

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

March 24, 2010

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 March 24, 2010 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	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	Pamela Davidson
District 4	Wayne Saline

And those absent: 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 Galesburg delivered the invocation.

Chairman Bacon asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. He noted that agenda item 17, approval of a settlement of a County lawsuit, would be moved to agenda item 12 A under items for the Chairman. Agenda item 21, approve courthouse options for renovation/construction, will be removed from this agenda.

Chairman Bacon asked for public comments. David C. Erickson, Vice President of the Knox County Farm Bureau, addressed the Board in reference to the proposed

County building ordinances. Copies of the letter from the Farm Bureau had been given to the Board Members. This letter states three basic reasons why the Farm Bureau is opposed to these ordinances: 1) lack of evidence to support claims that these codes are needed to deter unsafe repair and construction projects, 2) it would add another position and associated program costs to the current uncertain financial climate of the County, and 3) inadequate plans for the implementation and continuing enforcement of these proposed codes. The Farm Bureau is concerned about what building ordinances would mean to the property owners of the County. He encouraged Board Members to fully consider these concerns and vote no to these building codes.

Jon Vanier addressed the Board voicing his support of County building ordinances. When he started building his house in 2007, he obtained two permits. One permit was for the septic system and cost approximately \$125. He got two inspections on that system. The fee for the building permit was \$540. There were no building inspections. He feels that he spent \$540 to change his tax bill. He ran into shoddy workmanship and other related problems. The County Board has talked about building codes for a long period of time. He thinks that County residents need building codes.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on February 24, 2010, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of March 24, 2010 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of December 2009 in the amounts of \$115,741.46 and \$26,070.02 and public safety tax in the amount of \$102,893.72.

Member Stewart asked for an addition to the minutes in that although it was on February's agenda to approve specific line item adjustments, there were none. That should be noted in the minutes. Member Johnson and Member Davidson agreed to amend their motion to include this addition to the minutes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Davidson, and Saline—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairman Bacon read aloud the proclamation to declare April as “Child Abuse Prevention Month” in Knox County. This has been done the last several years. Judy Guenseth, director of CASA, and representatives from Teen Court, Safe Harbor, and Bridgeway were in attendance to express their appreciation to the County Board for their continued support.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Stewart to approve the resolution on Recovery Zone Designation. Kevin McKenna from Speer Financial addressed the Board. He explained that this designation is necessary for the purpose of issuing Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds. According to the 2009 Recovery Act, a certain number of bonds are able to be issued by the state or county for tax exempt projects. By selling taxable bonds, the federal government will refund 45% of the interest. This results in a subsidy by the federal government of approximately .5% on the debt.

There are a couple of rules. You have to declare the County to be a recovery zone, which basically says the area economy is not as good as it was in 2007. Throughout the

state, counties have done this as have many cities. The project must also abide by the federal wage guidelines. Additionally the federal government will send a questionnaire to confirm that you are following the rules. This firm just recently helped Edgar County secure recovery bonds to repair their courthouse. Cook County has also acquired these bonds. The first step is to acknowledge that you are in a recovery zone. This is all part of the Economic Stimulus Program. Roll call vote to approve the resolution on Recovery Zone Designation is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Davidson, and Saline—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Davidson and seconded by Member Nache to approve the debt schedule for bonds. A copy is included in the packets.

Kevin McKenna from Spear Financial again addressed the Board. The two projects that are being recommended are the courthouse and the landfill. The question regarding the courthouse is whether to borrow \$2,000,000 or \$3,000,000. And the question for the landfill is whether to repay that debt amount in 10, 15, or 20 years. Up to a combined total maximum amount of \$4,000,000 could be authorized.

Chairman Bacon spoke in favor of authorizing \$2,000,000 for the courthouse. This matter had been discussed in the finance committee.

Member Davidson stated that the County cannot afford \$3,000,000.

Member Saline stated that for purposes of discussion it might be easier to separate the courthouse from the landfill.

Treasurer Robin Davis stated that in the finance committee meeting they had discussed the possibility of borrowing \$3,000,000 for the courthouse. There would only be a difference of \$30,000 in the interest payment. So far we are still getting the sales tax revenue that comes in and she does not anticipate a problem receiving that revenue in the future.

Member Hasten suggested that it might be wise to authorize the \$3,000,000 for the courthouse as that would allow for cost overruns.

Member Saline agreed with that amount as it will probably require that much money to accomplish all that needs to be done.

Mr. McKenna confirmed that this is a “one shot deal.” Under this program, the County cannot go back and seek additional authorization for more bonds.

Member Saline continued that this courthouse project will be expensive. However, if the County does not borrow enough and has to borrow more money with a different program, it will cost even more money. Those rates will not so favorable. We may not be able to get another bond.

Mr. McKenna responded that interest rates are expected to increase next year. Up to \$2,000,000 in bonds will be available through the Recovery Zone Bond program and the remainder will be available through the Build America Bond program. These programs will not be nearly as financially attractive next year.

Mrs. Davis suggested a possible amount of \$2,500,000 for the courthouse.

Mr. McKenna stated that the existing debt service would be wrapped around the new debt. The current existing debt is for the county jail. The first eight or nine years, the County would only be paying the interest on the new debt until the jail is paid for.

Mrs. Davis stated that the public safety tax can only be spent on safety issues, and the courthouse would qualify. Her concerns are twofold. One has to do with the Mary Davis Home. The State is not paying the amount owed to the Mary Davis Home. That situation is also a public safety matter. We do not know what else the State will take from us. She believes that the County can afford to borrow the \$3,000,000 amount. This program would provide a less expensive interest rate to borrow funds.

Member Saline recommended the \$3,000,000 bond amount. If the County continues to receive the sales tax at the current levels, and the state does not steal it, we can repay this debt and have money to spare. If the State does steal the sales tax, we will not be able to pay off the previous bonds. This amount would give us a little bit more flexibility and puts us in a more stable position.

Member Stewart agreed with the \$3,000,000 bond amount.

Member Davidson stated that the State has not given us the money that is owed. This recommended amount of \$3,000,000 is a lot of money.

Member Davidson and Member Nache amended the original motion to approve that \$3,000,000 in public safety bonds be borrowed for the courthouse. The matter of the landfill will be voted on separately. County Clerk Scott Erickson explained that this is still one resolution with two separate votes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Davidson, and Saline—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Saline to borrow \$1,000,000 for the landfill. This would be similar to the financing for the courthouse project. Chairman Bacon stated that terms need to be approved. He asked Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds for his recommendation. Mr. Reynolds responded that this was his first opportunity to see the debt schedule. After briefly studying it, he did recommend a 15 year schedule to repay these bonds. As compared to the 10 year term, this would not create such a burden on our operating expenses early on.

Member Pickrel agreed as there is no penalty for repaying early.

Member Johnson and Member Saline agreed to amend their original motion to include a term of 15 years. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Davidson, and Saline—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hasten and seconded by Member Mannhardt to approve the ordinance of intent to issue bonds. Mrs. Davis explained that this is the first step in the process to get the bonds authorized and takes approximately three months. The purpose is to satisfy the “official intent requirement” of the Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Davidson, and Saline—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Pickrel and seconded by Member Stewart to approve the resolution to authorize issuance of these bonds. The maximum principal amount of indebtedness expected to be issued for the reimbursement of such expenditures is \$4,000,000, for the purpose of renovating the County Courthouse and acquiring land

for the County Landfill. Mrs. Davis stated that this actual resolution will be published in the newspaper. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Davidson, and Saline—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairman Bacon thanked Mr. McKenna for attending this meeting and his assistance.

Motion was made by Member Mannhardt and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the appointment of Thomas E. Hoben to the Knoxville Fire Protection District Board. This term will expire in 2013. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Davidson, and Saline—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Stewart and seconded by Member Hasten to approve the reappointment of Kenneth C. Swanson to the Galesburg Sanitary District. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Davidson, and Saline—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the letter of support for the Galesburg Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. A similar support letter was approved last year. There is no cost involved. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14) Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Abel to approve a letter of support for the Galesburg Foreign Trade Zone. There is no application fee connected to this inclusion. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Saline and seconded by Member Hasten to approve the settlement of a County lawsuit with Gay Johnson in the amount of \$24,000. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Abel, Davidson, and Saline—(13). Noes—(0). Pass—Johnson—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Stewart to approve the collective bargaining contract with AFSCME Council 31, Local 3217, the Courthouse union. A copy of this revised agreement is included in the packets. This is a four year agreement to expire in 2013. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Davidson, and Saline—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, and Clerk Committee report was presented by Committee Vice-Chairman Jeff Jefferson. Copies of the report were included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the Workman's Compensation settlement with Rick Lindstrom in the amount of \$17,356.52. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Davidson, and Saline—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Mannhardt to approve the resolution on the use of the appellate prosecutor in the amount of \$15,000. This is an annual renewal and a similar resolution as in previous years. This is a housekeeping item. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Davidson, and Saline—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Treasurer Robin Davis presented a statement of the conditions of the banks as of December 2009. This will be on file in the County Clerk's Office. This is another standard housekeeping measure.

Committee Chairman George Knapp presented the Building Committee Report. The committee minutes and report are included in the Board packets.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Stewart to bid and bring back for an engineer to design plans for courthouse repairs. MSI has recommended that an engineer be hired to plan the work in phases and coordinate the time schedules. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

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.

The Highway, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman George Knapp. Reports and committee minutes are included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Hasten and seconded by Member Nache to table the resolution on building codes for Knox County until matters can be worked out a little better. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Johnson, and Davidson—(10). Noes—Pickrel, Sandoval, Abel, and Saline—(4). Motion carried.

Member Saline raised a point of order concerning agenda item 25, approve the placing of modifications to the building code resolution to be on display for 30 days prior to final approval. Since there are no approved modifications, there is no resolution to place on file. Therefore, there is nothing to approve and this item should be removed from the agenda.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the low bids on all of the bid specifications for various maintenance materials for 2010. Duane Ratermann explained that this is a routine matter. Most of these 30 different materials will be used by townships. Motor fuel taxes will be used to reimburse the County. Bid tabs are included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Davidson, and Saline—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Mannhardt to approve the contract for new aerial photography for GIS and authorize Bill Lotz to negotiate up to an amount of \$68,000. This is something that should be done every five years and has not been done since 2003. So far the lowest bid is \$68,000. Bill Lotz is hoping to coordinate this project with other adjoining counties to reduce the total cost of each participating county. There are funds available in the GIS budget to cover this expenditure. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Davidson, and Saline—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

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

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Pickel to approve the nursing home fire alarm/sprinkler system policy revisions. A copy of this policy is included in the packets. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14) Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve to bid and bring back for the nursing home renovation project. Chairman Bacon stated his concerns regarding getting the new nursing home administrator involved in this project.

Member Johnson responded that since this is a bid and bring back there will be time to get the new administrator involved in this project. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Mannhardt to bid and bring back for lawn care services at the nursing home. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Stewart 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, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Davidson, and Saline—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Stewart and seconded by Member Hasten to approve specific line item adjustments in the budget for the health department. These specific adjustments are included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pickrel, Bacon, Foster, Mannhardt, Jefferson, Nache, Stewart, Hasten, Knapp, Sandoval, Johnson, Abel, Davidson, and Saline—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hasten and seconded by Member Nache to approve claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of February 25, 2010 through March 24, 2010 (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, Davidson, and Saline—(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

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

Member Jefferson commented that he is looking forward to having Member Saline back to attend finance committee meetings.

Member Davidson commented that Member Jefferson was doing fine job.

Member Nache, Member Hasten, Member Knapp, Member Sandoval, Member Johnson, Member Abel, and Member Davidson had no comments at this time.

Member Saline expressed his thanks to Member Jefferson for standing in for him while he was on vacation and helping out with a FFA project.

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 28, 2010, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Hasten 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 7:05 p.m.