PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
KNOX COUNTY, ILLINOIS

December 22, 2025

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF KNOX)

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held in person at the Galesburg City Council chambers on Monday, December 22, 2025 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 4	Jared Hawkinson
District 5	Patty Boone
District 1	Anthony Weiss
District 2	Robert Bondi
District 3	Samuel Cohen
District 4	Todd Olinger
District 5	Brian Friedrich

And those absent: District 3 Pamela Davidson

Also present were County Clerk-Recorder Scott Erickson and Sheriff Jack Harlan. Department Heads present were Knox County Public Health Administrator Michele Gabriel, Knox County Nursing Home Administrator Jodi Mines, Highway Administrator Duane Ratermann, 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.

Chair Hawkinson stated that he was removing Item 5. That item was included in the Health and Human Services committee and approved at that level so it is in the bills. He asked if there were any objections. There were no objections and no additions for 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.

Kevin Krisher said good evening and wanted to recap from what he said last month when he ran out of time. This time he said he will finish in under three minutes. First he wanted to say Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone. In the last 12 years the Knox County population has decreased from 53,048,500. This is an 8.1% decrease at an annual decrease of 0.8% in population. Illinois population is ranked the third worst in losing its residents behind California and New York. The number one reason for people leaving is property taxes and the over tax burden along with the cost of living is the reason people are leaving Illinois. That is why they are leaving Knox County. Illinois loses a resident to another state every 9.21 seconds. We lost a total of 56,235 residents from July 2023 to July 2024. He said as he researches looking at Illinois reasons for the decrease in population he also sees the word in quotations "fleeing Illinois". He recapped by saying he was here a month ago and is the President of the Marmac Greens LLC which bought the ten acres off of Lincoln Park drive. Three years ago, this week they bought the property for $150,000 since then they have not received even one offer on any lot within that property. They recently lowered three lot prices. On Lincoln Park drive they combined two lots that they were asking $45,000 each for and now combined them asking now only $20,000 for those two lots. Along with two other lots at $45,000 and reduced them each to $20,000. They have had no offers still. He told last month how they came upon this property and the questions they asked about the taxes being told that it would remain at farmland rate. Which they know now to be false and were bamboozled. He said the definition of being bamboozled is to be lied or cheated to. He said they were bamboozled. Knox County has assessed the Full Cash Value (FCV) of this property currently as $570,000. They bought it for $150,000 and they have not even received one offer. He said that this is insane and is not common sense. He is coming to this board for some common sense and where asking where they get that $570,000 FCV. The bottom line is they hired a lawyer and paid $6,500 for lawyer fees through PTab. The county with taxpayer's money has paid over $6,000 for an appraisal to get the Full Cash Value of $570,000. He said the insanity has to stop, askes for the boards help and Merry Christmas.

Ken Springer stated that he is with the Knox County Partnership for Economic Development. He said the regular report is in the packet and he put a recap of all the different growth that has happened in Knox County and in the region over the past year. He said that they are really blessed and have some good momentum heading into 2026. Thanks in large parts for investments being made by Western Smokehouse Partners and Graham Healthcare Systems. He also wants to remind the board that around the first of the year KCAP is going to begin the

process of collecting projects for their upcoming 2026 trip to D.C. to advocate for funding for projects. They would love if the county would send them project ideas. They are looking for things that are going to have an impact. They call them move the needle kinds of projects which could be infrastructure or programming related. He would love to hear ideas for county-based projects for their trip to D.C. in later 2026. He thanked everyone for a great year.

Chair Hawkinson thanked everyone for speaking during public comment.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the regular Board Meeting on November 24, 2025 and 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of September 2025 in the amounts of $162,192.62 and $51,963.72 and public safety tax in the amount of $281,847.99. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Proclamation Honoring the Life of Abigail "Abby" Small. Chair Hawkinson read the proclamation into record. He said Mrs. Small worked as a dispatcher for the Galesburg/Knox County Emergency Center. She passed away on December 14th due to complications from giving birth in January almost a year ago. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the appointment to Orpheum Theater Board of Doug Gibb. Chair Hawkinson said that this is a new appointment and his information is in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Item #5 was removed.

Vice Chair Friedrich said that the monthly report from the Ways and Means Committees are in the packet. He said that the meeting was pretty short and they talked mostly about end of the year stuff getting wrapped up. In January and February, it is usually pretty light for them so not much to talk about.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Resolutions of Deeds of Conveyance. Vice Chair Friedrich said that there are thirty-seven of them this month and this is putting them back on the tax roll which is a good thing. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Resolution Modifying Video Gambling License Fee for County. Vice Chair Friedrich in their

meeting they discussed the amount but was unable to get the information at that time. He said that when they did the budget they did budget for it to move it up to $200 which it is currently at $25. He said that they could go all the way up to $250 but is having Chair Hawkinson speak since he has the information.

Chair Hawkinson said he was absent that evening but they did discuss this several times six or seven months ago in the Ways and Means Committee and also during the budget meetings. He said currently the Knox County License for Video Gaming in the unincorporated areas of Knox County is $25 per machine. Currently we have 33 machines that are licensed through the County Clerk's Office which brings us $625 per year on licensing. He said back in June when he did the research they decided at the budget meetings that they would budget for the plan to equal $6,600. Which is where the budget was approved in revenue compared to the $825 in revenue. The City of Galesburg charges $300 per license because they are a home rule area they can set it at what they want. The state dictates that a non-home rule area limits our ability and maxes out at $250. The discussion back in June was why we can up with the $200 is because the City of Knoxville was the other highest entity in the area and they charge $250 per license. He spoke with the Illinois Gaming Commission today this morning to get some more up to date finalized numbers since his other stuff was back from June. Knox County just in revenue from the gaming machines has received $82,658.44 for the 33 machines that we have authorized. The City of Galesburg has $500,000 almost $600,000 year to date they have received from their gaming machines. That is why in June they had set that number at $200 for license times 33 is $6,600 knowing at some point they would have to bring it forward which they should have done last month but forgot that they needed a resolution to modify the amount to match the budget.

Clerk Erickson confirmed that the recommendation was for $200 per license.

Vice Chair Friedrich said yes.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich—(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Habitat for Humanity ARPA Pay Request. Vice Chair Friedrich said the payout request is for $35,000.

Chair Hawkinson said that this is just the remainder of the money that was originally approved and they have supplied all the necessary documents which is in the board packet.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich—(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that in reference to Item 8 he put together a spreadsheet that provides the six establishments in Knox County and how much they actually make off the gaming machines in Knox County. He said that the State of Illinois was very helpful today and decipher their matrix to see how much each individual is making.

Member Sandoval presented the monthly report from the Public Service Committees. He said the report is in your packet and wanted to say that the State's Attorney's Office has been busy. They have had a couple of jury trial come through this month. At the Mary Davis Home

they are trying to keep the population up and are at eight right now. The problem is a lot of the outside counties up north are keeping theirs. They are getting some out of the south counties.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Infrastructure Committee and stated that their monthly report and minutes are in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Bid for Moving Services for Offices Moving to 50 East Main Facility.

Chair Hawkinson said that he just confirmed with Clerk Erickson that it would have to go out for public bid first. He said that he does not think they have ever approved it to go out for public bid yet.

Member Bondi said that they are the only company in the area that does this.

Chair Hawkinson said that it still has to go out for bid.

Motion was made by Chair Hawkinson and seconded by Member Fredrick to table.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen and Olinger— (12). Noes— Bondi and Friedrich--- (2). Motion tabled.

Member Bondi asked the process of what needs done now for it to go out for public bid.

Chair Hawkinson explained the process now would be at committee level they would have to make a motion and also approve a bid and bring back. Then the full board would have to approve the bid and bring back next month. Then it would go out for approved bid. Even though there is no body locally other than this company you still have to put it out for public letting to comply with statute. There might be a company from another county that wants to put a bid in and we have to allow them to be able to bid.

Member Bondi said that this will probably slow down the process with everything we are going.

Chair Hawkinson said unfortunately we have to follow statute.

Member Bondi said he will comply.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Vice Chair Friedrich to approve the Continuation of Service Agreement with Foth Infrastructure and Environmental, LLC for 2026 for $494,350 for the Landfill. Member Bondi stated that the bid and information is in the packet and Landfill Administrator Cleair is present if anyone as questions. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Member Bondi asked Landfill Administrator Cleair if they received any other bids for this.

Landfill Administrator Cleair said that it is professional services so we do not have to.

Chair Hawkinson said that is correct.

Member Bondi said ok.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Mary Davis Home Performance Contract Payment Request #6 for $210,927.78. Member Bondi stated that the information is in the packet under infrastructure along with the invoice and

summary is correct along with the lien releases are in place. They have been reviewed by Member Cohen and he asked him if he had any questions on how the packet information came across.

Member Cohen said no, this was more straight forward then previous months. In previous months we were able to get them clarified and approved.

Member Bondi said thank you very much.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich—(14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Nache to approve the Invoice from Downtown Council for Landscape Maintenance Agreement for 50 East Main Facility. Member Bondi said that the contract has been signed by Downtown Council President it is for $3,900 on an annual basis. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Resolution on 2026 Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance, Section 26-0000-00-GM for the Highway. Member Bondi said that this item should have been approved last month and somehow was not on the agenda. They went ahead and approved it for a second time in their committee. It is an annual form that they have to take care of. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Member Kramer presented the monthly report from the Health and Human Services committee. He said the monthly report was in the packet. It was a busy month at the nursing home with a lot of projects going out there along with a lot of events. He encourages everyone to stop out there and see the work going on.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the appointment of Marissa Meyer to Zoning Board of Appeals. Member Kramer said that Marissa Meyer's came to the committee and introduced herself. He said that she is a lifelong resident here in Galesburg, she has a deep commitment to the community, a local realtor. She is involved with several other things in the real estate business and just likes to give back to the community. Her bio is in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Member Kramer asked if Assessor Hochstetler had something to add.

Assessor Hochstetler stated that she wanted it noted that she is replacing Harry Fleshier and finishing out his term.

Chair Hawkinson said that Marissa Meyer will be filling the vacancy that was vacated by Harry Fleshier and will continue his term until the statute says otherwise.

Assessor Hochstetler apologized for the interruption.

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.

Chair Hawkinson said that we do not need Items 18, 19 or 20 this month due to no line item changes.

Chair Hawkinson said that the manual check review is in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Committee Meetings of December 2025, Board Meeting in May, and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Chair Hawkinson stated that the total was $2,874.70. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Weiss and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of November 25, 2025 through December 22, 2025 (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 that the vouchers submitted were in the amount of $2,971,647.24. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 28, 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.

Chair Hawkinson wished everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanza and Happy New Year.

Member Pugh stated that they have hired a new Director of Tourism for the Visitor Bureau and she will start January 12th. Hopefully she will come here an introduce herself.

Chair Hawkinson said awesome and thank you.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.