PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
KNOX COUNTY, ILLINOIS

June 25, 2025

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF KNOX)

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held in person at the Galesburg City Council chambers on Wednesday, June 25, 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 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 4	Todd Olinger
District 5	Brian Friedrich

And those absent: District 5 Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval

Also present were County Clerk-Recorder Scott Erickson, County Treasurer Robin Davis, Sheriff Jack Harlan and Coroner Jacque Dare. Department Heads present were 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.

Member Bondi asked to remove Items 14 and 17.

Chair Hawkinson said they are removing Items 14 and 17. He explained since Items 14 and 16 are basically duplications and Item 17 they will address that situation when they get financing information. He asked Member Bondi if that was correct.

Member Bondi said yes.

Member Kramer asked to remove Item 20.

Chair Hawkinson said that they are removing Item 20 and he will also remove Item 4 that he wanted to have some more information first. He then confirmed that it was Items 4, 14, 17 and 20 to be removed. He asked if there were any objections. There were no objections and no additions for the agenda.

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

Tracy Robertson said hello to her fellow County Board Members. She stated that she had to comment now since there is not a new business area on the agenda. Every board member was handed a packet about the Landbank. She said that we need to look into becoming a member of this Landbank. It will help with any properties in the county that needs to be demoed, renovated or refurbished in some way. She thinks that it would be a really good tool for us to use for different properties in our jurisdiction and hopes that everyone at least reads the first page to see what Landbank is about. If anyone has any questions there is contact information. Hopefully, we can bring this to the board, vote on it and join this organization. Thank you.

Pam Davidson said good afternoon and wished everyone a Happy 4th of July. She wanta everyone to have a safe 4th of July. She said to make sure we thank our veterans along with people that are serving in our military. She said that we would not be a free nation without their blood, sweat and tears. She again wished everyone a Happy 4th of July to everybody.

Dale Carlson said that he is a 80-year-old farmer and caretaker of the land of Knox County and is here to speak about the preservation of our precious prime farmland in Knox County. Row crop farming of corn and soybeans provide us everyday with renewable fuels like ethanol from corn and biodiesel from soybeans and aviation fuel, as well as 100's of other products. Unlike the solar and wind power which only produce energy when the sunshines and if the wind is blowing! Corn and soybeans produce renewable energy and food products 365 days a year. The state mandate is taking away the rights of our county government to regulate both solar and wind energy regulations for their own county. He thinks Knox County should not tolerate or allow their mandates since it does not preserve our farmland. Especially, since agriculture is our number one industry in Illinois. Renewable solar panels that would not affect farmland could be placed on houses, acreages, buildings, farm steads, ShopKo, abandoned factory sites, the old Knox County Landfill and vacant lots in Knox County. Landowners who rush into solar

agreements are not good caretakers of the land and God's creation but only see dollars. They do not consider family heirs, the problems involved when these panels and its landscape are decommissioned. They do not have a clue. He is asking the board to deny approval of Case CU-05-25 as a request for a solar energy farm on this parcel. First it has a L.E.S.A. score rating of 264 out of 300 which is a high rating for protection. It is prime farmland with a rating 141.2 out of 143. The proposed solar panel area is 29.1 acres or 11,500 solar panels. The impervious surface of the panels is 11.64 acres that will not absorb rainfall but create run off of 315,000 gallons from a 1-inch rain. (Mr. Carlson ran out of time but had handed out his speech to the board and did a demonstration with crops and water.)

Connie Main said she is from Altona and she is a Civil Rights Adocate. She said she needs to provide public notice to the Knox County Board Members. This is in accordance with the USC Rules of Civil Procedures as well as the rules 17 & 20 of the United States Supreme Court. The Constitution of the United States has the over arching requirements that every state must follow. She doesn't think anyone will deny that. The states cannot inact their own alternative legislation substituted for the guarantees of the Constitution of the United States. That would mean that the state laws are more powerful then the Constitution. She read the United States clause one of amendenment 5 of the United States Constitiution. It states that no person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury. She said however the State of Illinois enacted its own alternative legislation that permits the prosecuting attorney or police officer to charge by information, not by indictment. She said that is unconstitutional and happened to them. Unaugment violation is when you pay a public official to break the law. The constitution has two areas that enforces this which one is article 1 section 10 and the second is the 14th amendment . She read both of these. She said the State of Illinois has enacted a law that is promitting public officials and law enforcement whom we pay to viotate the Constitution of the United States. As a result, there is currently an inordinate amount of people in prison in the State of Illinois illegally and unconstitutionally. Tanawah Downing is litigating this issue at the United States Supreme Court. She is here to notify that if you continue to pay public officials to break the law that there can be criminal sanctions that can come from that. They do not want to go that path but officials need to be aware that paying people to break the law is an unaugment violation, illegal and unconstitutional. She is asking them to look at clause 1 of amendment 5 to see what she is saying to be true. She read this and said she has a notice that she wanted to put on record. Thank you very much.

Ken Springer stated that he is with the Knox County Partnership for Economic Development. He wanted to thank everyone that attended KCAP's Annual meeting yesterday. They had a record turnout for the event and so far the feed back has been really good and appreciates everyone attending. In his report this month he provided some detail about economic development related matters in the states most recently passed budget. He talked about in the past how Illinois is getting smarter of how we approach economic development as a state. One of the more promising things that has been happening in Springfield over the last three or four years is the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity each year has been successfully passing ominbous bills that are making some tweeks and some process improvement to the way the state provides economic development incentives. This is encouraging and a good trend. For many years Illinois economic development tools did not having any updates. They were just stagnant. The fact that they are going in and changing those

and doing improvement to such things as eligibility and the applications process of making the tools more flexible. It makes our state to be competitive against our neighbors. One of the things in the budget bill this year is a new manufacturing tax credit called the AIM credit. This is designed for companies in Illinois that are making significant capital investments. It is an example of the ways the state is trying to be competitive with economic development. Another thing he wanted to highlight that was in that state budget this year is additional funding for the Grocery Insinuative Equipment Upgrade Program. It is a matching grant program that is open to mom and pop independent owned grocery stores. It provides matching funds for upgrades and energy efficient upgrades such as refridgerators. If you happen to have small grocery stores in your districts or know someone in that field and are interested he is happy to help them with the application. The state has rewarded four of these grants and one of them went to Cornucopia here in Galesburg. There is more money going into that program and would like to see more folks apply for.

Lastly, he wanted to comment and say that the Counties new website looks great. He checked it out today and it is really easy to use. He wanted to say kudos to everyone that worked on that new website. Thank you.

Chair Hawkinson thanked everyone for speaking during public comment.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the regular Board Meeting on May 28, 2025 and 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of April 2025 in the amounts of $171,114.86 and $56,613.65 and public safety tax in the amount of $287,919.01. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Abstain---Friedrich---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Cohen to approve the Proclamation Celebrating Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act in Knox County. Chair Hawkinson said that the proclamation is in everybodies packet.

Member Cohen read the proclamation into record and said that it is the 35th Anniversary of this event on July 26, 2025.

Chair Hawkinson thanked Member Cohen for reading it into record.

Member Davidson stated that she is ecstatic and happy that Knox County is standing up for people with disabilities because with DEI people are trying to not be a part of that. It is Diversity, Equity and Inclusion which includes our people with disability. She is glad that we are standing up for all people with disability.

Member Cohen said that he always likes when we bring this up every year to remind everyone that a lot of these topics are important a lot of people in this county. For instance this resolution every year he is reminded by a constituent how important it is to her. He gets an email sent to him about two months before July from her. He said thank you to all the county board members that are willing to bring this up and vote on it. He also encourages other constituents if they have a passion like this or you want to be recognized that there is no harm in reaching out to your elected officials.

Member Nache said that with having a child with disabilities and that she has also speak for her here. She is thankful for the new ramp making them able to come into the courthouse

even though it is not the front way. She said it is good. We should be taking better care but we are doing what we can to take care of our disabled.

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

Item 4 was removed.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the Formation of the Rural Transportation Task Force. Chair Hawkinson said that several years ago probably about six. He asked Member Davidson if that was correct.

Member Davidson said yes.

Member Hawkinson said that the city and the county started collaborating on rural transportation. At that time the county authorized a resolution in support of whatever we needed to do at that time for rural transportation. He has been meeting with the city leaders and has been attending some of the meetings the last year to year and a half. The folks that the Galesburg Transit hired for a rural transit study is coming to a close. They are coming to a point where they can actually have monetary figures and potential routes which would extend public transportation into the rural areas of Knox County. He wanted to put together a taskforce comprising of just three folks and four if you include himself. Member Sandoval since he represents the South end of the rural transportation, Member Kramer since he represents the North end and Member Davidson since she was the Board Chair when this progress initially started some time ago. The three of them plus himself will collaborate more the Galesburg Transit and the city officals to find out what they can do as a team of both the county and the city to insure that the rural transportation takes the next step. The next step will probably be execution of that transportation plan. It is going to be real exciting within the next six to nine month in the county for transportation. It is something that is definitely needed. The rural transportation surveys helped which everyone knows it is needed to get people into where services are at. That will form and they will be able to provide monthly reports on the status.

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

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Olinger to approve the Contract with Knox County Fair Board. Chair Hawkinson stated that this information is in the packet and received the documentation Monday morning. The agenda was updated Monday afternoon and is the samething that they have done the last two years in June to enter into the service agreement with the Knox County Fair. It shows the rates of pay that the Knox County Fair will reimburse the county for services and hold liability type of thing. The fair starts on July 8th in two weeks. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich —(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Member Friedrich said that the monthly report from the Ways and Means Committees are in the packet. He said again it was a pretty quite month. Next month it will be picking up starting

there budget meetings. They have not had a date for them set yet but it will be forth coming real quick and will have some meetings in July.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Nache to approve Resolutions on Deeds of Conveyance. Member Friedrich said that they have one this month. He just wanted to remind everyone that this is just putting delinquent tax parcels back on the roll so we get paid for them. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen,Olinger and Friedrich —(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Salary Increases for the Public Defender, Sheriff, and State's Attorney. Member Friedrich stated that the state sets this and there is nothing they can do about it. The State's Attorney is getting a 6.1% raise, the Sheriff gets 85% of that and the Public Defender gets another percentage of that. He said 6.1% is the States Attorney increase which is the highest one and everything else comes off of that.

Member Davidson asked how much is the state paying.

Member Friedrich said 100% of the State's Attorney salary.

Member Davidson said thank you.

Chair Hawkinson stated that by statute the Public Defender makes 90% of what the State's Attorney makes and the Sheriff now makes 80% of what the State's Attorney makes.

Member Friedrich said sorry he said 85% and thanks for the correction. He said that this is what the state sets and there is nothing we can do about it.

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Bid and Bring Back for Financing Options for Nursing Home Upgrade Project. Member Friedrich said that they have done this before with Mr. Bacon when he was in charge of the Nursing Home Committee. When it came about the first time it was put it out for bid they did not have enough information and their numbers were not finalized to do the proper financing. Now they have the numbers nailed down. He revered to Chair Hawkinson for the number.

Chair Hawkinson said the number is $10,110,000 even.

Member Friedrich said now that they have the numbers nailed down they can get the bids done and back to be able to have the numbers for that next month.

Chair Hawkinson said those numbers are just to get the funding levels from the banks. The amount they would potentially use up to that. It might not be the full ten million due to them maybe deciding to self-fund more of that amount which would bring their yearly payment down. They would address that when they review the actually financing options they have.

Member Davidson said that one of her issues is that she truly is backing the nursing home and doing what they need. Her concern is that they do have a loan out there already even though it is at a very low interest rate. With all the things with Medicaid coming down the shoot and even with the state having to updo their Medicaid every five years is very slow and are not getting their payment. She worries about this because then it would be on the backs of taxpayers'. She is hoping that it is not an issue with payment down the road but they have had

bad days out there at the nursing home. They are doing very good right now but she hopes that they can get less then ten million dollars. Ten million dollars is a lot of money and it is not just paid off in a couple of years. That is truly her issue of repayment of the bond, loan or whatever it might be. She said for month and months she and Member Robertson has asked about a thing for the veterans. To pay for veterans to come to our facilities and it still has not happened. We need to work on every revenue that we can.

Chair Hawkinson responded to Member Davidson saying for that portion of it, it has nothing to do with the Bid and Bring Back.

Member Davidson said but for the Bid and Bring Back we need to know about the finances and that is a part of the finances.

Chair Hawkinson said that portion can be discussed later which he agrees but for discussion purposes they are just discussing the Bid and Bring Back approval to seek financing options.

Member Davidson said she understands but they need to know where the money comes from. She said when you vote for the Bid and Bring Back understand that.

Member Kramer wanted to note that the items that they are looking at to get replaced have gotten the can kicked down the road and that is why they are dealing with the ten million dollar project. He said unfortunately decisions have been made in the past that are out of their control but if they continue to kick the can they are going to continue to just put bandaids and spending more and more money to upgrade the facility. That is a big thing to keep in consideration and putting bandaids on things just keeps costing them more and more. He said lets fix the project.

Member Robertson said it started out at eleven and now is at ten. She asked if that is the financing amount that they are voting on or is it subject to change again. She would not be comfortable voting on ten million if it is only seven million that is needed. Also, if they do not have it to pay it back in a timely manner then she does not feel comfortable with that.

Member Friedrich stated that this vote is just to Bid the loan not to approve the amount right now. This is just to go out for bid to see what interest rates they could get.

Member Robertson asked if they should go for the lowest amount to see what the interest rates would be and not the highest amount if they can self fund some of that.

Chair Hawkinson said this is the amount they need to bid to seek them. He said to answer Member Robertson's question in Infactructure Committee it was $11,600,000 and at that committee they removed $500,000 because they paid one million dollars already in advance. Five hundred thousand dollars from the nursing home and five hundred thousand dollars from the reverendum which reduced the amount. Then at the Thursday Ways and Means Committee that Member Robertson was absent they decided not to add the extra five hundred thousand dollars to it so it would reduce it a million. There is no sense in paying themselves back if they are going to get financing just for that. That is why it came down to $10,110,080.69 and at that Thursday Ways and Means they also discussed making it even numbers and just eat the $80.69. This is just for the Bid and Bring Back to seek the financing for that amount to see where their payments would be if they decided to go for the full amount.

Member Bondi asked if they are creating a criteria for the banks to bid against. So they are all bidding on the same kind of basis of requirements that they think are important. Which is no prepayment penalty and no penalty for a balloon payement to maybe do a bond if they wanted to at a later date. He asked if it was correct that these were some of the criteria that is in the specifications.

Member Friedrich said yes.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich —(11). Noes—Robertson, Thierry and Davidson---(3). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Close Out Documents for Oneida Telephone ARPA Award. Member Friedrich said that this is just closing out their last part of their ARPA award to finish up their projects. He asked Chair Hawkinson if they had them all finished up.

Chair Hawkinson said no, the two projects that were approved several years ago for the Broadband from the ARPA Funds they received for Rio and Henderson Township Project. They are now underway or about to be underway to bring fiber optic internet to rural locations. The county approved for the Rio Project $470,514.62 that is remaining and the Henderson Township Project remaining is $483,081.55. They expect to have both of those projects completed by he thinks September up and running

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

Chair Hawkinson said for the report for the Public Service Committees Member Sandoval is absent due to work constraints. He did let him know that there are no action items this month and the report is in the packet.

Member Davidson said that she was honored to have the State's Attoney attend the meeting. She said that after several months of her saying she has not attended the meeting she attended their meeting and it was great.

. Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Infrastructure Committee and stated that their agenda, monthly report and associated action item materials are in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Weiss to approve the Engineering Service Agreement, Victoria Township, Section 25-20151-00-BR for the Highway. Member Bondi read that this project is located about 4 miles southeast of Victoria 1850N. The current structure was built in 1925. It is a 22 feet long single span concrete slab bridge. It is considered functionally obsolete due to the roadway width of the structure being only 15 feet wide. It is currently rated for " Legal Loads" only. Which means no overweight loads should cross the bridge. The payment for these engineering services provided by Veenstra & Kimm shall not exceed $55,332.00. 50% of the engineering will be covered by the State of Illinois Township Bridge Program (TBP) funding with the remaining costs split between Victoria Township and Knox County. The current budget impact is there is currently $187,000 in the 24/25 County Bridge Fund budget to cover the expense form Line Item: Engineering 007-000-560400-30. He said they are recommending approval. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen,Olinger and Friedrich — (14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Item 14 was removed.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve payment of Invoice for Jail Laundry Project – Amendment #4 – Draw #8 - $14,197.70. Member Bondi stated that the original contract amount was $415,040.00 of which the retainage to date is $18,510.29. This draw is for $14,197.70. In the packet you will find the breakout of what those dollars are for. The lein releases and lein waivers are all in place along with the proper invoice. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen,Olinger and Friedrich — (14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Performance Contract Project Bid Package Tabulation and Submittals for Mechanical & Electrical approval for MSI for $3,845,473.00 subject to Ways & Means developing a development plan, for the Roof Replacement approve Economy Roofing for $1,906,560.00 again subject to Ways & Means developing a plan for financing. Member Bondi said the Bid Tabulation PIPCO, MSI, and CMI were the bidders for the Mechanical & Electrical. PIPCO came in at $4,641,00.00 and CMI came in at $4,399,000.00. He said as he already stated MSI came in at $3,845,473.00. The items associated are for piping, sheet metal & controls, insulation, electrical, plumbing, test/balance, carpentry, lighting replacement in dining room and also installation of a new generator

Chair Hawkinson asked if Member Bondi wanted to talk about the Bid Tabulation for Bid Package #2.

Member Bondi said yes, for the #2 Bid Package for roofing the bidders were Dowers Roofing, Kreiling Roofing and Economy Roofing and infrastructure had the decision to just do replacement of part of the roof or total replacement. After discussing this with representatives of the nursing home specifically Nursing Home Administrator Mines it was clear that the actual replacement of the entire roof was preferable. Economy Roofing was $1,906,560.00, Dowers Roofing was $2,576,445.00 and Kreiling Roofing was $2,068,697.00. Economy Roofing was considerally better. There specifications and experience are well accepted by Klingner & Associates. The Infastructure Committee voted for that.

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

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the Membership in Galesburg Downtown Council at rate of $3,900 per year which would cover taking care of all the landscaping and cutting and trimming of all the bushes at the future Annex for Knox County at the corner of Cherry St. and Main St. Member Bondi said that the process has gone through annalizing the maintenance of that property. They gave an example of what the skills would be of the Downtown Council this past week or so. They cut trimmed everything and brought it back to proper levels of maintenance. This would also provide for proper spraying and taking care vegetation they do not want and the vegetation they do want. This is doing an overall maintenance of the space same is what the Downtown Council would do for the City of Galesburg. This is annualizing and explantion of their SSA requirements to an extra block to go all the way around the site. This went through quit a processing of pricing. This is a one year consideration. It incudes all products and machinery. If for any reason those items are not

acceptable by the city, county or by the Galesburg Downtown Council at the consult of one year the program would cease or be renegotiated.

Member Nache asked who was taking care of the Annex, Courthouse or any of the other properties that are within the county.

Member Bondi said that would fall under the Sheriff he thinks.

Chair Hawkinson said that the Sheriff is responsible for the Courthouse and the Sheriff's Office.

Member Nache asked who does the Annex.

Chair Hawkinson said that there is no mowing there.

Member Nache asked who maintains it.

Chair Hawkinson said the Sheriff somewhat maintains it. If he has problems he comes to the proper committee.

Member Nache said ok and asked why we are having the City Downtown Council take care of it.

Member Bondi said it is the Galesburg Downtown Council.

Member Nache asked why they would take care of it when East Main would fall under Knox County.

Chair Hawkinson said staffing. It would take more staffing.

Member Nache asked so the Sheriff's Department does not have enough staff to maintain our site at East Main. She said he does not have enough staff.

Chair Hawkinson said that he has three employees on maintenance staff to take care of the courthouse, jail, sheriff's office and a cleaning person that takes care of inside.

Member Nache said she did not care. It is called a rotation. She asked if they are doing all of this on the same day. Again, it is called rotation.

Chair Hawkinson said that he is only required to maintain the courthouse and the jail.

Member Nache said ok, thank you.

Member Cohen said that he would also assume and is asking for clarification. That it is also probably cheaper to join the Downtown Council then to have the Sheriff try and maintain it. He said like if it requires more staffing.

Member Bondi said yes, a considerable better value.

Member Davidson said this is outside of the Downtown Council. She said the Annex sometimes has weeds that are six foot tall outside out at the driveway. She said that we need to make sure that all of our properties are maintained.

Member Bondi said that the first time the Galesburg Downtown Council touched it was about a week or so. This was to demonstrate what they would be doing and spraying. He thinks it got in pretty good shape as a result of that. That way there would be a visual of what they do.

Member Davidson said good.

Member Thierry asked if he said they did snow removal and if that was included.

Member Bondi said that is not included. He said that we are already doing the snow removal on the sidewalks and the county would still be responsible of the snow removal in the parking lot. He said the Downtown Council does not do that.

Member Thierry asked who would do the snow removal. She asked if that would be the Sheriff's Office.

Member Bondi asked who does the courthouse right now.

Chair Hawkinson said that the Sheriff's Office does the courthouse and the Sheriff's Office.

Member Bondi asked if they would be doing it then.

Member Thierry said so they still would be doing something.

Chair Hawkinson said not necessarily. They have no responsibility at this Annex building. He said at the new building.

Member Bondi said that we will have to hire somebody to handle it. He does not know if the Highway Department would assist with that or not.

Chair Hawkinson said that they will have to address the snow removal at a later date.

Member Bondi said yes for the snow removal in the parking lot but the snow removal on the sidewalks would be Galesburg Downtown Council.

Chair Hawkinson said correct.

Member Bondi said they will even if this is not approved. They already do as part of the SSA which is the Special Service Area.

Member Thierry wanted to confirm that he said that they would take care of the landscaping as well.

Member Bondi said yes, they will take care of all the landscaping.

Member Thierry asked about the trees.

Member Bondi said trees, scrubs, weeds and grass. They would take care of all of that.

Member Thierry said ok.

Member Friedrich thanked Member Bondi for bringing this to their attention and he looks forward for them doing it because he is sure they take pride in making sure it looks good. Thanks for getting it done.

Member Bondi said as a matter of disclosure he serves on the Galesburg Downtown Council Board and is the current President. So he will be abstaining on this vote. Even though he technically does not have to.

Chair Hawkinson said that yes, technically he does not have to since he does not get paid for the services but he has asked him to.

Member Bondi said his salary was doubled this past year to zero.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich — (12). Noes—Nache---(1). Abstain---Bondi---(1). Motion carried.

Member Kramer presented the monthly report from the Health and Human Services committee. He said that the monthly report is in the packet. He said that Item 20 was removed and is just trying to get some more specifics on that.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Bondi to approve ZBA Case # CU-05-25 for Solar Energy Farm in the "A" Agricultural Zoning District, Under Appendix F, Knox County Commercial Solar Energy Facility Siting Ordinance, filed by the Applicant SR2 CP Holdco I, LLC, is a limited liability company and is the sole member of Galesburg Irwin Solar LLC, 38 Keyes Avenue, Suite 101, San Francisco, CA 94129, along with the owner Joyce A. Coffman, 55 Hiawatha Lane, Galesburg, IL 61401. Member Kramer said that this is a solar project out on County Highway 7 & County Highway 9. He said that they had a good discussion on it. There was some voiced concern on it with some landscaping items. It was brought by the respresentative by Irwin that they would address those concerns with their landscaping engineer of adding some trees protentially. Other then that the whole project has meet all the bases of state requirements and it has gone through the ZBA.

Member Bondi asked if there are any provision going on to control the run off issue.

Member Kramer said that his understanding is there was not really an issue with run off at that area. He asked the representative form Irwin to step forward to talk.

Shawn Armstrong answered the question about the storm runoff concern saying they are going to have native grass and pollinators mix that will be under the panels. That will increase water absorbsion and decrease overall storm water runoff. They will also be held to the Illinois EPA Bureau standards that regulates storm water discharges. A full storm water prevention plan will be submitted prior to a building permit. It then would also be submitted to the building official.

Member Bondi asked if Mr. Armstong would be sharing that with the Soangetaha Country Club and the Lake Rice Association. He said the runoff from there actually goes right into those tributaries.

Mr. Armstrong said sure, if it is required then they can certainly consult with them. He said the runoff would actually be better with what they are planting.

Member Bondi said that he thinks it would be good since to include that group of what the runoff is now and what it would be afterwards. That way they have some interaction in that process. There is a greens keeping group that handles that whole thing.

Mr. Armstrong said he understands.

Member Bondi said that would be great and thank you.

Member Robertson said in committee he brought it to their attention that there would be some pine trees or some type of trees to cover from the North if she is correct.

Mr. Armstrong said yes, on the North and East side of the facility to insure that it will not be visible at all from Knox Highway 7 or the land owner to the Northeast. Along the western side the topography of the land drops down quite significantly. As you go up Knox Highway 9 it is truly completely invisible. They have agreed to vegetative screening to make sure no one will be able to see the project.

Member Robertson asked if they can make sure that is in writing to make sure that the residents that live in that area do not have an eye sore for years to come.

Mr. Armstrong said yes along the North and the East he believes it was but his understanding that it is a condition of approval.

Member Davidson said that she has received some comments and things from some ZBA Members and some of them voted no due to they did not have all the proper things in order from yes you said you are going to put the trees in but it is not in writing. She asked if everything is in writing yet to bring to them that they are going to do exactly what he is telling them they are going to do.

Mr. Armstrong said he asked if he needed to resubmit any additional documents ahead of the committee and ahead of this meeting as well. He is happy to put that it is a condition of approval if that is possible.

Assessor Hochstettler said that their process was up to par. The only thing that they did not have in their application was any vegetative screening. At ZBA the members asked to have the vegetative screening therefore their conditional use permit. She said in the facts and findings it says it would be conditioned on the fact that they have to have the vegetative screening. That is a conditional use of their conditional use.

Member Davidson was confirming with Assessor Hochstettler that it wa on the North and East sides.

Assessor Hochstettler said North and East was talked about at ZBA. West was talked about at committee.

Member Davidson asked if West would have it.

Assessor Hochstettler said West would not be what ZBA voted on. They said they would consider it and talked to their people but legally all that was required and voted on at ZBA was North and East.

Member Davidson stated that some of the members said no.

Assessor Hochstettler said one said no and the rest said yes.

Member Olinger said so it is not set in stone. He said he has drove past that area to verify what he said at committee was correct. He said it is not what they were told. It does not conceal the whole thing.

Chair Hawkinson said that like it says they will be places vegetative screening on the East along County 9.

Assessor Hochstettler said correct, the North and the East because she is not aware of anywhere in the statute that it says that solar should not be seen by anyone on the entire area. It is only conditioned to be screened for housing and neighboring life sustaining properties. That would be why.

Chair Hawkinson said in the packet page 460 of the fact and findings from the Zoning Board when they meet on June 4th at 2pm. It was a vote of 3-1 to approve the request with that condition of the vegetative screening to be planted on East and North sides of the project. Which would be on the County 9 side and County 7 side.

Member Fredrich thanked Dale Carlson for coming in tonight and she does suggest to her fellow board members that they read the rest of what he brought us tonight before you vote on this.

Member Kramer thanked Assessor Hochstettler for coming up and clarifying.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Hawkinson, Boone, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich — (9). Noes—Pugh, Fredrick, Davidson and Weiss---(4). Abstain---Olinger---(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 Nache to approve Opening of Budget for Line Item Changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich —(14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that the budget line item changes are in the board packet. He said they did get the State of Illinois to increase the grant for the courthouse technology. Which includes the original generator for the whole courthouse. They will also be paying for the $17,000 budget change for that piece. They got them to pay the $86,000 for the camera system. Instead of coming out of the other project funds that they have.

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

Chair Hawkinson said that the manual check review is in the packet. He said that there are a lot this month due to jury submissions.

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 June 2025, Board Meeting in May, and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Chair Hawkinson stated that the total was $3,172.80. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrick— (14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Weiss and seconded by Member Thierry to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of May 29, 2025 through June 25, 2025 (ordering that invoices be accepted and approved and that the County Clerk and County Treasurer be authorized and directed to issue County Warrants in payment of the bills in the aggregate amount approved by the County Board). Chair Hawkinson reported that the vouchers submitted were in the amount of $2,862,034.42. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrick— (14). Noes—(0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 25, 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 Bondi and seconded by Member Cohen to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.