PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
KNOX COUNTY, ILLINOIS

September 23, 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, September 23, 2026 at 6:04 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 Vice-Chair Brian Friedrich 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 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 4 Jared Hawkinson

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, Highway Administrator Duane Ratermann, Landfill Administrator Rod Cleair and Supervisor of Assessments Sonia Hochstetler.

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

Vice-Chair Friedrich asked for additions or deletions to the agenda with additions for discussion only. He asked for the removal of Items 5, 12 and 13 from the agenda.

Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that there were no objections to the deletions and there were no additions to the agenda.

Vice-Chair Friedrich 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 hello and she lives at 1147 Day St. in District 3. She explained why she comes up to do public comment. She explained that in the beginning when we made board rules it was voted down to have closed comments and as an elected official she said that they should be able to voice different things and inform people about different things because they represent their districts and the whole County of Knox County. She explained that she takes this time to voice her comment during public comment. She said that it is time that Knox County works for the betterment of Knox County, the whole county and for our employees that are union and non-union. She said that they are representing Knox County and she knows that last month it passed but she did not vote for it that people had to live in Knox County and we need to bring that back. People need to have the pride to live in Knox County if they're getting paid by taxpayers in Knox County. She understands that it is a small pool in a big pond but she said that we have to know that when somebody's doing your taxes and assessors. They should be now county employees. That is what she wanted to stress today. This is why she stands up and tells her comments because there are no open comments at the end. Thank you.

Marian Spurgeon's speech that she read is as follows that she put on record.

Last week, Sheriff Harlan's brother Patrick Harlan posted this on Facebook: "Everyone's an outlaw till it's time to do outlaw shit. We've been pushed, Taxed, Ignored, Lied to and told to sit down and shut the hell up. I'm done. This country wasn't built by people who asked permission. It was built by people who stood up and fought for what was theirs. If you're pissed off too, quit bitching on Facebook and GET IN THE FIGHT. Run, Vote, Organize, Speak up, Show up, because they only have the power we keep giving them."

I appreciate this post, because essentially, it's saying that the government answers to the people, not the other way around. That's not a partisan idea and it sounds like it's a Harlan family value.

Since June, I have made a number of requests to meet with Sheriff Jack Harlan by phone, email and carrier pigeon, to no avail. On June 26, I took out a FOIA for all agreements the County has with Flock Safety.

After one automatic extension and one that I granted, the FOIA officer supplied me with a one-page document that did not provide the information that I requested. I wrote back the same day to point out that the document referenced a "previously executed agreement" – evidence that my request for "all agreements" was unsatisfied. My message received no reply.

I received nothing more about the contract until I filed a request for review with the attorney general's office and suggested to the public body, CC-ing the state's attorney, that this matter is being prepared for judicial review.

I'm not here to drag the FOIA officer. I'm here to ask this board, why does the City of Galesburg --- serving a smaller population than Knox County --- have at least five or six people who can process FOIA requests, while the County apparently does not? Those officers aren't full-time on FOIA, and they don't all handle every category of record. But when one person is out, or a family member is sick, the FOIA office can carry on.

Citizens are legally entitled to access to public records so that we can offer feedback rooted in fact when we comment on what y'all are doing with the power we've given you. You cannot deny our access to that power without undermining the legitimacy of your own.

So, her is my ask: I am requesting that the board direct the Sheriff's Office to designate and cross train at least one backup FOIA officer.

I'm asking the board and the sheriff office to uphold the social contract that the government is accountable to the people.

And I am reminding everyone that early voting starts tomorrow.

Connie Main's speech has read is as follows as she put on record.

At last month's meeting I objected, then a fellow board member spoke up, then a few others just before a possible final vote that tabled a $15,000 increase for a short tenured position wherein duties, I have complained about many years have not been fulfilled, and not just during his tenure but by others before him. This after again complaining during Public Comment about FOIA violations to discover that an employment requirement necessary for accessing law enforcement records had not been done. That helps explain why my FOIA has been violated and why I have never received several police reports, and other things. The Chair response seemed like an attack. It was something about the board members waiting until last minute and possibly even having a dislike for the employee.

Board Members: Facts are necessary for critical decision making and can present themselves anytime to which they should be recognized then considered to make informed decisions before finalizations.

So, I felt intimidated and humiliated for her, and the effect, I feel, could likely silence future oppositions to questionable board meeting agenda items by the very people elected to do their jobs. They are elected to speak for, watch for, and protect their constituents against wrongful action items, not be 'yes' people. Therefore, I think the public deserves to know why the fingerprinting has not been done after a little over 1-1/2 years into employment when fingerprinting should be done before employment! Is this a special situation? How many other things are this unique. That was an important detail that was almost redacted, like most of my FOIA! Thankfully, the FOIA salary increase remains tabled.

The Chair also stated FOIA denials can be appealed to the Attorney General's Office. Factually, at July's Monthly Board Meeting, I placed proof on the record that FOIA is denied me through local channels, and then even through the AG's appeal process. That proof revealed they gave no legal reason for the denial: I was simply told I would not get what I requested, and surprise it was about illegal dogs. Clearly, FOIA is not what is appears, but it looks and sounds good. Does the monthly FOIA Officer's report list the number appealed to the AG's Office? I bet not.

Also, I did not 'repeatedly shout questions' from my seat as the media reported. After my public comment about violations, then hearing the sizeable 46-47% raise, it felt personal and sounded like a reward for job done wrong, Therefore, I 'objected' and began reading verbatim the following from the bottom of the agenda, last page, second sentence supporting my objection:

"There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member or citizen so requests: in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately."

I asked the meaning and when it would be appropriate last week at one of the weekly Committee Meetings but did not get a concrete answer. I await clarification and direction as to when a "member or citizen" can request the removal of an Agenda item for future discussion, and why the fingerprinting has not been done.

Ken Springer stated that he is with the Knox County Partnership for Economic Development. He wanted to mention a couple of dates for the board this month. He wanted to invite members of the board and members of the public to participate in our first public event for our new CEO class on Friday, October 2nd from 7:30 a.m. till 9:00 a.m. at the Orange Cup Side Hustle on East Main Street. The students are going to be practicing their networking skills and their elevator pitches that they've been working on. This is a fun event to pop in and have a few conversations. You can leave whenever you want to. It is the first event for the students to really practice meeting with members of the public and members of the business community. There are 14 students in the program this year. Which is the largest class ever and they represent six different school districts.

Secondly, he wanted to update the board on a couple of trade shows that KCAP has been participating in. Last week, they had a team member at the IMTS show in Chicago which is the International Manufacturing Technology Show. It is the largest North American trade show for manufacturing. It is held at the McCormick Place every two years. KCAP attended and they worked the show floor meeting companies as part of their efforts to recruit companies to the area. Early in October, they will be at the Pet Food Processing Exchange Conference in Kansas City. This is a concerted effort on their part to get out there and try to meet more companies in the manufacturing, food processing, and logistics industries. He mentioned that while their staff was working the IMTS show he wanted to recognize that members of the Knox County Education Community took a bus load of 35 students up to the IMTS show. Which included students from Knoxville, Galesburg, Galesburg Christian, United, Abingdon, Avon and Monmouth-Roseville. This was their fourth time taking students up to the IMTS show. It is a great experience where students get to experience the latest in manufacturing technology. There are a lot of hands-on exhibits. It is a great way to get young people excited in future careers in manufacturing. He wanted to give a shout out to the great work of the Galesburg Area Vocational Center and the Regional Office of Education Delabar and a whole host of other folks for putting it together for the students to take the field trip up there. Which is a great example of great experience where education and workforce development intersect. Thank you.

Vice-Chair Friedrich thanked everyone for speaking during public comment.

Motion was made by Member Weiss and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the regular Board Meeting on August 26, 2026. 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of June 2026 in the amounts of $179,659.15 and $73,156.89 and public safety tax in the amount of $316,029.60. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Abstain---Boone---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Cohen and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Proclamation Recognizing October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that the certificate is in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, 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 Resolution to Seek Real Estate Appraisal. Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that this is for the appraisal for 50 East Main St. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— Bondi---(1). Motion carried.

Item 5 was removed.

Motion was made by Member Fredrick and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Employment Agreement for Landfill Solid Waste Director. Vice-Chair Friedrich asked Landfill Administrator Cleair to him up.

Landfill Administrator Cleair introduced Paul Clark who is up for being approved for the Director of Solid Waste after he retires. He said that he has talked to several board members several times about him. He fills the requirements and has extensive landfill experience. Landfill Administrator Cleair gave his approval for hiring him.

Vice-Chair Friedrich asked Paul Clark if he wanted to say a few words.

Paul Clark introduced himself stating that he has been in the waste industry for 7 years where he is at right now. Right now, he deals with about 5,000 tons of trash a day and manages 28 employees right now. He has been out to visit with Landfill Administrator Cleair to see the way he operates the facility. He feels he would be a great fit for the job and looks forward to it.

Vice-Chair Friedrich thanked Mr. Clark.

Member Robertson mentioned him currently not living in Knox County but asked if he was open to moving to Knox County tax dollars would stay here.

Mr. Clark replied that he would have to talk to his wife later down the road and cannot answer that right now.

Member Robertson said so it wouldn't be off the table and maybe would consider moving to Knox County.

Mr. Clark replied that it is something that maybe considered down the road.

Member Davidson asked about when he worked at the other facility if he was union facility.

Mr. Clark replied that right now they are non-union there but actually his guys are going to vote tomorrow to see if it passes or not.

Member Davidson asked for Operators 36 Union. She said she means 649.

Mr. Clark replied no, his guys are talking to the 150.

Member Davidson replied oh, the 150 out of the Quad Cities.

Mr. Clark replied, yes. He said that it is actually a messed-up situation because they are actually in 649 territory.

Member Davidson replied yeah.

Mr. Clark replied that it was for them to hash out.

Member Davidson replied that is all family. She said that she would be voting no because she believes that he should live in Knox County. She understands about talking to his family and it is a move. She said that she works in the Quad Cities but she feels that we need people that are invested in our county. That is why she will be voting no.

Mr. Clark replied that he understands that and appreciates her input.

Member Fredrick thanked Mr. Clark for applying. She firmly believes that she will be voting yes tonight because she thinks Administrator Cleair has invested in this county and Administrator Cleair has suggested this higher. She thanked him again for applying and his interest here. She knows it is only 23 miles and she really appreciate his interest in Knox County.

Mr. Clark replied thank you.

Member Nache stated that she just found out that one of our elected officials will be making less than our landfill administrator. She is paid by us and it is Coroner Dare. She is typically the most important person in our county because she would take over if something happened to the sheriff. She explained that she did not know that until tonight and is embarrassed not to have known it. She said that she cannot vote for someone new to be making more than the most important. She is paid by us.

Member Friedrich replied that someone can correct him if he is wrong but his understanding is it was considered a part-time position.

Member Nache replied that she is full-time and asked that question tonight. She is embarrassed and ashamed of herself for not knowing. She said that she would be more embarrassed if she voted to come on at his pay. She said along with Member Davidson she needs to say no due to the fact that nothing has been done with our own elected official. She apologizes for that and said thank you.

Member Cohen thanked Member Nache for that point. He said that it is important knowledge he would argue that it is probably more evidence to look at the coroner's pay more than anything. Both probably cost more but he still be voting yes, but he thinks that is something to consider later down the road.

Member Boone stated that the qualifications for coroner if you look up Illinois legislation and election law is you have to be 18 years and live in the county. She said that is it. Once elected then they go get a course and pass the course. This man's qualifications are far more as far as education than the actual county coroner. She encourages everyone to go on to the Illinois General Assembly and really look into the laws to understand the process. An elected public official requires some kind of education training and she understands that. The responsibility and accountability as a whole are more with managing a major landfill with EPA and all kinds of regulations. She feels he should be compensated for that position that he is filling. She said just like their County Engineer Ratermann which took how many years of education for him to actually qualify for that job. She said that is his option but encourages people to really understand the actual laws. Thank you.

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

Vice-Chair Friedrich said congratulations to Paul Clark.

Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that they are moving on the Ways and Means and was unable to attend so Member Kramer is going to take over. Member Kramer is going to move Item 10 up first.

Member Kramer stated the monthly report from the Ways and Means Committees are in the packet. He moved Item 10 up first.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Resolution for the County to Acquire all Tax Certificates. Member Kramer said that Neal Wallace is here to talk about it and he is the expert on this. He said that Treasurer Davis briefed them at the committee meeting on this.

Neal Wallace introduced himself as general counsel with Joseph Meyer and Associates and said they serve as the county tax agent. He explained that the county board are the county trustee for taxing districts. He said in 2023 the United States Supreme Court decided a case and it concluded unanimously that if a county takes a property for taxes that any surplus equity in that property has to go back to the property owner. This is the same thing that happens with a mortgage foreclosure, if a car is repossessed and anything like that. The Illinois Property Tax Code did not have a provision for doing this. So, there were a substantial overhaul of the property tax code and one of those provisions allows the county to acquire all of the tax certificates at the Treasurer's tax sale. What that does is there are now two paths before you. If the county continues with the path that the county is currently on, where there are private tax buyers that come and bid, each one of those tax buyers when they come to get their tax deed, instead of getting a tax deed, they get an order for a judicial sale, then the sheriff has to send out some notices, conduct that auction, then sends it to the treasurer and the treasurer has to send out certain notices. He explained that all of those actions would be taken on by their office as the tax agent if they chose to acquire all certificates. Those are the two paths before the board and he believes that there have been some discussions with that. He will entertain any questions the board has as far as the pros and cons of those two paths.

Member Davidson said that she would also like to hear from the state's attorney about filing some papers about the tax and the different laws. She then asked Mr. Wallace to break down what would be from one to another. She asked if the county is going to take all the certificates or they are not are the two items.

Mr. Wallace replied stating that those are the two choices that are before you. You can choose to have a tax sale and private taxpayers can come in and bid or you just take all of the tax certificates. Then they would prosecute the case on behalf of the county.

State's Attorney Worby replied that she was talking about sale and error which is a different thing.

Member Davidson replied ok, she is sorry. She said that one is the county takes all of them and then give to him to make the sale. So, all the money would go back to the person who owned it for it to be correct.

Mr. Wallace replied correct. They would conduct an auction on all of the parcels that are not redeemed and they come up with the calculations to determine what equity is left after the taxes, any liens on the property and the cost of prosecuting the case and the auction. Then all of that money is sent to the property owner.

Member Davidson replied ok, thank you.

Member Robertson asked if they choose to use Mr. Wallace to do the certificates, what is the fee for that.

Mr. Wallace replied that nothing would change. Currently, what happens is the county gets the leftovers of that sale. So, there is always some leftover certificates that no tax buyers bid on and they prosecute the case for that, they get the redemption penalties if the property redeems. If the property doesn't redeem but sells, they get a commission which would stay the same. So, there would be no out-of-pocket increase from the county to them because of this transaction due to this change. They are paid when the county is paid essentially which would all stay the same.

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

Member Kramer said back on track and returning to Item 8 on the agenda.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Weiss to Review/Approve Premium for Liability, Workman's Compensation, Vehicle, and Property Insurance. Member Kramer stated that in the packet is the insurance renewal and there was an increase. He explained that a lot of it was done on the increased property values of the county property. There was some increase in the workers compensation. With the removal of the Mary Davis Home payroll it kind of offset that increase. Those are some notable items from that presentation. He asked Treasurer Davis if she would like to add anything.

Treasurer Davis said that at the meeting. Chad brought up a couple of things and one of those things was that the wind and hail deductible had increased and there was a 1% premium added to it or it could be up to 1% of the actual loss. She explained that if they had a property that was $250,000 then you would have to pay whatever deductible that is. They asked him because any of property could be a lot higher what it would be if they removed that 1% and he said an additional $25,733 on the premium. The whole committee approved that. Then they asked him since they only had $100,000 of cyber coverage in the policy. They asked him to go back and give a bid for $500,000 or a million. The liability company said $500,000 really wouldn't be worth it. So, to change cyber from $100,00 to a million would be an additional $6,071 per year. Her recommendation is that they do that and if they do that the total premium changes from $1,864,227 to $1,896,03. It does not affect workman's comp just the property liability.

Member Kramer confirmed that Clerk Erickson got the numbers and thanked Treasurer Davis for clarifying on the cyber and the hail damage. He said that they made note in the committee that there are some structural buildings that they have under the insurance that they probably could have department heads look at and maybe remove them due to them being sheds and other structures which probably would be cheaper just to pay to have it replaced than to have an insurance policy on it.

Member Robertson asked if they are insuring the training facility at OSF for the sheriff's training.

Member Kramer replied that we do not. He said that OSF does and the police training unit does which is a mobile training unit which is a police training standards unit.

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

Motion was made by Member Fredrick and seconded by Member Pugh to approve Bond Ordinance Providing for the Issue and Sale of Not to Exceed $24,000,000 of General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source) for the Purpose of Constructing Improvements to the Knox County Landfill. Member Kramer stated that it is pretty straight forward in the reading. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Olinger to approve Resolution Creating the Landfill Bond Fund. Member Kramer stated that it is exactly what it says it is. It is creating the Landfill Bond Fund and confirmed that with Treasurer Davis. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Item 12 and 13 were removed.

Vice-Chair Friedrich announced that next Monday, Wednesday and Thursday there will be budget meetings.

Member Sandoval presented the monthly report from the Public Service Committees. He said the report is in your packet.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Pugh for approval of Plan for Moving Coroner's Office to the Mary Davis Home. Member Sandoval explained that they have been trying to get this through for a while. In your packet there are the questions and answers that the coroner put forward along with a diagram she put together of where her space will be. The cooler would be moved to where she would be at so everything of hers is in one place. He stated that in the packet the questions were answered but he can have Coroner Dare also answer and other questions and he would like to see this move forward.

Member Davidson said that she would like to add the county code 551-ILCS5-33003 the county board is required to provide a baseline tool for county offices. The state and the county coroner shall have official offices. She said that the corner does not have that and we need her to have a place. She is an elected official and if we have it for all the others, she should have it too. Thank you.

Member Boone stated that she has researched this and she has pulled it up from the statute in Illinois 555-5106 says that the county board is to provide proper rooms and offices for the accommodation of the county board, state's attorney, county clerk, county treasurer, recorder and sheriff and to provide suitable furniture. She said if you go down to the third part of that it says that we are to provide reasonable and necessary expenses for the use of the county board,

county clerk, county treasurer, recorder, sheriff, coroner, states attorney, superintendent of schools, judges, and clerks of courts and supervisor of assessments. She said that we are to fund these, but the top of it says we are to actually provide physical offices. She explained that she went back and forth with this and it is going to set a precedence of whatever is decided tonight is going to be from here on out. This is going to make the coroner's office more competitive. They are going to get more people who are maybe nurses, doctors or someone else that would like to get in the mix to run for office because there would be a facility for them. It will make it more competitive to get really good qualified people in there. The downside of it is the care, the custody of human remains. There is a larger increase in liability in that and asked if they want to take that on if something would happen or deal with lawsuits in regards to family members with duress that their religion required us to treat the human remains a certain way and it was not done that way. She thought about these things one way or the other. She asked Treasurer Davis about the counties liability insurance and she assured her that she called and talked to Chad. She said that Chad said that it would not increase our liability insurance.

Treasurer Davis confirmed that she had spoken to Chad and it would not increase.

Member Boone continued saying that it is a big thing since they are actually taking the actual physical custody of property. Those are the things that she has batting back and forth. She reminded everyone that this will set a precedence from here on out for anyone else that becomes coroner and will provide that office. She said that we have talked about precedence's and people living out of the county and this is the same deal. Thank you.

Member Kramer thanked Coroner Dare and the committee for putting the question and answer packet together. He said that it gives comprehensive plans, answers all the question and explained before they were shooting in the dark of just saying that the coroner was going to move to a building that is halfway renovated and excellent job on the packet. He mentioned that sitting here pounding our fists, being loud about having offices, creating space and what not. He said that there was a major failure at the Knox County Courthouse as everybody in here knows. There were not just facilities to place the coroner in. There was a plan for the coroner to go into the admin building but that had gotten pushed back. If that had not gotten pushed back there probably would have been an office of the coroner in the admin building that is still questionable under construction. It is easy to be loud and pound our fists but let's actually come with comprehensive plans on how to do things.

Member Weiss stated that what Member Boone read says that we are not necessarily responsible for the building but it says that we are responsible to fund her. He said so let's buy her a building and said he don't think so. What he is getting at is the infrastructure is there in this current building, she has come up with a plan and it is going to be more reasonable to put her in that building than going out a buying one then getting her moved into it.

Member Boone replied that she is just worried about the liability. There are so many things with the county like the custody of inmates and she understands that. Her key thing is yes, they are to provide funding for all of the county offices but she was thinking if it was off county property they would be less liable such as EPA regulations. She is always thinking about liability, trying to protect the people of Knox County, trying to save tax dollars and do the right thing on it. She said that whatever they decide there are going to be some good things and some bad things. If they close the Mary Davis Home they are going to have to move it again and how many different sites is the cooler going to get moved around to. She wanted to verbalize it and get it on record of her concerns.

Member Pugh asked Coroner Dare if she put the packet together.

Coroner Dare said that she put it together.

Member Pugh replied good job.

Member Cohen assured Member Boone that it is good to always be thinking of liability and thanked her for always keeping them accountable to checking all facets of what could go wrong. He stated that he is a little more excited with this option as he feels liability-wise he feels more confident having the cooler in the same office as the coroner rather than her entire office spread out but thanked Member Boone again form making sure they consider all options.

Member Fredrick wanted it put on record that they tried to put a packet like this one together a long time ago. They requested the Chairman to attend their meetings and those emails all went unanswered. She and Coroner Dare on the phone have worked on this sun up to sun down trying to make this work as well as shoulder tapping the committee members. She asked Coroner Dare if she wanted to put on record her entire plan since there are some people that do not have the packet in front of them.

Coroner Dare mentioned some of the major questions such as the cost of the cooler to move it. She has a tow company that will move it for free. The only cost is going to be to remove the refrigeration due to where it is place right now they had to put the cooling unit between rafters. The cooling unit will need removed then the cooler can roll on due to it being on wheels. The towing company will move it then the HVAC people will have to put it back together again. There is a cost there and that is in the packet. If someone really wants to know she said that she can talk about that. As far as the space and electricity the Mary Davis Home garage is already set up where there are two freezers in there. The unit is 110 bolt and a refrigerator basically and as long is nothing else major is on that same circuit it will be fine. She explained what is not in the packet is that she has spoken with Warren County and they are putting a cooler in their new jail. They will put a lock on it which is easily done and she can put a lock on it. She is going to add a device on it that if it goes above 40 degrees it will send a notification to her phone. She will then get over and move the bodies to another funeral home that has agreed to allow her to use space in their cooler due to a catastrophe.

Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that Coroner Dare did get two bids for removing the refrigeration and is taking the lower bid. She did her due diligence there and got two bids.

Member Fredrick asked Coroner Dare to share one thing that they had discussed today. She asked Coroner Dare about the remains that become cremated due to the families unable to afford or pick them up where she stores them right now.

Coroner Dare replied that they are in her closet.

Member Fredrick thanked Coroner Dare.

Coroner Dare replied that she has approximately eight people in her closet.

Member Robertson asked for clarification with the move with all of the belongings out of her closet and everything would be in one central location.

Coroner Dare replied correct. She explained the MDH where the garage is when you dive up, she is asking for that garage. That is where the cooler, body bags, gloves, PPE stuff and all the biohazard kits if they had to do a tox screen would all be kept. That way her other employees would have access just to that area so they could and get stuff. Such as if there was a mass casualty and they need extra body bags they can come in and get that stuff.

Member Robertson wanted to confirm that everything would be secured and in there for access to only the coroner and her staff.

Coroner Dare replied correct. She explained that there is a corridor there with two office spaces so her secondary could have his own office space. Then there is a file room across the hall

which was the holding cell that they can revamp by putting a table in there to be able to meet with families. There is also bathroom access right there as well.

Member Robertson asked for confirmation that the coroner being there would not interfere with any of the other current departments that are there.

Coroner Dare replied that she would have her own entrance, it would not interfere and they could still use that corridor. She would have locks on all her stuff so they could not get into her office space.

Member Robertson replied ok.

Member Bondi asked if they should be considering a backup generator.

Landfill Administrator Cleair replied that there is one out there.

Coroner Dare replied that there is a generator there that is about 20 years old like Administrator Cleair had let her know. She explained that she does not use her cooler for storing bodies on an everyday occurrence. She might have only up to five people in there a month. It is usually a quick turnaround by them going in, her moving them onto autopsy and then going to the funeral home. There are a couple that she has held on to due to not having families or her still looking for family members. Some people she does pick up due the family still deciding on the funeral home to use. For the most part she does not store bodies on a long-term basis.

Member Bondi asked Administrator Cleair about the generator being serviced and maintained.

Administrator Cleair replied that he has not been there for 10 years.

Member Bondi said that it might be useful.

Coroner Dare replied that she would look into it.

Member Thierry said that one of her big things like she mentioned in their last meeting is being in compliance and aligned with the statutes as the coroner moves forward.

Coroner Dare replied correct.

Member Thierry continued saying that she had asked the coroner to make sure these things line up as she moves forward with this and to work closely with our state's attorney to make sure legally as we go into this new venture of having a housed coroner's office that they are in compliance.

Coroner Dare replied that she will. She stated that was the one thing with the cooler that she talked to Warren County about that their cooler was going to be in the garage at the sheriff's office. She confirmed with Member Kramer that is where they bring in inmates but it will be locked so obviously inmates and others cannot get into it.

Member Thierry replied thank you.

Member Davidson stated that this was her last statement saying that it is almost 2 years since the coroner has been elected. This conversation started way before she was elected into this position because for 22 plus years they had a coroner that owned a funeral home. They never had to go through this type of situation. She is glad that they are moving forward on this. She is thankful for the coroner and the committee as a whole on being diligent and working together to get this thus far. She wants to take this across the finish line and get it done.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes—Boone--- (1). Motion carried.

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

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Pugh to approve Bid and Buy for the County Fuel for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 for the Landfill. Member Bondi said the information is in the packet. The bids will be accepted until 11 a.m. on October 28th . When the bids will be opened at the Knox County Courthouse and the lowest bid will be accepted. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Bid and Bring Back for New Dual-Axle Roll -Off Truck for the Landfill. Member Bondi read that the truck would replace the 2013 roll-off truck that is used as their back up truck. The 2018 roll off truck would become the backup truck and the new truck would be used daily. If approved the truck will be needed to be financed after delivery from line item 012-422-580590-45. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Payment Request #13 for Nursing Home Performance Project for $252,766.23. Member Bondi read that the original contract amount was $7,659,903.59. Total completed and stored to date is $7,181,742.64. Total retainage is $359,087.13 and the total balance to finish is $1,106,855.48. All waivers and lien releases are in the packet. He confirmed with Member Cohen that all documentation and releases were in the packet and made sure he did not have any questions or concerns. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich — (13). Noes— (0). Abstain--- Thierry---(1). Motion carried.

Member Kramer presented the monthly report from the Health and Human Services committee and the report is in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Bid and Bring Back for Dining Room Chairs for the nursing home. Member Kramer stated that this is for 100 chairs to be replaced that are 30 years old for the dining room. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich — (13). Noes—Thierry--- (1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Bondi to approve Bid for Therapy Equipment Hi-Lo Mat Platform for the nursing home. Member Kramer stated that there were two bids and the Nursing Home Administrator Mines recommendation was for the bid for $5,939.78. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich — (13). Noes— (0). Abstain---Thierry---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Bid for Electric Height Adjustable Parallel Bars for the nursing home. Member Kramer stated that

there were two bids and the Nursing Home Administrator Mines recommendation was for the bid for $5,255.00 which was the lowest bid. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich — (13). Noes— (0). Abstain---Thierry---(1). Motion carried.

Vice-Chair Friedrich 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 Kramer 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, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich — (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Vice-Chair Friedrich said that the budget line item changes were in the packet for review. Member Kramer read from the board packet the budget line item changes for sheriff, nursing home, judicial and health department.

Motion was made by Member Olinger and seconded by Member Nache for the approval of Proposed Line Item Changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich — (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Vice-Chair Friedrich said that the manual check review is in the board packet.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Committee Meetings of September 2026, Board Meeting in August 2026 and other claims for per diem from meetings. Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that it is on the G-drive and the total was $4,444.16. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich — (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Cohen to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of August 26, 2026 through September 23, 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 $2,690,556.24. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich — (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 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 can be watched later by clicking on the YouTube Channel link on

the Knox County website on the County Board Meeting page at: https://www.knoxcountyil.gov/county_board/county_board_meetings.php or at https://www.youtube.com/@knoxcountyil/live.

Motion was made Member Bondi and seconded by Member Cohen to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.