PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
KNOX COUNTY, ILLINOIS

January 28, 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, January 28, 2026 at 6:12 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 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 5	Patty Boone
District 1	Anthony Weiss
District 3	Samuel Cohen
District 4	Todd Olinger
District 5	Brian Friedrich

And those absent:

District 2	Erin Pugh
District 2	Robert Bondi

Also present were County Clerk-Recorder Scott Erickson, Sheriff Jack Harlan. State’s Attorney Ashley Worby and Treasurer Robin Davis. 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, Knox County Housing Authority Executive Director Derek Antoine 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. There were no additions or 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.

Jim Jacobs spoke about a very good friend Marty Glass who was hit head on while on South Lake Storey Road on November 22, 2025. The person that hit her came into Marty's lane and he will leave the other stuff to the judicial system. He has with him tonight Janine Glass who is Marty's younger sister. He said she has a statement she would like to read tonight to the County Board. He had spoken earlier to the County Clerk about when the Infrastructure meeting is monthly. It was confirmed that the meeting takes place on the third Tuesday of the month and the location is at the Annex.

Janine Glass said that she has a petition to turn in. She said South Lake Storey Road is a winding, hilly road circling south Lake Storey. This road begins at Henderson Street and curves around the lake leading to Carl Sandburg College. The current speed limit is 45 mph around both sides of the road from Henderson Street until the entrance of Allison Campground where the speed limit then decreases to 35 mph prior to the many hills and curves surrounding the lake. This stretch of road has many homes that enter and exit from the road. Many residents feel that the current speed limit is appropriate for this area. In addition, the campers do not feel it is safe to pull a camper out of the campground without being meet by traffic that is traveling to fast. She was told by a camper that it is nearly impossible to pull a camper out onto South Lake Storey Road without being meet by another car traveling too fast and then approaching nearly on their bumper. In addition, Carl Sandburg College is down the road from the campground which gets a large volume of young teenage student drivers traveling to and from their classes. Teenagers are known to be immature, distracted and drive too fast for conditions. She is concerned for the safety of residents in the area utilizing this road.

On November 22, 2025 she received a phone call that her sister had been involved in a horrific head on crash due to the other driver driving much over the speed limit. The other driver was impaired by illegal street drugs and her car crossed over the center line which was a double yellow line indicating a no passing zone. They hit her sister's car head on. Her sister went into shock after the accident and then went into cardiac arrest. Resuscitation measures revived her heart and was flown to St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois. Her cervical spine was fractured and she was unable to move her arms and legs. Ironically, she was on her way to Hawthorne Pool in Galesburg to teach an Aqua fit class. She was in very good physical condition when the accident occurred. She was on a ventilator in St. Francis Hospital for eight days and then succumbed to her injuries on November 30. Her funeral was December 5, 2025. She was a lifelong Registered Nurse at OSF St. Mary's Hospital in ICU, CCU and home health. She also worked as a school nurse for District 205 in Galesburg, Illinois and was also a nurse at Holy

Family Hospital. She was in the Army Reserves for 26 years and achieved the rank of Major. She was buried in her Army dress uniform and received full military honors.

She is lobbying to reduce the speed limit on the road for the safety and well-being of the people utilizing it. She doesn't want to see other senseless automobile accidents occur on this road. Reducing the speed limit could greatly reduce the incidents of needless accidents that occur from vehicles traveling too fast. As we know if the speed limit is set at 45 mph drives may likely go 50-55 mph. She is proposing that the speed limit be reduced to 35 mph from Henderson St. to Allison Campground. Then the speed limit on the curves be reduced to 25 mph. That speed limit would help greatly help the people trying to pull their camper out of the Allison Campground. She said that she has a petition that she went around for 2 ½ hours on a very cold day of only 13-17 degrees out going around the subdivisions where her sister had her accident. She turned in the petition that had over 40 signatures to Chair Hawkinson who handed them to Clerk Erickson for official record.

Kevin Surber said that he was arrested on December 23 and his vehicle was impounded. Three business days later the State's Attorney dropped charges ,the Knox County Sheriff's Office waved the impound fees and the towing company waived the storage fee but he still incurred a $700 fee for getting the vehicle back. He came to ask if he could receive his money back.

Ken Springer stated that he is with the Knox County Partnership for Economic Development. He said Happy New Year and is glad to give the first report for KCAP for 2026. The organization is off to a busy start in 2026. They have a few projects that they are carrying over from last year that they are working on still including the previously announced Intermobile Ag Rail Project at the Logistics Park. In addition to that KCAP has a team member down at a large food processing trade show in Atlanta this week. Earlier this month they were at the Midwest Association of Rail Shippers Event up in Shamburg. KCAP is trying to hit trade shows for each of their targeted industries this year in order to meet companies and source potential leads for our area.

The Knox County CEO Program is out recruiting for their ninth class for the program. He asked to please encourage the 10th and 11th grade students in the area to keep their ears open for their team. They will be visiting every high school in the area to make a presentation over the next couple of months. They have already visited United High School and Galesburg Christian School. Up next is Knoxville on February 2nd, Abingdon-Avon on February 4th, Galesburg High School on February 11th and Williamsfield on February 25th. They are still working on locking down a date for Rowva. They are keeping their foot on the gas for this year and looks forward to a productive 2026. Thank you.

Pam Davidson said good afternoon and Happy New Year since she was not here at the end of the year due to being sick. She said because of this cold weather we talk about making sure the animals are kept warm. We also cannot forget about people that are mentally ill and homeless throughout not just Galesburg but throughout our whole county. We need to make sure they have a safe place that they can go to get out of this ridged cold weather. We haven't had temperatures like this in a long time. We need to make sure that we are looking out for our brothers and sisters even though they might not be related but they are human beings. She asked

every single board member in the county to look out for the people that have less then and to have a great day.

Chair Hawkinson thanked everyone for speaking during public comment.

Motion was made by Member Weiss and seconded by Member Olinger to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the regular Board Meeting on December 22, 2025 and 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of October 2025 in the amounts of $170,163.20 and $83,496.24 and public safety tax in the amount of $299,493.50. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Boone to approve the appointment to Williamsfield Fire Protection District Trustee of Geoffrey W. Hurd. Chair Hawkinson stated that this is a new appointment and his resume and information is in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the removal of Knox County Housing Authority Board Member "A" Per Bylaws which is Dena St. George. Chair Hawkinson stated that the information is in the packet and is self-explanatory. There is a representative from the Housing Authority if anyone had any questions. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen and Friedrich— (11). Noes— Davidson---(1). Abstain---Olinger—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the removal of Knox County Housing Authority Board Member "B" Per Bylaws which is Joey Range. Chair Hawkinson stated that the information was in the pack and is self-explanatory. There is a representative from the Housing Authority present if anyone has any questions. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen and Friedrich— (11). Noes— Davidson---(1). Abstain---Olinger—(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Resolution for Temporary Funding for Mary Davis Home in the amount of $500,000. Chair Hawkinson explained that this is to the temporarily transfer of funds for the Treasurer to move funds when needed. It was listed in the resolution as $300,000 in the board packet but by the recommendation by the Treasurer it was to be moved to $500,000. This is just to get them by until the States does their reimbursements.

Member Nache asked what happens if the State says they won't pay for some reason and then the taxpayer eats this.

Chair Hawkinson explained that yes temporarily but the State has a legal obligation under statute to supply that funding. If that would happen then our legal counsel would start to intervene.

Member Nache responded ok and thank you.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, 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 it was a short meeting and probably one of the shortest due to the cold weather. Typically, in January and February they do not have a whole lot going on.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve Resolutions of Deeds of Conveyance. Vice Chair Friedrich said that there was only one this month and this is putting it back on the tax roll which is a good thing. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Resolution Abating General Obligation Alternate Revenue Bond Series 2010A and 2010B. Vice Chair Friedrich said that we do this every year to take the burden off the taxpayers they pay out of the General Fund. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Resolution Abating General Obligation Alternate Revenue Bond Series 2022. Vice Chair Friedrich stated that this is same as Item 9. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Member Sandoval presented the monthly report from the Public Service Committees. He said the report is in your packet. He said that it has been quiet even though the State's Attorney and other departments have been busy.

Member Cohen presented the monthly report from the Infrastructure Committee. He stated that it was another standard month with their monthly report and minutes are in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Cohen and seconded by Vice Chair Friedrich to approve Invoice for Landfill IEPA Quarterly Tonnage for $41,452.08. Member Cohen stated that this is paid every three months and a standard fee. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Cohen and seconded by Member Nache to approve the approve Bid and Bring Back for New Scale House Roof for the Landfill. Member Cohen explained that Klingner inspected the roof and decided it needed done sooner rather than later. They will oversee the bidding process and the construction phase of the project. It is within the budget for landfill.

Member Davidson asked when was the last time that the roof was replaced.

Landfill Administrator Cleair said that it is the original one.

Member Davidson said that she knows they have done some stuff to the scale area but was confirming that it was the original roof.

Landfill Administrator Cleair said yes, they put a deck on it last year.

Member Davidson said no, before that we did some other stuff.

Landfill Administrator Cleair said that it must be before his time there.

Member Davidson responded ok.

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

Motion was made by Member Cohen and seconded by Member Weiss to approve the Bid and Bring Back for Moving Expenses Associated with 50 East Main Development. Member Cohen said that last month there was a miss communication so this is just to approve the bidding process.

Member Robertson asked if they have received any other bids.

Member Cohen explained that this is the bid and bring back so this is when we would get the bids.

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

Motion was made by Member Cohen and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Mary Davis Home Performance Contract Payment Request #7 for $274,185.99. Member Cohen said that total completed and stored to date is $1,551,576.44 and the original contract was for $3,069,855.53.

Member Davidson wanted to know out of the performance contract if we have paperwork of what they have done.

Member Cohen replied saying that they have asked them to take meticulous numbers from what they have been providing. They are providing of what they are doing between each payment as well.

Member Davidson replied saying that she saw that in the packet but asked if just from Mary Davis Home or from the beginning.

Member Cohen replied saying they have one saying previous applications and one saying this period. For instance, fiber, cement and siding this $4,600 of that this time come from that. It also shows we have paid for $41,600 before this installment when it comes due for the fiber, cement and siding labor as an example. Which they have also been receiving pictures within the last two or three payments as well.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (11). Noes—Davidson and Nache--- (2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Cohen and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Nursing Home Performance Contract Payment Request #5 for $469,210.79. Member Cohen said

the total completed and stored to date is $4,221,418.78 and the original contract was for $7,659,903.59.

Member Davidson said that she is saying the same thing. She stated her concern with the performance contracts of not really having numbers from the beginning to now but we are continually paying for it.

Member Cohen replied saying that maybe we can work out some questions that we can send them to answer. He said that maybe Member Davidson could work it out with Member Bondi and himself to ask them.

Chair Hawkinson commented saying the same information that is in the packet is the same information that has been provided since day one with every single project. It comes with a payment for application which is signed off on by the folks, with the continuation pages that shows work completed from the previous application, materials, numbers, scheduled values, percentages, retainage, an invoice and waiver and lien to date. Which is all required under the contract. The only thing that has been added is the photographs of stored materials since there has been an overabundance amount of stored materials. This is the same information that we have been getting for the last several years.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (11). Noes—Thierry and Davidson --- (2). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Cohen and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Resolution on 2026 Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance, Section 26-00000-00-GM for the highway. Member Cohen explained that it is just pulling money to do maintenance which is part of the Motor Fuel Tax. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). 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 and that there is a lot going on but no action items this month. He welcomed people if they have time to take a look out at the nursing homes where they have done a lot of work out there. The solar field is all up it just needs some electrical work done to get plugged in. Everything is moving forward and the Health Department is doing good. He is glad that the accessor was able to make it tonight since she has been under the weather.

Member Nache asked how many clients are currently in the nursing home.

Nursing Home Administrator Mines said 107 residents and they usually run between 105-117. She reminded them that those numbers are with a whole wing closed for construction.

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 20, 21 and 22 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 January 2026, Board Meeting in December 2025, and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Chair Hawkinson stated that the total was $3,137.80. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Nache to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of December 23, 2025 through January 28, 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 that the vouchers submitted were in the amount of $2,420,753.05. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 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 Weiss and seconded by Member Sandoval to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.