PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
KNOX COUNTY, ILLINOIS

July 23, 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, July 23, 2025 at 6:01 p.m. This meeting was presented via teleconference for viewing only. The YouTube channel link can be found on the County website. You can view the meeting on the Knox County YouTube channel. After the meeting is over you review it and are able to download it.

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

District 1	Tracy Robertson
District 2	Erin Pugh
District 3	Kimberly Thierry
District 4	Joshua Kramer
District 5	Ricardo “Rick” Sandoval
District 1	Cheryl Nache
District 2	Jennifer Fredrick
District 3	Pamela Davidson
District 4	Jared Hawkinson
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 Patty Boone

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 Public Health Administrator Michele Gabriel, Knox County Nursing Home Administrator Jodi Mines, Highway Administrator Duane Ratermann, Landfill Administrator Rod Cleair, and Supervisor of Assessments Sonia Hochstetler.

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

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

Chair Hawkinson stated that he was removing Item 14. 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.

Pam Davidson said good afternoon and as she comes up to speak every month that she had a request this time. On August 5th the National Night Out is going to be a Standish Park. It is where families come together with the public police officers and remember the safety of the National Night Out. If you have other questions please contact Todd Olinger. On August 9th the NAACP has their Annual Community Cookout. It is an annual cookout that has been going on for several years. They give out between 250-300 backpacks. They feed over 400 some people from hotdogs to hamburgers. Representative Dan Swanson even flips some burgers at the grill. This is a great fun thing that the Sheriff Department, Galesburg Police and other exibitors such as the Health Department. She said numerous organizations come out to wish our kids a nice, happy and healthy back to school. It is not just for Galesburg. It is for all the counties. This is the first year since Covid that parents have to purchase school supplies. Before the state was purchasing them for the schools and they were issuing them out. This has put a very big crunch on families. She spoke about being at Walmart with her own grandson and a family of five spoke about how much it really hurts. While she spent $60 for one kid. She can't imagine having five kids and having to do school supplies. Rain or shine come on out on August 9th for the Back to School Cookout. Thank you!

Ken Springer stated that he is with the Knox County Partnership for Economic Development. He wanted to provide the board with a mid-year look at some economic data that helps to tell the story of what is going on in the region. A lot of time in the summer you start to see econonomic reports of where we are so far in the year. He pulled some data on unemployement and retail sales to share tonight. Both are doing fairly well. In our region Knox and Warren County is combined into a single unit as far as unemployment data goes. The area is called the Galesburg Micropolitan Area. The current unemployement rate is 3.9% for the Galesburg Micro SA. That is a little below the statewide rate of 4.4%. He said 5% is considered to be full employment. Which means your labor supply and labor demand is in balance. We are a little below that.

Another trend that has come out of the data is the workforce after a long period of decline over the years now appears to have stabilized within the two counties. He said at least temporarily. Labor force is the sum total of everyone that has a job or wants a job. It is currently hovering over about 20,700 works for Knox-Warren County. We had been loosing labor force quite consistently for about 15 years. Starting about mid 2023 that curve began to level off and has been fairly flat since then. Which is certainly better news for our region.

Lastly, he pulled the retail numbers from the Illinois Department of Revenue. His organization tracks twelve different metro areas in Illinois. The retail information comes out on a quarterly basis. In the first quarter of 2025, which is the most recently available data, eleven of the twelve metro areas that they look at showed a growth in retail sales tax receipts. Both Galesburg and Monmouth showed a growth. Galesburg total tax receipts came in at 5.2% higher and Monmouth came in at 7.6% higher for quarter one of 2025 compared to quarter one of 2024. Just some economic data to tell the story. He hopes the board fines this interesting and is happy to come back and do it more often. It is something they track internally at KCAP but is always happy to share if it is of interest. Thank you very much.

Chair Hawkinson thanked everyone for speaking during public comment.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Weiss to approve the following items of the consent agenda: 1) minutes of the regular Board Meeting on June 25, 2025 and 2) sales tax and various taxes for the month of May 2025 in the amounts of $165,145.59 and $51,707.14 and public safety tax in the amount of $275,437.31. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve the Proclamation for National Health Center Week. Chair Hawkinson said that the proclamation is in everybodies packet. He thanked Knox County Public Health Administrator Michele Gabriel and her team for doing an outstanding job with the services that are provided for our community. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Sandoval to approve the appointment to Abingdon Fire Protection District of John Bryan. Chair Hawkinson stated that the information is in your packet. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, 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 they are getting wrapped up on doing budget meetings and have done one. They had another scheduled but have to reschedule. He is getting together with Treasurer Davis to find out some more dates that will work to possibly get some more scheduled for next week. He told the department heads to watch their emails so they can get some more scheduled. He has meet with the Sheriff twice now and trying to get his budget knocked down to get it out of the way so the budget committee doesn't have to do it. He will meet with Treasurer Davis also to get some thoughts on it, then will meet with the Sheriff again. Then he will bring it forward. The budget work is still going on and plugging away on it.

Motion was made by Member Friedrich and seconded by Member Nache to approve Bid and Bring Back for Workman's Compensation, Liability, and Vehicle Insurance. Member Friedrich stated that they do this every year and they will see what the bids come back as. Roll

call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, 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 Bid for Financing Options for Nursing Home Upgrade Project. Member Friedrich said he asked the gentlemen to come here and explain some stuff. He wanted to appoligize to Treasurer Davis that he misspoke about it being a balloon payment. He said the gentlemen will explain some of that. It is not a balloon payment. He said that they are going with Option 2.

Lance Oetting introduced himself and said he was from Midwest Bank. He said that they provided two proposals for the Knox County Nursing Home for renovation. Proposal one was for permenant funding. Proposal two was for renovation funding which Member Friedrich told him that is the one they are looking at which is a construction draw loan. The initial ten million dollars would be a draw down close at construction line of credit. The construction loan would include monthly interest only payments during that 18 month term during the build out of the renovations. It would then be set to permenant financing upon the completion of that renovation. The rate was at 4.8% which is an adjustable five year rate. So it will adjust three times over the amerization based on the five year FLB rate floating. Today he looked at the FLB rate and it was at 4.2% which is a daily rate. At the five years they would have an adjustment at that time. The county asked for no prepayment penalties which they included. There are no prepayment penalties on this or for refinance. If they choose to refinance during that time there are no prepayment penalties for that or any penalties to finance through them.

Member Davidson wanted to confirm that it was not a balloon.

Mr. Oetting said no balloon. He said that the only thing he asks of the county are the names of the individuals authorized by the county to execute those documents. Along with a copy of the board minutes that would authorize the financing of the renovations.

Member Friedrich thanked Mr. Oetting for showing up and explaining it.

Mr. Oetting said thank you.

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

Member Sandoval presented the monthly report from the Public Service Committees. He said that it is kind fo quite which is good. They are trying to get the Coroner situated in an office. So she can do her stuff there on county ground.

Chair Hawkinson said that he knows that Member Sandoval has meet with the Public Defender and the Coroner. They have reviewed the space and walked through the space to figure out their plan of attack. He also spoke with the State's Attorney to insure that there is some additional language that was requested to be added that went through an additional review for the County and Carl Sandburg College to utilize their facility. That is in the State's Attorney's hands right now.

Member Davidson said she wanted to say thank to the Chair of the committee Member Sandoval for taking the time to work on finding the Coroner a space since they have talked about it during committee. She said it was pleasure to have the Public Defender come to our committee meeting since he had not before. It was his first meeting that he has attended. She said she wants to mention again that the State's Attorney should be their also to explain the

information given in their reports. She said as being elected officials we need to vote according to what is true.

. Member Bondi presented the monthly report from the Infrastructure Committee and stated that their monthly report and minutes are in the packet.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Weiss to approve the Invoice for $54,830.94 to IRPA for Quarterly Tonnage Fee for the Landfill. Member Bondi said as every quarter happens this falls a week or two before the committee meeting. Either Chair Hawkinson or himself have to sign off on that particular invoice. It is a mathematical equation that the state provides them and they always want to make sure they pay it on time. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, 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 Bid for Construction Manager for 50 E. Main St. for Valley Commercial Construction. Member Bondi said all of the bids are in the packet for everyones review. He had tabulations done by both the County Clerk and Klingner & Associates. Mathmatically, Valley came out economically with the best performance. Klingner also did an assessment of all three bids from Estes,Heins and Valley. As far as overall qualifications from proposals, insurance bonding and submitition of infrastructure overall of the affirmative. Estes had a slight advantage from Klingner perspective as far as base of experience, cost effective, timeline and quality of past performance of references but they came up short on the overall cost. In checking with both Klingner and other locations here in Galesburg who have used all three of these as general contractors they were all given very high marks. From their committee they voted on the affirmative for Valley Commercial Construction.

Chair Hawkinson said he had a clarification. He said back in April, Cody Basham submitted a proposal for Klingner through the engineering firm to be the construction manager as well. He asked if that was included in the review. He wanted to make sure the county is not spending an extra $200 and some thousand of whatever Valley Commercial Construction is.

Member Bondi said $223,820.

Chair Hawkinson said $223,820 with Valley if they are going to do the next step of exactly what we are going to do of contracting out engineering firm.

Member Bondi said that Klingner will still have the same basic operation and involvement on it but having a construction manager really puts eyeballs on each step of the process to make sure the product being put in place is of proper sequence. Also, at a level of performance which will be reviewed by Klingner and the construction manager. He said you cannot expect Klingner to be on site on a continuous basious to make sure all the work is done in a particular fashion.

Chair Hawkinson said he was just concerned with other government agencies that do not have, for a smaller project like this one, to have a separate assigned construction manager. They usually go through the engineering firm for smaller projects. He is just concerned that we are spending $223,820 on top of whatever we will spend.

Member Bondi said that it is like the Performance Contract that we have had in the past with MSI. We have had both involved but with the Performance Contract at 5 or 10% profit

which would be much higher. This is a project that is going to be between $1.5 and $2 million dollars. It would be a similar thing but at a lesser cost then the Performance Contract.

Chair Hawkinson said that he cannot compare this single small project with a performance master contract with a vendor because that is a large scale county building project that they took on four years ago ruffly. He just wanted to make sure they were not affording Klingner the opportunity to participate in the bids

Member Bondi said that they will not be circumventing them. They will be in the process but they will have construction capable people also with eyeballs on the site to make sure all the right things are being done. We would bring Klingner in if there was other engineering concerns if they open a wall and there is a surprise. Those issues would have to be dealt with then.

Chair Hawkinson said he agrees and it's a good plan. He was just thinking cost which was his concern.

Member Davidson said that she is voting highly for this because we used to have one. She asked Member Sandoval what his name was. He was a union person which did that. He made sure to work had in hand with the engineer. Plus, some of the things that they have had to redo over and over from the holes in the courthouse. That stuff would not have happened if we would have had somebody.

Member Bondi said his name was Donny Gladfelter.

Member Davidson said yes, it was Donny Gladfelter you are right. She said we as trying to save nickles and dimes ended up paying more in the long run. She is voting yes.

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

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve payment of Invoice for Jail Laundry Project – Amendment #4 – Draw #9 - $14,197.70. Member Bondi stated it was a $415,040.00 project, to date they have spent $385,150.80, the total retainage is $19,257.54 and the current payment being requested is $14,197.75. In the packet is all the summary of all the work that has been done to include this specific part of the project. The lein waivers are in hand, along with the actual invoice and all documentation are in place. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Hawkinson, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes—Davidson---(1). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Bondi and seconded by Member Nache to approve the Resolution for Tuition Reimbursement. Member Bondi said this particular item is with one of our employees in the IT Department and establishing the Resolution in place for the Education Incentive Program that was drafted by Chair Hawkinson which was cleared by the State's Attorney.

Chair Hawkinson said that this resolution was past last year already. This is just to approve the reimbursement of that specific employee.

Member Bondi said that it was in the packet.

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

Item 14 was removed.

Chair Hawkinson said one thing that he did forget under the monthly report was that he got an update today from United Telephone about the grant that was provided to them for rural fiber. They started Henderson Township construction on July 21st, they will be start installing in Rio Township on August 4th and both townships will be completed by winter. In those two townships they will serve nearly 700 households and/or facilities and will have high speed internet for the first time.

Member Kramer presented the monthly report from the Health and Human Services committee. He said the monthly report was in the packet. He thanked Vice Chair Friedrich for stepping in for him since he had a scheduling conflict this month.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Friedrich to approve Bid and Bring Back for Sealcoating the Parking Lot at the Nursing Home. Member Kramer said that it is pretty self explanatory. It is to get bids for sealcoating the parking lot. He said that he knows that in the past they talked about Highway Administrator Duane Ratermann doing it but they do not have the capability to do that for them.

Member Davidson said that she was on the fence about this but Member Friedrich made it very clear. She said that is why he probably jumped to the gun on saying yes to this. He explained to her that even though we just got new parking lots they have to keep it sealcoated to keep the life of the parking lot so she will be voting yes.

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

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Fredrick to approve Bid and Bring Back for Range/Oven at the Nursing Home. Member Kramer said that it is pretty self explanatory. They need a new oven out there so they are just needing to get some bids to see what we could get. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (13). Noes—Thierry---(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 Bondi and seconded by Member Kramer to approve Opening of Budget for Line Item Changes. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Chair Hawkinson said that the budget line item changes are all online and in the board packet. He said there is one to notate that was a late bloomer. It was just a formality that was not taken care of in time last month. The State of Illinois is allowing $11,174.00 in addition that the

state will be sending to them for the technology grant. On top of the six or almost seven hundred thousand dollars that they have sent us for the grant for the technology and generator they are granting us to add the $11,174.00 additional on to that grant. That way that fee is not being paid out of local funds.

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

Chair Hawkinson said that the manual check review is in the packet. They are on page 123 of the board packet. There is nothing out of the ordinary.

Motion was made by Member Kramer and seconded by Member Weiss to approve the claims by Members for per diem and mileage for the Committee Meetings of July 2025, Board Meeting in May, and other claims for per diem from Meetings. Chair Hawkinson stated that the total was $3,783.78. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Weiss and seconded by Member Bondi to approve the claims against Knox County, Illinois for the period of June 26, 2025 through July 23, 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 $2,585,982.59. He let Treasurer Davis know that the amount did include the technology bill for $11,174.00. Roll call vote is recorded as follows: Ayes—Robertson, Pugh, Thierry, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Bondi, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried.

The next Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 27, 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, Kramer, Sandoval, Nache, Fredrick, Davidson, Hawkinson, Weiss, Cohen, Olinger and Friedrich— (14). Noes— (0). Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.