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

The Sangamon County Board met in Regular Statutory Session on September 9, 2025 in the Sangamon County Board Chambers. Chairman Van Meter called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Mr. Rader gave the Invocation. Mr. Fraase led the County Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Van Meter asked the County Clerk to call the roll. There were 27 Present – 2 Absent. Ms. Deaner and Ms. Deppe were excused.

Chairman Van Meter reminded everyone that all mics are live and they are audio only this evening. He believes they are coming close to a solution on viewing “live” video and is hopeful it will be working for the October meeting. Secondly, the special committee on Rules and Procedures submitted their suggestions to the State’s Attorney’s office who is in the process of reviewing. Once the review is finished, they will then meet with the special committee and report back to the full Board at the October meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS

Chairman Van Meter stated that Mr. Schackmann had a proclamation to present to the Board. Mr. Schackmann invited Mr. Ayers, Mr. Thomas and Julia Estes to join him.

He stated that Ms. Estes had emailed him to let him know that September was National Service Dog month. Mr. Schackmann proceeded to read the proclamation from the Sangamon County Board declaring September to be National Service Dog Month and encourage all citizens to celebrate service dogs and be respectful of the rights to safe access afforded to the adults, children and Veterans who lead more independent lives because of their assistance.

He thanked Ms. Estes for bringing that to their attention.

PRESENTATION – U OF I EXTENSION – COUNTY DIRECTOR TERRI CASEY

Terri Casey, County Director from the U of I Extension Office addressed the board. They had an exceptional 4-H show year. They had 218 live animal entries as well as 317 general project entries. Of those, 64 members of Sangamon County 4-H advanced to the Illinois State Fair. She encouraged the board members in the future, to go out to the State Fair and see the exhibits from around the State and to support the local exhibitors.

They do things throughout the year that help enhance Youth Development. They are big on leadership in 4-H. They offer leadership, experience and engagement with the communities. When they leave, they want their 4-H'ers to be prepared to lead their communities and workplace and even take over County Board seats someday. They are hopefully training the next generation of leaders.

They are also partnering on a very important initiative with the County, called the Farm to Fork program.

They know how important local food systems are. The safety, security and availability of fresh and nutritious foods are all extremely important. She feels it's a great partnership with the County, and the County has stepped up and started off strong with their Farm to Fork initiative. It also allows them to offer what extension can do to support the program and to see it grow and develop. The goal is to be number one in the nation. She thinks they are uniquely positioned to do that because they have leaders that take it seriously.

They like to play their part in education, but also know that they are sitting in some of the richest agricultural land in the world. It only makes sense for them to be strengthening those local food systems.

She introduced Hunter Buchanan. Hunter joined them in June, as their Illinois Extension New Local Food Small Farms Extension Program Coordinator. That position is possible because of their partnership with the County. Hunter is a lifelong resident of Sangamon County. He holds a Master's Degree in Environmental Science and a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science with a minor in Geographic Information Systems. During his graduate studies, he interned with the Illinois Department of Public Health Food Protection Program. He is also a local producer himself and has a small farm so he understands that from both sides. He's joined with Reagen Tibbs, who is their Commercial Ag Educator and she joined them last year.

She also gave a shout-out to their Horticulture program and their Master Gardener volunteers. They have 82 Master Gardener and 25 Master Naturalist volunteers. Last year they gave 540 expert consultations. They have a wonderful horticulture educator who is Jennifer Fishburn but she is only one person. Their Master Gardeners are a force multiplier. Last year they were out in the community doing 102 educational sessions and raised 115 pounds of produce they donated. They have also worked in community gardens throughout the area.

When they think about local foods, it can begin truly local in their own backyards. By helping folks, they are able to produce their own nutritious foods. It creates a stronger local food system, but it also helps people. It helps those with limited financial resources still have access to good and nutritious food. She thanked their Master Gardeners. Last week they had the pleasure of hosting several hundred Master Gardeners from across the State. They are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Master Gardener program. Each and every Master Gardener are people that care and want to provide an educational opportunity. They give unpaid hours to the community that they could never afford to do themselves.

She wanted to thank the County Board for supporting Extension. Through that support, they are supporting communities they serve as well. It is an honor and a privilege to serve them. They are a Public Servant. Everyone in their office serves the people. If anyone ever needs anything or has an idea for a partnership, she would love to hear about it. She thanked the board for their time.

Chairman Van Meter said several board members are working on a community garden initiative to be sponsored by the County. He said they will be sure to tap into the Extension's office expertise moving forward.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, for approval of the Minutes of the August 12, 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 extension of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the State of Illinois and Sangamon County for providing flu shots for the period of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026.

A motion was made by Mr. Schackmann, seconded by Mr. Ayers 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 26 Yeas – 0 Nays. Resolution 1 was adopted.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2

2. 2025-014 Lisa Wentworth, 6000-6200 block of Rentshler Road/Cardinal Hill Road and Johnson Road, Rochester—Granting a Rezoning and Variances. County Board Member – David Mendenhall, District #3.

A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall, seconded by Mr. Tjelmeland, to place Resolution 2 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 2.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

WAIVER OF TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD

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

MOTION CARRIED

TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD WAIVED

RESOLUTIONS 3 - 5

3. Resolution authorizing the County Administrator to settle Sangamon County's claims in the opioid lawsuit against various defendants in the aggregate amount of \$620,410.31, and execute on the County's behalf any documents necessary to effectuate and finalize the settlement.

A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf, seconded by Ms. Scaife, to place Resolution 3 before the Board. A motion was made by Mr. DelGiorno, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to consolidate Resolutions 4 and 5 with Resolution 3. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 4 and 5.

4. Resolution to continue the option of utilizing the commercial airline services offered at Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport (SPI) and support our commitment to Fly SPI First.
5. Resolution authorizing the County Administrator to complete negotiations and, on behalf of the County, enter contract with Mood Media for the HUB project not to exceed approximately \$4,959,270.

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

Mr. Cahnman thought on Resolution 5 they changed that to actually approving the contract as opposed to authorizing the Administrator to complete the negotiations. The Chairman said yes, that will be the effect of adopting the Resolution. They checked with Counsel before the meeting and they do not have to change the Resolution the way it is written. It will have that effect.

Mr. Guyton had a question about Resolution 5. He wondered what the contract entailed. Mr. McFadden said there is a one year maintenance with the contract and a five-year warranty on the equipment. It is a combination of software, hardware and programming costs. Mr. Guyton wondered what the extension of the maintenance looked like. Mr. McFadden said it was up to the County if they wanted to extend it. Part of this will be training the County's IS staff to eventually do the work on the equipment or at least basic maintenance. Mr. Guyton was hoping that if the County had to do the maintenance, it would be in-house or the opportunity would be given to someone locally. Mr. McFadden said Mood Media could potentially contract with someone locally to do it but it depends on what the equipment and software needs may be. Mr. McFadden said they are still working through the training with the company. There are various ways that can be done. The ultimate effort would be to bring both the programming and maintenance in-house.

Mr. Madonia moved that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolutions 3-5, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointments

Appointment of Linda Douglas-Williams to the Sewer Rebate Board for a term expiring September, 2026.

Appointment of Sunshine Clemons to the Sewer Rebate Board for a term expiring September, 2026.

Appointment of Brian Churchill to the Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2026.

Appointment of Rich Coon to the Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2026.

Appointment of Dick Rentshler to the Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2026.

Appointment of Chief Joseph Behl to the Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2026.

Appointment of Joe Powell to the Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2026.

Appointment of TJ Henson to the Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2026.

Appointment of Michael Gardner to the Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2026.

Appointment of John Bruntjen to the Lanesville Illiopolis Drainage District for a term expiring September, 2028.

Appointment of Trent C. Smith to the Woodwreath Cemetery Board for a term expiring November, 2028.

Appointment of Lemuel J. Shaffer, MD to the Board of Health for a term expiring September, 2028.

Appointment of David Mendenhall to the Sangamon County Central Dispatch Service for a term expiring September, 2026.

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

MOTION CARRIED
APPOINTMENTS ADOPTED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Van Meter noted there were eleven people signed up to speak tonight. Shawn Miller was first to be called.

Shawn Miller addressed the board. He is here to tell the truth with context and not just numbers. In 2022, the Veteran Service Officers were making around \$30,000. In the budget for 2025, those positions are now set at \$61,000. That sounds like a dramatic increase, but the truth is the adjustments were absolutely necessary. They weren't raises in the traditional sense. They were corrections for bringing their staff in line for what they should have been all along. For context, the State of Illinois starts new Veteran Service Officers, with no experience, at \$53,000. They were well

below that until just recently, which made it difficult to recruit and retain qualified people to serve their Veterans.

If they look at their department head salaries, they'll see the same trend. In 2022, the department heads were at \$56,000. Today, that position is budgeted for \$82,000. This wasn't luxury, this was catching up to the minimal needed to stay competitive. When they talk about salaries, they need to keep in mind these are not excuses. These are necessary investments in people who have served Veterans every day.

He spoke about the intergovernmental agreement that was approved which includes a processing window and a break room. To this day, neither has been completed. These may sound like small things but they were commitments made to support the daily operations of their office and those commitments matter. Veterans and staff who serve, deserve to see promises kept.

The last thing he wants to talk about is the VAC. They keep hearing that the VAC will have no oversight. This is far from the truth. The VAC works for the Veterans. They are the ultimate oversight of what they do. There is also a commission that oversees what the Superintendent does. According to the Military Veterans Assistance Act, there is a requirement for the audit by the County. Where does it say the VAC has no oversight?

Tonight he asks the Board not only to recognize the importance of competitive salaries, but also to ensure that agreed upon facility improvements are carried out together. These actions show their Veterans and families that Sangamon County keeps its word and values their service. He thanked the people that care about Veterans.

Naomi Miller of Sangamon County spoke to the Board next. She is proud to stand there today on behalf of the children and families of Sangamon County Veterans. When someone in your family serves in the military, the whole family serves. They don't get to choose the sacrifices, but they live with them every day. They say goodbye when their parents deploy. They celebrate holidays without them. They worry about their safety while they're trying to stay strong. Families carry these hardships silently because they love and support their Veterans.

Families like hers can't do it alone. Helping Veterans isn't just saying thank you, it means making sure they have the services and support they've earned and includes their dependents. When a Veteran comes home and needs help, the family feels it too. When benefits and resources are cut, the family suffers right along with them. That's why Sangamon County has such an important role. The County should never take away the funding that is required to care for Veterans.

Every dollar cut from Veterans Services is a dollar taken away from the people who sacrifice for all of them and from their children who didn't get a choice in these sacrifices. If they want to honor their Veterans the right way, they must also protect their families. The County should lead by example ensuring that no Veteran and no dependent is left without the care and support they need.

Veterans gave everything for this country and it's only right they give back to the fullest to them and their families.

She thanked the Board.

Ashti Dawson was signed up to speak but was not there.

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

Ken Pacha was signed up to speak but was not there.

Chairman Van Meter stated that next up to speak were a team of six people who have divided their presentation into paragraphs and will speak one after the other. Teresa Armstrong addressed the Board first.

She is a resident of Peoria County. She is here to share critical information regarding the State's voter rolls and voter history from the 2024 General Election. This information comes from extensive research conducted by a team of data experts at Unite4Freedom, a nationwide, nonpartisan, volunteer organization.

Their team meticulously analyzed official election files from both Federal and State sources. She is not an official spokesperson for Unite4Freedom, but a dedicated volunteer who was deeply concerned by the findings based exclusively on official state election data. Their analysis from the certified results from both the 2022 and 2024 General Elections, reveals that not all votes counted were valid and accurate under the law. These findings are substantial and they warrant careful consideration. The results have been shared with State election officials and law enforcement agencies and have been submitted as evidence in Federal Court as part of ongoing litigation by Unite4Freedom and other parties.

Unite4Freedom is not alone in raising these concerns. Recent executive actions at the Federal level, such as the Executive Order entitled "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections", underscore the urgent need to enforce and clarify existing laws. These directives are intended to guide State compliance and ensure that election crimes are prosecuted, because the integrity of our electoral system is at stake.

They are here to seek the County Board's awareness, understanding, support and action. They are proposing a resolution that highlights key statistics and cause for an end to the inaccuracies and uncertainties that comprise elections. By adopting the resolution, it will demonstrate their commitment to their constituents concerns and their dedication to upholding voter civil rights and the integrity of the elections here in Sangamon County.

It is imperative to address these issues now. If they do not, the same election systems and procedures that led to errors in 2022 and 2024, will likely produce similar results in the upcoming 2026 General Election.

The following three speakers read the resolution:

Don Mayo, Macon County

Babe Paukstys, Cook County

Tim Hargrove, Sangamon County

Michael Reed, Macon County from United4Freedom addressed the board. He said the County Board just heard a resolution that exposes significant inaccuracies from voter registration to the certification of the 2024 General Election. It calls for immediate and substantive action to ensure the integrity of the 2026 General Election for all voters.

The resolution is firmly grounded in multiple US Supreme Court precedents, which underscore the necessity of these corrective measures. The current election procedures do not fully comply with established laws and these laws are too often disregarded. Some citizens, including elected officials, mistakenly believe that these issues can be ignored because the President, the current administration and others are handling it.

The complacency represents an abdication of civic responsibility. Benjamin Franklin's warning, "it's a republic, if you can keep it", applies not only to his generation but to ours as well. Their leadership and decisive action are urgently needed. Their voting system should protect their most fundamental right to choose their representatives. It is failing to deliver accurate, transparent and verifiable results. Should they continue to ignore the anomalies within their election system essential to national security? The cost of an action extends far beyond dollars. It threatens the economy, military, foreign policy, public health, confidence of their youth and national dignity.

He urges them to demonstrate their commitment to American representative government by reviewing and possibly passing this resolution. Consider the broader context. Many Americans, including a significant number in Illinois and Sangamon County, have concerns about the reliability and transparency of the elections. While they all wish this was not the case, official government data substantiates these concerns and the law requires they be addressed to safeguard their liberty.

Regrettably, government representatives at various levels have not been transparent or responsive to citizen audits of election data. The right to choose representatives to lawful and transparent elections is the cornerstone of their constitutional right. A right fiercely defended for over two centuries by the sacrifices of their brothers, fathers, mothers, sisters and for some of them their children. Today they have the opportunity to uphold the legacy and demonstrate to their constituents that they value American Liberty by reviewing and considering this resolution. He thanked the Board for their time.

Brian Jones, Winnebago County was the final speaker. He said that it's worth noting that they were here about a year ago. Some of the same people presented a resolution for a legally valid 2024 General Election. They presented in Sangamon County and 50 other counties across the state of Illinois. A year ago, they presented a scorecard from the 2022 General Election. Today, they

presented the scorecard from the 2024 General Election and it shows the number of apparent violations and seemingly invalid votes is increasing.

They have presented a lot of information today. They are asking the County Board to support the work Unite4Freedom is doing in their effort to hold the state Election Authority accountable. Signing their resolution would demonstrate they stand with them as they demand fair, valid and certifiable elections.

He realizes this issue may need to be on the agenda for the Board to discuss and vote. If that is the case, they ask they invite them back and place this issue on the agenda so they can provide a more detailed presentation and answer any questions the Board may have. Contact information for the State Chapter Directors, is included in the documents they have provided. For further information, the Unite4Freedom website provides informative videos explaining anomalies, apparent legal violations and lawsuits identified in Illinois and other states. He encourages them to visit Unite4Freedom to learn more about this vital issue.

He thanked the Board for their attention and consideration.

Chairman Van Meter thanked them for their very well-organized presentation.

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 October 14, 2025. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING RECESSED

Don Gray
Sangamon County Clerk