stewart asked about the rental cost for the box office area across the street from the theater. Ms. Francis said they pay \$650 a month which is less than what they were previously paying. Member Stewart asked why not use the box office at the theater. Ms. Francis said the space is too small for 3 employees, computers and storage. Member Abel asked if the grant did not get approved would they be coming back to the County for more money. Ms. Francis said that they would have to if the County made their donation contingent on the grant. If they did come back it would be for a specific project like boiler or air conditioning repair. Member Abel asked about the traffic in the office. Ms. Francis said that the shows drive the attendance. They expect 700 to 750 people to watch the Bob Zany show tomorrow. This event is being taped for airing as a national broadcast. The PBS documentary group is working on a Carl Sandburg project that will involve the theater. Member Saline said that he would feel more comfortable with the funding to be spread out of 3 years and be contingent on the grant be received. He changed his original motion to reflect this and Member Abel agreed. Roll call vote as follows: Ayes – Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, and Saline (12). Noes – Mannhardt, and Serven (2). Abstain – Occhi (1). Motion carried.

Motion by Member Saline, second by Member Johnson, to approve the service agreement with GREDA. Member Saline said this is the same contract as last year. The only difference is that the money will no longer come from the Landfill account but from the special Landfill contingency fund. There will be plenty of funds to cover both this and the Mary Davis Home. Chairman Bacon thanked GREDA for their hard work to

obtain the Foreign Trade Zone status. GREDA President Tom Schmidt spoke about the Trade Zone designation and thought it was a great surprise that the timing worked out as it did. GREDA worked behind the scenes with the City of Galesburg to help get the project secured. He said that the Trade Zone does not guarantee success, it just gives us better positioning than if we did not have it. Member Stewart expressed his concerns about the GREDA trips to China. Mr. Schmidt responded that there is huge potential in the China market so it must be on the table to look at. The private sector in China, Asia, and India is primed to invest. China's economy has been growing at a rate of 6% to 8% annually. China wants to secure markets to sell products locally. They have been interacting with Fortune 500 companies in China. The Trade Zone allows companies to avoid some tariffs when they import products and China produces a lot of parts. By excluding China we are only hampering our own growth potential. Member Stewart said that there has been a great deal of public concern about the trips. Mr. Schmidt said that after World War 2 there were many who did not want to work with Japan. It was in our own best interests then to help them grow their economy. Now we readily consume products from Japan. The same thing is happening with China. Their workers do not make enough money to purchase the products that they produce, so they need a partner like the United States to sell their goods. We are a consuming nation and it is hard to ignore the 1.4 billion people in China. Member Abel said that he voted no last year but would vote yes this year with reservations. He said the new leadership of GREDA and the information that has been getting back to the Board is good. They need to get more results this coming year though. Roll call vote as follows: Ayes – Pickrel, Bacon, Jefferson, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven (11). Noes – Foster, Mannhardt, and Stewart (3). Abstain – Nache (1) Motion carried.

Motion by Member Saline, second by Member Mannhardt, to approve the debt service schedule for Funding Bonds. Member Saline said the Finance Committee agreed that it did want to add any undue burden on the taxpayers so it will use the 5 year schedule. This will not increase the taxes to the citizens. Roll call vote as follows: Ayes – Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven (15). Noes – (0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Saline, seconded by Member Abel, to renew the premiums for the property, liability, and workman's compensation for the County. Member Stewart expressed concern that there was no discussion in the minutes about soliciting bids for these items. Member Saline stated that bids were not let out for this because the company we work with made a great offer of 2.82% increase. It is just best to stay with what we currently have. Member Pickrel said that kind of increase every year would be a great deal. Roll call vote as follows: Ayes – Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven (15). Noes – (0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Saline, seconded by Member Abel, to approve the renewal of the Health Insurance program for the County. Treasurer Davis that our agents of record for both liability and health insurance do internal comparisons to check the rates. She has worked hard to get a 0% increase in the self insurance premium this year.

That was the result of seeing no major claims last year , the reduction of the stop loss to \$85,000 instead of \$100,000, and they are picking up claims faster. Member Saline said we did not bid this out either since a review of the employees showed that they were happy with the coverage we have now. Member Stewart asked about getting a comparable program at a lower rate. Treasurer Davis said that they do check other vendors. The company does not even offer a policy with our deductible anymore. We may want to look at forming an Insurance Advisory Committee with the Finance Committee and some employees to review options. Roll call vote as follows: Ayes – Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven (15). Noes – (0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Saline, seconded by Member Occhi, the place the proposed Fiscal Year 2009-2010 County budget on display prior to final approval. Member Saline said that the budget would be on display in the County Clerk's office and can be changed or modified if necessary. There should not be many changes after this. Roll call vote as follows: Ayes – Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven (15). Noes – (0). Motion carried.

Member Saline also reported that the report on the conditions of the banks is on file in the County Clerk's office. The report is as of June 30th and is a standard housekeeping procedure.

The Building Committee report was presented by Member Knapp. The monthly report and committee minutes are in the packet. The bids for the asbestos removal will be \$2,785.00 and was acquired by Johnson Building Systems. The approved vendor will point out the hazardous areas in the Courthouse and report back to the Committee. Chairman Bacon said it should only take 10 days to 2 weeks to complete this project.

The Sheriff, Jail, Courthouse, Mary Davis Home, and Animal Control Committee report was presented by Member Sandoval. The monthly report and committee minutes are in the packet.

Motion made by Member Sandoval, seconded by Member Pickrel, to approve the installation of security cameras at the Annex building. Sheriff Clague reported that these cameras will be placed in the front toward the East, down the hall towards the Alternate Public Defenders office, in Zoning and Assessor's offices, the conference room, the Veterans Affairs office, and the Regional Office of Education. He said they will show entry to the offices and not inside of them. Member Sandoval said they would cost a total of \$8,566.00 for the complete project. Member Stewart asked about bids. Sheriff Clague said that the contractor with the cameras for the jail will do the project and tie them all together in the system. Roll call vote as follows: Ayes – Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven (15). Noes – (0). Motion carried.

Member Mannhardt added that he hope the tuck pointing work to be done at the Courthouse would work to stop some leaks.

The Highway, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Member Knapp. The monthly report and committee minutes are included in the packet. All is going smooth in the Assessor's office.

Motion made by Member Knapp, seconded by Member Hasten, to approve the electrical system upgrade for the County Highway office building. Member Knapp said that the architect came up an estimate of around \$40,000 for the project. It will go out for bids once approved. Roll call vote as follows: Ayes – Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven (15). Noes – (0). Motion carried.

The Nursing Home and Landfill Committee report was presented by member Johnson. The monthly report and committee minutes are in the packet.

Motion made by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Mannhardt, to approve the bid for the replacement of the plumbing lines in the kitchen to the grease trap at the Nursing Home. Member Johnson said that 2 bids were received. Benbow submitted a bid of \$23,831.00 and MSI submitted a bid of \$48,346.00 with an alternate bid of \$37,000.00 for the use of Schedule 40 PVC pipe. The Committee recommends accepting the bid from Benbow. Roll call vote as follows: Ayes – Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven (15). Noes – (0). Motion carried.

Motion made by Member Occhi, seconded by Member Knapp, to open the budget for line item adjustments. Roll call vote as follows: Ayes – Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven (15). Noes – (0). Motion carried.

Motion by Member Saline, second by Member Serven, to approve the budget line item changes that have been presented. Chairman Bacon stated that these changes are going to be a way of life with the budget being like it is. Roll call vote as follows: Ayes – Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven (15). Noes – (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hasten and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of October 1 through October 28, 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, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Chairman Bacon wanted to thank Mr. Godsil from the Knox County Nursing Home for bringing Member Johnson to the Board meeting. He also expressed his congratulations to GREDA on the Foreign Trade Zone.

Member Jefferson thanked the 4-H group for being at the meeting.

Member Johnson said thank you for all the notes after his surgery. He said that Marianne had gone above and beyond her duty to keep the Nursing Home census up by bringing him to the facility.

Member Occhi thanked Treasurer Davis, the Elected Officials, and Department Heads for making the budget process easy for the Finance Committee.

The next regular Meeting will be held on Monday, November 23, 2009, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Chairman Bacon then called for the meeting to be in recess until November 23, 2009. Meeting was recessed at 7:20 p.m.