

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD  
KNOX COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
October 26, 2011**

STATE OF ILLINOIS     )  
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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 Wednesday, October 26, 2011 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 | Lyle Johnson            |
| District 2 | Greg “Chops” Bacon      |
| District 3 | Barbara Foster          |
| District 4 | George Knapp            |
| District 5 | Jeff Jefferson          |
| District 1 | Allen Pickrel           |
| 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 3 | Tim Hasten              |
| District 4 | Shawn Pitman            |
| District 5 | David Serven            |

Also present were State’s Attorney John Pepmeyer, 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. Rev. Leigh Nygard of Galesburg delivered the invocation.

Chairman Bacon asked for additions or deletions to the agenda. Member Abel asked that the following items be removed from the agenda: # 16 approve the purchase of software and hardware for the State’s Attorney’s Office, # 17 approve the employment contract for Alternate Public Defender Karl Johnson, #18 approve the employment contract for Alternate Public Defender Dan O’Brien, #19 approve the employment contract for Bill Butts to provide indigent/mental representation, #20 approve the employment contract for Tom Pepmeyer to provide indigent representation, and # 21 to approve employment contracts with coverage attorneys.

Chairman Bacon asked for public comments. Dave Buck addressed the Board regarding an illegal race track near Dahinda, on the easement of County Highway 15. He passed around some photos to document some unresolved problems with a neighbor. Mr. Buck has tried to discuss these problems with the neighbor but there has been no improvement. There have also been problems with the neighbor's animals. Sometimes the animals run loose. The horses have been damaging neighboring corn fields and the dogs have been observed on several occasions running at large. Mr. Buck has contacted the animal control office and they have responded. Yet the animal problems continue. The Zoning Department has also been contacted in reference to the race track and that problem also continues creating noise and dust. There is also a safety issue as drivers pull onto County Highway 15 to turn around. Mr. Buck asked the Board for some direction. After contacting the Sheriff's Department and the Zoning Department, he does not know what else to do. Chairman Bacon stated that this situation would be referred to other county officials to seek some resolution.

Motion was made by Member Hasten and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the Regular and Closed Board Meeting on September 28, 2011, 2) claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Meeting of October 26, 2011 and other claims for per diem from meetings, and 3) sales tax and various taxes for the month of July 2011 in the amounts of \$102,453.71 and \$25,283.85 and public safety tax in the amount of \$87,016.69. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Pickrel, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chairman Bacon read aloud the proclamation in support of National 4-H Month to be observed during the month of October. Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Hasten to approve this proclamation. A copy of this proclamation is included in the packets. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

A 4-H presentation was given by local 4-H members. Angel Wright, 4-H coordinator and representative of the University of Illinois Extension Office stated that there are approximately 300 4-H members in Knox County which represent 14 clubs. Two new 4-H clubs are being organized. The 4-H program could use additional volunteers and those interested in serving in this way should contact her. Shelby Carlson stated that she has been actively involved in 4-H for nine years. One of the benefits of 4-H is that lifelong friendships are formed. Leadership skills are developed through 4-H. Bethany Main stated that she has also been involved in 4-H for eight years. This program has helped her develop her public speaking skills. They thanked the Board for their continued support and presented cookies to the Board Members.

An update from CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) of Knox County was presented by Hannah Malley, CASA Director. Their purpose is to train volunteers to represent in court the best interests of abused and neglected children. So far this year they have served over 110 children. CASA has approximately 20 active volunteer advocates who represent these children. Recently she did attend a finance committee meeting and made a CASA presentation at that time. She thanked the Board for their continued financial support.

Chairman Bacon thanked her for serving in this capacity. This is a necessary service in Knox County.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Nache to approve moving the November County Board Meeting date to Monday, November 28, 2011. County Clerk Scott Erickson stated that traditionally this November meeting is held the Monday after Thanksgiving, so that it will not conflict with that holiday. The bill review committee will be meeting November 21. Committee Meetings will be held the week of November 14. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Davidson and seconded by Member Stewart to approve the proclamation in support of the Knox County Regional Superintendent of Schools. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets.

Member Davidson reminded other Members that due to the financial problems in Springfield the Knox County Regional Superintendent of Schools has not been paid since June. Other counties have voiced their support and approved resolutions declaring that support. This is a very valuable service in Knox County and the State should continue its funding. Although Bonnie Harris has not been paid since June, she has continued to go to work every day and do her job. Mrs. Harris is not in attendance at this Meeting, as she is in Springfield lobbying about this issue. We need to support all of the County officials.

Member Pickrel stated that this is all due to Governor Quinn's action to no longer fund this position. A judge has ruled that he cannot dictate what the Governor has set in his budget. There is no way that Knox County can absorb this salary expense. He is fearful that if the Board approves this resolution of support, that the County may eventually be forced to fund this position, even though they cannot afford to do so.

Member Davidson asked State's Attorney John Pepmeyer whether he had any input on this resolution.

Mr. Pepmeyer stated that he had not yet read this resolution.

Member Pickrel commented that he had read the resolution and that it is well written and he does like Bonnie Harris. His opinion on this resolution is not a personal reflection on Mrs. Harris or the actual position itself.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, and Serven—(13). Noes—Pickrel and Pitman—(2). Motion carried.

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Personnel Handbook report was presented by Committee Chairman William Abel who stated that they should have an update next month. The attorneys are reviewing it.

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 Serven to approve the deeds of conveyance for the following parcel numbers: 05-28-101-010, 07-29-400-004, 19-04-210-012, 99-02-328-015, 99-10-486-010, 99-11-306-023, 99-11-353-024, 99-14-153-014, 99-15-301-018, 99-16-385-012, and 99-16-432-015. This is a routine business matter that returns these properties to the tax rolls. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster,

Knapp, Jefferson, Pickrel, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the report of the condition of the banks as of June 30, 2011. Treasurer Robin Davis stated that this is a routine business matter. This report will be on file in the County Clerk's Office. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Nache to approve the resolution on the transfer of interest from landfill accounts to the Special Contingency Fund.

Member Pickrel stated that he would be voting against this resolution as we are taking money from that fund to finance the insurance for the County employees. Every County taxpayer man, woman and child is paying \$20 for the health insurance for County employees.

Member Davidson questioned that statement and stated that the Mary Davis Home needs these additional funds.

Member Pickrel responded that there is no other place where the taxpayer pays for your insurance. The County taxpayers are paying for a portion of this cost to provide County employees' health insurance. The taxpayers should pay nothing towards this expenditure. No one else in the private sector gets their insurance paid for in this way.

County Treasurer Robin Davis stated that all taxing bodies pay a portion of their employees' health insurance as do other entities.

Member Hasten stated that County employees are not paid like city employees. County employees could not afford the full cost of their health insurance. Health insurance is a benefit. Yes, the taxpayers do pay a portion of it. This is a fringe benefit to keep good employees.

Member Jefferson called for the question.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, and Serven—(13). Noes—Pickrel and Pitman—(2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Serven to approve the resolution on the use of the Special Contingency Fund by the Mary Davis Home. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Pickrel, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Davidson to approve the resolution on the additional \$2.00 gate fee at the landfill. A copy of this resolution is included in the packets. Member Pickrel noted that this is a continuation of an existing resolution. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Pickrel, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the resolution revising the previous resolution authorizing the transfer of funds from the Knox County's Nursing Home Tax Levy Fund to the Knox County Nursing Home General Fund. A copy of this revised resolution is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows:

Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Pickrel, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Hasten to approve tax levies for Knox County. Specific information is included in the packets. County Treasurer Robin Davis reported that the tax rate is increasing less than 2%. If that amount is less than 5%, there does not have to be a truth in taxation hearing. The estimated EAV is \$706,000,000. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Pickrel, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Hasten to approve the annual membership dues for the Illinois Association of County Board Members in the amount of \$1,500. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Pickrel, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Hasten to approve bids for property, casualty, general liability, law enforcement liability, and public official's liability insurance from ICRMT. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Pickrel, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Nache to approve bids for dental insurance from MetLife, vision insurance from VSP, workman's compensation from ICMRT, and life group insurance from Ft. Dearborn. Treasurer Robin Davis noted that the recommendation for the vision insurance will include two options that will allow employees to make their own choice. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Pickrel, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Serven to approve the bid for flex plan administration. Jared Lee from American Fidelity addressed the Board saying that this firm specializes in providing this service to governmental entities. Chairman Bacon stated that previously there was a service charge of \$4.00 for this service. The employee paid one half of that fee and the County paid the other half. This company will set up this program at no fee to the County or the employee. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Pickrel, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Abel and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the placement of the tentative budget for FY2011-2012 on display for public review prior to final approval during the November Meeting. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(14). Noes—Pickrel—(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 Hasten to approve the bid for asbestos abatement at the courthouse. Member Knapp stated that this must be done before the new heating system can be installed. These bids were opened just previous to this Meeting. Four bids were received. The lowest bid was in the amount of \$8,880 from M & O in Peoria. The highest bid was in the amount of \$27,000 from a company in Chicago. The committee is recommending that the Board accept the lowest bid. Chairman Bacon commented that this is an important first step for the courthouse project. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Pickrel, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(15). 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 jail is 117 and 32 of those are federal prisoners. The Sheriff is doing a good job getting these federal prisoners. The census of the Mary Davis Home is 28 and 7 of those are Knox County residents. Member Pickrel commented that even though currently the Sheriff's Department is short handed, the jail and the road deputies are doing a great job. He expressed his thanks to the Sheriff's department and recognized Sheriff's Clague's leadership.

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.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Foster to approve the employment contract with Bill Lotz as GIS Coordinator/Analyst. A copy of this contract is included in the packets. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Pickrel, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Stewart to approve the reappointment of Ben DeRose to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a five year term. Member Pickrel stated that he has done a great job. Chairman Bacon stated that he is an asset to the County. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Pickrel, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Stewart to approve revising the Knox County Zoning Resolution. Member Stewart stated that as he understands it, this is an effort to strengthen the existing regulations. This should result in quicker compliance. Chris Gray confirmed that to be intent. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Pickrel, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the proposal for pavement evaluation services submitted by Applied Research Associates, Inc. from Champaign, Illinois, in the amount of \$79,500.00. Information had been provided to the Board Members.

Member Jefferson stated that the purpose is to determine the structural integrity of the County highways. Highway Engineer Duane Ratermann stated that this technology has only been commercially available for about three years. This analysis will determine how strong the roads are and what needs to be done to allow for the 8,000 pound weight limit. It is his recommendation to proceed with this study. In the long run, it will be cost effective. For example to apply seal coating is approximately \$10,000 per mile. Mr. Ratermann introduced Doug Steele from Applied Research Associates, Inc.

Mr. Steele stated that all of the County highways would be tested. Based on that information, they will know which roads require attention first. They are hoping to complete this analysis before Thanksgiving.

Mr. Ratermann stated that although the original proposal included an analysis of both lanes, this proposal includes only one lane. This option would be less expensive and still provide an accurate evaluation. This expenditure would be funded through Federal Aid Matching Funds.

Member Stewart inquired whether this falls under a professional service. Mr. Ratermann confirmed that it is. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Pickrel, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(15). 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 Davidson to approve to proceed with the methane gas collection project at the landfill with William Charles Energy, LLC. This system was discussed during the September Meeting. This approval will allow the engineers to do some initial testing to determine the volume of the methane present.

Member Stewart inquired about the cost. Member Johnson responded that the estimated initial cost would be \$10,000-\$15,000 and would come out of this year's budget. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Pickrel, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve to bid and buy for the combined diesel fuel purchase for the highway department and the landfill. Member Johnson stated that it is hoped that the greater combined volume could result in better price. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Pickrel, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Johnson and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the recommendation to cease acceptance of all asbestos materials at the landfill. Chairman Bacon inquired about the time line and when this recommendation would become effective as there will

be the asbestos removal project in the courthouse. Member Johnson and Member Sandoval agreed to amend the original motion to state that the landfill could accept County owned asbestos, such as the asbestos to be removed from the Courthouse. Member Davidson stated that this option was discussed during the committee meeting just omitted in the original motion. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Davidson and seconded by Member Jefferson to approve the opening of the budget for line item adjustments. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Pickrel, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Jefferson and seconded by Member Nache to approve specific line item adjustments in the budget for the following departments or funds: Sheriff's Department, Zoning Board of Appeals, Assessment Office, Mary Davis Home, General Fund, Public Defender's Offices, GIS, Treasurer's Office, IT Administrator, County Clerk's Office, County Board, Judicial Offices, Law Library, Coroner's Office, Health Department, Child Advocacy, State's Attorney's Office, Animal Control, Landfill, and the Nursing Home. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Pickrel, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Hasten and seconded by Member Johnson to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois, for the period of September 29, 2011 through October 26, 2011 (ordering that invoices be accepted and that the County Clerk and County Treasurer be authorized and directed to issue County Warrants in payment of the bills.)

Member Stewart inquired about the bills that were pulled during the Bill Review Committee Meeting. Chairman Bacon responded that it has all been straightened out. These bills will be resubmitted with the problem items removed. They will be resubmitted next month for review. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Johnson, Bacon, Foster, Knapp, Jefferson, Pickrel, Stewart, Davidson, Erickson, Sandoval, Nache, Abel, Hasten, Pitman, and Serven—(15). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

## STATEMENTS OF GENERAL CONCERN

Member Johnson had no comments at this time.

Chairman Bacon commented regarding the approval of the asbestos abatement project that it has taken 4-5 years to get to this point. This is a banner day for the County and the first step in the process. He is proud of the efforts of Donnie Gladfelter and the building committee and their diligence.

Member Foster, Member Knapp, Member Jefferson, and Member Pickrel had no comments at this time.

Member Stewart stated that he would like to reiterate his thanks to Chris Gray and Erik Gibson to develop a plan which will strengthen County zoning ordinances.

Member Davidson stated that she would like to thank the Board for their support for the revision of the ordinances for the Zoning Department.

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

Member Nache expressed her kudos to Chris Gray and Erik Gibson. Also as the budget year winds down she commended Treasurer Robin Davis and the department heads for watching their expenses. Thanks to all of their diligent efforts, Knox County is above water. Other counties are not.

Member Abel, Member Hasten, Member Pickrel, and Member Serven had no comments at this time.

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

There being no further business, Chairman Bacon declared the County Board to be in recess until the next scheduled Meeting of the Board. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.