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MINUTES

SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD

NOVEMBER 12, 2024

The Sangamon County Board met in Reconvened Adjourned September Session on November 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. Krell 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 27 Present – 2 Absent. Mr. Bunch and Mr. DelGiorno were excused. Mr. Hall attended by telephone conference but was disconnected before the first vote.

U of I EXTENSION DIRECTOR – TERRI CASEY

Sarah Jimenez with Kind Consulting, addressed the Board. She stated that the County Board has been working and supporting some farm-to-table efforts in Sangamon County. She added that there is a new partnership opportunity with the U of I Extension and Terri Casey will provide a presentation this evening. Ms. Jimenez said that in 2021, the County started working with the Community Foundation on an assessment to strengthen the urban and rural connection in Sangamon County. In 2022, Sangamon County formed an advisory committee and their first recommendation was to do an assessment and then identify larger facilities in Sangamon County that could start to buy local food and prepare it. Assessments were funded in Springfield District 186, Pawnee, Williamsville and Sherman schools and the Illinois Presbyterian Home. Pawnee has been doing their farm-to-table effort for about a year now and are completing the first year of their three-year pilot program.

She stated that a couple of months ago the County Board funded a similar two-year program at Illinois Presbyterian Home. The vendor they are currently working with, is also doing schools in New Berlin, Porta and Palmyra as well as a couple schools in Southern Illinois. It has really taken off in the last year or two.

Another recommendation in the initial assessment report was to hire a local food system coordinator that will start to grow this more regionally. She then introduced Terri Casey who is speaking more about the partnership.

Terri Casey is the director of extension for Logan, Menard and Sangamon Counties. They are looking to leverage the power of partnership between the County and extension in a space they are already working in. They are proposing an annual agreement with the County Board of \$40,000 to support expanded extension, and local Ag and farm systems programming efforts. She added that partnering with extension leverages existing assets, including State matching funds and a federal Smith-Lever or support grant, which they are already receiving. Additionally, the unit has a Commercial Agricultural Educator Reagen Tibbs to assist those in the AG production side of things, along with access to a statewide network of extension and campus specialists who can provide knowledge and expertise. This funding would strengthen and expand extensions capacity to support local agriculture and the food systems program. It would provide resources to hire additional staff and cover related expenses such as travel supplies and promotional materials.

Ms. Casey proceeded to list benchmarks and goals they would want to establish working with Sangamon County. One of their goals would be to establish two new active farm-to-fork partnerships per year with local food producers, agricultural stakeholders or community institutions. They'd like to organize a minimum of four educational events, workshops, meet and greets, listening sessions and community dinners which they would do with input from their stakeholders and the kinds of programs they'd like to see or that they need. She added that they would conduct and document a local food systems needs assessment or gap analysis. It's important for them to know what the gap is between the producers that are producing now and the end user to see where they can be of most benefit and how they can find resources to fill those gaps.

They plan to maintain communication with stakeholders on a regular basis and follow-up when requested and as needed. They will find and share relevant educational and or resource materials with clients when requested, and will submit program activity reports to all relevant parties on a quarterly basis.

Network and marketing – they'd initiate contact and discussion with at least four local producers, agricultural stakeholders or community organizations, and institutions per quarter. They would establish a local food systems advisory group. This group would be made up of community organizations, relevant stakeholders, and local government county officials, and would convene quarterly. They realize they need to hear and listen to the people this will affect if they want to have success.

They plan to attend relevant community meetings and build a contact database to regularly share updates and important information with key stakeholders. They need to be out in the community and attend meetings to build that partnership. This is one area that extensions have always been good at – they love to connect people and build partnerships.

They will also develop, launch and assess the impact of a comprehensive marketing plan, with quarterly updates. They will work with Sangamon County to develop a web page on the County's website, which will include information regarding the farm-to-fork programs in Sangamon, Menard and Logan Counties. They will post to social media regularly and distribute printed materials at stakeholder meetings and community events.

They will assist in the application of at least two grants or external funding sources, to support the local food system. They know they need to start looking at ways to fund the program and make it as sufficient as possible.

She proceeded to speak about the timeline stating that after County Board approval, the extension office will seek to hire an additional program coordinator. The estimated start date for the new staff person would be around mid-February 2025.

Ms. Casey then asked if there were any questions. Ms. Lathan inquired about opportunities for areas in the community that are food deserts. She was asking about availability for fresh fruits and vegetables for children in those areas. Ms. Casey responded by saying that local food systems are a two-fold benefit. There's the local economic benefit that you're keeping more dollars locally and helping the local producers. She said there is research that shows greater availability of local fresh produce leads to healthier access to healthier foods and that's why they're focusing on schools and institutions because that gets a lot of access to a lot of folks, especially some children who may not have access to those things. She said it also creates a market. If you're a small farmer looking to get into space, institutions are the types of buyers you can rely on.

She says they definitely need to do more work on getting local produce and foods into the hands of people in the food deserts. The hope is that by having more farmers engaged and feeling confident in the market that there will be more food available, which then leads to them asking, "How do they work with these communities outside of schools so they know how to prep it?" They do have a SNAP-Ed program with the extension that works with a lot of the SNAP-Ed eligible audiences, and they do a lot of that. They show those audiences how to prepare fresh foods. They are finding many of their lunch staff have never prepped fresh foods before.

Ms. Lathan then questioned about tracking the children and zip codes with relation to accessibility of fresh fruits and vegetables. Lunch at schools for many children is their only access to these types of fresh foods. Ms. Casey answered that it's up to the individual schools to decide if they want to participate in the program. Some may have contracts that preclude them from leaving where they are now or they have other issues. Ms. Casey's dream would be that all schools would be participating in the program. There is some federal based data on zip codes. Through SNAP, they've looked at that access. She thinks it would be great to pull in those food desert areas first if they are able to get institutions that are able to do so and make that work.

Ms. Lathan agreed and added that especially for her district it would be beneficial. She knows with some other districts represented on this board that it is a real issue in terms of lack of fruits and vegetables. She feels follow-up conversations with those school districts is necessary to help facilitate the process. She stated that obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes is starting at a much younger age in their communities. Ms. Casey added that they could help their local producers and take advantage of some of the richest agricultural soil in the world and bring that value to the people who need the food. She sees this as a way to create a virtual circle in their community, more healthful living, and to create an economy that's sustainable.

Chairman Van Meter added that there have been extensive conversations with District 186, but nothing has come together yet. He thinks Ms. Lathan's idea about addressing these food desert areas as an additional benchmark is a great one. He feels this program is focused on commercial

delivery of food, which makes him think they might expand to more consumer availability. He added that this is a big project and the board members will remember that they took this on at the request of the Community Foundation that set a goal that Sangamon County should be the food-to-fork leader of the world. They have quite a ways to go on that goal but they are trying to execute on that and they had a presentation that demonstrated some good success. They had an ad-hoc committee working on how to institutionalize this effort now that they are funding this position. If Board members have some suggestions, they are wide open to them.

Ms. Casey finished up by saying if anyone ever needs to reach out about the presentation or anything else, she is very accessible and she'd love to talk to them. She thanked the County Board for their time.

Chairman Van Meter added that the extension office is a perfect partner for this because they have great credibility with the farm community and they're already working with a lot of students. He said it's wonderful that they agreed to take this on.

VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION – ASHTI DAWSON

Ms. Ashti Dawson, Superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission, addressed the County Board. She stated that the Veterans Assistance Commission of Sangamon County provides just and necessary services to Veterans and their families in a variety of ways. She said the VAC assists in filing for federal benefits through the VA, as well as state and local benefits. They provide financial assistance to indigent veterans and their families, and transportation for veterans to their VA appointments at various locations. They provide bus tokens, coats, hats, hygiene items, and other special requests as available. In addition, they collaborate with a variety of agencies to address the needs of their veterans within Sangamon County.

She stated that during her time as Superintendent, she's made a concerted effort to learn and understand the complexities of the work at VAC. She's asked a number of questions, met with department heads and their staff, and requested assistance when needed. She said there is no training manual, no established SOP's and few resources to guide them. Her initial requests were modest, simple steps aimed at making her staff, veterans, and herself safe and supported.

Ms. Dawson said the first major request she made was for a divider wall to create sufficient and HIPPA compliant office space. To date, her request has not been completed, and the four veteran's service officers are currently operating out of one office. She said that running a compliant office with these constraints has resulted in a dramatic reduction of their services for their veterans by as much as three quarters. The veterans they assist have sacrificed so much for their country. Some have lost loved ones; others are battling dark personal struggles. There are spouses who are scraping by on benefits that amount to less than one-half of the minimum wage in Illinois. She states that they are failing them. They are failing to protect their privacy, dignity, and their rights. She added that as Superintendent of the independent unit of local government, it is her duty to manage their budget, ensure compliance and mitigate risks.

She states that the risk of a potential civil rights violation, which could have incurred costs ranging from \$100 to \$50,000 per instance, has been successfully mitigated. This reduces the potential financial and legal impact of such violations significantly. She added that the budget they

requested of \$739,636 was already below the minimum required by the Military Veterans Assistance Act at the .02%, yet they were approved for even less than that. She said the message sent was clear that they are expected to prove their worth with less but without the resources to do so.

She feels these actions are not only a detriment to their staff but also to the veterans they are sworn to serve. She says the situation can't continue. They can't operate effectively under the current conditions. They must make the necessary changes to ensure they meet the needs of their veterans, support their staff, and avoid costly legal ramifications.

Ms. Dawson stated the VAC requires an office that meets the necessary standards for both ADA and HIPPA compliance to support and effectively serve their disabled veterans and staff, and ensure that their privacy and dignity are upheld. In order to support the current and future needs of their veterans, she is requesting an office for a minimum of six full-time employees along with space for two work-studies, and with the capacity for growth as well as the demands of their services expanding. In addition, they need a dedicated meeting space for the commission to conduct VAC business related activities, meetings, trainings and essential operations in a secure and accessible environment.

She added that accessible parking is a fundamental necessity ensuring that all veterans, especially those with disabilities, can easily access the services they need. Additionally, it is essential that they have a reliable and safe vehicle to transport disabled veterans to their VA appointments. She said these requests are not just about improving their operational efficiency but they are about ensuring they are fully equipped to meet the needs of those who have sacrificed so much for their country.

She said meeting those requirements is crucial to providing the level of service support and dignity that their veterans deserve. It's time they give their veterans what they deserve, she's a veteran as well, the recognition, respect and support they've earned through their service and sacrifice. She adds that for far too long their contributions have been overlooked or taken for granted. Now is the moment to ensure they receive the care, resources, and opportunities they need to thrive because honoring them is not just a duty it's a moral imperative. Ms. Dawson then thanked the County Board for their time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Van Meter stated they would now go out of the regular order of business to hear public comments to accommodate those speaking regarding matters before the County Board tonight. He asked for unanimous consent to allow them all to speak. There were no objections. There are seven people total signed up to speak.

Sean Miller addressed the Board. He is a retired Air Force Veteran and the Chairman of the Veterans Assistance Commission in Sangamon County. He is the Commander of the AMVETS Post 94, and a member of the American Legion and the VFW. He is here to speak about the Veterans Assistance Commission in Sangamon County. The mandate comes from the Illinois CS Chapter 330, Act 4, Military Veterans Assistance Act.

The part of this Act he wishes to speak about is their annual budget. They have explained to the County that the Military Veterans Assistance Act tells the County they are required to provide us with .02% of the tax levy annually. They have sent requests via memos, had in-house meetings, sent emails, talked with lawyers, talked with the commission that wrote the Military Veterans Assistance Act, and with many other Veterans Assistance Commission's throughout the state.

He stated that the minimal funding is .02% of the annual property taxes. This is the amount that should be set aside for Veterans. The Veterans Assistance Commission Board is made up of veterans who have served honorably. As the governing body for the Veterans Assistance Commission, this Board should be the only board that makes decisions regarding the Veterans Assistance Commission. Their board runs parallel with the County Board, but does not cross. He added that the Commission and the superintendent are required to manage all budget items according to adopted policies.

He said the budget they are asking for is necessary to fulfill their veteran needs, pay their employees and ensure a safe space. He added that the Commission Board voted with the majority of its delegates as a just and necessary budget. The amount was \$739,000 to conduct their mission and help their veterans. He said that as of today, their budget would be approved for \$529,000. He said this approved budget is short of what they asked for, and they are asking the Board to reconsider their budget for approval as necessary.

He stated that their employees are making less than starting pay for other veteran's service officers in the entire state. He added that most of their employees are there to help veterans, and it would be amazing to know they are getting what they deserve.

They passed a Resolution in 2022 to increase pay to two employees. The pay raise has still not happened. They are not here to point fingers; they just want to work within the confines of the law. He states that it is hard when the County chooses to abide by some of the laws but not all of them. An example is that they are aware they can hire their superintendent without their input. However, when they request to hire other employees they must go through the County process. Their employees are not Sangamon County employees. He said it clearly states in the law that when they ask for their budget, and it is approved by the majority and is just and necessary, it should be approved.

They are asking today for the County to provide the minimal annual budget as required by law. He left them with these words; "The Veterans Assistance Commission can bring money into Sangamon County through claims. As a businessman, that money stays in Sangamon County, which to him is a win-win for all." He thanked the Board.

Mr. Michael Johnson next addressed the Board. He states that he is a simple guy with simple plans, but a simple mind, but he understands what's important and what's not important. He is the Commander of American Legion Post 809 Colonel Otis B Duncan on Martin Luther King and Capitol. He's been there for two years and a member for 34 years. He is an army retiree and a 100% disabled vet. He said the only reason why he does what he does free is because the next generation deserves it. He added that the next generation are going to be the ones who decides whether they go to a nice nursing home or to one with roaches.

He said that this is a just cause. The last war was almost 25 years ago. He said these guys and girls coming back from there signed a contract saying they will give their life for their country. He added it is time for their government to come back and say, "Your contract has been fulfilled and they are here to do all the things they promised them after it ended", but that's not happening.

He stated Illinois is one of the best states in the world for disabled or any kind of veteran and he applauds Illinois for that. There are people moving here because of their commitment to their veterans. They don't want to go into litigation in the courts. He urges them to fix it. He thanked the County Board for their time.

Freddy Rohca addressed the County Board. He is here to speak on behalf of the VAC. He is a retired 20-year combat veteran from the Army. He is disabled. His son is a combat veteran and is disabled. Mr. Rocha is a service officer for the State, one of three in Sangamon County. He is also a service officer for VFW 4763 on Chatham.

He stated that his entire life at home, at work, and his off time is surrounded by veterans. He sees veterans every day. He added that the State VA and the Federal VA has a time problem. If there is an emergency that needs to be addressed, there is not enough time for that veteran to get the benefits they are requesting. On a weekly basis, whether it's on his off-time, as a post officer or as a veteran service officer, he constantly sends people to the VAC. He came out here from the Seattle area where there was a strong veteran community, and the first place he went to when he arrived here was the VAC.

He stated he understands there have been ups and downs, but says that place is always solid. He is on the ground level meeting with veterans, talking to veterans – generations of veterans. He has World War II and Korean veterans. His son was in Afghanistan and got out after Mr. Rocha had retired.

He knows he can count on people at the VAC. He's never had an issue referring veterans to the VAC. He says they are a vital piece in the veteran community here in Sangamon County. Sangamon County is big, and there are a lot of veterans that are a vital part of this community. He thinks whatever needs to happen; they need to make it happen. He encourages them all to support them because all the veterans in the community do. He thanked the County Board for their time.

Addressing the County Board next was Philip Brown. Mr. Brown is the commander of Ship 32 Navy Club USA, which is a veterans' organization. He's also the State Commander of the Navy Club. He's also a member of the VFW, the American Legion, and is proud member of all of those organizations.

He stated he is not happy. He has been through this before. He is a Vietnam veteran and is used to being ignored. He's also used to not being able to say he was a Vietnam veteran because if they did, they were subject to ridicule and were ignored. He's also 90% disabled.

He's not there to go over the law anymore. He's studied it. He encourages them to look it up and study it. He thinks they have an obligation and responsibility to read the statute and understand it. He states in the second paragraph of the statute it talks about how the VAC is a veteran ran, and veteran administrated organization. The only thing the County does is fund it.

He says they have a wonderful superintendent now and they have a lot of faith in her. They also have a great group of people working there and need to support them. He says the office right now is a massive HIPPA violation. They have tried to talk to the County about putting up walls and offices, but it's either tied up in the bureaucratic process or ignored.

He states that Sangamon County has an 11.2% poverty rate and of that 11.2%, a lot of them are veterans. They are veterans who served this country loyally and did whatever it took to help secure that freedom so they could enjoy what they enjoy today. A lot of that was done on the backs of veterans. He's asking everyone to do the right thing because it's the right thing to do. He thanks the County Board.

Lawrence Miller spoke next. He is a delegate on the VAC for the AMVETS post here in Springfield, IL. He served in the Navy during the Persian Gulf War.

Mr. Miller stated he has many medical issues, and has been to St. Louis seven times this month for medical appointments. He is trying to work towards his percentage of disability but he puts other Vietnam Veterans in front of him to that VAC.

He says the VA is doing wonders and are finally working with the community to help these veterans, but they need the funding to get these VSO's offices so they can help three or four veterans a day versus one or two because of the offices they are in. They are able to do community care but cannot do the claims for disability or their health care without the funding to make this happen. He finished by asking the County Board to please do the right thing.

The next speaker to address the County Board was Kimberly Yantis. She stands before the County Board this evening to emphasize the critical importance of adequate funding for the Sangamon County VAC. She stated the Illinois Military Veterans Assistance Act is a tangible expression of the State's gratitude and commitment to veterans. It helps address the challenges many veterans face that are often overlooked by those that have never served. She says it is a reminder of the work supporting veterans that does not end when they leave the military, rather it continues in their lives.

She stated, as the former Superintendent, she can attest to frequently attending County Board meetings to tell them about the just and necessary funds needed, to only be turned down year after year. During her 13 years with the VAC, nine of those as Superintendent, she was not fortunate to have a room full of veterans supporting her on her commission. She thanked all of them for being there tonight.

She said they have a great commission supporting Ashti and her staff. They also have the Military Veterans Assistance Act, the changes recently made, and the veterans in the community to make sure the County is held accountable for upholding their part to make sure the office is fully funded the way it should have been for the past 20 years.

Ms. Yantis stated the support the veterans have received through the Military Assistance Act extends beyond the individual level. It strengthens their communities. She added that when veterans are supported they are better able to contribute in the workforce, volunteer in their communities, and lead fulfilling lives. She said this creates a positive ripple effect that benefits

everyone in their community. She has benefited from this for almost 18 years. She has been in the veteran community for 18 years and is the Commander of the VFW Post in Chatham. She's worked with the VAC for almost 15 years before she left to go work for the State. She says she left because of the bureaucracy of working with the County. She wants all of them to understand she left because of this. She asks the members of the County Board to consider the long-term impact of the proper funding of the veterans commission that they will have on the lives of the men and women who have served this country. She said it's not just about meeting the immediate needs, it's about providing lasting funding to support those that have given so much.

Mr. Ken Pacha was signed up to speak but was not in attendance.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. Cahnman, for approval of the Minutes of October 8, 2024. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES ADOPTED

CORRESPONDENCE

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

RESOLUTION 1

1. Resolution approving the award of a low bid for County Highway 8 and County Highway 17 for traffic signal reconstruction.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. Miller, 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 25 Yeas – 0 Nays.

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTIONS 2 - 4

2. Resolution approving a supplemental agreement with Cummins Engineering Corporation for engineering and structural design services for the Oak Crest Bridge in Clear Lake Township.

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

3. Resolution approving the FY2025 procurement of diesel fuel and motor fuel in the amount of \$200,000.

4. Resolution approving the FY2025 procurement of water, electric and sewer services from City, Water, Light & Power in the amount of \$45,000.

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. 2024-023 – Whiskey Ridge Saloon, LLC, 10875 E. State Rt. 29, Breckenridge – Granting a Rezoning, Conditional Permitted Use with Conditions, and a Variance. County Board Member-David Mendenhall, District #3.

A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall, seconded by Ms. Sheppard, to place Resolution 5 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 5.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTIONS 6 - 10

6. Resolution approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between Villages and Cities in Sangamon County and Sangamon County for the provision of Animal Control services.

A motion was made by Mr. Schackmann, seconded by Ms. Scaife, to place Resolution 6 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. Cahnman to consolidate Resolutions 6 – 10. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 7 – 10.

7. Resolution approving an agreement between the Menard County Board of Health, Menard County, Sangamon County Board of Health, and Sangamon County for the provision of Public Health services in Menard County.
8. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Sheriff's Office from Advanced Correctional Healthcare for the purpose of medical and mental health services for FY25 in the amount of \$1,952,630.33.
9. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Sheriff's Office from various food vendors for the purpose of annual food and supplies for FY25 in the amount of \$580,000.

10. Resolution approving an agreement with Sangamon County and the University of Illinois Extension, Unit 16 to contribute \$40,000 to support expanding local agriculture and food systems programming.

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation.

Mr. Cahnman had a question about Resolution 8 and if it was a renewal of the contract with Advanced Correctional Healthcare. He wondered by what amount it was going up as compared to prior years. Mr. McFadden stated he thought it was going up by about \$300,000. Chairman Van Meter stated that they are engaged this year in seeking alternative sources of that service for next year. Mr. Cahnman stated he thought that was a good idea as he was informed there is a lack of leadership and training and lack of proper documentation of procedures on how to document information. He also said everything is paper charting, which means if someone didn't want information to get out it would be easy for it to not be filed. He questioned if it was correct that electronic medical records are not used by the healthcare agency. Mr. McFadden stated that was correct. Mr. Cahnman added he has also been informed there are issues with the inmate messaging system. He's been informed that Advanced Correctional Healthcare is not doing a good job, and thinks it's a good idea that they are looking for another contractor.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolutions 6 – 10, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous. Mr. Cahnman and Ms. Lathan voted "No" on Resolution 8. Mr. Rader "Abstained" from Resolution 9.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

WAIVER OF TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD

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

MOTION CARRIED
TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD WAIVED

RESOLUTIONS 11 - 24

11. Resolution authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement for participation in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS Master Agreement 2022).

A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall seconded by Mr. Fraase, to place Resolution 11 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, to consolidate Resolutions 11– 24. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 12 – 24.

12. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from Dell Services and various vendors for the purpose of updating personal computers and other endpoint equipment in the amount of \$150,000.

13. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from Netwrix Corporation for the purpose of renewing the licenses and maintenance of PolicyPak for three years to provide management and security of the County's network in the amount of \$92,918.
14. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from the Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology for the purpose of providing bandwidth for the County's Internet, Election IVR & LEADS information in the amount of \$50,880.
15. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from Watts Copy Systems, Inc. for the purpose of extending the current agreement for copier services for two more years ending on September 30, 2026 in the amount of \$60,000 plus page cost.
16. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from Converge One, Inc. and various other vendors for the purpose of updating the Sangamon County Network in the amount of \$175,000.
17. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from Tyler Technologies for the purpose of renewing the annual Financial Software Maintenance Agreement in the amount of \$81,868.19.
18. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Public Defender from Dr. Pan for the purpose of forensic examinations in the amount of \$50,000.
19. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Clerk of the Circuit Court from Anderson Electric for the purpose of electrical wiring in 12 courtrooms for technology upgrades in the amount of \$210,000.
20. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Court Services from various Illinois Detention Centers for the purpose of out-of-county bed space for juveniles in the amount \$125,000.
21. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Court Services from Advanced Correctional Healthcare for the purpose of providing on-site medical services at the Juvenile Detention Center in the amount of \$140,088.
22. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Court Services from TCS Holding Company, LLC for the purpose of electronic monitoring services for adults in the amount of \$50,000.
23. Resolution authorizing Sangamon County to participate in the service program of the Office of the State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor from December 1, 2024 through November 30, 2025 for the express purpose of providing a portion of the funds required for financing the operation of the Office of the State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor in the amount of \$41,000.

24. Resolution approving an agreement between the County of Lake and the County of Sangamon for Hulse Juvenile Detention Center to provide detention services.

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation.

Mr. Cahnman had questions about Resolutions 20, 21 and 24 and the amount being paid per night or day at the facility. Mr. McFadden clarified that there is a nightly cost of about \$170. Mr. Cahnman inquired about Resolution 21 using the same contractor that is providing medical services in the Jail, which is Advanced Correctional Healthcare. He wondered if they had the contract at the Juvenile Detention Center. He stated he would vote "No" on this one as well. He would like a new medical provider for the Juvenile Detention Facility. Mr. McFadden stated they are looking into that.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolutions 11 – 24, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous. Mr. Cahnman voted "No" on Resolution 21.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 25

25. Resolution approving the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the County of Sangamon, Illinois for the Fiscal Year December 1, 2024 through November 30, 2025.

A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf seconded by Mr. Tjelmeland, to place Resolution 25 on the floor.

Mr. Stumpf noted that he's been in meetings with County Administrator Brian McFadden, Auditor Goleman, and staff over the past couple of months and is impressed with the knowledge base they have. He urges all the County Board members to listen to the presentation and also asked Mr. McFadden to answer some of the legal questions that pertain to the veterans' budget request.

County Administrator Brian McFadden addressed the County Board to give a presentation on the FY2025 Budget. He began by thanking the Auditor's staff of Eric, Keith, Brett and Auditor Goleman. They are an incredible asset to the County. They do all the legwork and the nuts and bolts work on the budget.

He stated this is where they think things will end up in FY25 and is the projection moving forward. The General Funds is at \$62.3 million which is a 4.8 almost 5% increase. Last year was a 2.4% increase and the year before it was 4%. All funds is at a \$166.5 million, which is about a \$20,000 plus increase, which is really flat. Mr. McFadden explained part of the reason why it's flat is they hoped to embark on a couple of Capital projects that were delayed for various reasons including the Hub and the Woodside Iron Bridge project. If those projects had been done or ongoing, they would have seen a drop in the budget.

As always they look at Revenues first and as in the past, property tax has been their largest single revenue source. There's been a 6% increase. They are seeing the EAV in last two years grow substantially for various reasons. With this year's budget, it's because of the solar farm before it was the quadrennial. Back in the day, when the EAV was growing, they could ask for the same levy and

budget and that rate would come down. The County's levy and individual's property tax bills, to PTEL, which is 3.4%, drives most of their personnel costs. Most of their contracts are 3.4% plus a ½%, and the non-union salaries work out to roughly the same as that. Looking at the slides, they can see the EAV grow 3% and see the CPI is generating \$1.3 million. New construction is where you see the solar farm, which is estimated to punch about a \$435,000 increase into the levy, and that's allowing them to keep the estimated rate flat. The last 2 fiscal years, 2024 and 2023, they cut the County's portion of the property tax rate. The County's about 10% of the bill and schools are about 60%, but he is projecting there is going to be a third year in a row that they're likely going to see a rate cut for the property tax portion of the property tax bill. They are benefiting from the growth in EAV and that is allowing for the rate reduction and enabling them to hold steady with the revenue projections. They are still in a rate that's lower than it was in FY90 roughly 35 years ago so he doesn't think too many local governments can talk about having a property tax rate the same level it was back in 1990.

On the next slide, he stated they did add the cannabis, per request of the Finance committee. He said these are major state tax distribution funds. They are tax revenue collected by the State then sent to the County. They used to use a policy of going back and grabbing two years of actual revenue, and that's what they budgeted for the current year. It's just not doable any more. COVID threw a monkey wrench in that with the steep drop in revenue and then the extreme growth in revenue – it's starting to settle out.

PPRT, personal property replacement tax – this is the second year they have seen a double-digit cut in that revenue item. This year it is 28%; last year it was 14%. That is being driven by a formula the State uses. All counties and cities are seeing this type of cut. They have been very conservative with that revenue item in the past, so they're able to sustain that sort of a cut.

Income tax is up about 15% compared with 2% last year. Sales tax, that they gather in unincorporated Sangamon County, is dropping and will continue to drop. Most of the revenue generating businesses in unincorporated Sangamon County have been annexed, Knight's Recreation center is a perfect example. The supplemental sales tax, which is that portion of the sales tax they collect countywide has had a healthy growth of 7.5%. Use Tax is dropping this year. Video is up 27%, but he thinks that will flatten off, as well as cannabis. He added that he thinks cannabis revenues are going to drop. The actual cannabis revenue from the two cannabis taxes have declined in the last two years. They still keep a gap between what they think is going to come in and what they budget to try and honor the past policy, but the formulas driving these FY25 numbers take a ten-year look back with three look backs within those. The reason they do that is to try and minimize the impact of COVID.

Fines and fees are amptjer large revenue items for the County. There are no new fines and fees in this budget. Back in March or April, the County Board adopted a new fee schedule for Animal Control, and some fee increases for the villages and cities. The other large item they have is grants. He stated that grants boomerang around. It's a 12% drop this year. They are losing grants, getting grants, grants are being completed and taken off the books. The County Board voted last month for two new grant funded positions for the Public Defender. MFT is the almost \$1.5 million that is going into the HUB. That's the Rebuild Illinois Grant. The State of Illinois considers MFT to be grant money. The Regional Planning Commission got a couple new grants.

The next slide presented, a pie chart depicting the total revenue, gives a visual idea of the revenue sources. Property tax is in green at \$39.9 million and is the largest tax revenue item they have. The big blue slice is a grant, and state reimbursement line – AARPA is in there and MFT because they're considered grant revenue even though historically they haven't been treated as grant revenue. The FY25 budget is a \$166.5 million budget.

Mr. McFadden next spoke about the bar chart illustrating the State Tax Distribution Revenue. He pointed out in 2020 COVID hits and then the drop in 2021. The County was conservative in their revenue estimates that year. They drove revenue down and then it boomeranged back up in 2022. Those three years were somewhat artificial so they messed with their two-year look back, so they are trying to accommodate for that.

Another slide presented included EAV increases. The numbers only go to 2023 because they don't know what's going to happen in 2024. They are estimating what's going to happen in 2024. They can see the two big years of 2022 and 2023 has bounced back pretty dramatically again allowing for those property tax rate cuts that they've done two years in a row.

New construction has been dropping pretty dramatically for quite some time. They'll see that pop up in 2024 with the solar farm and the impact it had on the total EAV. The bottom graph on the slide is the County's portion of the actual property tax rate, and they can see in the last two years it has been a rate reduction. It bounces around some years, slightly up some years and down in others.

Mr. McFadden next moved on to the expenditure side of the budget. Payroll is always their largest cost center. They are showing an addition of eight new positions in the County budget. There also no layoffs in this budget. Payroll is a number driven by the PTI. It's up by 3.8%. Most of their contracts and most of the non-union wages are tied to the CPI plus a half. They did a 2% lag which they've been doing for quite some time. They are never fully employed and never filled up completely with employees. There are always some vacancies. The 30-day lag they do is a 2% lag from a budget perspective.

Mr. McFadden spoke about numerous contract negotiations, particularly the Sheriff's office, which always has a retro impact on the budget when those contracts are settled. He said sometimes it's a year after it's expired and you have to push those increases back into the budget and it can have an effect.

He mentioned overtime costs are down about 2% and has been flat for the last two years. He credited good management on this from the Sheriff's office. He mentioned Pensions are up 2.5% from last year. There is a reduction in SLEP, which is the Sheriff's pension, a reduction in the elected County Officials pension but by far most employees are in the regular rate, which did go up 8.8%. Overall only a slight increase of 2.5%, which is manageable.

Eric Black from the Auditor's office spoke next about the health insurance costs. He said for the County's self-funded health insurance plan, \$9.8 million is their projected cost, which is an increase of 2.8% but is a relatively low percentage increase with how health insurance CPI has been.

He pointed out health claims are at \$7.4 million, which is a reduction. Prescription drugs are showing a 57% increase, but it's a bit misleading. The prescription drug costs aren't increasing 57%,

this is more of a budgeting bookkeeping true up with the way it's billed and the way they pay the bills from Blue Cross in their budget. The Blue Cross Blue Shield cost per participant is going down by 21.8%, and that is a true reduction in costs. Those are the admin costs that Blue Cross charges the plan. The reason for the big decrease is the plan changes that the Board of Managers voted to make with the plan. These were some significant plan changes, as well as increases to premiums for the employees and the County. Mr. Black addressed the Use of Fund balance. He explained that for many years the health insurance fund had an extremely healthy fund balance to the point of it being a little over funded. So for a number of years, premiums weren't increased at all to use some of that fund balance. They are now at a target level where they feel the fund balance should be, but the medical claims have increased in the past few years. The dollar amount of claims have been fairly significant. They have been using the fund balance at a rate that's not sustainable. They are taking steps this year to bring down that fund balance to get to more of a break-even point for the fund so they can have a healthy target and not be using that fund balance. The Use of Fund balance decreased by 22%, so that is the effect of the plan changes that the Board of Managers voted on for FY 2025.

Mr. Black next spoke about the Budgeted Employer Health Insurance Costs and the Budgeted Employer IMRF Pension Costs. In the Pension Costs chart, they can see some fluctuations. Those rates are determined by IMRF and given to them. There are some decreases but the last couple of years overall has been an increase. Those rates are given to then by IMRF.

Auditor Goleman addressed Worker's Compensation claims. He said the good news is the amount of claims is down the bad news is the value of claims is up. They do have a Workplace Safety Board made up of County Board members and individuals that represent different departments in the County. This group talks about and reviews those claims to help ensure the incidents don't happen again.

Mr. McFadden spoke about a couple of Worker's Compensation charts. One chart illustrates that the claim count has been on a straight line decrease over the years. The number of claims is down but the quality of claims have been more expensive.

Mr. McFadden spoke about Commodities, which is a large cost item. This is down almost 8% this year. They are budgeting less for food in the Jail because the head count in the Jail is hovering around 270, where it was probably 100 more over that in the past. A couple of years ago they increased commodities across the board by about 15%. They did not see that level of an actual increase in the cost so they've been addressing that over the years and getting it back in line with what the actual costs are going to be.

Debt is always an important item. Their outstanding debt continues to drop, which is the amount of principal they owe each year. That's been dropping each year as they pay off the debt they have in place. Most of their debt service is structured to grow at a rate of the CPI. They try to tie as many things as they can to the CPI because the CPI is a big driver of their property tax revenue, payroll costs, and plays an important role in their debt service as well.

Mr. McFadden next spoke about the Positions with Benefits chart. Back in 2007, they had 807 employees. That is the maximum number of employees Sangamon County has ever had. He pointed out in 2009, when the recession hit they dropped from 790 to 735 employees. Since then, it has

bounced up and down, and most of this has been driven by grants that come online and bring positions with them or other state reimbursement type things. For 2025, it's at 746, which is still about 60 positions less than where they were back in 2007 and about an 8% reduction of where they were before.

The next chart presented pertained to overall Headcount. He pointed out that even though they are increasing their positions by eight, there are a lot of changes within that. Some departments are cutting, some are adding, and some are doing both. He briefly spoke about some of the highlights. One is funding the Grant Administrator who will be in the Auditor's office. The Grant Administrator should pay for himself or herself through the grants they bring in the door. They think the GA can help a lot of the smaller departments like the Child Advocacy Commission and VAC that may not have the expertise, manpower, or time to go off and look for grants.

The Pathologist/Death Investigator were created earlier this year. Dr. Patterson came on the payroll this year and they added a Death Investigator. These positions are paying for themselves through the out-of-county autopsies they are doing. The OEM/Rescue Chief position is in this year's budget. That is a General Fund position as well that doesn't have any corresponding revenue to help pay for it. The Public Defender position is adding two new specialist positions and they are adding a Veteran's Service Officer in the Veterans Assistance Commission.

Mr. McFadden added that County government is made up of more than 100 funds and 25 departments and elected officials. The Veterans Assistance Commission, for the third year in a row, is having the largest percentage increase in its budget. This year's budget goes up about \$120,000. In 2023, the budget increased by 26% and in 2024 by 33%. This year's budget has increased by about 29%, which is an 118% increase in the VAC budget over the last three years, averaging about 29% a year. There is a new VSO, full-time employment position, which is in the budget as proposed. There was a 74% increase in direct assistance to veterans, that the department requested, rent assistance, utility assistance, various other types of assistance, indigent burials – a number of things that are of direct service to Veterans. They also increased advertising and travel. The last discussion he had with Sean, Ashti and David was that this wasn't the increase they were seeking but the Auditor's office was willing to take a leap forward because they heard their argument that if they have more resources, they feel they can help more for veterans. He knows the County Board wants to do more for veterans. Three years in a row, they have increased their budget, doubled the headcount, and doubled the budget. Mr. McFadden wants to see what their investment in the VAC brings back. Ashti has pledged to provide them with data. They don't have a lot of data to go on. She has started tracking things since she took over as Superintendent. He told the VAC staff that, after six months of operating with additional staff and advertising, they would see where they are. The County policies and procedures are to do things wisely and they feel the wise approach is to put additional resources into the department and see if it works, the way they feel it will. If it does, he feels there is a willingness on the Board's part to put the additional resources into their budget, but he wants to make sure the model they are proposing is working.

Mr. Krell addressed the County Board about the privacy concerns at the VAC that were mentioned earlier. He'd like those issues to be addressed quickly. He also said, if necessary, later they could address budgetary issues and staffing levels. Mr. McFadden believed there are options available whether it's putting up walls in the existing space or possibly using the office space at Sangamon South.

Mr. Cahnman had a few questions. He questioned if the County is self-insured for health care. Mr. McFadden answered that it was. Mr. Cahnman wondered what the two new specialists in the Public Defender's office would be doing. Mr. McFadden stated they would be working with the Public Defender's clients on needs they may have. He added that it's through a state grant. Mr. Cahnman then had some questions about the VAC budget. Mr. McFadden clarified they increased their travel and meeting line and there is also a new employee in the budget. They also increased the direct services line, which included rental assistance, utility assistance, food, dental and bus tokens. All of that was requested and put in the budget, which is about a 70% increase. Mr. Cahnman also wanted to know more about the .02% of the property tax revenue going toward the budget.

Joel Benoit, Assistant State's Attorney addressed the Board concerning the VAC and the idea that the County has to provide a set amount to them. It has been raised for about the last two years since the Act was amended. Mr. Benoit has studied this and it is his opinion there is not a set amount that must be provided to the VAC every year. He understands that the VAC and their lawyer disagree with him, but that is the conclusion he's reached. He's asked them for years for any kind of laws or opinions supporting this, but has received nothing. He stated the County does have an obligation to fund this and says that throughout the entire act it's for items that are just, reasonable and necessary. What the Act also requires to get to that number is that the VAC adopt the County policies for procurement, employment, compensation and run through our budgeting process. What they've heard tonight and what the VAC position is, is that the County is required to give them a set amount of money and they can spend this money on what they deem is just, reasonable and necessary and the County has no say in the matter. This is at odds with what the Act says which is if the County and the VAC can't reach an agreement, it goes to court and the court will determine what is just, reasonable and necessary. His opinion is that it makes no sense that the VAC gets to spend the money on whatever they deem is just, reasonable and necessary.

Mr. Cahnman inquired if there was anything in the statute that says the County has to appropriate .02% of their property tax revenues. Mr. Benoit said the statute says the minimum amount to provide them (and it then points to the Public Aid Code) and that section says, "This applies if the County gets state money for this", which the County does not. It also comes back to those words of it "just, reasonable and necessary."

Mr. Thomas addressed the County Board stating he is furious as a vet that has used the VAC numerous times. It is his recommendation they do just what Mr. Krell said and immediately get the walls up even if they are changing locations. He also is recommending they amend the budget to what they are asking at this point. He also added there would need to be conditions that they do provide the data. He is furious because he works and lives with these people all of the time. He is not pointing fingers at anyone, but he does think there is an influx of veterans coming in right now seeking out the VAC and VSO's throughout the state. He feels there have never been as many as there are now.

Chairman Van Meter asked for clarification if the amendment is to change the budget to allocate \$700,000 to the VAC. Mr. Thomas agreed and there was a second by Mr. Ayers.

Mr. Krell had previously asked if they could raise the VAC's budget amount through the year at any time. The answer was yes. He was perplexed by the two differing opinions of the statute. He

stated what really bothered him was he's been the Chairman of the Employee Services Committee for quite a while. He said the VAC is supposed to come to his committee. They meet once a month and he's had to cancel the meeting before because there is nothing on the agenda. He said he could count on one hand how many times they have come to him with any issues. He is also frustrated that there is no clarity on this from the State. He also wants to see accountability on both of their parts. He has a brother that is 100% disabled from Vietnam, a cousin that was killed, and he was in Europe. He helped his brother with the Vietnam wall and was out in Washington several times on marches. He wants to see something happen for the vets here in Sangamon County.

Mr. Ayers asked Mr. McFadden for some clarification on the numbers. He does not think they are that far off. Mr. Ayers doesn't think the difference of \$210,000 is a big chunk of change. Mr. McFadden explained that they have increased this budget for three years in a row and showed a willingness to put more resources into the department but they do it smart and based upon data. Every department that comes into see him brings data. They don't have that data from the VAC. The proposal is to increase their budget in a way that they can move forward with additional funding and they can review the data. There has been a pledge to provide the data for three years. He has faith that this group is different. He feels what they are proposing is the exact opposite of what Jeff wants. It will give them some money and they will see how the investment goes. If there is an improvement in services, they can come back and revisit the budget anytime during the year.

Mr. Ayers questioned who would pay to put the walls up. Mr. McFadden said the County would and they can start on that right away. With the walls, they can get four more offices, which is an improvement until they can find them more space. This is a solution that can help with their intake. Mr. Ayers reiterated if the amendment doesn't pass, there is also still the option for the VAC to come back to the Board in the future to ask for more money.

Mr. Cahnman asked how much it would cost to build these walls. Mr. McFadden stated around \$30,000. He wondered what fund that would come from. Mr. McFadden said it could come out of a number of funds but probably the long range planning fund which is used for Capital Improvements. Mr. Cahnman said the current proposed budget for the VAC is \$529,000 and the amendment changes that to \$700,000. Mr. Cahnman also asked if the VAC has provided them with any information on how they want to spend the additional money. Mr. McFadden said for some of it they have. He added that during the budget process they ask departments for justifications when they bring their target budget back. This budget they requested \$27,000 for travel, which is more than the Sheriff's office. Mr. McFadden stated they increased it by \$4,000 to \$5,000 and will watch it. If they need more, they can come back to the Board and say they are spending what they have. He added that they don't spend their direct assistance money they provide now, and he has been told they need more staff.

Chairman Van Meter asked for a roll call vote on the motion to amend Resolution 25. Upon the roll call vote, there were 10 Yeas – 14 Nays – 1 Present. Those voting Nay were: Mr. Constant, Mr. Davsko, Ms. Deaner, Mr. Forsyth, Mr. Fraase, Ms. Fulgenzi, Ms. Lathan, Mr. Madonia, Mr. Miller, Mr. Rader, Ms. Scaife, Mr. Stumpf, Mr. Tjelmeland, and Mr. Truax. Those voting Present were: Mr. Krell. The motion to amend Resolution 25 failed.

Mr. McFadden continued with his budget presentation. A couple other departments saw large increases. Regional Planning's increase is totally grant driven. OEM had an increase with a new

position. Building & Ground's increase is utility costs and other commodity and contractual increases. Zoning is a hangover from when they moved the environmental portion out of Public Health over to Trustin's department. Recorder of Deeds is due to more scanning and an additional position that was added to the budget mid-year.

The Coroner's increase represents out of county costs, which are covered with fines and fees. For the most part, these increases have a story behind them that covers the costs. Information Systems has a 5% reduction due to them going into a couple equipment maintenance lines they were double budgeting and they were able to address those. The larger offices including the State's Attorney, Sheriff, Circuit Clerk, County Clerk, and Public Health all had reasonable increases within the CPI.

Capital has been a big part of the budget the past couple of fiscal years. They have about \$44.5 million in capital projects either completed or nearing completion. The Complex, which they plan to be back there in December or January, is close to being done. The Sheriff's, Phase 1 is done and Phase 2 is coming to completion. In the Coroner's facility, they did the HVAC work on the roof. Also, Helping Hands and the Emergency Radio Program are done. Therefore, \$44.5 million is coming off the books.

They are also adding almost \$187 million in capital projects. The HUB leads the way with \$128 million being funded by the County and Federal Railroad Administration. The County is on the hook for about \$40 million of that. The last estimated on the Woodside Iron Bridge project was about \$40 million. There are a variety of funding sources including the County, the Commerce Commission, IDOT, and SATS. The MacArthur Extension is \$5.5 million, but they are not sure they will get to that in FY2025. That is being funded by the County and the Federal Highway Administration. The SMART building is going to start soon. That is coming from ARPA money and IDOT money. Community Services in the Public Health building is going to be remodeled to add some additional services out there. That is being funded totally by ARPA. One project kind of being overshadowed is the Courtroom Modernization Program that is underway. It is a \$1 million project being funded by the County and AOIC. The County is kicking in about \$220,000 for the wiring, and they are providing the equipment. All of this racks up to about \$186.8 million with \$71.7 coming from the County.

The American Rescue Plan Act was part of the Federal COVID assistance that came out. They got \$38.6 million with some interest earned off the investments. They did the Rental Assistance Program, the Broadband Study, tent rental at the Public Health Department, and some land purchases. Helping Hands is a big part of that at \$9.4 million.

Some ongoing projects include Phase 3 of Sangamon South, which is still ongoing. That work is mostly the Coroner's Office. They also have the Farm-to-Table Project. They also have the Community Services building and the SMART facility.

Under Projects and Programming, they have new funding in the budget for the Massey Commission, Heartland Housed, and the AG extension. They also have the ongoing programs they have been funding for some time including the Growth Alliance, Farm-to-Table, Heartland Housed, and the Recycling Program.

As they move into FY2025, some of the pressures still hanging out there on the budget are the Jail medical and mental health costs. They will be going out for an RFP to do a vendor selection. They don't know yet what the Massey Commission recommendations are. Some ideas they have heard from the Sheriff are more training, revamping the hiring process, and are bringing in some consultants. They just don't know for sure what the recommendations will be.

They will spend about \$500,000 on out of county juvenile housing. The normal budget for that is \$25,000 per year. They increased the budget with the expectation that the Juvenile Detention Facility will come sometime in February. Building improvements have been done and cameras and scanners have been purchased and are in place. They hope settling this contract, that the Board is voting on, will provide some new economic incentives for people to come work for us. Salary comp studies have been requested by some departments to compare their staffing and pay levels to other comparable counties. It usually generates an increase of some sort. They also have the union increase they talked about, and they have capital pressures due to the rising costs. They have also talked about improvements at Animal Control and with the Rescue Squad. They are talking about improvements to floors 3 through 7 of the County Complex. Floors 1 and 2 should be done early next year. They will be looking at carpet replacement, furniture replacement, and painting on floors 3 through 7.

This budget follows all of our past policies and procedures. It is balanced, there is no deficit spending, they live within their means, they are paying their bills on time, they have financially sound pensions and healthcare, they have limited debt, reasonable reserves for rainy days, and are operating within the constraints of tax caps with a property tax rate lower than it was 35 years ago. These have been our driving policies in the past and they continue to meet those this year.

Ms. Lathan stated there is a real concern with Advanced Correctional Healthcare's lack of ability or willingness to keep electronic medical records. The other concern she has is they are primarily based out of Tennessee and their Illinois office is based in Peoria. They are giving them almost \$2 million for services. We are in Sangamon County where we have a very highly skilled and robust medical district. In the RFP process, she definitely recommends they identify candidates in Sangamon County. That would also help with service delivery. If they are in the detention facility or the County Jail and are receiving mental health, substance abuse, and medical services from a Sangamon County provider then they would have better access upon release. This could reduce the call for a system overhaul and would ensure a continuum of care upon release. Even if they leave and come back, they would still have the same medical providers. Electronic medical records would follow them wherever they go, which could reduce costs. She supports the idea of tapping into their resources in Sangamon County when they do the next RFP. Mr. McFadden stated he does not disagree with her suggestions, but it is a timing issue. The electronic records are a big reason why they are searching elsewhere. They are in a transition period and he does not know where they are going to land. He has heard these suggestions from Superintendent Beck and has heard from the Sheriff and Tim that these are the kinds of things they need to address when submitting the RFP's. Chairman Van Meter pointed out that they are currently using some local providers for mental health social services in the Jail. They are really sensitive to that suggestion.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolution 25. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 26

26. Resolution approving the creation of a Special Service Area for improved ambulance services for a portion of the Virden Fire Protection District.

A motion was made by Ms. Sheppard, seconded by Mr. Thomas, to place Resolution 26 on the floor. Ms. Sheppard explained that the Virden Fire Protection District is located in Sangamon County and they will have ambulance service to cover that service area. It is an ALS unit and they will have paramedic services. She wanted a non-binding referendum so the constituents could vote on this.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolution 26. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolutions

There were no new resolutions.

B. Appointments

Appointment of Steven Ponder to the Sangamon County Building Code Board of Appeals for a term expiring November, 2025.

Appointment of Keith Moore to the Sangamon County Building Code Board of Appeals for a term expiring November, 2025.

Appointment of Larry Hemingway to the Sangamon County Building Code Board of Appeals for a term expiring November, 2025.

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

The nominations for appointment in December were also submitted.

MOTION CARRIED
APPOINTMENTS ADOPTED

C. Ratification of Court Services Union Contract

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. Stumpf to ratify the Court Services Union Contract for a five-year contract. 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. Madonia, seconded by Mr. Cahnman, to place reports on file with the County Clerk. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
REPORTS FILED

RECESS

A motion was made by Ms. Lathan, seconded by Mr. Madonia to recess the meeting to December 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. A voice vote was unanimous.

Chairman Van Meter announced that the January meeting would be held on January 13, 2025.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING RECESSED

Don Gray
Sangamon County Clerk