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MINUTES

SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD

FEBRUARY 10, 2026

The Sangamon County Board met in Reconvened Adjourned September Session on February 10, 2026 in the Sangamon County Board Chambers. Chairman Van Meter called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Mr. Stumpf gave the Invocation and 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 28 Present – 0 Absent. A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno to allow Ms. Scaife to participate via telephone conference. Revised roll call was 29 Present – 0 Absent.

PROCLAMATIONS

There were no proclamations.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, for approval of the Minutes of the January 13, 2026 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 an Engineering Supplement for Hanson Professional Services for the Woodside Road and Iron Bridge project in the amount of \$61,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. Schackmann 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 29 Yeas – 0 Nays. Resolution 1 was adopted.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2

2. Resolution approving the purchase of a 2026 Ford F-150 XL from Landmark Ford Inc. of Springfield, IL on a joint purchasing contract in the amount of \$60,400.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. Davsko, to place Resolution 2 before the Board. A motion was made by Mr. DelGiorno, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to consolidate Resolutions 3 -9 with Resolution 2. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 3 - 9.

RESOLUTIONS 3 - 9

3. Resolution approving the FY 2026 purchase order for bulk rock salt from the State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Program in the amount of \$237,600.
4. Resolution appropriating Motor Fuel Tax funds for the County Engineer salary and expenses.
5. Resolution approving an Agreement between Sangamon County and the Illinois Department of Transportation to transfer Surface Transportation Program Funds for State Funds.
6. Resolution appropriating Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the FY 2026 annual maintenance of county highways.
7. Resolution appropriating Motor Fuel Tax Funds for FY 2026 IMRF expenses.
8. Resolution approving the FY 2026 Township Motor Fuel Tax Aggregate letting contracts.
9. Resolution approving a purchase order for fiber optic utility relocation for the north abutment of the Iron Bridge overpass to Cogent Company in the amount of \$160,000.

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

Mr. Madonia moved that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolutions 2 - 9. A voice vote was unanimous. Mr. Schackmann voted Present on Resolution 5.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

10. Resolution approving a Variance of Chapter 16.72: Development in Special Flood Hazard Areas for certain property located at 8946 River Birch Road, Dawson – Eric and Shannon Wise. County Board Member David Mendenhall, District #3.

A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall, seconded by Ms. Lathan, to place Resolution 10 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. Mr. Mendenhall had an amendment to the Resolution. The amendment states that it will not be used for manure storage, livestock confinement operations, liquefied natural gas terminals, and production and storage of highly volatile, toxic or water-reactive materials not larger than 1,300 square feet constructed no more than 0.02 feet below the Flood Protection Elevation. Chairman VanMeter stated that it was his understanding that this was a technical correction to bring them into compliance with any state regulation and it's done by agreement with the petitioners. Mr. Mendenhall agreed. A second was made by Mr. Stumpf. There were no objections. A voice vote was unanimous on the amendment to Resolution 10. There were no questions or comments from the members of the Board on the Resolution as amended. A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 10 as amended. Mr. Thomas abstained from voting on Resolution 10.

RESOLUTION 11

11. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Coroner's Office from NMS Labs for the purpose of toxicology testing in the amount of \$70,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Tjelmeland, seconded by Mr. Miller, to place Resolution 11 before the Board. A motion was made by Mr. DelGiorno, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to consolidate Resolutions 12 -16 with Resolution 11. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 12 - 16.

RESOLUTIONS 12 – 16

12. An Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of an Intergovernmental Agreement between County of Sangamon and Village of Curran Related to Building and Property Code Inspections, Permitting, and Violations.
13. Resolution approving a grant application for the Sangamon County Child Advocacy Center/CASA from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for the CASA program in the amount of \$94,586.
14. Resolution Authorizing an Investment in the Sangamon County Rescue Squad.
15. Resolution Amending the Sangamon County Ambulance Ordinance.
16. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Elections Department from CDW-G for the purpose of purchasing 150 Chromebooks and 1yr Chrome Enterprise for each in the amount of \$52,798.50.

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

Mr. Cahnman had a question on Resolution 15. He looked through the attachment Exhibit A, which is the new ordinance with the new language. He noted that he is unable to tell what the new language is or what was stricken. He was wondering in the future, if existing ordinance are amended if they could do in a manner so people could see what the changes are. Tonight, he is asking if someone could explain how this amendment is changing their current ambulance ordinance.

County Board Administrator, Brian McFadden, stated that the language in front of them mirrors the same ordinance the City of Springfield adopted. The two primary changes are the requirement for the minimum number of ambulance units to be on call and available from the prime hours of 8am to 8pm. It was six units and now it is nine. The second change involves reporting requirements. They used to have to file quarterly reports with the City and the County and now they do that annually.

Mr. Madonia moved that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolutions 11 – 16 as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

WAIVER OF TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD

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

MOTION CARRIED
TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD WAIVED

RESOLUTION 17

17. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from Open Text Inc. for the purpose of renewing the content management software to multiple county departments for efficient retrieval of documents in the amount of \$51,811.80.

A motion was made by Ms. Deppe, seconded by Mr. Thomas, to place Resolution 17 before the Board. A motion was made by Mr. DelGiorno, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to consolidate Resolutions 18 – 29 with Resolution 17. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 18 - 29.

RESOLUTIONS 18 – 29

18. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from CDW-G for the purpose of renewing the software licenses for EOS, DameWare and Web Helpdesk for 3 years in the amount of \$48,716.19.
19. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from Convergeone for the purpose of renewing the Cisco Duo licenses in the amount of \$32,148.00.
20. Resolution to approve entering into an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Springfield and Sangamon County for the provision of Animal Control Services.

21. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for ETSD from Motorola Solutions for the purpose of annual fees for Wave and STARCOM21 in the amount of \$194,256.00.
22. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for ETSD from Motorola Solutions for the purpose of annual maintenance for 911 radio system in the amount of \$277,638.59.
23. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for ETSD from AT&T for the purpose of annual maintenance fees for 911 System in the amount of \$94,619.39.
24. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for ETSD from AT&T for the purpose of converting copper phone lines to fiber-optic in the amount of \$55,000.00.
25. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for ETSD from Wiley Furniture for the purpose of purchasing new furniture for the training room in the amount of \$45,000.00.
26. Resolution for approval of a contract with O'Shea Builders to act as Construction Manager, Advisory Capacity, for the Community Services Building project (alterations to the current Public Health Building).
27. Resolution for approval of a contract with Charles Joseph Pell Architects to perform architectural services for the Community Services Building project (alterations to the current Public Health Building).
28. Resolution approving the Annual Salary for the Chief Public Defender of Sangamon County.
29. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the County Board from Peoria County Courts, Sheriff's office and City of Peoria for the purpose of Grayson Trial Expenses in the amount of \$159,947.84.

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

Mr. Cahnman had a question about Resolution 20. He has recently heard complaints from City officials about the animal control services the County provides. He wonders if this intergovernmental agreement resolves those complaints.

Mr. McFadden stated that assumes the complaints are accurate and he would argue they are not. With Director Ridley, they have committed to the City to have increased communication with the Aldermen. They have offered to meet with the Aldermen, one-on-one, on any complaint they may have. He also spoke with the Mayor to make sure they are facilitating as much communication as possible. The contract is more about the costs of reporting those kinds of things they do on an annual basis.

Mr. Cahnman asked if the City had already approved this. Mr. McFadden stated they had. Chairman VanMeter added that it was his understanding there were some City Council members who misread some of the documentation they keep on response times for their assistance on Animal Control. They read the report to be saying the County didn't respond to a request for assistance within three days when actually the report indicates the time it took to resolve the issue. Mr. McFadden said that was correct. He stated one of the allegations was that it took the County three days to respond to a call for service which is not accurate. If the call for service involves other agencies, such as the State's Attorney's Office, the report is not closed until all those assisting agencies weigh in. They give reports to

the City detailing every call for service they have. The fee they pay is based upon the number of calls that are done.

Mr. Stumpf, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated that Public Health Director Ridley has worked extremely hard with Mr. McFadden to get this done. He wants the Board Members to know that what they are approving now, catches them up to this point in time and next month it starts again. He'd like to ask Director Ridley to get back with the City and work out getting it approved for next year.

Mr. McFadden said they have to compile calls for service from the previous year, which will end at the end of this month. Director Ridley and his staff have approximately a month to compile the data, apply a fee code to it and the City is invoiced. It will probably be in April when they begin discussions about next year.

Mr. Cahnman had a question on Resolution 29. He said it appears they are all jury expenses related to the Grayson trial. He seems the amount seems excessive and wonders if staff has scrutinized these to see if they are fair and reasonable.

Mr. McFadden says they were invoiced and some invoices did have details and some did not. He had Eric Black, from the Auditor's Office, work with Peoria County to get more information to verify the figures. They've taken the approach that they have been invoiced and have the information to verify the expenses then the cost did occur and they will pay it.

Mr. Cahnman had some more questions on the expenses of the trial. Mr. McFadden explained the \$47,000 figure is what they were invoiced by the Peoria County Sheriff's Office. It included overtime hours for deputies, meals for deputies, and temporary fencing put around the courthouse. The \$105,000 figure came from the City of Peoria, who billed them for police and public works overtime for the duration of the trial. They had a \$6000 invoice from the Peoria County courts for jury pay, transportation and meals.

Mr. Madonia moved that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolutions 17 - 29, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business,

A. Appointments

Appointment of Gerald Krumme, to the Buffalo, Dawson, Mechanicsburg Sewer Commission, filling the Unexpired Term of Frank Lane, for a term expiring April, 2028.

Appointment of John Costello, to the Office of Emergency Management, Emergency Management Specialist/Rescue Squad Chief.

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 March were also submitted.

A. Ratification of Corrections Collective Bargaining Agreement

Mr. Madonia stated that after many months of contract negotiations with the correction unit, he is glad to announce they have come to a five year contract agreement that he is bringing forward to the Board to vote on and approve. They get 4%, 4% and 4% and then 3% and 3%. There is a significant raise in the starting salary to \$53,500 and have made right with the first four years of service and also given them a significant pay bump to make them more in line with comparable counties.

Chairman VanMeter stated Mr. Madonia and his committee did a great job in negotiating. He thinks a lot of good things have come out of this agreement.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. Fraase, to ratify the contract. A voice vote was unanimous.

B. Emergency/Procurement Notifications

There were no procurement or grant notifications.

PUBLIC COMMENT

They have 15 people signed up to speak and each person is allowed four minutes to speak.

The first person signed up to speak was Doug Syes. He was not present.

Lori McKiernan was the second speaker of the evening. She states that responsible economic development should provide more benefits than harm. The negative impacts to the residents of Lowder and the land owners near the CyrusOne project are a permanent degradation of quality of life and diminished property values. It's also inevitable rate increases for all of them.

The presentation given Dec 3, on behalf of the County Board by Mr. Pruitt, correctly stated that this one project would probably not cause an increase in electricity rates. What the report didn't say however, is that the cumulative effect of this data center and the Fulton County data center, and the Logan County data center, and the Pekin data center, and the Troy and Granite City data centers will raise our rates. Today she was notified that there is a permit in Edwardsville. It's a simple matter of supply and demand. When the demand goes up and supply remains the same then rates go up. You can't approve a project that will knowingly contribute to higher electricity rates.

The claim of high paying tech jobs from the project doesn't look very promising. CyrusOne's website shows that they have hubs in Texas, Aurora IL, and on the east coast. Under their Careers tab on the website, you'll see that most of their technical, higher paid jobs are based in those hubs or are classified as Remote jobs. Of those hundred jobs, according to their permit application, they'll have HVAC, janitors, maintenance people and landscapers. There's nothing wrong with those jobs, some pay above the minimum wage, but they're not the IT jobs that CyrusOne is promising.

In a 2022 court case, an appeal of taxes by Grand Tower Energy Corp reduced their assessed value by 90%. Grand Tower Energy Center, the owner of a power plant located in Jackson County, Illinois, appealed the assessment of its property tax value to the Jackson County Board of Review. The board reduced the assessed value of the property from \$33.4 million to \$31.5 million. Grand Tower filed additional challenges to the assessed value. The Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board found that the county over-taxed the property and reduced the assessed value of the property from \$33.4 million to \$3.3 million. Local school districts lost 1/3 of their budget and the county was forced to repay the 10 years of overpayment back to Grand Tower Energy. You can't approve a project without guaranteeing tax revenues.

Data centers are eliminating tremendous amounts of productive farmland and are encroaching on cities. We have some of the best farmland in the state, if not the country, here. Rural residents' lives and their property should not be discounted only because they're few in number. Responsible economic development should not cause permanent harm to an entire group of people for the temporary benefit of others.

She is pro-union, pro-economic development, and she appreciates the valuable benefits that AI can provide society. But developers are using all of those issues to push a massive, harmful project on all of us. Postponing approval of this project causes no financial hardship on the developer or the sellers of the property. Approving the project before you can ensure actual benefits to the community is not reasonable economic development.

A 180-day moratorium would allow many of the negative impacts to be resolved and allow time to negotiate a Community Benefits Agreement. Contrary to what Mr. Benoit has stated about a moratorium, Aurora, IL has successfully passed a moratorium. Godfrey, IL which is not home rule has passed one. Fulton County has passed the first of 3 approvals for their moratorium. Champaign County is in the process of implementing a one-year moratorium. Responsible economic development demands a 180-day moratorium on data centers. She thanked the board.

The next person signed up to speak was Donald Hanrahan, he was not present but he submitted his remarks.

The next person signed up to speak was Kathleen Campbell. She introduced herself to the board. She is from Glenarm. Tonight, she wants to speak about two things: CO2 pipeline legislation, and the data center, just for a little variety. There is a bill SB 2842 to ban eminent domain for CO2 pipelines in Illinois. It doesn't ban eminent domain for anything else and it doesn't ban CO2 pipelines in general, it just forces companies to negotiate routing of pipelines, so they can be safe from routing the pipelines to close to homes, schools, businesses and churches. Currently PHMSA is prohibited from doing setbacks or setting routing. Illinois, including the ICC has no setbacks and no safe routing requirements. She asked that Sangamon County formally support, SB 2842. She mentions the issues from the Navigator pipeline. Their support makes such a difference. Every CO2 application through the ICC, has had the same

dangerous routing in its applications. Eliminating eminent domain for CO2 pipelines is their only defense. Secondly, she ask that Sangamon County deny the permit for CyrusOne data center. She mentions her copy of the rural electric magazine that comes out every month.

The magazine is called Country Living. On pages 7, 8 & 9, the article reads “Kinks in the Supply Chain” and it describes how electric rates will have to increase with data centers being a big reason for that. The article details many reasons the increased demand will drive up real electric co-op prices and they will not be exempt. She also provided a copy of her personal electric bill this month. They pay a \$39 per month meter charge just for the meter and then 13.9 cents per kilowatt-hour, which is not cheap. But what she wants the Board to notice is that on her bill, because they had a cold snap, they had an increase in power demand. There is a power cost adjustment added on because buying extra power during high demand comes at a higher price. Of course, adding the data center will cost far more than that last energy snap.

She also included an article from The New York Times from February 3rd, 2026. It states, the people most at risk of electricity shortfalls within the next five years, are the areas of Texas, the Upper Midwest and the Mid-Atlantic region of the Pacific Northwest. One of the areas at highest risk is specifically the MISO grid that covers the data center here. So, when they say that MISO will have adequate power and there won't be an increase in rates, the data says the opposite.

The fact is when Rural Electric and Ameren need to buy more power for the data center, the price will be higher but the data center will get secret preferential rates. It's right on the website for Rural Electric. The regular consumers will subsidize them and they are going to take the price increase. This is not the time to approve the data center, the risk to the electrical supply and costs are too high. Further, HB5513 a large data center regulatory bill for Illinois was filed in both houses last Friday. Let's not approve a data center before the needed state regulations are in place. She thanked the Board.

The next person who signed up to speak in order is Aaron Gurnsey. He introduced himself and stated he is the president of the Central Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council, the Business Manager for Plumbers and Steamfitters, Local 137. He is also a resident of Sangamon County.

He said A \$500 million dollar investment in Sangamon County does not come along every day. The creation of 600 construction jobs lasting six to seven years, followed by 100 full-time permanent positions is absolutely extraordinary. The potential for millions of dollars in new property tax revenue which can support essential services, strengthen their communities and even reduce a tax burden is equally significant. This project also strengthens their ability within the Building Trades to continue recruiting talent from local pre-apprenticeship and training programs right here in Sangamon County. Lanphier High School, Capital Area Career Center, Lincoln Land Community College and the new program at Cap 1908. These Pathways help men and women build rewarding careers with strong wages and benefits changing the future trajectory for countless families in their communities. He thanked Ryan McCrady and the SSGA for actively pursuing responsible economic development in their County. He also gave thanks to CyrusOne for selecting a site here in Sangamon County, because they all know this project could have gone to another County or State. Their commitment to a project labor agreement, ensuring local labor, and high standards that put people from all walks of life to work right here at home is deeply appreciated. He also mentions that CyrusOne has communicated their intent to monitor and police hiring so that the project resembles and represents what Springfield and Sangamon County look and represent.

They already have one retired member from The Building Trades that does this work for the City of Springfield and he believes is going to start looking over such projects for Sangamon County. He thanked the board for allowing him to speak tonight about an item that is not on the agenda, but one that is critically important to the future.

The next person who was signed up to speak was Josh Witkowski. Mr. Witkowski greeted the Board and states he brought good news and he's not here about the data center. He says many of you know him from many different groups. He wanted to make it very clear he was here on his own this evening not representing any group or interest. He was here to address conflicting remarks from the Sangamon County Sheriff as a result to policies on enforcement with firearms issues. In September 2024, the newly appointed Sheriff stated before this County Board that she feels her role of Sheriff is to enforce the laws of the State of Illinois to her fullest ability.

Board member Cahnman asked if that pertained to the Protect Illinois Community Act also known as the Assault Weapons Ban. She stated "if the law is for me to enforce those and all the steps lead up to that, it would be my intention to fulfill that". However, one year later, November 2025 at a Sangamon County Guns Save Lives meeting she stated, according to them, at their meeting Sheriff Crouch admitted she wasn't really prepared for questions like that. "I hadn't even been sworn in yet" she said. Now setting apart the part where the Sheriff admits to not being prepared for questions on a controversial law that had been in effect for two years as it related to an office she was actively seeking with over 20 years of law enforcement experience, he would think she would have been prepared but she continues that further by saying "yes that was may be a bad thing to say especially as the law does not align with the Constitution".

So now, Sangamon County firearms owners, citizens, and board members are left with two conflicting statements from the Sheriff. There's what she has said, as a matter of policy in September 2024, and then there's what she is saying privately on the campaign trail, leaving them with this unanswered question, does the Sheriff stand with the court of the Southern District of Illinois and over 75 other County Sheriffs who stated they will not enforce provisions of this law? Or does she stand by her unprepared comments from September 2024? So, he is here as a concerned resident, and a second amendment advocate asking for the Sheriff, to step up and clarify her stance on this issue or for the Board in their oversight capacity to ask the Sheriff to clear up her stance on enforcement of the ban on commonly owned firearms in Illinois. He thanked the Board.

The next person who signed up to speak is Jill Krippel. She greeted the County Board and said she is back again to talk about the data center, and this time she wants to focus on how the data center will impact local labor. Again, she is here on her own behalf, not representing any organization. The Springfield and Central Illinois Trades and Labor Council haven't decided on their stance on the data center yet, but that should be discussed at the next executive board meeting. They can vote on it later this month. Anne Logue keeps warning them about the construction practices that CyrusOne used for their other data centers. CyrusOne's own website admits that their "massively modular design methodology enables rapid deployment of large-scale facilities, while maintaining quality and reliability. This approach combines efficient construction practices with strategic Resource Management to accelerate delivery times."

That's just a fancy way of saying it is prefabricated which explains why at the BOS Center CyrusOne refused to say that they would commit to employing even one local laborer. If there's no work to be done for the project labor agreement, then you can't file an unfair labor practice for not hiring anyone right? Or they can say that there is no one in the area experienced in their proprietary materials and bring in their own people to do the work. She would love for hundreds of local construction workers to get a six-year guarantee that they'll have a job but she doesn't think that's what's happening here. No matter how the construction side goes, they all know that the main driver for why data centers are being built at the ridiculous rate they are is AI. If they think that AI isn't going to have any kind of negative impact on jobs, then she doesn't know what to tell them. They have seen this over and over throughout history whenever there's a technological revolution. Every woman used to spin literal yarn making a living from her work. Once spinning machines hit the scene, that work of half the population lost its value and younger women became the original weaver's working with those spinning machines and hand-woven textiles to earn a living. The loom quickly replaced these weavers known as the Luddites. They got a reputation for being resistant to technological advancement even though they were the workers who recently benefited from new technology. They were just fighting for Fair Labor practices as their jobs disappeared. The same thing is going to happen to our jobs due to AI.

To quote an interview on AI with Virginia Postrel, the author of *The Fabric of Civilization* "the only way to deal with it is to go through it and to try to ease the difficulties as much as you can... They were the beneficiaries of an earlier generation of technology and now they will be the losers." The "they" she's referring to are computer, programmers and office workers that utilize our existing technologies to earn money. AI will turn the labor market upside down due to data centers. On the topic of labor, while she has a minute, she wants to invite everybody to rallies in Springfield in a couple weeks to support their Union siblings and their tough fights for fair contracts. They're happening on back-to-back days. Sunday, February, 22nd, and Monday February 23rd. The first one is for the National Association of Letter Carriers that's NALC Branch 80 at 11 a.m. on Sunday, the 22nd on Wabash Avenue between Chatham Road by the post office. The second one is for the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees, that's AFSCME Local 3982 at 4:30 p.m. outside the board meeting at the Springfield Housing Authority, at 200 North 11th Street.

So again, that is Sunday February 22nd at 11 a.m. on Wabash by the post office and Monday February 23rd at 4:30 p.m. at the Springfield Housing Authority. She has Facebook events for both of those Union rallies up on the Springfield & Central Illinois Trades and Labor Council Facebook page too for anybody wants to check that out. And if anybody has any questions or wants to help make some noise at those rallies let her know and she can give your contact info to the organizer for either rally. So please come out stand together in support of their fellow workers. Solidarity forever. She thanked the Board.

The next person who signed up to speak was Brad Schaive, he was not present.

The next person who signed up to speak is Bradd Hout. He introduced himself and stated he is with CyrusOne. He first thanked the community members here tonight and County leadership who continue to engage thoughtfully with their team. At CyrusOne, they make it a priority to be accessible and fully engaged in every community where they invest. They believe strong projects start with strong local relationships.

Over the past several months, their team has been focused on listening and learning from all members of the community and region. They're continuously meeting with local stakeholders to understand Community needs and priorities and to reinforce their commitment to being a good neighbor and trusted community partner. This includes meeting with the Virden Fire Chief; to discuss ways they can support equipment upgrades, and strengthen emergency response capabilities. It includes engaging with the Apple Creek Water Co-op, and working collaboratively on a stronger more reliable water system for everyone in that area, and includes ongoing conversations with local labor leaders Workforce Partners to ensure that this project creates real opportunities for local workers. These conversations matter to them because they don't just build facilities they build long-term partnerships. CyrusOne has been in business for over 25 years. During that time technology has evolved rapidly yet facilities they built in the early 2000s are still operating successfully today. That's because they build for longevity. They don't chase trends or short-term cycles. They invest for the long-term, with infrastructure designed to meet changing customer needs for decades to come.

Their commitment to invest 500 million, in Sangamon County, reflects their confidence in this community, and the belief in its future. That investment means approximately 100 million in tax revenue over the next 20 years. Hundreds of jobs for the local Workforce and a permanent team with meaningful career advancement opportunities, for local families. Across the country, many communities are working to attract new investment and create more opportunity. In some places slowing growth has put added pressure on local budgets and public services.

Sangamon County stands out because this is a community with strong infrastructure, engaged leadership and a skilled Workforce. Responsible long-term investment here, can strengthen the economy, broaden the tax base and help take pressure off of County government to raise taxes on families and small businesses. By growing the tax base projects like this support essential services, strong schools, and public safety while keeping more money in residents' pockets.

CyrusOne is led by people who are proud of what they do and the positive impact they have in the communities they serve. They take seriously the responsibility to earn trust to be good partners and to deliver on their commitments.

They are excited about the opportunity here and look forward to delivering a world-class campus that reflects CyrusOne's values, and their partnership with this community. He thanked the Board for their time, engagement, and for the thoughtful feedback that's been shared throughout this process. They look forward to continuing this conversation and working together in the months ahead. He thanked the Board.

The next person who signed up to speak is Teresa Bennett. She states she comes from a 5 generation farm family. She has grandsons who are interested in farming and some of this stuff just makes it harder and harder for young people to start farming. First off, she is not against progress, technology or economic development. She is asking for wisdom, stewardship and choosing the right place for development because some land once lost is lost forever.

The site proposed for this data center is not just open space. It is very fertile, productive, farmland. It supports local farmers and businesses. Agriculture is Sangamon County's largest sector. It employs thousands of people. Not just Farmers but Ag businesses, implement dealers, truckers and

others. If they keep allowing their farmland to be diverted for uses like solar, wind, and data centers, it will hurt their local economy and residents directly.

Data centers may employ some locals during construction, but how many employees will it have long-term? Is there any guarantee these long-term employees will be local? Or will this big unknown company bring in their own people to run it? She understands property rights are a concern. Property rights are important, but they have zoning rules for a reason. There are limits to what she can do with her own property, in order to protect the common good of her community. She is asking for those same zoning rules to be applied here, to protect their community. Data centers demand enormous resources. They consume vast amounts of electricity, they generate heat, require constant cooling, and bring industrial infrastructure into places that were never meant to host it. They have already seen huge increases in electricity costs. Are they prepared for more increases as the demand for electricity is drastically increased from the data center? Is this what the people of the Sangamon County want?

They haven't been told what mega-tech company will be running this data center. Those in the community who have been told have been required to sign non-disclosure agreements. Why the secrecy? This should be information available to public when making this decision. Property rights come with responsibility. People living in a community have an incentive to do good for the community. They have to live in the community. In this case, it is likely a multimillion-dollar company that will be operating this site. Do they feel the same responsibility to the community as they who live here? Do they have to deal with any repercussions if something goes wrong?

What guarantees do they have that there won't be adverse effects on neighboring land from this data center? Who stands behind these guarantees? Will they be able to hold them accountable?

They have seen many communities hurt by data centers because they did not know the implications of these developments. Do they want to be one of those communities? There have been National pushes to pause development of data centers until more information is known about their impacts. Do they really want to be the guinea pig to see what can go wrong? In conclusion, when fertile, farmland is paved over it is not something they can replace elsewhere.

The chairman notified her that her time limit had been reached. He thanked her for her speech.

The next person who signed up to speak is Salem King. In the discussions about CyrusOne's data center that they've been having over the last few months there's an important question that's gone largely unanswered: Why the rush? Not just here in Sangamon County, but across the United States. According to XEO, there are 3,000 data centers in various stages of construction as they speak, nearly double the amount that already exist in the United States. So, why the rush?

Because AI is a bubble. Everyone knows it. Sam Altman the CEO of Open AI himself has said it's a bubble as has Jeff Bezos and Bill Gates. Joined by financial institutions, like the International Monetary Fund, that hasn't stopped any of them from investing heavily into it and giving their vast billions to companies like CyrusOne. Because they have plenty of money to survive the economic catastrophe that all of them will have to suffer from when this bubble pops. Wall Street investors have even begun shorting AI, betting on a market collapse. The obscenely wealthy and the AI corporations simply don't care how much that collapse hurts counties like theirs, as long as the contract still get signed and they still make their money. If anyone still doubts that AI is a bubble, are you aware that in 2025 AI accounted

for 80% of stock market gains and 95 percent of AI Investments even from before 2025 have led to zero return on investment. Data center developers like CyrusOne are not ran by stupid people. They know this bubble is about to burst and they intend on making as much money as they can before it does. Leaving communities like ours in the dust with a power sucking data center none of them can benefit from and with absolutely no decommission plan. He knows CyrusOne has told all of them about the benefits and jobs and property taxes that this building will bring to the city. They surely told them that all the concerns about water and air pollution, power bills and noise pollution are overstated, but ask yourselves this, do they really think they aren't willing to lie to them and thousands of other counties to make billions while they still can? Since when are corporations in favor of union jobs? Their representative just got up here to spout predictable, PR talking points about the importance of conversations. Making empty promises that even if true, make no assurance of positive outcomes for this community. He assured them longevity but on little to no basis, given the nature of the AI industry. He's lying and every syllable he spoke prove that he is only interested in good PR.

It's become painfully obvious that the US economy at this stage is being propped up by rich sociopaths, trying to inflate this bubble as much as they can, so they can pull their money out and run when things get bad. They did it in 2008. They did it during the .com bubble and they're doing it again. They cannot let the oligarchs who value their stock portfolio more than the well-being of this County have their way again. This time they all need to demand better. The good news is that they are doing it. Countless projects like Cyrus One's have been canceled across the country because people like them refused to let their communities be lied to and exploited anymore. All they ask from you, their County Board is that they vote for the people of Sangamon County, not the corporations that seek to exploit it. He thanked the Board.

The next person who signed up to speak was Anne Logue. She called attention to the handout that she passed around. On the first page it talks about the rise in carbon in the atmosphere and it goes straight along with their global temps. These charts are made by NASA. She doesn't think they have much of a voice right now, but these charts were made a couple of years ago. There are two House bills that are being talked about right now that would freeze property taxes for these data centers so that they would be paying like they were farmers. There wouldn't be any change in their property taxes. She also wants to let them know, that Black Rock is 40% ownership of CyrusOne through GIP and they're accumulating utilities. They just bought Minnesota Power and they're looking to buy AES. There's also a list in the back of all the moratoriums by cities and counties that are saying "Slow it down". She says they have to slow down because they have to protect themselves. The companies are not interested in taking care of them. They're taking care of themselves. When approaching data center development, they need to consider that opening the door for one will cause several to follow. Instead of farmland, they'll have data centers pulling vast amounts of energy from their grid, as shown in other areas. She has spoken to some of these areas who have a high concentration of hyperscalers. Jeff King, Development Project Administrator for the city of Chandler, Arizona/Phoenix stated in a phone interview that after the centers are built, jobs are minimal. There is nothing significant long-term. So, they'll have a couple of years of these jobs and then they'll have a long period of no jobs and people are unemployed.

They need time to put guardrails in place on these centers. They need to be held accountable for the vast amount of energy and water use. The farmland lost forever, the carcinogenic fumes from the generators. There's also a page by the American Cancer talking about the toxins and how that affects society. She states they're releasing tons of carbon in the atmosphere. They are pushing fossil fuel plants back online if they continue to have this this disruption of their daily life. One resident was quoted this

year saying the roof-mounted cooling equipment is so loud that she sometimes can't open her windows. When the company ran backup diesel generators for several days, they sounded like helicopters landing on her roof. So this is the stuff that they are looking at. They need to really take this seriously and not be in a hurry. She thanked the Board.

The next person who signed up to speak was Ken Pacha. He greeted the County Board and states he is going to take a different tack with the data center. He doesn't know if they saw the news a few days ago but Champaign County just recently banned data centers. They are joining a long list of counties here in Illinois that have allowed them into their area and now, deeply regret it. Aurora, Illinois has had continual issues with CyrusOne directly. There is Naperville, Folsom County and multiple other places. He says he is not going to go through all of them but would be happy to provide a list for everyone, if they'd like. He feels like five different counties is enough so far. He says they can get more, but it seems odd that places that have allowed them previously, now, no longer want them there and he'd guess you'd have to question why? He says they say a lot of good stuff, but have they ever met somebody, who sounded really good, told them a lot of great things, they said everything was going well and then saw the work they were putting out and it was an absolute travesty. He says for himself it seems odd that CyrusOne went from promising how much in property tax revenue they were supposed to get from them, now there's this \$500,000,000 windfall, they're promising Sangamon County. Why are they so desperate to put lipstick on a pig? Why is there so much money being promised to them? They are literally the most folksiest group of people he has ever met for a multi-international data center company.

He asks, "Doesn't that seem suspicious to any of them?" Do they think they are all backwoods' yokels where if you throw a few dollars in their pocket and say some sweet things they will just let them build a 250,000 square-foot data center?

Champaign put a moratorium on data centers over 10,000 square feet. They haven't even allowed one that large, yet. They already don't want more. They don't have anything anywhere near the size and complexity of what we're approaching. It's not going to raise electric rates? Everybody's going to do well there, the water table is going to get better. The tax revenue is going to go up five hundred million dollars. Does he get a pony with all of that, because it sounds preposterous. He asks "where is the negativity here? They are telling them this massive 250,000 square foot data center has no negatives? It's not going to damage anything? It's not going to permanently change the entire landscape of that area, who are they kidding?"

They have an endless list of examples in front of them around the country. Their desire to move forward quickly is to beat the punch that is coming for them. There are a lot of people in a lot of locales around this country that are opposed to data centers for a lot of very good and valid reasons. He encourages them to explore those because what they're telling us is the sunniest rosiest presentation he's ever heard and that makes him think they're lying.

He says that's how he feels when all you have are good things. He says "If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans." He says he is not even a religious person, but it's one of his favorite sayings. So, he would encourage you to consider the kind of plans that they're offering that appeared to be that swimmingly perfect. He thanked the Board.

The next person signed up to speak, was Ryan McCrady. He introduced himself to the Board. He is the President of the Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance and he appreciates the County Board's attention to this data center development. It's been a very thorough process and it's been going on and being discussed for several months. Many of the things he is excited about with this project is that CyrusOne shows the community the workforce available to support their project. That's very important. Not only the workers that will construct it, but the workers that will operate it and the educational systems in place to support them. Whether that's through District 186 or a number of apprenticeship programs that go on through Lincoln Land Community College or the University of Illinois Springfield. All those systems are providing workers. That's a key factor in attracting any type of business. So, it speaks highly of their community. He wants to say thank you to the workers of their community that helped set those standards. Also, the ability to construct this project with a workforce that represents their community is a tremendous opportunity. Also, as a reminder, the Double Black Diamond solar project located across the street was constructed with a project labor agreement with the same labor groups that will be constructing the CyrusOne data center. That project exceeded all the state of Illinois requirements from our minority participation and employment on that project. Therefore, they will be able to achieve or exceed those standards once again through the project labor agreement that will exist between CyrusOne and local Central Illinois Building and Construction Trades. Another factor, is the change in the tax revenue to the county will be significant. The land right now generates about 20,000 dollars in property taxes, the county assessor, has estimated the property taxes to be over six million dollars on this 280 acres once this is constructed.

That will supply significant revenue to all the taxing bodies. It will also generate a significant economic return through all the indirect jobs not only the 100 jobs with CyrusOne. Each of the tenants that have equipment stored in the data center, will have a number of employees that are required to live nearby and a certain amount of response time for the data center. That's because they maintain the physical equipment that's in there. So that's how they can offer some assurance about the type of jobs that will actually be located here.

They will not be remoting in because it cannot respond in a timely way to serve the equipment. So they're happy to continue to answer questions. He appreciates all the support, all the questions that they've had, and he appreciates that CyrusOne has been very responsible in responding to questions and answering questions. They will be a good partner for this community and he asks them and urges them to vote in favor of this permit for their data center in southwest Sangamon County. He thanked the Board.

The next person who signed up to speak is Dalton Iocca. He introduced himself to the board. He is a lifelong resident of Sangamon County and a proud member of eight generations of family farmers and an IT professional. He would like to implore the County Board to vote NO on the proposed data center project. He asked the County Board a question. What is the meaning of Sangamon? It's a name of Native American origin word for the Potawatomi, meaning where there's plenty to eat. This is their identity as residents of Sangamon County. To take away the richest dirt in the world for this data center, they will begin to lose that identity. If they let these floodgates open, they won't be able to shut it again. He again asked the Board to please vote NO on the proposed data center from CyrusOne and any other data centers coming into Sangamon County. He thanked the Board.

The last person signed up to speak is Gary Schulze. He introduced himself to the Board. He lives a mile and half east of the proposed data center. He says this is not CyrusOne's first data rodeo but it is our first data rodeo. So there is a lot they don't know.

Data center representatives know what to tell the communities, but not what they should, because they don't have to. CyrusOne spoke several times about 100 full-time jobs, never mentioning the percentage that would be remote workers. But they already know there are remote workers. He would like to know if they already have plans set in place, if the humming gets excessive, if the generator noise and the exhaust smell is too much to handle, because they do like to open our windows up for fresh air. These are just a few of the many things they should know.

He knows people have been saying if they want it so bad put it in their backyard but who in their right mind would want that? So, let's stick it to Talkington Township. So they bring down our property values and raise our taxes, because who wants to live the close to a data center? He knows it takes a willing seller to let this happen, but the elected County officials can stop this center. If there is anyone in there who would like this data center as a neighbor, they are a liar. They all know if they weren't throwing out the big money they would say no.

His area went from excellent farmland to having high power lines, then the solar fields. Currently they are getting the red blinking lights of the windmills and now trying to put in a data center. Don't they think they have had enough of this in this rural area? He was not against the solar farm. That's a half-mile from his home. At the time, only thinking about the work it would create for his fellow union members, not thinking about the excellent land, not farmed anymore, but could be if needed to be. It could be returned. As for the possible data center, the land will be unfarmable once it's built. In its most likely short future, it will become the new closed down Pillsbury their children will have to worry about.

As for the data center not increasing their electric rates, they would be the first in the country for it not to. Just because their bill doesn't directly say data center it's there. As for all the excellent tax breaks data centers get on their equipment and other purchases, who do they think pays for it? They guessed it. The taxpayer.

About 28 years ago, they had a home invasion in Lowder. They called 911, it took four hours for an officer to get there. He apologized telling them the area was low priority, but now they are a priority because of a data center?

He would like to thank everyone who has been open-minded and the ones who became open-minded when they started hearing the public concerns. He thanked them and told them to vote No.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, 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 March 23, 2026. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING RECESSED

Don Gray
Sangamon County Clerk