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MINUTES

SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD

JULY 14, 2026

The Sangamon County Board met in Adjourned June Session on July 14, 2026 in the County Board Chambers. Chairman Van Meter called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Ms. Deaner 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 26 Present – 2 Absent. Mr. Davsko and Ms. Lathan were excused. Mr. Cahnman joined by telephone conference.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY BOARD MEMBER FOR DISTRICT 4

Chairman Van Meter announced the appointment of Lanae Clarke to County Board District 4. A voice vote was unanimous.

PROCLAMATIONS

Ms. Fulgenzi and Mr. Stumpf called the Harris Family band up to the front of the Chambers. The Sangamon County Board recognized the Harris Family Band for its remarkable 60 years of musical performance by presenting a proclamation honoring the group's longstanding contributions to the community. As the Harris family and music promoter Terry Young came forward, Ms. Fulgenzi noted that all six siblings had performed together for six decades, an accomplishment described as both unique and extraordinary.

The proclamation recounted the band's history, explaining that the six siblings first performed together on July 4, 1966, at the DAV grounds near Lake Springfield under the name The Little Big Shots. Guided by their parents, Al and Juanita Harris, the group began performing throughout the Midwest before expanding to venues across the country. Performing as both Busted Loose and the Harris Family Band, they appeared at state fairs nationwide and on nationally televised and syndicated programs, including performances at the Grand Ole Opry, Disney's EPCOT, and Texas Motor Speedway. The board also recognized the band as one of the longest-running sibling bands in the United States with its original

members still performing together.

In recognition of the band's enduring legacy and its positive impact on the cultural life of Sangamon County, the board proclaimed July 26, 2026, as "Harris Family Band Day" in Sangamon County. The proclamation also acknowledged the band's 60th anniversary celebration, including a commemorative concert scheduled for July 26, 2026, at the Firefighters Club at Lake Springfield, and encouraged residents to celebrate the family's contributions to the local music community.

Auditor Goleman next had a proclamation. He called on Bob Kennedy, Craig Kennedy and Dave MacDonna to come forward to present the proclamation.

The Sangamon County Board recognized the Stephen A. Douglas Chapter of the Order of DeMolay for its 100th anniversary, honoring a century of developing young men into responsible citizens and future leaders. Mr. MacDonna noted that DeMolay International, founded in 1919, has spent more than a century promoting leadership, character, brotherhood, and community service among young men ages 12 to 21 through civic engagement, athletic activities, charitable work, and social programs. The proclamation celebrated the chapter's enduring legacy and its continued role in shaping future civic leaders.

The proclamation also highlighted the many distinguished individuals who have been members of the Stephen A. Douglas Chapter, including former Springfield Mayor William C. Telford, former Sangamon County Coroner Norman Richter, and former Sangamon County Board Chairman, General Services Administration administrator, and Illinois Adjutant General Richard G. Austin. The board recognized these individuals as examples of the leadership and public service fostered through DeMolay and formally congratulated the chapter on reaching its centennial milestone.

Accepting the proclamation, Craig Kennedy thanked the County Board for the recognition and reflected on more than 50 years of involvement with the organization alongside his brother Bob. He described the chapter's mission of mentoring young men and helping them become productive citizens and invited the public to attend the chapter's 100th anniversary celebration on August 1 at the Ansar Shrine in Springfield. He also noted that many prominent Springfield families and community leaders—including members of the Kerasotes, Scaife, and Lindley families—had participated in the chapter over the years, underscoring its lasting impact on the Springfield and Sangamon County community.

PRESENTATION – CLIFTON LARSON AND ALLEN – ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT

The Sangamon County Board received a presentation on the results of the County's 2025 external audit from representatives of CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA). The auditors reported that the County received a clean, unmodified opinion on its financial statements, meaning the financial statements were fairly presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The auditors also found that the County's Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA) was fairly stated, providing assurance that federal grant expenditures were accurately reported.

Because Sangamon County expended more than \$1 million in federal grant funds during the fiscal year, a Single Audit was required. While the auditors issued a clean opinion on the County's

compliance with the three major federal programs tested, they identified several internal control findings. Two financial reporting findings remained from prior years, including the need for material audit adjustments and revisions to the County's federal expenditure schedule. In addition, four significant deficiencies related to federal grant administration were identified—three involving the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and one involving a grant the County administers through the City of Springfield.

The auditors also summarized their required governance communications to the County Board. They noted the County's implementation of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 101 concerning compensated absences and discussed significant accounting estimates related to the County's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liability. The auditors reported there were no disagreements or significant difficulties with management during the audit process, although they identified several uncorrected misstatements and proposed audit adjustments, all of which were documented in the governance letter.

Finally, the auditors presented a management letter containing recommendations for improving internal controls that did not rise to the level of formal audit findings. These recommendations addressed segregation of duties within the Circuit Clerk's accounting functions, segregation of duties over disbursements in the Veterans Assistance Commission, and improvements to inventory controls at the County Highway Department after discrepancies were identified during year-end inventory counts. The auditors concluded by thanking County staff for their cooperation throughout the audit, and County officials noted that a more detailed presentation had already been provided to the Finance Committee. Copies of the completed audit were made available upon request.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, for approval of the Minutes of the June 9, 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 the procurement of goods and/or services for the Department of Public Health from Ethan Holloway for the purpose of evaluation and training of animals taken into animal control in the amount of \$65,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Schackmann, seconded by Ms. Deppe to place Resolution 1 before the Board. Chairman Van Meter asked the Clerk 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. 2026-013 Thomas and Patricia Scott, 4476 San Terra Road, Pawnee – Granting a Rezoning and a Variance. County Board Member Vacant, District #4.

A motion was made by Ms. Clarke, seconded by Mr. Mendenhall to place Resolution 2 before the Board. The Chairman asked if there were members of the audience who wished to speak in opposition or in support of the proposed rezoning and variances. A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall to waive the staff report. A voice vote on the adoption of Resolution 2 was unanimous. Resolution 2 was adopted.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 3

3. 2026-014 Mattea Tavernor, Executor of the Estate of Deborah Larson, 14800 Block of Moomey Road, Mechanicsburg – Granting Variances. County Board Member David Mendenhall, District #3.

A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall, seconded by Mr. Rader to place Resolution 3 before the Board. The Chairman asked if there were members of the audience who wished to speak in opposition or in support of the proposed rezoning and variances. A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall to waive the staff report. A voice vote on the adoption of Resolution 3 was unanimous. Resolution 3 was adopted.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 4

4. 2026-015 Fancy Creek Township, 6728 Brittin Road, Springfield – Granting a Rezoning and Variances (In Part). County Board Member Casey Constant, District #2.

A motion was made by Mr. Constant, seconded by the Chairman to place Resolution 4 before the Board. The Chairman asked if there were members of the audience who wished to speak in opposition or in support of the proposed rezoning and variances. A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall to waive

the staff report. A voice vote on the adoption of Resolution 4 was unanimous. Resolution 4 was adopted.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 5

5. 2026-016 Curtis & Kim Howard, 6045 New City Road, Rochester – Granting Variances. County Board Member Vacant, District #4.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. Mendenhall to place Resolution 5 before the Board. The Chairman asked if there were members of the audience who wished to speak in opposition or in support of the proposed rezoning and variances. A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall to waive the staff report. A voice vote on the adoption of Resolution 5 was unanimous. Resolution 5 was adopted.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 6

6. Resolution amending the Sangamon County Code Chapter 5.16 in regard to the regulation of massage establishments.

A motion was made by Mr. Schackmann, seconded by Mr. Krell to place Resolution 6 before the Board. Mr. Madonia moved, with a second by Mr. DelGiorno, that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolution 6. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION 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

RESOLUTION 7

7. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Court Services from Springfield Urban League for the purpose of case management services, assessment services, and mentoring services in the amount of \$264,040.

A motion was made by Ms. Fulgenzi, seconded by Ms. Small to place Resolution 7 before the Board. A motion was made by Mr. DelGiorno, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to consolidate Resolutions 8 – 14 with Resolution 7. Chairman Van Meter asked the Clerk to read Resolutions 8 – 14.

RESOLUTIONS 8 - 14

8. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Court Services from Gateway Foundation, Inc. for the purpose of substance abuse treatment services in the amount of \$49,000.
9. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Court Services from Gateway Foundation, Inc. for the purpose of providing Recovery Coaching to problem-solving court participants in the amount of \$52,258.
10. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from Converge One, Inc Proofpoint for the purpose of securing the County email and end user security training in the amount of \$91,107.
11. Resolution Reducing Fees for Electronic Recorded Documents obtained through Laredo.
12. Resolution amending an agreement with Charles Joseph Pell Architects for the Community Services Building in the amount of \$342,725.
13. Resolution approving the Annual Salaries for the Sangamon County State's Attorney, Chief Public Defender, and the Sheriff.
14. A Resolution setting forth Budget Policies for the Preparation of the FY 2027 Sangamon County Budget.

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 7 - 14. A voice vote was unanimous. Resolutions 7 – 14 were adopted.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 15

15. Resolution regarding: (a) rezoning as R1 Single Family Residence all land within 1.5 miles of the current boundaries of Sangamon County municipalities (other than Springfield), towns, and villages; and (b) amending the Zoning Ordinance so that agricultural uses are no longer allowed in every zoning district.

A motion was made by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Fraase to place Resolution 15 before the Board. Mr. Hall asked to Withdraw Resolution 15 and have it returned back to the Zoning Committee so it can go through the proper channels.

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION WITHDRAWN

RESOLUTION 16

16. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the ETSD from AT&T and Axon for the purpose of a Five (5) year contract for Cloud Based AI Tools/Enhancements for 9-1-1 in the amount of \$3,163,085.71.

A motion was made by Mr. Rader, seconded by Mr. Madonia to place Resolution 16 before the Board. Mr. Madonia moved that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolution 16. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business.

A. Appointments

Appointment of Chuck Pell, to the Historic Preservation Commission, for a term expiring June, 2031.

Appointment of Katie Madonia, to the Board of Review, for a term expiring June, 2028.

Appointment of Raj Dhamrait, to the Board of Health, for a term expiring June, 2029.

Appointment of Steve Dunker, to the Northside Fire District, for a term expiring May, 2029.

Appointment of Mia Ray, to the Community Service Block Grant Advisory Board, for a term expiring July, 2029.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, for approval of the appointments. A voice vote was unanimous except Mr. Madonia abstained on the Board of Review appointment.

MOTION CARRIED
APPOINTMENTS ADOPTED

The nominations for approval in August were also submitted.

B. Change September County Board Meeting Date

Motion made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno to change the September County Board meeting to September 1st. A voice vote was unanimous.

C. 2027 County Holiday Schedule

Motion made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno for approval of the Holiday Schedule for 2027. A voice vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Van Meter stated there were 8 people signed up for public comment and they are limited to four minutes.

Speaker 1: Justin King, a Western Sangamon County resident, farmer, and landowner criticized the County Board for what he described as inconsistent treatment of public opposition to land-use decisions. He recalled that in 2018 the board denied a use variance for a relatively small agricultural seed business after approximately 210 nearby residents signed a petition opposing the project. He quoted remarks made by a board member at the time, emphasizing that "the people have spoken" and that the board should follow the wishes of local residents.

Mr. King contrasted that decision with the board's approval of a proposed 280-acre data center, arguing that despite widespread public opposition—including hundreds of people attending public meetings and a petition containing more than 1,700 signatures—the board chose to disregard residents' concerns. He challenged statements suggesting that only a small number of nearby property owners had expressed opposition, questioning whether those who attended meetings or signed petitions were being dismissed as not representing legitimate local residents.

Mr. King further argued that the board's reasoning appeared inconsistent, noting that officials had previously characterized a much smaller agricultural facility as a potential "recipe for disaster" while approving a significantly larger industrial development. He concluded by expressing his belief that the board had applied different standards to similar land-use decisions and urged officials to give greater weight to public input from Sangamon County residents.

Speaker 2: Lori McKiernan. She urged the County Board to reconsider its position that a data center moratorium is not legally permissible under Illinois law. She argued that a temporary moratorium is a valid zoning tool when adopted through the proper legal process, explaining that because it temporarily prohibits an otherwise lawful land use, it must be enacted as a zoning ordinance amendment. She stated that this requires public notice, public hearings, findings of fact, and approval

through the normal zoning procedures, and emphasized that a moratorium must have a defined purpose, such as allowing time to study the impacts of data centers or develop appropriate zoning regulations.

To support her argument, Ms. McKiernan cited numerous Illinois municipalities and counties—including Aurora, Bloomington, Normal, Champaign County, Christian County, Fulton County, Lake County, Logan County, Macon County, Morgan County, Plainfield, Troy, Godfrey, and Carbondale—that have adopted temporary data center moratoriums while researching regulations or updating their zoning ordinances. She noted that many communities used the moratorium period to assemble advisory committees, engage experts, and develop comprehensive standards governing data center development.

Ms. McKiernan also addressed Logan County's moratorium, explaining that it was declared invalid not because moratoriums are illegal, but because the county failed to follow the required zoning procedures by bypassing its Zoning Board of Appeals before the County Board vote. She contrasted this with Sangamon County's position, stating that the County's assistant state's attorney has advised that a moratorium is not legally available, while many other Illinois governments have reached the opposite conclusion. She concluded by urging the County Board to seek a second legal opinion, arguing that it was difficult to believe that numerous local governments across Illinois were incorrect while Sangamon County's interpretation alone was correct.

Speaker 3: Salem King. He was not present.

Speaker 4: Erin Kirkpatrick. She urged the County Board to require all future data center developments to obtain special use permits rather than allowing them as a permitted use in agricultural zoning districts. Drawing on information from a legal continuing education seminar, she argued that data centers are a unique form of development that does not fit traditional zoning classifications and therefore deserve greater scrutiny. She also maintained that temporary moratoriums on data center applications are legally permissible when adopted through the proper zoning amendment process, giving local governments time to study potential impacts and strengthen their ordinances.

Ms. Kirkpatrick criticized Sangamon County's existing data center regulations as being insufficient compared to the county's much more detailed wind and solar ordinances. She noted that the county's wind and solar regulations span dozens of pages and include provisions such as decommissioning requirements, while the proposed data center regulations are comparatively brief and lack similar protections. She argued that the zoning ordinance should be significantly expanded to address issues such as decommissioning and other long-term operational impacts.

She further recommended that data centers be classified as special uses, allowing each proposal to be evaluated individually using the LaSalle factors, the legal standards Illinois courts use to assess whether zoning decisions are reasonable and serve the public interest. According to Ms. Kirkpatrick, this process would allow the County to consider impacts on property values, public health and safety, and community need before approving a project. She also suggested that application fees for special use permits could provide funding for the County to hire independent experts to evaluate the impacts of proposed developments rather than relying solely on information provided by developers.

She concluded by asking the County Board to adopt a temporary moratorium on new data center applications while strengthening the zoning ordinance and to require special use permits for future projects. She argued that these changes would provide the County with the time and resources needed to develop more comprehensive regulations and ensure that future data center proposals receive careful, case-by-case review in the best interests of the community.

Speaker 5: Ken Pacha. He was not present.

Speaker 6: Nic Anderson. He was not present.

Speaker 7: Gary Schulze. He spoke in opposition to the proposed data center, explaining that while gathering petition signatures, many residents told him they believed the County Board had already made up its mind and that public input would not change the outcome. He expressed concern that this perception discourages citizen participation and said he hoped residents would feel comfortable approaching board members with their concerns and believe their opinions would be genuinely considered.

Mr. Schulze also emphasized the importance of ensuring that County Board members are well informed before voting on major development proposals. Speaking from his experience in the construction industry, he argued that many officials receive most of their information from data center developers and may not be fully aware of the potential risks and impacts associated with these projects. He stated that decisions involving developments with significant long-term consequences require thorough education and careful consideration.

He concluded by reiterating his opposition to the proposed data center, expressing concern that some votes may be cast without sufficient understanding of the issues or because of factors unrelated to the merits of the project. He encouraged anyone interested in learning more about the opposition to speak with him after the meeting and emphasized the importance of informed decision-making and meaningful public engagement in the County's land-use decisions.

Speaker 8: Jordan Shaw again voiced strong opposition to the proposed data center, emphasizing that community concern has not diminished since the project was approved. She began by expressing support for residents near Waverly, Loami, and surrounding areas who had filed a lawsuit challenging the CyrusOne project, describing their legal effort as an important step for local residents seeking to protect their communities. She suggested that the litigation reflected the widespread opposition among those living closest to the proposed development.

Ms. Shaw rejected the notion that public opposition would fade over time, noting that months after the County Board's vote, residents continued to attend meetings and speak out against the project. She argued that the issue extends far beyond the appearance of a new industrial building, asserting that many residents are concerned about potential impacts on their quality of life, health, farming operations, livestock, and the long-term character of the surrounding rural communities.

She concluded by urging County Board members to place the interests of local residents ahead of economic incentives associated with the project. Acknowledging that financial considerations can be

appealing, Ms. Shaw argued that elected officials have a responsibility to carefully consider how their decisions affect the people who live near the proposed development. She reminded board members that their votes have lasting consequences for the community and encouraged them to remain mindful of the concerns expressed by their constituents.

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. DelGiorno, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to recess the meeting to August 11, 2026. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING RECESSED

Don Gray
Sangamon County Clerk