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WEBSITE: countyclerk.sangamonil.gov**MINUTES****SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD****NOVEMBER 10, 2025**

The Sangamon County Board met in Reconvened Adjourned September Session on November 10, 2025 in the Sangamon County Board Chambers. Chairman Van Meter called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Ms. Douglas-Williams gave the Invocation and also thanked all of the Veterans. Mr. Krell led the County Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and also thanked the Veterans especially former County Board members, Mr. Montalbano and Mr. Bunch, who have passed.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Van Meter asked the County Clerk to call the roll. There were 28 Present – 1 Absent. Mr. Constant was excused but came in later during the meeting.

Chairman Van Meter said they are not televising tonight but they are broadcasting live. He reminded everyone, including members of the public, to please speak into their microphones.

He also stated they were setting up the committee room next door to broadcast the meeting live. He thought some of the members of the public who were standing might like to go in there and sit.

The Chairman asked for unanimous consent to proceed out of regular order to allow for Public Comment. There were no objections. The Chairman said there would be two presentations and then Public Comment.

PROCLAMATIONS

There were no proclamations but Ms. Douglas-Williams handed out two certificates. A young lady named, Diane McCreary approached Ms. Douglas-Williams to ask for help with a Fundraiser for the YMCA. The fundraiser was to raise funds for Strong Kids which is a Y program that gives underserved, at-risk youth and those with diverse abilities a Y experience through memberships, camps, sports and after school programs.

Ms. Douglas-Williams was overwhelmed with the support she received. She gave a certificate to Mr. Madonia for his help with the fundraiser. It is from the organization in appreciation for the help he

gave them. The second certificate she gave to Chairman VanMeter who also assisted and supported her in her efforts. She was extremely grateful to both of them.

PRESENTATION - SUSTAINABLE FOOD INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

Greg Christian, from the Sustainable Food Institute of America gave a presentation on the Sangamon County farm-to-table program. Four years ago the County asked them to write a report on the feasibility of building a local food system in Sangamon County. They concluded that everyone wants a local food system but nobody knows how to do it. The County used ARPA dollars and hired his company to go into four large commercial kitchens and help build a local food system. He is here to update the Board on those four kitchens.

The first kitchen is in the Illinois Presbyterian Home on Chatham Road. They have been in that kitchen for a year. Local food purchases increased from 4.5% in November 2024 to 17% in August 2025. Scratch cooking has increased from 11.9% in October 2024 to 26% in August 2025. They have a goal in year two to be at 50% scratch cooking and at 25% local food purchases. They are also training the team in “overproduction tracking” to decrease waste.

They have been at Pawnee CUSD #11 for two years. They started at 5.8% scratch-cooking in September 2023 and reached 92.7% scratch-cooking in May 2025. They have spent over \$50,000 on local food from September 2023 to August 2025. Their third year they are going to focus on getting teachers and kids involved in the classroom. He thanked Mr. Thomas for helping them with the project at the school.

Pleasant Plains CUSD #8 is new this year. Training there started in September 2025. They have already integrated many scratch-cooked items on the August and September 2025 menus reaching 35% scratch-cooking in September. She is currently purchasing from five local farms.

The Urban League had some unforeseen staff changes, and the program has been paused. Once staffing has been secured, it will begin again. They are hoping by June of next year. Mr. Christian then asked for questions from the Board.

Mr. Mendenhall commended Mr. Christian on the great job he is doing. He has eaten lunch in Pawnee and said it was wonderful as did many of the children and staff members.

Mr. Cahnman commented on an article in the SJR about an indoor farmer’s market opening downtown to help sell local farmers products. He was wondering if Mr. Christian had anything to do with that. Mr. Christian said he doesn’t have anything to do with that but they buy from those farmers. He said the local farmers have gotten excited about the program and are growing more than they can sell. The institutional kitchens sometimes can buy it all but other times they can’t.

Chairman VanMeter asked Mr. Christian about the application they are making for the federal grant. Mr. Christian explained they are going to be putting in for the Patrick Leahy Grant which is up to \$500,000. There has to be at least 25% match to that money. He said it’s a competitive grant so it’s a long shot to get. They are going to tell the grant people they want to expand the program into a few other counties.

Chairman VanMeter thanked Mr. Christian for his work. Mr. Christian thanked the Board for their time.

PRESENTATION - MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Mr. Mike Murphy, Chairman of the Sangamon County Mental Health Commission next addressed the Board. It was his honor to serve as Chairman of the commission. Also present to assist with the presentation, were Dr. Kari Wolf and Mr. Josh Sabo. He was also grateful to have County Board members Gina Lathan and James Schackmann serving on the commission. He also recognized two other members that were present, Pam Neuman and Janice Gambach. He thanked all of the commissioners for their work, time and expertise.

On January 13, 2025 the Board passed a resolution establishing the Sangamon County Mental Health Commission to assess the needs of the community, to see how other counties have successfully implemented mental health boards and to help the public understand the costs and benefits of doing so in Sangamon County. Over the past several months, the Commission has conducted interviews, reviewed data, listened to residents, providers, first responders, families and examined programs and outcomes in similar counties. The message they heard was consistent and clear. The community is asking for stronger, more coordinated mental health support. This evening they are presenting their final report and recommendations which includes the formation of a countywide 708 Mental Health Board to expand, strengthen and align mental health and substance abuse services across Sangamon County.

From their assessment, they found that Sangamon County needs a sustainable, accountable way to fund and coordinate mental health care and a 708 Mental Health Board. A 708 Mental Health Board is a locally governed board that does not provide services directly, but instead coordinates, funds and strengthens the network of providers already serving Sangamon County residents. If the County Board accepts their recommendation, the question to establish funding for the mental health board will be moved to the voters in March of 2026. Throughout the process, their goal has been simple to ensure the Sangamon County residents can access the care they need when they need it so that crises are prevented, families remain stable and individuals have the opportunity to live healthy and full lives. They look forward to sharing what they have learned and answering the board's questions.

Dr. Kari Wolf spoke next. She said in their work they found significant and growing needs here in the community. Thousands and thousands of people in Sangamon County are struggling with untreated mental illness, substance use disorders and the effects of housing instability. In the survey they conducted, they found four out of ten residents reported unmet mental health needs in the last three years. They also found that groups facing the greatest risks include; individuals with serious mental illness, people involved in the justice system, those without housing and residents who need culturally appropriate care, particularly African American men, rural residents, individuals who are LGBTQ+ youth, veterans and older adults.

They heard the same themes over and over again including the following barriers; long wait times to access care, cost of care, care being unaffordable, lack of insurance coverage, lack of transportation to access the care, stigma and unwillingness to overcome that stigma to seek help and

simply not knowing where to turn. They also found that in August, about 70% of individuals in the Sangamon County jail had a diagnosed mental illness. That's 70 out of 100. That is a system under strain. They gathered strong data through community and professional surveys and 89% of residents said the county needs to invest in more mental health.

Eighty-three percent support having mental health professionals ride along with law enforcement when they're responding to crises in the community. They also conducted a survey of professionals who work in this space and are interacting with individuals with access to care. They found that among the professionals, only 17% feel the current services in this county are adequate to meet the needs of the people in the County and nearly 70% said connecting an individual to the right type of care is extremely difficult.

They are recommending that the Sangamon County Board place a referendum on the March 17, 2026 ballot asking voters whether to establish and fund a 708 Mental Health Board in Sangamon County. They are proposing it be funded through a half percent county sales tax increase. That's \$0.05 on a \$10.00 purchase or \$0.50 on a \$100 purchase. That modest increase would lead to an estimated \$14.7 million to invest in mental health and substance abuse services in this County.

The Commission identified five key investment areas that could make an immediate impact on the health and well-being of the community. If such a board is established, they would strongly recommend consideration for these five items. The first is crisis co-response teams, where they pair a mental health clinician or somebody with lived experience with law enforcement to respond to these emergencies out in the community. They would also recommend intensive psychiatric case management, which helps coordinate care for people with severe mental illness who have difficulty navigating the complex system. This allows them to navigate the system and not end up in jails and emergency rooms. They recommend housing case management to help individuals both find stable housing and also help them be successful in that stable housing. They know individuals with serious mental illness also need wraparound support to be successful. They will need representative payee services, which helps manage the benefits for the most vulnerable individuals so they can ensure their basic needs are met through their disability income. They also need culturally responsive, community based programs targeting the most at-need communities who currently are lacking the services. Building trust and access in schools, churches, barbershops and other community services.

Josh Sabo from the Heartland Housed Continuum next addressed the Board. He said law enforcement officers are often the first responders during a mental health crisis, but they're not all mental health professionals. A crisis co-response team pairs clinicians with law enforcement to respond together in real time. This approach reduces arrests. It prevents hospitalizations and improves the safety for everyone involved. Communities using this model report fewer repeat 911 crisis calls, have better de-escalation outcomes and an increased connection to ongoing care. This is not about replacing law enforcement. It's about supporting law enforcement and protecting residents during moments of crisis. Communities that implement co-response teams have seen reductions of 20% to 40% , lower jail utilization and fewer emergency room transports, which collectively save counties hundreds of thousands of dollars annually and avoidable crisis response costs.

They recognize that stable housing is a foundational condition for mental wellness. Without it, it's difficult for treatment plans to be effective. Many of the county residents cycle through emergency

rooms, jails and shelters not because services don't exist but because there is no one helping them stay connected to those services. Housing Case Management provides support navigating housing access and benefits, help maintaining tenancy and stability and coordination across landlords, providers and care teams. This investment reduces homelessness, reduces crisis service utilization and improves long term recovery outcomes. Supporting housing stability prevents high cost cycle of ER visits, inpatient psychiatric stays and jail bookings. Even a \$10,000 to \$15,000 annual investment in housing case management can offset \$40,000 to \$70,000 in crisis system costs per person, each year once stabilized.

Some residents require higher touch support, particularly those with serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Intensive psychiatric case management ensures consistent follow up medication continuity, coordination across primary care, behavioral health, and social supports. This is the highest impact strategy for reducing psychiatric hospitalizations and preventing crisis relapses. The goal of this service is to keep people stable in the community, not cycling through emergency or inpatient care. Many individuals living with serious mental illness struggle to manage finances, benefits or monthly payments. Without that help, even a small financial misstep can lead to eviction, utility shutoffs, medication lapses and other preventable crises. Representative payee services ensure that bills are paid on time, rent and medications are prioritized, and individuals maintain housing and independence. This prevents avoidable crisis and gives people safe, stable and supported places to live. Current representative payee services are underfunded in Sangamon County. They're reimbursed at the equivalent of \$12 to \$15 per hour, but representatives are expected to provide support similar to a master's level social worker, including budgeting, benefits coordination, crisis related financial decisions, and landlord communication. Essential tasks like check ins, documentation and care coordination are not reimbursed, leading to high turnover and long waitlists, leaving many residents at risk of housing instability and preventable crisis. A 708 Mental Health Board would provide supplemental funding to expand representative payee services so providers can adequately support clients and reduce waitlists.

The small monthly administrative support costs can prevent tens of thousands of dollars in emergency system spending and housing loss. Mental health services work best when they are rooted in the community, when they reflect cultural identity, and are delivered by providers who understand local experiences. Sangamon County residents shared a clear message they need care that feels approachable, trusted and feels connected to them. This includes partnerships with community organizations such as churches, schools, barbershops and not for profits, peer support and mentorship through professional organizations like the Farm Bureau or police departments. Services designed by and for the populations they serve. When services reflect community engagement, engagement increases, stigma decreases, and outcomes improve. When services reflect cultural identity and trust, people are more likely to seek care earlier, reducing the need for higher costs, higher cost crisis intervention later. Community rooted programs produce high value prevention outcomes, stretching public dollars further and improving long term resource results. In short, the data, the stories, and the evidence all point to the same conclusion. Sangamon County needs a sustainable, accountable way to fund and coordinate mental health care, and a 708 Mental Health Board is a proven model to do that. There are already more than 90 communities in Illinois that have a similar board, and they have a chance to turn what began as a cry for help into a lasting structure of care and accountability.

Mr. Murphy detailed a video project the Commission has been working on which includes, interviews with residents and local experts across Sangamon County and representatives from the Winnebago 708 Mental Health Board. The goal of the video is to accompany the report that will be

published on the Sangamon County website. Mr. Murphy suggested playing the video at meetings with interested groups, friends and families about the work of the Commission.

The video was then played. At its conclusion, Mr. Murphy asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Cahnman thanked the Commission for the excellent presentation and the fantastic job they did on this. He recently saw a news story that Champaign County is starting a program where they send mental health experts out on calls alone and not with a law enforcement officers. He was wondering if the Commission had considered that. Dr. Wolf said they already do that. They have a mobile crisis response team that will respond to certain calls by themselves. If a school calls and there is a child in crisis, they can send someone there. This would be in addition to the mobile crisis response. Sometimes with a call it wouldn't be safe to send a mental health professional alone. Right now, they do have a ride along program but with very limited hours. If the call happens to come in during those hours, they will send law enforcement and a ride along mental health professional. What they are proposing is when it's not safe to send the mental health professional alone, they would allow both the City of Springfield and County deputies to have access to that ride along so there is a mental health professional to help assess the scene and decompress the mental health crisis.

Mr. Cahnman asked if it's sometimes appropriate to just send a mental health expert out. Dr. Wolf said they do have a 24/7 mental health responder with the mobile crisis response program. Mr. Cahnman wondered if that is in response to 911 calls or in response to something else when a mental health expert goes out alone. Dr. Wolf said Memorial Behavioral Health provides the mobile crisis response in the community but it needs to be a safe scene if they are to go by themselves. Mr. Cahnman said he didn't think that was coordinated with 911 and Dr. Wolf agreed.

Mr. McGuire wanted to know if they considered the half percent tax increase on property tax as opposed to sales tax. Mr. Murphy said they did talk about property tax and different levels of sales tax. He said the increase on property tax wouldn't come near the revenue the sales tax would generate.

Ms. Fulgenzi said she's cared for someone with mental illness all of her life. There used to be a program that was a community support network that used to go out and do medication management and would actually visit the person daily and make sure they were taking their medications. She said it helped stabilize people and keep them consistent with their medication. It went away and nothing has replaced it. She feels that is a huge gap in the community and has caused a lot of the problems they have. She thinks this is definitely something that is needed and would go a long way to keep people with these illnesses in a good environment and not in danger. She thanked the Commission for everything they are doing.

Chairman VanMeter added that the report is excellent. It's replete with examples where an ounce of prevention obviates the need for pounds and pounds of cure they are now spending money on. He was also astonished by the number of people that suffer from schizophrenia in this County. He said it was a couple of thousand.

The Chairman said Mr. Schackmann and Dr. Lathan are planning to take a resolution based on the Commission's recommendations to the Public Health Committee and then to the Election Oversight Committee in time for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Guyton wanted to thank the Commission for all that they have done. He knows this work isn't easy. He also appreciates that they are keeping the differences in culture and highlighting that when they are considering mental health because not everybody has the same struggle especially when they're talking about rural communities versus unhoused communities versus folks who are part of the queer community and so forth. In the video it was mentioned that if people don't utilize these services they aren't being successful. He wondered what types of barriers the community might see in order to access this care.

Dr. Wolf said there are a lot but she'll highlight some of the highest level ones. There's a sense of mistrust amongst many communities. That's why they need to think about where they're providing the care and who is providing that care and how they are messaging that care. If they expect everyone to come to a certain location and that's the only way they can access care, they are not going to reach people. Stigma is very real. She has found over the course of her career that a lot of people don't want to walk into a building that says psychiatrist or mental health. So when she takes her services and provides them in the schools, in the local church, or in the primary care practice where no one necessarily has a problem going to their regular doctor, people are more likely to come and see her for mental health care. Those are some of the key barriers they need to recommend that if there is a mental health board, they be thoughtful about what types of services they actually need to be able to reach some of the populations, that can be harder to reach because of stigma, lack of trust, transportation, and other reasons.

Dr. Stacy Grundy added a lot of programs are based on income and different qualifications. The programs funded through a 708 Mental Health Board are not based on that. This opens up more programs for individuals who may or may not have insurance or may have high copays. With this type of funding, you'll be able to create those programs that do not create some of those barriers as well.

Chairman VanMeter had another question about the report. He said the Commission identified a number of gaps in service in the community. Some of those gaps would be filled by new entities. But many might be filled by existing entities that just need more support. He is getting calls from current providers and is trying to reassure them that if the community were to adopt a mental health board, it would mean more support for many of the existing providers.

Mr. Murphy said that was correct.

The Chairman said if the community were to approve the formation of a Mental Health Board, the Mental Health Board would make the allocation of funds. He also said the Mental Health Board would consist of community professionals in the field and would be allocated by the professionals not by politicians.

Mr. Murphy agreed and said it was his understanding the Board would make sure who made up the Mental Health Board. He also wanted to clear up that the Mental Health Board will not provide services. They provide funding for people who do provide services. He's also hoping they can help coordinate and educate people on the services they have here. There are a lot of services that people don't know about.

Mr. Murphy thanked the Board for giving him this opportunity. He also thanked them for the services of Sara Wojcicki Jimenez and Dr. Stacy Grundy. He commented on the amazing job they did.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman VanMeter opened the Public Comment period by making a formal announcement that all of the Board members would like to facilitate additional public conversation by holding an additional public hearing on the question of data centers in a facility that can better accommodate the public. They have made arrangements for a public hearing on December 3rd at the BOS Center. The County is also publishing a Q&A which is on the County's website. It's a series of questions from the public with answers from multiple sources.

Prior to the Public Comment period, there will be a presentation from two staff members to give background on the consideration of the regulations for data centers both from a legal and procedural perspective.

Trustin Harrison, from the Regional Planning Office, addressed the Board to state the steps they have gone through to get to this point. He stated about a year ago he was approached by a developer about what a data center would look like in Springfield. He and Zoning staff met with Daniel Sheehan, project operator for Double Black Diamond. Mr. Sheehan wondered what the County's zoning ordinance would look like if a data center were to come in. At that time, they had nothing but their answer was it would fit into industrial zoning. Later in March, Mr. Sheehan reached out again and said he had a meeting with the developer and wanted to sit down and get direction on what they need to do. Mr. Harrison gave him the same information as before, that they didn't have anything and thought it would be industrial.

The next week Mr. Harrison had his committee meeting and let them know there would probably be a data center project showing up. The committee gave him direction to put together some language and reach out to other zoning administrators across the state. He presented their findings to the Zoning and Land Use Committee in April. Residents had expressed the setbacks weren't far enough. The committee met again in May and they came up with 750ft setbacks. They put together a final draft and made a motion to let the committee review it again in June. At the June committee meeting, all the members were good with it and voted to send it to the full County Board in July and it passed.

Chairman VanMeter asked if the Zoning Department had done anything prior to the company coming in and wanting to build a data center. Mr. Harrison said they had some ideas. This was new technology that nobody had addressed with them. They look and see what other counties are doing instead of trying to put together an ordinance because they are writing something from scratch when they don't know what the criteria is. By creating a conditional permitted use, it gave the County more authority to control what goes on that property.

Mr. Harrison said they have a Large Scale Development chapter in the County Code. They brought out those criteria and put it into the conditional permitted use. There is actually a lot of up-front data the developer has to provide, which is something that is not normal in their ordinance. Normally they deal with technical data at construction. Here, they are getting the technical data up-

front to understand more about the project. They have height and noise restrictions. He believes their ordinance is very rigid at this point.

Mr. Harrison also stated they had reached out to an outside attorney. This attorney works with other counties and is a great resource. He believes there is legislation on data centers that may be coming up in the spring legislative session. The attorney was able to provide some feedback on what some of that legislation may look like. He thinks the County's restrictions are more restrictive than what state law will be.

Mr. DelGiorno wanted to know what counties were looked at and where other data centers are and or being contemplated in the State of Illinois. Mr. Harrison said no data centers have been built in any Illinois Counties. Most are inside cities. Kankakee and Will County had a small amount of language in their ordinances.

Mr. DelGiorno asked if there were any municipal ordinances they drew upon when crafting the language. Mr. Harrison said most of the language refers to an industrial area. With the Ag CPU, they can pull some of the industrial standards. If it was zoned as I-1 and the project falls through, there are still lots of things that could be built there that the County may not want. He says this is why it's AG with a conditional permitted use.

Mr. DelGiorno said he has the utmost respect for the Zoning office and the work they do but wondered if they have the requisite expertise. He asked if they should seek some sort of outside advisor in terms of guiding them as they move forward. Mr. Harrison said No. He feels when they look at zoning they are looking at land-use zoning. Zoning doesn't necessarily tell people how they can do things. It tells then where they can do it. It is more where it goes instead of how.

Mr. Fraase asked Mr. Harrison why he thinks they picked this spot in Sangamon County. Mr. Harrison said from a zoning standpoint it meets all the criteria of what something like this is going to need. It has to be close to electricity, have access to data and fiber lines. With the fire suppression system, it's best to be on municipal water. Additionally, there is nobody out there. He thinks the closest house is over a quarter of a mile away.

Mr. Hall said he was asked about this project over the last few months. He went and met with developers and strongly appreciates the Sangamon County Growth Alliance for putting them together. This is in his district and within a couple miles of his properties. His question is if they can moratorium this? Chairman VanMeter said a presentation by the Assistant State's Attorney will be the next part of the presentation and will be answered then.

Mr. Ayers thanked the Chairman for setting up the additional hearing on the 3rd of December. He asked if the timeline was the Zoning in December and then the County Board potential vote in January. Mr. Harrison said at this point it was possible. The petitioner's request is the petitioners. When they request to hold off a month, they don't tell them to move forward. Mr. Ayers asked if there was a change in the plan and that's why they needed more time. Mr. Harrison said No, there is a lot of technical data required. They want to make sure the technical data was all there so they could put a full petition forward.

Mr. Ayers also asked if the land had been purchased. Mr. Harrison was not aware.

Chairman VanMeter commented that Mr. Ayers questions were good. The Chairman feels everyone will have some frustration with the procedures this evening. The Board members can ask questions of the staff, but when they have public comment there are no questions asked. Their information is just taken. At the Public Hearing, they will try and set it up so they'll have a panel of individuals who can answer whatever questions come up.

Mr. Krell had some observations. He stated there is a 4000 acre solar farm out there and they have the capacity to generate electricity. Mr. Harrison said yes, there is a substation. Mr. Krell asked if it was zoned Agriculture. Mr. Harrison said it was. Mr. Krell then said various things could go in there like a marijuana farm or a large scale grain elevator or maybe a hog farm. Mr. Harrison said all of those things could go in there without County Board approval. Mr. Krell said the City had the same kind of concern over a Walmart on the West side. They wanted to put a Walmart on Wabash and the neighborhoods said "No, not in our backyard". His comment to some of those folks was, "sometimes I'd rather have a Walmart as a neighbor than the neighbor I have". He added that sometimes what you think might be a bad fit for your area might be a good fit compared to what could go in there.

Mr. Cahnman asked if the petitioners have a contract to purchase the land that's contingent on the zoning change in order to petition for the zoning change. Mr. Harrison said they don't get into the contract. They don't look at how much the purchase is for. They get an affidavit showing the property owner is aware the petitioner is making this request. If there's a contract between the petitioner and the property owner, that's not a zoning matter. Mr. Cahnman clarified that the property owners have to sign an affidavit which implies they are willing to sell the land if the zoning change occurs. Mr. Harrison said it implies they're aware that zoning is going to happen.

Chairman VanMeter stated that whomever owns the property is public information. He said any member of the public could call the Recorder's office and find out who owns the property today. He added that theoretically, the zoning change could be approved and if the landowner won't sell the land the project couldn't be built.

Joel Benoit, the Assistant State's Attorney and Civil Division Chief, addressed the board about the issue of a moratorium. This is an issue he looked at about four years ago when discussions were being held about solar farms. The question is "can a County Board pass a moratorium, saying we are not going to permit zoning for data centers until X date or until we change the rules in that regard." The answer is the Board can do that but it has no legal effect. The Board does not have that power. He guesses there's an application that maybe has been filed and it's getting supplemented, but just say it has been filed. Does that give an automatic right for that entity person, whoever it is, to be granted zoning under the existing law? And the answer to that question is no. There's a test to apply. People don't have the right to have the law not change. So say you submitted your application under the old law, and then it switches. The county board changes the law, and they would say, no, I want zoning under the old law. So there's a test in place before they can get this vested right in the old law and it's a two-step test.

The first would be expenditures and obligations. We don't know if they bought the farm or how much money's been spent at this point, but which other expenditures or obligations incurred by the landowner have been made in good faith? Reliance on the probability that permission to develop would

be granted. And in plain English, that means at the time they were making these expenditures was the zoning law in effect that so that it was right to rely upon that. When it's not correct or it's not reasonable to rely on it is when the County Board has taken official action to amend the rules. So in our case, that would be, a resolution is introduced at a committee saying we want to change the zoning rules for these data centers to X, Y and Z. Once that happens, it's no longer reasonable for the applicant, developer or whoever it might be to rely on the old rule.

The second part of the test is whether those expenditures they've made or obligations were substantial. Did the applicant buy the farm? Did they hire a bunch of architects? Did they have the land tested somehow? Whatever they might do, we don't we don't know what they've done. So that would be left up to the court so they could get a vested right if they had this substantial change in position while the old law was in effect and before the County Board took official action to change the old law. The takeaway here is the idea of a moratorium has no legal effect. Could it have a different practical effect? He doesn't like using the word moratorium since it's it really serves no purpose. But they could put the word out that they're not going to allow Zoning to grant any zoning permits, building permits, etc. until they sort this out. Again, no real legal effect, but it sends a message to people who are thinking about developing the land in that fashion with the data center that there might be a problem. It might stop them from substantially changing their position because they don't want to end up in court. He just want to be clear. Legal effect. None.

Chairman VanMeter asked in the case of the solar farms, they didn't have any regulations. They determined they needed to make a lot of regulations. They announced they were going to make a lot of changes in regulations and they called that a moratorium. When the issue of the CO2 pipelines came up, they didn't have any regulations at that time and they thought it might be necessary to make a lot of regulations. They announced they were considering making a lot of regulations, and they called that a moratorium at the time. In both of those instances, the fact they announced they were considering making a lot of substantial changes had the effect of saying to any developer "slow down", which is kind of the same effect as a moratorium if there was such a thing.

Mr. Cahnman asked if they were saying once the zoning petitioner files their zoning petition they have a right to get a hearing at the next Zoning board meeting after they file their petition or a right to get a decision within X amount of time? He said Mr. Benoit said they don't have the right to legally put in a moratorium, is that because the zoning petitioner has a right to get a ruling on their petition within X amount of time under the law? Mr. Benoit said at some point they do have a right to a ruling in the normal courts. He thinks if they want to consider it for other reasons they can put it off for 90 or 120 days.

The Chairman thinks Mr. Cahnman was asking if someone files a petition can the Board defeat them by delaying, delaying and delaying hearing their petition? Mr. Benoit thinks at a certain point a court would say you must rule on this. The court won't tell you how to rule but that they must rule.

Mr. Cahnman wondered if the Board changed the law on this at the July meeting. Mr. Benoit said they did put this together and thinks the Board approved it a few months ago. Mr. Cahnman said the petitioners are assuming they are going to be evaluated under the new law that was passed in July. Mr. Benoit said that was correct. Mr. Cahnman wondered if the Board was considering any more changes to the law that governs data centers. The Chairman said not that they know of.

Mr. Ayers wondered if the possibility of statewide legislation being filed that could significantly impact this project and others have any bearing on the legal position of the County to delay or ask for a moratorium if there is a new bill. The Bring Your Own Clean Energy Act is being proposed next spring that does impact data centers. That would be a huge determining factor whether or not this project probably proceeds or not. So could they ask for more time to see what the legislature does in 120 days with this spring session? Mr. Benoit said they can pass a moratorium but it has no legal effect. As far as the risks, the state law is going to trump the county law and the developer is taking that risk. He said there may be vested rights under the old state law but he hasn't looked that up.

There were no other questions for Mr. Benoit.

Chairman VanMeter said they have 17 people who have signed up for public comment. He thinks all but one of them signed up to speak on the data center, which is not a matter before the board this evening. Under the rules, those people speaking on the data center will have three minutes to speak. He thinks there's one person speaking on the budget and because it is an issue before the board this evening, will have five minutes to speak.

Emily Taylor was the first person signed up to speak. She was not present.

Harrison Pearson addressed the Board. He is a civil rights advocate from Sangamon County, and he needs to provide public notice to the board. This is in accordance with USCIS Rules of Civil Procedure, as well as rule 17 and rule 20 of the United States Supreme Court. The Constitution of the United States is the overarching requirements that every state must follow. States cannot enact their own alternative legislation substituted for the guarantees of the Constitution of the United States. That would mean that your state laws are more powerful than the Constitution, and that's unlawful. Clause one of amendment five states that no person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, unless on presentment or indictment by a grand jury. However, the State of Illinois has enacted its own alternative legislation that permits prosecuting attorneys, attorneys, and police officers to charge by way of information as opposed to indictment. And that's unconstitutional. And a violation is when you pay a public official to break the law. The Constitution has two areas that enforce this article one. Section ten says no state shall create any law that shall impair the obligation of contracts. So your police officers, prosecutors, judges are all under a contract to perform based on the oath or affirmation that they took to support and defend the Constitution. Contract parameters are defined within the Constitution of the United States, and when a state enacts an inferior law that directs their agents to disobey the Constitution of the United States, that's a violation of article one, section ten.

The 14th amendment is the other place that you'll find the reinforcement of this issue. And this is where it states that no state shall create or enforce any law that shall abridge, abridge the privileges and immunities of the United States citizen. The privileges and immunities of the United States citizen are, at minimum, those enumerated within the Bill of rights, the first ten amendments. Unfortunately, the State of Illinois has enacted a law on its inferior constitution that permits public officials, judges, law enforcement officers whom you all pay to violate the Constitution of the United States. As a result, there is an inordinate amount of people currently imprisoned in the state of Illinois illegally and unconstitutionally. Tanawah Downing is litigating this issue at the United States Supreme Court, and he's here to notify you that if you continue to pay public officials to break the law, criminal sanctions can

come from that. Officials must be made aware that paying people to disobey the laws and emolument violation, it's illegal. It's unconstitutional, and it is a crime. He is asking you honorable individuals to please take a look at clause one, amendment five, confirm what he's saying to be true, and then direct your public officials to act in a lawful constitutional manner, consistent with the obligations that are codified in the Constitution of the United States of America. He has a notice that he would like to put on the record. He thanked the Board.

Rosanne Pulido was signed up to speak but was not present.

Jill Krippeel next addressed the Board. She's here as a resident to urge them to support a 180 day moratorium on data centers in Sangamon County, or a delay. They don't know the full impact of what a data center will do to the community. They know the increased use of fossil fuels that would be required to power a data center would cause utility costs to increase, but they don't know how much they'd go up. They know that there's currently not enough electricity capacity here to support a 600 megawatt data center, but they don't know what effect generating the equivalent of three more power plants would have nor what it would do to the water supply, which would be needed to run the turbines for the additional power. They know CyrusOne promises 100 full time jobs from a data center, but they don't know if these will be good union jobs. They also don't know if these jobs will be held in the community or if they'll be performed remotely. They want those jobs to be here if they're going to be here. To be clear, she's not here representing any organizations, but knowing the quality of these promised jobs is very important to her as a union steward and delegate to the Springfield and Central Illinois Trades and Labor Council. They know property taxes on a data center would likely be disputed, as many others have been in Illinois, and they know the county would likely lose a lawsuit over said dispute but they don't know how much money the county would lose from it. It's usually \$500,000 just for the lawsuit itself.

They know the surge in data center construction is being driven by the rapid expansion of AI computing but they don't know what the actual data center needs for AI computing will be after the current AI bubble bursts. All the AI companies, they own themselves. Nvidia pays the other companies that it owns to buy the chips from them. They need time to discover the full impact of data centers, allow time for the public to learn how it would affect them, and provide a publicized platform for public comment on the issue before such an important decision should be made for the community. She thanked the Board for scheduling the Public Hearing. She urged them to support a 180 day moratorium being placed on data centers in Sangamon County to allow for this crucial discussion to take place. She thanked the Board for their time.

Nicholas Schell had requested to speak but was not present.

Sarah Blanco next addressed the Board. She's from a small town, not a very wealthy town. Several years back, a lithium battery storage facility went up in flames. Toxic fumes everywhere. They had to evacuate a whole neighborhood. It was the poorest neighborhood in town. Dangerous projects like this for billionaire greed tend to get put in places where people are considered expendable. She heard some remarks earlier about not many people live here. It won't affect many people. She doesn't like hearing that attitude. This is not a good idea. This is going to harm our community. The benefits are overstated.

She's going to address a few questions she thinks are on the table. The first is who does the County Board work for? We live in a democracy, supposedly. In theory, the County Board works for us, the voters, the constituents. They know all too often that's not how it works. The people with money and the power that comes with it are the ones who call the shots. She thinks this will be an opportunity to see who the County Board works for, because the people have made their voices pretty loud and clear on this. They've been circulating a petition in the community against this data center for just under two weeks and it's already garnered 150 signatures. She tends to get enthusiastic responses when she asks people to sign. She has not seen any enthusiastic support for this. Another question she has is a question about what kind of future and what kind of world they want. They are answering that in their own small way here. Often it's not the people that decide how technological advancement happens and who it's going to benefit. These data centers are expanding rapidly. Unsustainably. They're to blame for the fact that it's projected that fossil fuel use will continue way longer than it should. They have an opportunity to have a little bit of a voice in how they want that development to happen. They can say "not here" and a lot of other communities are also saying "not here" so eventually that's not anywhere. She thanked the Board.

Donald Hanrahan was the next speaker. He lives in County Board District One. He said if you want to help your neighbors pass the 708 Board, please do that. If you want to get bad neighbors, build a data center. He knows the refrain here. In the county, nobody's affected. Tell that to all the nobodies in Lowder which is about to get way louder. He said they'll hear a constant hum of 50dB to 60dB even a mile away. That's like a dishwasher running when you sit on your deck. Ungodly noise and filth of 100 semi-trailer sized backup generators that are diesel. Filthy diesel generators when they need backup. The sound, according to a neighbor in Aurora, Illinois "from a Cyrus generator is like a helicopter sitting on my roof". That's louder than 50dB so he's relieved they're not going to be able to build it. When a data center comes online, retail customers foot the electric bill. An analysis by Bloomberg estimated that in areas near data centers, wholesale electricity costs have risen by more than 200% in five years. Power plants cannot produce nearly enough electricity to meet this demand. Unless data centers are forced to bring their own clean energy, they will extend the lives of coal power and gas power plants by years.

Why does Cyrus want this greenlit ASAP? Because they know the General Assembly is about to require them to build their own clean energy, instead of forcing US ratepayers to suffer and pay for their profits. Cyrus claims adding 600MW will not affect reliability. What they didn't say is it won't affect the price you pay. The MISO grid auction this past spring had massively increased demand from data centers, causing a 50% increase in the cost per kilowatt hour of electricity. Your Ameren bill as did his went up. They're told tax benefits could be huge. Much of it, of course, concentrated in school districts. Assessed valuation is immensely complex, and they need an expert on December 3rd to talk about that. Here's what he's saying. They need answers. They need concrete, enforceable commitments from Cyrus. They needed guardrails in place way before this was greenlit. For these reasons and more, he says let's move tonight for reconsideration of the data center conditional permitted use. He says let's do it now and put them on notice that there is a change coming. He thanked the Board.

Nick Dodson addressed the Board. He is the chair of the Sangamon Valley Sierra Club. He lives in District 16. He wants to start out by saying something simple. Good government is built on trust, and trust only exists when the public can see what's happening before the decisions are made. Right now that trust is being tested in real time. Trustin gave us a brief glimpse into the path forward. He wishes

they could have had some of that information earlier than anecdotally in passing. He thinks this might be moving faster than most of them suspect. This isn't about being for or against data centers. This is about whether the people who live here are given a fair chance to understand what's on the table before the board votes to change their community. The people living nearby haven't been involved and aren't happy. He and his friends knocked on doors. Nobody wants this there. He wonders if any of the County Board members here gone to try and meet the constituents living there? This project has been in the works, but the public just found out recently. That's not transparency. That's an after the fact notice. He wonders who else is benefiting from this expedience? He says that would be the real estate agents. That would be the Dowson family. That would be the people making the sell to make the money.

He says this isn't brain science. This is not huge math equations. They're told they'll pay their share but no one can say what that means. They're told, trust us. It's a closed loop system, but no one will show them the chemical safety plan. They're told this will be great for jobs, but no one has seen the job reports, a tax agreement, or even a basic traffic study. Those aren't small details. They affect their bills, their health, and their quality of life. Rushing a project of this size without robust, intentional public hearings, without independent technical review, without honest discussion is not how responsible government works. He says the FAQ that CyrusOne released was laughable.

He knows moratoriums don't exist. They seem to in other places. He thinks maybe they could pump the brakes on this project and not call it a moratorium. Maybe call it a 180 day pause. He bets those are allowed. They deserve to understand the implications of what's coming to their community. He thanked the Board.

Erin Kirkpatrick next addressed the Board. She lives in James Schackmann's County Board District. She would like for them to please pass an immediate zoning revision on data centers. Like many others in our community, she's left with numerous unanswered questions, including how much more will customers on the grid pay for electricity to subsidize this center? Their promised infrastructure upgrades do not generate energy. They want to increase demand equivalent to one to three Springfields without adding to supply. In areas located near significant data center activity, electricity costs as much as 267% more than it did five years ago. Even CWLP buys from the capacity market. This will impact us all.

What company would be utilizing this data center? They have a \$15 billion dollar company now proposing to draw on the grid, and they don't know who hired them.

Would they use local union labor to build? Please make sure it's written in a contract or policy if you want it guaranteed. How many permanent jobs would be created and how many of those for locals? Apple created a data center in North Carolina that cost twice as much to build as this proposed project, and fewer than 100 permanent jobs were created. The jobs that data centers do create locally are typically low wage, term limited, non-technical positions such as security, maintenance, and janitorial work. How quickly do data centers depreciate in value and therefore their tax contributions? They already know these centers appeal their tax valuations after one year. A data center bought after January of this year now depreciates by about 30 to 60% in the first year alone. How will the one big, beautiful bill impact the center with its permanent bonus depreciation, which means investors can now deduct 100% of equipment and improvement costs up front rather than over years. Isn't the valuation of these centers nearly all from equipment costs? What value would be left to tax?

She asked if CyrusOne's backup diesel generators for this project are equivalent to their other project in Aurora, Illinois? If so, they need to be tested every month and can only be tested two at a time, which would equate to approximately 350 hours in testing alone, which is 14.6 straight days every single month, in addition to any time running to generate power.

Will the county or individuals have to sue when the 50 decibel max is exceeded? Data centers have been likened elsewhere to the sound of helicopters hovering overhead and trains that never finish passing by. She urges them to talk to their county members within the proposed sacrifice zone.

She wonders what's stopping CyrusOne from filing bankruptcy and creating another Pillsbury Mills, or Viper mine for them to clean up or be an eyesore for eternity. If approved, she proposes they put all the tax money they receive into a fund to be able to remediate the center when the company inevitably files for bankruptcy in 15 years, when all this technology is outdated.

She says why rush now? Illinois has regulation of data centers on the slate for the spring 2026 session. Let's delay until then. She request we go back and revise the county zoning and reclaim our power. Let's pass a moratorium. She thanked the Board.

Kathleen Campbell lives in Glenarm, IL. She thinks some of them may remember her from the navigator pipeline discussions. She speaks now as president of Citizens Against Heartland Greenwashing Projects, a grassroots landowner rights group with hundreds of members that evolved from the navigator opposition. The Sangamon County Board handled the navigator pipeline issue superbly, allowing the time and the effort to slowly unfold the high risks of that venture. She'll always be grateful to the board for that.

They need the same approach for this proposed data center. Thus far, the landowners have been provided with very little information, and now there appears to be a short timeline for approval. They feel blindsided and railroaded. The data center risks are not hard to find in the press. As customers of Rural Electric, one of the proposed energy sources, they're concerned about the reliability, the cost and type of their future power. Could it include fossil fuel with carbon dioxide pipelines and sequestration as has been proposed previously by EmberClear? The proposed data center will require 600MW of power but provide no details on the type of energy sources that will be procured and on what timeline and at what price? If the energy amount is insufficient at any time, will the residents have brownouts and blackouts while the data center gets priority as happened around other data centers? CyrusOne has reportedly pledged to pay for all the transmission line upgrades and infrastructure improvements, but make no promises that they will not have a massive increase in our energy rates.

As cited by others, a September 30th, 2025 Bloomberg analysis of energy costs around data centers from 2020 to 2025 show that wholesale electricity costs have increased as much as 267% over five years in areas around data centers. Of the nodes reporting price increases, over 70% are within 50 miles of a data center, while areas with price decreases are away from data centers. Sometimes a data center has negotiated a minimal increase for themselves, leaving residents to absorb the high increase in the same region.

They have many other concerns. They worked well together during the navigator considerations, and she ask that they use that as a model to proceed here. Do not criticize them for not having all the facts at this point, when the facts have been withheld from them. Please share all information, fully answer their questions and pass a 180 day - whatever. They will work carefully. They will stick to the facts. Let them work with the Board on determining what is best for Sangamon County. They will work hard and the best part is they work for free.

Breeanna Day spoke to the Board. She wanted to stress that the 708 mental health Board is a matter of a need. She wants to stress that this is not a system under strain. It's a system that has been built to hit this point. There have been groups of people who have been screaming at the politicians for years, saying "hey, we're going to hit this point, and it's going to hit. And when it hits, it's going to hit fast. And when it hits, it's going to hurt. And it hurts."

She would let them know what District she's in but she's homeless so she doesn't have one. She said that by calling it a system under strain, they do blame the system for using the broken system that they choose to uphold. They choose to make these policies. They need to acknowledge that they are the ones who have put this system in place, and they are the ones who are upholding it, and are tasked with changing it.

She said they have to acknowledge that the system was built to cause these mental illnesses. It's built to push humans who aren't classified as desirable into poverty or the penitentiary. They must be careful with their words, and they have to place blame where it belongs on the system. They cannot blame the humans caught in the system or the symptoms that are a result of dealing with this system.

She begs them to invest in the Mobile Crisis Response Team. She had an incident where her 15 year old son who has special needs, lit her house on fire. He was curious what color fire it would make. It was recommended that he needed to be hospitalized by our mobile crisis unit for endangering their lives, even though he was not a danger to himself or her. He was simply a child with special needs. That is the broken system in place. She looks look forward to seeing progressive changes on this County Board. She thanked the Board.

Sean Middleton was signed up to speak next. He is the President and CEO of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative or RACC. They serve power for the rural areas and serve the south half of Sangamon County. They serve all of the rural areas except the incorporated areas like Auburn. They've been in business since 1936 and serve four other adjacent counties. They are in favor of this project. They would be the entity of record that would be serving a load like this. It becomes their obligation to serve just like everybody else. Their bylaws say they're going to serve, whether it's individual, corporate, governmental or whomever. They take it very seriously.

How do they deal with this and what does it mean to them? They have a wholesaler they work with, NextEra energy. They have the wherewithal to handle the energy needs and deal with procuring from the market. They're able to deal with the energy on this kind of behalf. They would work with Ameren Transmission as the local wires provider, but it would go through the co-op. The big question is "what's it going to do to all the rates?" Their Board of Directors has been looking at this closely and how this is going to create benefit for rural membership. That's what they do. They are a non-for-profit electric cooperative and they're the ones taking advantage of this opportunity. Not only is it not going to

raise rates for them, but the extra margins this creates for rural residents for their co-op will offset costs they have and will reduce pressure from them having to raise rates in the future.

He's also heard talk about the capacities and what's it going to do to the local market. He was involved because of the requests coming through them at how are they going to procure this power? They had to have extensive studies with the Ameren transmission system and MISO, whom he likes to call the traffic cop for energy for the Midwest. This application process had to go through them too. Both entities have signed off on this so this settles that question of are we going to have energy or are we going to have blackouts and brownouts? They both signed off on this much power being available through existing lines today, with no new generation needed. They call it a no harm analysis survey, and they did a no impact transmission study.

If you need more information, the cooperative has created an FAQ page that goes on their web page. They can go to <https://www.recc.coop/> and learn more directly. He thanked the Board for their time.

Next to speak was Bradd Hout with CyrusOne. He wanted to come tonight to introduce himself and provide some information on their project. CyrusOne is a global data center builder, owner, and operator based in Dallas, Texas. They have been in operation for 25 years and have extensive experience and knowledge in operating data center facilities in Illinois. Specifically, they operate four facilities under construction and three additional sites in the Chicago region. To date, they have invested over \$1.2 billion in the state and support hundreds of direct employees, contractors and service personnel. They utilize project labor agreements across these sites and work closely with organized labor to deliver world class, mission critical facilities. They are familiar with many talking points used in support and in opposition to recent data center projects. They have received a number of questions from stakeholders and board members and are responding as quickly as they can. As they continue to respond to questions, they'll be posting those Q&A documents or Q&A responses on their public website where some of those responses live today. They will continue to supplement that with new questions that they receive and work to provide answers.

They have heard concerns about transparency and will continue to be responsive in addressing questions as it relates to water usage. He did want to provide some specific guidance, as that has been a topic that has gained a lot of attention. Their facilities use a closed loop cooling system that allows for their facilities to use 99% less water than a data center that uses evaporative cooling. The cooling technology is well established and used throughout the country and the state on several large scale industrial, residential, and commercial facilities. Each of their building systems will require a one-time fill of approximately 225,000 gallons. Once filled, the water is circulated continuously and treated with a minimal amount of corrosion inhibitor to protect the pipes and microbiocide to kill bacteria such as Legionnaires. After treatment, the system remains 99.99% water. Chillers on the roof work to reject heat produced by the data center, utilizing a condenser and compressor with a refrigerant loop similar to a normal air conditioning unit. The systems are separate from each other and utilize heat exchangers to transfer heat from one outside loop to the inside loop. The systems rarely need to be flushed. When it does need to be flushed, such as post-construction, they bring in an external filter that connects to the supply line and the return line. If it ever needed to be drained, which is a rare scenario, they would ship the water offsite so it could be received by a large scale water treatment facility capable of handling that

capacity. Their onsite septic system would not be able to handle the cooling load going to that system. Their domestic load for sinks and toilets is 1100 gallons per day.

They do have a FAQ site up and they're happy to answer any questions. There's a website to send questions to them directly if they'd like to receive answers. He thanked the Board for their time.

Chris Arnold addressed the Board. He's the Business Manager for Operating Engineers Local 965, in Springfield, IL. They represent about 1300 members across the Midwest and about 400 in Sangamon County alone. He's here to speak on behalf of and promote CyrusOne. This will be a five year project they've committed to using a project labor agreement that would put local men and women in the trades to work. It would keep that money here in Central Illinois and in Sangamon County. They earn it here. They spend it here. It stays here. The project will employ roughly 500 tradespeople during construction. It will also create 100 full time permanent jobs on site. Once the project is done, there are 50 generators and chillers that will need maintained. They've committed using local central Illinois contractors to maintain those systems. It is a monthly process and will keep employing more and more local people. He urges the members of the Sangamon County Board to move forward in the permitting process for these good paying jobs to keep them here in Central Illinois, and to move this project forward. He thanked the Board for their time.

Anne Logue spoke to the Board. She believes they need a moratorium or a stall. They were blindsided by the data center proposal. Industry came into Neoga, Illinois and made all kinds of promises of jobs and property taxes. They spent a lot of money in legal fees. They typical legal fee is \$500,000. The gas plant went in and promised these jobs, and then went back and did the tax appeals court and cut their property taxes by 90%. The people running that plant is minimal. They need to have this stuff in writing. They can't trust that this company is going to do what they're promising. CyrusOne has owned three different companies. Their last company is KKR, and that has investment from Blackrock and Blackrock has investment in Ameren.

There are data centers all over the country where they are being put on a moratorium. The light company in southwestern Pennsylvania that serves 600,000, recommends that large load customers generate their own power to reduce any impacts on the existing customer's grid. She says you can't just say, they're not going to make the rates go up. How do they know that?

The skyrocketing power demand of data center growth is canceling out initiatives like Black Diamond Solar that has made significant progress in weaning us off planet fossil fuels. These data centers are sucking up all this energy and pushing all the initiatives that we've had to do clean energy. She thinks they have to look hard at this and put a lot of regulations in place. She thanked the Board.

Ryan McCrady was the next speaker to address the Board. He is President and CEO of the Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance, and they are in support of the CyrusOne data center. They appreciate the County Board unanimously adopted the rules for data centers back at their July meeting. It's important because they've heard stories about bad data center projects. He said that is because some less honorable data center developers look for counties with no zoning rules, and locate their data centers there to be able to accomplish some of the things they've heard about tonight. He said CyrusOne is following the rules. They have followed the rules from the beginning. One question he commonly gets asked is why this site? There's over a half a million acres across the 870mi² of Sangamon

County. The first criteria that drives site selection are the rules. That's why those rules were so important. When the rules get adopted unanimously, that's a clear signal. The rules drive where sites can go. It's very good the rules are in place. The next requirement is finding out where the infrastructure is; the electric infrastructure, the fiber infrastructure, the roads, all the things that support that. Some of that is in the rules, some of that is otherwise based on what they need. That drives site selection. He said there also must be a willing property owner. These are not eminent domain projects. If there isn't a willing property owner, the project does not happen.

It's easy to think about other sites in the county. Hypothetically, the former Formosa site outside of Illiopolis. Why couldn't it be located there? That site already has a contract for development on it. It's not available to be developed. It's not big enough and the electric infrastructure doesn't exist. There are reasons why projects don't go to other sites that exist. The county staff and Zoning Committee are to be commended for adopting the rules that exist. He grew up in South Sangamon County. He personally experienced the economic loss in that portion of the county when coal mines closed. This is an opportunity to provide a significant economic boost to part of the county that has seen a negative impact over the last 25 years as other changes have happened. That's one of the reasons it's important to support this project. CyrusOne has put in writing they were not asking for any property tax abatement. That is on their FAQ. Also important, is the project labor agreement, which means they're going to employ Sangamon County people, which is absolutely critical to getting the support of the Growth Alliance. He says they have the best workers in our trades in the world, and they can build these complicated projects. He asks for their support. He thanked the Board for their time.

Ken Pacha was the last speaker of the evening. He signed up to speak about the budget. He didn't see anything budgeted for recommendations from the Massey Commission. He also didn't see anything in the budget to help connect the city and the county in terms of transparency, whether it be through the planning and processing or law enforcement coordination. He hears from most law enforcement members how frustrated they are that there is no conduit between themselves and the county and the city and other law enforcement agencies around here. They are often left to find out about these things through the grapevine. Is that how we expect our law enforcement communities to interact with each other? There isn't a dedicated channel where the police chief could pick up and talk to the sheriff? He's wondering why we don't coordinate with them. Why doesn't law enforcement work directly with them? Why aren't they looking at this massive report a lot more seriously in terms of those recommendations?

He says the conviction of Sean Grayson does not mean the mission is over. He may not even serve ten years with good time. He could be out between three to five years. They could have Sean Grayson back in this county, although he doubts it for his own safety. He says that's what's most frustrating for him when he looks at that budget. It's great that the 708 committee's possibly going to be established, but have they considered what happens if the voters of this county don't want to fund it? If they ask them for a little bit more blood out of a stone, and they don't seem willing to give it, what do they do then? They've just heard from the experts that that mental health committee is a game changer. It will save you tens of thousands, millions over decades, countless lives.

He pointed out that the sheriff's budget has only gone up \$5 million in the last six years which he says is not a lot. Not when they're "getting their lunch served to them" by small little towns around here for recruitment. He says they don't get good candidates. One of the newest candidates that he knows

got hired, has MAGA AF in his profile picture. That's who they're still hiring here. Even with those hiring practices, even with those increased guidelines, that's what he's still hearing about. It doesn't sound like their money is being spent well. When it comes to the Massey Commission outlines, he heard a lot about the money that got spent on it. But he's not seeing a lot of money as to what comes next. There are 26 recommendations in there. None of them are free. He wonders if they are hoping the Massey Commission's not for profit works out and they'll just come to them and tell them what they're not getting done. Is it going to be up to people like him to come up here and talk about it for the next year? He says it was nice that for once they weren't scheduled against City Council. He didn't have to physically jog back and forth to talk to them, because that's the kind of thing that happens around here, because there is no coordination between city and county.

When he looks through the budget and sees these appropriations and sees where the money is going, he says they do have great programs like the Narconon spending and other things but that isn't the end of it with the Massey Commission's recommendations. He knows they're expensive, but if they don't start on them now, where are they going? How expensive is it really going to be? What did Sonya Massey's murder really cost us? It's not a dollar figure. He's sure the money that they spend on a lot of other things could go a long way to avoiding the cost of those lawsuits and other things, but he wishes more people spent more time coming out for these things, because the budget is going through tonight. He wonders if anybody else knew that was happening. He thanked the Board for their time.

That was the end of the Public Comment. The record will reflect Mr. Constant is in attendance.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, for approval of the Minutes of the October 14, 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 FY 2026 procurement of diesel fuel and motor fuel in the amount of \$200,000.

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 28 Yeas – 0 Nays. Resolution 1 was adopted.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2

2. Resolution approving the FY 2026 procurement of water, electric, and sewer services from City Water, Light & Power in the amount of \$45,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf, seconded by Mr. Mendenhall, 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. 2025-017 Edith Sausaman, 3914 Tozer Road, Springfield -- Granting Variances. County Board Member – Annette Fulgenzi, District #17

A motion was made by Ms. Fulgenzi, seconded by Mr. Mendenhall, to place Resolution 3 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 3.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTIONS 4 - 8

4. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Sheriff's office from Advanced Correctional Healthcare for the purpose of providing medical and mental health services to inmates in the amount of \$2,518,693.

A motion was made by Mr. Tjelmeland, seconded by Dr. Lathan, to place Resolution 4 before the Board. A motion was made by Mr. DelGiorno, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to consolidate Resolutions 5-8 with Resolution 4. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 5-8.

5. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Sheriff's office from Lexipol for the purpose of obtaining Shield Suite Software in the amount of \$34,035.
6. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Sheriff's office from MJ Kellner and various food vendors for the purpose of providing jail food and supplies in the amount of \$556,000.

7. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Emergency Telephone Systems from Tyler Technologies for the purpose of various software license and maintenance services in the amount of \$42,500.
8. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Emergency System Telephone Department from Medical Priority Dispatch for the purpose of purchasing the ONE maintenance plan (includes training allowance of 8k) in the amount of \$39,000.

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

Mr. Cahnman had a question on Resolution 4 that is to renew the contract for Advanced Correctional Health Care to provide medical services at the County jail. He said they voted on the exact same or basically the same measure at the November 2023 meeting. He said at that time, it was stated the county was engaged in seeking an alternative source for that service for the next year due to deficiencies in the way this company provides health care. He was wondering what happened with that.

Chairman VanMeter said they are constantly on the lookout because it's a competitive environment but at the same time they need to maintain services. They are balancing those two things.

Mr. Cahnman said one of the problems a year ago with this company was a lack of leadership and training, a lack of proper documentation of procedures on how to document information. At that time, everything this company does was through paper charting, meaning they didn't use electronic medical records. Is that still the case? Are they still only using paper records?

Sheriff Crouch said they have do electronic medical records but they were not contracting with them for that use. However, that figure on the paper does include electronic medical records. They will have access to do that, which should improve their performance.

Mr. Cahnman asked if they are now keeping records electronically or is it just on paper. Sheriff Crouch said they will as soon as the new contract and budget goes through for December 1st. Mr. Cahnman said that will be an improvement. He said last year the contract was about \$300,000 more than the previous year's contract. He's wondering how much more this year's contract is. Mr. McFadden said the contract is an increase of \$700,000. It's going from \$1,000,000 to \$1,700,000. The increase is due to expanded coverage of more nursing and mental health hours. Mr. Cahnman encouraged the administration to continue to look for a better provider for the next fiscal year.

Chairman VanMeter wanted to emphasize that the number of providers is very limited. It creates a market where the buyer, which is Sangamon County, has to be very careful that they have supply while they continue to shop the market. It's a delicate balance they have to go through that may not be readily apparent to the public.

Mr. Cahnman said he understands but stated that this is not the only provider of medical services to correctional facilities. The Chairman agreed but said they needed a quality provider. Mr. Cahnman said from what he understands from the information he's been told, this is not a high quality provider. He says this was confirmed to him at the meeting a year ago. The Chairman said it is a market with very

tight supply and there are certainly levels of quality and they intend to get the best quality possible. However, they have to maintain the service while they continue to look at the market.

Mr. Madonia moved that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolutions 4-8, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous with the following exceptions; Mr. Rader abstained from voting on Resolution 6, Mr. Cahnman voted No on Resolution 4, Dr. Lathan voted No on Resolution 4.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

WAIVER OF TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD

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

MOTION CARRIED

TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD WAIVED

RESOLUTIONS 9 - 40

9. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Elections Department from Election Systems & Software LLC for the purpose of printing and delivery of ballots for the 2026 Primary and General and 2027 Primary and Consolidated Elections in the amount of \$263,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Deppe, to place Resolution 9 before the Board. A motion was made by Mr. DelGiorno, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to consolidate Resolutions 10 - 40 with Resolution 9. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 10 - 40.

10. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Elections Department from SJR, South County, and The Sentinel for the purpose of publishing required election notices for 2026 Primary and General Elections in the amount of \$72,023.
11. Resolution amending Sangamon County Responsible Bidder Ordinance.
12. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Central Services from Office Essentials for the purpose of paper supplies for the various County Departments in the amount of \$100,000.
13. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Central Services from the United States Postal Service for the purpose of pre-paid postage for the mailing machine in the amount of \$150,000.

14. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Building & Grounds from Sexton's Landscape Concepts for the purpose of snow removal for the 2025-2026 winter season in the amount of \$75,000.
15. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Building & Grounds from Johnson Controls Fire Protection for the purpose of extending the fire alarm contract to the Courthouse and Public Health Buildings in the amount of \$71,490.
16. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Building & Grounds from Building Maintenance Services (BMS) for the purpose of extending the janitorial contract in the amount of \$327,750.
17. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from Sentinel Technologies for the purpose of Cloud Backup Services in the amount of \$35,000.
18. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from Watts Copy Systems for the purpose of the second extension year of copier services in the amount of \$98,000 + the page cost.
19. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Auditor's Department for the purpose of purchasing auto physical damage insurance from Bliss-McKnight in the amount of \$64,500.
20. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Auditor's Department for the purpose of purchasing cyber insurance from CFC in the amount of \$97,600.
21. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Auditor's Department for the purpose of purchasing commercial property insurance from Chubb in the amount of \$401,000.
22. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Auditor's Department for the purpose of management of Self-Insured Retention in the amount of \$80,000.
23. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Auditor's Department for the purpose of workers compensation insurance in the amount of \$1,419,927.
24. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Public Health Department from Heartland Housed for the purpose of providing narkan distribution services in the amount of \$150,000.

25. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Public Health Department from Morgan County Health Department for the purpose of providing narcan distribution services in the amount of \$80,000.
26. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Public Health Department from Sinclair Broadcasting for the purpose of providing narcan advertising services in the amount of \$50,000.
27. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Public Health Department from Lamar for the purpose of providing narcan advertising services in the amount of \$45,740.
28. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Public Health Department from Firelake Manufacturing for the purpose of purchasing a new animal incinerator in the amount of \$85,500.
29. Resolution approving a grant application for Community Resources from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for the CSBG program in the amount of \$816,483.
30. Resolution approving a grant application for Community Resources from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for the Weatherization program in the amount of \$414,001.
31. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the County Board Administration from various legal firms for the purpose of legal counsel in the amount of \$250,000.
32. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the County Board Administration from Verizon Wireless for the purpose of ETSD Wireless Services in the amount of \$152,400.
33. Resolution increasing the number of Sewer Rebate Board Members to four, with one being a member of the Sangamon County Board.
34. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services from the Public Defender's office from Dr. Pan for the purpose of Forensic Examinations in the amount of \$55,000.
35. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Circuit Clerk's office from Saltus Technologies, LLC for the purpose of an e-citation program and services in the amount of \$131,708.16.
36. Resolution approving the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the County of Sangamon, Illinois for the Fiscal Year December 1, 2025 through November 30, 2026 in the amount of \$216,589,533.

37. Resolution authorizing Sangamon County to participate in the service program of the Office of the State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor from December 1, 2025 through November 30, 2026 for the express purpose of providing a portion of the funds required for financing the operation of the Office of the State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor in the amount of \$41,000.
38. Resolution amending Sangamon County Code Regarding meetings of the County Board and Its Committees and Regarding the Adoption of a Board Member Email Policy
39. An ordinance amending the Sangamon County Comprehensive Fire Protection Plan by annexing specified parcels to the Waverly Fire Protection District.
40. Resolution to approve a contract with The Development Corporation in the amount of \$20,000.

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

County Administrator Brian McFadden gave a presentation on Resolution 36 which relates to the County Budget for FY 26. He first wanted to thank all the elected officials and department heads for their cooperation and collaboration throughout the process. He started with Revenues. The General Fund is slated to go up about 7.8%, which is a little bit less than \$5 million dollars. That's primarily being driven by salary increases, increasing pension costs and increasing health care costs. The salary increases are primarily coming out of the sheriff's office. All Funds is a pretty large dramatic number and a bigger number than they're used to seeing each year. That number is up 37%, a \$59.1 million increase from FY 25 to FY 26. When you look at All Funds, those numbers are being driven by large capital projects. Primarily, construction of the Hub and the Woodside Iron Bridge project. Those two alone are about 60 million dollars.

The largest revenue source is Property Tax. These are projected and they won't know until April what the actual data is. It's to be used to determine the rate, which then in turn drives the levy, which in turn drives how much revenue they actually end up getting out of the property tax. Right now the projection is \$41.5 million. That's about a \$1.5 million increase, a bit less than 4%. What's kind of unusual with this particular property tax proposal estimation is they're showing higher EAV growth than in the past. Historically, they've budgeted that number at 3%. The last several years, they've seen growth in the equalized assessed value of property countywide that has helped to keep rates under control. They've actually seen a property tax rate reduction for three years in a row. This year they're projecting a small increase a little over 1%. It's very possible that 1.4% becomes a fourth straight year of a rate reduction if the EAV grows.

New construction is up. Historically they estimate that at 1.5%. They've seen an uptick in new construction as well, which has helped with the EAV growth, all of which is helping to take pressure off the rates. The estimated rate is about 0.7377. Which is about a 1.4% projected increase. That still is a rate that is 11% lower than it was 33 years ago. The historic trend has been the rate going down. One of the advantages county government is they have a diverse revenue base. They are not overly reliant on any one revenue source. Often they'll find, particularly at the municipal level, an overreliance on sales tax and how that can be good when sales tax is doing well, when it's not doing so well, it can be

pretty bad. They not only have a diverse revenue base of which they build upon, but their largest revenue source is property tax, which tends to not be as elastic as sales tax. In other words, when you have a recession or something like that, the numbers eventually go down, as they saw with Covid, but they don't go down dramatically and quickly like with sales tax. That allows for better planning, forecasting, and preparing for what might be ahead.

The second largest revenue source is state tax distribution. These are the revenues that are collected by the State of Illinois and then disbursed to Sangamon County. The same with the City of Springfield, Village of Chatham and other entities. They used to do this two year look back. They would go back and grab the actual revenue numbers from two years prior. That worked very well for the county for quite a long time. However, once the Great Recession came back, it really kind of didn't make much sense to go back and grab numbers that were unrealistic as far as what revenue they were going to produce. They started to see the ability to go back to that. When Covid came along, it made it unrealistic to go back and grab numbers that were much higher than what they were actually seeing. To deal with that, Eric came up with a formula that takes ten years of data, takes out the high end, the low end and averages out and they've been using that to forecast revenue which has worked very well for them. However, this year they started to go back to the two year look back. Those revenue sources that are asterisked; income, state sales, supplemental sales and gaming all are being based upon what they actually received two years ago. That's why they're seeing rather significant increases in those revenue items.

The PPRT, the Personal Property Replacement Tax, has been cratering for the county for the last several years. It's the third year in a row they've seen a significant reduction in that revenue source. It used to be a very large revenue source for the county, not so much anymore. The increase in Income tax and State Sales tax has been decreasing as well. Even though they're grabbing the two year look back, this is the sales tax that is gathered in unincorporated Sangamon County, on sales tax generators, which are quickly disappearing. They're being annexed up by other entities. The city of Springfield has annexed a large number of revenue producing properties in unincorporated Sangamon County, Knight's Action Park being a significant one. Entities such as gas stations that would pay 1% to the county are now paying a quarter percent. That's why that sales tax is showing a good increase this year because they're grabbing actual numbers. Historically over time, it's kind of flattened out. Supplemental Sales Tax is a quarter percent they get county wide. The Use Tax is a tax that is being paid on online purchases. Because of a change in how that money is distributed at the state level, they are seeing a significant reduction in that revenue source. The Cannabis number has been dropping.

Fines and fees are essentially flat. Parking fees increased slightly. Zoning fees are up due to increased activity. Public Health has seen a reduction in fines and fees. There are technically no new fees in this budget. During this fiscal year, they adopted a fee structure for out-of-county services, primarily autopsies for the coroner. As they all know, the Coroner is a regional facility and serves 20 some odd counties now, and a fourth of the counties in the state utilize Sangamon County for coroner services. They adopted a fee structure once they were going to move into the new facility. It is showing up in this year's fee schedule, but it's been charged for some time now. So there's really no new fee that's going to be charged.

They is a sizable increase in Grant revenue. That is misleading because the AARPA funds and the LRP grant are skewing the numbers up. If it weren't for those two, they'd be seeing a loss in Grant

revenue led by the Public Health Department and Child Advocacy. The Workforce Investment Agency did receive an additional grant. The grants are good because if you get the grant, then you pay for the services but if you lose the grant, you don't provide the services or the head count.

The next chart shows the actual EAV increase year to year. The last three years it's increased. It always increases every year, with the exception of one Covid year where it barely grew. At the end of the chart you see three years of growth, then go to the bottom and you see three years of rate reductions. When the EAV grows the pie grows, and therefore they don't have to ask so much from people to keep programs going. That's what has helped benefit and allow the County Board to have a rate reduction for the last three years. The middle chart is the new construction increases, and while not as dramatic as they see with the EAV increase, it is starting to turn with the increase. That is all positive for the property taxpayer, at least from Sangamon County's perspective. They are only 10% of the property tax bill, but they've been able to do a rate cut. Schools drive most of the property tax bill, but they are able to take advantage of the EAV and have a rate reduction.

Next slide presented is on expenditures. They are seeing a reduction in head count in this budget. There will be a reduction of 16. There are no layoffs in the budget. All headcount reduction was through attrition. There was a 7% increase in payroll and benefits. A lot of that is being driven by wage increases and increases in fringe costs, such as health insurance and pension costs.

Eric Black from the Auditor's spoke next about the pension and health care increases they are experiencing. Pension increases are 19% overall across all funds. ECO is a very small amount of county employees and is a -6.7% reduction. Regular and SLEP, both increased about 13% for pensions. That, included with the increase in salaries and other benefits, gets to about the 19% overall that they are seeing. They are seeing similar rate increases with comparable counties. So it's not unique to Sangamon County. They are trying to get some additional details on the reason for this large of an increase year after year. They have not gotten a satisfactory answer from their pension administrator at this time, but they are staying on them to see if they can find out some more information on that.

Mr. McFadden add that he thinks everybody knows that the main driver for the pensions are their investment returns. And investment returns have been good. So it's really baffling. Even in the Great Recession they did not see any increase in pension costs like this when the market tanked. It's been frustrating to try to get any explanation as to why this is happening. There is a little bit of comfort that other counties are experiencing the same thing they are.

Health insurance is the other big benefit cost increase they are seeing this year. There are a lot of board members on individual committees that have heard budget presentations from departments. Pensions and health insurance costs are two extremely big drivers of additional costs in this budget for 2026. Blue Cross Blue Shield cost per participant is increasing by 59.6%. That is the Blue Cross fixed cost to administer the plan. The County is self-insured for health insurance. However, they do have Blue Cross who administers their plan. They contract with them. Premiums across all employee elections are going up on average 40.8%. The county and the other employer entities on the plan are paying 7.4 million and the employees are paying 3.6 million. Health claims are estimated to go up 19% and prescription drugs up 50%. The overall plan spend is estimated to be 11.9 million which is an increase of 25%. Initially, Blue Cross estimated their actual claims cost would be increasing, roughly 20%. The Board of Managers, who is in charge of administering the County Self Insured Health Plan, were able to get it

down to an estimated 10 to 12% increase. The numbers they see here, the 25% appears larger because that's from budget 2025 to budget 2026. With those planned changes, they were able to curb some of that cost. The use of fund balance is now budgeted to be \$0. In previous years, the plan fund has subsidized or paid for some of the claims expenses. That fund balance has essentially dried up. They are not able to use any additional funds to provide that benefit. The county and the employees are having to fund the estimated claims cost in full. That's partially the reason why they're seeing that big increase in the county's cost as well as the employees cost. This is one of the big drivers, along with pensions, they're seeing in one year. Two extremely big increases in benefit costs.

Chairman VanMeter said the board members who are on the committee have to help explain to the employees who control that committee that when they had this big cushion, they shouldn't have spent it by reducing the premiums every year. They need to maintain that cushion. If they increase the premiums just slightly, they'll maintain that cushion and won't put themselves in a position where suddenly there's a big increase in the premium. They have to communicate that message well to the employees who are in charge.

Eric Black continued. With the health plan, they are seeing higher utilization of the plan and much higher costs of claims. They do have individual stop loss as well as aggregate stop loss in place which is part of the Blue Cross fixed cost. The aggregate stop loss is set at 115%. So essentially they are running at around 15% above Blue Cross estimated claims expense. In a total planned spend of around \$10 million, 15% is \$1.5 million so the fund is on the hook for an additional \$1.5 million dollars that was not estimated for the year. That's driven by high cost claimants and increased utilization overall.

The premium that was in one of the resolutions earlier on the agenda, \$1,419,927, is a 14.2% increase. The number of claims, historically has been dropping every year and staying very low. However, the cost of each claim is significantly higher than in the past. With the workers comp carrier, they do a five year lookback and then project for 2026 and set the premium based on that. They've had four of the last five complete years with costs, over \$1 million in four of those five years. One year was around \$2 million in a single year, of actual claims paid for worker's compensation. That's the reason they're seeing the premiums increase in 2025. Ideally, they'll have a relatively good year. Hopefully they'll start to see those premiums decrease, and continue that trend down. He reiterated that the number of actual claims are continuing to stay low, but it's individual costs of some of these claims that are extremely high.

Mr. McFadden continued. Some of the pressure centers as far as payroll, health insurance, pensions, workers comp are all trending significantly higher than what they have historically. One that isn't is commodities. It's not near as large of an item as the others, but it is a reduction this year. Debt is something they want to be reasonable about. They haven't issued debt since 2021. Their outstanding debt continues to decline. At the end of FY 26, it will be a little over \$45 million. They are nowhere even close to the amount of debt that state statute says the county could be carrying.

Going back to headcount, even though there's a -16, there are jobs being created and eliminated in this budget. The Sheriff's office has a net increase of two new positions. Both those positions were requested by the Sheriff. The sheriff brought in an independent consultant to review the jail operations, and that consultant has had some recommendations. The sheriff wanted to make sure that she had someone riding her, for lack of a better term, on all those recommendations and making sure that

they're being pushed through. She asked for additional position in corrections. That's being granted. They also added a sergeant per the sheriff's request, who will be primarily focused on additional training. Additional training is an issue that's been highlighted since the Massey murder and part of the DOJ review they had. The Sheriff wanted an individual whose sole focus was going to be on training and compliance with the DOJ recommendations.

Next Mr. McFadden spoke about Department Highlights. They included departments with significant changes, either an increase or a reduction and then rank them by percentage change in those departments.

Capital Projects were discussed next. To date, they have \$45.4 million in capital projects. That's Sangamon South, Helping Hands was \$10 million, the emergency radio program was \$10 million. They spent almost \$1 million in modernizing the courtrooms as far as technology in FY 26. The Hub is \$123 million. The project itself is far more than that but that's what they're looking at having to spend to finish it off. Woodside Iron Bridge is \$57.3 million and of that county funds are \$24.5 million. There is the MacArthur Avenue Extension, the proposed new Community Service Services building, which is an expanded public health building. SMART, which they've been able to get state grants to cover all the costs. There is the second phase of courtroom renovations. New updates to the State's Attorney and Public Defenders offices. They are also in the middle of a significant camera upgrade in the jail. There are always more requests than resources available, so they end up working with departments to prioritize what they think is most important.

Post-budget pressures or items they're keeping an eye on right now, obviously the federal government shut down but they haven't really felt any impacts to date. The Massey Commission. So there are reserves and contingency funds to fund recommendations from the Massey Commission and will be discussing with them in greater detail what exactly the recommendations entail as far as operations, those kind of things. They've talked about a couple of them. The Mental Health Commission talk about the crisis response teams and things like that. They've talked about a mental health ward in the jail to provide better services for those that really have the most significant needs. They heard the presentation on the Mental Health Commission. Hub operations and maintenance is something they'll be spending next year and a half trying to get a good estimate of what their security, utility, janitorial and maintenance needs are going to be with the new structures which are pretty unique in design and operation.

Employee health care. The big issue there is utilization. Historically, Blue Cross Blue Shield has been conservative in what they think utilization of the program is going to be. And historically it's come in under that. But as Eric mentioned, not FY 25 and we hope not in FY 26. The VAC appeal, the order of the circuit court level, was in favor of the County. The court agreed with the County on our interpretation of the law that's being appealed. They'll have to see what happens on appeal.

Mr. McFadden concluded by stating in the past, they've been able to follow their primary budget principles. It's a balanced budget. There's no deficit spending. They live within their means. They pay their bills on time. They have financially sound pensions. They have a little pressure on financially sound health care. They'll see what happens this year. Very limited debt compared to what they could have under state law. They do maintain reasonable reserves for emergencies and contingencies for things like Massey Commission or something like that. They always operate within the constraints of tax caps and

once again, they have a property tax rate that's lower than it was 33 years ago. He said he'd be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman VanMeter thanked Brian and the staff for putting the presentation together.

Mr. Stumpf thanked Brian and the Auditor's staff as well and praised them for their hard work.

Mr. Hall also expressed his appreciation for the great work they did on the Budget. He also is frustrated with the City of Springfield and the fact they haven't paid the Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance for their share of money that is owed.

Mr. Stumpf said that Mr. Hall is not incorrect. A few years back when they started this, the City's take on this was also supposed to be a half a million dollars a year. They paid \$250,000 a year and he understands they have not paid. He also said they have not paid the Health Department this year for services provided. They really need to work with the City Council on getting their proper monies as the budgets are very tight.

Mr. Madonia had an amendment to Resolution 33 adding the words "at least". It now reads; It is desired to increase the membership of the Sangamon County Sewer Rebate Benefit Board from three members, a chairman and two members, with at least one being a member of the county board to four members, a chairman and three members, with at least one being a member of the County board. And now therefore be resolved by the members of the Board of County, Illinois and the section this 10th day of November 2025, that the County Sewer Rebate Benefit Board shall consist of four members, with at least one being a member of the Sangamon County Board. Mr. DelGiorno seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous on the amendment.

Mr. Cahnman had a question on Resolution 25. He wondered why they are getting Narcan services for Morgan County Health Department. Mr. Ridley responded that they serve seven counties with that grant.

Mr. Cahnman also questioned spending \$250,000 in legal services on Resolution 31. He noticed in the purchase order edit listing, it lists \$151,000 for the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor but in Resolution 37 they're spending \$41,000 on the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor. He wanted to know what the difference was between those two expenditures. Mr. McFadden responded by saying one is the State's Attorney's office utilizing the State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor, the \$41,000. That's their annual contract. They handle all appeals of criminal convictions. The other is a contract they have with the State's Appellate Prosecutor. They subcontract with Hinshaw, who does their arbitrations and mediations and things like that. That contract is run through the Appellate Prosecutor. Mr. Cahnman also noticed there were three or four other private law firms on there. He asked how those law firms are selected. Mr. McFadden said they are selected by the State's Attorney's Office.

Mr. Cahnman's final question was regarding Resolution 40 where they are spending \$20,000 to contract with the development corporation. He asks if the purpose is to see if the money they're spending on the Sangamon Grown Alliance is actually effective. Chairman VanMeter said that was correct.

Mr. Madonia moved that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolutions 9-40, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cahnman had a question for Sheriff Crouch. He understands that one of her deputies was recently made into a detective. So that takes him off the street and there is now one less deputy on the street now because of that. He was wanting to confirm that. Sheriff Crouch responded that Yes, if he was promoted to the detective spot then he came off the street. She added that they've had several finish with their field training that went to the street, and additional ones that are in field training. Mr. Cahnman wanted to know how many new ones are on the street. Sheriff Crouch said there are two. There are three that are with field training officers right now and she's preparing to send six to the academy in January.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ayers wanted to know if they are hearing from the Massey Commission in December. Chairman VanMeter said that was correct. He also said they did not have the Massey Commission's recommendations at the time the budget was put together, but as Mr. McFadden indicated, they have reserved money in contingency to address those recommendations.

A. Appointments

Appointment of Bonnie Graham to the Woodwreath Cemetery Board for a term expiring November, 2031.

Appointment of Justin King to the Woodwreath Cemetery Board for a term expiring November, 2031.

Appointment of Vincent King to the Woodwreath Cemetery Board for a term expiring November, 2031.

Appointment of Annette Fulgenzi to the Sangamon County Board of Managers.

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 December were also submitted.

B. Emergency/Procurement Notifications

There were no procurement or grant notifications.

**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 December 9, 2025. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING RECESSED

Don Gray
Sangamon County Clerk