PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
KNOX COUNTY, ILLINOIS

August 26, 2026

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COUNTY OF KNOX)

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held in person at the Galesburg City Council chambers on Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at 6:01 p.m. This meeting was presented via teleconference for viewing only. The YouTube channel link can be found on the County website. You can view the meeting on the Knox County YouTube channel. After the meeting is over you review it and are able to download it.

The Meeting was called to order by County Board Chair Jared Hawkinson and upon roll call the following Members reported present:

District 1	Tracy Robertson
District 2	Erin Pugh
District 3	Kimberly Thierry
District 4	Joshua Kramer
District 5	Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval
District 1	Cheryl Nache
District 2	Jennifer Fredrick
District 3	Pamela Davidson
District 4	Jared Hawkinson
District 1	Anthony Weiss
District 3	Samuel Cohen
District 4	Todd Olinger
District 5	Brian Friedrich

And those absent:	District 5	Patty Boone
	District 2	Robert Bondi

Also present were County Clerk-Recorder Scott Erickson, Sheriff Jack Harlan, Coroner Jacque Dare, State’s Attorney Ashley Worby and Treasurer Robin Davis. Department Heads present were Knox County Nursing Home Administrator Jodi Mines, Landfill Administrator Rod Cleair and Supervisor of Assessments Sonia Hochstetler.

Sheriff Harlan delivered the Proclamation and Chair Hawkinson led the Members in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. In lieu of a formal invocation, Chair Hawkinson asked that a moment of silence be observed.

Chair Hawkinson asked for additions or deletions to the agenda with additions for discussion only.

Member Davidson asked to discuss why the coroner was removed off the agenda.

Chair Hawkinson replied absolutely, we will add that at Item 18A. There were no objections to the addition of 18A and no deletions to the agenda.

Chair Hawkinson asked for public comment. He asked if there was anyone that did not get a chance to sign up before the meeting started.

Pam Davidson said good afternoon everyone from District 3. She spoke about Labor Day being right around the corner. She said as a union member all her life starting with AFSCME while working in the nursing home to labor to machinist. Then working at Maytag and now a UAW member for now 23 years. Labor Day is not just a day to go out and have picnics and eat with your family. It is remembering who works in this country, to build this country and to support this county. If we didn't have labor and good unions she asked where we would be. For all the union members and the people that work for Knox County she said salute. She thanked them for everything they do. Labor Day is more than the parade and throwing candy. It is about celebrating and honoring the people that work for the county and our nation. Happy Labor Day.

Joseph Slez said he owns a farm in Rio were Bruner Cemetery is there. He has owned it since 1988. Bruner Cemetery in is need of absolute repair and needs to be fixed. He has talked to different people over the years with a million promises and nothing ever happens. He was at the office and they mentioned for him to come her and talk. He knows that Knox County owns it since Google says that even though it is in Rio Township.

Ken Springer stated that he is with the Knox County Partnership for Economic Development and said thank you very much. He wanted to mention a couple of projects this month. Earlier this month the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity announced a 1.9 million site readiness grant to the Galesburg Sanitary District which is a really cool thing for the community. These funds are going to be utilized for the cost of running a sewer connection out at the Galesburg Business Park. This is going to help serve the remaining 90 acres that will be left after the Intermobile Export Project is built. These funds along with the 25 million in funding that was announced from the US Department of Transportation in 2025 is going to help address a lot of the cost associated with that infrastructure which is great news. They are grateful to the Illinois Department of Commerce for providing those grant funds. It will definitely help them to find additional users for the park and bring more jobs to the community.

Secondly, he wanted to note that last Monday the Galesburg City Council approved a development agreement with ILPEA, which is a local manufacturing company. The company is consolidating operations from South Carolina and relocating some of that production to Galesburg. The agreement provides funding for the company in exchange for retaining 32 jobs at the Galesburg plant and provides upside of the company for expanding employment in Galesburg over the next 5 years. This is a joint effort by the City of Galesburg, KCAP and also

the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. It is a nice win for the area and it is going to preserve about 1.8 million in local payroll. It is going to give the company a good platform to continue to grow in this region. He thinks this project is a really good reminder that retaining existing businesses is a really important part of economic development. Every bit as vital as recruiting new businesses is making sure that our existing businesses are able to continue operating. He wanted to highlight that recent success for the board tonight and said thank you very much.

Jacque Dare said she is your Coroner. She said that she might be off on her dates but thinks that she is the only one in fifty-two years that hasn't had a funeral home. She said because of that when she first took office she was able to redo one of her bedrooms to more her office there. She does have a wedding venue then moved her office there with the promise that she would have an office by April of 2025. Then, April 2025 came and along with August 2025 came and went after that promise came up. She finally got a small office, which is doable except she has a part-time deputy that has no room. He is doing investigation work and her schedules from his kitchen table. The reason she is speaking today is that she knows her name has been brought up at multiple meetings and at this time she is just letting everybody know what her thoughts and feelings are. She would love to have an office where all her stuff is under one roof. At this point in time her PPE stuff is at her wedding venue. She has two vehicles with one at the Mary Davis Home and one is at her house because she does not have enough room at her house to hold both. She has files at the Mary Davis Home. Her office is in Galesburg and her cooler is in Knoxville. She is scattered and if anybody needs anything they have to try to figure where they are going to get it. Also, how they are going to get it, make sure everybody got keys and phones. She wanted to voice her opinion and let everyone know that this is the reason her committee has been fighting for her to try to get her under one roof which would be great and said thanks.

Connie Main said that you should know her by now since it has been 10 years and she is from Altona. She is here again and she told them she was not going to stop. She is here to report more undesirables that are go on at her house and are the same stuff that have been going on for 10 years. It is just starting to increase again. She reported recently to Chair Hawkinson and to the sheriff by email about some of those undesirables. She said she could tell some stories that nobody ever believes. They have had security surveillance at their home since 2016 when they first started calling law enforcement to report stuff. Every time they report somebody they have had a different person in their home and were told they had the best system they have ever saw in their life that compared to anybody had. It has got them in trouble weekly. They were the ones punished not the people doing it to them and is still going on. She has told how they were violated by FOIA or they don't get it at all. If they get it then it is all redacted. She feels dogs are protected over them and says half of these dogs are never inoculated or registered. For the recent correspondence to them she wants to know why these people are not afraid. She said it is because they do not ever get held responsible or accountable and these people have a party and come to their house. They keep showing to do this stuff. She said she has a list of why they do not get in trouble. She reported on July 22nd that a guy came to their house and saw her husband on the porch and made the most god-awful noise in front of their rural country home with his modified mufflers and then left. When they report him, it gets watered down like they guy was just driving down a public road just doing nothing and they are just crazy people like they have been called

in the past when they report this abuse. She said they keep doing it because these guys didn't even get contacted and did not get in any trouble. They said he lived in a different county and they didn't have a current phone number. She said they come from Alpha and from everywhere to come over. She said we did not get his name or they hide their name. She said they know us but we don't know them. They meet some people walking and did not think anything of it. They were walking or jogging by their house back and forth, double pass. Then, later that day they get an off-road vehicle with no registration stickers who decides to show them how powerful his motor is. Then they had a woman that tried to attack their car that looked like a sheriff's deputy to them. She said she wanted to put the complaints on record.

Chair Hawkinson thanked everyone for speaking during public comment.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the regular Board Meeting on July 29, 2026. 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of May 2026 in the amounts of $183,395.41 and $59,929.22 and public safety tax in the amount of $316,567.38. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson introduced Carl Sandburg College's legislative liaison Michelle Johnson to speak for Item 3. He stated that she provided everyone with some documentation about the college.

Michelle Johnson said thank you very much for having her and she serves as the Vice President of Institutional Resources. She explained that her long title means she is a connector and their chief legislation officer so everyone will be seeing her more. The reason she wanted to come tonight to visit is to further embed the relationship that Knox County shares with Carl Sandburg College. You may recall that they serve all or part of 10 counties in their district. Their district is 3,000 square miles. They run from just south of Alpha to Carthage which is two hours end to end. Knox County is their true partner. They have all of Knox County and are proud to be in Knox County which is where their main campus is. They also have a branch campus in Carthage and are looking how they can expand throughout their districts. One of the best ways that they serve their district in total is through partnerships with area high schools. About 23% of their enrollment are dual credit students. Those students are obtaining high school credit as well as college credit and they can graduate early. Abingdon-Avon has a process where they can graduate with an associate's degree. She knows speaking from experience, her daughter went to Mizzou with 28 credit hours, took some classes from Sandburg and graduated a full semester early with a major, a minor, and a certificate, including an internship. Sandburg is more than just what they can do for the students. They are also what they can do for the community. She said that we often talk about how our community grows when we are committed to serving each other and Sandburg is here to serve. The information she provided to you today is just a few snapshots of what they can offer and who they are. They are also growing themselves with building a Charger Center which is a 70,000 square foot athletic and conference center and is excited to share that with the community. They are looking at how they can revise what they do. They just revised in Carthage to be able to serve and start their nursing program there with a new simulation center. She wants to be at service to the community because Sandburg changed her

life. Her mom graduated from the nursing program when she was 15 which changed the dynamics of her family. Her husband graduated from Sandburg. Her sibling graduated from Sandburg. Her kid is an alum and she has taken classes. She is not alone in these stories and all have a connection to Sandburg. Sandburg wants to pay that connection forward by continuing to partnership with you. She said that you will be seeing her around and is happy to entertain any questions that there are.

Chair Hawkinson asked if there were any questions for Ms. Johnson.

Member Davidson stated that our nursing home which is county already partners with Carl Sandburg. She said that Carl Sandburg is a great part of our community and especially Knox County. She thanked her for coming and said that they will continue with the partnership with Carl Sandburg not start like was said.

Ms. Johnson replied thanking Member Davidson for the correction and said she is absolutely right. Her mother is a resident at Knox County so that nurse is now working with other nurses at Knox County Nursing Home. She said her first job in high school was there.

Chair Hawkinson said his last comment is that everybody knows he is pretty partial. There are a lot of good things happening, a lot of new construction and a lot of good things happening for the community in the district. Stay tuned to a lot of new buildings, fresh starts and increased enrollment.

Ms. Johnson replied you bet and thank you for your service to our community.

Chair Hawkinson said thank you very much.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Pugh to approve the appointment to Orpheum Board of Nathan Ament. Chair Hawkinson stated that this is a new appointment and information is in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Change Order for Nursing Home Performance Contract Project #1 in the amount of $269,067.40. Chair Hawkinson said that Nursing Home Administrator Mines is here to speak on further if there are any questions. He said that as a result of Illinois Department of Public Health being involved in the inspections and bringing things online with the renovation of the nursing home. They are requiring on the new wings that they never disclosed when they first signed off on the project that it is required to install door closures on all wings on all doors which is the $269,067.40. This would bring the new subcontract total to $7,929,510.99.

Member Davidson asked for clarification if it would be wing two for automatic closure or if it would be on all doors including resident rooms.

Nursing Home Administrator Mines explained that because the fire system is getting upgraded they know have to bring the whole building up to code and one of those requirements is that there are door closures on all the residents' rooms, bathrooms and shower rooms. So, if there is a fire, those doors will automatically close and that is what they are paying for now.

Member Davidson asked about how they would leave or escape the fire.

Nursing Home Administrator Mines replied that the door closures are delayed so if there is a resident in the room you could get them out or they could get out on their own. She said every room has sprinklers. It is a requirement that all the doors have to be hooked up to the fire

system and close if the alarm goes off just like the doors do now that go into the wings. She said yes, every resident room, shower room and every resident bathroom will have those closures.

Member Robertson asked about the remodeling that was already done on another wing. If those doors were already taken care of or if those doors will also need done.

Nursing Home Administrator Mines replied that his cost is for all of them. She said that they have been doing wings three, four and in wings one and two the door closures are put on but they are not engaged yet because the system is not engaged.

Member Robertson said so they do not have to go back and do those again.

Nursing Home Administrator Mines replied that they have to put a bolt in them so they will then work once the system is online.

Member Robertson replied ok.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes— Thierry---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Fredrick and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Pay Request 12 for Nursing Home Performance Project in the amount of $303,941.77. Chair Hawkinson stated that item is also in your packet. He explained that the reason it is like this is that they wanted to ensure that the cost was reflective of the change order that just occurred. It is now reflective in the application for payment. The total again is $303,941.77. The balance to finish the project including retainage is $1,359,621.71 and all the lien waivers are applied. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes— Thierry---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Pugh to approve the Contract with Klingner and Associates for Courthouse Fire Escape Inspection Plan in the amount of $4,000. Chair Hawkinson said that this stems from a notice from the Galesburg Fire Department that we are in need and requirement of a full fire escape inspection. Otherwise he said that we would potentially be out of compliance since it hasn't been done in some time. He said that Mr. Basham is here from Klingner and Associates for questions.

Member Davidson asked how often they have to do an inspection and how long ago was the fire escape put in.

Mr. Basham replied 2017 and they are good for 10 years. Then you would be good for another 10 years.

Chair Hawkinson said that if he remembers correctly it is 10 years at a time and he is trying to get ahead of the game so we don't fall out of compliance.

Member Robertson asked about the fire department doing an inspection.

Chair Hawkinson replied that you have to have a third-party inspection. Then they will come in and verify that the inspection is complete once the third party signs off on the certificate.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Vice-Chair Friedrich said that the monthly report from the Ways and Means Committees are in the packet. He said that they started budget meetings on Monday. Then, the next week they will have a full schedule of budget meetings to try and get them knocked out.

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Courthouse Holiday Calendar for 2027. Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that this follows what the judges put out. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Resolutions on Deeds of Conveyance. Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that there are two this month. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Job Description for Superintendent for the Landfill. Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that Landfill Administrator Cleair is present if anyone has any questions. He explained that it would basically be an assistant for Landfill Administrator Cleair due to him leaving and with all the new things going on out there. Administrator Cleair feels that this position needs to be filled due to everything going on to the landfill to help the next person out and has talked to him for a while saying this position needed to happen.

Member Davidson asked if Landfill Administrator Cleair would be training this new person before his replacement comes in.

Landfill Administrator Cleair replied no, that his replacement will.

Member Davidson said that we will have two new people at the same time.

Vice-Chair Friedrich replied yes ma'am.

Member Davidson said that is going to be hard.

Landfill Administrator Cleair stated that hopefully he will help train the new director for three months not the new Superintendent position. He said he will help his replacement.

Vice-Chair Friedrich replied that he will train his replacement but not the superintendent.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Public Hearing Concerning Intent of the County Board to Sell Not to Exceed $30,000,000 of General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue) for the Purpose of Constructing Improvements to Knox County Landfill #3 in Connection with the Closure of Landfill #3 and Expansion and Development of Landfill #4.

Chair Hawkinson read aloud that the next agenda item for the County Board is conduct of a public hearing concerning the intent of the County Board to sell Alternate Revenue Bonds in an amount not to exceed $30,000,000 for the purpose of constructing improvements to the Knox County Landfill 3. All persons desiring to be heard will have an opportunity to present written or oral testimony with respect to the proposed bonds. The proceeds of the Bonds will be used to

construct improvements to the Knox County Landfill 3 in connection with the closure of Cell 3 and the expansion and development of Cell 4. Are there any comments from members of the County Board concerning the proposed Bonds?

Chair Hawkinson stated that he saw no comments for the record.

Chair Hawkinson asked if there was any written testimony concerning the proposed Bonds to be read into record.

Clerk Erickson replied no, he had not received any written testimony.

Chair Hawkinson stated that the County Clerk has received no written testimony to be entered into the record.

Chair Hawkinson asked if there was any public comment concerning the proposed Bonds.

Chair Hawkinson stated to let the record reflect that there has nobody approach the podium to make comments regarding public comment concerning the proposed bonds.

Chair Hawkinson read aloud that all persons desiring to be heard have been given an opportunity to present oral and written testimony concerning the proposed Bonds. Can I have a motion to finally adjourn the hearing?

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to adjourn the Special Bond Hearing. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Chair Hawkinson stated that the motion carried and the hearing has been finally adjourned.

Chair Hawkinson stated that he will turn it back over to Vice-Chair Friedrich for the remainder of his presentation.

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Pugh to approve the Renewal of DevNet Contract. Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that we hear DevNet quite a bit, mainly with the assessor, but Clerk Erickson and the Treasurer uses it as well. This is for the Treasurer and the contract for this year is for $63,473.78. Next year it will go down $4,100 and will stay the same. He asked Treasurer Davis if that was correct.

Treasurer Davis confirmed that the contract was for four years.

Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that it was for four years.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to adjourn the Special Bond Hearing. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Pugh to approve Unemployment Insurance with IPMG. Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that this is for the Treasurer and what we pay now is 1.33%. IPMG is going to charge us 1.067% which is a savings of about $16,000 per year. It is cheaper and less work for the Treasurer's office. He asked Treasurer Davis if that was correct.

Treasurer Davis replied not really, they will handle all the unemployment insurance claims that normally department heads would have to handle on their own. She said that the Treasurer's office will still be withholding it from the checks and will send it to IPMG instead of

the state. They will save the county money while handling a lot of things for the department heads.

Vice-Chair Friedrich thanked Treasurer Davis.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to adjourn the Special Bond Hearing. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Salary Structure for FOIA Officer. Vice-Chair Friedrich explained that they added some duties to the FOIA Officer. He has been very busy and swamped with certain things going on. It was discussed at the finance committee meeting of adding to his duties of going through the employee handbook while working with Clerk Erickson and Treasurer Davis to get that done which takes a lot of time since it has not been done for years. It was decided to give him a $15,000 raise and it does not back date. It would start August 23rd like discussed with the Treasurer. That way it does not impact this budget and can plan for its next year.

Chair Hawkinson stated that it is not a discussion for the public and if it continues they would need to be removed.

Member Fredrick stated that it was just brought to her attention that this person just got their fingerprints passed today. She asked if she is correct.

Vice-Chair Friedrich replied he didn't know.

Member Fredrick stated that they just got their fingerprints done today due to a conversation that happened on Monday or Tuesday that this person hasn't been given access to do the FOIA and have been shoulder tapping the city this entire time. She asked how we can insure a $15,000 pay increase when this person has yet to take on their full job responsibilities and now we are going more.

Vice-Chair Friedrich replied that he does not know about the fingerprinting.

Chair Hawkinson stated that he knows that he has been doing all of his FOIA duties paired with the city and the county because he has been responding. He also provides reports to the executive committee on a monthly basis.

Member Fredrick replied that he pulls from the city and we are giving a $15,000 pay increase for someone who just today got fingerprints approved because of a conversation that happened this week with the chief of police being frustrated that they constantly shoulder tap the City of Galesburg.

Chair Hawkinson replied that it might be because the city owns the records and do not have access to city records.

Member Fredrick replied that he does not have access because there was no fingerprinting done until it was brought to their attention this week.

Chair Hawkinson replied that this is the first that he has heard of any problems.

Vice-Chair Friedrich replied that it is the first that he has heard of as well and said that he cannot answer questions that he does not know.

Chair Hawkinson asked when Member Fredrick heard about this.

Member Fredrick replied this week.

Chair Hawkinson responded that we are waiting until a public forum to trash the FOIA officer.

Member Fredrick replied that it is not his fault and not trashing the FOIA officer at all.

Chair Hawkinson responded that it seems like it.

Member Fredrick stated that it is not personal and it is the upper management not fingerprinting him to give him the access and nothing personal.

Chair Hawkinson replied ok, just making sure.

Chair Hawkinson asked the sheriff to escort the audience person out due to already being warned.

Member Davidson stated that she would be voting no because he has only been here a year if that. She asked about him working on the personnel policy and have nothing. There are no changes and has not been updated since 2011. She said if we are having problems with people filling out the FOIA then we should address to them the issue of it not being complete, why it is being rejected and then we would not have people continuously coming in here talking about FOIA. She said that we are a county that is supposed to help and assist people. Third, we are giving him this amount of money, this raise when our general fund is at the lowest ever. She is asking everybody to vote no.

Member Kramer responded that first off, the FOIA officer is governed basically by the Attorney General's office. Every FOIA request that comes into this county gets a response. They either get the response that we're going to provide the information, we can't provide this information or they get an extension reason. If the submitting person does not like the response they can file the appeal to the Attorney General's office and then contact us about what the issue is. The FOIA officer has come to every executive meeting that he has been asked to come to. He has presented all his information that he has been asked to provide and has also been working on the policy manual to include Clerk Erickson and Treasurer Davis. He said the answer is yes that he has been working.

Member Thierry asked what method we have because she is not aware of it to know as the board if he is effectively doing his job. She spoke an example of when information is given at the committee level of what is going on in the departments. She asked that since the FOIA is such an important role that a person has been hired; how does the county board know like what Member Fredrick is talking about or what Member Davidson is talking about is true or not.

Chair Hawkinson responded that if an individual follows the procedure using the FOIA portal it automatically generates a response and if they fail they have the legal right to notify the Attorney General's office. Since he has started they have not received any Attorney General notices that somebody has not complied with the FOIA act.

Vice-Chair Friedrich said that he comes to the executive meetings every month and gives a report just like the department heads. He shows a list of what FOIA's he has received. Some months are light and that is when he works on the personnel policy. Last month he had no time to do anything for the personal committee since he was so busy with FOIA requests. He does come to the executive meeting and explain just like a department head.

Member Robertson asked if that information that comes to the executive meeting get added to the packet that are not on those committees.

Chair Hawkinson replied that he has not seen it in there but he will make sure that it gets added because he provides a report on how many FOIA he handles a month along with the status.

Member Robertson said that she is concerned that a $15,000 raise and he hasn't been here a year. She asked if they are setting ourselves up for in two years he wants another 15. She said that the accounts seem very thin and concerned that they will run out of money if everybody gets their dream amount.

Vice-Chair Friedrich replied that he has been here longer than a year.

Member Robertson stated that unless he has been here five or ten years it is a very long increase for a salary employee she thinks. She stated that she would be voting no.

Member Nache said that she has the same concern as the night of their meeting that the general fund is not doing that well and giving him a big raise. She said that she goes to the personnel meetings and originally a different amount was talked about. She asked how they came to this amount instead of the other amount.

Vice-Chair Friedrich asked if Member Nache was talking about what happened between the finance meeting and now.

Member Nache replied no, she is talking about from the original amount to what it was decided now to give the FOIA officer because it was not originally $15,000. She said that she is not going to say out loud that amount but what happened to change from the original amount.

Vice-Chair Friedrich replied that the back pay is what the difference was.

Member Nache said so you were going to give him back pay.

Vice-Chair Friedrich replied yes.

Member Nache replied ok, because that hadn't been mentioned. Her concern is still with the general fund and thank you for listening.

Member Fredrick commented that she wanted to put it on record that she was not trashing him at all. She would like to table this until it can be verified when he received access to his full duties.

Motion to table made by Member Fredrick and seconded by Member Robertson.

Clerk Erickson stated that the motion to table takes precedence over the motion on the floor and the roll call is on the motion to table.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Sandoval, Fredrick, Davidson, Weiss, Cohen and Olinger— (9). Noes— Kramer, Nache, Hawkinson and Friedrich--- (4). Motion tabled.

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Non-Elected Department Head Residency Requirement. Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that they would like to put this in the handbook as was discussed at the finance committee that the non-elected department heads residency is now to live in the county. He stated that we would like to move that to the same is what the sheriff's department uses for their deputies which is 30 aerial miles. That would bring one individual that we have up to in compliance and broaden our horizons if we have a department head that we need to replace.

Member Davidson stated that she definitely disagrees with this because she lives in Knox County. She has several people that live outside her district that would like people to be in Knox County. She understands about the sheriff department because the police department has the same thing, they have to be certified, and it is hard to get people to work for public service like the police department or the sheriff department. She said we put that in there for a reason and it was several years before her. People wants them to know the county, live in the county, be passionate about the county and it should not be change. For the person that is outside the county, she thinks that person should be grandfathered in because they are already doing the job but for anybody else they should live in the county. She said because in the beginning that person said they would live in the county but did not. They are doing the job so we can continue but if anything happens and that person leaves. They should be a county employee.

Vice-Chair Friedrich stated his thought on it is that he does not disagree he would like them to live in the county but it is like in the City of Galesburg years ago, you had to live in the city to work for them. Now they found out they couldn't get the resources that they could for the people so they extended it for people to live outside the City of Galesburg. He thinks in the future this is something they need to do and still prefers people to live in the county for all the departments. This should be put in for other department heads for the future so we don't limit ourselves. He still prefers the Knox County employees but we should not do it for just one individual. It would be like we are saying come work for a while then we will see if you are good enough to grandfather you in and he does not agree with that. He feels it is not far for anybody I the future or now.

Member Kramer stated that he feels like we could be handcuffing us from qualified candidates for certain positions and holding it against them for living outside the county. That would do a disrespect for those that would work in that office and the taxpayers. He said that you could potentially get a very good candidate and just because they live five miles over the county line they are not considered. He feels that is not good practice.

Member Cohen stated that he agrees with Member Davidson that he is fine with any grandfathering clause because we failed to enforce this for quite a while now but he would like to see this voted down and have it remained you have to live within the county. He said he doesn't know about all of you but he lives in this county, we all live in this county and have to live in this county to serve on this county board. He loves this county and would like to see someone to be in those roles who's as invested as us. He said like Member Davidson said we are a little too deep with someone. He doesn't think grandfathering in one person should have us grandfather everyone else down the line. That would be us admitting that we made a mistake not enforcing that rule and is just his opinion.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Weiss, Olinger and Friedrich— (9). Noes— Robertson, Nache, Davidson and Cohen--- (4). Motion carried.

Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that last month Member Robertson asked us about some vehicles and he wasn't sure how to answer the question at the time. He asked the sheriff's office to get a presentation together. He also felt it was not fair just to answer her and not everybody else since the question was asked in front of everybody. He asked Chief Deputy May to come up and give his presentation.

Chief Deputy May said good evening county board and Chair. He said hopefully this atmosphere is a little better here then what it has been and plans on being quick, short and to the point. There was a question raised recently about nine vehicles, not having any miles on them in the last report. He wants to be able to explain each of those vehicles and he actually thinks there are ten vehicles and not nine. He will go through them so he can tell everyone what is going on with each vehicle.

The first vehicle is 48-26 Ford E-Series Van. This is an old transport van that they had at the Sheriff's office which they have deadlines it and no longer in their fleet. This vehicle has been given to the County Clerk to transport election stuff and is currently parked at the building up on the square. It should be no longer on the fleet report and need removed.

The second vehicle is 48-30 Ford Fusion and another vehicle that needs to be removed from the fleet report. It is a vehicle that has been given to the Treasurer's office for bank runs

and things of that sort. It was the old academy and training video vehicle. This vehicle is stationed at the Sheriff's office currently.

The third vehicle is 48-53 Ford Explorer. This vehicle is deadlined and is the old Triad vehicle. It was used for patrol many years ago. Then it went for use as the transport vehicle at the courthouse. They recently brought it back to life with some striping, but it is the old Triad vehicle which is now deadlined with engine issues.

The fourth vehicle is 48-32 Ford F-250 Super Duty. This has sat at the courthouse for some time. It recently left the courthouse about a month or two ago. It has been getting worked on due to engine problems, rust problems and ratchet straps holding gas tanks up. It is used to plow the courthouse and the salt has done its damage to the vehicle. It has been sitting at a maintenance shop.

The fifth vehicle is 48-54 Ford F250 Super Duty Pickup. This vehicle was purchase to pull heavy trailers for Search and Rescue and Water Rescue boat and they are very blessed to have. This is a long-term vehicle for the county. The vehicle was purchased with the expectations that miles are to not be placed on the vehicle unless necessary as the life expectancy of the vehicle is 10 to 15 years. The vehicle is still waiting to be equipped with emergency equipment as well. This vehicle was purchased out of budgeted money from last year.

The sixth vehicle is 48-48 Chevrolet Silverado K2500 Duty Pickup. This vehicle is stationed at the Wataga Fire Station and is only used by the Snow Mobile Search and Rescue team.

The seventh vehicle is 48-28 Chevrolet Silverado. This vehicle has a lot of miles on it and is the Animal Control vehicle and is under a separate budget. It should not be on the fleet list. It has been refurbished several times.

The eighth vehicle is 48-40 Dodge Ram Maintenance vehicle. This vehicle has been in the shop for the past few months being repaired due to engine failure. There is no picture due to it sitting in the shop. The county paid nothing for this vehicle due to it being a seized vehicle. They are looking into parts to see if they can get it working for their maintenance man. This is another vehicle with a plow on it with rust due to the salt.

The ninth vehicle is 48-51 Covert vehicle. This vehicle is used for surveillance on criminal activity. No picture provided as it is a covert vehicle used for covert buys, surveillance operations and other things like that. They obtained it through drug seizures and was not obtained from county funds. The air conditioning does not work so it is not used during the hot months such as the month of June but will for other months.

The tenth vehicle is 48-57 Ford Ambulance. This vehicle was paid $1 for from the Dahinda Fire Department and Rescue. It is used for transport and stores their ice rescue equipment blow up boat that is used in water rescue emergencies that was purchased after the subject was deceased on the Spoon River.

Chief Deputy May said that those are the ten vehicles that were in question about the mileage from the last board meeting.

Member Davidson stated that she had two questions. She asked when the Treasurer got a car.

Chief Deputy May replied that he things that there have been three vehicles he thinks. The maintenance man put 2 new vehicles in two of the vehicles at the Mary Davis Home that have still not been moved. The silver Taurus has been out there for a month or so. Since they took it out of service.

Member Davidson asked if it would be better to send those vehicles to the Purple Wave instead of sit out there.

Chief Deputy May replied that it is a great option but there are not really any that are workable that can go to the Purple Wave that they are looking to get rid of. They are currently used vehicles. The 48-53 would be the only exception which is the Triad vehicle with the engine failure that they will probably never put back in service. He said that we can put that on Purple Wave if that is what is wanted. On Purple Wave a vehicle with a failed engine it would not receive much from. More money would probably be received from scrapping it.

Chief Deputy May replied asked about the Treasurer vehicle and if it was ready and if it was or was not at the courthouse right now.

Chief Deputy May replied that it is not at the courthouse right now.

Member Nache spoke about having someone go out there to get it and drive it back. That way it could get to the courthouse.

Chief Deputy May replied that he would get it to the courthouse tonight.

Member Nache said thank you.

Chief Deputy May replied as long as he can get it started since it has been siting for a month but it should be good. His deputies had been driving it every week to and from class to Decatur and it is reliable. Since it has been sitting he will probably have to jump it since it has been sitting since June.

Member Robertson thanked Chief Deputy May for coming and explaining the vehicles of why they are not being used. She said that there is one more vehicle that was not explained which was the Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

Chief Deputy May replied that there were miles on that vehicle. He asked what she needed about it.

Member Robertson asked about the purchase and what it is used for.

Chief Deputy May stated that he can speak a little about but the sheriff can answer in his committee. He said it was purchased from another sheriff's office locally as they got new motorcycles. It is used for Touch-A-Truck Events with kids, parades, torch run as its escorted runners in and a recruitment tool in law enforcement.

Member Robertson stated that she did not know we were "Chips".

Chief Deputy May stated that there are a lot of sheriff's offices in Illinois that have motorcycles. He said the biggest reason for having it was when they had Deputy Wiest pass several years ago, multiple sheriff's offices and law enforcement agencies around the State of Illinois and the country sent their motorcycle unit or at least one of them to participate in the funeral procession. This will give them another option to return the favor to those that helped us in that time.

Member Kramer stated that it was brought through the drug forfeiture fund that the sheriff maintains. It was not through the county board.

Chief Deputy May replied correct and thanked everyone for all their time.

Member Robertson said thank you.

Member Davidson stated that she did not see the gas usage in the packet.

Vice-Chair Friedrich replied that he would have to look and see what happened or where it is at. He said it should be in there and he will look and let her know.

Member Davidson replied ok.

Chair Hawkinson stated that he wanted to make a correction about it being mentioned in the conversation for the Ways and Means that this is the lowest that the fund balance has ever been. He said he will dispute that 18 times between 2016 and 2020 we were negative in deficit with the highest deficit being $1 million dollars in the red. Right now, we are $1.5 million dollars in the reserve in the positive. Also, at the Ways and Means committee it was reported that the county is actually in a good financial position going forward. He said he got an answer from the sheriff that the fingerprint issue was his Leads access not for his FOIA. The Lead's access is Law Enforcement Data System which adds to the ability to do additional duties for FOIA due to the different requests that are coming in. He wanted to make sure they were aware that it was for Leads access that the state requires but he was fingerprinted a while ago for the actual job entry.

Member Sandoval presented the monthly report from the Public Service Committees. He said the report is in your packet. He said that the State's Attorney and Public Defender budgets are in for next year. He would now like to go to Item 18A on the removal of the coroner's move off the agenda.

Chair Hawkinson said that he can answer those and has questions himself. He replied that the answer to the question of why it was removed from the agenda again this month is the minutes that were just approved by this board on page 16 and 17 of those minutes it was discussed that the committee would come back with a comprehensive plan to place the coroner, her staff, as well as any other items, the cooler and what that plan would look like. He said that Vice-Chair Friedrich spoke with some of the members of that committee that it was just discussed and there was no comprehensive plan which he confirmed that with the committee Chair Sandoval. He said we also had Member Weiss talk about that we need to find solutions which everybody agrees that we need to find solutions. Whether it be rental of space and how that would look and how it would be paid for. His questions that he asked himself before he had it removed after talking with Member Sandoval is the comprehensive plan he is look for is because we do not know what is going to be done with the Mary Davis Home long term. There are people working in the facility short term. The following question are that no one knows are if there is enough space, how much the cost is to move the cooler from its current location, who would move the cooler, where the cooler is going to go, if the cooler would go inside or outside, in a shed or garage, if they need to build a building, how much would that cost, if the electrical is sufficient, if it is 110 or 477, if there is money in the budget, if it goes in the building does it require an exhaust, if the cooler requires additional refrigeration needs, where in the building would the coroner go, if there is office space available, which other staff members are going with, if there is enough space in the building, which room are they going into, if more storage space is needed, who is responsible for the payment of the utilities such as trash, power and water, if there is a budget currently for it, for the space if it is going to be split by the county board's general fund or is it going to be split by the probation, is there a budget for that, how much is it going to cost to replace or to continue the renovations that were put on hold, if the renovations need to continue in order to properly house people, how much would it cost to do the move and who is going to do the move and the equipment, who is going to move the belongings, is the coroner going to handle that herself or need to hire somebody, how is it going to be paid for, what is the occupancy of the coroner and her staff and her belongings as well as the cooler, is it required to have a secure access, how is it going to be paid for and who is going to have access to the facility? He stated that those are the questions that need to be put in a comprehensive plan. That is what the board and the public deserve to know. He doesn't disagree

that a comprehensive plan needs to be done but he is not going to make the committees plan for them. That is why you have a committee and these are the things that they are looking for.

Member Cohen replied by thanking Chair Hawkinson for his concerns. He requested them in writing so they could remember to answer them all and is great that they finally get his response after months of silence. His other question was how it works for the people that have already moved in there. He feels it would be good to know for helping them make that plan since there are already people in there right now.

Chair Hawkinson said that is correct, they are in office space that is already been used for office personnel and are only there temporarily. He asked if there is additional space and where. It cannot be just that we approve the coroner due to a lot more that goes with that.

Member Cohen replied that he is glad it was agreed to be temporary which was not specified. His question again is since he did not get an answer what we do for those people who are also in their right now. He asked for the Chair to clarify.

Chair Hawkinson said that they do not know yet if they are going to stay there. He said they all had the discussion to halt any additional construction and spending of money.

Member Cohen specified that he meant more on the lines of their trash services since those were some of the concerns that were brought up.

Chair Hawkinson replied that right now the trash dumpster has been removed. It is being investigated of who is going to pay for that trash dumpster to go back.

Member Weiss said that he understands that they need to find a solution. He asked if the Mary Davis Home off limits, do they have to find another venue or build something. He wants to figure out how to move forward and get the coroner in one location.

Chair Hawkinson replied that he agrees and it is not off limits. It needs decides what is going to be done with the building since $500 some thousand dollars of renovations was paused at the board's direction.

Member Weiss replied far enough.

Chair Hawkinson said that is what needs to be on paper in a comprehensive plan submitted the board understands what needs to be done.

Member Davidson stated that as the coroner being an elected official we should have never been at this point. Since she was elected into the position she should have had a permanent place. No matter who was elected should have had a permanent place and not their house that is not on county property. It should be on county property. She understands that the past coroner used his funeral home and was subsidized for that. They did not have to go through a cooler or anything like that. Before that position came open and they ran for office there should have been a permanent place for them. Then they would not be going through this right now. She said that there have been several plans from using the Carl Sandburg building, use in Knoxville and set a computer up at her house. She asked how the coroner can do her job properly if she does not have the means to do it. That is why the committee is in such arms and now they know the guidelines that they need to fulfill but in the beginning she should have had a place.

Chair Hawkinson replied yep, I agree.

Member Nache said that she understands the questions but they need to make it happen and should have already happened. The coroner is important which everybody knows. She asked if they cannot make it happen for the coroner out there why is there other people out there. It could be made her permanent spot out there just like there are other people that it is not their permanent spot that are out there. She stated that if the coroner cannot be there then she doesn't see a reason for anyone to be in there and the building should be sold.

Chair Hawkinson replied I agree.

Member Fredrick said that she wanted to reiterate what he said to her earlier. She said he waited until tonight to trash the coroner because there are emails unanswered since February. She said that now it is being discussed when they have tried to contact him for months and months. They have even invited him to the meeting to answer all these questions. The questions could have been answered a year and ten months ago. She asked if she was wrong and asked who long the coroner has been ignored.

Chair Hawkinson said that he does not dispute any of that. He said that moves and construction do not just happen on their own. They do not mysteriously happen. There are things that need to be discussed.

Member Cohen asked who removed the coroner move from the agenda if it was Chair Hawkinson or with the chair of the committee Member Sandoval's approval.

Chair Hawkinson replied no, he removed it as the board rules allow.

Member Robertson said that this has been going on for so long it is frustrating. She understands that people just cannot be moved into the Mary Davis Home but they have. The people from the basement were moved there due to the situation with the bathroom construction and there was no plan of action prior to that. They were moved there because the build was open, available and the counties building. The coroner is spread out everywhere and is not professional. It does not look professional to other counties or other residents. She feels she needs to be moved there then work out the rest as they go along as has been done with other situations. It has been unorganized and feels they should do some organization by getting her moved in.

Member Thierry asked about when the committee was done to address the courthouse if a similar committee could be created to put priority on getting the coroner a permanent, suitable and appropriate location to make it a priority in the same way.

Chair Hawkinson said he feels that it is not necessary since there is already a committee that she belongs to that has the authority to do exactly what a taskforce would do.

Member Thierry said that is what they have been working on and seems to be getting nowhere. She asked about making a board wide committee that could focus on getting the second highest law enforcement officer for the county a permanent location.

Chair Hawkinson said that he would imagine that the committee next month will have a full recommendation on the non-office moves.

Member Nache said that they are talking about permanent and IT is at 50 E. Main and they do not know what they are going to do with that. She said back to the courthouse they go. It is silly and tit for tat. There was place found for the IT guys but space cannot be found for the coroner. She said permanent or not but the corner in an impermanent place until a permanent place is found.

Chair Hawkinson said duly noted.

Chair Hawkinson said that Member Bondi is out and had a successful surgery today.

Member Cohen presented the monthly report from the Infrastructure Committee. He stated that minutes and report are in the packet. He said that everyone loves Infrastructure and lots of fun things are happening such as Highway Engineer Ratermann is getting the highways ready as we start to approach winter and hopefully later for the first snow but he knows he wants snow because we build up on salt. Landfill Administrator Cleair is working on finding his

replacement and everything is going on with the new landfill. He asked if anyone had any questions before he moved on.

Motion was made by Member Cohen and seconded by Member Weiss to approve Request 5 – in Amount of $125,434.00. Member Cohen said total completed to date brings them to $2,186,795.77 with contract today of $2,340,319.00. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Cohen and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Payment Request from Klingner & Associates for 50 East Main Project in the amount of $79,198.15. Member Cohen stated that $63,000 is the second half of the document payment and the other just over $16,000 is for the topographic survey that was approved a few months ago. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Cohen and seconded by Member Pugh to approve the Bid from Varsity Striping for Pavement Striping in the amount of $77,242.66. Member Cohen stated that they were their best bid and from Champagne, Illinois. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Cohen and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Bid for Furnish and Install of a New Dump Body and Snow Removal Equipment for $166,781 from Koenig Body & Equipment. Member Cohen explained that this is the second lowest bid since the lowest bid was about $30,000 under but they did not meet the bid specifications. The lead time was also nearly double so they chose to go with the one that they were sure would match those specifications and would be here within four to five months. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Cohen and seconded by Member Pugh to approve the Annual Subscription Proposal with Dynamic Infrastructure for Structure Asset Digitization and Management Software. Member Cohen explained that it is software to help the entire highway department to keep track of what is going on with our bridges and general infrastructure. It has a built-in feature that Highway Engineer Ratermann was very excited about that will help with infrastructure changes and keep track of how old bridges are or when specific services are supposed to be made. He said why Highway Engineer Ratermann thought this was necessary now is with him leaving it also leaves a lot of institutional knowledge and he wanted to make sure there was enough knowledge for whoever followed suit for them to be able to make these decisions. He gave a great description of it which it is $27,000 for the subscription which is in the middle between large and small but if you look at it based on bridges he said it is about $135 per bridge in the county. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Member Kramer presented the monthly report from the Health and Human Services committee and the report is in the packet. He said that he hears a lot about the performance contract and what we have and haven't saved. He spoke with Nursing Home Administrator Mines and had some work on the hot water heaters and said that there was a significant savings but did not know the exact dollar amount. He gave a reference of what the hot water heaters are saving the county which before they were just dumping hot water down the drain 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with the old ones. For the period of May 2024 to May 2025 the amount paid to the City of Knoxville for water consumption was $66,506.70 with the average water bill was $5,542.23. For the period of May 2025 to May 2026 the amount paid to the City of Knoxville for water consumption was $28,193.23 with the average water bill being $2,349.44. That would be a 58% savings in water consumptions from the previous years with the new hot water heaters that were installed. For the performance contracts savings for the nursing home those are the numbers he has for report at this time

Member Davidson said thank you for getting that information and is well needed.

Member Kramer replied yep and as these projects continue to be completed they will have the information available. It just takes a little bit of time to get the information tabulated.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve Resolution on Portable Water Wells and Closed Loop Wells Ordinance Revisions. Member Kramer stated that this was explained very well by Health Department Administrator Gabriel and Assistant Health Department Administrator Hayes at committee. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Pugh to approve the Health Department Ordinance Article IV – Private Sewage Disposal. Member Kramer stated that this was also discussed at the committee and wants to add that this does not include any new fees since it was a commonly asked question at the committee. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Pugh to approve the New Knox County Commercial Wind Energy Conversion Systems Siting Ordinance – Case AM-01-26. Remove Entire 2023 Commercial Wind Ordinance – Case AM-01-26. Appendix E – Knox County Commercial Wind Energy Conversion System Siting Ordinance, filed by Sonia Hochstetler, Knox County Zoning Administrator, on Behalf of the Knox County Zoning Department, 121 S. Prairie Street, Galesburg, IL 61401. Member Kramer stated that this is updating from the previous ordinance in 2023. He explained that this came down from the state and they do not have a whole lot of room to move from it. There was discussion of other counties that had some variations to this. He said that Assessor Hochstetler is going to look into that and provide that back to the committee within a month or two.

Chair Hawkinson asked if the changes that are being proposed this evening basically the state requirements and just mirroring the state language that we are required to have since they are the governing body on a lot of this information.

Member Kramer replied correct and invited Assessor Hochstetler to reply if she could.

Assessor Hochstetler said that it is exactly what the state requires and nothing is less than the state requirements.

Member Kramer stated that the State's Attorney has also reviewed these documents for the next three items.

Member Davidson said yes, it is the requirements but some of the counties added a little more to it and still kept it within the state requirements. At the meeting it was explained that Assessor Hochstetler will look into changes and they can still be added later.

Member Kramer replied yes, a revision can be made.

Assessor Hochstetler said yes, they are on board to match the date and currently we do not. She is asking that this be approved and they can always come back and add some revisions that are not are still in compliance with the state. She was asked to check on what other counties have done and if we want that she is fine with doing those revisions.

Member Kramer said that just like what was discussed at committee Assessor Hochstetler will look into that information and she will provide it as she finds it.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Nache to approve the New Knox County Commercial Solar Energy Facility Siting Ordinance – Case #AM-02-26. Remove Entire 2023 Commercial Solar Ordinance and add Appendix F – Knox County Commercial Solar Energy Facility Siting Ordinance – filed by Sonia Hochstetler, Knox County Zoning Administrator, on Behalf of the Knox County Zoning Department, 121 S. Prairie St., Galesburg, IL 61401. Member Kramer stated that once again it is just removing the language from the 2023 commercial solar ordinance and adding an Appendix F. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded Member Weiss to approve the New Knox County Energy Storage Systems Ordinance – Case #AM-03-26 – Remove Entire 2024 Battery Energy Storage Systems Ordinance, and add Appendix G – Knox County Energy Storage Systems Ordinance – Filed by Sonia Hochstetler, Knox County Zoning Administrator, on Behalf of the Knox County Zoning Department, 121 S. Prairie St., Galesburg, IL 61401. Member Kramer said this is basically changing from battery energy to storage systems. He said once again it is following that same language as the state proposed.

Assessor Hochstetler stated before we had preparations so we were not left with nothing. This one actually now has the state law which is what we are following.

Member Kramer said that is for the storage.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson stated that the reports from some of the outside committees are in the packet along with the minutes if they submitted them. If anyone has a question in regards to an outside committee or their report, they should contact the Board Member that is serving on that committee and ask them directly.

Motion was made by Member Olinger and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve Opening of Budget for Line Item Changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich — (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that the budget line item changes were in the packet for review. He said that there were only a handful which is surprising for this time of year.

Motion was made by Member Olinger and seconded by Member Weiss for the approval of Proposed Line Item Changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich — (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that the manual check review is in the board packet and there are two pages and the majority of those are for jury duty. He said the rest are normal mid-cycle.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Olinger to approve the Meeting in August 2026, Board Meeting in July 2026 and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Chair Hawkinson stated that it is on the G-drive and the total was $4,103.90. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich — (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Weiss and seconded by Member Olinger to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of July 30, 2026 through August 26, 2026 (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 in the aggregate amount approved by the County Board). Chair Hawkinson reported the total as $3,044,598.29. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich — (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson announced that on September 4th , 2026 at 2pm on the Galesburg Public Square everyone is invited for Sgt. 1st Class Kyle B. Wehrly Memorial Highway designation. There is a ceremony that will go on September 4th on the public square.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., at Galesburg City Hall Council Chambers. The Zoom option is for public viewing only. Board Members will be present in person for this meeting. The Knox County YouTube channel is available for live viewing or to download and watch later.

Motion was made Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Pugh to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.