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WEBSITE: countyclerk.sangamonil.gov**MINUTES****SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD****DECEMBER 9, 2025**

The Sangamon County Board met in Reconvened Adjourned September Session on December 9, 2025 in the Sangamon County Board Chambers. Chairman Van Meter called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Ms. Sheppard gave the Invocation and Mr. Thomas led the County Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Van Meter asked the County Clerk to call the roll. There were 28 Present – 1 Absent. Mr. Constant was excused.

Chairman Van Meter said they are broadcasting live this evening. He reminded everyone to speak directly into the microphones. They are also in the process of converting board member cell phones to the new email system. Mr. DelGiorno led the charge on this so they are fully compliant with FOIA regulations.

Mr. Cahnman asked for a moment of silence for former County Board Member Irv Smith who passed away recently.

PROCLAMATIONS

Ms. Fulgenzi, Mr. DelGiorno and Ms. Sheppard presented Christmas gifts to Jeff Wilhite, Brian McFadden and Mary Carter. They also thanked them for all of their hard work, patience and professionalism.

PRESENTATION – MASSEY COMMISSION REPORT

Chairman VanMeter invited the presenters from the Massey Commission to the front of the Chamber. He asked everyone in the room to mentally take themselves back to a little over a year ago and remember the trauma and frustration the community felt in the face of Sonia Massey's tragic murder and consider the incredible good work of the Commission in taking that frustrated energy and turning it into positive energy. As a community, they are so thankful to them and have lots of good work to get done.

Dr. Kelly Hurst, Managing Director of the Massey Commission addressed the Board first. She stated the report before them is a compendium and not the full report. She summarized what was in the booklet before them and said it would follow along with how they are going to go through their presentation.

She thanked the Board for giving them the space and said they are really glad to be there. The work they are going to share belongs to the community and anyone who is joining the conversation is pulling up a chair to a table that residents set with their stories, expectations and their courage.

The Commission's work began with a simple truth. Health is something they must practice with one another and something their public systems must protect. What they have heard over the long months, is that health isn't only about clinics or crisis response. It's about safety, dignity, accountability and the conditions that allow people to live without fear. Tonight is not just a presentation. It is an invitation for every person in the room to take their place at the table the community set with courage and clarity. Before they walk them through the work itself, she wants to introduce them to the team that sat at the table, some from the very beginning and others who joined later. Those members are:

Adam White, Public Engagement Coordinator addressed the Board. When they talk about pulling up chairs to the table, this group did that day after day. Not as figureheads, but as partners in a process shaped by the community. Dr. Kruse, Dr. Hurst, JoAnn, he and Sontae, each brought different forms of experience. They learned more from this work than they ever anticipated. The importance of always centering Sonya in everything they did, was primary and grounding from Commission leadership.

The people here tonight aren't the only people who carried this work forward. They stood shoulder to shoulder with community members, clinicians, researchers and advocates. All of that kept them grounded in lived realities. The leadership team reflects exactly how they approach the work. Shared responsibility, expertise and accountability which includes all the Commissioners who showed up monthly as well as the four other work groups comprising nearly 50 community members. This team reflects the principles that guided the entire Commission. No one leads this alone and none of them move forward without the other.

Sontae Massey, Associate Director of the Massey Commission spoke next. Mr. Massey speaks not just as a Commission member but as Sonya Massey's cousin. This Commission wasn't created out of theory, it was created out of pain. Her death was not a moment, it was a breaking point. It revealed what so many families in this County have lived through quietly. Systems that fail, harm and refuse to see them until the worst happens. When the community called for the Commission, they weren't asking for condolences. They were asking for transformation and that's why they are here.

Dr. Hurst said they have kept the process simple and disciplined. They first listened deeply, consistently and without filtering out the discomfort to the families, residents, experts, officers, clinicians and organizers. They then learned through history, data, expertise, national best practices and lived experience for an honest accounting of their lived realities in the local sector. They then acted by shaping and producing calls to action. They are specific, implementable and grounded in what the community asked of them. It wasn't theoretical. It was an iterative process and was relational and evidence-based. They are not symbolic ideas. They are operational blueprints and many of them fall directly under the authority of the Board.

JoAnn Johnson next spoke. She said the five priorities they will be sharing with the Board emerged across every listening session, data review and community conversation. They are not abstract categories. They reflect what people told them they need in order to live with dignity. Each priority is anchored in values that came directly from the community. Each one serves to organize the 26 calls to action in a way that makes long-term structural change possible. The plus signs they see on the screen are intentional. The first word listed is a value and the second is an outcome. The two words can't be uncoupled.

No one should ever fear for their life when asking for help. The first signature priority is Safety plus Dignity. This was created because community members repeatedly told them that crisis response should never introduce additional harm. One resident said, they shouldn't have to fear for their own life when police show up. That is not an extraordinary request. It's the basic standard of what safety should be. What leads to the truth captured in the priority is they are safe when they are seen. This priority is about building systems where being in a crisis doesn't cost them, their dignity or their life because being safe is being seen. That's the standard and their systems must rise to meet it.

Dr. Jerry Kruse addressed the Board next. He said the Massy Commission found early on that the lack of accountability has caused a deep wound. Accountability and trust were completely lacking. A community member put it plainly, "Don't tell us to trust you, show us why we should." He went on to say, "We've been told to wait, to have faith and be patient. We are done waiting on accountability." Trust isn't something that can be requested. It must be earned and earned consistently. This is not a rebuilding of trust. Trust hasn't been present to begin with.

The next slide in the presentation captures the essence of accountability. The bottom of the slide has the phrase "Face it. Fix it. Never Forget." Facing the truth means naming the harm without defensiveness and without excuses. Fixing the problem requires transparency, data, information, action and consequences. Never forgetting is how institutions prevent history from repeating itself. Accountability is the backbone of public trust. The County now has the central role in building that accountability and in building trust. It's time to build that trust now.

Mr. White spoke about the next slide. Access with belonging doesn't work. Access plus Belonging begs a simple question, "Who were our systems built for and who were they built without." One person reminded them that people can't belong to a system if it wasn't built for them. They went on to say if the same people keep getting invited to the table, then it's not the peoples' table. That statement captures the architecture of exclusion that shows up in transportation, language access, appointment systems and service coordination. The principle that guides this priority is equally direct, "if it's not for all of us, it's not justice." Access without belonging is insufficient and as this community has stated unequivocally, it's not acceptable. Services must work for the people who need them the most, not just the people who fit the existing structure. Systems built for yesterday will continuously fail to meet the needs for tomorrow.

Mr. Massey addressed the next slide. Repair doesn't just happen through acknowledgement alone. Communities were clear that resources must follow the rhetoric. One resident said that Justice is a budget line and the balance is overdue. The resident spoke plainly to say "stop telling them there is no money when there is always money for punishment." They need investments in people not prisons.

They expect long-term change. They must invest in prevention, trauma, recovery and community-led solutions. Repair plus Investment asks them to align their funding with their values. Justice is a budget.

Dr. Hurst spoke about the next slide. Education plus Liberation is where imagination becomes policy. A resident told them “if they don’t teach the truth, they’ll keep repeating the same lies.” They were talking about all the ways a community learns, including how the County teaches itself to tell the truth about harm, responsibility and possibility. The Commission has been a curriculum in learning to listen and accountability in confronting the limits of their system and imagining a different future. They have learned alongside each other and the community has been their teacher. Learning isn’t just academic. It is how communities interrupt violence, inequity and fear. This priority call for youth curricula, workforce development and public education that empowers people to participate in building a safer County. They are smart enough to know how to navigate the formalities and political constraints that come from federal and state overreach.

She says the real question is do they have the courage to teach their children and themselves what it means to imagine something better. Courage to resist the status quo that keeps producing preventable tragedies and the courage to act on the lessons of the Commission rather than file them away. Their guiding phrase says when they know better, they become better. However, knowing requires telling the truth. It requires imagination and it requires the county to treat this moment as a part of its own civic curriculum. A chance to learn and lead publicly. Education plus Liberation calls them to build a county where truth-telling, civic purpose and collective imagination are not extras. They are how they prevent harm in the first place. What they choose to teach and what they have been taught through this Commission will determine what their children inherit. They have learned too much to pretend they do not know.

Mr. White spoke to the Board about the Calls to Action. In all there are 26 Calls to Action. The County is in direct control of 13 of these. These calls sit squarely within the counties authority, including crisis response, data transparency and accountability mechanisms, strengthening their Public Health initiatives and structure and oversight of a mental health board referendum. These are the areas where the County doesn’t have to wait on Partners or State Agencies. These calls of action fall squarely within the authority of this Board including; sheriff standards, 708 board strategy, county health data, economic equity initiatives, housing equity studies and pilot programs, public transparency mechanisms, civil rights accountability summit and the official review of this report.

Other calls to action require shared leadership with city government, health systems, law enforcement agencies and community based organizations. The County doesn’t own these systems alone but their participation is essential. Co-leadership means aligning policies, reducing fragmentation and ensuring that community center solutions don’t get blocked by jurisdictional silos. To name a few, there are unified accountability systems, a coordinated scorecard summit, a transit equity study and something they heard loudly from all communities was subpoena power for citizen oversight boards.

The County’s voice and influence can accelerate change even if they don’t have direct operational authority. Championing means using your political, civic and moral capital to set expectations, encourage collaboration and support the systems that must evolve. Change at this scale requires champions. When Sangamon County advocates with clarity, their legislators listen.

Mr. Massey continued. He said the heart of this work isn't the policies, it's the people. Every call to action and every page of the final report was shaped by community members, who shared painful stories because they wanted something better for their families. Sonya's story is one of them but there are countless others. Every recommendation, every meeting, every data point comes back to one truth. They can not lose another life the way they lost Sonya. This work is not political or abstract, it's human. When human cost is this high, the moral obligation becomes non-negotiable.

Ms. Hurst proceeded. The question they are now asking is how do they do this? They do this with trusted frameworks and a theory of change. Their theory of change is rooted in what they heard. The approach is community-centered and the work is structural. The Commission wasn't just an exercise in policy it was a process in learning. This work shaped them as much as it shaped the recommendations. They have learned from the community and intend to remain connected to the work long after the Commission sunsets. The community deserves leaders who are willing to learn and they count themselves among them. They are here and they are not going anywhere. That's the foundation of their theory of change. Real transformation requires honest learning, shared courage and willingness to stay committed beyond the moment that sparked the work.

Dr. Kruse spoke. The slide on the screen shows the path to racial equity. The path to racial equity is not hypothetical either. It is a measurement tool. The slide reminds them that racial equity or any equity is developmental. Individuals, institutions and regions move along this path at different speeds, but the goal is movement. Because of the work of the Massey Commission, the County Board now sits at the transformation stage. They are past the awareness stage. The public expects transformative change and the data demands transformative change. The Massey Commission and the report have given them the road map to get there. It is now their responsibility to do it.

Mr. White said these are actions the County can take immediately, many within months. They include policy alignment, improve data reporting, early mental health infrastructure and setting up governance structures that will carry the calls to action into implementation. Some of the immediate steps the County can take within the next 24 months include, establishing implementation oversight group, setting 708 board priorities, completing countywide equity and accessibility reviews, launching or enhancing crisis response pilots and publishing annual equity and access reports.

Dr. Hurst stated the long-term actions in the report can't sit on a shelf and can't be put away. They need to be put into practice immediately. They have to get back to their work, their institutions and their systems with the courage to resist the easy path of status quo. They were asked to imagine something different for this County and they did as a community. The question is whether the County and everyone whose names are connected to implementing these 26 calls to action will treat it as instruction not suggestion.

Many people in this County have never been invited to imagine operating differently. They've established the imagination. They built the curriculum that they choose whether to follow it. Courage is fear walking. They have already taken those steps they now need the County to walk in lockstep. Not cautiously behind, not waiting for perfect conditions but moving along with them in real time. Long-term actions will institutionalize learning from this Commission. Over the next three to seven years, some of the things for sustained accountability include institutionalizing equity accountability, building integrated behavioral health systems, advancing economic mobility, reforming education partnerships,

expanding housing and transit equity and maintaining open dashboards and public reporting. This is the long arc toward justice and Sangamon County gets to shape it.

Mr. Massey continued by saying his family didn't choose this path. The community didn't choose the conditions that made this Commission necessary but they do have a choice today. To move forward with honesty, courage and commitment. The actions aren't just recommendations. They are promises that this County can be different. His cousin deserved that. Their families deserved that and the community is asking them to help them build it. When his family lost Sonya, the community stepped forward and said this could never happen again. This report is a promise. The County Board is a fulfillment of that promise. They are asking them to lead because safety, dignity and justice demand nothing less. They need to show the community what courage looks like. Tonight, all of them pulled their chairs up to the table, the community built from grief, truth and hope. The question now is what will they do with the seat they've been given and how will they use it to protect the people who trusted them.

Chairman VanMeter said he thought that was the best presentation he's ever seen at the County Board.

Mr. Stumpf said they have been painfully awaiting this report. He looks to the County Board members to work hard on this report. Their community deserves a lot better. He really hopes they implement a lot of the actions and is sure there is a structure that will move their paths forward. He thanked them and asked the room to applaud them again.

Chairman VanMeter recognized Rikeesha Phelon in the audience. Rikeesha was the organizer and the brains behind the first tentative steps in getting the Commission organized. She got it started in the right direction and did a wonderful job.

Ms. Lathan stated she wanted to again acknowledge and honor Sonya Massey. Even in spite of her horrific death, she has served as a beacon of light through the entire process. She also acknowledged the leadership of the Massey Commission and all the community members that came out from all walks of life throughout the County and served on the Commission. They all did an exceptional job. She thanked them for all their hard work. As County Board members, some of them grapple with what to do next and how to do it so she is thankful for the well-constructed document because it speaks to next steps in terms with a blueprint with the actions and who their partners are. She wanted them to all know they are appreciated and she thanks them.

Dr. Hurst recognized Commission members that were in the audience and had them stand.

Ms. Fulgenzi thanked the Commission for all their hard work. Over the past 10 years since she's been on the Board, she's seen so much growth in their community addressing a lot of the issues and sometimes tragedy has to occur to get to some of the most important issues and Ms. Massey will not be forgotten.

Mr. Cahnman also wanted to thank Chairman VanMeter and Senator Turner for coming up with the idea of the Massey Commission. Chairman VanMeter said it's really easy to come up with the idea the hard part is implementation and that's what these folks have done. Mr. Cahnman added he wanted

to thank the Commissioners for all the hard work they did, as well as the members of the various committees. There were many different committees that worked very hard and funneled information to the Commissioners. He felt the PowerPoint was an excellent presentation. He liked that they compartmentalized the tasks that are for the County Board only. He was hoping to get a copy of the PowerPoint to the County Board office so it could be shared with all the members. He noticed on the Commission's website, that there were a number of other resolutions that didn't make it into the final recommendations. Mr. Cahnman wanted to make sure the Commission still supported those. Dr. Hurst said they did. Dr. Kruse added that all of the Commission's work in totality from all of their documents including the interim and final report still stand. Mr. Cahnman wanted to verify that still included the adoption of recall for the office of County Sheriff. Dr. Kruse said it did.

Mr. DelGiorno thanked them all for their work. He also wanted to remind everyone when Sonya was tragically murdered many on the Board were "chomping at the bit" to try and address it in that moment and the Chairman told them to wait for the Massey Commission to do their work. In hindsight, having a bunch of politicians try to come up with the answer is probably not the smartest thing to do. He commended the Chairman for that guidance.

The first thing he noticed is the implementation of an oversight group. He wonders if it's their recommendation that the County put together a new body via an elected official oversight committee that goes through everything and makes sure it gets appropriately tasked.

Dr. Hurst responded. She said that body that's created would also have to check the Commission's work to see how many recommendations have been implemented in a year's time. Mr. White also responded. He thinks it would be important to have members from the Commission on the implementation oversight committee. They were a part of writing these and have an in-depth understanding and vision of them. He also thinks the County should fund the salaries of this committee but the people who compile it should not be County Board members. He suggests members of the community, commission work group people and staff should make up the committee.

Mr. Ayers thanked everyone involved for a job well done. He was impressed with the report and liked the way the responsibilities and duties were broken out and assigned. They made it easy for them and he appreciates it. He was wondering about the next step. Do they disseminate these 13 recommendations to the standing committees they have? Chairman VanMeter said yes. They are hoping to have another meeting in the very near future with a broad group of people around the table that can take the assignment and run with it. The concepts that are identified for the County Board, they are hoping to assign those to one of the discipline committees. Some of the projects may require an interdisciplinary group of community leaders. They are working through the assignments but the idea is to assign each project to a group of some kind.

Dr. Hurst said she didn't want to forget community members in that. There were over 200 people who applied to be on the Commission and they just recently learned a couple of them were outside of their County which means there's a need for this work. She wanted them to please remember this community has already put in the work and to make sure they are at the table. She often asks the question, "who's not at this table", so they can remember what pieces they might be missing.

Mr. Guyton thanked Dr. Hurst for saying that because he was not only going to thank them for all their incredible work and well thought out and put together presentation, but for also providing a pressure release valve for the community. There were a lot of people who were upset and sitting in unrest with anxious energy with no idea what to do. To be able to put these meetings together and make them accessible to those who could not be present, is exactly what they needed at the moment. He thanked them for their hard work, patience and fortitude. He hopes they can continue to bring the community into conversations like this because it's the only way they are going to make sure everyone is heard.

Chairman VanMeter thanked the Commission again and said the Board has lots of hard work to do.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, for approval of the Minutes of the November 10, 2025 meeting. 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 clerk. A voice vote was unanimous.

RESOLUTION 1

1. Resolution approving the County Bridge Petition #453 for Springfield Township for the removal of the Chiquipin Road Bridge over the Sangamon River.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. Stumpf to place Resolution 1 before the Board. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to call the roll. Upon the roll call vote, there were 27 Yeas – 0 Nays. Resolution 1 was adopted.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2

2. Resolution approving the purchase of a 2027 Pitts LB51-22DC lowboy trailer from Arrow Trailer & Equipment Co. of Springfield, IL on a joint purchasing contract in the amount of \$78,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. Rader, to place Resolution 2 before the Board. Mr. Madonia moved that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolution 2. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 3

3. Resolution approving the purchase of two (2) bat wing mower decks from Sievers Equipment Company of Auburn, IL on a joint purchasing contract in the amount of \$51,200.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. Hall, to place Resolution 3 before the Board. Mr. Madonia moved that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolution 3. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 4

4. 2025-018 Springfield C Store LLC, 6490 and 6492 N Walnut Street, Springfield – Granting a Rezoning, Conditional permitted uses with conditions and a variance. County Board Member – Annette Fulgenzi, District #17.

A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall, seconded by Ms. Fulgenzi, to place Resolution 4 before the Board. The Chairman noted that they are entering the zoning portion of the meeting and it is the Board's policy to ask if there are members of the audience who wish to speak in opposition or in support of the proposed rezoning and variances. There were none. 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

RESOLUTIONS 5 - 14

5. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Sheriff's Department from Motorola Solutions for the purpose of utilizing the Starcom Communications Network in the amount of \$85,136.

A motion was made by Mr. Tjelmeland, seconded by Mr. Ayers, to place Resolution 5 before the Board. A motion was made by Mr. DelGiorno, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to consolidate Resolutions 6 -14 with Resolution 5. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 6 - 14.

6. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Sheriff's Department from Bob Barker and multiple vendors for the purpose of Jail and Inmate supplies in the amount of \$145,230.

7. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Sheriff's Department from Allison Long for the purpose of Inmate Dental Services in the amount of \$53,195.
8. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Sheriff's Department from Ray O'Herron for the purpose of SCSO uniform expenses in the amount of \$63,870.
9. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Auditors Department from Kim's Autobody, LLC for the purpose of automobile repair in the amount of \$70,000.
10. Resolution approving the Tax Levies for Fiscal Year from December 1, 2025 through November 30, 2026.
11. Resolution regarding Deputy Merit Commission Member compensation.
12. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the County Board Administration from Morrow Brothers and other vehicle vendors for the purpose of FY2026 County Vehicle purchases in the amount of \$546,166.
13. Resolution approving a grant application for the County Board Administration from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for the Energy Transition Community Grant in the amount of \$771,251.07.
14. Resolution approving a grant application for the County Board Administration from Illinois Department of Human Services for the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Workforce Development in the amount of \$797,693.

On the motion to consolidate, a voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Cahnman had a question for the Sheriff on Resolution 5. He read an article in USA Today about dozens of police departments around the Country, including Illinois and Indiana, that are now using Axon body cameras that are equipped with real-time translation capabilities. This would assist officers with someone who is not fluent in English. He was wondering if she was aware of this and if she has looked into this or is considering getting any of these for her officers.

Sheriff Crouch said they do have Axon body cameras now but that functionality is not part of their program package. They are in conversations with the vendor on a variety of different items with the Axon package but she had not looked into it this one specifically but she will. Mr. Cahnman said he would give Sheriff Crouch the article after the meeting.

Mr. Cahnman had a question about Resolution 14 and the \$1,000,000 going to the Springfield Chamber of Commerce. He wondered if there is a budget item as to how they're spending this and will the Board get an accounting of how the money was spent when it is spent. Chairman VanMeter said they were hoping to have a presentation on this earlier in the evening, but as an accommodation to the Massey Commission they asked the Chamber to make their presentation later. The Chairman had Mr. McFadden give some background.

Mr. McFadden stated this was a grant they received from the State close to two years ago totaling approximately \$1,000,000. They already spent over a \$100,000 of it with the Urban League on a youth job training program. They transitioned away from that and met with the Chamber of Commerce along with Senator Turner who secured the grant for the County. They asked the Chamber to come up with a program for youth employment. There are internships, mentoring and shadowing programs and different types of training programs that will be available. Mr. McFadden thinks the budget is about a \$130,000 a year. The way the grant is structured they can continue to spend it over multiple years so that is not a one year item but a multiple year item. The money will be audited by both the State and the County Auditor's Office.

Mr. Cahnman wondered if this meant the Urban League was not a part of this at all anymore. Chairman VanMeter stated the experience was that the Chamber could bring businesses to the program and he thinks is possible the Urban League may still be involved but the Chamber is going to be the leading responsible party. Mr. McFadden added that the Urban League could still be involved but one of the challenges they faced was bringing employers to the table. That is the commitment the Chamber made and Mike Murphy will speak to it later in the evening.

Mr. Cahnman made a motion to remove Resolution 14 from the Consolidated ordinances and hold off voting on it until Mr. Murphy can speak to it. Mr. Guyton seconded it. The Chairman called for a voice vote with the opinion of the Chairman saying the "NO's" have it. The resolution stays consolidated.

Mr. Madonia moved that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolutions 5 - 14, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous with the following exceptions; Mr. Cahnman abstained on Resolution 14. After a presentation by Mr. Mike Murphy from the Chamber of Commerce on this program, Mr. Cahnman changed his vote to Yes.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

WAIVER OF TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD

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

MOTION CARRIED
TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD WAIVED

RESOLUTIONS 15 - 20

15. Resolution approving a grant application for the Elections Department from the Federal Government (distributed by IL State Board of Elections) for the 2026 Polling Place Accessibility Grant in the amount of \$38,716.84.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Scaife, to place Resolution 15 before the Board. A motion was made by Mr. DelGiorno, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to consolidate Resolutions 16 - 20 with Resolution 15. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 16 - 20.

16. Resolution approving a grant application for the Elections Department from the Federal Government (distributed by IL State Board of Elections) for the 2026 Illinois Voter Registration State Grant (IVRS) in the amount of \$83,639.15.
17. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Elections Department from Inclusion Solutions for the purpose of purchasing 86 ADA United Adjustable Single Voting Booths for ExpressVote Units in the amount of \$38,716.84.
18. 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 \$60,765.
19. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Court Services from Advanced Correctional Healthcare for the purpose of providing on-site Medical Services at the Juvenile Detention Center in the amount of \$166,215.
20. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Court Services from Various Illinois Detention Centers for the purpose of Out-Of-County Bed Space for Juveniles in the amount of \$100,000.

On the motion to consolidate, a voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Cahnman had a question on Resolution 20. He noted that Sangamon County now has a juvenile center. He wonders why they're paying out-of-county facilities to house juvenile detainees. Mr. McFadden said on occasion, there is a need to house a juvenile outside of the County. They currently have one juvenile that is housed in Cook County. He is a co-defendant with another juvenile that is in the Sangamon County Juvenile Detention Center. The court has determined that the two co-defendants should not be housed in the same location.

Mr. Madonia moved that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolutions 15 - 20, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 21

21. Resolution submitting a binding referendum to Sangamon County voters in the March 2026 Primary to establish and fund a Mental Health Board.

A motion was made by Ms. Lathan, seconded by Mr. Schackmann, to place Resolution 21 before the Board.

Mr. Cahnman made a motion to amend the resolution to correct an error. He moved to amend Resolution 21 by striking the words "ESTABLISH AND" from its title and from the paragraph beginning with the phrase "Now, therefore, be it resolved". He said the reason for the amendment is that it's not proper to put the question of forming the Mental Health Board before the voters. The only question, under the law, that should be before the voters is the question of levying the tax for the purpose of funding the mental health services. If the voters approve the referendum on March 17th, the County Board will then have the opportunity to create a Mental Health Board. Mr. Cahnman gave Clerk Gray a copy of the resolution showing the words to be stricken. Mr. Madonia seconded the motion.

Mr. Cahnman added that this is one of the recommendations that the Massey Commission recommended to them so he urges a YES vote. Chairman VanMeter asked for a voice vote on Mr. Cahnman's amendment. A voice vote was unanimous. The amendment was adopted.

Ms. Lathan added that the resolution is in response to one of the recommendations from the Massey Commission. The Mental Health Commission used a very specific process in terms of assessing existing documents and conducting a somewhat loose but efficient gap analysis. They did surveys and data analysis and had the opportunity to do a number of provider interviews. Some of the findings included that 40% of Sangamon County residents reported unmet mental health needs and 90% of community members supported the need for expanded mental health services.

They also drilled down and identified specific populations that had unmet services because of lack of services available. There is also limited ability to coordinate services throughout the County. They also can't forget the incarcerated populations and those that enter the County jail and continue to circulate through the system because their mental health needs are not being addressed. If the referendum is passed, it will strengthen and expand services based on need. They also hope to be able to come together and leverage state and federal resources. The majority of the funds will go out into the communities and meet the needs of the people. Only a minimal amount of the funds will be used for administrative oversight. The referendum is an increase in County sales tax, by a half a percent of 0.5%. Half a percent on a \$10 purchase is five cents, on a \$100 purchase it would be fifty cents. She said close to 75 community members will be educating the public on this referendum.

She added there is a component that deals with outreach education and the reduction of stigma. They also know even when mental health services are available, people won't access them due to the stigma associated with those services. There is a definite need for education and stigma reduction.

Mr. Schackmann said it was a real pleasure working with Ms. Lathan on this. He has chaired the Public Health Committee for a number of years. He appreciates the professionals like Gina, Dr. Wolf, Josh Sabo and members of the Commission. They've heard from a lot of professionals and from

individuals that needed services. He struggles with the referendum because he has a daughter that owns a home and he doesn't want to put more strain on her through taxes but he sees the potential for cost savings with this referendum. They have a chance to change the trajectory of where they put their money. They can help folks come to some resolve and be healthier people and more productive in their society. And that's what this Board is intended to do, work with the professionals in a coordinated way, helping to spearhead efforts and follow through using analysis and real data to identify where services need to be focused. It gives the professionals the support and funding they need to bring people together and move those efforts forward. It's a tremendous tool that's used across the state of Illinois, and it's something they can utilize here as well. They've seen it work in many places, and it can be both a benefit to the community and a cost savings. He strongly urges a YES vote on this resolution.

Ms. Lathan wanted to remind the Board that the funds would be generated from Sales Tax not Property Tax. She added there will be a significant cost savings when they recognize the reduction of inmates circulating through the County jail. Once they work with them while they're in the jail, they will then transition their services to intensive case management and other services outside the jail. Initially, they are providing intensive services but then reducing the level of services so they can be more independent. It also helps when they have stable housing and are on medication. The stability allows them to access services and to maintain their treatment regimen. Also, as a result, emergency room visits will decrease.

Mr. DelGiorno wanted to commend both James and Gina for their work on this. He also wants to point out this is the one of the most consequential things they may do as Board as a result of Sonya Massey's murder. As a point of clarification, he wanted the Chairman to direct this question to Ms. Lathan with regard to the sales tax amount. He wanted her to repeat that again for clarity what the amount would be and what that would be on a \$100 purchase. Ms. Lathan said that for a \$100 purchase it would be fifty cents or 0.5%. A \$10 purchase would be a nickel.

As a point of order, the Chairman pointed out that the Board, by state law, is prohibited from endorsing the referendum. They are voting tonight to place it on the ballot. Every individual board member can endorse the referendum. Ms. Lathan indicated there is already a groundswell of people in the community that have already formed a Citizens Committee to support the referendum.

The Chairman called for a roll call vote on the adoption of the resolution as amended. There were 26 Yeas – 0 Nays for the adoption of Resolution 21.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTIONS 22 - 30

22. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from Converge One, Inc and other various vendors for the purpose of updating Sangamon County's network in the amount of \$175,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Rader, seconded by Mr. McGuire, to place Resolution 22 before the Board. A motion was made by Mr. DelGiorno, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to consolidate Resolutions 23 - 30 with Resolution 22. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 23 - 30.

23. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from Dell Marketing, LLC and various vendors for the purpose of updating the County's personal computers and other endpoint equipment in the amount of \$175,000.
24. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from Dell Marketing, LLC for the purpose of updating all the Microsoft Office Licenses as the current ones have gone end of life in the amount of \$250,000.
25. Resolution approving an Intergovernmental between the County of Sangamon on behalf of the Sangamon County Information Systems Department and the Springfield Mass Transit District DBA Sangamon Mass Transit District.
26. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Auditor's Office from National Indemnity Company for the purpose of Fleet auto insurance for SMART in the amount of \$120,000.
27. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for SMART from 1800 East LLC for the purpose of Office and Vehicle storage in the amount of \$66,000.
28. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for SMART from WEX for the purpose of vehicle fuel rides throughout rural Sangamon and Menard Counties.
29. Resolution approving an agreement between Sangamon County and Heartland Housed for the purpose of providing staffing.
30. Resolution approving an agreement between Sangamon County and Heartland Housed for the purpose of addressing homelessness.

On the motion to consolidate, a voice vote was unanimous.

The Chairman mentioned to the Board they typically ask Heartland Housed for an update around this time of year when they renew their agreement with them, but in the interest of efficiency with the Massey Commission's presentation earlier, they are going to get them scheduled for the January or February meeting.

Mr. Madonia moved that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolutions 22 - 30, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cahnman wanted to recognize former County Board member Tyrone Pace who was at the meeting earlier. Chairman VanMeter added that Mr. Pace was a well-respected colleague during his years of service.

A. Appointments

Appointment of Gina Furman to the Building Code of Appeals for a term expiring November, 2026.

Appointment of Keith Moore to the Building Code of Appeals for a term expiring November, 2026.

Appointment of Larry D. Hemingway, Sr. to the Building Code of Appeals for a term expiring November, 2026.

Appointment of Steve Welch to the Building Code of Appeals for a term expiring November, 2026.

Appointment of Shannon Fehrholz to the Community Service Block Grant Advisory Board for a term expiring September, 2028.

Appointment of Paul Truax to the Sewer Rebate Board for a term expiring September, 2026.

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

MOTION CARRIED**APPOINTMENTS ADOPTED**

The nominations for appointment in January were also submitted.

B. Emergency/Procurement Notifications

There were no procurement or grant notifications.

PUBLIC COMMENT

They have 10 people signed up to speak but by special accommodation they asked Mr. Murphy, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, if he would defer his presentation until this portion of the meeting. He called Mr. Murphy forward to address the Board.

Mr. Murphy stated this came from Chairman VanMeter. Several years ago, Chairman VanMeter mentioned to Mr. Murphy that the Chamber needed to do more about youth employment. They started a youth job fair which went very well and have had several more successful fairs since that time. Last

year, Chairman VanMeter asked if they could “step it up” and do more as far as youth employment. He mentioned one area of population that Sangamon County is doing poorly in is the ages between 18 and 35. They are just not retaining that age group in Springfield and they need to do more. Mr. Murphy said they would be happy to help but would need an additional person and revenue.

Mr. Murphy said Senator Turner found them some revenue and they put together a plan. He reached out to other Chambers and entities across the country to try and get some best practices and things that would work. He spoke about examples of what they’re planning on doing in every High School in the County. They want to touch them four times with four different programs a month. They will work on resumes and educating them on what’s available in Sangamon County. He also wants to incorporate a job shadowing program. Both his children job shadowed and now have careers in the fields where they shadowed. The vast majority of this effort will be on youth employment.

Something near and dear to his heart is re-entry employment. This is people coming out of the prison system. He knows it can work because they had great success at Charlie Parkers. The beginning focus will be on youth employment but hopefully they would grow and be able to help people re-enter the job force. He’d also like to help Veterans as well. It would always be 90% involved in youth.

Chairman VanMeter asked about the Chambers involvement with the Urban League. Mr. Murphy says they have a great relationship with the Urban League. He will work with every organization and make sure they have a seat at the table.

Mr. Cahnman wanted to first thank Mr. Murphy for his work on the Mental Health Commission. He then asked about the \$797,000 grant. He understands it’s over multiple years. He wondered how many years. Mr. Murphy said the initial budget for the first year is about \$130,000. They will be turning in monthly receipts. If they have over \$700,000, they hope to get five or six years out of it. Mr. Cahnman surmised that a large part of that will be to hire a new employee to manage the program. Mr. Murphy said yes, they are hoping to attract someone around the \$60,000 amount plus benefits.

Chairman VanMeter thanked Mr. Murphy for being there.

Mr. Cahnman changed his vote on Resolution 14 from abstaining to Yes.

The first person signed up to speak was Tara Bergschneider. She was not presesnt.

The next person signed up to speak was Shawn Reilly. He was not present.

Dr. Kathleen Campbell from Glenarm, IL addressed the Board. She is President of Citizens Against Heartland Greenwashing Projects which evolved from the Navigator pipeline opposition. She thanked the County Board for hosting the public hearing. She listened to all the panels and questions but was not feeling well so was unable to stay for the public comments, but she did submit hers for posting.

She wanted to point out that CyrusOne and Sangamon Growth Alliance had months to prepare their information, they only had a few weeks. Their concerns are well grounded. Over time, more

problems will probably be revealed as they were with Navigator. As a rural electric customer and land owner approximately 10 miles from the proposed data site, she has several concerns.

The Sangamon Growth Alliance is substantially funded by Sangamon County and ultimately the taxpayers and should not function in secret. She asks that the Growth Alliance immediately inform them of all plans under consideration for the next six months, the next year and a long view of the next five years, particularly if other data centers are being considered. They should know that now along with possible locations.

They need to know if the CyrusOne data center is a one-off or is it a Trojan Horse. The impacted citizens should never be blindsided again by a taxpayer funded program on such a major issue. They should also have been informed of the zoning change proposal and all of its implications before it was approved in July. If full information and its implications were withheld from the Zoning Committee as it was from the public, she questions whether the applicant acted in good faith. She thought it was sneaky.

For a rural electric, they talk about them being a cooperative but she sees no transparency or cooperation. At their annual meeting on June 12th, they said nothing about a data center. Rural Electrics Q & A states that the data center will get secret preferential rates. She said that is unacceptable. Since they are certain there will never be blackouts or brownouts, give them a written enforceable guarantee that in the event of a blackout, residents, not the data centers will take priority and guarantee that their rates will not go up as they have elsewhere around data centers.

If residents around data centers could give Yelp reviews, it appears the data centers would not even get one-star reviews. Let them learn from the mistakes of others. Yesterday, December 9, 2025 the national group, Food and Water Watch, revealed that 233 organizations have now signed a letter to Congress, calling for a national moratorium on data centers. That shows the depth of concern and level of risk. The data centers are taking enormous amounts of power. In Iowa, Google announced that all of its data centers plan to bring in natural gas with CCS, which means carbon dioxide pipelines. If they have data centers here, they will also bring in natural gas with CCS. That seems to be the national plan.

She said she'll have more comments at the next Zoning Committee meeting and thanked the Board.

Don Hanrahan next addressed the Board. He has many questions after the board hearing on December 3rd. As he listened to the Massey Commission presentation, he wonders how this project squares with Call to Action Number 21 which is about economic development. He thinks they are a long way away from meeting the requirements of Massey Commission Call to Action 21 with the proposed data center.

CyrusOne claims it is not requesting any property tax abatement. That is unenforceable. He wondered if they will apply for certification as a mega project. Under proposed legislation, that freezes the assessed value at pre-development rates. He also wonders if CyrusOne will commit, in a legally binding contract, that they and their successors will not appeal its property tax assessments or apply for programs that reduce property, sale, use and occupational taxes.

Vague statements of content are not contractually binding. Has the County verified that CyrusOne has spoken to MISO about grid reliability? For three years, MISO has been screaming about demand increases that threaten rolling blackouts, now suddenly adding a whole city's worth of power demand is just fine? Why approve this before the grid analysis is even complete. What enforceable contract will ensure CyrusOne pays for all grid upgrades, including future upgrades? What recourse will ratepayers have if it turns out that increased demand raised rates, as it's done in data centers across the nation?

CyrusOne says they will prioritize local workers. What percentage of construction and permanent jobs will contractually be guaranteed to Sangamon County residents and what enforcement mechanism exists? What is the economic value of the permanent loss of productive farmland? What analysis shows how many county jobs will be lost to artificial intelligence enabled by this data center? Creating temporary construction jobs to facilitate permanent job elimination is ludicrous. CyrusOne won't disclose its customer base. How can the County assess the long-term viability and its impact on local jobs if it can't verify its business model or customer base.

Industry analysts note that functional obsolescence occurs in as little as six to ten years. What contingency planning has the County done for that? Will CyrusOne legally commit to a minimum operating period? CyrusOne had a major failure 10 days ago that shook the stock market, now Goldman Sachs paused their planned \$1.3 billion mortgage-bond sale to CyrusOne. What happens if they cease operations, sell or abandon the facility or if it becomes a stranded asset? Why no guarantees for remediation? Why no binding development agreement covering tax payments, employment, environmental compliance and operational duration. This is not obstruction or hyperbole; it is due diligence. He urges them to please "just do it". He thanked the Board for their time.

Mr. DelGiorno wanted to know if it was possible to ask a few questions under the new rules. Chairman VanMeter said yes. His first question was for legal counsel. The public commenter had mentioned being able to contract for various things. As part of the zoning process, he wondered if the State's Attorney's office had an opinion as to whether they even have the authority to do that. Mr. Benoit said he would have to look into that but he suspected they did not have that power. Mr. Benoit said he would get back to them on it.

Mr. DelGiorno's second question was in regard to the zoning ordinance that was passed in July. He wondered when that was first introduced at the zoning committee. When was it put on the agenda and how many public meetings were there about it. Professional staff was not present to answer the questions but Chairman VanMeter said they would get those answers for him. Mr. DelGiorno thinks it was on the public agenda for at least one of the zoning meetings and one County Board meeting.

Chairman VanMeter added that they may err in the decision they make but the really try to be fair and open about the process they are going through. The implication that they are not trying to be fair and open is incorrect. He thinks it would help to get the presentation they had this evening as well as earlier ones so they can research answers to a lot of good questions that are being asked.

The next person signed up to speak was Ken Pacha. He wants to talk about the Massey Commission's final report and what comes next for everyone. As a County, and Springfield as the largest city in the County, there are a lot of decisions and choices that will have to be made as they move

forward. The report represents a lot of great ideas and directions but will be more than just them sitting in rooms making decisions for the rest of them.

He strongly encourages them to come out and hear from them. He doesn't see a lot of County Board members, Alderpersons or school board members at the listening sessions. He wants to challenge them to come out and participate. They have the political, social and economic capital as board members to put their weight behind movements. He says they could pass a resolution to make the Mental Health Board an absolute 708 Mental Health Board right now. The funding is going to come from that. They have choices in front of them and funding is important. They are going to have to make forward effort to get this to happen.

Mental Health boards have been present in other counties for well over 50 years. It seems like there is no good reason why Sangamon County should continue to run behind. They have lagged behind in terms of development, which is why they are all standing there right now. He said what happened with Sonya Massey was a preventable tragedy. They could have had better systems in place. They could have paid attention to cities that had these sort of programs already operating and headed this off at the pass long before they lost a great citizen of this city. He thinks it is important to talk about the resolution and what comes next with that. Now they have to publicly campaign to inform the public. There are many people that are already opposed to that increase in sales tax because "times are tight".

They will see great results from getting mental health services for the inmates. Getting treatment before it gets to the point that guards and Sheriff's deputies are attacking them. He feels it's really important that they take part in coming out into the community and hearing from all of them. He wants them to be aware that at Cap 1908, tomorrow evening, the Purple Coalition and the Massey Commission are partnering to have a listening session with the public. They want to invite all of them to attend. He won't take it personally if they can't attend but wants them to know they are more than welcome. He would like them to come out and be a part of the conversation. He thanked the board for their time. He stated the time of the meeting was from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm at the corner of South Grand and 11th Street.

Chairman VanMeter had a couple of questions for Assistant State's Attorney Joel Benoit. He wondered if the County Board could form the Mental Health Board in advance of the referendum. Mr. Benoit said NO, it has to be approved by the voters first. Chairman VanMeter asked if the County Board can endorse the referendum. Mr. Benoit said they can not.

Lori McKiernan next addressed the Board. She's here to follow-up on a question posed at last Wednesday's public hearing about what other municipalities are doing to regulate data centers. She has information about Batavia, IL. Batavia is a far west suburb, north of Aurora. The population is approximately 27,000 residents. They have a municipally owned utility that generates about \$49.6 million dollars per year. Their data center is a 50 megawatt center and is in an industrial park. Batavia managed this project using a Master Service Agreement and approved the project in September of this year. The Master Service Agreement defines the city's requirements for the project. Batavia is requiring the developer to purchase their energy directly from the open market from PJM, which is the grid operator and is the equivalent of MISO. The data center will not be using energy from the City.

The Master Service Agreement doesn't specifically call out closed-loop cooling. They are forcing a closed loop system by limiting the amount of water the data center can use. The Master Service Agreement (MSA) also dictates the use of the data center. No bitcoin or blockchain services will be allowed to run in that data center. She also wanted to point out that even though CyrusOne states they will never have to refill their closed-loop cooling system, Batavia's MSA has a stipulation that any intent to discharge the cooling system requires giving seven days' notice. They must assume there is a reason they might need to discharge the water.

The City of Batavia is paying for off-site electrical upgrades and the developer is paying for on-site electrical costs. The city will incur 18 million dollars in upgrades that the developer will pay upfront. Once the data center completes its first phase that will use 20 megawatts of power, the City will begin repaying the 18 million dollars over a seven year period. The City will not make a profit on the data center for at least seven years.

Batavia's selling point is the revenue they will generate from their municipal utility. Once they do make money, the project will generate eight million dollars a year from an energy cost adjustment of .005 kw/h used at the data center. They have annual distribution charges and franchise fees. Tax revenues are unknown at this point for the project, but they are minimal compared to the revenues that are generated by the city-owned utility. They have the advantage of that revenue they don't have here in Sangamon County.

Her point is not to compare the CyrusOne project with Batavia's data center but to show them that the possibility is there for negotiating a data center project. They don't need to accept what CyrusOne is offering as is. She asks that they use due diligence in researching water issues that were mentioned by Prairie Rivers Network on Wednesday. They can require CyrusOne to use higher standards on their diesel backup generators. She asks that they listen to the public concerns and determine which of those concerns can and should be addressed to approve the project. They can vote no to CyrusOne if they don't resolve these issues and if they don't meet their terms. Send them back to the drawing board. They have the upper hand and they are depending on them to work through this that way. She thanked the Board for their time.

Abby Powell next addressed the Board. She is the Director of Business Development for the Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance and she wants to highlight why this project represents a significant economic development opportunity for Sangamon County.

First, the economic impact is significant and immediate. This project brings a large-scale capital investment to the County and will create substantial construction activity which includes a project labor agreement that ensures union jobs throughout the build. Once completed, the data center is expected to support 100 permanent full-time jobs along with an estimated 350 additional indirect and induced jobs. These are high-quality positions that support families, strengthen the workforce and help retain talent in their region.

Second, the long-term fiscal benefit to Sangamon County is exceptional. On average, a project like this pays \$26 in taxes for every \$1 of public services it requires. That means meaningful property tax revenue for school, fire protection and infrastructure without placing an additional burden on existing taxpayers.

Third, the project has been thoroughly evaluated by experts and partners. Both the rural electric convenience co-op and the county's independent electrical consultants have affirmed that no rate increases are expected as a result of the data center and the cost of necessary electrical infrastructure upgrades will be covered by CyrusOne not by local rate payers. It's also important to note the facilities electric demand, to put this in scale, represents less than one half of one percent. It's about 0.47% of the total generation available on the MISO grid.

Fourth, the facilities design meets or exceeds all standards related to noise light and environmental impact. Shielded lighting protects dark skies and sound mitigation elements ensure noise stays well below County thresholds. Similarly, the closed-loop cooling system ensures no negative impact from water use, keeping consumption levels comparable to a typical office building.

Fifth, this project supports a broader business ecosystem. Data centers require ongoing partnerships with local contractors, service providers and utilities. They also send a valuable signal to other technology and logistic companies evaluating Sangamon County as a potential site. A successful project of this scale, strengthens their competitiveness for future investment.

Finally, it is important to note CyrusOne's track record. This is not a new or speculative company. CyrusOne has been in continuous operation for over 25 years and they serve a variety of national and international customers, including companies in technology, finance, construction, insurance and other sectors. They are a proven stable operator with a long history of building and maintaining mission critical infrastructure.

On behalf of the Growth Alliance, she thanked them for their continued leadership and for supporting responsible, responsible economic development in Sangamon County.

Mr. Hall had a question for the Zoning staff. He thinks the 50 decibels is a hard thing to read. They have experienced that with outdoor beer gardens and how to figure out how loud something is. His question to staff is the 50 decibels to the home adjacent or is it to the property line. If it's the property line, he doesn't see how a company can meet that because they are talking about 360 generators which is about 2000 horsepower each. However, he knows they won't be running at the same time. How do they know if they'll hit that number or not? Chairman VanMeter said they would get the answer to that question for Mr. Hall.

Ethan Manning next addressed the Board. He first wanted to thank Mr. Ayers for answering some of his questions. He wants to look at this situation from more of a 10,000 foot view. He's America first and he's pro-business but he's very skeptical of data centers. Considering three years ago nobody knew what a data center was, it's important to point out that the data center explosion in the last few years is tied to a tech fantasy of birthing a god-like ASI. He likes to call this privatized communism.

He says if this was proven, as in the case of gas, oil or gold, he'd be out there with a shovel helping dig but it's unproven. So currently, the giant sucking sound Ross Perot talked about, is their money going to Silicon Valley. With that said, he'd like to point out some facts concerning some possible outcomes to the Board. The S&P 500 bubble is so big right now a five year old could point it out on a map. When bubbles pop, it always rolls over to the poor, the young and the middle class. An economic crash typically pushes the young into the arms of the Socialist. The year 2008 was tied to homes. That's

an asset. The year 2025 is tied to the promise of AGI, which doesn't exist. There are numerous studies that state mass computation is not the best way to advance AI, but rather small computation at a device level opposed to an AI for everything model.

The energy experts say that the MISO grid can support the data centers as of now. They did not address how many data centers will come online over the next few years. What upgrades will be needed over time to keep the grid functional, which is where the real energy bill increases come from. He says one answer as to where this goes is small nuclear reactors. He wonders how this will look.

He says if and when the bubble pops, how will that unfold if they lose their AI renters. They can't just re-appropriate a defunct data center. These companies openly state they are targeting smaller, conservative counties to push their centers. They are decades away from zero carbon and superintelligence. In conclusion, he wants to say one can "bow at the altar of Milton Friedman" while also "bowing at the idea of anti-trust". Mr. Manning thanked the Board.

The next speaker of the evening was Erin Kirpatrick. She thanked the board for allowing her the opportunity to address them. She is baffled as to why they are planning to give \$250,000 local tax dollars to a \$15 billion company rather than something locally relevant, such as implementing Massey Commission recommendations. She would also echo what she heard last week regarding union jobs. They all want local labor to thrive and she strongly believes in unions, however with CyrusOne's self-touted modular design enabling rapid deployment of large scale facilities, those union jobs will be relatively brief. CyrusOne is currently building a 1.9 million square foot single-story data center in Texas in a projected 18 months. She wonders how many net jobs will be replaced due to the AI contained inside this proposed data center. As for long term jobs, remember data centers don't create anything. It's more like a warehouse for computers running on expensive chips so locally, jobs created by data centers are typically low-wage, non-technical positions such as security, maintenance and janitorial work. An eleven billion dollar center in Alabama is projecting just over 100 jobs.

If approved, this data center will use one to two times as much energy as all current residential use in Sangamon County. No one can guarantee they won't raise rates and it certainly won't lower them. Lauren mentioned PJM which is the largest regional transmission organization. PJM had a 500% increase in its energy auction for 2025-26. It was found that data center demand made up 63% of that total power capacity bill. In the latest auction, prices jumped another 10%.

Data centers already receive tax incentives at the state level. States lose out on 50 to 70 cents for every dollar given away on data center sales and use tax exemptions. Companies also benefit from the permanent bonus depreciation to help avoid paying federal taxes. A study from this year found first year tax benefits for data centers now exceed half the value of the project in deductions compared to about 1% under traditional depreciation which could amount to 113.7 million dollars in federal tax savings for this project in the first year alone.

What they control is the zoning. She calls on them to update their zoning of data centers now. Data centers are not just another business. Imagine if they were living two miles away and made all zoning decisions based on this. She wanted to expand on County Board member Hall's question. When the data center exceeds noise regulations, what happens? Does the individual resident have to sue the

15 billion dollar company? Will the County? If they violate it X number of times, do they lose their zoning permit?

They are responsible for how these data centers impact the welfare of their Sangamon County neighbors. She continues to urge them to delay approval until the state legislature has an opportunity to pass data center regulation in the spring session to help avoid the numerous hardships other communities and counties have experienced. Ms. Kirkpatrick thanked the Board for their time.

Chairman VanMeter asked professional staff what would happen if a business is zoned to do something and they violate those zoning regulations or they violate public health and safety regulations. State's Attorney Benoit said the County would go to court to make them stop.

Bob Podlasek was the last person signed up to speak and he was not in attendance.

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

A motion was made by Mr. DelGiorno, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to put 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 January 13, 2026. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING RECESSED

Don Gray
Sangamon County Clerk