PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
KNOX COUNTY, ILLINOIS

September 24, 2025

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COUNTY OF KNOX)

Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Knox County Board held in person at the Galesburg City Council chambers on Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 6:03 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 4	Todd Olinger
District 5	Brian Friedrich

All Members present.

Also present were County Clerk-Recorder Scott Erickson, County Treasurer Robin Davis and Coroner Jacque Dare. Department Heads present were Knox County Public Health Administrator Michele Gabriel, Highway Administrator Duane Ratermann, Knox County Nursing Home Administrator Jodi Mines, Landfill Administrator Rod Cleair,

Clerk Erickson 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 Friedrich removed Item 13.

Chair Hawkinson removed Item 3. He said due to time constraints of a member Items 23 thru Item 31 will move ahead of the Committee on Ways and Means so that will go right after the Items for the Chair. He asked if there were any objections. There were no objections to the removals or additions for the agenda.

Chair Hawkinson asked for public comment. He asked if there was anyone that did not get a chance to sign up before the meeting started. He noted that Ken Springer from KCAP was absent due to a function. He will try and get here in time to give his monthly update and answer any questions.

Pam Davidson stated that she stands before you as an elected official to a Knox County Board that does not have transparency. As a member who was elected by her constituents of her district it is sad that there are fifteen of them and they still do not know everything that is going on in the county. Due to it not coming through the committees and only a few are doing it. There is a statute from Illinois that after six months closed sessions minutes should be brought to the public but it is not happening. There are meetings that are go on and only a few know about them. It is a shame for her to have to stand up here and speak to let everybody know what is going on.

Chair Hawkinson asked Pam Davidson not to yell.

Pam Davidson said she does not know and asked if the Attorney General needs to know. Thank you.

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 August 27, 2025 and 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of July 2025 in the amounts of $175,015.47 and $47,581.57 and public safety tax in the amount of $306,564.40. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Item 3 was removed.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Bondi to approve Engagement Letters with Auditor. Chair Hawkinson said that this engagement letter is for audit session for this fiscal year into next with WIFLI. He said they do the Circuit Clerk, the general fund and sheriff's commissary.

Treasurer Davis said they do the whole county.

Chair Hawkinson said the whole county, his apologies. They have requested we sign the engagement letter since it is that time again.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the Purchase of Sheriff Vehicles using State Bid Pricing for the total amount of $101,602.50. Chair Hawkinson said that this was brought to the Ways and Means Committee at the last minute due to a couple of their investigation units failing. They have three of them over 150,000 miles which were purchased in 2015 or 2016 right before he got on the board. They have gone with 2026 Chevy Traverses. Three of those under the state bid and they do have a trade in allowance. There are three different prices for the trade in allowance. The money is available in the town contract, DCFS and the SRO Program funding that they are receiving to do these different programs to pay for the new vehicles.

Member Friedrich said what brought this about is the Sheriff three to four hours before the meeting had a bust with the feds. One of the investigator cars broke down while chasing these individuals. The Sheriff has been talking about this to him for a while but was trying to get by as long as he could. The straw that broke the camel's back was the one breaking down. He was asked if he could get it on the agenda and he said he cannot get it on the agenda but can discuss it like it is on the agenda. That is why it is from the Chair. It was discussed at the meeting but brought from the Chair since they did not have enough time to get it on their agenda for a vote. It is nothing new. The Sheriff has been talking to him about it all year and has held off as long as he could. The Sheriff really needs four but is alright with three right now since they are down one investigator for the time being.

Chair Hawkinson stated that this would be trading in a Chevy truck and two Ford F-150.

Member Friedrich said that the good thing about these is the cost that Chair Hawkinson stated is there is no additional cost of radios or equipment mounted. The radios are all handheld and no markings are put on these vehicles. We just have to pay for the price of the vehicles.

Member Davidson said it says approve not discuss like Member Friedrich said.

Member Friedrich said we discussed it at our meeting at Finance because we did not have it in time for our meeting agenda. He did not feel comfortable to put it on their agenda for a vote. We all talked about it and were in agreeance but they just did not do a vote on it since they did not have the information in time to put it on their agenda to vote on it at the committee meeting.

Member Davidson said that they always talk about the mileage on the cars. She said that they rack up a lot of additional miles driving them home and back to work. She feels it needs to be discussed about these extra miles of people that do not live in the county or outside the county which is extra miles. She did see the information about the car breaking down.

Member Cohen asked about the choice of car if it was mandated by the state or just a preference.

Member Friedrich said that it was part of the state bid that was an approved bid from Peoria. Sheriff Harlan was thrilled with the trade in value because usually they get nothing. As you can see on there they got a pretty decent trade in value.

Member Olinger said for him personally he has an issue with going with Traverses since they are known to not be very good. He does not think they are worth the rubber they are sitting on. He does his research on cars and it is probably not a good choice to go with.

Chair Hawkinson said that it is not for patrol.

Member Olinger said he gets it.

Chair Hawkinson said that they are 2026 Traverses.
Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Friedrich— (12). Noes—Robertson, Davidson and Olinger---(3). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Weiss to approve joining the Land Bank. Chair Hawkinson said that this was discussed last month by Dr. Victoria Livingston who came from Macomb to talk about the Land Bank and provided information several months ago. He spoke to her today and she provided an IGA which is on the Google Drive. The document has been sent to the State's Attorney for review. It would possibly be $49,668 per year. Last month, she did not have the official number. This cost does not include the City of Galesburg or the City of Abingdon. It is everything outside of those two municipalities. As of today, at about 4:30pm when he spoke to her on the phone she has received zero telephone calls from any board members or anyone from the public. He also spoke with Ken Springer from KCAP. The discussion they had was maybe wait and see how it moves forward. It would also give them time to see how they could budget a $49,668 expenditure for the next coming budget if that is something they would like to do.

Member Nache said it should be tabled since not everyone got the information so they could see it. Putting it on the Google Drive later and not having it early is hard for a lot of them. She gets most of hers because she goes to the meetings and listens. For the ones that depend on seeing it in the packet and not on Google Drive at 2pm in the afternoon of the meeting. She thinks it would be better to table it so they are able to talk about it.

Chair Hawkinson said that was going to be his next statement. That his recommendation is to table it. He asked it that was a motion to table by Member Nache.

Motion was made to table made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Cohen. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (15). Noes— (0). Motion tabled.

Chair Hawkinson said that they will move on to the report, Item 23 and subsequent action items form the Committee Chair for Health and Human Services

Member Kramer presented the monthly report from the Health and Human Services committee. He said the monthly report was in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve Bid and Bring Back for Ice Machine at Nursing Home. Member Kramer stated that the ice machine is failing. They will see what they can get for a price on a new one. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Bid and Bring Back for Apollo Tub at Nursing Home. Member Kramer said that they used to have several but are now down to one that is currently in operation. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson,

Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve MOU on RN and LPN Wages at the Nursing Home. Member Kramer said that Nursing Home Administrator Jodi Mines negotiated with the Union to raise the RN wages to be competitive with other nursing homes in the area. The LPN nurses under their last contract did not get much of a raise due to some state statutes that would possibly keep them from being in the nursing home which has since ceased. This is also getting the LPN wages up to competitive wages with other nursing homes in the area.

Member Pugh asked about the CNA's if that included them too. She said so it is just RN and LPN's.

Member Kramer said correct.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (11). Noes— Robertson, Pugh and Hawkinson---(3). Abstain---Bondi---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Resolution Amending Knox County Health Ordinance Article 1 – General Provisions. Member Kramer said that this is just updating the ordinances since they haven't been done in several years. Knox County Public Health Administrator Michele Gabriel came to the committee meeting and explained it to them that it was to clean things up and fix things that needed updated. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Opt-Out Option for 35 ILCS 200/15-178 "Reduction in Assessed Value for Affordable Rental Housing Construction or Rehabilitation". Member Kramer said the Assessor and himself has done a lot of research and has not seen where it benefits the taxpayers in Knox County.

Member Nache wanted to voice why she would be voting no. She said it is because if we do the Land Bank they would take this out of our hand. It would be a lot better for the Land Bank to handle this stuff then us. That would be her reason for voting no to it.

Member Kramer said that he does not have an answer if the Land Bank would have anything to do with that portion of what they do.

Member Nache said she has been talking to Member Robertson who goes to those meetings and they have already said they could handle that kind of stuff. That way it would not be on us.

Chair Hawkinson asked what the discussion was at the committee level on it.

Member Kramer said that there really wasn't a lot of discussion other then they wanted more information. The Assessor had laid out the mechanisms that are already in place for such repairs that can be done under this ordinance. She pointed out the fact that it would require us to do more inspections because it has to meet certain criteria for the projects to be done.

Chair Hawkinson said more inspection in his eyes means that it could potentially could equal request for more staffing needs.

Member Kramer said correct. Yes, because we do not have that inspector.

Chair Hawkinson stated that he was expecting the Assessor to be present to answer some knowledgeable questions as well.

Member Kramer said that the Assessor text him while in closed session saying that she was ill and would not be here. She did speak at the meeting a few months ago and most of these mechanisms that she had spoken about are pretty much are in place. He would say that this legislation was passed for a certain person verses the whole best interest of everyone in Knox County.

Member Robertson said that she thinks that this should be tabled until it is decided whether they are going to join the Land Bank or not. Since they have the resources that we are lacking of inspectors and all that stuff she was talking about in order to help us. Then this might encourage them to do other properties in the county. She said she would be voting no.

Chair Hawkinson asked if that was a motion to table.

Member Robertson yes please.

Motion was made to table by Member Robertson and seconded by Member Pugh. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen and Olinger— (11). Noes— Kramer, Sandoval, Boone and Friedrich---(4). Motion tabled.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Contract for 25 Fuel Stations in Knox County to be Revalued for the 2026 Year by Property Evaluation & Tax Advisors, LLC for $12,500. Member Kramer stated that Assessor Hochstetler brought this to them. She felt that it was best that the 25 fuel stations throughout the county are all assessed at the same level verses being at the north or south assessors doing it. This would give it a fresh start since it has not been done in a long time. That was her recommendation. He said that she is not present but will speak to the best that he can on the topic. He said that Member Davidson was also there at the meeting.

Member Davidson said yes, she was at the committee meeting but that we have elected assessors throughout our county and not just Assessor Hochstetler that does these jobs. She must think that they are not adequate to do their jobs because they have been doing them a long time. Assessor Hochstetler has other work she can do and if she was here she would tell her that if it is not broke then why are we fixing it. She should take the answers from the other areas.

Member Nache asked Member Friedrich since his wife Becky Friedrich is the South Township Assessor if she has said how she feels about it.

Member Friedrich said that at the meeting he said yes for it to move forward but said he was going to research it more. He said on the way home he called the South Assessor and discussed it with her and asked her opinion on it. Assessor Hochstetler had come to her during the meeting they have a couple times a year and asked her about it. Assessor Hochstetler said that she had extra money in her account to do these gas stations and the grain bins. The three assessors of the City of Galesburg, North and South all agreed that they thought that it was a good thing to do. They thought it was a good idea to all come together and start fresh. An individual from Tazewell is the one that would do them and the City Assessor uses him. They all three like working with this gentleman and he is very knowledgeable. They are looking forward to working with him on this project.

Member Davidson asked who is paying for it.

Member Friedrich said that the county is paying for it out of Assessor Hochstetler budget.

Member Bondi asked if there was a large variation between the various fuel stations.

Member Kramer said how Assessor Hochstetler had explained at the meeting is each assessor has different mechanisms with how they do the stations. This would be straight out across the board going forward of how they would be assessed.

Member Friedrich said that all the assessors work together even though they have their own areas. They work together to make sure everyone is as even across the board as well as they can. In this scenario of the gas station and grain bins going on is they do not have access to information that this individual has that will be doing it. They are looking forward to seeing how this gentleman gets his information and how he works with it on assessing these things.

Member Bondi asked if it was a one-time thing.

Member Friedrich said yes, it is a one-time thing to get them on the same keel and then they will learn from that gentlemen's process to see how he does it.

Member Bondi said so all the assessors are relatively positive about this.

Member Friedrich said yes, they will learn from this individual on how he did it. Its more the information that he has access to that they do not. He is retired from a county and this is all he does.

Member Thierry asked on going forward if the assessors from the different areas plan on working together.

Member Friedrich said they always do. They are in the same office so they are constantly talking.

Member Thierry said ok.

Member Friedrich said that the City Assessor is also talking to them as well.

Member Thierry said ok.

Member Weiss wanted to clarify what was said earlier. He said you said earlier that Assessor Hochstetler has additional funds in her budget. He gets that the county is paying for it but the funds are already in her budget.

Member Friedrich said yes.

Member Weiss said that is all he has.

Member Nache asked if there is a reason that if they are all ok to do this that we cannot split these three ways or they do a percentage of it.

Member Friedrich said that they do not have that in their budget and they have a very small budget. They are just budgeted to carry their day to day operations.

Member Nache said ok.

Member Friedrich said that he is not 100% sure on this but Assessor Hochstetler had a program that she wanted that did not go through for purchase so she has that extra money in her budget that was originally for that. She was looking for something to benefit the county to spend the money which would be this.

Member Nache said thank you.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Contract to have 6 Grain Elevators in Knox County Revalued for then 2026 Assessment Year by Property Evaluation & Tax Advisors, LLC for $9,900. Member Kramer said that this is along the same lines as what was talked about for the fuel stations. This is just having them evaluate the grain elevators. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer,

Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve the quote to hire Pro West & Associates to do Conversion to ARC Pro, Experience Builder and Enterprise Upgrade, for $38,545.18. Member Kramer said that Assessor Hochstetler did get three quotes. She explained to the committee the benefits and what each company provided. She suggested that they go with this company.

Member Friedrich said that she got three bids. This is the most expensive bid that she chooses and she had a good argument of why to go with them. There are several different ways to read the bid and she explained this was the best for the county. He just wanted to let everyone know that it was the most expensive bid.

Member Kramer said when she but the bid out this company answered every criterion that she requested which the others did not.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (15). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Member Kramer thanked Chair Hawkinson for moving his committee items up and apologized but had to leave.

Chair Hawkinson said that they will go back to Item 7 and subsequent action items.

Member Friedrich said that the monthly report from the Ways and Means Committees are in the packet. He said one thing they talked about a lot in their meeting was workman's comp insurance is going up significantly. There are a couple of different options that they can go with on workman's comp which unfortunately they did not have the answers to their questions that night. They decided that October 6th Chad will be coming back and have some answers for them and have a decision on what to do. Then they will have enough time to bring it to the Finance Committee meeting then go to the full board. There will be a budget meeting and insurance meeting on October 6th to discuss it. That is why it was removed because they did not feel like they had enough information to bring it forward.

***Member Kramer left at 6:38 p.m.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Holiday Calendar for 2026. Member Friedrich said this is just adopting what the judges approve to do every year which is on the Google drive.

Member Nache commented about there being an election next year so they are going to get that off. She said it was brought up at the meeting. She said that it is not always in there because it is not always an election.

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Weiss to approve the Resolutions on Deeds of Conveyance. Member Friedrich said that it says two but there is only one of them and this is to put them back on the tax rolls. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the Bid for Loan for Purchase of Voting Equipment. Member Friedrich stated that the bid was put out last month to ten local banks and not all responded. Anderson Bank was the lowest bid at 4.29%. He thanked Treasurer Davis for getting the bids. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Thierry, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Resolution on Modification of Coroner Fees. Member Fredrich said that the Coroner brought some information forward that we need to raise the fees. Chair Hawkinson and Member Kramer discussed with the old coroner when he was going out and the new was coming in he agreed back then that the fees needed to be raised. We have known for a while that the fees needed to be raised so this is the month we are raising the fees.

Member Boone was concerned about if there was death that medical records needed subpoenaed that there would be a lot of pages and a high cost to the family at $5 a page. She mentioned that she is a nurse and was concerned more for the public which she is representing. She said in her heart she believes in transparency, have a right to access, and financial be able to afford their loved one's reports. That is her concern with the reports. She said one or two pages are not a big deal it is when there are 100-200 pages of medical records. and the expense to the family member.

Clerk Erickson said the fees on the presentation tonight are more of the general types of fees. If there was a subpoena that was required that would bypass all the fee schedules by the court's orders. The information would need generated for them at no cost to provide to the court. These fees would be if someone had a family member that unfortunately had a car accident and they wanted information. This sets those fees for that.

Member Boone said that he big concern is if we get over a certain number of pages and they cannot afford that. She wanted to know if a maximum for the cost could be set which is her concern.

Clerk Erickson said that the statues are pretty quiet on that. If there was that type of situation the coroner as an elected official has that discretion to wave those fees if necessary.

Chair Hawkinson said that when he spoke with Mark Thomas before, he did wave a lot of fees for those that could not afford it.

Member Nache said that the toxicology report was going to $25 which she knows from experience in the last couple of years that it is already $25 in Peoria County which she is fine with. She does agree with Member Boone with anything lengthy they should work with people. She doesn't think the fees are outlandish due to the fact that they are already that price if you get them somewhere else. She agrees with Member Boone but agrees that some of them are reasonable.

Member Robertson asked if these fees are comparable to other counties.

Clerk Erickson said that the statues state what the maximum of the fees can be. Anything above those statutory maximums would require a fee study to be done. Which would be an additional cost. At this point and time, a fee study is not being looked at. If the county does do a fee study the Coroner's office could also be added. If more funds would be needed then the fee study would need to be done to trigger that.

Member Robertson said thank you.

Member Thierry said what is being said is that the coroner has discretionary when to waive a fee or not.

Chair Hawkinson said that is correct.

Member Thierry said ok.

Member Davidson said because she does can a little line blurb be added in the statues saying on the coroners request she has the right to adjust.

Chair Hawkinson said that they can add with an asterisk that the Coroner has the discretionary right to waive fees as necessary. He asked the coroner if she was fine with that.

Motion to amend made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Fredrick to add the line stating the Coroner has the discretionary right to reduce fees as necessary.

Member Boone wanted to know the definition of the discretion would be.

Member Friedrich said that it would be up to the Coroner.

Member Boone said that she doesn't want to get into a legal battle with someone saying this report cost $500 but then the coroner waived it for another person. She does not want to table it but does not like shades of gray in terminology.

Chair Hawkinson stated that under statute the Coroner can waive whatever fee she would want. This is just to add the little blurb on paper but under state statute the Coroner already can waive fees on her discretion.

Member Bondi if she could have a report.

Chair Hawkinson said we can ask.

Member Thierry said that she could include that on her report that she gives to the committee.

Member Robertson asked to confirm what was being voted on.

Clerk Erickson said this is to raise the fees and the amendment of the asterisk to the resolution adding the coroner has discretionary authority for fee reduction.

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

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Bid and Bring Back for Auditing Services for FY2026. Member Friedrich said earlier in the agenda it was voted on for the engagement letter for the audit. This would be for next year since it has not been out for bid since 2015. There is not very many auditors doing this anymore so it is very likely that we will get the same ones back. Since they have experience they will probably be cheaper and already have the experience with. To do things fair for the county it should be bid out again. He said that Treasurer Davis was concerned with the time frame of getting it back in time for this year so this will be for next year and you will not see it brought back until January. That way it gives them time to reach out to as many auditors as they can to make it fair. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick,

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

Member Friedrich remind everyone about the budget meeting on September 29th and October 6th a budget and insurance meeting.

Item 13 was removed.

Member Sandoval presented the monthly report from the Public Service Committees. He said the reports are in the packet and good to say it is quiet but busy. They are even with the Mary Davis Home funds that state owed them.

Member Davidson stated that the Public Defender did not attend the meeting but they did have the State's Attorney.

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

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Bid and Buy for County Fuel for Fiscal year 2025-2026. Member Bondi said by approving this the bids will be accepted by 11:00 a.m. on October 29th. The lowest bid would then be taken.

Chair Hawkinson explained that the reason it is a bid and buy is because the price changes. They have a 3-day window after the bid is submitted. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Sandoval, 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 Nache to approve the Supplemental Engineering Agreement, Victoria Township, Section 25-20151-00-BR. Member Bondi read that the original Engineering Agreement for this project was approved in June of this year. Since that time the design work that has been completed makes it obvious that a new drainage structure cannot be constructed within limitations of the existing right-of-way. The payment for all engineering services provided by Veenstra & Kimm shall not exceed $10,724.00. The budget impact is there is currently $120,000 in the 24/25 County Bridge Fund budget to cover this expense. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Sandoval, 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 Fredrick to approve the payment of Invoice for Jail Laundry & Medical Project – Draw #11 - $8,518.62. Member Bondi stated that the original contract amount was for $415,040.00 with retainage of $20,004.79. The invoice is for $8,518.62 which is correct and all lien releases are in hand.

Member Nache said that this is Draw #11.

Member Bondi said correct.

Member Nache asked how many more.

Member Bondi said that he does not know how many more but it should be $34,949.04 left so maybe one or two more.

Member Nache said ok, thank you.

Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, 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 Fredrick to approve payment of Invoice for Mary Davis Home Project – Draw #3 - $42,713.50. Member Bondi stated that the original contract amount is for $3,069,855.53. Total completed to date is $515,420.57. Retainage is $42,942.06 with current amount due of $42,713.50 and a remaining balance of $2,597,377.02. All lien waivers and documentation are in hand. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Sandoval, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes—Nache--- (1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Nursing Home Performance Contract Payment Request for $1,003,120.20. Member Bondi stated that the overall original contract is $7,659,903.59. The amount completed to date is $1,114,578.00 and total retainage $95,962.92. Stored materials are $15,494.89. The draw for payment is $1,003,120.20 and the balance to finish the project is $6,656,783.39. All lien waivers, photographs of the actual stored materials and documentation are in hand.

Member Davidson said this is the solar panels. She asked how much they have drawn off the tax levy.

Member Bondi asked if she wanted the specifics that are being drawn on.

Member Davidson asked if the $1,003,120.20 is dropped from the tax levy.

Member Bondi said no this is a loan that is in place from Midwest Bank.

Member Davidson said ok, thank you.

Member Bondi asked if she wanted the itemization.

Member Davidson said no, that's it.

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

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Pugh to approve Bid from Klingner Engineering for 50 East Main Street Project. Member Bondi said that the bid is in the packet along with the specifications that they will be doing and the estimated contract amount is for $170,000 under this agreement. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes—Hawkinson--- (1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Nache to approve Maintenance Contract for 50 E. Main with Downtown Council. Member Bondi said that the contract is in hand.

Chair Hawkinson said just a second Member Bondi. He hit his gavel and said no side bar conversations during the meeting please. Member Bondi is talking and please continue.

Member Bondi said that the contract is in the packet and has been reviewed by the State's Attorney, a couple of suggestions which have all been fixed and all blanks have been filled in. The agreement would be paying $3,900 per year for them to maintain the shrubby and cut the grass. It will cover everything except for trees or anything over 6 foot. It is the same kind of contract the Downtown Council has with the City of Galesburg for those common areas.

Chair Hawkinson commented that this was approved about two months ago. This is just shoring up some language.

Member Bondi said that the actual agreement was not approved just the amount.

Chair Hawkinson said correct.

Member Davidson said nope, he cleared it up.

Member Bondi said thank you very much Member Davidson.

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

Member Bondi said that he wanted to mention that to be a little more disciplined for the bills they have a designated person of the committee to overlook them which is Member Cohen. He will review the various performance contracts and invoices coming through. The contractors will be asked to be as early as possible getting them the information to them at least 7 days prior to the meeting so there is plenty of time to review them. He is also backed up by Member Robertson and Anthony Weiss. That why they can do a more thorough job of looking at those invoices.

Member Thierry added that it is a very good idea.

Member Bondi said thank you.

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

Chair Hawkinson stated that the budget line item changes are in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Nache and seconded by Member Sandoval for the approval of Proposed Line Item Changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, 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 packet and there were a lot of extra due to jury checks.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Committee Meetings of September 2025, Board Meeting in August, and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Chair Hawkinson stated that the total was $3,300.50. Roll Call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Olinger and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of August 28, 2025 through September 24, 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 $2,547,030.16. Roll Call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes— Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, 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, October 29, 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 Pugh to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Boone, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.