PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
KNOX COUNTY, ILLINOIS

May 27, 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, May 27, 2026 at 6:12 p.m. This meeting was presented via teleconference for viewing only. The YouTube channel link can be found on the County website. You can view the meeting on the Knox County YouTube channel. After the meeting is over you review it and are able to download it.

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

District 1	Tracy Robertson
District 2	Erin Pugh
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 4	Todd Olinger
District 5	Brian Friedrich

And those absent: District 3 Kimberly Thierry

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, Landfill Administrator Rod Cleair, Supervisor of Assessments Sonia Hochstetler and Galesburg Fire Chief Randy Hovind.

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

Chair Hawkinson asked for additions or deletions to the agenda with additions for discussion only. He removed Items 6A and 12.

Member Cohen rejected to removing Item 12 and would like to have a vote on that.

Chair Hawkinson asked if there was any objection to Item 6A being removed. There were no objections.

Chair Hawkinson said on the objection of removal of Item 12.

Member Bondi said that he would make comments on that.

Chair Hawkinson said that Member Bondi will comment on that during his time and asked if Member Cohen still objects.

Member Cohen withdrew his objection of Item 12.

Chair Hawkinson said no objections so ordered 6A and 12 removed 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 is the County Board Member of District 3 and lives in the City of Galesburg. She said that we just came off of celebrating soldiers that gave their lives Memorial Day. Most people do not recognize that when they are flipping their burgers, hotdogs or enjoying their day off from work that we had men and women that gave their lives for us to have our freedom. A lot of people do not understand that in June, Juneteenth is celebrated because when Abraham Lincoln signed the bill for all people to be free, they went to Texas and they still had slavery going on. They did not know because the information did not get to them or the slave owner did not want them to know. We all need to know our American History of the good, the bad and the ugly. She is taking this time to stand in front of everyone to say please take the time to understand and celebrate the good, the bad and the ugly. We are getting ready to celebrate 250 years. She asked people to talk to their neighbors, read a book and not tik-tok to learn American History. Thank you.

Ken Springer stated that he is with the Knox County Partnership for Economic Development. He said that it is the end of May and for those that follow politics everyone know that the end of May is when the Illinois Lawmakers wrap up and finalize a whole bunch of bills before the end of the fiscal year. He wanted to note a couple of pieces of legislation that his organization is watching. KCAP is not taking a position on any of these bills. They are just keeping an eye on them because they are going to have an impact on economic development on housing. The first is the Mega Project Bill which is specific to the Chicago Bears which would be an impact of this as currently constructed down here in Knox County. This would create a new economic development incentive tool called PILOT which stands for Payment in Lou of Taxes. PILOT would be open to projects where they are investing at least $100 million dollars at a time in Illinois. This would allow them to enter into direct property tax negotiations with taxing bodies. As currently constructed that would be part of this legislation. However, the legislation is being pushed and pulled quite rapidly. As of right now he doesn't know if that will make it to the

final version. A version of the bill including the PILOT language passed the House earlier this Spring but it has not yet passed the Senate. Anytime the state is looking at creating a new economic development tools they clearly pay attention to it and monitor that legislation. Whether that legislation moves forward or doesn't. The second set of legislation is called the Build Act which was announced by the governor in February which was part of his budget address. This Build Act would make a number of changes to how municipalities can zone for housing. There is a number of different components to this bill which was introduced including making accessory dwelling units of permissive use in residential districts. It sets maximum permitting time lines. It makes changes to allow greater residential density. As of today, this bill along with the Mega Project Bill is being pulled apart in different components and finding their way into different pieces of legislation. By Sunday this will all get sorted out but there is a lot of things moving right now but these are two bills they are watching because depending on how the final bills end up it could have an impact on how they do housing and economic development. That is the latest on the two bills they are paying attention to. 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 April 29, 2026. 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of February 2026 in the amounts of $136,145.94 and $43,750.12 and public safety tax in the amount of $232,379.78. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Annual Audit for the County. Chair Hawkinson said that we have the Grand Poobah from WIPFLI Matt Schueler to provide the high-level audit recap and he provided each board member some documentation.

Matt Schueler said good evening and he is a partner with WIPFLI. He provided a document to everyone before the meeting and confirmed that everyone had one. He thanked him for allowing him to speak to go over the results of the audit. He said the "Clean" unmodified grade was received on the financial statements which is a passing grade for the county. The second opinion is on Government Auditing Standards where they report any internal control findings which they had two. One for the Circuit Clerk trial balance not balancing properly with the change in their system. Second is that the accounts are reporting in the County's financial system. Currently not all of them are reported but of course they are audited by them. They had no compliance findings. That was just internal control findings. The next on Uniform Guidance they issued a "Clean" unmodified opinion. On the Circuit Clerk Audit of fees and fines-no findings "clean". Just the internal control finding on trial balance and needing to correct some things when they switch accounting software. The Department of Corrections Compliance Audit-no findings "clean" on following those statutes. He did have a few recommendations that all accounts should be following through the County's financial software to ensure the County Board sees all transactions. He said that Knox County is not uncommon in having these "off the books" accounts. They still audit them and look at them. They just do not flow through information they get on a month to month basis. It is not uncommon for a lot of department

heads to not report those. He recommended timely deposits being done within 7 days, to monitor compliance with union agreements of accurate recording of those accrued absences. Right now, there is 1.3 million of accrued compensated absences of vacation, sick, and other types of leave. Make sure to monitor closely those liabilities because those evenly will have to be paid out. For Social Security and IMRF Funds consider the County Board approval before transferring to the County General Fund. In FY25 the County Expended $4,721,771 of federal funds which there was no findings and all good on compliance. There are two pension plans of IMRF Regular and Sheriff's Plan which are now at an asset of $442 thousand as a result of strong investment returns on those dollars are not at Knox county they are at the State and $10.2 million on investment income on those dollars. There are $107.1 million of assets that are set aside to pay the retirees. It is about a 9.7% rate of return on those dollars. The impact is a mean to IMRF levy that request rate on taxpayer should continue to go down but all subject to market. The County paid down $1.2 million in debt on the principal and next year $1.6 million is due in principle and interest. For the County's cash there is about $56.2 million which everything is secured and collateralized. This means the deposits are safe at the banks. The General Fund on hand he gave a five-year analysis comparing the expenditures to the ending fund balance so at the end of 2025 sitting at 72 days. It was at 134 days which they recommend a 120-180 days. That is why he mentioned considering doing some transfers from some of those Social Security and IMRF Funds, just those unrestricted investment earnings to get those dollars back up in the General Fund. He spoke about the IMRF Regular Plan which is fully funded which is great and the Sheriff's Plan-IMRF SLEP Plan which is slightly smaller which is not as large of a plan which is still funded at 93% both presented over a five-year span. He asked for any questions.

Member Robertson confirmed with Mr. Schueler that last year he did the same audit on the County. She asked if the issues last year resolved for this year.

Mr. Schueler said that one thing he is reporting is those two finding with the Circuit Clerk balance and the other on the accounts not being reported those are still on there. There were a number of those advice comments that were corrected from last year that management did consider.

Member Davidson asked about the funding and making sure it flows to the proper place/ departments from the Sherriff, Clerk and ending up with the Treasurer's Office.

Mr. Schueler asked Member Davidson if she meant as far as the accounting or the cash.

Member Davidson responded saying about the note Mr. Schueler made that it is not going to the right place.

Mr. Schueler explained that not all the information is ending up on the County's Accounting System. The cash is being deposited but being reported within the local office.

Member Davidson replied by the elected official.

Mr. Schueler responded correct, by the elected official.

Member Davidson replied to her if it is not following to the right place things could come up missing and she doesn't want that.

Mr. Schueler said right, anytime the information doesn't come to the centralized accounting system it does present that risk. That is why they report it to the County. The do about 15 county audits and 15 of them are all in the same boat as this county. He said if it all follows through the system then the board on a monthly basics to be able to see it as they are approving bills and taking in receipts you get the full information. He said that they are able to get that information from those elected officials, do the audit on it, look at the invoices and the support.

Member Boone asked if all of the money is at one bank or several banks. She said that they are trying to promote commerce with our community and wondered if all the funds were included at one back or several.

Mr. Schueler explained that the accounts are spread out throughout the county at different institutions.

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

Motion was made by Member Sandoval and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Proclamation for Motorcycle Awareness Month in May 2026. Chair Hawkinson said that we are a little behind since last month we had a whole plethora of resolutions. He knows everyone utilizes May as Motorcycle awareness month for those that have motorcycles. He said short of reading the resolution into record he would like to present it and enter it as reflected in the board packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, 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 Boone to approve the appointment to Elba-Salem Fire Protection District Trustee of Mark Suits. Chair Hawkinson stated that this is a new appointment to replace a retiring trustee and his information is in the packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, 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 Pugh to approve the Illinois Emergency Management Association Agreement. Chair Hawkinson stated that the resolution is in the packet. The Galesburg Fire Chief Randy Hovind who is also the Emergency Management Director for the county is here to answer any questions and on page 134 it does show the purpose which he read that page aloud. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

***Item 6A was removed.

Vice-Chair Friedrich said that the monthly report from the Ways and Means Committees are in the packet. He said as you can see it was an uneventful meeting this month. There was not much to talk about this month. We already approved the audit which they talked about a little bit and some other issues which is in the packet. They do have budget stuff coming up. The Sheriff spoke a little bit and has his budget ready so they will be talking to him pretty early in the season.

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Resolution of Deed of Conveyance. Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that there is one this month. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick,

Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Ordinance on Elected Officials Compensation. Vice-Chair Friedrich stated that this is the time of year that they approve the salary for the County Clerk and the Treasurer. They are including the Circuit Clerk in there as well. What was approved at the committee was they based it as the state has done in the past with the Sheriff, State's Attorney and Public Defender it is based off of the State's Attorney. They based if off of 70% of the State's Attorney. There is legislation out there that might make this mandatory and may not. They will not know until the last day of legislation of this year. It has been out there before but has never passed so maybe this is the year for it. It could be more than that. Today, they are going to see if hopefully approve this to put these three offices at $153,527.92 for the first year. Then if the State's Attorney gets a raise theirs will go up to stay at 70% of the State's Attorney.

Member Davidson said that she thought that the Circuit Clerk was on an off year from the County Clerk and the Treasurer.

Vice-Chair Friedrich replied that they are on the off year but this is the one elected official that we can set before the election. He said that the past Circuit Clerk Kelly Cheesman had also talked to them in the past about changing that.

Member Davidson replied yes, she knows she has been here. She was just shocked to see all three lumped together.

Vice-Chair Friedrich asked to have all three together so they didn't have to come back next month to do one separate one.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— Hawkinson--- (1). 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 from the State's Attorney to the Circuit Clerk's.

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.

***Item 12 was removed. Member Bondi explained that the Valley Construction Company did their research and obtained bids all within the prescribed contract that they already entered into with the County for 50 E. Main St. The estimate that they put together which are driven by actual bids are in your packet. Then they go forward and have Klingner and Associates develop the actual bid documents. There is nothing to vote on financially at this time but wanted to update to be aware.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Cohen to approve the Payment Request from Klingner for Design Work for 50 E. Main Project in the amount of $54,319.75. Member Bondi explained that this is consistent with the bid agreement that we have entered into with Klingner and Associates. They have done the building evaluation, design development and construction documents all within their bid criteria.

Member Davidson stated that she would be voting no on all of these because until they start with the courthouse meetings and what they are going to do for the future of county buildings. She thinks that they should not be wasting money that could be used later. That is why she will be voting no.

Member Bondi replied to keep in mind that they would have to renegotiate both the contract with Valley Construction as well as Klingner since we have already signed off on both of those jobs at this point and time.

Chair Hawkinson agreed that they need to pump the breaks on 50 E. Main St. However, the bill they received has already been for time and materials have already been expended. By not paying the bill it would open them up for litigation that they would end up paying in the end. He said that how they move forward with the building is a different story versus paying a bill that we have received for services rendered.

Member Bondi replied that this conversation is on a separate subject as far as pumping the breaks.

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

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve the Pay Request from MSI for Nursing Home Performance Contract Project Application #9 for $503,583.75. Member Bondi stated the work that has been completed is under a performance contract for $7,659,903.59. Retainage as of to date is $304,010.94 and with previous applications being funded of $5,272,624.41. The lien releases and itemization of what had been done has been summarized and in place. He asked Member Cohen if he had any question on this particular invoice.

Member Cohen commented that we do not have much left to pay off on this from what he remembers.

Member Bondi asked if he was talking about the balance left.

Member Cohen shook his head yes.

Member Bondi stated that the remaining balance is $1,883,695.67.

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

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Cohen to approve Proposal for Drain System Study for 50 East Main Project in amount of $16,500. Member Bondi said that they received an email from Cody Basham consistent with the Valley Construction specifications for dealing with the actual parking lot area of 50 E. Main St. that a study needs to be done in order to determine if the drainage system where the structure is and the inverts to properly drain the site into the storm drains. It is requested that the $16,500 be added as part of the project which would be charged towards the contingency.

Member Nache said that with this one she has to agree with Member Davidson because this one is putting work into something that could be a dead horse. She said since nothing has been started she doesn't thing they should start it due to how everything is and like Member Davidson say we need to discuss it in their meetings.

Member Bondi said as you might be aware a contract has been signed with Valley Construction to do the improvements on 50 E. Main St. and this is within the guides and specification of what that contract is requiring. They have every right to ask for this study to be done by Klingner and Associates. The decision to pump the break or do anything you want with this would have to do with a negotiation with Valley Construction to not move forward or to see if there is any expense since there is a signed agreement. He cautions them of anything they do to pump the breaks or stop when there is a bonified contract in hand provides a certain level of liability that probably our State's Attorney could probably elaborate on. That needs to be a separate discussion at some point in time.

Chair Hawkinson replied while he still makes the comment that he thinks they need to pump the breaks and review he does agree with Member Bondi and Member Nache but spending the $16,500 for studying the drain system even if they decide at a future date and time to pump the breaks for lack of a better term. He said who knows they may sell the facility or continue developing they know that there is a potential problem with the drainage as it has been depicted by engineering. It may help them in the long run with potential renovations or selling the property. That way they can report to a potential buyer if that is the way they go further down the road. He is for that piece.

Member Cohen said that he is also excited to move forward with this specific proposal. He said that the reality is he thinks this will help prove whether this is a liable project because if this comes back good and other stuff comes back good he has trouble not liking a 2.5-million-dollar project that is not multi ten million-dollar projects for a new building. He would like to see if this proves or disproves why this project is liable or less liable to use.

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

Member Kramer presented the monthly report from the Health and Human Services committee. He said the monthly report was in the packet and everybody is busy with all kinds of business going on.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Bid and Bring Back for Dual-Lift Platform Mat for the Nursing Home. Member Kramer said that if anyone has question he will have to have Nursing Home Administrator Mines explain what it does but the description kind of explains it.

Member Davidson asked for Nursing Home Administrator Mines to explain of what the double platform is since she can only think of a single for one person. She asked if this is for two people.

Nursing Home Administrator Mines said it is wide enough for repositioning in bed. The one now has to be cranked up manually and push a button to let it back down. This one will do it automatically.

Member Davidson said so it is not a sit to stand.

Nursing Home Administrator Mines replied no, it is for the therapy department. She said both are for the therapy department.

Member Davidson replied ok.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, 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 Fredrick to approve Bid and Bring Back for Electric Height Adjustable Parallel Bars for the Nursing Home.

Member Davidson asked if this was for rehab.

Nursing Home Administrator replied yes, they are therapy bars and they will put the old ones in storage.

Member Davidson replied thank you.

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

Chair Hawkinson said that the budget line item changes were in the packet. He said that there are only a couple this time from the CAC. He said while we do not control their budget per say we still have to make the changes by statute to move money from one line to another. The VAC also requested a movement and that is in the same boat. The Public Defender's office, one for 50 E. Main St, for professional services changes and the General Fund for increased court orders for county to pay for services.

Motion was made by Member Weiss and seconded by Member Fredrick 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, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that the manual check review is in the board packet and there are four of them.

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Friedrich and seconded by Member Nache to approve the claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Committee Meetings of May 2026, Board Meeting in April 2026, and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Chair Hawkinson stated that he forgot to say the total of $2,713.04.

Motion to amend by Vice-Chair Friedrich and Seconded by Member Nache to approve the total of $2,713.04. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer,

Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Vice-Chair Friedrich to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of April 30, 2026 through May 27, 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 $2,752,857.28. He wanted to mention that there was one invoice that came in under the wire for an ARPA distribution for the Galesburg Community Art Center for $7,100.53 that does zero them out. He confirmed with Treasurer Davis that was correct that it zeroed them out and was there final payment. He said that he had the invoice if anyone needed to see it and all paperwork is in order per the Treasurer's Office. He asked again if anyone needed to see that bill. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 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 Bondi and seconded by Member Cohen to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.