

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
KNOX COUNTY, ILLINOIS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
May 7, 2003**

6:00 p.m.

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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COUNTY OF KNOX)

A special meeting of the Knox County Board was held at the Courthouse, Galesburg, Illinois on Wednesday, May 7, 2003 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Sally Keener and on roll call the following members reported present:

District 1	Carol Simpson
District 2	Gayle Keiser
District 3	Dale Parsons
District 4	Sally Keener
District 5	Ricardo Sandoval
District 1	Allen Pickrel
District 2	Dana Shallenberger
District 3	Jennifer Brown
District 4	Lowell Mannhardt
District 5	Gerald Link
District 1	Linda Roberts
District 2	William Abel
District 3	Janet Occhi
District 4	Wayne Saline
District 5	Stephen Johnson

and also present was Marc Wong, County Clerk.

Chairman Sally Keener reported the two items on the agenda are: 1) considering emergency appropriation for the purchase of the Leibovitz Building and 2) exploration of alternatives for office relocation options. After discussion, it was agreed to reverse order of agenda items.

Joyce Skinner, Supervisor of Assessments, addressed the Board. Maytag had appealed their property tax assessment for 2001 and won. J. Skinner has been working with Maytag's attorney to get relief on the amount owed. Maytag has agreed to forego the interest in the amount of \$12,917.70 making the refund \$295,261.12 which will be repaid by the local units of government which received it.

Motion to go into executive session for purpose of discussion of purchase of real property by G. Keiser seconded by D. Shallenberger and vote by roll call as follows: Ayes - Simpson, Keiser, Parsons, Keener, Sandoval, Shallenberger, Mannhardt, Roberts, Abel, Occhi, Saline, Johnson - (12); Noes - Pickrel, Brown, Link - (3). Motion carried.

6:40 p.m.- Return to regular session.

Public comment - Ed England, 1250 E. Fremont St., Galesburg, Illinois, addressed the Board noting they need to work together better than they have in the past. In his opinion the Leibovitz building is too expensive, needs remodeling, has a flat roof and no parking. The County owns property on E. Fremont Street that should be looked into, spending money on property we already own. He suggests county workers man the moves shutting down for a couple of days if necessary. Joe Mangieri addressed the Board as taxpayer and businessman. He reminded the Board that: 1) whatever the Board does short term, it is only temporary; 2) he feels very strongly money needs to be budgeted to retain a professional to assess our assets and let that person guide our decision when it comes to capital expenditures); 3) it is very rare to find a pre-existing commercial building that can meet the needs of a business. Some buildings have major changes and require a great deal of money; the Board needs to find a building that will take it fifty years into the future.

After discussion, W. Saline made motion to appropriate funds in the amount of \$265,000 to purchase Leibovitz Building seconded by A. Pickrel and vote by roll call as follow: Ayes - Keener, Sandoval, Pickrel, Brown, Mannhardt, Link, Abel, Occhi, Saline - (9); Noes - Simpson, Keiser, Parsons, Shallenberger, Roberts, Johnson - (6). Motion failed to receive required 2/3 majority.

Motion by A. Pickrel per diems for this meeting be forfeited seconded by R. Sandoval and vote by roll call as follows: Ayes - Simpson, Keiser, Parsons, Keener, Sandoval, Pickrel, Shallenberger, Brown, Mannhardt, Link, Roberts, Abel, Occhi, Saline, Johnson - (15); Noes - (0). Motion carried.

G. Keiser noted there is no difference in the time table in moving people out of the basement (the option discussed in executive session and recommended by the search team or the option of buying the Leibovitz building). The moves are going to occur between May and August, 2003 under either option.

Motion by J. Brown to adjourn seconded by S. Johnson. Motion carried.