PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
KNOX COUNTY, ILLINOIS

July 29, 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, July 29, 2026 at 6:01 p.m. This meeting was presented via teleconference for viewing only. The YouTube channel link can be found on the County website. You can view the meeting on the Knox County YouTube channel. After the meeting is over you review it and are able to download it.

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

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

And those absent: District 4 Todd Olinger

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

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

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

Member Bondi asked for Infrastructure to be moved up.

Chair Hawkinson confirmed that Infrastructure would move up to after the Consent Agenda. He stated there were no objections and there were no additions.

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

Pam Davidson said good afternoon everyone. She lives in Galesburg, Illinois, District 3. She spoke about the annual back to school cookout by the NAACP Galesburg branch. They have held it for 18 years at Kiwanis Park. All are welcome of the county to the city. They have fed 400 people plus. It is really good tasty food. Since she is a vegetarian there is also vegetarian burgers. They give out backpacks with school supplies. There are a lot of people that are hurting and their kids need to go to school with school supplies and backpacks. They are honored to be able to pass out over 250 backpacks with school supplies. There are all kinds of exhibitors such as our own Knox County Health Department that will be giving out toothbrushes and stuff. It is August 8th from 10-2 p.m. The sheriff department will also be there and everybody is out there to support children to start school healthy and with the supplies they need. She hopes that everyone can join them so they have a full house. Join them as Kiwanis Park on August 8th from 10-2 p.m. Thank you.

Debra Florio said good evening to everyone also to Chair Hawkinson and Members of the Board. She is speaking on behalf of neighbors in Galesburg. Nothing is on the agenda tonight about this. They are here early because the trajectory engine partners have proposed a four-megawatt solar facility. The panels are up to 20 feet tall and they would be right behind their homes on Lincoln Park Drive. The Galesburg Planning and Zoning Commission voted 8 to zero twice to deny it. The developer has withdrawn but they are pretty sure they're going to come to Knox County next. They wanted them to hear about this before that occurs. A few numbers worth knowing are the setback proposed to the city was 20 feet behind their property line. With a fence on only one side. Knox County required 500 feet with full screening for the Blackberry Solar Project. This land that she is speaking about is zoned rural residential where commercial solar isn't a permitted use. So, it would need a rezoning. They have understood that the county is considering replacing its entire wind, solar, and storage ordinances which would be E, F and G appendixes to match new state law. She said whatever replaces appendix F is what this project would get judged under. They are asking that the rewrite keep or strengthen today's protections. One last thing is that they still do not know if there is an easement behind their homes. They want that disclosed before the application moves forward. They are not asking for a vote or anything tonight just that when this project comes through you hold it to the same standards Knox County applies to everyone else. She asked everyone to raise their hands that were present for the same reason. Several raised their hands in the audience and she said that this was just a small representation of them. They plan to come to these meetings as the solar politics move forward. She turned in packets for the board about the project that were about 10 pages. Thank you very much.

Ken Springer stated that he is with the Knox County Partnership for Economic Development. He provided an update on the Galesburg Agricultural Intermobile Export Facility Project. This is the grain export project that they have been working on in conjunction with the City of Galesburg for the city's business park alongside I-74 near Knoxville. The city and KCAP have been working on the different federal requirements for the $25 million DOT grant and they are making good progress over the last year on that. Coming up there will be a 60-day public comment period that will be opening soon. Once they have the details they will bring it back to this board to share the detail so it can be passed along to their constituents. He is excited to see the progress on this project. He heard in the media coverage a few weeks back a group called Burlington Junction Railway recently entered into a memorandum of understanding with the city to help market the remaining acreage of the park. KCAP's team is working very closely with their team on the marketing to identify and contact potential users for the remaining portion of the site. These efforts combined with KCAP's increased attendance at trade shows and outreach. Hopefully, it is going to yield additional user or users for the remaining portion of the park.

Secondly, He wanted to put a plug in tonight for KCAP's upcoming annual meeting on Wednesday, August 12th which will start at 10 a.m. at the Galesburg Civic Art Center. The event is free but people need to register if they are going to attend. The keynote speaker is going to be Colleen Callahan. Colleen is a former Illinois DNR Director and a former Rural Development Director for Illinois USDA. She is a great speaker and it is going to be a great program. If interested in registering call the office at 309-343-1194 or email Abby on their team at abby@knoxpartnership.com. Again, that is Wednesday, August 12th at 10 a.m. at the Galesburg Civic Art Center. The doors will open at 9:30 a.m. He hopes to see everyone there and said thank you very much.

Connie Main said she is from Altona, Illinois. She said that she is here again to talk about unenforced animal control statues, ordinances and FOIA non-transparency. She is upset about illegal dogs having more rights than them. This legislative body pays half the salaries of the county dog wardens and most county government positions. She wants to know if nothing is going to be done to violators why are we paying huge salaries and providing vehicles for the two animal wardens. Along with other law enforcement officers that pretend to respond but do nothing to these repeat offenders for 10 years now in the county. This is out of hand and should be illegal and is irritating of at-large attacking non-inoculated, non-registered dogs that she feels has more rights than them. They are not happy that the dogs keep attacking them and are not inoculated or registered with no accountability or responsibility by these repeat offenders. Especially, after they are so harshly and illegally punished by the law for complaining about them which she will not stop anytime soon. Many times, they have told the board about this over the years without any response or comment from any of them. They have emailed, text and some were mailed letters. Last month, they were all notified by email including the sheriff. She also told them that she believed her car was scratched by one of the continuously at-large attacking dogs. Last month after she left the county board meeting she was attacked again by the 2018 household repeat offending dog and then again by the same dog two to three times since then. She feels as for FOIA transparency, it is as reliable as a dead car battery. One of her FOIA requests was about a dog in Altona that had bitten someone and was quarantined for ten days. Another was about a dog that bite an Amazon driver on East Knox St. The other is about the household whose dog she believes scratched her car, which was only about a half mile from the quarantine dog bit situation. She has been denied all of them. In the past, if any information was received she said the dog's identity was even redacted as well as the owners name and address. She asked how they would know if that was the correct dog information that was sent to FOIA and if they could find out if the repeat offenders were made accountable and responsible. She said that you cannot. She feels that the above the law people continue their illegal behaviors just like what has happened going on 10 years now. She said she has proof of at least three recent denied non-transparent FOIA attempts that she wants put on the record tonight regarding those dogs. She had some of the same proof in 18 and 20 when the taxpay government decided to violate them instead of the offenders. She doesn't know if it is just them or a problem with the new FOIA officer and feels something needs to get changed.

Lastly, one of those repeat offenders continue to mow their property against their knowledge and wishes. She said if this would happen to the board of what continues to happen to them she knows they wouldn't want anyone touching one blade of your grass anywhere either. She feels they would be upset about the dogs too. She told them to do their jobs and do it better than they have.

Chair Hawkinson thanked everyone for speaking during public comment.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the regular Board Meeting on June 24, 2026. 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of April 2026 in the amounts of $168,251.46 and $62,948.09 and public safety tax in the amount of $291,034.63. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Abstain--Thierry--(1). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson stated that Committee on Infrastructure and subsequent action items will be next with Member Bondi.

Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Infrastructure Committee. He stated that minutes and report are in the packet and asked if there were any comments or questions.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Cohen to approve the Payment to IEPA for Quarterly Tonnage Fee of $47,021.22 for the Landfill. Member Bondi stated that this payment happens in the middle of the pay period prior to this meeting. It has actually been paid already. It is consistent with state statutes of what we would owe. He likes to always bring it to subcommittee and the full board. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Robertson to approve Agreement for Services with FOTH for the Knox County Oversite Landfill #4 construction, Landfill #3 final cover/gas system Design, and Construction, Residential Drop-Off Construction, Three Phase Electrical Engineering Services, and Maintenance Building Engineering Service in amount of $1,256,300. Member Bondi stated that the description and contract is in the packet. A representative of Foth and also our current director for the landfill is here if there are any questions. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Thierry to approve Agreement with Klingner & Associates for Landfill #4 Soil Testing in Amount of $110,000. Member Bondi stated that the representative from Klingner & Associates is here if you have any question and the agreement is in your packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Agreement with Klingner & Associates for Geotechnical Investigation, Land Survey, Architectural Design and Structural Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing Engineering for New Maintenance Building in amount of $121,000. Member Bondi stated the agreement is in the packet and a representative from Klingner & Associates is here if you have any questions. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Request for Payment – Nursing Home Performance Contract Application #11 for $148,578.58. Member Bondi stated that the invoices are in place and it is a $7,659,903.59 contract. There is $329,786.71 in completed retainage. The balance left on the contract is $1,393,956.08.

Member Davidson said she has the same question that she asks every time about having the performance contracts but they are supposed to give in writing of the savings they are supposed to have. They are supposed to turn it into that department or the Treasurer's office and she has never seen any. She said that none have been turned in. She said that we are continuously paying on these and doing what we are supposed to do. She asked when are they going to do what they are supposed to do.

Member Bondi said that they will be able to analyze and understand the savings once the projects are complete. They will take a look at the utility costs are and the savings costs as far as the actual functionality of the property. That is when they would be able to have a proper analysis of the savings.

Member Davidson asked if Member Bondi was the company.

Member Bondi replied pardon.

Member Davidson asked if he was the company that is holding the performance contract.

Member Bondi replied that he cannot understand what she is saying.

Member Davidson asked again if he was the company holding the performance company because they are supposed to be the ones to give it to us and we haven't received anything.

Chair Hawkinson said that he would answer that. He said the answer is there is no data to compare year or year-over-year analysis because the project is not complete.

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

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Pay Request for Mary Davis Home Performance Contract Project Application #9 for $172,554.82. Member Bondi stated that it is for the Mary Davis Home and not for the Nursing Home like the agenda says.

Member Robertson apologized for not being able to be at the committee meeting this month. She asked if more work was done at the Mary Davis Home. She thought that they had paused everything.

Member Bondi replied that they need to complete certain items that were already in motion. He said that they are saving a little over $550 or $560,000 for the items that they were actually able to stop. These are the items that were already in the middle of being done or materials that had been ordered and were going to be delivered to the property. They are going to investigate the possibility of any materials that will not be put in place on the property to see if they can get a credit or sell those items. They are completing those items that were partially done or already in process.

Member Robertson asked if those items are now completely done at the Mary Davis Home.

Member Bondi replied that he believes that there is going to be at least one more bill.

Chair Hawkinson replied that there might be several more. The pay request for this period is billed for security systems and fire systems.

Member Robertson asked why they are finishing the security system.

Chair Hawkinson replied that they are required under statute. It is still occupied and considered a detention center that is not open but you have security cameras that have to be put in and fire systems due to it still being occupied by employees.

Member Robertson replied ok and thank you.

Member Pugh asked for clarification that it was Mary Davis Home and not Nursing Home.

Member Bondi replied that it is the Mary Davis Home. It was an error in the agenda.

Member Thierry asked if that would be fixed and updated in the documentation to show the correct facility.

Clerk Erickson replied yes.

Member Cohen asked for confirmation that the work is done but they will have a few more bills flowing in over time.

Member Bondi said for what was still done.

Member Robertson asked if money is actually being saved with the pause. She said that it sounds like the work is still being done so money is not being saved since bills are still being paid.

Chair Hawkinson replied that we still have obligations to pay for services rendered. We still have bills coming in for services rendered. We are responsible and required under contract agreement to pay those bills. It has been discussed by Member Bondi and the committee was that there are other items that have been paused that will not be completed and will end up with a savings of around $500,000. We have to pay for time and services that have already been rendered. We can vote no all we want but then we are going to get sued since the services have already been rendered. He said hopefully that answers your question.

Member Bondi said that they successfully stopped.

Chair Hawkinson replied correct.

Member Davidson asked if they were paying storage fees since that would be a continuous bill if they are paying storage for the material that is not being used

Member Bondi asked Member Cohen if he had looked on the last invoice if there were any storage fees.

Member Robertson replied yes there is storage fees and he sent a letter on May 13th asking what they would do with the material that was ordered that is in the company's possession for the Mary Davis Home.

Member Cohen replied that they can ask to see if it has been moved somewhere and if there is a fee. From what he understands there was not but they can reach out to them just to be safe.

Member Bondi replied that they will but his understanding is that they are not being charged any storage fee. He asked Member Robertson about seeing a letter.

Member Robertson said that there is a letter from Trent on May 13th asking what should be done with the material that was being stored. It says in the heading stored material fee and how much we are getting charged. She feels we need to clear that.

Member Bondi replied that he has not seen an invoice to that effect at this point and time that he can remember.

Chair Hawkinson replied stating as far as he knows they have not been charged any storage fees yet.

Member Bondi replied that they will get specifics on that and if they have to move that stuff to the Mary Davis Home where they should have room to store it. He said that it was a good point and thank you.

Member Nache asked why we are paying to have security updated on a facility. She said that they said it was because of statutes that we have to. She asked where they would find that in the statutes and why are we paying for security out there when there are no children there. She said the ones out there are from the basement because of the bathrooms being redone and probation that has always been out there. She doesn't understand about having to supply security and the statute in a building that has no children. She said that is her question if they can answer it for her.

Member Bondi answered that the improvements were in motion and had to be finalized. He said as far as the monitoring side he doesn't think that they are paying for any monitoring at this point and time. If they have to they will do it within our own IT department.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Friedrich— (9). Noes—Robertson, Thierry, Nache and Davidson--- (4). Abstain---Pugh---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Pugh to approve the Purchase of Service Truck from Koenig Body and Equipment in Amount of $111,533 for the Highway. Member Bondi read that the highway department needed to replace a 2002 Freightliner service truck with 56,000 miles. The service body has many areas that are nearly rusted through completely. The Koeing Body and Equipment has a 2024 GM5500 cab/chassis with less than 1,000 miles. It falls within the funds of the highway equipment replacement and the balance of that information is in your packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Pugh to approve Bid and Bring Back for Furnish and Install a New Dump Body and Snow Removal Equipment for the Highway. Member Bondi read that in April of this year, the board approved the purchase of a new Mack tandem cab and chassis. The new Mack should be delivered to us in September. The dump body and snow removal equipment will be added to this chassis. The budget amount is estimated to be $175,000. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Member Bondi thanked Chair Hawkinson for allowing him to go in advance.

Chair Hawkinson stated that next he will go back to Items for the Chair which is Item 3.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Proclamation on National Health Center Week. Chair Hawkinson stated that the week of August 3rd through August 9th, 2026 will be National Health Center Week in Knox County. He said short of any objections in leu of reading it into record he will enter it into the record as it is place in the board packet.

Member Davidson stated that our health department does a wonderful job and our nursing home is doing great. So, if we're celebrating the National Health Center Week, we have one of the best in Knox County. She said that it is very seldom that she says something like that.

Chair Hawkinson agreed.

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

***Member Bondi left at 6:34 p.m.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the appointment to Williamsfield Sanitary District of Charles Sams. Chair Hawkinson stated that this is a re-appointment and all the information is in the board packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss and Cohen— (12). Noes— (0). Abstain---Friedrich---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the appointment to Galesburg Sanitary District of Rick Welty. Chair Hawkinson stated that this is a re-appointment and all the information is in the board packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Weiss to approve Contracts with IT Network Administrator and Assistant Network Administrator. Chair Hawkinson stated that all the information is on the G-drive and was discussed prior.

Member Davidson said that she read it on the G-drive and asked about them having flex time. She said that we do not have flex time in our personal policy. She asked how they can do that and does not understand.

Chair Hawkinson replied that flex time was added as an incentive in lieu of overtime because they are on call 24 hours a day which was part of their original hiring package.

Member Davidson asked if they should do something with their personal policy.

Chair Hawkinson replied that it is in the process as well but they can always incorporate that or something similar in the personal policy. For the sake of these two contracts it is just part of their original hiring package.

Member Davidson asked how they keep track of it. If it is through their supervisor.

Chair Hawkinson replied through their supervisor and the time keeping system if they exceed the amount of time.

Member Robertson said that she hates to drag the poor guys any longer but due to the fact that she did not see it until she got here. She did not have time to review it due to it not being loaded until 1:00 today. Either she will abstain or she thinks it should be tabled until next meeting when we have more time to look at the full contract. She asked if the State's Attorney reviewed the contract.

Chair Hawkinson replied that she has not but that the labor attorney has.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Kramer, Sandoval, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen and Friedrich— (8). Noes—Robertson, Pugh and Davidson--- (3). Abstain---Thierry and Nache---(2). Motion carried.

Vice-Chair Friedrich said that the monthly report from the Ways and Means Committees are in the packet. He said one thing that they talked about is that he will start looking at possible dates for budget stuff to see when they can get them started. He has spoken to some department heads that have some stuff turned in and they are ready to get started on some budget stuff.

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Pugh to approve Bid and Bring Back for Workman's Compensation, Liability and Vehicle Insurance. Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that they do this every year and there are no numbers to approve until they get it back. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Bond Ordinance for Landfill Projects. Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that this does not bind them to anything according to the treasurer. This is for the time frame of when the landfill would need the money so they need to get this started. This has to be done this month then next month their vote will bind them to a bond. They will also look into other things such as local banks bidding out part of this or maybe not. They are still investigating and next month they will have more information after investigating more.

Member Nache said that the bond guy is present and asked Vice-Chair Friedrich if they had questions could they ask him.

Vice-Chair Friedrich replied yes.

Member Nache asked what would be better in a case like this when talking about $30 million dollars. She asked if a bank or bond would be better for them and wants to know how he feels since this is what he does.

Kyle Harding from Chapman and Cutler replied that he appreciates that question. They appreciate the opportunity to work with the county and serve the county as bond council. In that capacity with this proposed financing our role is on the validity, state law validity as well as federal tax exemption. Your summary was perfect for the authorizing ordinance there. This is a necessary step but not sufficient. There are actually two additional actions. There will be a public hearing as well as a third corporate action which would be to authorize the sale of the bonds. It would be that third ordinance where the manner of sale would be addressed in the document. He said that he is not the financial adviser. There is an independent financial adviser which is Spear Financial, that has a fiduciary duty to the county that has proposed a structure of a negotiated underwriting. It is 100% true that's not the only manner of sale. A lot of his clients do direct placements with a local bank or local banks. There are a few aspects of this financing which even though this is not a legal issue, he knows that it was driving the recommendation and that is the length of the issuance being a 20-year issuance. It is longer then what you'll find with a lot of direct bank placements as well as the size of the transaction. Banks have market to market type rules that have certain impacts on their ability to hold that kind of paper. He agreed that they are 100% correct that there's no plan of finance that is set forth in here. What the ordinance does is it says landfill projects not to exceed $30 million dollar which is the first step. Publication of the ordinance if adopted in the Register Mail which will start a 30-day petition period. The general assembly allows you to issue these bonds on a non-referendum basis but you have to go through that 30-day petition period. The county has done this before most recently in 2022 with an $8 million-dollar alternate bond financing. An alternate bond has a backup tax levy. It has a pledged revenue source which is the landfill revenues but there is a backup tax levy. That tax levy provides security to the investor which means they are going to demand a lower coupon. It is a very secure way to borrow. It is only one of three ways you can borrow. Whether you're going directly to the bank or you're doing a negotiated underwriting, you're selling a bond. You are a nonhome governmental unit. You only have the authority that the general assembly has given you and there are not very many non-referendum borrowing alternatives that the county has access to. He said your question is really more about who's the right purchaser for that. He can tell all the requirements but ultimately that is a financial advisor of which will ultimately deliver the best value for the county. That is currently contemplated as a negotiated underwriting given the size of the transaction.

Member Davidson said that he answered it. Thank you.

Vice-Chair Friedrich thanked Mr. Harding for coming and answering the questions.

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

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Purchase of Replacement Sheriff Vehicles. Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that this is for three vehicles and that the sheriff just sent him a text that he had to take the dog out for an incident out on 74 so he is not here to explain it. He said that he will explain the best that he can. This is for three vehicles outfitted. The amount is $238,437.71 and there are three different prices since there are three different ones. He has the money in the budget and some of the money is coming from DCFS because every year they pay for a quarter of a vehicle. The same thing with the town contracts, they pay for a quarter of the vehicle. He is taking money from different revenue sources to buy these vehicles.

Chair Hawkinson said that he can explain it a little more.

Vice-Chair Friedrich said to go ahead.

Chair Hawkinson explained that $231,123.87 is available in the county sheriff vehicle fund, $45,000 is available in the DCFS fund that is specifically allocated for vehicles and $36,000 is in the school resource officer fund designated specifically for vehicles. They will be replacing a vehicle with over 151,000 miles on one, a K9 vehicle exceeding 109,000 miles but the engine is no longer good and another one that has 178,000 miles. Those are the three vehicles.

Member Davidson asked if these vehicles are the ones used to go to the school resource officers.

Vice-Chair Friedrich replied that these vehicles will go to the patrol. Then the older vehicles will move down to the school resource officers because they do not react to calls near as much as the other guys.

***Member Thierry left at 6:47 p.m.

Member Davidson said that we always talk about mileage, mileage, mileage. She knows that it is not a part of it what they are voting on today but by them driving to Macomb and outside the county they are still putting miles on them from highway miles to city miles. She will be voting no because it is just too much money. Thank you.

Member Nache said that she is going to ask the same question she asked last year. She asked if they are going to be replacing more vehicles next year.

Vice-Chair Friedrich replied that they will be replacing vehicles every year. They wear out and they do not just sit. There is a plan in place to replace three vehicles a year. He knows he wanted more than three last year and he negotiated down to three. He is sure he would talk five a year but three a year suffices him and keeps them going. They are still getting more miles on them then what he wants. You either pay for it in new vehicles or you pay for it in maintenance. Last year we took cars out but then we had to up his maintenance since the cars are getting more miles. One way or another you pay for it whether in maintenance or new vehicles.

Member Robertson said on the gas sheet of all the vehicles that he has there are nine that do not get gas every month. She asked if they are getting rid of those cars so they can stop insuring them. If they are too high mileage can they get them to auction so they can buy more cars. She feels he is accumulating but not getting rid of anything.

Vice-Chair Friedrich replied that he cannot answer that question but will get that question answered and let her know.

Member Robertson said that there are nine sitting there not getting gas and there is a motorcycle. She asked if they approved a motorcycle for the sheriff's department.

Vice-Chair Friedrich replied no we did not.

Member Robertson asked if it was a county vehicle or is it a private vehicle that we are gassing because it is on the gas sheet. There are miles being put on it.

Chair Hawkinson said point of order. He gets what she is getting at and that could be discussed and addressed appropriately but the motion on the table is for the purchase of the three vehicles not what fleet we have or what we did not approve previously.

Member Fredrick said that it is hard to approve something when we do not know what we already have so she is with her on that. We have nine that are sitting there and a motorcycle out there. It is hard to approve this with not knowing that.

Chair Hawkinson replied that the question was asked and answered for the nine which he agrees that they need to do that but they need to stay on focus. They are here to talk about the purchase of three vehicles and replace the ones that are listed.

Member Robertson replied that it is nice that he has it in his budget but it would be nice that he would save it if he doesn't really necessarily need those vehicles. If there are nine vehicles that are not even being used we need to get rid of them then she would maybe feel more comfortable buying three more vehicles.

Vice-Chair Friedrich replied that he will ask and get that question answered for her.

Member Robertson replied that the vehicles are not that old.

Member Davidson said that this is her second question. She said that they voted on two or three months ago for three vehicles and now trying to get three more. It was said that you allotted him down to three cars and that is six.

Chair Hawkinson replied that we budgeted three vehicles out of his specific line item for vehicles. These vehicles that are being requested to be replaced are coming out of different accessible line items specifically for vehicles.

Vice-Chair Friedrich replied that some of the vehicles you are talking about Member Davidson are vehicles that got totaled with deer hits. He thinks they lost three vehicles with deer hits that was not planned. He knows at least two got totaled and he is not sure about the third.

Member Davidson said that the money they are pulling them out of for those vehicles should be used for that. If it is coming from the Mary Davis Home and their schools. She said not the Mary Davis Home but the DCFS and the schools. They should be used for the schools instead of rotated out. She understands what he said but thank you.

Chair Hawkinson commented that he totally understands a lot of the comments and the money is allocated. He would like everyone to explain to those that live outside of the city limits of Galesburg who replace their vehicles on a two-year rotation. You have good response vehicles here and your help in the city limits of Galesburg are less than 3 minutes away. When they are running 720 square miles in the county. Those that live in the county demand and require reliable vehicles to respond to their emergencies. That is why he supports the measure just because the people in the far corner of Lafayette, which takes 45 minutes to get there on normal speed, they're no less in the demand for emergency response than anybody that lives in a city that has immediate response.

Member Cohen said that he just wanted to say that as much as that argument is incredibly valid, we've also made that argument for almost every purchase in the past. He is not saying that it is not true but it will never not be true. The other things still need to be considered as well in those situations.

Member Kramer stated that the money has already been budgeted that all of us have voted on by the way.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss and Friedrich— (8). Noes—Robertson, Davidson and Cohen--- (3). Abstain---Pugh---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Job Description for Solid Waste Director for the Landfill. Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that Member Bondi brought this to their committee. The job description was drawn up by Foth. They will be putting it out and doing the first interviews and if Member Bondi described it to him right then we will be the final ones to do the interviews.

Landfill Administrator Cleair said that is 100%. After the first interviews then it will go through either the landfill committee or executive personal committee like they did nine and a half years ago.

Vice-Chair Friedrich thanked Landfill Administrator Cleair and said that this will be to hire an individual to work with Landfill Administrator Cleair before he retires. Unless we deny everything and he is going to stick around. This is to get somebody trained since there is a lot of things on out there with the stuff we approved with the new landfill. That way when he leaves we will be in good shape.

Member Robertson asked if we all say no does he have to stay another year.

Vice-Chair Friedrich replied that it would just put us in a bad spot later.

Member Cohen reminded everyone that he has already submitted his resignation.

Vice-Chair Friedrich said that they need to thank Landfill Administrator Cleair for having for foresight to get this started so he didn't just retire and leave us handing. We need to thank him for getting this going so he can get someone trained and not leave us in a pickle. We appreciate that.

Member Nache asked if maybe there is someone in house that is maybe already working for Landfill Administrator Cleair or like when he got it working in the county as an administrator somewhere else.

Vice-Chair Friedrich said that we will have to wait and see who applies for the job. Then they will weed them out and see who he gets. He said feel free to apply Member Nache.

Member Nache replied no.

Member Davidson said that she is glad that Foth is stepping up with the applications and everything. She knows the same thing was done with Landfill Administrator Cleair because she was chair. He helped them tremendously and whoever gets it has to be certified. They have to take the test and it is very important that we have somebody that is knowledgeable to fulfill the needs for the landfill.

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

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Galesburg – Countywide Transportation. Vice-Chair Friedrich said that he is going to turn it over to Chair Hawkinson since he has all the information on it.

Chair Hawkinson invited the Galesburg Transit Manager Kraig Boynton to come up to share guidance and wisdom on it. While waiting for Mr. Boynton to make his way up he said that this was approved Thursday at the committee level. He said that it has been in the works for years to provide countywide transportation. This is the final step and Mr. Boynton has done his due diligence. Member Thierry and himself have attended several meetings and been part of the study group. Official companies have come in to do countywide surveys and online surveys. Talked with all the different leaders amongst the communities. Provided the best options, whether on demand agreement which this is with a potential for a future fixed route but it all takes money.

Galesburg Transit Manager Kraig Boynton for the City of Galesburg thanked them for having him here tonight. He said this has been as Chair Hawkinson said a culmination of at least three years in the time that he has been with transportation of going through the process of a study designated by the state to look at countywide options for us. At this point the best options found through the study would be to offer an on-demand type of service out into the county. This will allow them to compile data over the next year or so they can figure out where the actual demand for the rides are within the county. Then they can expand because he doesn't want to hire staff and have additional vehicles that they are not going to utilize which he feels is not the best use of taxpayer money. He wants to make sure it is being done the right way.

Chair Hawkinson said since it is an on demand they would make their reservation Monday through Saturday from between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. with the transit dispatchers. The fairs vary from all over the county which excludes the City of Galesburg. This is strictly for out in the county. The fairs less than 6 miles away from Galesburg is $3.00, greater than or equal to 6 but less than 13 is $5.00, greater than or equal to 13 but less than 18 $8.00 and greater than or equal to 18 and in Knox County is $10.00. Obviously, it is a first come, first serve and rides should be scheduled 24 hours in advance and same day rides are only considered if they have the availability.

Member Nache said that she got a couple calls from people and they are thankful for this but she doesn't feel they will be as thankful when they hear the fees. She said one person walks in everyday to Galesburg from Knoxville for work through winter, summer, spring fall, rain and snow. It doesn't matter because she has to work. Her only transportation is Mo and Joe. She asked how it would help her and if she would call saying that she needs this to be a permanent thing every day. These are the people she wants this to help. The mothers and fathers that have children that need the jobs but do not have the option other than to walk. She said that she has been there and done that several times with lots of children. She is not sure if she can vote yes for this unless she knows that these people have a guaranteed ride. Since this is the point of having this.

Galesburg Transit Manager Kraig Boynton replied that with the current paratransit system that they have right now a percentage of those riders are what they call subscription trips. What that means is that it is similar to their dialysis patients that go three days a week to dialysis so they are set on the schedule. He envisions it being a similar situation for those in the county that have that type of situation where they need to get to town every day, every other day, or whatever their schedule may allow. Then they can work that into the system.

Member Nache said thank you.

Member Davidson said that it has been way over 12 or 16 years when she was the chair and they had a woman from Abingdon come to ask about rides. They even had a committee and an allotment of $2 million dollars sitting from the state that kind of just disappeared because we never used it. The main thing was that they would have guaranteed stops which they decided to have one in Knoxville, Abingdon and Wataga because what Mr. Boynton is discussing now the VNA used to do. They would call the VNA to make the appointments to take them to their doctor's appointments and everything else. She said that Warren County, Sangamon County and other counties are doing it. She knows that he has only been there three years but when they wanted to make sure to have the stops it came on deaf ears. She asked when he said in the future if it would be a year or two years when they would have the stops. There are kids that need rides to Carl Sandburg College and other places. They will not be able to do it or be able to afford it when Abingdon to Carl Sandburg would be the $10 fee.

Galesburg Transit Manager Kraig Boynton replied saying that the example that she gave about the students from Abingdon that are going to Carl Sandburg. He said that they work with Carl Sandburg College right now on a service contract through their fixed route system and by going countywide they would be able to expand that service contract.

Member Davidson said so you are saying that Sandburg pays for it.

Galesburg Transit Manager Kraig Boynton replied yes, Sandburg does pay for their rights for their students in town right now.

Member Davidson said that she knows that they pay for it in town but they do not pay for it out of town.

Galesburg Transit Manager Kraig Boynton replied that's the potential for us to have that conversation with them to expand the service contract to do that.

Member Davidson stated that she would be voting no because we should not forget about the average day people that might want a ride. Especially, if there is one in Knoxville that can loop around the nursing home for elderly people that might want to see their loved ones. It could stop so they could get on the bus and then come back through. We need to stay focused on having it for all people that can truly afford it. Thank you.

Member Robertson said that she is new to this whole process other than the little information that she read in the packet. She asked how they are going inform the people in the rural areas of this service. She asked if there were mailers going out.

Galesburg Transit Manager Kraig Boynton replied that they are utilizing the radio since they have radio contracts in place. Potentially they will do mailers and they are going to continue to meet with the local entities by going to the local council meetings to get the word out about it.

Member Robertson asked about the routes again and said that it is fantastic to have a service that people could call to use like their own personal taxi to get picked up to get to their doctor's appointment. She has to agree with Member Davidson and Member Nache that there are lots of people that they do not know tomorrow if they need a doctor's appointment or they have to go to work every single day. She feels if they knew that they could go to a certain bus stop and get on to come into Galesburg to buy their food and take it back, since there are so many food desserts, she thinks that would be a better service for the community than just the phone. She said they could go through the VA to get doctor appointments. She thinks we need an actual route where they know there's a bus stop at certain places.

Galesburg Transit Manager Kraig Boynton replied that is a little of what he talked about earlier. That is something that they are hoping to be able to do in the future but he has to have the data to approve it. That way he can take it back to IDOT to explain why they would need to explain with what would be called a fixed route. IDOT approves those fixed routes.

Member Robertson said that she knows they did a survey but asked if they did a survey about the route's verses on demand usage.

Galesburg Transit Manager Kraig Boynton replied that it was done when Nelson Nygard performed the study. They meet with an Oneida coffee group, meet with folks in Knoxville at the city council meeting one evening and they went to the Abingdon City Council. There was interest in it but it was kind of wavering to what they really wanted.

Member Robertson said that she is concerned of how they are going to get the word out about having the service available for people to utilize and the cost of the service for people. Thank you.

Member Boone commented that she is excited about this because she represents the rural community and the more help the better. There is a very large baby boomer population that is getting older. They are going to need more services and it has to start somewhere. She is going to vote yes, full speed ahead and see how it works out for us. She thinks it will end up working out good for all the rural people. Her prayers are that they can get this up and have more services for the whole county instead of just more for the city. That is why she will be voting yes.

Chair Hawkinson said kudos to the teams for doing all the research and leading the charge, communicating and having Nelson Nygard and all the folks come in to do all the studies in the different areas. He said that it would be nice to have a fixed route but like he explained we know the need is there but the people have to use the service in order to justify the greater expense with permanent fixed routes. It takes money and approvals at the state level for additional funding. If this passes he hopes that people utilize it to provide the data to make sure that the service can expand. He appreciates Mr. Boynton coming and sharing the information.

Member Weiss asked if there was a dedicated vehicle, van or bus to serve the handicapped community as well.

Galesburg Transit Manager Kraig Boynton replied yes, all of the vehicles that they have are ADA accessible. They plan on using what they call their transit size vehicles which are 14 plus ones for passengers. They are drive the roads and, in the wintertime, he does not want a small van out in the middle of the country during a snowstorm.

Member Fredrick thanked Mr. Boynton for staying with this after coming a bit ago. She said from the employer standpoint, if you pay attention to the industrial park, we've really truly lost some great business out there and when the homeless shelter moved across town they lost employees. This has hurt the industrial park. She said to please keep in mind that without the data he cannot make this happen to fulfill the concerns brought up tonight. She asked them to reconsider their votes because she thinks this is huge for the employment side of things to keep Galesburg and Knox County healthy.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen and Friedrich— (9). Noes—Davidson --- (1). Abstain--- Robertson and Pugh---(2). Motion carried.

Member Sandoval presented the monthly report from the Public Service Committees. He said the report is in your packet and all the offices are busy. He said that int the circuit clerk she got approved to do E-citations which helps with money a bit more.

Member Davidson said she was at a conference so was sorry she couldn't be there. She said last month it did not come up but this month about the comptroller, not the controller, the coroner if she is going to have a place in the Mary Davis home.

Member Sandoval replied saying sorry about that. He said that they sent it to be put on the agenda and it wasn't there.

Chair Hawkinson replied that he had it removed on review. He wants to make sure that we have proper information. The coroner currently has an office in the annex building and when he spoke to the coroner two months ago, she said to him directly that she is more than okay with staying there. She just needed space for her storage. How true that is he is not sure that is just what she told him directly. He said we're nitpicking about spending money with finishing projects at the Mary Davis Home that is being occupied temporarily by staff, but now wanting to put somebody there permanently and additional staff. There needs to be a plan of what to do with that building. Once that is known then it could be moved forward once there is a solid plan of how many offices she is going to need, if that is the right place for her to go, is there conference space or if she really wants to go there. He said he doesn't know.

Member Boone said that her concerns are what they are going to do in the long term about the courthouse and different facilities they are using. She mentioned maybe leasing somewhere for the coolers to be kept due to the EPA and human remains. There could be biohazards. There could be pandemics. If we really want to have it on our county property. If we want that liability. There are other options of maybe adding to her budget of maybe looking to do a yearly leasing somewhere. That way if the EPA did come in since she thinks of those things being a medical person. Those are other options that might also be on the table.

Member Weiss said bottom line is that something needs figured out whether it is leasing or something else. He said that we have been trying to put the coroner in something for almost four years now and she's still in limbo. It really needs to be figured out.

Chair Hawkinson replied that she said that she is comfortable right where she is at her current business.

Member Fredrick said that she came to their meetings and have tried to put it on the agenda two months in a row. Then put it on their agenda for committee. They also tried to bring it to Ways and Means. The concern is that she is with Member Boone and against moving the cooler too often due to plugging in and unplugging. She said that it was given to us and between Coroner Dare and herself they were the ones that got the cooler here due to not getting support on bringing the cooler here. Some have been doing this for two years in the making. She feels that Coroner Dare needs a solidified place. She came to their meeting this month with heavy concerns and that she was using the venue when she thought she was moving. She is needing a place for her things and her employees. She would appreciate next month if Chair Hawkinson and Treasurer Davis would come to their meeting to help work through this together as a county.

Member Cohen said that his committee will triple check with the coroner this next time. If she continues to communicate what we believe she's been communicating to them. Then they will bring it back up next month. He thinks the word permanent was used earlier and also by her. The coroner has a lot going on and the office in the annex is a little not the best. He said again he will check with her but at the end of the day we have the extra office space. A study could be done also but he said correct him if wrong but he saw that the sheriff has moved some of his stuff into there. People are already being moved in and not the biggest deal to take and office and a half which is his opinion.

Chair Hawkinson replied ok, thank you.

Chair Hawkinson said onto Item 22 and subsequent action items for Health and Human Services.

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 the Resolution on Food Safety Ordinance Revisions for the Health Department. Member Kramer announced that Knox County Public Health Administrator Gabriel is here if there are any questions that need answered. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Vice Chair Friedrich to approve the appointment of Terry Boydstun to serve on Board of Review. Member Kramer stated that his resume was in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

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

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

Chair Hawkinson said that the budget line item changes were in the packet for review.

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

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

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the rMeeting in June 2026, and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Chair Hawkinson stated that the total was $2,634.42. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.
***Amended Total $3,491.85.

Motion was made by Member Weiss and seconded by Member Nache to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of June 25, 2026 through July 29, 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 $2,538,363.35. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at 6:00 p.m., at Galesburg City Hall Council Chambers. The Zoom option is for public viewing only. Board

Members will be present in person for this meeting. The Knox County YouTube channel is available for live viewing or to download and watch later.

Motion was made Member Cohen and seconded by Member Sandoval to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen and Friedrich— (12). Noes— (0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.