

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
KNOX COUNTY, ILLINOIS
November 28, 2011**

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 Monday, November 28, 2011 at 6:17 p.m.

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

District 1	Lyle Johnson
District 2	Greg “Chops” Bacon
District 3	Barbara Foster
District 4	George Knapp
District 5	Jeff Jefferson
District 2	Paul Stewart
District 3	Pamela Davidson
District 4	David Erickson
District 5	Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval
District 1	Cheryl Nache
District 2	William Abel
District 4	Shawn Pitman
District 5	David Serven

And those absent: District 3 Tim Hasten

Also present were Assistant State’s Attorney Erik Gibson, Treasurer Robin Davis, Sheriff Dave Clague, and County Clerk Scott Erickson.

Sheriff Dave Clague delivered the proclamation. Chairman Bacon led the Members in the pledge to the flag. Since no clergy person was in attendance, Chairman Bacon asked for a moment of silence.

Chairman Bacon asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. Member Abel asked that agenda item #17, approve the employment contract for Tom Pepmeyer to provide indigent representation, and agenda item # 18, approve the employment contract for attorneys Bill Butts and Tom Pepmeyer to provide coverage services, be deleted from this agenda.

Chairman Bacon asked for public comments. There were none.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Knapp to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Minutes on

October 26, 2011, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of November 28, 2011 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of August 2011 in the amounts of \$100,745.90 and \$22,189.09 and public safety tax in the amount of \$86,324.08. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairman Bacon expressed his appreciation to former County Board Member Wayne Saline who served the County for many years on the finance committee. Chairman Bacon stated that when he first became a Board Member, Wayne Saline taught him that balancing the County Budget is not an easy thing. Mr. Saline became a good friend and mentor. Mr. Saline was given a plaque and a standing ovation.

Mr. Saline commented that he is feeling good.

Chairman Bacon stated that even though the State is still not paying its bills, through Mr. Saline's leadership on the finance committee, Knox County has a balanced budget. The County has not had to lay off employees or cut services. That is a tribute to Mr. Saline, the County Board, and the County's leaders.

An update from the Regional Superintendent of Schools Office was presented by Bonnie Harris. She thanked the Board for their continued support and expressed her thanks for the Board's approval of the facility sales tax.

Chairman Bacon asked if she was receiving her pay check. Mrs. Harris responded that she has not yet received a check. It should not be up to the County to pay her salary.

Chairman Bacon thanked her and expressed his appreciation for all that she does.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the revised Knox County Personnel Policy, implementation to be subject to any bargaining contracts or obligations. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Finance, Insurance, Treasurer, Judicial, and Clerk Committee report was presented by Committee Vice-Chairman William Abel. The monthly reports and committee minutes were provided to the Members.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the deed of conveyance for parcel # 99-16-431-011, 12. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Serven to approve the resolution on the use of the State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. This is something that has been done the last several years. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the resolution to establish the County Personnel Policy as the baseline personnel policy for County Departments and subsidiaries. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Serven to approve the software purchase for the State’s Attorney’s Office. Member Foster commented that based on the information provided in the packet, the IT Director is not happy with this software purchase.

Chairman Bacon responded that although originally there were some concerns, the IT Director is OK with this software purchase now.

Member Stewart questioned the funding for this purchase.

Chairman Bacon responded that public safety funds would be used unless the cost is over \$7,000. Then the overage would come out of the State’s Attorney’s budget. Part of the existing system is in the old DOS format. This new software will be a needed upgrade. The total cost will be \$98,000 to be paid over two years. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Nache to approve to bid and bring back for a computer server for the State’s Attorney’s Office. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the Workman’s Compensation Settlement with Cheryl Lafollette in the total amount of \$31,703.50. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Knapp to approve the employment contract for alternate public defender Karl Johnson. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Nache to approve the employment contract for alternate public defender Daniel O’Brien. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(12). Noes—(0). Pass—Foster—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the employment contract with Bills Butts Law Office to provide indigent/mental representation. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Stewart to approve the employment contract with Jamie Mitchell to provide indigent representation in the appellate court. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the employment contract with Dana Kelly to provide indigent representation in the appellate court. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the employment contract with information technology coordinator Andy Rowe. Member Davidson commented that Mr. Rowe does a fine job. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the revisions and additions to the budget for FY2011-2012. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Nache to approve the county levy for FY2011-2012. Member Nache stated that she does not feel good about imposing another tax on the people. The unemployment rate is up. Bankruptcies are up. Expenses are up. The school tax increased. Everything is up except wages. It is not right to impose still another tax on County residents. She will not vote to approve this additional tax increase. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Erickson, Sandoval, Abel, and Serven—(9). Noes—Foster, Davidson, Nache, and Pitman—(4). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the County Budget FY2011-2012 to include any revisions made to date.

Member Stewart stated that consistently for the last few years, he has voted against the budget as it did not include a line item for a county administrator. He agreed to not discuss this topic during the budget negotiations of the finance committee. This year he will be voting in favor of this budget. However, he still feels that it is important to have a county administrator at some point in the future.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(12). Noes—Nache—(1). Motion carried.

The Building Committee report was presented by Building Committee Co-Chairman George Knapp. The committee minutes and the monthly report are included in the packets.

Motion was made by Member Knapp and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the low bid in the amount of \$216,960.00 for the Courthouse boiler replacement submitted by Benbow Plumbing and Heating including their alternate bid in that amount of \$28,460.00. Two bids were submitted. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). 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 current census of the Mary Davis Home is 23 and of that number 6 are Knox County residents. The current census of the Knox County Jail is 105 and of that number 28 are federal prisoners.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Serven to approve to bid and bring back for HVAC and electrical contracts for the jail and the courthouse. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Highway, Assessor, Zoning, GIS, and Recorder Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Jeff Jefferson. Monthly reports and committee minutes are included in the packets.

Member Stewart noted that according to information in the packet, the case for Terry Bell has been continued a number of times. He asked if Chris Gray or Erik Gibson could explain why this has happened.

Erik Gibson stated that part of the reason is that every time they get close to getting some resolution to this case, something else comes up. It is how the legal system works. There have been times when the judge ran out of time and there have also been witness issues.

Member Stewart noted that this has been continued a number of times. In the meantime, these violations continue uncorrected.

Mr. Gibson stated that there were also scheduling problems because of the Sheley case, demanding so much of the judges' time.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Knapp to approve the four year employment contract for Chris Gray as Chief County Assessment Officer. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the decision from the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding Case #CU-02-11 which recommends approval of this request. This refers to a petition from RP Lumber, Inc., Knoxville, for a mini storage facility.

Chairman Bacon questioned the timing of this request for a zoning change, as they have already poured the concrete. Chris Gray responded that a permit is not required to pour concrete. The business was informed that if this request was denied, they would have a concrete pad. They were made aware and that was their choice. An alternate plan could have been to build on to the existing lumber yard.

Chairman Bacon stated that they can do this because Knox County has no building codes. Chris Gray agreed that a lot of these problems are because of the lack of county building codes.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(12). Noes—Knapp—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Stewart to approve the six year employment contract for Duane Ratermann as County Highway Engineer. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the engineering agreement with Mauer-Stutz for bridge design for two bridges. Information is included in the packets. One bridge is in Walnut Grove Township and the other is in Henderson Township. The cost is not to exceed \$28,420.91 and is to come from the County Bridge improvement fund. A portion of the costs will be reimbursed by these townships. These two bridges are scheduled for completion in 2012. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The Landfill and Nursing Home Committee report was presented by Committee Chairman Lyle Johnson. Committee reports and committee minutes had been provided to the Members.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Nache to approve an amendment to the nursing home administrator Kathy Kopsack's contract. Member Johnson stated that the nursing home administrator has asked for additional vacation time instead of a salary increase. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Davidson to approve to bid and bring back for nursing home pharmacy services. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Pitman to approve the high bid submitted by Patrick J. Thompson, Little York, for the one year lease of the county farmland. Member Johnson explained that currently there is a restriction on what can be planted on one parcel. Next year they are planning to remove that restriction. That would substantially increase the rent.

Member Erickson stated that he is not completely comfortable with the outdated language in this lease agreement. It surprised him that the County did not receive more than three bids. Further, he has a problem with leasing this acreage to a farmer who does not reside within the County.

Member Johnson responded that this is the farmer who previously farmed these parcels. His bid was the significantly higher than the other two bids. These are smaller fields and some farmers do not think it is worth it.

Chairman Bacon stated that when that crop restriction is removed, they do anticipate receiving more bids next year.

Member Erickson noted another concern with the current lease is to require the farmer to pay the cash rent before the crop is harvested. This seems to be a very unusual term for cash rent.

Member Johnson stated that perhaps these concerns could be addressed in the lease before the next year. They have been just using the same lease format each year.

Member Davidson explained that previously corn was not allowed to be planted in the parcel in front of the nursing home for the safety reasons of the residents. No longer is that such an issue, as there are alarms on the doors and other safety measures are in place. She would also prefer that the lease went to a Knox County farmer.

Member Johnson stated that the bid was advertised. The County does not have to go with the high bid. He reminded Members that there is a substantial difference in these bids.

Member Serven noted that the difference is nearly \$100 per acre on the one parcel.

Roll call vote to approve the high bid submitted by Patrick J. Thompson, Little York, for the one year lease of the county farmland is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(12). Noes—Erickson—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Nache to approve the \$2.00 per ton increase in contract fees for the landfill. Landfill Administrator Jerry Reynolds explained that the three year contract with the City of Kewanee and Big River Resources is about to expire. Before he starts the negotiations he wanted to bring this suggested increase to the full Board for their approval. He is suggesting another three year contract, with a \$2 increase for the first year, followed by a \$1 increase for each of the next two years.

Member Stewart questioned if these parties are accepting these increases.

Mr. Reynolds responded that to the best of his knowledge they are OK with it. He has heard no negative comments.

Member Pitman questioned how these fees would compare with the competition.

Mr. Reynolds responded that one reason they were so successful with these contracts, is that they did not include a fuel adjustment clause. This was a fixed amount. He would recommend a three year contract. This allows time to adjust for equipment purchases and plan ahead. Any longer than that, it hard to guess what might happen.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the opening of the budget for line item adjustments. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Nache to approve specific line item adjustments in budget FY2010-2011 for the following: Sheriff's Department,

Animal Control, Mary Davis Home, Highway Department, County Motor Fuel Tax Fund, Board of Review, Assessment Office, State's Attorney's Office, Landfill, General Fund, Child Advocacy, Self Insurance Fund, and the Nursing Home. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Davidson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of October 27, 2011 through November 28, 2011 (ordering that invoices be accepted and approved and that the County Clerk and County Treasurer be authorized and directed to issue County Warrants in payments of the bills.) Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Pitman, and Serven—(13). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson had no comments at this time.

Chairman Bacon commented that during the finance committee meeting that it was brought to their attention that Knox County Employees are participating in a wellness program. Robin Davis reported that there will be a contest among the employees and asked for an incentive prize. Chairman Bacon agreed to donate \$100 out of his pocket toward this incentive program, instead of using County funds. Committee members agreed to donate one per diem for the month of December to go into this incentive fund. He asked other Board Members to also consider donating one per diem per month. This matter will be discussed again next month.

Chairman Bacon reported that he had received an official letter of resignation from Allen Pickrel effective immediately. He thanked Duane Ratermann and Chris Gray for agreeing to their contracts. He also thanked the budget and finance committees for all of their hard work. We made it through with a balanced budget. We should be proud of that accomplishment.

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

Member Jefferson expressed his thanks to Mr. Ratermann and Mrs. Gray for their patience and their help with their contracts. He also thanked Wayne Saline who has given valuable help and time to him. Member Jefferson stated that he will miss Mr. Saline and appreciates all that Mr. Saline did for him.

Member Stewart had no comments at this time.

Member Davidson wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Member Erickson had no comments at this time.

Member Sandoval expressed his thanks to Wayne Saline for all of his help, and thanked his family for sharing him.

Member Nache expressed congratulations to Mr. Ratermann and Mrs. Gray. She thanked Wayne Saline for all of his years of service to the County Board. She also wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Member Abel also thanked Mr. Saline for all of his contributions and his years of service.

Member Pitman also thanked Mr. Saline for his support and wished him well in the future with years of good health.

Member Serven also thanked Mr. Saline who was one of the only ones that Member Serven knew when he came onto the Board. Mr. Saline's guidance and help is appreciated. There is still much to learn.

Wayne Saline stated that there are always changes every year. You can never know enough.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 28, 2011, 6:00 p.m., at the Knox County Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Abel to adjourn. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(13). Noes—(0). Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.