PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
KNOX COUNTY, ILLINOIS

August 27, 2025

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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 27, 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 2	Jennifer Fredrick
District 3	Pamela Davidson
District 4	Jared Hawkinson
District 5	Patty Boone
District 3	Samuel Cohen
District 4	Todd Olinger
District 5	Brian Friedrich

And those absent:	District 1	Cheryl Nache
	District 1	Anthony Weiss
	District 2	Robert Bondi

Also present were County Clerk-Recorder Scott Erickson, County Treasurer Robin Davis and Sheriff Jack Harlan. Department Heads present were Knox County Public Health Administrator Michele Gabriel, Knox County Nursing Home Administrator Jodi Mines, Landfill Administrator Rod Cleair, Mary Davis Home Administrator Wendi Steck 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. He said for additions he was adding 5A for a short presentation from Prairie Hills Resources regarding the landbank and he said that Member Cohen will add 11A for a short presentation from Foth Engineering. He stated that he was removing Item 3,17,18 and 19. He asked if there were any objections. There were no objections to the removals or 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.

David Amor said good evening to the Board Chair, County Board Members and members of the public. He said he lives in District 2 and is here to talk about fiscal irresponsibility. He asked why is it that the Republications on the county board continue to pretend that they are the party of fiscal responsibility. They claim that Democrats want to spend, spend, spend. When in fact it is the Democrats who are the ones that have to continually have to stand up and call out Republican wastefulness, sloppiness, and lack of accountability. First it was Chair Hawkinson billing for stipends to attend meetings that were already included in his salary. Then it was transferring hundreds of thousands of dollars out of the counties reserve account at the last minute at the end of the fiscal year to cover the sheriff's unbudgeted cost overruns. Seriously reducing the counties ability to deal with a major emergency. Then it was the Chair's move to include the new building in MSI's Performance Contract which thankfully even a few Republican Members thought it was a bit too far. Now, it is the county clerk keeping a separate bank account which he neglected to reconcile with the counties books and was called out by the auditors in the most recent auditor's letter. Both County Clerk Scott Erickson and Sheriff Jack Harlan each maintain a bank account that is completely separate from the Treasurer's Office. That are not being regularly reconciled with the counties auditing system according to the auditors. In the county clerk's case the auditors asked for supporting documents to reconcile the transactions in his account and he was unable or unwilling to provide them. If the public is interested in more details about this he recommends reading the final comments in the auditor's letter on May 22 that accompanied the fiscal 2024 audit report. There is the slight problem that you can find the audit report in the Transparency section of the county website while you will search in vain for the auditor's cover letter. He submitted a FOIA request that took twice as long as the normal response time in order to acquire a copy. He noted that we have been down this road before. The auditors have repeatedly called out the Sherriff's account for not being regularly balance with the Treasurer and thus not reviewed monthly by the county board. They have also repeatedly warned about needing to keep a substantial reserve of at least three months of county expenditures in case of a major emergency. During his time on the board they were slowly building up that reserve which the Republicans are now squandering. The Republicans currently have the majority on the board. However, that should not be a license to play fast and loose with the publics tax dollars. Rather it should but a stronger responsibility on their shoulders to exercise restraint on their leadership to take seriously their roll of budgetary oversite of all

county elected officials and their departments. That should definitely include the county clerk and the sheriff. Thank you.

Pam Davidson said good evening I'm district 2. No, I'm district 3. She feels as a county board elected official she is from all districts because they vote on multiple things. Most of all she wants to say on Labor Day is a time to celebrate labor and people that have worked to build this country as it is. Sometimes, they have gave their lives as they went to work an accident happened and were unable to return home. Join us for the Galesburg parade or any labor parade in your area to say thank you to the labor workers. As a UAW Member she is so excited to have a day that just shines on herself. Please join them all on Labor Day. Thank you.

Ken Springer stated that he is with the Knox County Partnership for Economic Development. He wanted to provide a couple of quick updates for this month. Earlier this month KCAP helped a startup business obtain revolving loan financing from the City of Galesburg. The business is called Dante & Dory's Pet Store and soon will be opening at the intersection of Seminary and Main in Galesburg. The city's revolving loan fund has provided $100,000 in gap financing to help the business acquire equipment and inventory ahead of the business's opening. Revolving loans are important tools that can help small business deals move forward. They work in concert with existing lenders, help mitigate risks and they have been an important part of the tools box for economic development. Going back many years in the 1980's the State of Illinois helped create revolving loan funds all across the State of Illinois in different cities and counties. The state no longer does that but, many of these programs still exist and they are still operating an important part of economic development.

Secondly, he wanted recognize something that is incredibly cool and workforce related that happened in the community recently. Liam Dilley is a high school senior from Knox County. He won the gold medal at the Skills USA National Championship. Skills USA is like varsity sports for vocational education were students compete at regional, state and national levels in things like welding, construction, culinary arts and those typed of things. Liam was part of the team from the Galesburg Vocational Center. He competed in a category called related technical math. Related technical math is math related to occupational usage in things like calculating how much tile is necessary to cover a floor or floor rates of fluid through pieces of machinery and other stuff like that. The bottom line is Liam is the number one student in this category in the entire nation which is really incredible. He is hoping that Liam's success at the national level helps inspire more young people to look at vocational education. This is an incredibly important part of our workforce. Therefore, it is incredibly important part of the economy. If you haven't seen it there is a really cool interview with Liam on WGIL Radio recently. If you know Liam or see him lets help celebrate his win because, he is literally a national champion and that is super cool. Thank you very much.

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 23, 2025 and 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of June 2025 in the amounts of $168,205.43 and $50,942.63 and public safety tax in the amount of $287,883.33. Roll call vote is recorded as

follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (11). Noes— (0). Abstain—Boone---(1). Motion carried.

Item 3 was removed.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the appointment as Knox County Human Services Transportation Plan Representative of Joe Coffin. Chair Hawkinson stated that this is a re-appointment and information is in your packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (11). Noes—Davidson---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Olinger and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Pay Request 6 from BBWave for ARPA Grant Draw for $798.00. Chair Hawkinson said that he spoke with the Treasurer today and the grant prior to this request for draw had a balance of $15,748.09 and BBWave is requesting $798.00.

Member Davidson asked if they had to have it all removed out of the account in 2026

Chair Hawkinson said correct, December 31, 2026.

Member Davidson said ok, December.

Chair Hawkinson said yes.

Member Davidson said thank you.

Chair Hawkinson stated that it is all allocated for with the state.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said Item 5A is the Presentation by Prairie Hills Resource regarding the landbank by Victoria Livingston who is the Executive Director for Prairie Hills. She wanted to come this evening at our request to explain some documentation in some pamphlets that Member Robertson had shared with the board last month. Since this is for discussion only, we will hear what she has to say then get some ideas of what her recommendation and Member Robertson's recommendation would be. Everyone would then have a month to digest, ask questions and review. Then we will go from there.

Dr. Victoria Livingston stated she runs Prairie Hills Resource and Conservation Development Inc. They were founded in 1976 through USDA. When that program ended they became a registered non-profit as a stand-alone organization. To date they run several different programs such as an EPA Brownfield Program that has been active since 2018. That program is what lead them to forming their landbank in this region. As they work throughout six different counties on Brownfield properties they have run into different types of obstacles. Things such as out of state land owners, unresponsive land owners and uncooperative land owners. All of those types of situations that makes it difficult to remediate and access a property for resale and redevelopment. They have been working with a team of consultants throughout the state for approximately 13 months and have determined that this region of Illinois would greatly benefit from a landbank. They are targeting McDonough, Hancock, Knox, Fulton and Warren Counties. We are currently surrounded by landbanks. There is one in the Quad Cities Region, Peoria,

Morgan and Adams County. There are not any in this part of the state. This part of the state tends to get forgotten about on things and this is no exception. Through a landbank they are able to work on industrial, commercial and residential properties that need help. Primarily, they are looking at vacant or abandoned properties. In the case of industrial or commercial they can target Brownfield Program sites and properties owned by out of state landowners who may need help navigating the process in Illinois to be able to get those properties out into active economic usage or back into housing where they belong. She is here to invite Knox Counties Board to decide to join the landbank with them. From the county at the very least they would request the cooperation of Knox County particularly in unincorporated areas if that is what is wanted or in those communities that are small that have between 250 to 1,000 residents coming in under the Counties opportunities fees instead of having to pay their own way in. Communities such as Galesburg and Abingdon they have had conversations with them. They are large enough that they have provided what their fee schedule would be to them. If they determine they want to participate as well. The county would be able to represent some of those smaller communities who may not have the budgetary funds or the staff to join the landbank themselves. At this time, they do have three communities that have signed on. They are meeting tomorrow morning to adopt their IGA and begin the process with formalization with the anticipation of holding property starting in November for the communities that have joined. At this point a county board or a municipality can join at any time. You do not have to have one to have the other. If Abingdon decides they want to join and Knox County decides that they do not want to join right now. Knox County would not be a barrier for Abingdon in their participation of the landbank and vice versa. Same thing with Galesburg not being a barrier to Knox County participating. They are asking for a three-year commitment with a $3 per capita fee. For something like a county board that would be discounting communities that would join on their own. This would not be counting the communities large like Galesburg and in that medium range like Abingdon. At the end of three years the contract can be cancelled if it is not benefiting Knox County. Entry into the landbank is rolling and can be joined at anytime. Galesburg is waiting to join right now until they see how other areas workout. This is relatively new to this part of the state. Again, they are adopting their IGA and is sure there be a few changes to the document that were previously shared. After that meeting tomorrow, she is happy to share final documents. They are also drafting policies and procedures if the board would like that shared to them. She asked if anyone had any questions.

Member Boone said in regards to acquiring properties in development you guys work with corporation's kind of eminent domain. She said she has an issue with that because she is really big with individual owners' rights and does not want to jeopardize people in her district to have eminent domain come in to build solar fields to be able to take someone's property and put that it.

Dr. Livingston said that they would not be running on an eminent domain system. They can acquire properties in a few different ways. Such as landowners ready to donate land to them do too willing to take their liability. They recognize that they have Brownfield sites and are not willing to open that can of worms themselves. Secondly, the landbank can purchase property at the county tax sales that would be beneficial to come into the landbank. Currently in Illinois there are a couple of statues on vacant and abandoned properties. They would work within the current statues if it is vacant or becoming a health hazard. In a couple communities they have had buildings fall down recently those types of properties would qualify if the municipality wanted to act on them. Their goal is to clean it up and put it back into the tax role.

Member Davidson said she thinks this is a fantastic idea. Her grandson lives in Canton where she drives to frequently. She drives through Maquon where she sees a building that used to be a store dilapidated and has fallen down on the main drag. She can see in her mind how that property could be vibrant again. That is what we need to do is by building our county up for people to have businesses and want to come back to have incomes. She was excited when they got the gas station back open in Maquon even though it is high and doesn't stop. There is so much potential in Knox County in the smaller towns. They just need to know how to just do it. Thank you for coming.

Dr. Livingston said that as an example she has spoken with Abingdon on several different occasions over the last year or two addressing properties they have in Abingdon. On Main Street they have several different buildings they would like to see something done with. The Briggs Manufacturing plant has been on their Brownfield radar for about a year now. That is an instance where there is an out of country land owner. That is relatively cooperative but lives out of the country and does not plan on doing anything other than paying his county taxes. It would be a big win for Abingdon if they could do something with that property where it is not just sitting and rotting away. Ultimately, that is what they are hoping to do. The landbank when it in fully functional will have herself and two staffers. Part of joining the landbank is access through technical assistance with regional planners. There is an attorney who has been grant funded through IDA the last few years to work with landbanks particularly on housing issues but of all of the landbank operations. In joining the landbank you gain access to a lot of those technical professionals who can help move these properties along without putting more pressure on municipalities or county employees.

Member Cohen said it was stated by Dr. Livingston that they needed a three-year agreement. He asked of why so municipalities or counties may or may not have continued the agreement.

Dr. Livingston said that they are brand new so she has not had anyone sign on and say no thank you. The reason they ask for three years is because of the legal process can be tenuous. This also allows them to clear title and go through all the legal channels that they would need. They are asking for three years of patience. She knows other landbanks in the State of Illinois have not asked for that time and have had municipalities leave mid project. Then all that time, energy, and project dollars are gone because the community decides not to stay. They would be landbank number 10 in the State of Illinois. If you go to their website which is in the documentation that was shared with you. You can see links to the other landbanks in Illinois. They are not all in the northeast corner of the state. There are several landbanks that work in the southern portion particularly east central Illinois. A lot of good things are happening outside of our more urban area that would reflect of what they would be able to do.

Chair Hawkinson said you mentioned Adams County and Quincy. He asked how successful and unsuccessful have they been. Also, have you had contact with your peers in those areas.

Dr. Livingston said that she has had some limited connection with the Quad Cities director working on trying to schedule something with her. Her knowledge of the Morgan and Adams County landbank is where one of the situations of what you put in is what you get out. The landbank is located in Jacksonville but they are also contractually working with Quincy. Jacksonville devotes a lot more time and budgetary dollars to getting projects done. So, Jacksonville has seen a lot of success and Quincy has not. Quincy sees a significantly less activity because they are not participatory. Several municipalities have asked how the budget is

spread and if it is proportional to your population. If you pay in a certain amount of dollars on an annual basis you receive the same percentage of staff time and project benefit.

Chair Hawkinson said thank you very much.

Member Robertson thanked Dr. Victoria Livingston for coming and giving the presentation. She hopes most of the questions have been answered and if not please reach out to her to answer those questions. She is very approachable and knowledgeable about it. She did not know anything about it but after learning feels Galesburg and Knox County should join it. Hopefully, we can get a vote for you next month and hopefully joining.

Dr. Livingston appreciates the invitation. She said 18 months ago she did not know this was an opportunity. That a landbank could do things in this part of Illinois. Her training is in ecology. Economics has been an interesting 18-month whirlwind. She is optimistic with the technical help they have in this state they can do a lot of work. Please email or call with any questions. Thank you!

Chair Hawkinson said some information between now and next month we will see if the Collector can brainstorm on any knowledgeable properties that may come to mind right of the back that would be beneficial right out of the shoot maybe from tax sales.

Member Friedrich said that the monthly report from the Ways and Means Committees are in the packet. He said he rushed the meeting through pretty quick because they had two budget meetings after it. He has been doing budget meetings and working hard on the General Fund which is the hardest every year. Last year was the end of the ARPA so they are really having to crunch down since they do not have the safety net to fail back on. They have a lot of work to do this year that is more than usual. They are concentrating on the General Fund and they have gotten the Landfill done with Administrator Cleair. They will move onto the other funds after they get done with the General Fund. They have another meeting coming up. He has had four meetings with the Sheriff to get his hammered down to where it needs to be before bringing it to committee which will bring next and will be the end of the General Fund. Then they will work on the others.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Resolutions on Deeds of Conveyance. Member Friedrich said that there are three of them. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Bid for Upgraded Voting Equipment. Member Friedrich mentioned that we are the last one in the state to get an upgrade. He said Kudos to Clerk Erickson and the provider for helping us to get by this long but it is time know to upgrade. There were three bidders and it is kind of confusing how the prices were. This vendor was the cheapest, have worked with and have a great working communication with. In Item 9 we will be putting it out to get a loan for the equipment. It will help the budget out to be able to stretch it over five years. Instead of paying this money all at once. Clerk Erickson will speak on this and answer questions.

Clerk Erickson thanked Member Friedrich. He said that the county is long overdue for new voting equipment. The machines are at 20 years plus now for voting. The surrounding counties have already moved and had a couple of elections under their belt. The recommended vendor was our current vendor of Government Business Systems (GBS). He stated that they have

a very strong working relationship with them. Both know what is expected of each other to get projects done. If issues arrive they are able to solve them very quickly. The new equipment will be a little different for our county voters. The touch screens that voters used votes went onto the memory card. The next generation voting equipment is all paper ballot elections. The new touch screen equipment will be a giant marking machine and printer. Instead of it saving to a memory card it will actually print out a full-size ballot that you can see who you voted for before then placing the ballot into the optical scan recording device. All the ballots would be in one recording device so if a recount or discovery would be needed the ballot secrecy would be there. There will be a lot of benefits and pluses for the county. There is a representative here from the company that drove up from Springfield answer any questions if he could not handle them.

Member Davidson asked Clerk Erickson if the new machines would be throughout the whole county and when it prints them they come out of the machine and into the bin.

Clerk Erickson said correct. Yes, you would go up to the touch screen and click like you did before but instead when it saved it on a separate memory card it would print a paper and they would be able to see on that paper who they voted for then place it in the reader for it to tabulate in that one machine.

Member Davidson said that this last election cycle there were a few people that complained that they touched it and it was not the correct person that they voted for.

Clerk Erickson said the touch screen are recalibrated to relieve some of those issues before they go out. That solves 99% of the problems which could happen on any machine. With the new system not only can you look at it on the screen you will be able to confirm on your ballot. If you see on the printed ballot that they did not mean to vote for a certain person. Then they can take it back and get a new ballot to start the process over again. It will be for anything outside the City of Galesburg.

Member Davidson said so everything outside the City of Galesburg.

Clerk Erickson said yes, we only control everything outside the City of Galesburg.

Member Davidson stated that she knows that but when you say everything. She knows there are some in the County Clerk's Office.

Clerk Erickson said right, the machines in the office would be the same as the machines that they would vote on out in the county.

Member Davidson said so they all will have them.

Clerk Erickson said yes, all machines would be new out in the county.

Member Davidson asked how many machines.

Clerk Erickson said 32 machines to cover all the machines we would need for the precincts. Also, to have stuff to early vote on and for vote by mail. There will also be a couple reserves just in case something happened to a machine and it needed swapped out.

Member Davidson asked how many precincts Clerk Erickson has.

Clerk Erickson said that there are 28 precincts. Some of those are combined in the same polling centers but there are 28 separate precincts to vote.

Member Davidson used an example of Knoxville since there are several precincts in Knoxville. She asked if it would automatically program that precinct they are from.

Clerk Erickson said that the voter would still check into the election judges like they normally would for the election judges to find the voters name and for them to sign. That is how they would establish what ballot style that voter would get. There is then a code that the election judges will put in the touch machines to establish that ballot style for them. It could be implemented by electronic poll books which would print out a barcode that they would scan at

the machine then pull their ballot style up. They would still have to do that check in process so they could only go through that once. That code would then expire and they would have to go back if they had to spoil anything.

Member Davidson said that she doesn't want for someone to vote for the wrong thing.

Clerk Erickson said right.

Member Davidson said thank you.

Member Robertson stated that technology is a wonderful thing but sometimes we use it when we don't need to use it. It sounds redundant. She wanted to know what is wrong with the current process of printing the ballot out and the person circling with the pencil or pen. Then putting it into the box. She feels a step was added that could cause more problems and could be more wasteful then useful.

Clerk Erickson stated that the Americans with Disability Act requires to have an ADA compliant device in the polling location. So, if someone came in with a different ability like they were blind or deaf it would give them the ability with these electronic machines to vote without any assistance from anyone else. It gives them their privacy and independence back. Yes, you can still vote paper ballot and fill in the ovals. A lot of the county voters love the touch screen machines. We are one of the counties in the state that lean heavy on touch screens and have tremendous success with it. Illinois put restrictions and controls into the touch screens to make sure they were fail safe which other states did not. Which would make the bad elections news role and spread like wildfire. If there was a problem with a touchscreen all the voters could be handed a paper ballot to vote on but this gives the voters that need some additional assistance to be able to have that assistance without having someone have to come with them or have two election judges of one from each party assist them in the booth. This way it allows them to be as independent as possible and hopefully vote without any assistance.

Member Robertson said in fulfilling that need for them to be independent voters would we have to refurbish the entire voting system or would we have to allow them to have access to that part of that system. She asked if that made since or could we have one or two of the voting systems and if they needed that as opposed to getting a paper ballot and filling it out.

Clerk Erickson stated we currently have that with the electronic voting system that we do not restrict the use of those machine just for those that have a special need. We allow anyone that would like to use them vote on them. That is why there is a lot of traffic on these machines especially in Knoxville where there are four precincts voting on seven touch screens. Sometimes there are only one or two ballots that come out of that whole polling location during an election cycle.

Member Robertson wanted to confirm that with the new system they would all be paper ballots.

Clerk Erickson said that they would vote on the touch screen and instead of recording on the memory card it will print it out. So, they are still getting that electronic experience but getting the safety measure of having the paper ballot. That they can look at to make sure they voted how they wanted to vote. There are vendors that print out a barcode or a QR code and have the votes cast of that were they then scan that but the voter cannot verify that. You cannot read a barcode or a QR code. This is the best method that we were able to find to show the voters exactly what they are voting. The old equipment is tough to find parts for and support for them is limited. We have been blessed to have them this long but it is time to upgrade.

Member Davidson asked how much is it.

Member Friedrich said $466,559.38.

Member Davidson asked for 30 machines.

Clerk Erickson said 32 machines. That is two machines of the optical scan reader that is actually reading the ballot and the touch screen device. Along with the software to run the equipment and memory sticks that are involved with that.

Member Robertson asked if she was looking at the right thing of bid tabulation for 2025.

Clerk Erickson said yes. It was on the G-drive for the board.

Member Robertson asked out of the three which company was it.

Clerk Erickson said that first column GPS. After it was approved at committee level with his recommendation he did reach out to the vendor for a cleaner version. All three of the vendors provided different quantities. To make an apple to apples comparison we had to recreate that bid tab sheet. Our vendor was great so we were able to get that $466,559.38 bid a little cleaner.

Member Robertson said ok, thank you.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Bid for Financing Options for Election Equipment Upgrades. Member Friedrich said for the amount of $466,559.38 have it go out for bid to try and get a loan for 5-years to help out the budget so it does not have to be paid all at once. This would authorize the Treasurer to put it out for bid to see what we get for bids. Then see what we get then next month or sometime before approve the bids and get it paid for to get the vendor satisfied.

Chair Hawkinson asked about stipulations for that bid.

Member Friedrich said the stipulations would be no refinancing fees and no prepayment penalty. He let Treasurer Davis know that the amount would be sent to her tomorrow morning. He again repeated the amount was $466,559.38

Clerk Erickson said that he would shoot Treasurer Davis an email with the amount and information in the morning like was talked about. That way she would have that to be able to present to them.

Member Robertson said for taking out a loan to pay for this to stretch it out. She asked about paying more due to interest on the loan.

Member Friedrich said that we would be paying interest on it.

Member Robertson asked if it was going to cost us more money than just paying for it.

Clerk Erickson said that the $466,559.38 was not in the budget for it. He said his office had been budgeting a small amount for it over the years as a setback. That way if they did do it we would at least have the down payment. A couple of years ago the board directed him to not put that money aside anymore and were going to the loan route or different financing route.

Member Robertson asked if this is cost effective with not paying it all up front. She asked if they are shooting themselves in the foot. She asked if they can make the payment on it and will be ok with that amount.

Member Friedrich stated that they do not know what the payment will be yet.

Clerk Erickson said that Treasurer Davis is shaking her head yes. So, we will take it whatever the payment amount is she will make sure she covers it.

Member Robertson said thank you Treasurer Davis.

Member Friedrich said that it will be much easier to budget a payment then budget the whole thing.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (10). Noes—Robertson and Davidson---(2). Motion carried.

Member Sandoval presented the monthly report from the Public Service Committees. He said the reports are in the packet and there is not a lot going on other than still working on getting the Coroner settled in an office.

. Member Cohen presented the monthly report from the Infrastructure Committee and stated that everything is in the packet. The main just of what happened during the committee was primarily the fallout of the Peoria County Landfill closing. We have Foth here to give a presentation during Item 11A. The landfill is filling up faster due to the closer so we need to move faster on opening up landfill 4.

Chair Hawkinson said 11A is the presentation from Foth Engineering from Josh Gabehart and Mark Williams.

Josh Gabehart said he is with Foth and with him is Mark Williams. Mr. Gabehart asked for the presentation to be brought up on the screen. They have been waiting for landfill 3 to fill up to the point where they then get to build some stuff. He explained and gave a presentation on why it cost so much to build a landfill and what it all involves. Attached to the minutes is the Foth presentation given by Josh Gabehart on pages 16-24. They want to bid it out in 2025 to get it going with some of their preferred vendors. It will be publicly bid and will start construction in 2026 if all these items fall into place. Then get into 2027 with the next phase of construction. They are looking at $16 million dollar spent in the first three years. Then they take a break and see how the projections are filling up. Then in 2032 they will be looking at the next phase. They are looking to get the prices locked in as soon as possible due to prices are always going up.

Mark Williams said that landfill 3 will be filled in 2027-2028.

Mr. Gabehart said yes, the current projection is based on the increase of waste that is coming in. We are looking at 2027-2028 on this. This is the first presentation to the board of the larger picture of all of this. Landfill Administrator Cleair will have a lot more coming to you on other things as we go along. This is to prepare you because $16 million dollars is a lot of money to spend over a few years but for the landfill to continue to operate this is how landfills are operated. This infrastructure needs built to accept more waste.

Landfill Administrator Cleair said that this is what needs done in order to keep money coming in. It still takes over 35 years before the land can be used again.

Mr. Gabehart said once you accept your last load into the landfill and then there is no money coming in. You then have a minimum of 30 years that you have to monitor for gas, ground water and that is just the EPA minimum.

Landfill Administrator Cleair stated that landfill 1 and 2 are not modern landfills and EPA will probably never release due to it was done in trenches.

Mr. Gabehart said yes, a lot of the old landfill were done as trenches and that is not a good way so that is why they have the rules that they have now that they have to follow. There is a lot of expenses through the life of a landfill once you stop accepting waste.

Chair Hawkinson said he had two questions. He said knows he sees it in the monthly reports but just for everyone else to know he asked how much more trash have we received since Peoria closer.

Landfill Administrator Cleair said right now its demo season so you see a lot more. There are several large projects that they see 500 tons a day sometimes. It started towards the end of October last year. He doesn't think people thought Peoria would close with no alternative. He has seen more GFL trucks and a ton of small loads that are $50 or $60 but it all adds up. The big difference is instead of doing 75-80 trucks they are doing maybe 115 trucks.

Chair Hawkinson said his last question is from the word go to start the next phase of landfill 4 what would be the timeline for it to be useable at this rate. If landfill 3 is only good until 2026 or 2027.

Mr. Gabehart said that significant completion they could get close to October or November of next year. For full operations would be in the summer of the following year. Due to permits and data that needs to be provided to the EPA once built which takes about three to four months. That is if everything goes perfectly. Mr. Williams talked to the permit reviewers today. The way the bureau is set up is the permit has ground water and land group. The land group and ground water section have approved it and it is now sitting on the permit managers desk waiting to be signed. They are supposed to have it by the beginning of September.

Mr. Williams said what he heard today is they are good with it but it is up to the permit manager to sign it.

Landfill Administrator Cleair thought originally that this would not have to be talked about for another six months or this time next year. They also thought they would have the power situation handled by then which will take money and time.

Member Davidson said she remembers when she was chair and landfill 3 came in and working with Foth. She said that we cannot say no. This is something that is going to be a well needed thing for our county. Now we know surrounding counties like Peoria will also be in need. Landfills close all the time. She remembers Administrator Cleair doing training in Wisconsin when he started. We need a maintenance thing where they can have showers. They come in dirty and have to go into the weigh scale and have to go down into the basement which should not happen. Make a U-turn in the weigh scale and you are in a semi which should not happen. They need the updates. They need bins or trailers so customers do not have to drive back and get a nail in their tires. They need color coding to know what is recyclable and other things. We do not have the two pickups in Galesburg in the Spring and Fall anymore so they dump stuff on the side of the highway. So, this is needed. She says no on a lot of things but is not saying no on this. The landfill is the backbone to our county. Financially it has been the best for us and surrounding counties. She asked people to not say no.

Landfill Administrator Cleair stated that the county has always done a spectacular job with keeping costs down but the rates at the landfill are going to have to be raised. Depending on what the bond comes out as. It will definitely need raised to cover what the yearly payment will be. It is hard to get prices due to they see caller ID and do not want to give their prices out. He is guessing at least $20 a ton just for that. Peoria at the end was a $90 load but for Knox County it is only a $12 load. The other reason is they do not want the small loads. Again, the rates have been great for years but will have to be raised.

Mr. Gabehart confirmed that Knox County landfill rates are a lot lower than other surrounding landfills in the area. Those landfills have done construction projects to get those fees raised up.

Chair Hawkinson thanked them for coming down and speaking.
Mr. Gabehart said thank you and is hoping to come back soon with more information.

Motion was made by Member Cohen and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the payment of Invoice for Jail Laundry & Medical Project – Draw #10 for $5,679.08. Member Cohen said that they have been working on the laundry and medical for a while of the jail. Anyone that has done a tour the rooms are kind of next to each other. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (11). Noes—Davidson---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Cohen and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the payment of Invoice for Mary Davis Home Project – Draw #2 - $343,765.01. Member Cohen stated that this is for work that is already completed at the Mary Davis Home of Draw #2 like last month with Draw #1.
Chair Hawkinson commented that this is majority for the roofing and engineering costs that have incurred for getting the project ready to go. A lot of this work was completed before the work was paused or was in the middle of it. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (11). Noes—Davidson---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Cohen and seconded by Member Kramer to approve payment for Nursing Home Solar Project – Draw #2 - $687,923.04. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (11). Noes—Thierry---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Cohen and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Software Purchases – Single Sign-on Multi Factor Authentication & Sensible Data Compliance. Member Cohen said that this is just setting a rule that a multifactor authentication will be needed on most technical data going forward for security purposes. Everyone knows that it is needed for everything.
Chair Hawkinson stated that nothing is being purchased. It is just a resolution to establish the procedure for programming going forward.
Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). 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. He stated that Items 17, 18 and 19 were removed.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Re-appointment of Sonia Hochstetler as Chief County Assessor Starting September 1, 2025. Member Kramer stated that this is to approve Sonia Hochstetler as the County Assessor. It does not include any contractual negotiations that are currently happening. This is just so she has the title so all reimbursements come from the state. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—

Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Cohen and Olinger— (11). Noes—Friedrich---(1). 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 Kramer and seconded by Member Olinger to approve Opening of Budget for Line Item Changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson stated that the budget line item changes are in the packet and that there were several.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick for the approval of Proposed Line Item Changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that the manual check review is in the packet. He stated that there are several in there. He asked Treasurer Davis if they were from jury.

Treasurer Davis said that she thought it was for Grand Jury.

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 August 2025, Board Meeting in July, and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Chair Hawkinson stated that the total was $3,236.60. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of July 24, 2025 through August 27, 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 $3,976,096.77.

Member Davidson stated that during their committee meeting it was mentioned that the Veteran's Assistance had several false alarms.

Chair Hawkinson said yes, they have now moved the location of the alarm since it was in a bad location.

Member Davidson said ok.

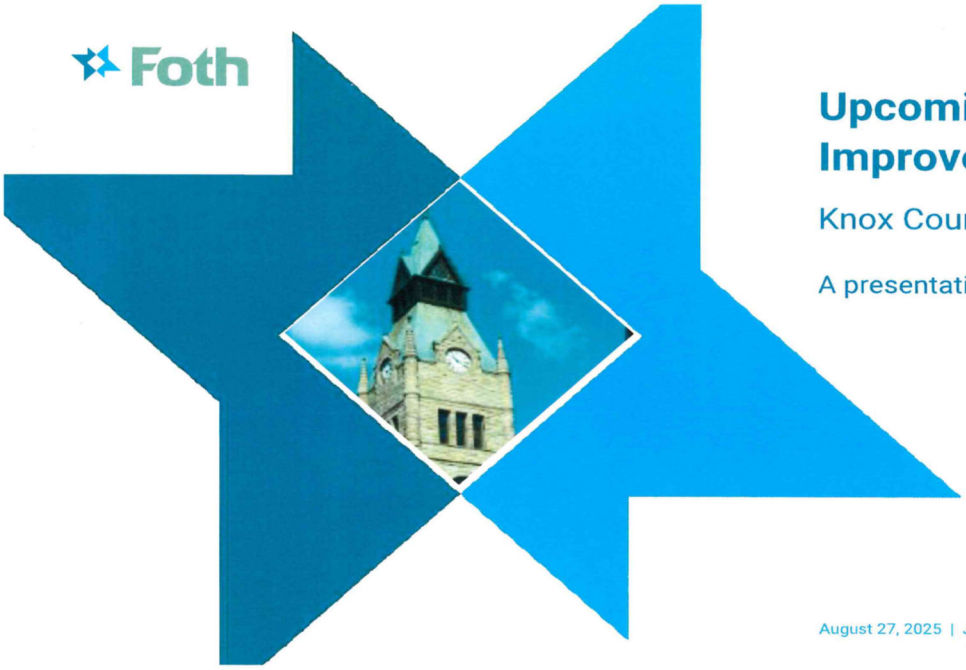
Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 2025 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 by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Boone to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

***Attached is Foth presentation pages 16-24.

Foth



Upcoming Capital Improvements

Knox County Landfill

A presentation to:

August 27, 2025 | Josh Gabehart

Upcoming Capital Improvements 2026-2027

- Landfill 4
  - Infrastructure
  - Cell 1
- Landfill 3
  - Stormwater
  - Gas Collection (partial)
- Electrical
- Public Drop off
- Maintenance Building



Upcoming Capital Improvements 2032-2040

- Landfill 3
  - Gas Collection (partial)
  - Final Cover
- Landfill 4 Cell 2
- Property Acquisition



Landfill 4

- Infrastructure:
  - Stormwater basin
  - Perimeter roads
  - Fencing
- Cell 1 (~8 acres):
  - Underdrain system
  - Clay, geomembrane liner
  - Leachate pumps and collection system



Landfill 4 – Example Landfill

- Clay Liner Construction ->

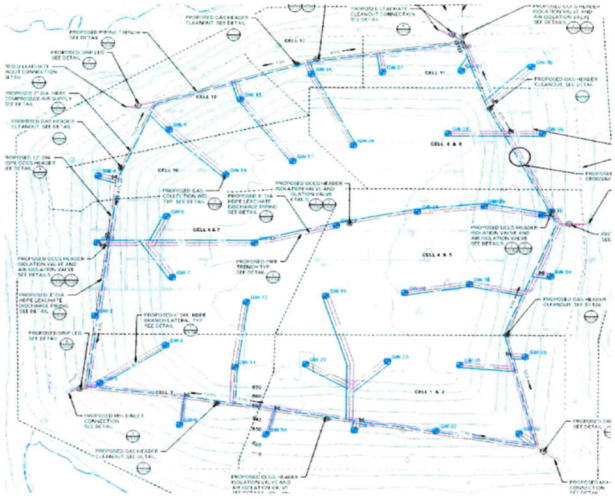




- Geomembrane and leachate collection in progress
- Stormwater basin in foreground

Landfill 3

- Stormwater:
  - Ditches
  - Basin, Inlet, Outlet
  - Berms
- Gas Collection System:
  - Vertical gas wells
  - Horizontal piping
  - Blower/flare
- Final Cover



Public Drop-Off

- Relocate Public Drop-off near Scalehouse
- Increase User Friendliness
- Significantly increase safety

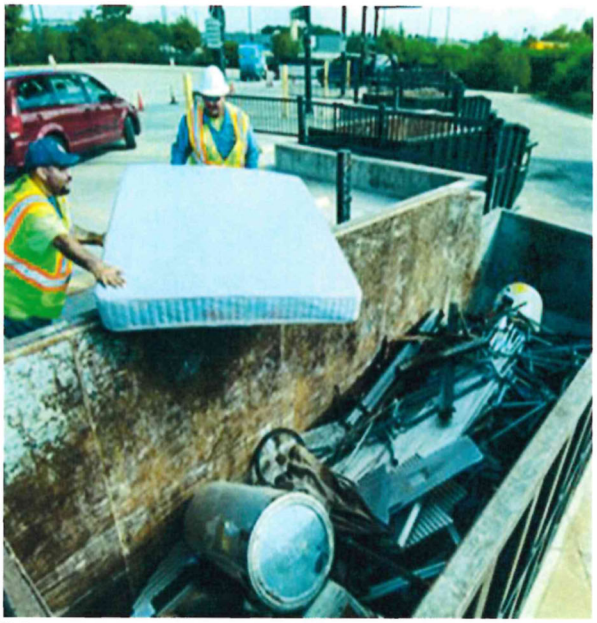
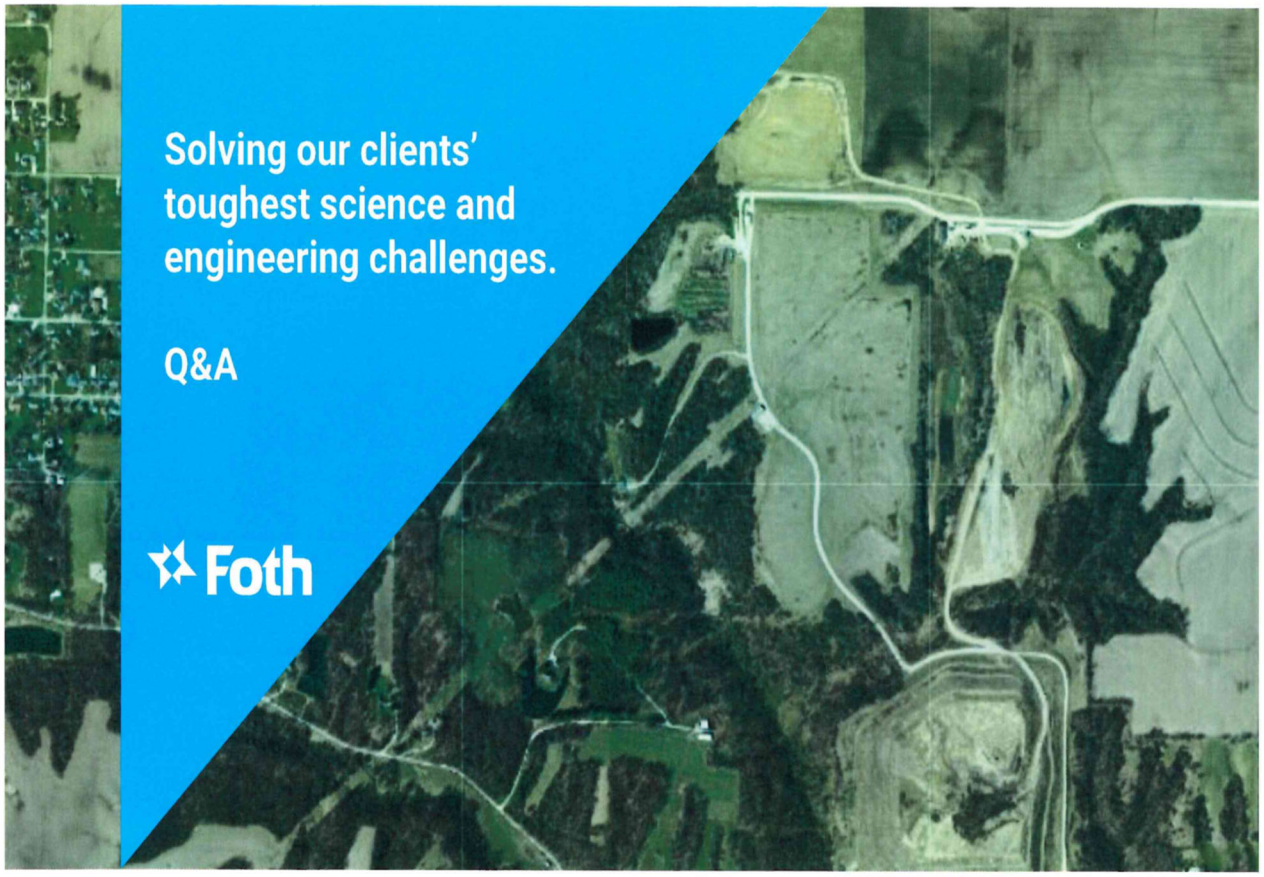


Photo source: sa.gov

Cost and Schedule Estimates

	Summary	Totals	Running Total
2025	Soil Management Plan, LF4 Bidding	$ 369,000	$ 369,000
2026	Public Drop, Electrical, LF4, LF3 Stormw.	$ 9,755,000	$ 10,124,000
2027	Maintenance Bldg, LF3 Gas Ph 1	$ 4,832,000	$ 14,956,000
2028	none	$ -	$ 14,956,000
2029	none	$ -	$ 14,956,000
2030	none	$ -	$ 14,956,000
2031	none	$ -	$ 14,956,000
2032	LF3 Gas Ph 2 and Final Cover Ph 1	$ 7,421,000	$ 22,377,000
beyond	LF4 Cell 2	$ 3,320,000	$ 25,697,000
beyond	Property Acquisition	$ 2,000,000	$ 27,697,000
beyond	LF3 Final Cover Ph 2	$ 3,890,000	$ 31,587,000
		$ 32,000,000	

- Includes 20% Contingency, Engineering, Construction Cost Estimates
- Costs in 2025 dollars


Solving our clients' toughest science and engineering challenges.
Q&A
Foth