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MINUTES

SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD

APRIL 7, 2025

The Sangamon County Board met in Reconvened Adjourned September Session on April 7, 2025 in the Sangamon County Board Chambers. Chairman Van Meter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Fulgenzi gave the Invocation. Mr. Miller led the County Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to call the roll. Upon the roll call, there were 25 Present – 4 Absent. Mr. Hall, Mr. Mendenhall, Ms. Sheppard and Mr. Stumpf were excused. Ms. Lathan then joined the meeting by telephone conference. Chairman Van Meter instructed County Clerk Gray to revise the roll call to reflect that Ms. Lathan is participating in the meeting via telephone conference as allowed by the Open Meetings Act.

Chairman Van Meter had a couple of notes to board members regarding the new system. They are still in the experimental phase with the equipment. They are hoping to be up and running for the May meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Van Meter noted that there are eight people signed up to speak this evening. One of them wishes to speak on a matter that's before the board. He asks for unanimous consent that they go out of regular order and allow those speakers to speak at the beginning of the meeting.

Shawn Miller addressed the board. He holds no political positions, but he is a veteran. He said they gather today to reflect on a word that carries immense weight – veterans. It's a word they often hear and is a label applied to individuals who have served in the nation's armed forces. He questioned what it truly means to be a veteran. It is far more than a title. To be a veteran is to answer a call. A call of duty – a call to service – a call to something greater than oneself. It is decisions made by individuals from all walks of life, driven by a profound sense of patriotism. It endures the rigors of training, separation from loved ones and the uncertainty of deployment. It is standing shoulder to shoulder with comrades and forging bonds. It's knowing the weight of responsibilities, the gravity of command and the consistency of awareness of risk.

He said to be a veteran is to experience the world in many ways few can understand. It is understanding a fragile peace and the cost of freedom. It is knowing the deafening silence of a battlefield and echoing cheers of homecoming. It is about more than combat. It is about the long hours, the consistent vigilance and the unwavering commitment to the mission. To be a veteran is to carry the weight of experience. It's about the continuing sense of duty. Veterans continue to serve their community, their families and their hearts. They carry the values of honor, courage and commitment long after the uniform is retired. Ultimately, to be a veteran is to embody the spirit of service. It is a legacy of sacrifice that is a testament of courage and reminds them of the enduring strength of the human spirit. When "thank you for your service" is said, it is acknowledging more than a job well done. It is honoring a commitment, a sacrifice and a legacy. They are honoring the veterans among them who have given so much to protect the freedom they hold dear. This is why he is here on behalf of the veterans today for the Military Veterans Assistance Act. He salutes them all.

Naomi Miller was the next speaker. She is thirteen years old and lives in Sangamon County. She is here to speak about something very important to her, which is veterans. One in particular is her dad, who is Shawn Miller, and is the chairman of the Veterans Assistance Commission and has been working hard to explain the Military Veterans Assistance Act to each of them.

Many of us know or are related to veterans. It may be a grandparent, an uncle or a family friend. She has seen firsthand how the services have impacted their lives. She has learned about sacrifice, duties and the challenges they have faced when they come home. Sometimes people forget when a veteran struggles their family struggles too. When a veteran struggles with their mental health or can't get the support they need, it affects their children. If a veteran worries about finances, their kids feel that worry too.

She added that the VAC helps provide resources that support veterans' mental and physical health. Her dad used some of them. They don't just help the veterans, they help their kids have better opportunities and stable homes. Supporting veterans is the right thing to do and is also good for the community. When the veterans are doing well, their families are doing well and the community is stronger. When resources are provided for veterans, they invest in the future of the County. How they treat their veterans today, teaches the next generation about the importance of honor, service and sacrifice. It shows what it means to be a community that cares. She hopes the board remembers that when they make decisions about funding and support for the VAC. She hopes they consider how their decisions impact veterans and their families, especially children. She thanked the board for their time.

Cynthia Cody was next signed up to speak but was not in attendance.

Ashti Dawson next addressed the board. She is the Superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Sangamon County. She wanted to share what's going in their office in terms of productivity for this quarter. They have a quarterly meeting on the 16th. She has not yet shared these numbers formally on her Superintendent's Report.

In January of this year, they had a backlog of 108 cases because of the lack of confidential office space. She was happy to report they are down to 60, so it has been reduced quite a bit. Out of that 60, they have 38 ready to schedule and 22 on hold due to the veteran needing to get additional

documentation together. They have submitted 89 claims within the first quarter. Within that 89, they had two claims that have been denied, which the veterans can appeal. Three have been granted and 84 are pending a decision by the VA.

Monthly benefits awarded are \$113,780.67 from the VA. Retro payments of \$324,007 have been made from the VA. This is money going to the veterans just in the first quarter. They anticipate those will rise with the pending numbers. For Financial Assistance, they had 11 approved for \$10,478 and 10 denied or incomplete, and 25 veterans received bus tokens for a total of \$240.

Robert Frazier spoke next. He is the Executive Director for Clean Slate Advocates, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization providing solutions and community awareness for poverty and traumatized people. They provide laundry services for low income and the homeless. People in need come to the laundry facility located at 801 South Grand Avenue East. They are open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The customer visits the customer service counter and asks to participate in the CSA program. They ask the customers a few questions to acquire some demographics about what's going on in the community.

He added that dirty linens carry infections and viruses through pathogens from bodily fluids and other means. Many of these cause humans to get sick. Clean laundry reduces hospital and doctor visits. It prevents illnesses that reduce individual and family productivity. It also helps promote mental and physical health stability.

They are looking for monetary support. They also need information that can be disseminated to the public. They need assistance working with strategic partners that are dedicated to the well-being of their community. CSA encourages them to understand that people traumatized by poverty still have the desire and opportunity to help themselves. This is evident in the last month, as they have done over 130,000 loads of laundry. Clean clothes can be a luxury for some, CSA seeks to bridge the gap between communities together.

The Soap to Hope challenge is to amplify the importance of hygiene irrespective of socio-economic background. Sangamon County is fourth in the state. They are proud of that because they started the program that has never been started in the country. He added that lots of people have been helped. He thanked the board for their time.

Chairman Van Meter questioned staff about assistance for the program. Mr. McFadden stated that he has been speaking with Mr. MacDonna about this and they are working on it.

Veronica Glass was signed up to speak next but was not in attendance.

Jayson Hoffman spoke next. He is the Provost Marshall of the Veteran's Assistance Commission. He is wanting to take time to address some of the items that the last meeting ended with. He realizes that Mr. Krell felt his statements were personal or inflammatory remarks directed at him. He greatly appreciates Mr. Krell giving the history of him being a veteran as well as several of his family members. In his opinion, he and Mr. Krell are duty-bound. What he means is if he's ever in any need, he's going to stick his hand out and help him. If somebody comes and attacks him, he's going to be "flying through the air with a bicycle kick" on that person. When he says duty-bound, he's also going to hold him accountable when he thinks he's doing something wrong and that's what

his comments were about at the last meeting. He was not disrespecting him. He appreciates his service and his family service. Roughly seventy to eighty percent of veterans are families. It's a family business now. He also has roots going back to the Revolutionary War. His comments to Mr. Krell are to him as an elected official not as a person.

He wants to talk about Mr. Krell's comments about not knowing what the money was being spent on. He said they provide an annual budget annually, and their Superintendent just gave an example of her report. She gives a report at every meeting and that's where they allot time to ask questions. He invited them all to stop by at their next meeting on the 16th. The money is there, they just need questions to be asked by the delegate that's on their board.

He also referred to Mr. Krell's statement that there are several bills at the Statehouse that may affect things. They are asking for the board to take action on the law that's in effect not the bills that may come into effect. Right now, the VAC is not properly funded and that's what they are asking.

He remarked on Ms. Fulgenzi's comments about salary raises which were greatly appreciated. They have paperwork going back to at least 2022 making a request for those salary increases. They are now almost into parity with other VAC's and VSO's that work for the state but it's taken a while to get there.

He has provided the State Attorney General's mediation letter between the VAC and the County, interpreting the law for the board to review. He thanked the board.

Mr. Ken Pacha addressed the board. He believes some of the information on the website about financial responsibility and oversight is questionable. He quoted, "We believe oversight by an elected board is necessary to ensure accountability. Issues have arisen including payroll problems, lack of documentation for leave, unexplained budget requests and questionable expenditures without oversight. These problems could continue unchecked." He wonders if anyone has been convicted or arrested or if they are court cases or are including illegal explainer stuff that would essentially be internal issues that have not been proven. He believes this looks like character assassination for people who are doing good work within the community.

He says this leads into the idea of their stipulation that's on the website. He reads, "The County believes in financial management and responsible usage of County taxpayer funds." He then references Resolution 10, "A thousand pieces of hand-blown or sculpted glass art." This is going to cost \$299,981. He wonders if this is really necessary and if this is financial fiscal responsibility to spend one third of a million dollars on hand blown glass. He thinks this is a courthouse and where he pays his taxes. He doesn't care if there is pretty glass on the way in. He knows the County could use that money elsewhere. It seems irresponsible to him since he knows a few glass blowers that could "knock it out" for a little cheaper.

Mr. Pacha brought up the news that Senator Turner got her recall moved through at the statehouse. He hopes the board lives up to their word and will support it. He thinks the Sheriff doesn't. He said the Sheriff gave public statements that said she expressed concerns about the potential instability that recalls could cause within law enforcement agencies. "Once the recall has been initiated, and if you get the votes, and then if you have enough signatures, and then if that

person is recalled, if I'm understanding it correctly, it takes effect immediately." She acknowledged that there are limits to when a recall can be enacted, noting, "I do know there are some stipulations that a person has to be in office for 6 months and it can't happen within 6 months at the end of their term, but consistency can be a key in the success of some departments." She was asked, "Why was this something you wanted to show your opposition of? I know that when you took over as sheriff you wanted to partner with the community, and it feels like the community has really been pushing for this."

He thinks the board knows they have been pushing for this. Whether it's Sam trying to gather signatures, or the rest of them gathering signatures or even a sitting elected official at the state senator level introducing legislation to get it through. He's curious as to why the only unelected official out of the county's elected officials has an opinion on recall. They haven't elected her yet. He means no offense to the sitting Sheriff, but they haven't elected her. He feels her opinion on whether or not they want her in office isn't up to her. It's up to them and that's why they're trying to pass this legislation. So when she says things like "I don't want this to look like I'm in opposition with the community. It's not that," he thinks it either seems like she's out of touch with the community or she's decided that she knows what's best for all of them despite their own statements publicly.

He is frustrated to see someone who the board took great time and work to get appointed, make public statements that would line up with the board's support because that is what the Chairman has stated publicly and he believes him. So it is frustrating when their own Sheriff counteracts that. He doesn't feel that is responsible leadership.

Mr. Pacha stated he would use his last minute for the rubber stamping of the Massey Commission. He does love the Massey Commission. He is very critical but says that is to hold accountability for people in charge of the community. He did want to note that when speaking about fiscal responsibility. There is a lot of money going out this evening. He wants to know where it's going. There is no televised coverage for two subcommittee meetings that are happening this evening. He understands why the meeting had to be moved to tonight but is frustrated that no money was spent to broadcast out or even set up a phone on a tripod. He thinks they would want that money spent to get that out to the community. He thanked the board for their time.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, for approval of the Minutes of March 11, 2025. A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of the Minutes of March 11, 2025.

MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES ADOPTED

CORRESPONDENCE

A motion was made by Mr. DelGiorno, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to place correspondence on file with the County Clerk. A voice vote was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 1

1. Resolution approving the FY2025 County Highway aggregate material contracts.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. Cahnman, to place Resolution 1 on the floor. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to call the roll. Upon the roll call vote, there were 24 Yeas – 0 Nays.

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTIONS 2 - 4

2. Resolution allowing the County Engineer to submit an order for Bulk Rock Salt to the State of Illinois Central Management Services Joint Purchase Program.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. Truax, to place Resolution 2 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. DelGiorno, seconded by Mr. Madonia to consolidate Resolutions 2-4. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 3 and 4.

3. Resolution approving the purchase of a 2025 Ford Explorer from Landmark Ford, Inc. utilizing the State of Illinois Joint Purchase Contract.
4. Resolution approving construction engineering services from Kuhn & Trello Consulting Engineers, LLC for the Woodside Road and Iron Bridge Road grade separation project

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation. A motion was made by Mr. Madonia that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolutions 2 – 4, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 5

5. 2025-001 – John S. Bruntjen, 1799 Cantrall Rd, Illiopolis – Granting a Rezoning and Variances. County Board Member David Mendenhall, District #3.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. Thomas to place Resolution 5 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Madonia to waive the reading of the professional staff's report. There were no objections. A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 5.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTIONS 6 - 9

6. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Sheriff's office from SEICO for the purpose of a Jail Video Camera System in the amount of \$152,164.

A motion was made by Mr. Tjelmeland, seconded by Ms. Fulgenzi, to place Resolution 6 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. DelGiorno, seconded by Mr. Madonia to consolidate Resolutions 6-9. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 7-9.

7. Resolution approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between Sangamon County and the Village of Buffalo regarding enforcement of the International Building Code.
8. Resolution approving a grant application for CASA of Sangamon County from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority for assistance to children in care due to abuse and neglect throughout Sangamon County in the amount of \$134,990.
9. Resolution approving a grant application for the Sangamon County Child Advocacy Center from the Office of the Attorney General for coordination of investigations of child abuse and services to child victims and their caregivers in the amount of \$67,545.97.

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation. A motion was made by Mr. Madonia that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolutions 6 – 9, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

WAIVER OF TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, to waive the ten-day filing period. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED

TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD WAIVED

RESOLUTIONS 10 - 18

10. Resolution approving a contract between Sangamon County and Epiphany Studios to create, design, and install more than 1,000 pieces of hand-blown or sculpted glass art in the new County atrium space for an amount not to exceed \$299,981.

A motion was made by Ms. Deppe, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to place Resolution 10 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. DelGiorno, seconded by Mr. Madonia to consolidate Resolutions 10 – 18. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 11 – 18.

11. Resolution approving a grant application for Court Services from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority for the Adult Redeploy Illinois program in the amount of \$509,956.

12. Resolution authorizing the Sangamon County Circuit Court to execute Westlaw's proposed contract amendment to provide AI legal research services to supplement internet-based legal research services.
13. Resolution appropriating an additional \$75,000 to the Massey Commission so that funds are available for it to complete the work set forth in Resolution 6, approved 9/18/24.
14. Resolution authorizing Sangamon County to enter into agreement with Adam White to help support SIU medicine and the Massey Commission at an amount not to exceed \$36,000 for a six-month period.
15. Resolution authorizing Sangamon County to enter into agreement with Suite 502 Systems Consulting to help support SIU medicine and the Massey Commission at an amount not to exceed \$57,600 for a six-month period.
16. Resolution authorizing Sangamon County to enter into agreement with Sontae Massey to help support SIU medicine and the Massey Commission at an amount not to exceed \$42,000 for a six-month period.
17. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Treasurer from QuickSilver Mailing Services for the purpose of mailing tax bills in the amount of \$80,000.
18. Resolution approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between Sangamon County and the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois.

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation except for Mr. Cahnman who voted "NO".

Mr. Cahnman questioned where the funding for the glasswork in the lobby area in Resolution 10 is coming from. Mr. McFadden stated that it's coming from bond proceeds. Mr. Cahnman then asked about Resolution 13. He notes the resolution says they appropriated the commission \$175,000 and now they'll need more than that. He's wanting to get an accounting on what the \$175,000 was spent.

Mr. McFadden clarified that they have not spent the \$175,000. They have spent \$76,000 to date. Tonight the board has approved contracts in the amount of \$135,600. There will be a future contract coming to the committee for \$5,000 for Yale University to do some research for the Commission. The rest of the money is obligations that have been budgeted through September.

Mr. Cahnman questioned the contract they are entering into with Yale. Mr. McFadden stated they have informed him but he hasn't seen it yet. Mr. McFadden said he would put together a written report as to what the funds, to date, have been spent on.

Mr. Cahnman also had questions about Resolutions 14, 15 and 16. They all specify certain amounts that will be paid to individuals. He understands Rikeesha Phelon will no longer be doing work for the commission through SIU School of Medicine. The intention is to replace her work with

these three individuals and he's wondering why it takes three people to replace one and what their different duties are.

Mr. McFadden stated that there were other staff involved at SIU besides Rikeesha. The three contracts are meant to replace those staff that were previously working for free. The process of selecting these three vendors was done by the Massey Commission. The commission forwarded those names to them and they are vetted internally at the County through the State's Attorney's office to make sure what is being proposed is following County protocol. Once the vetting is completed, it's presented to the County Board. The 502 is going to serve as the Operations Director for the agency. Mr. Massey is going to serve as the Assistant Operations Director and Mr. White will be in charge of public engagement. There is some overlap amongst the three but that is how they are delineated and the roles they will play.

Mr. Cahnman asked if the Massey Commission requested the County provide the funding for these three. Mr. McFadden said even though they are professional services, they did an RFP and conducted interviews. It was a lengthy process to select those three. The County is at arm's length when it comes to that part of the process. Mr. Cahnman had no further questions.

Ms. Fulgenzi commented on Resolution 16. She thinks it is good public policy that you staff a committee like this with a neutral party so it doesn't detract from the final report or raise any credibility issues. She has nothing against Mr. Massey but feels that is bad public policy and isn't the way you come out with an unbiased report. She knows there were issues raised in the past about a potential contractor that had family affiliations with law enforcement and they rejected that person. Now she feels as if they're going into biased territory on the final report so she will be voting present on that Resolution.

Mr. Cahnman questioned if Sontae Massey was going to be resigning from the commission when he takes the paid position. Mr. McFadden said they had been informed that he will be stepping down.

Mr. Guyton commented that he appreciates Ms. Fulgenzi's thought process and viewpoint regarding bias but he does feel this situation is a little different because Sontae is intending to resign and they are looking for transparency and credibility when it comes to interacting with the community. He thinks the only person who would have a realistic approach or an understanding and a pulse of what's going on in the community and would be able to attest to what the after-effects of what brutality is, is Sontae Massey. Sontae has been here from the very beginning and has worked hard to find a way to bridge the gap between disgruntled community members and the commission as a whole. He thinks this is an opportunity for them to give some good will. He's not saying this should happen all the time, but in this certain situation he feels it would be apt and appropriate.

Ms. Lathan said she is in full support of Resolution 18. The recommendation is one that came from the Massey Commission. It is the expectation that it will meet some of their needs and be responsive to some of the recommendations they've made to the County. She thinks there is also a need for them to have a more organized and efficient process in response to mental health needs within Sangamon County and this is an initial step towards a lot of work that needs to be done. She strongly supports the resolution.

Mr. Schackmann added that this specific agreement is an important first step in getting some of the information the commission needs to ultimately bring back a solid report to the County. Both Mr. Schackmann and Chairman Van Meter agreed that it was a great first meeting with some wonderful members. They have hit the ground running.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolutions 10– 18, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous except for Ms. Fulgenzi who voted Present on Resolution 16.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Van Meter noted the Resolution that is on the table will remain on the table. They are making some progress.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointments

Appointment of Jeff Stahl to the Lanesville-Illiopolis Drainage District for a term expiring February, 2028.

Appointment of Greg Stumpf to the Community Service Block Grant Advisory Board for a term expiring April, 2028.

Appointment of James Schackmann to the Community Service Block Grant Advisory Board for a term expiring April, 2028.

Appointment of Pam Neuman to the Mental Health Commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, for approval of any appointments. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
APPOINTMENTS ADOPTED

B. Ratification of the SCSO Civilian Bargaining Unit CBA

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Ms. Small to ratify the agreement made by the Civilian Bargaining Unit and the County Board which included 5 to 7 percent raises for the nine employees in the unit. They were well received negotiations. He'd appreciate everyone's support.

A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
CONTRACT RATIFIED

**REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS, REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES,
REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEE REPORT ON CLAIMS**

A motion was made by Mr. Delgiorno, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to place reports on file with the County Clerk. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
REPORTS FILED

RECESS

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. Delgiorno, to recess the meeting to May 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING RECESSED

Don Gray
Sangamon County Clerk