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## **MINUTES**

### **SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD**

**OCTOBER 8, 2024**

The Sangamon County Board met in Reconvened Adjourned September Session on October 8, 2024 at the BOS Center. Chairman Van Meter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Hall 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. Schackmann were excused. Mr. Hall left the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

### **SPRINGFIELD SANGAMON GROWTH ALLIANCE – RYAN MCCRADY**

President and CEO of the Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance Ryan McCrady addressed the County Board. He is present to give them a brief update on what is going on in the local economy with economic activity and to update them on a few projects that are happening.

Mr. McCrady gave a slideshow presentation. He stated the Growth Alliance is a public-private partnership organized about six years ago through leaders of the community that wanted to develop an economic development corporation model for doing economic development. They are funded by public entities like Sangamon County. He thanks them very much for your funding, and he hopes they can have continued support. There are also about 28 private companies that contribute to the Growth Alliance. Their goal is to have more people living and working in Springfield and Sangamon County. They do that through what is called economic development. He serves as President and CEO and has three co-workers Amber, Abby and Shelley. If you ever need anything, you can contact any of the four of them.

It is always important to review the strategic goals of the Growth Alliance. They do have goals and metrics that they work towards and monitor on a regular basis. They might remember him coming to the Board once a year to update them on the previous year. He was here last year in March and they talked about 2023 activities and goals. Their goals have not changed as of right now. They still want to continue seeing job growth and see people that are living here work. They want to see the people that are working here make more money. All those things will create the economic activity

they need to have a great community and to support the critical public services that the board and others provide to the community.

They believe one of the most important things they can do in economic development is retain and expand the current businesses. Just like in private business, it is easier to grow a customer than it is to get a new one. It's the same thing in the local economy. They believe most of their economic growth will and should come from businesses that are here today. Every year they meet with at least 100 businesses to find out what is going on with them, how they can support them, help them solve problems, and connect them with resources. Sometimes they do data research and sometimes market research. Maybe they need to connect with local government to assist with something. The first thing they want them to know is that they appreciate they are here and they made an investment here, and they employ people in the community, and they want them to stay here too. They always look for expansion opportunities with them also. Taking someone from five to ten employees or from 15 to 20 employees, is going to be the best return on their investment in the local economy because they are probably not having to build another road, another water line, another sewer line, or spend additional public resources. It's almost all growth in the economy when they achieve that. It is a very big focus of what they do at the Growth Alliance. About two thirds of their time is spent on working with the local businesses that are here right now and retaining them. What they call BRE business retention and expansion.

They also do business attraction, and go around the world and meet with targets of key business leadership they want to meet with. They also meet with site selection consultants. Throughout this year, they continue to do that kind of travel. The peak seasons for those kinds of interactions are spring and fall. Right now, they have been very busy attending conferences and are having interactions with site selection consultants. They do sometimes sponsor those to get more face time with those consultants. At the end of the day, they want to make sure, when they are looking for a place to put a business that they think of Springfield and Sangamon County in Illinois. That is the most important thing. They have to show up to those things and they have to know who they are. In the six years the Growth Alliance has been around, they have gone from walking into those conferences with nobody knowing them to now when they walk in they are on a first name basis because they keep showing up and keep talking to them. Whether they like them or not, they know us. They also do strategic targeted marketing of those consultants in between conferences too. As they get sites and projects, they stay in touch with them. They are seeing a lot of the fruits of that labor in some of these projects that he will talk about.

They are also probably aware of the community marketing campaign Thrive in SPI that they started in September of 2020. They monitor key performance indicators in their marketing program and report those to their Board of Directors on a quarterly basis. According to industry standards, they are far exceeding industry standards as far as click through rates, website views, clicks on their ads, and views of their YouTube videos. About two thirds of their interactions are from people outside of the region. They market internally to their own citizens to improve the self-talk of their community, which is very important.

As a community, what you think becomes what you say and what you say becomes what you do. They also market externally to attract businesses but also to help their current businesses attract talent into their business. They have to also assist them in attracting workers to come move to their community.

Mr. McCrady gave some updates on what's going on in the local economy right now. As they might remember, one of the things they watch is the number of employed individuals in the metropolitan statistical area, the MSA, which is basically Sangamon and Menard Counties. As of right now, they have 700 more people employed than they did this time in 2023. They might remember some larger numbers in years past. There was a big ramp up coming out of the Pandemic. He thinks they are starting to see this level off a little bit, which is not a bad thing. They are still seeing very good demand for labor and are still seeing the local workforce go back to work. This is something very attractive to businesses that might be coming here because they have to know they can get the individuals to come to work that they need to go to work every day. They are seeing this labor demand, not flatten or go down, but maybe the curve is not as steep as it used to be the last couple of years. They will keep working on that.

The next thing they watch is how much individuals are being paid in the community. Before the Pandemic, the average hourly wage at a private employer was \$25.32 an hour. During the Pandemic, those wages went up very quickly to about 20%. The current rate locally is set at about \$31.14 an hour. They are down slightly from the highest level he's seen since the Pandemic, which was \$32.76 an hour, so they are starting to see those wages level out. It was good that the wages went up and is good that they are leveling off. They don't want to get in the situation where they have a wage price spiral in the local economy where they continue to earn more and pay more. It is not surprising that the wages are leveling off if the demand for labor is also starting to become more consistent. They might be interested in knowing how the wages compare to similar wages in the region. Peoria is at about \$30.80 an hour. Bloomington Normal is at about \$29.69 an hour. Champaign is at \$28.74 an hour, and Decatur is at \$25.14 an hour. As of August of 2024, Sangamon County does have some of the highest hourly wage rates from private employers in the region. There always is a little bit of bouncing around back and forth, but right now, they are at the top of that. Whether one buys or sell labor, one can decide if that's good or bad news. If one sells things to consumers in the community, that's good news. More people are working and those that are working are making more money, which in theory gives them more money to spend back into the local economy. Those are things that they do want to see.

The unemployment rate right now is at 4.6% compared to 4.8% in 2023. The statewide average is at 5.5%. Unemployment at this rate is basically static employment. If they are looking to hire people right now in the economy, they are probably interviewing people that might already have a job, so it makes it a little bit tougher to get new hires. It's a lot different to interview a person that has a job than it is a person that doesn't have a job. Employers are having to get more creative and more competitive as they are looking to hire individuals that want to go to work in the community.

They are seeing the numbers kind of trend in the right direction. Job numbers are still up, wages are good, but leveling off, and unemployment is at a static level. Those are all things they want to see in a strong local economy. They monitor these numbers on a regular basis. If they ever want to see them or more numbers, he is happy to do that. He enjoys digging into that data and the economic information. He hopes this gives them a snapshot of what is going on.

Another number they watch is how many unemployed people there are in the metropolitan area. This measures, from the prime working age in the community, how many people are unemployed right now. They are actually down to 4,840 from 5,118 last year. They are seeing fewer

unemployed people. There are more people working, wages are up, unemployment is down, and they are also seeing fewer unemployed people on the rolls right now. This is all a good sign for the local economy.

Some current projects include the Scheels Sports Complex, which is one of the projects he's dealt with that everyone involved with has been satisfied with how it is going. The dome will start construction very soon. The new hotel at that site is also under construction. They are very optimistic about an opening of that project in 2025.

The Lincoln Land Energy Center located near Pawnee Illinois is also taking good strides forward. The development team from Kindle Energy is actively working to secure the property and finish closing on it. They are in the process of interviewing general contractors and are looking to start work in early 2025 also. That is about a \$1.6 billion natural gas fired power plant. They are also working very closely with the City of Springfield and other entities, so all signs are forward and thumbs up on that project.

The Double Black Diamond Solar Facility will be wrapping up by the end of the calendar year, and they will be commercially delivering power by the end of December 2024. They started on time and finished their schedule on time. They've had as many as 400 of our local trade's people working out there five or six days a week on that project. It's been a big employer in our community. It just maximizes their return from that. They hope to have a ribbon cutting around March out at the site. They will make sure all of the board is aware of it and are invited.

The Pillsbury Mills Redevelopment has taken some very exciting steps forward. The Growth Alliance has been excited to work closely with Moving Pillsbury Forward. The Pillsbury redevelopment team has assembled nearly \$9 million in state, federal and city funding. The bids for large-scale demolition and environmental remediation are going out very soon. Demolition of the structures and remediation of the environmental issues will start immediately following that. Enough funding was put together to take everything down and to remove the asbestos paint from the silos. The remaining funding they need to put together is to take the silos down eventually. You will see a dramatic change in that site in the coming months. If they think about that change along with the work they all are doing on rail relocation, the improvements they are going to see on North Grand with the new overpass and new flyover there, the work at Lanphier High School, and improvements at Memorial Stadium, things are coming together at the right time. He is excited about the improvements there is going to be for the folks on the north side of Springfield.

He had developers interested in the Pillsbury site for industrial development. They would like to see the environmental issues resolved before they get involved. He is looking forward to being able to further that conversation with them and come up with some type of redevelopment that is satisfactory to the neighborhood but also grows to local economy. He is very optimistic about a positive outcome for that project as they move into 2025

Warehouse development is something that the Growth Alliance started to sell out nationally to site selectors and developers as an opportunity here in Springfield. They have a very unique geographic location. First, they have five Class I railroads in our community. Second, we are located at the intersection of two major interstates, which are I-55 and I-72. The third thing is what they call market reach. You can reach almost one third of the country's population in a one-day truck drive from Springfield. That's more than you can reach from Chicago, Nashville, Kansas City, and St. Louis.

Indianapolis gets the benefit of the East Coast. They pick up some high population areas there. His point is, the market reach for a distributor is better from Springfield than it is from Chicago or from St. Louis. If you sell a product that has a shelf life, you want that product on the shelf for as many days as you can rather than on the back of a truck or on a train. Getting out and selling the warehousing and logistic advantages of our community has been very important. They are excited to have two warehouse projects right in front of us. The first one was already approved by the City Council. This is a new 225,000 square-foot warehouse located on Palm Road. That is the frontage road at the Chatham exit to I-55. There is the Armbruster facility there right now. If you look north of there, that is where that facility will be located. City Council did the approvals to move that forward, and the developers are in the process of designing the intersection and getting ready to file their building permits. That will start construction in the spring of 2025. That is a \$25 to \$30 million investment. There will be about 150 permanent jobs. He doesn't remember the last time they brought a new employer to town with 150 jobs, but it has been a while. It is very exciting to have that.

The City is also working on another warehouse located on North Dirksen Parkway and Bissell Road. There is a large vacant parcel north of Buffalo Wild Wings. What is being proposed there is a 175,000 square foot warehouse that is being designed in a way to potentially double the space if it's determined to be a good prospect and project for that developer. They would be doing a lot of improvements to Bissell Road to bring the traffic into that parcel off of Bissell Road. The City and County staff involved in these projects have been wonderful to work with. The developers have been very pleased with the service they have received. They are very excited to see that process go through. He is not sure of the employment from that warehouse but he thinks it may be around 100.

They have also been busy with a couple projects in the unincorporated areas of Sangamon County. He thinks they recently reviewed the I-55 Stables and Arena Project for Ken and Brandy White. Our office worked closely with them to help move that project forward through Regional Planning and Trustin from Building & Zoning. They are marketing that site and closing on the project. It is a really nice development into the rural areas. He also believes they utilized a state loan-financing program called Advantage Illinois, which was a big benefit to them to get a lower interest rate on their financing.

They are also working on a couple other projects where businesses want to locate in the unincorporated areas. One of those is on Palm Road south of the campground. There is another business there that is looking to locate. Some of those areas are under pre-annexation agreements with the Village of Chatham, so they may or may not come before the County Board for approval. It will depend on a project-by-project basis. They are seeing a lot of interest from developers for investments in the unincorporated areas. Illinois has some strategic advantages for businesses to locate. Sometimes we question the strategic advantage of Illinois from what you have heard in the past about doing business in Illinois. When you look at it factually, the State of Illinois has revised a number of its economic development programs to take out problems that have existed in them for over 20 years, whether it's the Edge Tax Credit Program, the Reimagining Electric Vehicles Program, or the Illinois Enterprise Zone Program. After 20 years of practitioners like me asking them to make these adjustments, they have made them, and we are seeing some big benefits from that. Also, Illinois has targeted incentives for data center attraction that are very attractive.

The third thing that happened is the Governor signed a Biometric Privacy Act, which made the State of Illinois a more competitive place to do business if you are worried about liability from biometric privacy issues.

Since those things have happened, the phones have really been ringing for interest in that. The biggest parcels of land we have in our community to develop are not inside a city or urbanized area. They are in unincorporated areas. We are working closely with utility providers such as Ameren Illinois, cooperative providers, and CWLP to understand where their robust infrastructure is. They are also working with the water suppliers to make sure they can cross that up.

They are also identifying parcels and working with land owners letting them know their parcel is a good site for potential development if they are interested. Nothing ever moves forward without an interested property owner. We don't tell people where to go and what to do with their property. When I go to a property owner and tell them we think this is a good property for development, they may say, "Our families had this for four generations, we enjoy farming it, we are not interested." Then that's the end of the conversation. As we get interested property owners then we go through the process of getting the sites ready. They've had a lot of activity and inquires over the last few months. One thing they are looking at in Illinois is data center developments. The Midwest of the US has the largest supply of potable water that exists, and good access to utilities at good prices. All of those things are drawing a lot of interest from data center developers across the community and State of Illinois. He is happy to answer questions if you have any.

Ms. Fulgenzi asked what role they would play in some of the corridor plans. In her district it is the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Peoria Road corridor, and of course there is the plans to make improvements to the Fairgrounds. Are you going to be engaged in that trying to attract development to go along with that. Mr. McCrady explained the entities responsible for planning those activities have been really good about making sure the Growth Alliance is represented to give an idea of how economic development could benefit from those corridor plans. They are involved in the 9<sup>th</sup> Street plan, the Fairgrounds plan, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street corridors, and the Rail Relocation Project.

They are one of the entities that created the soon to be released downtown medical district master plan as well. He really appreciates how they have been invited to the table with those activities. They offer input, where they can, on how that plan could help drive development into those areas. Ms. Fulgenzi stated she doesn't know who the implementer is of that plan. She asked if his group would play a role in trying to get that plan out there to people who might be interested in investing in that area. Mr. McCrady stated he could tell them how they would use plans and how they have used them in the past. The one thing a plan does is it makes you sit down and verbalize what the success would look like. Many times, we can't answer that question. If we can't answer that question then it is very difficult for me to approach a developer to say, "Look, I think it would be really good if you did a six-story multi-use building here with one and two bedroom apartments on the top five floors and retail on the first five floors." They could say, "I know you like that, but is the community going to like that?" He can always say, "Trust me they will." When you have a plan, and take that to a developer and say, "Look the community came together and drafted a plan, and these are the kinds of things they want in these parts of the community." The conversation is a lot different because you are showing them where they can be successful and they know the community has already talked about this. If there has to be a zoning vote, they could fall back on that plan as a way to give them some assurance that their project is going to move forward. They spend a lot of money before they ever make it to the floor of County Board for zoning. There is a tremendous amount of money

expended by developers. That is part of the risk of development. The best way they can continue to get that interest is to have these plans done. That is what they do. They take those plans and they shop them. There is a number of times in my career where I have taken plans and successfully drawn development because of planning that was completed. It is a very useful tool for us.

Chairman Van Meter mentioned the new warehouse that would employ 150 people. To quote our current President on a different subject, but 150 jobs coming into this community, "Is a big "expletive" deal." The last time something like that happened, Brian McFadden was in his twenties. Chairman Van Meter asked if they know the value of the warehouse they are constructing. Mr. McCrady stated based on industry per square foot cost, it will be somewhere between \$25 and \$30 million. Chairman Van Meter asked if he could estimate the property taxes. Mr. McCrady stated it is significant. His guess would be around \$1 million a year. Chairman Van Meter stated that roughly half of that would go to the schools. That would be half a million dollars of revenue for the schools in this community without the current taxpayers having to pay one additional dime. This kind of growth is really powerful. For the County it is maybe around \$100,000. Mr. McCrady stated he would let them know if he is off on that number. Chairman Van Meter asked if he knows the construction cost of the bigger warehouse off Bissell Road. Mr. McCrady stated he does not know yet. It's a little bit smaller at 170,000 square feet instead of 225,000. The reason you get things like this is because of the training facilities we have. The truck driver training they have at LLCC and the other entities we have are a big factor in attracting that type of work here. They do spend a lot of money on marketing and having a good website that has search engine optimization to it. If they don't have that, people don't find us. It's important that we keep doing this as they are seeing some results, and he is very optimistic they will continue to see gain in the future.

Mr. Ayers asked if he could explain the Pillsbury Mills redevelopment timeline again.

Mr. McCrady stated he is on the Board of Moving Pillsbury Forward and they meet weekly. They are waiting for the final RFP document to be completed. There will be a reasonable period of 45 days to respond to that, and the demolition contractor will be selected. He doesn't know that you will see demolition by the end of the calendar year, but the goal is early January based on the time frame they have right now.

Mr. McCrady thanked them all for their support.

## **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 six people total signed up to speak. Chairman Van Meter stated, for the last time, they would allow anyone to speak that signs up this evening. They won't be doing that in the future, and will be going back to the regular order of their Board rules, which requires you sign up by 4:30 of the day before the Board meets. The reason is they only meet once a month, and it is really important they get through everything they have to do at that one meeting. Depending on the number of speakers, it becomes difficult to get through everything they have to do. They also have space restraints. They cannot get this facility for the November meeting. The November meeting will likely be at Sangamon South. There is a small possibility they could be in the new remodeled chambers of the County Board,

but more likely it will be at Sangamon South. Both of those facilities are much smaller to accommodate the public.

Erin Jones and Jenna Broom signed up but were not present to speak.

Teresa Haley addressed the County Board to speak regarding Resolution 7. She stands before them in support of a Resolution. It is the binding reform Resolution to be placed on the ballot for April 1<sup>st</sup> of 2025. This will allow voters the opportunity to make a decision to recall positions in office. This is America. This is the land of opportunity. What's happened thus far in Sangamon County has given Springfield, especially, a black eye. Not only with the county but also with the city. She is standing in support, and people in her community are standing in support, of the binding referendum to be placed on the ballot again for April 1, 2025. Let the voters decide if they want to enact the recall or to rescind someone for a position. What happened in the Sonya Massey case, and what happened with former Sheriff Jack Campbell, was really unfortunate. They believe, as taxpayers, that they should have been given more of an opportunity in the selection process of the next County Sheriff. This is a high position. It is a powerful position. They were anticipating and hoping they would have a national search and not for something to be done so quickly behind closed doors. They love our community and they love their County. Springfield is the home of Abraham Lincoln, the home of freedom and justice, and the home of the 1908 Race Riots. If they care about Springfield, do the right thing and put the referendum on the ballot for the community and taxpayers to be able to make the decision.

Ken Pacha addressed the County Board. He asked if they read the SJR article today regarding the Sheriff and her husband. It was kind of frustrating to find out they went through severe and intensive background checks, and they still don't believe women. The accusation was made and it sounds like, from what he read in that article, the reason it wasn't prosecuted was because she didn't really want to go through the trauma of a court case. He's not sure how many of them have ever been assaulted by another human being, but being in court is an extremely traumatic process for a lot of people. That lack of attending court or lack of formal charges shouldn't mean they ignore that accusation. More specifically, while it isn't against this specific Sheriff, he thinks the problem of association is what got them here in the first place. In regards to the Sangamon County Sheriff's Department, the problem of association in terms of whether it is associating with criminal cops or associating with people outside of it to turn a blind eye to it and create a nepotistic sort of leadership structure. They now have a problem where their own Sheriff doesn't believe women. That's not a great start to her tenure. That is, in fact, deeply frustrating to see another woman who herself knows, in the article her history of having been assaulted in some way and in the same fashion, and turns a blind eye to the accusation against her own husband. Not only does she not believe that but she also is allowed to be the chief law enforcement officer with that noted in the background check. What exactly does it take to be disqualified from being a chief law enforcement officer of Sangamon County? What didn't come up on those other candidates? What may have come up on them to disqualify them so that she was their best candidate? Again, they talked about this last time. The search was not very quick, and while there was a timeline, they could have taken it to the final day. There was no need to rush their way through that and push through a process that may have brought them a flawed candidate. This raises questions from the start about their fitness for office. That is deeply frustrating for the citizens of Sangamon County, and it doesn't reflect well on the process.



Touching further on the process, he knows there have been great pains made to distance the Board from the outcomes of the Massey Commission, but he thinks the problems there are inherent from the start. They already have a sexual assault accusation against the Co-Chair before they were installed on the Board and from the articles, those accusations were known ahead of time by many members of the community. Yet he was still installed. That again raises questions about the fitness of that Board from the very beginning. The solution to that was not to respond to the community directly. He understands the Board is taking great pains to distance themselves from it because they are not in charge of that. They don't choose the outcomes, but they created it. Frankenstein's monster doesn't wander around unattended. The idea that he is just lumbering around committing problems and they don't have any responsibility for that, it kind of leads to the idea of why wouldn't they want responsibility for that.

He doesn't care what an outside consulting firm said they should do. To leave 57 people overpopulating a committee with calls to add more, what in those 57 members is going to lead to actual change in Sangamon County with the Sangamon County Sheriff's Department and the way it interacts with the citizens that lead to the murder of Sonya Massey. That's why it is supposed to be here, but he has little to no faith that this is what they are going to accomplish. Fifty-seven people isn't a committee, it's a mob. Nobody is going to get their voice heard through five different committees beyond the main one and four separate ones. That is miring it down in a myriad of solutions and studies. What's the actual outcome for the Sangamon County Sheriff's Department? What are they going to do to change that in some fashion? To say they have no control, when they hold the purse strings, denies their own power and authority. If they hold his purse strings and tell him what he can or can't spend, they kind of do get to tell him what to do. He said the same thing to the City Council last week. The optics are deeply important. Democracy operates in the sunshine. They work so they can see it. Right now, he has no faith in that process. Right now the Massey Commission has been locked behind a door that he is not even allowed to access as a citizen, and that is deeply frustrating. They are operating behind closed doors, the same as the Sheriff's search, and the same as the Sheriff's Department that lead to the murder of Sonya Massey, and the most recent story which is the police chase that lasted through three counties. It is endemic at this point, and they need to do something. They are the ones that can actually direct that through financial resistance, and it is up to them to make that choice.

Vanessa Knox addressed the County Board. It is always the hope of voters that whomever they have put into office is the best for the position and will serve their community well. Although they may read articles and bios, and hear information about candidates they elect, there can never be a guarantee that the elected individual will serve with the integrity depicted during their campaign. Nor will it be guaranteed that they will respond to situations in the manner they swore to upon election.

Often times their response is only a reactive one when there is a tragedy or serious issue in the community. She asks that they turn their reactive responses into more proactive efforts. The best way to handle undesirable situations is to prevent the opportunity in the first place. Prevention cannot always happen, but they take the approach of a proactive stance to minimize harm as much as possible by increasing accountability, which can birth more integrity and pride in doing the right thing when faced with the choice. In the last couple of years, the community is still recovering from a few police officers that should have never become police officers. Actually killing and giving them a false sense of security, and causing long-term distrust, fear, and stress from the harm of their actions.

More efforts must be in place to proactively protect their community that relies so much on the work, decisions, and results of their elected officials for many aspects of their lives.

Resolution 7, which Sangamon County Board Sam Cahnman has requested, gives the community an opportunity to recall a County Sheriff should they ever need to. It is one of the most important Resolutions they have ever been offered. She sees no problem with the new Sheriff Paula Crouch, but should there ever be a detrimental issue regarding the new Sheriff or any future one, they can rest assured that they can at least take a quick and tangible action to resolve the problem resulting in demanding better for them. Elected positions such as Sheriff in our County should not derive from popularity contests, favor exchanges, political stepping-stones, or nepotism, but through the sole desire to protect and serve Sangamon County. She is asking to please enact a recall of Resolution 7, as this is a security they should experience with any powerful elected position. To not enact a recall would be an acceptance of not wanting safety nets for their community and cheapens their vote.

Breonna Roberts addressed the County Board. She stated she wants to bring to the people's attention that there was a recent article in the SJR regarding some serious allegations against Paula Crouch's husband Robert Crouch. She just wants to bring this up, as a note of, that this is why doing a FOIA is important. This is why they have been asking for departments to FOIA their employees for the Board members to actually look extensively into people's backgrounds. She does want to highlight and say that she doesn't think Paula's husband's allegations should necessarily reflect who she is as a person.

She understands she was not involved in this incident; however, her ability to be appointed head Sheriff and also specializing in children's sexual assault and maintaining a marriage with someone who has allegations of sexual assault, is concerning. This is something Andy Van Meter knew about as he was going through the process of appointing a head Sheriff, and it wasn't brought to their attention. This wasn't something that was made aware to the public before she was appointed. This wasn't something they were able to discuss as a community. This should have been made public, so they as citizens the people of Sangamon County would have been able to tell the Board, when they are supposed to be the ones responsible for voting in the Sheriff, that this was something that should be a red flag for a head Sheriff. That is borderline a really serious crime if these allegations are true, and now the head Sheriff is married to somebody with those allegations.

She also pointed out that he is a Police Chief, which is also very concerning. Going back to the last meeting when it failed that most of the people here voted against the FOIA for everybody in the department. Do you see the repeating patterns? Not knowing the past of Sean Grayson is the reason Sonya Massey was killed. Allowing officers with prior DUI convictions is the reason why Chelsey Farley and Trevor Hopkins are in the hospital. She wants to stress to them all that these are serious issues consistently being neglected by the people who are voting against them trying to fix the issues they have at hand. She wants to condemn the ones who voted against the FOIA. The board wants them, as Sangamon County citizens, to believe they are actually trying to do better, to make them feel safer as a County, to trust that their County Board members have the entire Sangamon County citizen's best interests in mind, and they vote against the very action that would have been a step in the right direction to prevent something from happening again in the future....shameful...honestly. There were like three or four of them at most that voted for it. She wants to thank those who see the necessity of public access to information. She doesn't understand how many people need to have stories, how

much tangible proof somebody needs to have before they believe their story. If they weren't there, they will never know the whole story. Isn't somebody's lived experience enough? Isn't them coming out and telling a story of trauma enough for them to care, or are they just cold and heartless and don't actually care about humans? If that's true, that is sad. She also wanted to tell the people in the seats behind the Board members to register to vote and remember who votes for what. Remember that they are the ones who have the power to decide when they don't like how they voted for or against a specific thing and don't want them in that seat anymore. Make sure they register to vote, vote early and vote educated. For those of them in the chairs, the Board, remember they are the ones that put them there, and if they don't like what we're doing, they don't have to be there anymore.

## **MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. Cahnman, for approval of the Minutes of September 18, 2024. Mr. Cahnman stated he has some amendments to the Minutes. On Page 11 in the fifth paragraph, the name "Crouse" should be "Kruse." On Page 13 in the fifth paragraph, the word "unamicable" should be "inimicable." On Page 13 in the fifth paragraph, the word "amputation" should be "usurpation." On Page 15 in the sixth paragraph, the word "numbers" should be "members."

A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of the Minutes of September 18, 2024, as amended.

MOTION CARRIED  
MINUTES ADOPTED

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

## **RESOLUTION 1**

1. Resolution approving the Planning Year 2025 Agreement with the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission for the Planning Year 2025 Unified Planning Work Program.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. Mendenhall, 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

## **RESOLUTION 2**

2. Resolution approving a Joint Funding Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation for the Woodside/Iron Bridge Road Grade Separation Project.

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 that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolution 2. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

### **RESOLUTION 3**

3. 2024-021 – Christopher Biondolino, 1405-1409 Adlai Stevenson Drive, Springfield – Granting a Conditional Permitted Use with Conditions and a Variance. County Board Member – Vera Small, District #19.

A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall, seconded by Ms. Small, to place Resolution 3 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall to waive the reading of the professional staff's report. There were no objections.

Mr. Cahnman asked the professional staff what the conditional permitted use is that is being done with this. Trustin Harrison, professional staff, stated the petitioner requested a conditional permitted use for a tavern basically for the intent of video gaming. Mr. Cahnman asked if the area is zoned for taverns. Mr. Harrison stated it has a business zoning but for a tavern, you need a conditional permitted use, so it's a special condition. Mr. Cahnman asked if any tavern that wants to start a business would have to get a conditional permitted use. Mr. Harrison stated that is not true. If you have I-1 or I-2, but for business zoning you would need a conditional permitted use.

A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 3.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

### **RESOLUTION 4**

4. 2024-022 – Steve and Kim Zaubi, 6233 W State Route 97, Pleasant Plains – Granting a Rezoning and a Variance. County Board Member – Tom Fraase, Jr., District #1.

A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall, seconded by Mr. Fraase, to place Resolution 4 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 4.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

### **RESOLUTION 5**

5. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Sheriff's Office from Motorola Solutions, Inc. for the purpose of providing backup consolettes/servers for the 911 Radio Project in the amount of \$64,353.48.

A motion was made by Mr. Tjelmeland, seconded by Mr. Stumpf, to place Resolution 5 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Madonia that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolution 5. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

### **RESOLUTION 6**

6. Resolution approving the final plat of the Ballinger Estates Minor Subdivision.

A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall, seconded by Mr. Rader, to place Resolution 6 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Madonia that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolution 6. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

### **RESOLUTION 7**

7. Resolution initiating and authoring a referendum to be submitted to the voters of Sangamon County at the April 2025 Election asking "Shall the voters of the County of Sangamon provide for the power of recall on the Office of Sangamon County Sheriff."

A motion was made by Mr. Cahnman, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, to place Resolution 7 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. Miller, to send Resolution 7 to the Election Oversight Committee to study and for legal review.

Mr. Cahnman stated this motion is out of order. Chairman Van Meter clarified that it is not. Mr. Cahnman stated with the last resolution he had for a binding referendum on recall, which was actually an amendment to the original regular resolution that he introduced at the August meeting, he had moved that the Resolution be sent to the Election Committee as it was originally introduced with the hope that it would be worked on and amended into a binding Resolution. He has now learned, even though they voted as a Board to send that Resolution to the Election Committee, it was never sent to the Committee, was never on the Agenda, was never voted on, never considered, and nothing ever happened to it. Sending this to the Election Committee is like sending it to the graveyard. He would urge a no vote on this. They need recall as some of the speakers have said tonight. He believes there were 17 speakers at the August meeting who supported recall. He sent all the Board members a poll done earlier this year that showed 80% of Illinoisan's support recall, including 90% of Republicans. They had a vote in Sangamon County on recall in 2010 on whether to adopt a Constitutional amendment to enact a recall for the Governor. Almost 70% of the Sangamon

County voters supported recall. Three localities that have adopted recall in Illinois are Buffalo Grove, Wheeling, and Arlington Heights. The reason they need recall and need to put it on the ballot for the April 1<sup>st</sup> Election, and it's too late to do for the November Election, is it gives people the power to right a wrong that would otherwise fester, and if people lose the confidence in their elected officials, the elected official cannot properly govern. Chairman Van Meter told Mr. Cahnman he is speaking to the issue and not about properly sending it to the Elections Committee to study the issue. Mr. Cahnman stated he is speaking to the issue because sending it to the Election Committee is sending it to the graveyard. That is what happened to his prior Resolution sent to the Elections Committee. That is why he is talking about the need for recall and why they should not send this Resolution to the graveyard. All this Resolution does is puts the question on the ballot in the April 1<sup>st</sup> Election. It doesn't adopt recall. It just says let the voters speak. They should just allow the voters to let them know what their view is on this issue.

Chairman Van Meter asked if he had a Resolution similar to this on the Agenda for the last meeting. Mr. Cahnman stated he did, but he pulled it because they weren't ready to present it at that time. Chairman Van Meter asked Mr. Cahnman if he asked at that time that the Resolution be held in the Elections Committee. Mr. Cahnman stated he did not. Chairman Van Meter asked if they just withdrew it. Mr. Cahnman stated that is correct. Chairman Van Meter asked if it was just the earlier amendment. Mr. Cahnman stated it was, but the amendment was ruled, by him, out of order. That Resolution for an advisory referendum on the November ballot, "Should Sheriff Jack Campbell resign?" was sent to the Elections Committee with the hope it would be amended to something more proper like a binding resolution on recall. It never came up in the Elections Committee. Chairman Van Meter told Mr. Cahnman it was because he never brought it up in the Elections Committee. Mr. Cahnman stated it was never on the Agenda and he is not on the Elections Committee. Chairman Van Meter told him he never notified them that he wanted it brought up in the Elections Committee. The Elections Committee would have been very happy to study the issue. It is a very interesting issue with interesting points on both sides of it, but it needs to be vetted legally. If he recalls from the first conversation about the issue, Mr. Cahnman assured them this was perfectly legal, that they've done all the research, and it was perfectly fine. Then the next morning in the newspaper, they read that the Board of Elections doubted the County had the authority to do this. Subsequent to that, there was a very thoughtful letter to the Editor from a lawyer named Hanrahan, or something like that, saying there were examples of where this was allowed in other counties. Those counties were home rule counties, and they are not a home rule county. They really don't know whether they have the authority to do this or not. The Elections Committee is the appropriate place to study that issue. There is plenty of time to study that issue. The Chairman of the Committee has said he is very willing to study the issue if he wants to advance this Resolution in that committee, and they will set a hearing for it.

He asked Mr. Cahnman if he has anything else to say on committing this to the Election Committee. Mr. Cahnman stated obviously that would be better than killing it. His previous Resolution could have been studied by the Elections Committee, but for some reason it went nowhere. Chairman Van Meter stated to Mr. Cahnman if he know anything about him, he is not a wilting violet. If he wanted this handled in the Elections Committee then bring it up to the Elections Committee. Mr. Cahnman said he is not on the Elections Committee. Chairman Van Meter told him he could go as a member of the Board and say, "I would like this Resolution considered." Mr. Cahnman asked how he gets it on the Agenda. Chairman Van Meter stated it's the same way he got it on the Agenda this evening. Call Mary and say he wants this on the Agenda. Mr. Cahnman stated it

should have automatically gone on the Agenda when it was sent to the Elections Committee by the prior Resolution by the County Board. Chairman Van Meter told Mr. Cahnman he had said he wanted it held in the Elections Committee, and nobody quite knew what “Held in the Elections Committee” means. Mr. Cahnman stated he didn’t move that it be held, he moved that it be sent to the Elections Committee for consideration. Chairman Van Meter stated his precise words were “Held in the Elections Committee.” Mr. Cahnman stated that was not his motion.

Mr. Cahnman stated the person he mentioned at the State Board of Elections was a public relations person, not a lawyer. The law is very clear. Chairman Van Meter stated they could bring some experts to the Committee to hear whatever light they have to shed on this. There is plenty of time. His proposal is to put it on the April Municipal Election ballot, so there is plenty of time to ask the State’s Attorney to provide them with an opinion, and there is plenty of time to ask counsel from other municipalities that have the belief they have this authority. Maybe they do, but he doesn’t think anybody knows right now. Mr. Cahnman stated the Appellate Court already held that they do have the power in the case *Henyard v. City of Dolton*. Chairman Van Meter reiterated that there is plenty of time to determine whether they have the power or not, and the Elections Committee is the appropriate place to do that.

A voice vote carried on the motion to send Resolution 7 back to the Election Oversight Committee. Mr. Cahnman voted No.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION SENT BACK TO COMMITTEE

#### **WAIVER OF TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD**

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

MOTION CARRIED

TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD WAIVED

#### **RESOLUTIONS 8 - 17**

8. Resolution approving contracts with Blue Cross Blue Shield, Guardian, and The Hartford for employee benefits for 2025.

A motion was made by Mr. Krell, seconded by Mr. Schackmann, to place Resolution 8 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, to consolidate Resolutions 8 – 17. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 9 – 17.

9. Resolution approving an Agreement with Sangamon County and Amtrak for the reimbursement of Amtrak’s relocation expenses from anticipated Federal Grant proceeds.
10. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from Mesa Electronics, Inc. for the purpose of purchasing audio visual equipment for use in

conference rooms, the County Board Chambers, and training rooms in the amount of \$224,036.14.

11. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from Conference Technologies for the purpose of installing audio visual equipment in conference rooms, the County Board Chambers, and training rooms in the amount of \$190,260.00.
12. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from CMFirst Rethink Modernization for the purpose of renewing the 3-year software license for the maintenance of in-house developed programs in the amount of \$143,421.42.
13. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Treasurer's Office from Quicksilver for the purpose of postage and mailing of real estate and mobile home property tax bills in the amount of \$38,133.39.
14. Resolution approving an agreement with Ace Sign Company for signage at the Sangamon County East Campus for use by Helping Hands and the Juvenile Detention Center in the amount of \$51,055.65.
15. Resolution approving an amendment to Section 2.04.330 of the Sangamon County Code to include an additional circumstance of unexpected childcare obligations to allow a board member to participate remotely in a meeting.
16. Resolution authorizing the State's Attorney to execute a contract concerning the State's Attorney's Office prosecuting tax crimes for the State of Illinois.
17. Resolution authorizing the County Administrator to execute a contract concerning Sangamon County participating in the AOIC Program and providing advocates for the Public Defender's Office clients.

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation. Chairman Van Meter asked County Administrator Brian McFadden to give a brief synopsis of Resolution 17. Mr. McFadden explained that this Resolution would take advantage of a program offered through AOIC, which is the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. It would embed two County employees within the office of the Public Defender. They would be strategically located to assist the Public Defender's clients with various services, mental health services, drug addiction programs, transportation, and housing. It is meant to provide direct assistance to those folks, as they are moving through the court process. The total now being offered to the County is a little over \$100,000, which would cover the salary and benefits for the two employees. Chairman Van Meter stated it will be a very interesting program and to see how it works. Mr. Cahnman asked if this is 100% funded by the State of Illinois. Chairman Van Meter stated it is.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolutions 8 – 17, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED  
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED



## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Resolution 17 – Tabled 9/18/24**

Resolution allowing Sangamon County to enter into an agreement with Vector Communications to support SIU School of Medicine and the work of the Massey Commission for a 12-month period and an amount not to exceed \$21,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. Miller, to take Resolution 17 from the September 18, 2024 County Board meeting off the Table. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Cahnman stated it came up at the last meeting, regarding Resolutions 17 & 18, that these were not requested by the Massey Commission because it had just been created. They got an email stating that the three Co-Chairs of the Massey Commission requested this, but the Massey Commission has never met, so they have never requested these two contracts. He is not even sure if two of the Co-Chairs are legitimate because when they passed Resolution 16 at the last meeting creating the Massey Commission; it had in the Resolution the names of the Co-chairs, Reverend McJunkins and Nina Harris, who are not on the Commission now. Now there are two other commissioners Smith and another person. They never passed a Resolution at County Board replacing the two others with the new ones. He is not even sure if they are legitimate Co-Chairs. In any event, the Massey Commission with all of the commissioners and Co-Chairs together have never met, so they have never requested these two contracts. He believes they should wait and let the Massey Commission meet. If they want us to pass these contracts then we should pass them. At this point, the Massey Commission has not met and has not requested these two contracts, so he would urge a no vote on this or send it back to the table.

Chairman Van Meter asked for a voice vote on the adoption of Resolution 17. The voice vote carried. Mr. Cahnman requested a roll call vote. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to call the roll. Upon the roll call vote, there were 24 Yeas – 1 Nay. Mr. Cahnman voted No.

## **MOTIONS CARRIED**

## **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

### **B. Resolution 18 – Tabled 9/18/24**

Resolution allowing Sangamon County to enter into an agreement with KIND Consulting to help support SIU School of Medicine and the work of the Massey Commission for a 12-month period in an amount not to exceed \$57,600.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. Miller, to take Resolution 18 from the September 18, 2024 County Board meeting off the Table. A voice vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia to amend Resolution 18. Mr. Madonia stated, at the request of the Massey Commission Co-Chairs, the amendment would be to limit the amount of the contract to not exceed \$20,000 from September 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Mr. Madonia stated that everything on this was mailed out to the all the board members this afternoon.

Mr. Cahnman stated he is opposed to adopting this for the same reason he was opposed to adopting Resolution 17. He thinks they should wait until the Massey Commission meets to let them recommend whom we should contract with to assist them with their duties.

A voice vote was unanimous on the amendment. Mr. Cahnman voted No.

Mr. DelGiorno stated it is his understanding, from Senator Turner, that Mrs. Jimenez from Kind Consulting only wants to finish out the work she had done to help with logistical items and be done by December 31<sup>st</sup>. He asked if they would be seeing a contract to re-up her, if they agree to this tonight, after the first of the year or if the Commission would be given the opportunity to then decide what assistance they need to replace what services she's providing. Chairman Van Meter told Mr. DelGiorno he would be a little better informed of this than he is, having talked to Senator Turner. He doesn't really know the answer to the question, but he thinks a more general answer to the question is that he thinks the Massey Commission, when it convenes, is going to review all of its procedures going forward. They may choose to operate in a manner more independent from the Board and is not constantly asking the Board for money to do this or that. Mr. DelGiorno asked if they are deferring, from this point forward, to say to the Commission "You as a body, the full 15 commissioners, what do you need going forward?" Chairman Van Meter answered yes. He is quite certain that is the Co-Chair's goal, and he is quite certain that it is the unanimous view of this Board as well that we want to be responsive to the Massey Commission.

Mr. DelGiorno stated one of the named commissioners is a relative of Mrs. Jimenez, Brian Wojcicki. He doesn't know the nature of the relationship and if that poses any sort of conflict in that way. Chairman Van Meter stated he doesn't think there is a financial conflict if that is what he is asking. Mr. DelGiorno asked if he would be recusing himself going forward with anything relating to her ongoing work with the Commission, seeing there is oversight there. Chairman Van Meter stated he does not know the answer to that. He thinks that would be for the Commission to work out.

Mr. Cahnman clarified, when he addressed his remarks before, that he made a mistake. That was to the amendment and not to the Resolution, as amended. He adopts those same remarks to the Resolution, as amended. He is opposing this because the Massey Commission has not requested this. Chairman Van Meter stated to Mr. Cahnman that he truly believes he is demonstrating this evening why the Massey Commission is going to consider structuring itself so it can be more independent of the Board. Its intention is for it to be completely independent of the Board and to be able to freely seek inquiry from the community and around the country for best practices and recommend back to the Board, the Sheriff, and the State of Illinois changes that can be made. Mr. Cahnman asked if they would still have to come to them if they want to spend money. Chairman Van Meter stated he thinks the commissioners are very wise to that issue and he is confident they will deal with it in a way that maximizes their independence. Mr. Cahnman stated he thinks so too, but they did address this at the last meeting, that any spending of money would have to come back to the Board for approval. Chairman Van Meter stated under the way it is currently structured that is true, and any expenditure of public funds would have to be subject to audit. Let us leave it to the Massey Commission to work on the structure and methodology they think is best to affect their goals. He can tell you that the Co-commissioners are very much of the opinion that they need this help and need the funds to pay for it right now to get the meetings up and organized. Let them see how they work all these independent issues out. It is a very good group of people, so let them see how it gets worked out.

Mr. Ayers stated he would probably just vote Present on this particular one. He gets a lot of the comments that were made. He doesn't like the optics of how they got to this point. He understands folks in the audience and his fellow board members. It gives the appearance that before

this was even established there were consultants hired to do this work, when it didn't come from the Commission. That is why they were tabled in the first place. He's not disagreeing with the Chairman, but is saying they were tabled for that reason. Then they find out there was a lot of work being done, and there still is a lot of work to be done, and they do still need to have some funding. They are putting these back on the Agenda to vote for them and now they are saying, "We want this." He asked if this is correct that they are asking for this because they need the funding. Chairman Van Meter stated that was in the letter everyone received. Mr. Ayers asked if they inquired about services to any other consulting firms in Springfield or the surrounding areas to see what they could provide maybe free of charge. Chairman Van Meter stated he doesn't know the answer to that question with respect to the second Resolution, but on the first Resolution, that was not the case because Vector is the national consulting firm that was instrumental with the Ferguson Commission, so they didn't look for any other advisory at that level. Locally, they may very well have talked to other providers of support services for these meetings, and KIND Consulting may have been the only one available to help them at that time. He really doesn't know the answer to that.

Mr. Ayers asked if there would be an opportunity at the future Commission meetings to have consulting firms offer some of their services or make it known to the Co-Chairs that they offer a variety of services, what those could be, and then they could maybe be added onto the services provided going forward. Chairman Van Meter stated it is a good question that should be asked of the Co-Commissioners. If he emails them, they would probably answer his question.

A voice vote carried on the motion to adopt Resolution 18, as amended. Mr. Cahnman voted No and Mr. Ayers voted Present.

MOTIONS CARRIED  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Ayers stated there were some comments tonight from the speakers regarding the recent SJR article and he didn't know if it was an appropriate time to discuss that, or if the Sheriff wanted to speak upon that. When this information came to light, he said it is really coming upon the leadership of this Board to let them have that information. He thinks there was a quote in the paper that it wasn't relevant for them to decide. It shouldn't be considered at all. It wasn't relevant, the nomination. He does think it is relevant, and that should be up to them as Board members to decide. He also thinks the public should know information about that. There is a reason why they call them sexual assault survivors. It's a pretty heavy topic and it is a serious allegation. That really should have surfaced and should have been brought here. Whether or not it was part of the Sheriff's Committee and if it came up there, it seems like it did and was determined not to be relevant. Then they get information that a background check was requested 24 hours after they swore the new Sheriff in. He is curious why they rushed the process. They are looking confused. Maybe they haven't heard the news yet. There are organizations that requested a background check after they swore the Sheriff in. That came to him directly from the source. It seems to him, that process was rushed and they didn't have the background check completed. He's said this 100 times, "I don't have any issue with the new Sheriff." He will say that over and over again. He just doesn't understand. The process seemed opaque and rushed. They could have waited another month to get all the information back to make an informed decision. It appears rushed, and when it appears rushed, there is distrust. He doesn't

know if anyone wants to address that or speak upon that. It is a very concerning article. In this era, we should trust women, and he trusts the woman who came forward for her bravery and her courage to say what she said. He will leave it at that.

Chairman Van Meter stated when you conduct a background check there is a lot of information adduced in course of that background check. You have to make a determination on what of that information is relevant and what of that information is not relevant. As he said publicly, “He does not think an allegation that was professionally investigated about the candidates spouse is relevant to the determination of the candidate’s fitness for office.” That was his determination.

Mr. Cahnman stated on this recall there are two ways to put the binding referendum on the ballot. One is they could adopt a Resolution and the other is it could be done by an initiative petition. He has prepared petitions if people want to circulate them and get the signatures by the December deadline, or by 92 days before any election. This could be put on the ballot by an initiative petition. He prefers to put it on by vote of the County Board, but there is that safety valve. Anyone that wants a petition, they should be ready later this week. Contact Cahnman – he thanked them.

#### A. Resolutions

There were no new resolutions.

#### B. Appointments

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. Miller, for approval of any appointments. A voice vote was unanimous. There were no appointments submitted.

The nominations for appointment in November were submitted.

#### C. Procurement/Grant Notifications

-Emergency Notification - for the Sheriff’s Office from Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc. for the FY24 Annual Medical and Mental Health Services in the amount of \$163,000.

County Administrator Brian McFadden explained the emergency notification. Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc (ACH) is the health care and mental health care provider for the Jail. They notified them in late August that they wanted to change the terms of their contract. They wanted to move away from using LPN’s and go to using RN’s. That was going to be an additional cost to the County. The amount is what they see listed here. They needed an answer in a very short period of time, the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. They did not have time to get this in front of the Jail Committee. He conferred with the Sheriff and discussed it with the County Board Chairman. The decision was made to move forward with this change. As they discussed earlier, they will be taking most of 2025 to review a contractual relationship with ACH. They have been with them for a while and think it’s time to look at some other alternatives, or at least do their due process and see what other options are available. He is not saying they are going to leave ACH, but he does think it has gotten to a point where they should take a deep look into this service.

#### D. 2025 County Board Meeting Schedule

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, for approval of the 2025 County Board Meeting Schedule. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED

MEETING SCHEDULE ADOPTED

E. Ratification of Court Services Union Contract

There was no action taken.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS FILED

**RECESS**

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, to recess the meeting to November 12, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED

MEETING RECESSED

***Don Gray***  
***Sangamon County Clerk***