

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

March 25, 2009

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COUNTY OF KNOX)

Proceedings of the regular meeting of the Knox County Board held at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois on March 25, 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:

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| 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 3 | Dale Parsons |
| 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 |

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. Leigh Nygard of Galesburg delivered the invocation.

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

Chairman Bacon asked for public comment. Jon Vanier addressed the Board. He reminded Board Members that a couple of months ago he had brought with him 40-50 building contractors to stand in support of County wide building ordinances and the hiring of a zoning inspector to enforce those ordinances. Some Board Members were apparently upset that these building contractors left the Meeting early. Mr. Vanier personally takes responsibility for that. Some of them had driven a distance to be able to

attend that meeting and had already worked a long day. He wanted to get these people home as soon as possible.

Mr. Vanier also spoke in reference to the Galesburg Sanitary District. They are hoping to receive some of the economic stimulus funds. They have two planned projects. One project would involve the installation of an interceptor at an estimated cost of \$2,000,000- \$2,500,000. This would keep infiltration from coming into the main sewer. The other project is for two more lagoons at the plant. When there is heavy rain, they cannot handle all of the water at once. The plan would be to store the water in these additional lagoons until it could be treated.

Greg Chance addressed the Board and introduced Rhonda Peterson who has been appointed as the interim director of the Health Department while the Board of Health is actively seeking a full time administrator. Mrs. Peterson has been at the Health Department since 1994. They hope to have a new administrator in place by July 1. Mr. Chance expressed his appreciation to the County Board for their support. He anticipates continuing to work with the Board on regional projects.

Chairman Bacon thanked Mr. Chance for all the time he has served at the Health Department. He also welcomed Mrs. Peterson.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on February 25, 2009, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of March 25, 2009 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of December 2008 in the amounts of \$109,817.27 and \$25,082.27 and public safety tax in the amount of \$97,696.04. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the Proclamation in Support of the 2010 Census. A copy of this proclamation is included in the packets. Mr. Erickson explained that this census count directly affects the amount of federal and state tax dollars the County will receive. This proclamation will support the census and the formation of a complete count committee. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairman Bacon read aloud the proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. He explained that this was done last year. Representatives from the Blue Ribbon Task Force expressed their thanks to the Board for their support and encouraged community members to take a public stand against child abuse. Various activities are planned. A poster contest is to be held at the library. The Children's Parade will proceed "Hands around the Courthouse" to be held April 20, 2009. Community members were encouraged to participate. Various social organizations are supporting this proclamation.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the reappointment of Jon A. Vanier as trustee of the Galesburg Sanitary District.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Pickrel asked that the remaining appointments be grouped together. There was no objection. Motion was made by Member Pickrel and seconded by Member Abel to approve the following appointments: 1) the reappointment of Brenda Dexter to the Williamsfield Sanitary District, 2) the reappointment of Harlan W. Cook to the London Mills Fire Protection District, 3) the reappointment of Kenneth C. Russell to the Wataga Sanitary District, and 4) the appointment of Tom Knapp to the Civic Center Authority Board. Member Occhi stated that due to her involvement with the Orpheum, she would be abstaining from this vote. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Saline, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Pass—Occhi and Knapp—(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. We are holding the line on expenses. Revenues are a little low, as property tax distributions have not been received yet. However, they are on schedule.

Member Stewart stated that he noticed on the revenue and expense sheet that the revenue from Illinois sales taxes was considerably higher than anticipated.

Member Saline responded that those revenues could drop off again next month. It is a little early in the year to see that as a trend for the rest of the year. He doubted that the County would be that far ahead at the end of the year.

The Building Committee Report was presented by Co-chairman George Knapp. The minutes of the last meeting are included in the packet. During the committee meeting, Sheriff Clague reported on the sprinkler system at the courthouse. This system was recently inspected and is not in compliance. Weekly inspections cost \$650. Johnson Building Systems report that it would cost \$4,860 to video record 6 to 8 of the downspouts from the attic of the courthouse and \$10,720 to inspect all of the downspouts from the outside. Chairman Bacon had suggested contacting Steve Davis at the Sanitary District about getting a sewer camera to use.

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 Damm and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve the low bid submitted by Yemm Chevrolet for 5 new police cars in the total amount of \$122,096.74 which includes the cost of additional equipment. These vehicles will be funded through Public Safety Funds. Sheriff Clague stated that these are replacement vehicles and the old vehicles will be taken to the auto auction. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm,

Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(14). Noes—(0). Pass—Sandoval—(1). Motion carried.

The Highway, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman George Knapp. Reports are included in the packets. During that meeting, Chairman Bacon updated the committee regarding the establishment of county wide building codes and the hiring of a building inspector. Since Chris Gray was attending a conference in Springfield, Member Knapp gave a summary of the Assessment/ GIS/ Zoning office update. Board of Review Hearings were held. March 11, the final tax assessment records were forwarded to the County Clerk's Office. This is one week earlier than last year. Therefore, the tax bills should go out on time. Tentatively, the tax multiplier should be a "1". Duane Ratermann also brought a report to the committee and distributed information on a software package.

Chairman Bacon stated that the plan is to have building codes on next month's agenda to display them at that Meeting and then approve them at the May Meeting. The plan would be to adopt the 2009 International Building Codes.

Member Pickrel asked for an update concerning the proposed wind towers.

Chairman Bacon responded that recently he had met with Mr. Blackmore, from Galva and things are progressing well. The newspaper reported a startup date of sometime in 2010. In reality it will probably be a little later than that. The plan is to begin the project in Henry County and then build approximately 200 towers in Knox County. This is a privately funded project; no economic stimulus funds are involved. They have acquired some land in Knox County and are looking to purchase additional acres.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Mannhardt to approve the appointment of Ben DeRose as Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals. This is their recommendation. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Damm to approve the local agency agreement for federal participation, Knox County Highway 16 bridge replacement, Section 05-0096-01-BR. The estimated cost of this bridge replacement is \$250,000 and is to be 100% funded with federal money. This project will utilize funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Mr. Ratermann stated that they had planned to replace this bridge this year and it is shovel ready. The total amount of these economic stimulus funds coming to the Highway Department would be \$440,000. With the balance of these funds, they plan to do another bridge project in Elba Township. This project is not shovel ready and construction is scheduled to begin in November of this year or January of next year. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Saline to approve the low bids submitted for various maintenance materials for 2009. These materials will be utilized by the County and the townships in the 2009 maintenance programs. Member

Knapp explained that this is an annual process. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). 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. He complimented Ms. Wiesen as the \$200,000 grant that she applied for has progressed to the second level. That brings us closer to receiving this grant.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Parsons to approve the forgiving of accounts on the nursing home aging report in the combined total amount of \$8,242.00. Marianne Wiesen explained that \$2,800 is a charity case and since we are a County home we should forgive that. The remaining \$5,442 is an annual thing through OSF. We did not get that money back. OSF has sold that service to Humana. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Stewart to approve the low bid submitted by Whitney Pump Service in the base price of \$29,650.00 and an additional per foot fee of \$29.00 for the drilling of a new well at the landfill. This well is needed to provide adequate water pressure for the power washers. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Serven to approve the low bid submitted by Birkey's in the amount of \$48,825.33 for a compact track loader for the landfill. Member Johnson explained that they received four bids that met the specifications. Member Pickrel stated that in the past they had great luck with Caterpillar that has provided excellent service. On this bid, there was less than \$2,000.00 difference. We have no experience with Case. We have many local residents who work for Caterpillar. He does not support going with a different brand when we have had such good luck with Caterpillar. Since later we will be voting on a service contract, we are already presuming problems with John Deere. For a \$2,000.00 difference he would prefer that we stay with Caterpillar, since they have served us so well in the past. They have a service representative in the area and he is frequently out at the landfill.

Member Parsons commented that he was going to say the same thing.

Chairman Bacon stated that he is in favor of helping people in our area. He is not sure how much difference it would make to purchase a John Deere or Caterpillar product. There have been layoffs in both of these lines. In some ways, he agrees with Member Pickrel.

Member Johnson stated that we should go with the low bid unless there is something wrong with that product or bid. He does not see anything wrong with this product.

Member Stewart asked for the recommendation of Jerry Reynolds.

Mr. Reynolds responded that one of the major differences between these products is that Birkey's promised delivery within 5 days and Altorfer's delivery schedule is 77 days. This is a machine that will be used this summer for a fencing project. A 77 day delivery schedule would delay this project.

Member Pickrel asked about the possibility of Altorfer loaning a machine to use on site.

Mr. Reynolds responded that he had asked them specifically how long it would be before they had a machine on site and their response was 77 days. Roll call vote to approve the low bid submitted by Birkey's in the amount of \$48,825.33 for a compact track loader for the landfill is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Johnson, Abel, Saline, and Serven—(10). Noes—Pickrel, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, and Occhi—(5). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Stewart to approve a service contract with Martin Max for the landfill. Member Pickrel called this service contract ridiculous. We have a brand new piece of equipment that is still under warranty. We have a mechanic on site who can do oil changes and normal maintenance. Member Pickrel does not understand why we need this service contract. If he understands it correctly, we would have to put \$70,000 into a separate account for this purpose and they would draw from those funds monthly to come out and do normal routine maintenance on this brand new piece of equipment. We have a mechanic on site that can do the same thing. If it is something large, there should be a warranty in place to take care of it.

Member Parsons agreed with Member Pickrel. This was discussed two months ago during the committee meeting and Member Parsons stated that it is excessive and we do not need it. We do have a mechanic on site that can do this work. We do not need to hire this company.

Member Stewart asked Mr. Reynolds for his explanation of this recommendation.

Jerry Reynolds stated that this service agreement is an extended warranty on the machine for the length of time that we have it. It not only covers the oil changes and similar maintenance but also more extensive repairs. If the hydrostatic drive would become defective, it could easily cost \$30,000 - \$40,000. If the turbo charger broke, it could mean replacing the engine. That cost could be \$250,000. This agreement caps the maintenance rate at \$9.50 per running hour over a 7,000 hour contract. That would amount to \$66,500. It also covers all of the electronic gear on this machine. Another advantage is that it provides a direct link to the John Deere internet system. They will know when this unit needs to be repaired and will then dispatch their service personnel. Without the service contract, the mileage fee is \$338 in addition to the service fee of \$165. This service contract would include a provision for the machine, if necessary, to be trailered back to Martin Equipment for service work. They would pay the transportation costs. That could easily be \$3,000-\$4,000. This service contract involves more than just changing the oil. This is similar to the extended warranty agreement on a vehicle. One of the differences is that we do pay up front. If we do not spend all of the money that we have paid to them, then they refund that money back to us. With the approval of this contract, maintenance costs would be fixed. There would no longer be these expensive spikes in the maintenance costs of machinery.

Member Pickrel questioned if these expensive repairs would be covered under the existing warranty.

Mr. Reynolds responded that the standard warranty is only good for six months. This contract would allow for normal maintenance to be performed at the landfill. They will send us reminders when service is due.

Member Saline stated that it is his understanding that if we purchase this agreement it will not actually cost any money. If there are no break downs, we get our money back. If he remembers correctly, we have purchased similar agreements in the past for equipment at the landfill. The landfill is a harsh environment. It seems the equipment that was not covered by a service contract have been the machines that have had massive repair bills. He is in favor of approving this service contract. In the long run, it should save us money.

Mr. Reynolds stated that this contract is for 7,000 working hours or approximately 5 years. Roll call vote to approve a service contract with Martin Max for the landfill is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(13). Noes—Pickrel and Parsons—(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Occhi and seconded by Member Saline 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, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Abel to approve specific line item adjustments in the budget. Member Stewart questioned if these adjustments had to do with professional services in the State's Attorney's Office and if there were other adjustments. Treasurer Robin Davis responded that one had to do with self insurance; one is from the highway department; and the other is for professional services. Chairman Bacon stated that the Board did a lot of line item adjustments last year and he was hoping that this year there would not be so many. Member Saline commented that there are not quite so many. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Stewart, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Occhi to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of February 26 through March 25, 2009 (ordering that invoices be accepted and approved and that the County Clerk and Treasurer be authorized and directed to issue County Warrants in payment of the bills.)

Member Stewart commented that since some financial and budgetary information is missing from the summary sheets, he will be voting against approving to pay these bills. One was from Child Advocacy. In the Finance summary sheet, there is one line item over budget. That should have required a budget reduction. One summary sheet from the State's Attorney's Office also omits budgetary information. Still many departments do submit the correct information. Roll call vote is recorded as follows:

Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Damm, Parsons, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Occhi, Saline, and Serven—(14). Noes—Stewart—(1). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Pickrel expressed his thanks to County Clerk Scott Erickson regarding the electronic CD version of the Board packet. It is very user friendly. He did a great job.

Chairman Bacon echoed those thanks. Mr. Erickson is doing a great job. It is better than last month. He also commended the Assessor's Office for their due diligence. They worked hard and worked a lot of extra hours. They had the tax rolls over to the County Clerk's Office one week early this year. He also thanked all of the Board Members for doing such a great job. He appreciates all the help that they have given to him.

Member Foster commented that she prefers a paper version of Board packet. It is kind of hard to write on the screen.

Member Mannhardt had no comments at his time.

Member Jefferson commented that he is glad that the Board is going to buy locally from Birkey's. It is good to support local businesses.

Member Damm commented that things look good. Andy Rowe and Mr. Erickson are doing a good job with the electronic Board packets.

Member Stewart echoed Member Foster's comments about the paper version of the Board packets. He is not thrilled. He did not vote to approve the purchase of the computers. He knows that next month he will have no choice as the packet will only be available in the electronic format. However, he prefers the paper format.

Member Parsons commented that he is having trouble with the electronic format. He also prefers a paper packet.

Member Knapp stated that his computer was not working properly and would need to be looked at.

Member Sandoval expressed his thanks to Greg Chance for all of the work that he has done at the Health Department. We appreciate his services.

Member Johnson expressed his thanks to the two administrators that he works with for making his work on the landfill/ nursing home committee a lot easier.

Member Abel thanked the Members of Sheriff's Department, animal control, and Mary Davis Home committee for the good job that they are doing. He appreciates the computer updates to the laptops. This electronic version of the Board packets will save

the taxpayers a lot of money compared to the printing and labor costs for the paper version. Everyone has done a great job.

Member Occhi thanked the other administrators and stated that she liked the new computers.

Member Saline had no comments at this time.

Member Serven commented that as a new member of the Sheriff Department, Mary Davis Home committee, he thanked Mr. Clear for giving him a tour of the Mary Davis Home. He also thanked Sheriff Clague for giving him a tour of the jail. Member Jefferson and Member Serven do appreciate those tours.

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

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Sandoval to adjourn until the next scheduled Meeting of the Board. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.