

DON GRAY**SANGAMON COUNTY CLERK**

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WEBSITE: countyclerk.sangamonil.gov**MINUTES****SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD****MARCH 12, 2024**

The Sangamon County Board met in Reconvened Adjourned September Session on March 12, 2024 in the Sangamon South Auditorium. Chairman Van Meter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Stumpf gave the Invocation and Mr. Truax led the County Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to call the roll. There were 23 Present – 6 Absent. Mr. Bunch, Ms. Deppe, Mr. Fraase, Mr. Hall, Mr. O’Neill, and Ms. Scaife were excused.

PROCLAMATION

Mr. Mendenhall presented a Proclamation in recognition of National Ag Day to recognize and celebrate the contributions farmers and farm families have made to better the lives of Sangamon County citizens. Mr. Jim Birge, with the Sangamon County Farm Bureau, was present to accept the Proclamation. He thanked them for the honor and asked for people to be patient and watch for farmers on the road right now to keep them safe.

RYAN MCCRADY-SPRINGFIELD SANGAMON GROWTH ALLIANCE

President & CEO of the Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance Ryan McCrady addressed the County Board. Mr. McCrady stated they like to provide you an update of what they are seeing in the local economy. They want to see more people both living and working in Sangamon County, and they do that through economic development. They work hard to retain their local businesses, get them to expand, look for risk points of them potentially leaving, and they also look to attract new businesses, new workers, and citizens in our community. He introduced the rest of his team including Amber Krager, Economic Development Officer, Abby Powell, Director of Business Development, and Shelley Tulo, Director of Marketing & Communications.

They can contact him or his staff anytime they ever need anything from the Growth Alliance. Mary forwarded an email to them of the digital copy of the Year-in-Review document which has his contact information on it.

Mr. McCrady explained they do have a strategic plan that their board adopted. Their goal is to increase the number of jobs by an average of 1,000 each year and increase the population by an average of 1% each year. That doesn't seem like a big percentage, but when they look at our state that has a declining population, this could have a pretty dramatic turnaround. They want to see more people working and earning more money and more people living here. They also want to work to diversify sources of funding for the Growth Alliance. They want to assure that their work continues on. This is a marathon and not a sprint. To be effective in supporting business here and businesses they want to attract, they have to be consistent. They also have to recognize their investors may have negative economic impact to their industry that doesn't have anything to do with the local community. Because of that, they may have to pull back some on their contributions to the Growth Alliance.

They also make effort with business retention and expansion. They have visited over 100 businesses in 2023 and had the same activity in 2022. This is an opportunity to check in with them to make sure they are aware of the resources that exist to support them here in the community. Business retention and expansion is something that is often overlooked in economic development, but two thirds of economic growth in the community should come from the businesses that are in it today. If anyone has any businesses they would like for the Growth Alliance to meet with, they would be happy to meet with them.

They go around the country to meet with site selection consultants to attract new businesses in the community. Companies hire site selection consultants to locate new sites across the country. They went to a number of conferences this year. He can now walk into a conference and site selectors will know who they are and where Springfield and Sangamon County are.

They also operate the Thrive in SPI Community Marketing Campaign. They report to their board on a regular basis on the metrics of this campaign. It is in a highly digital format. You will see their ads on television, hear them on the radio, see banners around downtown, see billboards around the state, and see them on social media. They are making millions of impressions every year on individuals that don't live here right now, and that is really important. He doesn't want to underestimate or underemphasize the importance of changing the self-talk of their community. There is a lot of effort done internally to market the community. They want people to know there are career opportunities here, great places to live, and great things to do in this community, so they do have to also market internally. He knows when a prospect comes to town. They will show up a day earlier than they told him and will go out to eat, go to stores, and talk to the staff to find out about the community. They know I am going to tell them it is the best place in the world for their business, but they also want to hear it from a person on the street. They have been able to make a big impact with videos they have on social media and their YouTube page. This is a community marketing campaign, which means the community owns it. They put a significant amount of resources into cataloging high quality photography and video content about their community. If you know someone

that is trying to develop advertising, marketing, a website, or anything like that then contact them and they can use any of this photography. There are businesses that are using it in their recruitment brochures and on commercials.

Everything in this campaign is from this community. There will be no ocean beaches in their campaign. He has seen community marketing campaigns from a place in Kansas that had an ocean beach in it. They have photographers that go to events around town and in the county and take pictures and upload them so they are available to everyone. The word is starting to get out and they are excited about how people are using this community resource.

The next thing they look at is how many people are working in this community. These are numbers from the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. Every month they monitor the number of employed individuals in the community through quarterly payroll filings. When they look back to before the Pandemic, they have 2,700 more people now employed in this community. That is about a 2.5% increase. They use that to show businesses we have an active and engaged workforce. Midwestern work ethic is a real thing, and businesses know that. When we look at the last year, they have 1,700 more people employed from 2022.

Next is how much they are making. The average hourly private wage pre-pandemic was \$25.58. It is now \$30.45. As the demand for labor stays high and a limited supply of labor exists, the price is going to go up.

Last year they did recruit a new investor in the Growth Alliance. Johnson Controls is an international company that works in a lot of different areas including building controls, water/sanitary systems, and energy systems. He believes they have a new investor to announce in the next few days as well. They have retained all of their investors, even after going through the Pandemic. They work very hard to keep their investors satisfied and communicate well with them about things they are doing and stay apprised of them.

As far as the Growth Alliance budget performance, a couple metrics they track on their budget to make sure they make effective use of their funding include that they try to watch how much of their money is being spent on admin and overhead and how much is going towards programming and community promotion. The industry average for organizations like theirs is about a 65/35 split. For Fiscal Year 2024 they are at about 23% on overhead and 77% on community programming and promotion, and they are happy with that. They keep a very close eye on making sure the administration "beast" doesn't get big and become a distraction of the mission of the organization. He also reports to their board the percentage of dollars used on salaries and benefits as opposed to the total expenses of the organizations. That is continuing to drop from 27% in FY23 to 20% in FY24. They keep staff as lean as they can, and are putting the money to work out there on things they believe will show a return in the economy.

There are a few other projects he wanted to talk about. One thing listed about business attraction is the Midwest-Japan Conference. This is a conference started in an effort to build trade between Japanese companies and Midwestern states.

The states include Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Missouri. It is an annual conference where individuals from those states and Japan get together, and the location alternates between these states and Japan. This year it was in Japan, and the Growth Alliance was able to send two individuals from their office including their Director of Marketing and Director of Business Development. The State of Illinois reached out to them and asked them to attend with Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton and the Department of Commerce Director Kristin Richards. They wanted to highlight women business leaders in the state. They were the only local economic development officials on that trade mission to Japan. That created a lot of opportunities for Abby and Shelley to interact with Japanese businesses and also develop deep relationships with state leadership. They plan to attend that conference again this year and luckily it will be in the United States. Japan is a very promising market for them to develop foreign direct investment in the Midwest for a number of reasons, and there are a lot of long-term relationships that already exist, so they can build off of those things.

They are also close to completing the Downtown Medical District Master Plan. There will be some public sessions coming up in the next few months for a public review of that plan. They are hoping the City Council will formally adopt it in April. That is a very important tool to say "The community came together and this is what we believe success looks like in the district, these are things that have already been approved for public input, and this is kind of a road map for them to be successful." This master plan was done in a way to make sure they did not re-do a plan that had already been done and put on file. They did not want to be redundant or waste any money on putting it together. It was primarily funded through a State of Illinois Rise Grant that the City of Springfield was able to acquire.

The Scheels Sports Complex groundbreaking happened in September. They did their excavating work in the fall and did the compaction for the sports dome. The City bonds and private financing commitments are issued. They are beginning work, as weather allows, in the spring. Their goal is to still have the dome structure up by the end of 2024 and be fully operational in 2025. You should hear very soon about some other developments being announced at the sites adjacent to the Sports Complex.

They also worked with the Springfield Airport Authority to secure two new flights from the airport to Florida on Breeze Airways. He encourages them to experience that if they have not already. There is a special promotion going on right now just for the Springfield flights. Through the end of March for travel by the end of May, there is an additional 15% discount. These are brand new flights with three classes of seating. It is getting very good reviews from the public and they are seeing the ridership continue to increase. They are excited to have that investment here by Breeze Airways.

Work continues on energy production developments around Sangamon County. The Double Black Diamond Solar Development is well under construction with about 400 local laborers and electricians working everyday about six days a week at that site. The Lincoln Land Energy Center project took a step forward with a new development team taking charge of that project near the end of 2023.

Kendall Energy, a division of Blackstone, is now going to finish up the development of that project. They expect to break ground in early 2025. They have been in town frequently visiting the site and working on all the things they need to do to get that project ready to go. All the permitting is done for that project and all the EPA permits are done. Once they get the money together on that, they will be moving forward on the project. There will be about 700 construction jobs over about a five-year construction period. It will be about a \$1.5 billion project. It will be a 1,100 megawatt natural gas fire power plant, and will be a great project for them. It will also create co-location opportunities for other businesses that want to locate adjacent to a significant power source.

They also engaged with a number of municipalities around the county. They assist them in many different ways depending on what kind of resources they have and what kind of assistance they want to have. It is very important that they do this work across the county because one of these days when they land a large scale development, there are no large vacant parcels of land inside a city like Springfield. These developments are going to happen outside areas of the City of Springfield. They work with local municipalities to encourage them to invest in infrastructure, try to do some proactive land use work, and other things they can do to help them get their sites ready. The most important thing they do is to find out what the community wants and don't want. Not every community wants a gigantic factory in their town, so it is very important to find out what the community wants. They communicate a lot with local municipal leaders and provide assistance in many different ways.

One thing not on their list provided is the assistance they are doing on the Broadband Study. They are getting ready to release an RFI for the next round of federal funding for some providers. Abby Powell is working on the broadband project with the committee the County Board has set up. They continue to be hopeful they will make some headway on that.

They also continue to support the Pillsbury Mills redevelopment. They have secured about \$3.8 million in federal funding for that project. There was also some funding just announced two days ago by Congresswoman Budzinski for that project. There is environmental work that has to be done before the spigot of federal funding gets turned on. He was involved in a number of these redevelopment projects where he worked previously. It just takes time to get it done, but you do have to spend money to get the money. This is a community project, and there is a not-for-profit group called moving Pillsbury Forward that is working hard on it. He is working very close with them. They do have redevelopment plans for that site. The U.S. EPA hired a design firm to come in and look at the market from a redevelopment perspective. For example, a 250,000 square foot building could fit on that site and operate efficiently, and that is something the market would support.

A couple things they are continuing to work on include development opportunities related to the Ag industry. They believe they have found a good site for Ag input products looking for a distribution facility around Sangamon County. He believes they should start seeing some announcements on these warehouse and distribution centers that are starting to look at this community. You can reach more people on a one-day truck drive from Springfield than you can from Chicago.

He left a paper copy of his presentation and it was also emailed to the board members. He has a lot of people ask him if he thinks they are just lucky or if he thinks they are really doing this. His dad always said "The harder you work the luckier you are." A great quote he heard is "Luck favors the prepared mind." If they are prepared for success and expect success, it will show up. They just have to keep working on it, get up every day and put their shoulder behind it.

Chairman Van Meter asked if the idea of putting together a nice website really does bring business into the community. Mr. McCrady stressed that it really does. In his business, when prospects from out of town are looking for places to locate, their digital footprint is absolutely critical. They call it a site selection process, but it is really a site elimination process. Since all these databases exist, they can run through them and kick communities out before they ever know they are being looked at. Then they start looking at their digital profile to see if it looks like they know what they are doing. That is very important. One of the prospects, he is very confident they will land, cold called them off of their digital profile. They were looking for cities in the region, saw their website and called. He answered the call to his mobile phone and it turned into a real prospect. Site selectors are constantly looking at the work they do with their digital footprint. Last month they got the opportunity to visit an entire firm of site selectors in their office. He has been trying to do that for nine years. Usually they have to go to a conference of site selectors and it is "predators prey." He has been told no for over eight years. It takes so long to see results, so the sooner you start the sooner you see results. They do put a lot of their resources into their digital profile.

Mr. Cahnman asked if the Growth Alliance has expended any funds to assist in the redevelopment of the Pillsbury site. Mr. McCrady stated they have expended about \$400,000 for environmental work that had to be done, which is more than any other local or outside body has done. The cost of the Phase 2 environmental work is about \$295,000. They also expended about \$55,000 to help take down some of the lower level buildings that were in immediate risk of collapsing. They continue to support them in many other ways.

Mr. Cahnman asked if the Growth Alliance anticipates spending any further funds in the next year or two on this. Mr. McCrady explained they report to a board, so it is up to them. He is an advocate for the community to not lose sight of this project. This is a very heavy lift and it will take everybody to get behind it to get it accomplished, but they will continue to support the project.

Mr. Cahnman asked if the Growth Alliance has attracted any new businesses. Mr. McCrady they've had a number of local restaurant projects like Raising Canes and Crumbl Cookies. Some others that are going to locate here are the Land of Lincoln Energy Center and the Double Black Diamond Project. They also worked with the Village of Riverton for the new TA Truck Stop. There is a very big industrial site in Riverton that he is very determined to get a big development on.

Ms. Lathan stated part of her district includes Cook Street from South Dirksen and those areas have been designated cultural districts. There are going to be about 40 new homes developed by Nehemiah in that box area. On the corridor of Cook Street between 11th and Martin Luther King Drive, which traditionally is a mix of business and residential, there aren't a lot of businesses. She asked if there are any plans for development on that strip.

Mr. McCrady stated there are no plans yet, but they can look at it. They can work with the City of Springfield to look at that area. One of the struggles he has seen along South Grand was there is no single ownership of a big enough parcel to put a business there. Reverend Silas Johnson has been really good with doing that with the Nehemiah work. One of the databases they have a subscription to has been really helpful for businesses looking for a certain area. He can pick an address and look at who is driving by there. They can look at the 20 places they went before there and after. It is useful but scary, but is a very powerful tool. He will be happy to take a look at that and see if there is something they can do to help.

Chairman Van Meter thanked Mr. McCrady and invited him back regularly for more updates. Mr. McCrady thanked them for their support of the Springfield Growth Alliance.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, for approval of the Minutes of February 13, 2024. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MINUTES ADOPTED

CORRESPONDENCE

A motion was made by Ms. Douglas Williams, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to place Correspondence on file with the County Clerk. A voice vote was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 1

1. Resolution approving a purchase order for bulk rock salt from the State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Program.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Mendenhall, to place Resolution 1 on the floor. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to call the roll. There were 22 Yeas – 0 Nays.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2

2. 2024-003 - James Skeeters, Manager, WIEE LLC, 200-500 Block of Toronto Rd., Springfield – Granting a Rezoning and a Variance. County Board Member – Brad Miller, District #13.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Mendenhall, to place Resolution 2 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall to waive the reading of the professional staff's report. There were no objections.

A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 2.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTIONS 3 – 6

3. Resolution authorizing the review and analysis of technology and related construction for carbon dioxide pipelines and sequestration facilities, and no permits or other grants of authority related to planning or constructing any portion of any carbon dioxide project will be issued by Sangamon County under its existing ordinances or other law prior to September 1, 2024.

A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall, seconded by Ms. Fulgenzi, to place Resolution 3 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Ms. Lathan, to consolidate Resolutions 3 – 6. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 4 – 6.

4. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Sheriff’s Office from Anderson Electric, Inc. for upgrading fiber in the jail and patrol briefing areas in the amount of \$30,100.
5. Resolution approving a grant application for the Sheriff’s Office from the Illinois Department of Transportation for the Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) in the amount of \$40,071.17.
6. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for County Board Administration from Hanson Professional Services, Inc. for the purpose of the Grow Our Own Minority Participation Program 2-year Contract in the amount of \$40,000.

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation.

Mr. Cahnman asked if Resolution 3 is similar to what they had before. Chairman Van Meter stated it is. Mr. Cahnman asked if the program in Resolutions 6 is new. Chairman Van Meter stated it is not. They hope to have someone from Hanson at the next County Board meeting to discuss the program.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolutions 3 – 6, 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 Ms. Douglas Williams, to waive the ten-day filing period. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED

TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD WAIVED

RESOLUTIONS 7 – 14

7. Resolution amending Chapter 6.04 of the Sangamon County Code on Animal Control.

A motion was made by Mr. Schackmann, seconded by Mr. McGuire, to place Resolution 7 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, to consolidate Resolutions 7 – 14. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 8 – 14.

8. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Regional Planning Commission from CMT to provide consulting services and prepare an Active Transportation Plan in the amount of \$199,957.
9. Resolution approving a grant application for SMART from the Illinois Department of Transportation for the 5311 Formula Grant for Rural Areas in the amount of \$152,586.
10. Resolution approving a grant application for SMART from the Illinois Department of Transportation for the Downstate Operating Assistance Program in the amount of \$779,500.
11. Resolution approving an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement between Sangamon County, the Circuit Clerk, the Village of Jerome, and the Jerome Police Department for electronic citation services.
12. Resolution approving a grant application for Court Services from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority for the Family Violence Coordinating Council Program in the amount of \$38,000.
13. Resolution approving a grant application for Court Services from the State of Illinois Department of Human Services for the Juvenile Redeploy Illinois Program in the amount of \$370,000.
14. 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 \$500,790.

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation.

Ms. Small asked what amendments were done with Animal Control on Resolution 7. Chairman Van Meter explained they are amendments to the fees. Mr. Schackmann explained that they changed some fees. Some went down and some went up. Chairman Van Meter explained the fee adjustments were the result of an extensive study of comparable counties in the state. The most significant change was the reduction in the adoption fee.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolutions 7 – 14, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolutions

There were no new resolutions.

B. Appointments

Appointment of CJ Metcalf to the Sangamon County Water Reclamation District to fill the unexpired term of Drinda O'Connor for a term expiring May, 2025.

Appointment of Greg Stumpf to the Sangamon County Board of Health to fill the unexpired term of George Preckwinkle for a term expiring December, 2025.

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

MOTION CARRIED
APPOINTMENTS ADOPTED

C. Procurement/Grant Notifications

There were no procurement/grant notifications.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED
REPORTS FILED

RECESS

A motion was made by Mr. DelGiorno, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to recess the meeting to Monday, April 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. to avoid conflicts with the Capital Township Annual Meeting being held on Tuesday. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING RECESSED

Don Gray
Sangamon County Clerk