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**MINUTES****SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD****SEPTEMBER 18, 2024**

The Sangamon County Board met in Reconvened Adjourned September Session on September 18, 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. Tjelmeland led the County Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to call the roll. There were 26 Present – 3 Absent. Mr. Bunch, Ms. Deppe, and Mr. Fraase were excused. Mr. Bunch tried to participate by phone, but was unable to connect. Mr. Madonia was present and attending by phone. Chairman Van Meter stated this is allowed under the Open Meetings Act if a quorum of this body is present, which it is, and if a majority of the board, at least 15 members, vote to allow it. Mr. Madonia is prevented from physically attending the meeting for a cause recognized by the Open Meetings Act as one warranting participation via telephone conference. The Chair will now entertain a motion to allow Mr. Madonia to participate via telephone. A motion was made by Ms. Scaife, seconded by Mr. Miller, to allow Mr. Madonia to attend by phone. A voice vote was unanimous. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to revise the roll call to reflect that Mr. Madonia is participating in the meeting via telephone conference as allowed by the Open Meetings Act and is considered present at this meeting for the purpose of determining a quorum and participating in all proceedings. Mr. Madonia acknowledged that he is present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jenna Broom addressed the County Board. She wished the new Sheriff the best of luck. It is nice to see a woman in the role. One thing she wanted to address is the cultural issues. They can't say there is just one bad person and one bad deputy that caused this. This is clearly an issue when someone like that ended up in Sangamon County and murdered Sonya Massey. That is a cultural issue and she hopes it is addressed. Respect and responsibility towards the citizens is the most important role the Sheriff's Department serves, and she really hopes that is taken into consideration.

The nepotism in hiring in the Sheriff's Department is a big issue, and she hopes those hired are reviewed. She highly doubts that Sean Grayson is the only person hired because of nepotism and has no business being a Sheriff's deputy. There is a lack of trust in this community, this department, and with the police in general. They need to address the issues with the diverse community they have in Sangamon County. The need to address the mental health issues. De-escalation is necessary to show that police can handle these situations, because right now people don't think they can. Enforcing the assault weapon ban is something the Sheriff's Office should absolutely do. She also hopes this is a non-militant Sheriff's Department. The cops and the military are not the same thing. She thinks it is also really important to get in contact with the community as well. The Sheriff's Office is responsible for people in jail, and they have people dying that are in their custody in jail. These people deserve respect regardless of their criminal status, so she thinks that needs to be addressed in this administration. She also wants to mention Tracy Meares who is a black woman originally from Springfield that is well known for her work in criminal justice and with community policing and restoring trust. She urged this body to somehow bring her into this picture. This is something that needs to be resolved on a county level. She hopes the commission retains complete independence from this board and all the members of this board. She also hopes there is accountability for the things this commission does.

Ken Pacha addressed the County Board. During the listening session they had on Monday, they were under the impression that members of the commission had already been chosen, but on the actual website, the statement is that they will be selecting the rest of the commissioners. So, he is not sure what is right. That is a little frustrating. Why would they have a listening session if they have already chosen everybody? They didn't even know what the community wanted on that commission. It is really important to take that into account. It is frustrating and confusing not knowing if they have been selected or not and if the community answers have been taken into account. This committee was committed to action, and Gina withdrew a resolution for an investigation into whether the offices of that commission would do just that or some semblance of that. He didn't see a lot of board members, but he knows they are busy. He gave them an update on what did happen. They gave us a very broad plan that doesn't offer a lot of room for specifics. It is a temporary commission. He hopes they have a sense of what we said. They were sought out to deal with that commission with the Massey name on it. The frustration they had was there wasn't even a Massey name as a co-chair initially. He thinks that is a bit of an oversight if they are going to put her name on there...Sonya deserves that. He thinks that is something important they should focus on. He thought they were talking about that tonight too, but they went from 14 finalists down to one without any community input on it. He doesn't recall getting a chance to talk about it. What is really frustrating is they have these listening sessions and board meetings behind closed doors without public input. What are they listening to if these decisions have already been made? It is frustrating that they can't get any answers on these things.

Mr. Pacha continued by saying there is \$71,000 already promised for the consulting firms. For what? They don't even know what they are doing. There seems to be a lot of decisions being made that don't even make sense to the general public in regards to this commission. The whole goal here is transparency and communicating with the public in regards to the thoughts they had that got the

Sheriff to resign, and that got one of our own citizens murdered. What are they doing to give our community faith in the process and to trust it is going to be done properly.

He is not saying anyone here has bad motives, and he is not accusing anyone here of that. However, the already problematic viewpoint they have regarding the Sangamon County Sheriff's department, the way they treat their citizens, and what this commission is going to do aren't being assuaged in any way by the fact that these questions are very pertinent to the matter and are being left unanswered, as far as he knows. If you were looking at building that kind of trust, he would start there. With the very least, adding people on this committee that are going to be a part of the community. Out of 214 applications, they have already been chosen, and they don't know who they are. That in itself is an issue because they are going to be making decisions based off an extremely broad template they were presented with. They were asked questions from a tight list and it didn't even leave any room for real answers from the community.

Mr. Pacha stated at City Council last week, he gave a thorough rendition of the problems the City Police Department is having. He hopes the County Board encourages our new Sheriff and make that transparency and communication with the public paramount. If you want us to trust you and the process going forward, give us the information we need to believe is true.

The next speaker Breonna Roberts addressed the County Board. She feels like she will sound like a broken record because she is continuing to repeat the same things she has been saying at all the meetings she has attended. First, she wants to address the recent decision to appoint Paula Crouch as the new Sheriff. She congratulated her and hopes she is a step in the right direction because they need it. While her extensive background in areas like forensics, interviewing, hostage negotiation, and community policing is commendable, she is concerned by the absence of some critical training in areas. There is no mention of de-escalation techniques, crisis intervention or cultural competency, which are issues they have mentioned repeatedly at these meetings for things they need to implement in their Sheriff's Department. This isn't a statement of opposition but a reflection of apprehension. She still thinks they need a leader who can build a more community centered, compassionate and equitable department. She just wants to know what reassurances they have that Sheriff Crouch will have ongoing training in these areas. How do we know that she is committed to integrating these essential components into her leadership? She would welcome an opportunity for Sheriff Crouch to engage with the community and to close the gap created by past leaders by communicating with us and being more transparent. She deserves a chance to prove herself in her commitment, but this transparency must start as soon as the role is accepted.

Next, she wanted to highlight the establishment of the Massey Commission. It is supposed to bring about real change by addressing systematic changes in law enforcement, mental health response, and community relations. The commission must hold true independence and power to hold authorities accountable. For this commission to succeed it must not be just symbolic. They need transparency, and who is appointed is a reflection of what these appointees represent. What message are we sending when these individuals with questionable backgrounds or insufficient experience are selected for these roles? We cannot afford to repeat the same mistakes that got us

here. The people selected for this commission must reflect the community's needs. They are people who understand the systematic issues plaguing our law enforcement and mental health systems.

She also urges the board to reconsider who is appointed as Co-Chair, as this role will re-shape the direction of the commission. Sangamon County deserves better. They deserve a body that embodies transparency, equity, and accountability.

She next addressed the idea to hire KIND Consulting. She shares concerns with Susan Phillip, who couldn't be here tonight, but shares the same sentiment. Susan expressed that while she appreciates the creation of the Massey Commission, she believes that hiring KIND Consulting is inappropriate. Specifically, she noted the need for a commission to address patronage and nepotism in hiring. As Susan mentioned, it is troubling that Sarah Wojcicki Jimenez, who runs KIND Consulting, may be connected to Ed Wojcicki, the former executive director of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. If true, this raises a serious concern about a potential conflict of interest. The Massey Commission must avoid concerns of partisan politics and conflicts of interest. Furthermore, Susan stressed that the PR firm assisting the commission must align with its purpose of highly demonstrated experience and community transformation and an understanding of anti-violence and anti-racism. The Massey Commission members should first meet, get organized, and then identify the resources that they need.

Finally, Ms. Roberts addressed the Resolution for an upcoming referendum to add to the April 2025 ballot concerning the recall of power of the office of Sangamon County Sheriff. While this would be a step in the right direction if approved, this shouldn't be a finalized solution. They shouldn't have to wait for an election cycle to hold our leadership accountable. The trust must be earned after transparency, action and reform. She urges them to consider these concerns as they move forward. They are at a pivotal moment in Sangamon County, and every decision we make reflects whom we are and what we value as a community.

Diana Elshref addressed the County Board. She thanked them for taking the picture down from Sheriff Jack Campbell's webpage. There were three pictures on that webpage and now there are only two. When she saw the picture, she called Senator Doris Turner, Roy Williams, Jr, Shawn Gregory, and the NAACP. When she saw the picture, she started to think how long that picture has been up there. She took a picture of it and will show it to them at the end of the meeting if they don't know what it is. The County and the Sheriff's Department came into existence in 1821. She was thinking if this picture has been up on Jack Campbell's website for a while, it convinced her the Sheriff's Department was connected to white supremacy and racism. Money they are paying with their tax dollars is being used to weaponize the officers that are being hired against the people they work so hard to protect and serve.

Alice Ramey addressed the County Board. She has known Paula Crouch for a long time. She has worked with her, she has a very good resume, and she was at the top of her class. She questioned why one thing is said on the web, and then when we get there something else is said. That is not the proper way of presenting this and it is disrespectful. Respect is what they all need now. They need to respect each other, no matter what. She understands there was a nice minority lady that signed up.

She wishes they would hire her. That would be the first step. The second step is educate the officers on respect. She is glad you picked someone who is qualified. In fact, she thinks she is a little bit overqualified for Springfield, IL, but that is just her opinion.

You need to know that they are not doing their job. She thinks it is time you listen to the people that come to you, no matter if they are in your ward or not. One way or another, let's get the respect back. Each person has their own personality, each person is an individual, they are human, and they are supposed to be respected. We all walk on the same ground and we all worship with one person in mind in our hearts and soul.

Teresa Haley addressed the County Board. She is very disappointed in being here tonight because she thought they were going to listen to all the possible candidates only to find out they had already made their selection. That goes against the transparency and the truth of the process. They cannot trust the process if you don't allow taxpayers and community members to continue to participate. As we move forward, she believes, Andy Van Meter, that they moved too fast in selecting this individual. Not to say that she is not qualified for the position, but if you want to build community trust then you have to involve the community in the entire process. Community interaction and involvement is important. She went over some of the things she researched on the candidates they were supposed to be questioning and interviewing. One of the things she knows about Paula is she used to work for the County Sheriff's Department over 20 years ago. When she came to work for the Springfield Police Department, they were told to not hire her. She wants her to answer the question of why they wouldn't hire her. People do take the time to grow and learn from their experiences. They move on and become qualified. She asks that they do full background checks on all of our candidates. Where is your ability to work with the black community? Yes, we've had our problems with Jack and some of the past ones, but they always got out, not just the neighborhood association and the neighborhood policing.

Ms. Haley continued by saying they need to have a police chief who is willing to meet with the black community on a regular basis because they are a big part of this community. We are one community and our voices must be heard, and she does not believe they are being heard. Everyone talks about Sonya Massey, and that is unfortunate, but her mother will tell you she wasn't the first and she won't be the last. She thinks it is disrespectful that you put together a commission and appointed co-chairs without allowing people to sign up to be a part of the commission and let them meet and then decide who they wanted to be the co-chair. She also thinks it is very disrespectful that you put together a commission and you didn't even invite the family to be on the commission. When we stand for one – we stand for all. She does not see them doing that here tonight or with this commission. She is sick and tired of Springfield just checking the damn box. We need real change in Springfield. The change starts here in this room. It starts with Sangamon County. The Springfield Police Department has their issues but they are here in Sangamon County about the things happening in Springfield. "No justice – No peace." "Say her name" – "Sonya Massey." "Say her name" – "Sonya Massey." They are asking you to pull up or shut up!

Reggie Guyton addressed the County Board. He is here to primarily speak about SMTD but also about the commission. Yesterday, at City Council, he was speaking about SMTD and the need for

expansion. Many people are being disenfranchised all around the city as well as the county. Time and time again, there is frustration from both locals and tourists about the options available for food, night life, and transportation.

The downtown area and the east side businesses are trying so hard to be successful and with less funds. They are working harder to get interest in downtown and on the east side, with the east side hit even harder. Just last week an officer was able to turn himself in for driving under the influence. SMTD's schedule is currently 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for night service. Access ends at 6:00 p.m. for those who have disabilities or need extra help. SMTD has recently received upgraded high-grade buses, a move that will certainly save our transit department, but it currently does not run on Sunday and on Saturday it is once an hour. It is his hope with the extra money saved, they would be able to expand the bus service to weekends and nights. If they expand the service to evenings, they could help reduce alcohol related events, create transportation options for employees of every type of field, and boost people's abilities to participate in local events, local governments, and entertainment. Perhaps, they would also be able to have more food options past 9:00 p.m. With the new and improved bus transit system, they should be able to continue the services regardless of profit, as a goal of improved quality for everyone in Sangamon County. By doing this, they are giving people who have been disenfranchised, have low income, and who have access issues to participate in a regular part of life. They allow them to be told, "You are citizens. We want you here, your presence is valued, and your money is valued. We want you to be a part of us." However, continually they disenfranchise our voices time and time again. By not having an open discussion about the Massey Commission, they are doing that yet again. A woman died, a community is grieving and is traumatized, yet you are still putting up the same type of barriers that we've had over the last 160 years. This is a repeated cycle that continues to spiral, causing the foundation to crack, and preventing people from actively being participants in society. What are you telling people by conducting business this way? You are telling them "You don't matter, you should stay in your lane, we don't value your input, and we want you to just pay taxes, as usual." There must be a change in the method and way you relate to the community. We can't just leave that up to our police officers and Sheriff to do that. It starts with you all and with transparency.

APPOINTMENT OF SHERIFF

Chairman Van Meter announced the nomination of the next Sangamon County Sheriff. He does not think they could have found a candidate with more experience in the field of community policing or a candidate more familiar with every corner of this County. He presented, as his nominee as the next Sheriff of Sangamon County, Paula Crouch.

Ms. Crouch thanked them for the opportunity and nomination. She stated she has 24 ½ years of police experience with the Springfield Police Department, where she had the opportunity to work in various capacities throughout the police department that involved a lot of community relations and working in partnership with members of the community. Prior to that, she worked as a 911 Dispatcher for Sangamon County, Auburn & Chatham. She had the opportunity to work with local police agencies for her job as a dispatcher and with the police department. In her personal life, she has a husband and two sons, who are here today. She went to Western Illinois University, received

her Master's Degree, and did her thesis on the difficulties with the recruitment of minority and female police officers and the challenges police agencies face with recruiting them. She also has her certificate in the Administration of Law Enforcement. She appreciates the panel that selected her, the interview process they went through, and she is happy and ready to get going as the Sheriff of Sangamon County.

Chairman Van Meter asked if any County Board members have questions for Ms. Crouch.

Ms. Lathan stated it is very important, especially in these times, that we are more engaged, and open in communication with our community. She asked what some of the strategies are that she has in mind or has done in the past that will make sure there is a solution-based relationship with the community that is pro-active and responsive to the uniqueness of the community. Ms. Crouch explained it would be important to be aware of the things and events that are going on with the different community agencies throughout the County, and make herself available to them, introduce herself, and explain the importance of them having good communication.

Ms. Lathan stated in her district, on the east side of Springfield, there are issues of mistrust with not a lot of opportunities to build trust. There is definitely a need to do more than just have engagement with the traditional organizations. Things like walking the streets, meeting the people, learning their needs and what their stories are. She asked Ms. Crouch if she has any ideas of how to get the deputies out of their cars and into the community. Ms. Crouch stated the County has such a huge demographical area and sometimes they are pulled into the city areas. To be able to functionally do that, she would have to study the man power at the County and find a way they can provide community relations or community services officers in the areas. She does have a couple ideas, and she would be happy to talk with her about them. A lot of it has to do with money to bring on additional people to assist the deputies. She is willing to have discussions about it to see what path they think would be more receptive to the public. Sometimes when knocking on doors to try to talk them, we don't necessarily know what has been going on at that residence and if the people even want to talk to the police. They can look at leaving business cards to give them the opportunity to set up times to talk to them.

Ms. Lathan stated a lot of conversations have went on regarding training. She believes a lot of training goes on remotely because of staff issues and convenience. They want to make sure they are getting training and real-life engagement. Ms. Crouch explained that she has been on both sides of that. She was a student as well as an instructor at Western Illinois University. She is happy to talk with her about this.

Mr. Cahnman stated he noticed in her letter of application she was a member of the Critical Incident Team (CIT) at the City of Springfield Police Department, and the purpose of it is to resolve mental health issues. He doesn't think the Sheriff's Department has a CIT unit. He asked if she intends to create one. Ms. Crouch explained that some of the deputies are trained in CIT, and it is now a part of the initial training period officers go through to be certified as police officers in the State of Illinois. She feels it is a great program and is very beneficial. At the City, she had the opportunity, in ride-

alongs, to have conversations regarding mental health issues. She will definitely be looking into this at the County. She does not know if all the deputies are CIT trained or have completed the training yet. She will be working on getting more officers trained on this.

Mr. Cahnman asked what her past experience is in hiring officers. Ms. Crouch stated she was a Sergeant in the Detective Bureau at the City of Springfield. She and another Sergeant oversaw the background procedures.

Mr. Cahnman asked if she has any intentions to change the hiring process at the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office to prevent the hiring of rogue people like Officer Grayson. Ms. Crouch stated a committee would be reviewing the hiring policy. Until she can see the exact steps taken, she can't say how much it will change.

Mr. Cahnman stated former Sheriff Campbell announced publicly that he would not enforce the Safety Act provision that required the registration of assault weapons because he thought it was unconstitutional. Do you intend to enforce that provision? Ms. Crouch stated she does intend to enforce the laws of the State of Illinois to her full ability.

Mr. Cahnman asked her if she worked with the Sheriff's Department before. Ms. Crouch stated she worked as a 911 Dispatcher.

Mr. Cahnman stated he had a constituent ask if she has a residence in Tennessee with a homestead exemption there and a driver's license. He asked for clarification on that. Ms. Crouch stated she does own property in Tennessee but does not have a homestead exemption there. She has land that has a lot of timber on it. In Tennessee there is an exemption called the greenbelt exemption. If you maintain so much of your land as timber, forestry, and trees then you can get a tax deduction on your property taxes.

Mr. Cahnman mentioned, to Chairman Van Meter, in the past when filling these vacant positions you have given the names on that day or the day before the meeting. He suggested they give the names at least a week in advance so the public can meet and ask questions to the nominee before the County Board votes on it.

Mr. Ayers congratulated Ms. Crouch on her nomination. He appreciated the phone call from her as well to get answers to some of his questions. He is a member of the Jail Committee, so they will be working closely together going forward if the appointment goes forward tonight. He does have some concern about the hiring process for the new Sheriff. The process is cloudy to him. He still has questions about who and why they selected her from the original list. He doesn't know what questions were asked and would have liked to know more about that process. He asked if they conduct background checks for every candidate that was considered. Chairman Van Meter stated there was a professional background check done by a professional investigator. Mr. Ayers also asked if they talked to any of their superiors. Chairman Van Meter stated he is not sure whom all the committee talked to, but he does know they talked to a wide variety of people.

Mr. Ayers stated this is not directed to Paula, but is mainly about them uncovering things about former Deputy Grayson through a series of FOIA requests, from talking to colleagues and to superiors. They found things out that were extremely troubling about that individual. He would hope in this process for Sheriff that it is just as rigorous, and not by just doing a FOIA and background check and asking nicely for some information, but that they actually talk to those in charge of that person and to their colleagues. If that happened to all the candidates, then great. He just wants to make sure they have been as thorough as they could be in making their selection. Chairman Van Meter stated that he can't answer his question specifically, but he does know they spoke with ex-spouses and neighbors, and he believes they did a very thorough search. Mr. Ayers stated he did talk to some of the other candidates as well, and there were some impressive names on that list. He did get to know one of our own, Sergeant Finley, whom he had not met before. She called several weeks ago and introduced herself to me, and he was extremely impressed with her.

Mr. Ayers stated they do have some real talent with Paula in the Sheriff's Office. Deputy Grayson is someone who jumped to conclusions, was a wild card, and was not even fit to be in office. Sergeant Finley is someone who does the complete opposite of that. She is a trainer for crisis intervention training. They should highlight people like her. He was impressed with his conversation with Sergeant Finley and with Paula Crouch as well. He does have more questions about the process, and plans to vote Present tonight.

Mr. Hall stated everyone on this Board probably does things differently. He encourages her to go out into the areas she is going to represent and let people approach her. He thanked her for taking a job that is going to be hard.

Mr. DelGiorno thanked Paula for calling him today. He stated he wanted to give her the opportunity to respond about the accusation made earlier tonight that when she was employed at the Sheriff's Office she was not recommended for employment at the City. Ms. Crouch stated that is the first time she has heard this.

Mr. DelGiorno asked Ms. Crouch to explain what she wrote in Chapter 4 of her master's thesis about how to implement policies or practices to recruit women and minorities to become officers. Ms. Crouch stated honestly that was 11 years ago, so she doesn't remember what all was in Chapter 4, but she would be happy to take the time to search for it and give him the information. Mr. DelGiorno asked if she currently has any ideas about how to recruit women and minorities to become officers. Ms. Crouch stated she does recall a couple things in her thesis that were important. A lot of females strayed away from law enforcement careers because of the lack of availability of night time daycare, and concerns with harassment in the workplace. Minorities focused on the fact that they didn't have positive encounters with the police department, so they didn't want to be a part of that environment. The minority candidates that were looking for full-time employment with different shift work were working other jobs and were achieving other degrees where they were going to corporations having better pay, better benefits, and better treatment on the job. Mr. DelGiorno asked if she has any current thoughts on those issues. Ms. Crouch stated she doesn't have anything she could say is concrete.

Ms. Douglas Williams told Mr. Ayers if he ever had any problems he could have called her anytime. There are a lot of things they had to work with and they had questions. The Chairperson came up with the questions and they agreed with them. He said he didn't receive the information he needed, but he never called her. Mr. Ayers stated to Ms. Douglas Williams that he asked the question because he wants the response on record so the public knows what that process looked like.

Mr. Cahnman asked who the professional investigator was that investigated all the candidates. Chairman Van Meter stated it is Terry Moody and he was hired through the State's Attorney's Office. Mr. Cahnman asked if he is a former FBI agent. Chairman Van Meter stated to Mr. Cahnman that he knows more than he does on that.

Chairman Van Meter asked for a roll call vote on the nomination and appointment of Paula Crouch as Sangamon County Sheriff. Upon the roll call vote, there were 23 Yeas – 0 Nays – 2 Present. Board members Ayers and Lathan voted Present. Ms. Crouch was sworn in by Judge Raylene Grischow.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, for approval of the Minutes of September 10, 2024. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MINUTES ADOPTED

CORRESPONDENCE

A motion was made by Mr. DelGiorno, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to place Correspondence on file with the County Clerk. A voice vote was unanimous. Correspondence from Jared M. Staake was placed on file with the County Clerk for the Massey Commission.

MOTION CARRIED
CORRESPONDENCE FILED

Chairman Van Meter stated they would now go out of the regular order of business to consider Resolutions 16, 17 & 18. There were no objections. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolution 16.

RESOLUTION 16

16. Resolution establishing the "Massey Commission" to help establish a path forward to best bring our community together and to address systemic issues in law enforcement practices, mental health responses, and community relations, with the goal of creating tangible, practical, and equitable solutions for the betterment of all who call Sangamon County home, appropriating an amount of \$175,000 for the commission to do its work.

A motion was made by Mr. Tjelmeland, seconded by Mr. Stumpf, to place Resolution 16 on the floor.

Ms. Lathan asked if there is a definitive list of contractors and if the commission would be able to set aside funds from the \$175,000 based upon their needs for services. Chairman Van Meter stated this is a very good question. The \$175,000 is based on an initial budget, but it is anticipated they will have additional financial needs over the course of their work. The County Board unanimously stands by that and awaits their request for additional funding, particularly for efforts in the many fields they intend to tackle. It is his understanding they are already reaching out to experts who have very close eyes to our community. They will be reaching out to many experts across the country looking for best practices. They should all understand that this \$175,000 is only an initial appropriation, and they fully anticipate there will be additional requests from the Massey Commission. Ms. Lathan stated they also want to make sure, when they are moving forward with approvals, that they are looking at representation, focusing on the community reflected by race and gender as well as subject matter expertise. They need to identify individuals who are strong candidates, understand the culture, and have the experience doing this type of work. They also need to look at the backgrounds of the other two entities mentioned in Resolutions 17 & 18. Chairman Van Meter stated he believes the commission is fully in tune with her comments.

Chairman Van Meter stated he thinks it can only be helpful for you to submit your comments directly to the commission. He recommended the other board members do the same.

Mr. Cahnman stated the Resolution originally appropriated \$100,000 and now it is \$175,000. He asked if the Commission, once a full membership is created, would have the authority to spend that money on their own if they would have to come back to the County Board for approval. Chairman Van Meter stated at the present time they need to send those requests for expenditures back to the County Board. They may later want to proceed in a different way. Mr. Cahnman asked if the money appropriated in Resolutions 17 & 18 comes out of the \$175,000. Chairman Van Meter stated it does.

Mr. Cahnman stated the Resolution states there are three Co-Chairs. At the listening session on Monday, it was stated that Nina Harris would no longer be a Co-Chair. He asked why her name is still in there. Chairman Van Meter stated it is his understanding she will be stepping down a Co-Chair and they will be naming a new one. Mr. Cahnman asked if Dr. Jerry Crouse and Pastor T. Ray McJunkins would be appointing the 3rd Co-Chair. Chairman Van Meter stated perhaps the three of them together, including Nina Harris, would be doing it. Chairman Van Meter stated the County is in full support of the Commission's efforts.

A motion was made by Ms. Fulgenzi, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, to amend Resolution 16 by inserting the following at the end of Resolution 16. Ms. Fulgenzi first congratulated Paula on her appointment as Sheriff. She expressed her full support. The Resolution amendments are suggestions from fellow board members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as an interim step to address the pressing concerns raised by the public in light of this tragedy, the County Board hereby requires that the Sheriff's Department to enact the following changes immediately, but on an interim basis pending actionable recommendations from the Massey Commission:

- 1) The Department shall defer to the Sangamon County Deputy Merit Commission to:
 - a) review the complete application materials and background check information assembled for any applicant to serve as deputies, court security officers, and correctional officers and formally vote on extending an offer of employment,
 - b) receive all internal affairs complaints filed against a merit employee and take such action as it may deem legally appropriate; and
 - c) promptly review, revise, or develop such procedures and regulations as it may deem necessary to enact the foregoing requirements.
- 2) in addition to a normal and customary background check that is otherwise considered acceptable for an applicant, such background checks of applicants shall also include:
 - a) a formal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of the personnel file to any other public body that currently or previously employed an applicant;
 - b) a review of all social media accounts of the applicant; and
 - c) a review of all civil legal proceedings involving the applicant.
- 3) To ensure that all personnel meet the highest standards of professionalism and integrity while also recognizing that youthful indiscretions should not be an absolute bar to the possibility of employment allowing a person the opportunity to correct their behavior and action, no offer of employment shall be extended for the positions of deputy, court security officer, or correctional officer to an individual has two (2) or more DUI convictions or is otherwise convicted of two (2) or more offenses of similar or greater classification under the Illinois Criminal Code in the ten (10) years prior to the date of application to the Department.
- 4) Enact initial and ongoing mental health and cultural diversity training for all deputies, court security officers, and correctional officers.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County recognizes that an independent investigation of the practices and procedures of the Sheriff's Department is not only needed to begin to rebuild trust in the Department but may be helpful to the work of the Massey Commission in making actionable recommendations, the County Board hereby requests that the United States Department of Justice or the Office of the Illinois Attorney General conduct a full independent investigation of all practices of the Sangamon County Sheriff's Department pledging that the Department and the County shall make all documentation fully available to such agency.

A copy of this Resolution requesting this action shall be sent to said agencies by the County Clerk upon passage of this Resolution.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if such agencies decline to undertake this requested investigation within 30 days of the date of this Resolution that the County shall engage the services of an independent investigator to conduct the review and will appropriate such amount as may be required to complete the investigation.

Mr. DelGiorno stated they have heard a lot from the community for them to take some proactive steps. He thinks the Massey Commission being set up correctly and allowing them to be independent is going to do that. However, they as a board can't advocate their own responsibility to the Massey family, to the public in general, and to law enforcement to make sure they have the tools in place for our Sheriff's Department to be able to hold its head up high again in this community. This is not the original amendment filed with your board packet, but Ms. Fulgenzi reached out to him and they worked together. This is what addresses many of the concerns board members in this room feel are most pressing to try to protect the integrity of the Sheriff's Department moving forward. It is only meant to be on an interim basis and does not interfere with what the Massey Commission may come up with. It allows us to say we are listening to the people of Sangamon County and to the taxpayers of Sangamon County who are ultimately going to be writing the check for the misdeeds of Deputy Grayson. The taxpayers of Sangamon County need to be heard. He encourages the County Board to adopt this amendment on an interim basis until the Commission comes up with its own recommendations.

Chairman Van Meter stated this amendment, although he thinks it is very well intentioned, is unamicable to the spirit of the Massey Commission. The concept of the Massey Commission is to let them do its work and make its recommendations, not to have this board suggest or propose what solutions they Massey Commission may choose to adopt. While he thinks this is well intentioned, he does not think it is correct to adopt this amendment in the spirit of what is intended for the Massey Commission to accomplish. For that reason, he will entertain a motion to Table this motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf, seconded by Ms. Small, to Table the motion to amend Resolution 16. Chairman Van Meter asked for a roll call vote on the motion to Table the amendment. Upon the roll call vote, there were 19 Yeas – 6 Nays. The motion to Table the amendment was adopted. Those voting Nay to Table the amendment were Ayers, Cahnman, DelGiorno, Fulgenzi, Lathan, and McGuire.

Mr. Krell commented that last month while discussing this incident some board members implied that just because some of us stayed silent on these issues that we didn't care. He thought that was out of line and inappropriate. He thinks they all care. This is a horrific act and they are trying to get through a solution and are trying to move forward. He also mentioned that usually these things are brought before the Jail Committee, which he sits on. This was brought up at the committee without them even looking at it. Nobody had a chance to look at it and talk about it before it went before the County Board. His vote is to Table it.

Mr. Cahnman stated he votes no on the motion to Table. This is an excellent amendment and is not unamicable or contrary to the purposes of the Massey Commission, but goes along with it. Not to pass this amendment is an amputation of our responsibilities to ensure that nobody like Mr. Grayson is hired again in the interim. We can't wait for a month, a year, or two years for reform. Reform that is required now needs to be implemented now. The Massey Commission can then come up with further recommendations. Chairman Van Meter told Mr. Cahnman he is really misleading people on how County government works. We do not dictate how any elected official runs their office. We appropriate funds for them. You know that as well as all the other board members here.

Mr. Ayers stated this board has done literally nothing yet to address the situation. They have taken no votes to address this. They are going to let a commission solve all of our problems. They are going to throw money at consultants. This board has voted on nothing to fix this problem - nothing. This is just interim and is how good policy is made. We have listened to the public and have a bi-partisan agreement here. Thank you member Fulgenzi for working with us on this. They found out through a FOIA and through the press about Sean Grayson. Part of this Resolution is to submit a FOIA, and you said no. You all voted no. Wow, what a shameful moment in this County's history – shameful moment. This was making it better. We should be doing all we can to rectify what happened to Sonya Massey. This was the smallest of steps. The original Resolution that member DelGiorno had was three times this, asking for so much more. In the spirit of compromise they widdled it down to the most basic of things, for a FOIA. If you have a DUI, you are not going to be considered, but that is asking too much. The Massey family was in here earlier, and he wished they were in here to watch that vote. He cannot believe they have the audacity to vote no on something that is such a common sense thing...unbelievable!

Mr. DelGiorno addressed Mr. Krell's comments that this was never brought to committee. The original Resolution was a separate stand-alone Resolution. It was filed in the Jail Committee. Not until you, Chairman Van Meter, called Gina Lathan and said, "I would suggest you let the Massey Commission go ahead and do its work. We don't get involved. Withdraw this Resolution at the Jail Committee." We knew this was dead on arrival. The only one misleading anybody here, Mr. Chairman, about how this County government should work, is you.

Chairman Van Meter clarified that what Mr. DelGiorno said he said to Ms. Lathan was what he said today in the open meeting. He reiterated what he said and that is to let the Massey Commission do its work. Let the Massey Commission reach out to the experts. Let the Massey Commission learn best practices. With what they recommend, there may be a role for the board in financing some of those things. Most of the change that all of us are willing to see take place will occur either in the Sheriff's Office or most likely by state statute. Everyone is aware of what happened to Ms. Massey and are horrified by it. Everyone wants to do something but the process we are trying to establish is to let the Massey Commission do its work, make the recommendations, and get good solutions put into place.

Ms. Scaife stated the new Sheriff would have her own procedures and processes that she will follow. Chairman Van Meter agreed. He encouraged the members tonight to ask many of the questions about the procedures she has to follow. Ms. Scaife pointed out that we do have a new Sheriff in town and she will look into things. That is why we voted for her.

Mr. Stumpf asked if this would still be able to go back to the Jail Committee. Chairman Van Meter stated it could.

Chairman Van Meter asked for a roll call vote on Resolution 16. Upon the roll vote, there were 18 Yeas – 0 Nays - 7 Present. Resolution 16 was adopted. Those voting Present were Ayers, DelGiorno, Douglas Williams, Fulgenzi, Lathan, McGuire, and Small.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolution 17.

RESOLUTION 17

17. 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. Tjelmeland, seconded by Mr. Stumpf, to place Resolution 17 on the floor.

Mr. Cahnman stated you just previously commented about letting the Massey Commission do its job and let the consultants do their work. He believes that makes sense for this contract as well. Let the Massey Commission be formed, and then they can do that. That Resolution appropriates \$175,000, and he thinks this puts the cart before the horse. He urged a no vote on this Resolution. Chairman Van Meter told Mr. Cahnman he thinks he misunderstood. They are adopting this Resolution at the request of the Massey Commission.

Mr. Cahnman asked, "At the request of the Massey Commission who doesn't exist yet and wasn't appointed?" He told Chairman Van Meter he is not making any sense. You appointed three Co-Chairs, one of them who has resigned already. They have not heard of any members the Co-Chairs have appointed yet. They just created a Massey Commission just a few minutes ago, so it doesn't exist legally because they just enacted it. The numbers don't exist and they haven't existed long enough to act and pass these Resolutions. Let's get the Massey Commission appointed and let them decide who they want to hire to help them do their work. Chairman Van Meter stated to Mr. Cahnman if he has doubts that the Massey Commission wants the assistance of Vector and KIND Consulting, then perhaps the best way to proceed is to delay these two Resolutions and someone from the Massey Commission can speak to him. Mr. Cahnman stated they do not have to speak to him, they can speak to the County Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, to Table Resolution 17. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION TABLED

RESOLUTION 18

18. 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. Stumpf, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, to Table Resolution 18. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION TABLED

Chairman Van Meter stated they would now go back to the regular order of business.

RESOLUTION 1

1. Resolution approving a grant application for Public Health from the Illinois Department of Public Health for the Comprehensive Local Health Protection Grant-Menard in the amount of \$106,706.

A motion was made by Mr. Schackmann, seconded by Ms. Douglas Williams, 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. 2024-019 – Jerald Mellinger, 225 North Main Street, Spaulding – Granting a Rezoning. County Board Member – Tom Rader, District #8.

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

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 3

3. 2024-020 – I-55 Stables and Arena, LLC, 1450 Horse Farm Road, Divernon – Granting a Conditional Permitted Use with a Condition and Variances. County Board Member – Jeffrey Thomas, District #4.

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Mendenhall, 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. A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 3.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 4

4. Resolution authorizing the State's Attorney and County Administrator, after conferring with the Civil Liabilities Committee, to jointly make or cause to be made Rule 68 offers of judgment on the County's behalf in amounts they jointly determine to best serve the County's interests.

A motion was made by Mr. Hall, seconded by Ms. Douglas Williams, to place Resolution 4 on the floor.

A motion was made by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Tjelmeland, to amend Resolution 4. He stated he is in favor of it, but wants to make an amendment to add and require that the Chairman of the Civil Liabilities Committee to also agree to any Rule 68 offers of judgment. This would take out the State's Attorney's Office Civil Division Chief and the County Administrator and insert with the Chairman of the Civil Liabilities Committee, and the County Administrator, and the State's Attorney's Office Civil Division Chief. Mr. Cahnman asked if the members of the Civil Liabilities Committee would not be informed of these, just the Chairman. Assistant State's Attorney Joel Benoit explained the State would want to make an offer of judgement with the idea of cutting off the amount of attorney fees they have to pay the plaintiff's counsel. This Resolution was originally drafted to say the Chief of the Civil Division and the County Administrator, after conferring with the Civil Liabilities Committee, would have the power to determine the amount of the offer of judgment. This amendment adds to those two people, the Chairman of the Civil Liabilities Committee. There would be three people making the determination of the dollar amount, after conferring with the Civil Liabilities Committee.

Mr. Cahnman asked if the Civil Liabilities Committee would in closed session when they meet to consider this. Mr. Benoit stated that is correct. He explained that essentially this would be a settlement offer. Once that Rule 68 settlement offer goes out there, it can immediately be accepted. It is a final act of the County. Final acts of the County have to be done in open meetings. Of course, if you do something in an open meeting, then you lose the secrecy of it. If a settlement is not accepted, then a jury and judge ultimately are going to decide the case and know what that number was. He thinks that is very detrimental to the County. Mr. Cahnman stated if it is accepted, the County is legally bound to pay that settlement, even though they haven't voted for it. Mr. Benoit stated that is correct. If they give the authority envisioned in this Resolution, then that is the final act of the County Board. The way this Resolution is written, the Civil Liabilities Committee is supposed to go back every year and look at it and say, "Is this still a good idea?" The County Board could come back and say, "We don't like this."

A voice vote was unanimous on the amendment. A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 4, as amended.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTIONS 5 – 15

5. Resolution approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of Sangamon and Leland Grove to provide residential inspections and permitting, commercial inspections and permitting, and property maintenance code violation services through the Sangamon County Department of Building and Zoning.

A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall, seconded by Mr. Ayers, to place Resolution 5 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, to consolidate Resolutions 5 – 15. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 6 – 15.

6. Resolution approving a grant application for Public Health from the Illinois Department of Public Health for the Comprehensive Local Health Protection Grant-Sangamon in the amount of \$419,931.
7. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Land of Lincoln Workforce Alliance from Transfr, Inc. for career exploration software and support for 10 devices over three years in an amount up to \$60,000.
8. Resolution approving a grant application for the Department of Emergency Management from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Office of Homeland Security, for the FY24 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) in the amount of \$109,439.
9. Resolution requiring disclosure for advertisement expenses paid for by Sangamon County taxpayers.
10. Resolution allowing a change in the professional agreement between Charles Joseph Pell Architects and Sangamon County for design services in connection with the Sangamon County Department of Public Health to increase the amount by an additional \$50,000.
11. 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 and juveniles in the amount of \$37,000.
12. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Court Services from Gateway Foundation, Inc. for the purpose of providing recovery coaching to problem-solving court participants in the amount of \$59,496.

13. Resolution adopting the Sangamon Menard Area Regional Transit Sub Recipient & Policy on Reasonable Modification.
14. Resolution approving the execution of a contract with Sustainable Food Institute of America on a 2-year pilot program at Illinois Presbyterian Home for an amount not to exceed \$100,000.
15. Resolution approving a grant for the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission from the Illinois Department of Transportation for the PY2025 Springfield Area Transportation Study in the amount of \$800,934.80.

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation. A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolutions 5 – 15, as consolidated. A voice vote carried. Ms. Small voted Present on Resolution 8.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 19

19. Resolution authorizing a referendum to be placed on the April 1, 2025 ballot asking for the voters of Sangamon County to provide for the power of recall on the Office of Sangamon County Sheriff.

A motion was made by Mr. Cahnman to withdraw Resolution 19.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION WITHDRAWN

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolutions

There were no new resolutions.

B. Appointments

Appointment of Clyde Bunch to the Sewer Rebate Board for a term expiring September, 2025.

Appointment of Sunshine Clemons to the Sewer Rebate Board for a term expiring September, 2025.

Appointment of David Mendenhall to the Sangamon County Central Dispatch System for a term expiring September, 2025.

Appointment of Dick Rentschler to the Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2025.

Appointment of Ken Scarlette to the Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2025.

Appointment of Joe Powell to the Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2025.

Appointment of Rich Coon to the Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2025.

Appointment of TJ Henson to the Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2025.

Appointment of Brian Churchill to the Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2025.

Appointment of Greg Gardner to the Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2025.

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

MOTION CARRIED
APPOINTMENTS ADOPTED

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

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

MOTION CARRIED
REPORTS FILED

RECESS

A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, to recess the meeting to October 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING RECESSED

Don Gray
Sangamon County Clerk