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MINUTES

SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD

OCTOBER 13, 2026

The Sangamon County Board met in Reconvened Adjourned September Session on October 13, 2026 in the County Board Chambers. Chairman Van Meter called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Ms. Linda Douglas-Williams gave the Invocation. Mr. Tjelmeland led the County Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Van Meter asked the County Clerk to call the roll. There were 24 Present – 3 Absent. Ms. Clarke, Ms. Fulgenzi and Mr. Truax were excused.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY BOARD MEMBER FOR DISTRICT 2

Chairman Van Meter announced the appointment of Rusty Edwards to County Board District 2. A voice vote was unanimous. County Clerk Gray administered the oath to Mr. Edwards.

PROCLAMATIONS

Ms. Deaner recognized Lenny Hamende upon his retirement after 18 years of service. Beginning as a weatherization assessor and advancing to weatherization coordinator, he helped improve thousands of homes, providing safer, warmer, and more energy-efficient housing for seniors, families, and vulnerable residents. The proclamation commended his leadership, compassion, collaboration with contractors and state officials, and efforts to reduce household energy costs and carbon emissions. Lenny thanked the Chairman, County Board, agency representatives, and his family, describing his service as a wonderful experience and one of the proudest periods of his life.

PRESENTATION: GREATER SPRINGFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – KENDRA VINCENT

Ms. Vincent provided an update on the Chamber's efforts to attract and retain young people in Sangamon County by strengthening connections between education, local employment, and community life. Initiatives include a database of professionals willing to conduct career interviews with students and

potentially offer job shadowing, along with classroom instruction on résumé writing, interview preparation, workplace expectations, and mock interviews led by local human resources professionals. The classroom program will begin in two county high schools this fall, with plans to expand.

Next summer, the Chamber will launch the Sangamon Intern Collective, an eight-week program for interns, apprentices, and early-career workers featuring professional development, networking, and community activities. The Chamber also upgraded its online job board, increasing listings from 21 positions in August to more than 1,800, and created dedicated boards for youth employment and internships. These programs are free to participating schools and individuals and involve collaboration with organizations including the Springfield Urban League, Lincoln Land Workforce Alliance, and local colleges. Board members noted that regional planning research identified a smaller share of residents ages 20–35 than the national average, underscoring the need to help young people build careers and remain in the county.

PRESENTATION BY ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY JOEL BENOIT

Assistant State's Attorney, Joel Benoit reported favorable outcomes in two appellate cases and the resolution of IRS penalty claims. In the Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) appeal, the Fourth District rejected the argument that the County must automatically appropriate any requested amount below 0.02% of equalized assessed value, approximately $1.2 million in 2025. Mr. Benoit explained that the VAC must establish its needs annually and the County must fund those demonstrated needs. The court also determined that payment of VAC-approved attorney invoices depends on whether administrative funds remain available when the payment request is received.

In the Lake Springfield property tax appeal, the appellate court rejected claims of unequal taxation because the property owners did not provide fair market value evidence to challenge the assessments. Mr. Benoit expressed hope that the ruling would help resolve a related federal lawsuit seeking class-action status. Separately, all IRS penalties under dispute, totaling approximately $1.2 million, were eliminated, including a final $250,000 penalty resolved the previous month. Those claims concerned informational reporting requirements rather than unpaid taxes.

He also reported that the Illinois Supreme Court agreed to review the Winnebago County solar zoning case following conflicting appellate decisions concerning county authority. Sangamon County had revised its zoning rules to reflect the Winnebago ruling, which recognized some county discretion. A Supreme Court decision could clarify that authority, although its timing remains uncertain.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Van Meter stated they would go out of the regular order and proceed with public comment. Speakers are limited to four minutes.

Speaker 1: Ken Pacha. Mr. Pacha was not present.

Speaker 2: Don Hanrahan. He expressed concern that scheduling city council and county board meetings at the same time limits public participation and oversight by forcing residents, journalists, and

other stakeholders to choose which meeting to attend. Citing his own choice between a city council discussion on ShotSpotter and the County Board meeting, he urged officials to coordinate meeting schedules to improve accessibility and transparency.

He also called for additional protections in the County's data center zoning ordinance, particularly decommissioning requirements. He encouraged the Zoning and Land Use Committee to continue considering revisions and review regulations being developed in Bloomington-Normal as a possible model, citing concerns about energy consumption, water use, and carbon emissions.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, for approval of the Minutes of the September 1, 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 a Preliminary Engineering and Land Acquisition Agreement with Crawford, Murphy & Tilly of Springfield, IL for improvements along County Highway 8 --- Old Jacksonville Road in the amount of $1,530,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno to place Resolution 1 before the Board. Chairman Van Meter asked the Clerk to call the roll. Upon the roll call vote, there were 24 Yeas – 0 Nays. Resolution 1 was adopted.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2

2. A Resolution approving adoption of the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan for Sangamon County.

A motion was made by Mr. Rader, seconded by Mr. McGuire to place Resolution 2 before the Board. Mr. DelGiorno made a motion, to consolidate Resolutions 3 – 4 with Resolution 2. Chairman Van Meter asked the Clerk to read Resolutions 3 – 4.

RESOLUTIONS 3 – 4

3. 2026-008 A Text Amendment to Sangamon County Zoning Ordinance Amending Chapter 17.39 of the Sangamon County Zoning Ordinance Related to Data Centers.

4. 2026-026 A Text Amendment to Sangamon County Zoning Ordinance Amending Chapter 17.35 of the Sangamon County Zoning Ordinance Related to Energy Storage Systems.

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

Mr. DelGiorno asked staff to clarify that Resolution 3 reflected several months of work to strengthen the data center ordinance, conform to state law, and clearly address Illinois Pollution Control Board and Illinois EPA requirements. Staff confirmed that the committee reviewed public recommendations, distinguishing zoning issues from utility matters and issues governed by state law or other authorities.

Regarding decommissioning, staff stated that the County does not have authority comparable to that provided for solar and wind facilities, which are considered temporary uses. Staff also reported that its review of other jurisdictions had not identified a decommissioning plan model for a permanent brick-and-mortar structure.

Mr. Mendenhall emphasized that work on the data center ordinance remains ongoing. Although the current amendment is complete, additional changes will continue to be considered. The Chairman credited Mr. McGuire and Mr. Rader for their efforts during the data center discussions and asked whether they were satisfied with the proposed resolution.

Mr. McGuire stated that the amendment addresses many of the concerns raised about the data center ordinance, while noting that several issues fall under building codes. Mr. Rader agreed, emphasizing that the committee reviewed numerous options and relied on legal counsel's recommendations and staff research. They expressed confidence in the plan while remaining open to additional changes as needed.

The Chairman noted that the County does not require decommissioning plans for new homes, office buildings, or warehouses and questioned whether such a requirement should apply to every new building. Staff confirmed that no such requirements exist for those types of construction.

Ms. Feipel suggested that vacant buildings along MacArthur Boulevard and downtown illustrate why decommissioning requirements might warrant consideration. The Chairman expressed concern that requiring a decommissioning plan for every new building could discourage construction in the community.

Mr. Guyton argued that large-scale data centers should be distinguished from homes and other buildings when considering decommissioning requirements because of their acreage, electricity consumption, and resource use. Asked whether Bloomington's proposed ordinance or other regulations included decommissioning provisions, staff said they had not reviewed the referenced material and had

not seen such requirements for brick-and-mortar buildings. Members also noted that a former data center could potentially be used for another purpose.

Members questioned whether the ordinance addressed tonal noise, low-frequency noise, and vibration. Staff confirmed that the ordinance broadly adopts Illinois Pollution Control Board standards but did not confirm specific coverage of those types of noise. A follow-up question about whether the County could adopt stricter noise standards than the state remained unanswered.

Mr. Madonia moved that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolutions 2 – 4 as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 5

5. 2026-027 Rebecca Weller, 9622 Ginder Road, Rochester – Granting a Rezoning and Variances. County Board Member Lanae Clark, District #4.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. McGuire 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. 2026-028 Andrew & Hillary Whalen, 5575 Cardinal Hill Road, Rochester – Granting a Use Variance with Conditions and Variances. County Board Member Tom Madonia, District #9.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. Tjelmeland to place Resolution 6 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.

Mr. Madonia expressed support for the small business produce farm project that received a 4–1 recommendation from the Zoning Board of Appeals. It was described as the type of entrepreneurial effort encouraged by the farm-to-table program and urged fellow members to support the project and avoid creating unnecessary obstacles.

A voice vote on the adoption of Resolution 6 was unanimous. Resolution 6 was adopted.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 7

7. Resolution in support of an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) grant application for sidewalk and streetscape improvements along ninth street.

A motion was made by Ms. Deppe, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno to place Resolution 7 before the Board. Mr. DelGiorno made a motion, seconded by Madonia, to consolidate Resolutions 8 – 12 with Resolution 7. Chairman Van Meter asked the Clerk to read Resolutions 8 – 12.

RESOLUTIONS 8 – 12

8. Resolution approving a grant application for the County Board from the Illinois Department of Human Services for the Office of Community and Positive Development in the amount of $762,945.

9. Resolution approving a grant application for SMART from IDOT for the Consolidated Vehicle Procurement program in the amount of $351,000.

10. Resolution approving a grant application for the Sheriff's Office from the US Department of Justice for the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness program in the amount of $175,368.62.

11. Resolution approving a grant application for the Sheriff's Office from the Department of Justice for the BJA De-escalation and Crisis Response Training program in the amount of $700,000.

12. Resolution Authorizing the County's Acquisition of All Tax Certificates for Properties on the 2025 Delinquent Properties Parcel List at the 2026 Real Estate Tax Sale.

Mr. Madonia moved that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolutions 7 – 12 as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous except for Mr. Schackmann who voted to abstain on Resolutions 7 and 9 and Mr. Davsko who abstained on Resolution 8.

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 13

13. Resolution approving the list of contracts for employee benefits for 2027.

A motion was made by Mr. Krell, seconded by Ms. Feipel to place Resolution 13 before the Board. Mr. Madonia moved that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolution 13. Mr. DelGiorno made a motion, to consolidate Resolutions 14 – 34 with Resolution 13. Chairman Van Meter asked the Clerk to read Resolutions 14 – 34.

RESOLUTION 14 – 34

14. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from Tyler Technologies for the purpose of County Tax Software atENT annual maintenance in FY26 the amount of $212,653.

15. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from Tyler Technologies, Inc. for the purpose of County Tax Software atENT annual maintenance FY25 in the amount of $137,727.

16. Purchase Order and County Board Resolution – Goodman Fence for Animal Control new perimeter fence & gates in the amount of $33,921.

17. A Resolution to approve entering an Intergovernmental Agreement between Menard County, Menard County Board of Health, Sangamon County Board of Health, and Sangamon County for the Provision of Public Health Services in Menard County, Illinois.

18. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Public Health from Animal Emergency Clinic of Springfield for the purpose of emergency veterinary services for Animal Control in the amount of $50,000.

19. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Public Health from Animal Protective League for the purpose of spay and neuter services at Animal Control in the amount of $50,000.

20. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Public Health from Board of Trustees of SIU for the purpose of providing medical director contact in the amount of $45,000.

21. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Public Health from Custom Data Processing for the purpose of EMR and RCM database services for Personal Health in the amount of $120,000.

22. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Public Health from FFF Enterprises for the purpose of providing vaccines in the amount of $120,000.

23. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Public Health from Glaxosmithkline Financial for the purpose of providing vaccines in the amount of $45,000.

24. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Public Health from Memorial Medical Center for the purpose of lab services for clinic in the amount of $90,000.

25. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Public Health from Merck & Company for the purpose of providing vaccines in the amount of $35,000.

26. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Public Health from MWI Veterinary Supply for the purpose of veterinary supplies at Animal Control in the amount of $135,000.

27. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Public Health from Sanofi Pasteur for the purpose of providing vaccines in the amount of $100,000.

28. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Public Health from Sinclair Broadcasting for the purpose of Narcan advertising services in the amount of $62,500.

29. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Public Health from Solid Ground Solutions for the purpose of janitorial services at Animal Control in the amount of $80,000.

30. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Public Health from Wand 17 for the purpose of providing Narcan advertising services in the amount of $52,500.

31. A Resolution authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of Sangamon and the Village of Pleasant Plains.

32. Resolution approving a grant application for the Land of Lincoln Workforce Alliance from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for the PY ’26 Supplemental State Grant program in the amount of $240,196.

33. Resolution allowing operators to retain 2% of the Hotel Tax to offset collection expense.

34. Resolution for a contract with Convention, Sports, and Leisure for an amount not to exceed $135,000 with the cost of the contract split equally between Sangamon County and the Springfield Metropolitan Exhibition and Auditorium Authority.

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

Mr. DelGiorno wanted an update from Director Ridley on the status of the Animal Protective League’s (APL) building and operations. Director Ridley reported that the APL has been using County animal shelter space since July 8 after tornado damage to its facility. In exchange for rent-free space, APL has provided surgical services for shelter dogs and cats at no charge. The County is tracking those

services, and Mr. Ridley said the arrangement has been financially beneficial. APL is evaluating modular facilities at its existing site or an alternate building, with a resolution anticipated by Thanksgiving. The $50,000 purchase order in Resolution 19 would allow the County to pay for APL services once normal arrangements resume.

Members also discussed whether the County could help fund APL's replacement facility. Mr. Ridley said APL has restricted building funds and is working through insurance matters, with no additional County assistance needed to his knowledge. Others noted APL's ongoing fundraising and encouraged the County to remain open to financial assistance if needed, recognizing the organization's value to the community.

Mr. Cahnman had a question about Resolution 34. Mr. McFadden explained that the proposed BOS Center study differs from the earlier feasibility study, which focused on expanding convention space and constructing a hotel. The new study will examine the arena's operations, programming, condition, and future use, with extensive community input through surveys. Potential options include upgrades, changes to seating or programming, conversion to trade show space, or removal of the arena. Mr. McFadden emphasized that the convention expansion has already been approved, while the arena's future remains open for evaluation.

The County is participating because it owns land intended for the convention expansion, and decisions about the arena could affect those plans. Although the study's full timeline is approximately 14 weeks, CSL expects preliminary findings within six to seven weeks to help inform the convention project before plans are finalized. Staff clarified that the total contract is $135,000, split equally between the County and the Springfield Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority (SMEAA), making the County's share $67,500.

Mr. Madonia moved that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolutions 13 - 34. A voice vote was unanimous. Resolutions 13 – 34 were adopted.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 35

35. Resolution approving a change for all 2027 County Board Meeting dates to be moved from Tuesday to Wednesday.

A motion was made by Mr. Cahnman, seconded by Ms. Feipel to place Resolution 35 before the Board.

Mr. Cahnman made a motion to amend the Resolution 35 so the resolution would take effect on January 1, 2027, rather than immediately upon passage. The change would delay implementation of the related County Code amendment concerning Tuesday meetings until 2027 and was described as a technical adjustment. The motion failed by voice vote leaving the original resolution for consideration.

Mr. Cahnman urged members to support moving County Board meetings from Tuesday to Wednesday, or another day that would avoid conflicts with Springfield City Council meetings. The sponsor argued that overlapping meetings force residents to choose where to participate and make coverage difficult for local news organizations with limited staff, noting that nearly 60% of county residents also live in Springfield.

Mr. Madonia made a motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, to move the resolution to the Rules Committee for further study. He noted that the bipartisan committee had been reviewing the issue for six to eight months and could consider changes or recommend approval or rejection.

Ms. Lathan encouraged involving the City of Springfield in discussions about meeting schedules, noting their understanding that the conflict arose largely from changes to the City Council's schedule. She suggested exploring the City's willingness to adjust its meeting times rather than considering changes solely to the County Board's schedule.

Mr. Cahnman clarified that the resolution would be referred to the ad hoc rules committee for further review. He supported referral, noting that the proposed schedule change was intended for 2027 and that co-sponsors could continue advancing it after he leaves the board. He argued that moving the County Board's one monthly meeting would be simpler than changing the City Council's two monthly meetings, but welcomed either government adjusting its schedule.

The Chairman noted that the committee had already been examining meeting procedures and public comment opportunities. While Mr. Cahnman maintained that meeting on different days would resolve the conflict between the two bodies, the Chairman cautioned that other days could create additional conflicts, including Wednesday evening church activities, and favored further committee review.

On a voice vote, the Resolution was referred to the ad hoc rules committee.

RESOLUTION REFERRED TO AD HOC RULES COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION 36

36. Resolution approving a grant application for SMART from IDOT for the Downstate Operating Assistance program in the amount of $989,850.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Ms. Deppe to place Resolution 36 before the Board. Mr. Madonia moved that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolution 36. A voice vote was unanimous. Resolution 36 was adopted.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 37

37. Resolution approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of Sangamon, Illinois and the Community Mental Health Board of Sangamon County.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Ms. Scaife to place Resolution 37 before the Board.

Mr. DelGiorno asked whether concerns about the Mental Health Board's 3:00 p.m. meetings had been addressed to improve public participation. Mr. McFadden explained that the County does not control the board's schedule, but the board has discussed moving meetings to 4:00 p.m. and holding after-hours community input sessions. The County has offered the Sangamon South Auditorium as a meeting location to address concerns that courthouse security may intimidate some attendees. The board's offices, including its newly hired executive director's office, will also be at Sangamon South.

Mr. McFadden emphasized that the intergovernmental agreement will reduce administrative costs by allowing the Mental Health Board to purchase County services such as human resources, payroll, IT, and procurement. The agreement covers July through November at approximately $12,000, which he said is significantly less than obtaining those services from outside vendors. The arrangement is intended to preserve more tax revenue for mental health services.

Mr. Madonia moved that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolution 37. A voice vote was unanimous except for Mr. Schackmann who abstained. Resolution 37 was adopted.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cahnman asked to be informed of when the Ad Hoc Rules Committee meets. The Chairman said he'd be happy to do that.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cahnman asked County Clerk Gray whether Sangamon County could allow residents to vote at any polling location, citing constituents who live near a polling place but must travel farther to their assigned location. Clerk Gray explained that a universal polling system, such as those used in Champaign and DuPage counties, requires electronic poll books and specialized ballot-on-demand equipment to verify voters and produce the correct ballots at each site. Sangamon County currently uses paper applications and preprinted ballots across 166 precincts at 78 polling locations.

Clerk Gray said equipping every location would require a substantial investment that he considered impractical under the current system. He suggested that a future transition to fewer regional vote centers could make the investment more feasible through savings in facilities, staffing, and printing.

He also noted cybersecurity considerations associated with electronic systems. When asked for an estimated conversion cost, Clerk Gray said he did not have one available.

Mr. Guyton questioned the delay in publicly reporting an incident on the 24th in which a sheriff's deputy reportedly struck a pedestrian. Chief Deputy John Hayes explained that Springfield Police handled the investigation and that the office waited for the city's investigation to be completed before releasing information. He said public announcements are handled case by case and offered to follow up.

Mr. Guyton urged greater transparency and timely updates, citing previous vehicle-related incidents and concerns about accountability and taxpayer costs. He also expressed concern for the injured pedestrian, described as an unhoused man hospitalized with several broken bones and a lacerated spleen, who may lack support during recovery. Mr. Guyton requested continued communication as more information becomes available.

A. Appointments

Appointment of Captain Marisa McCluer, to fill the unexpired term of Major Jeff Eddy, to the Community Service Block Grant, for a term expiring November, 2026.

Appointment of Sheila Feipel, to the Sangamon County Board of Managers.

Appointment of Kevin McGuire, to fill the unexpired term of Clyde Bunch, to the Workplace Safety Board, for a term expiring February, 2027.

Appointment of Tom Madonia, to fill the unexpired term of Greg Stumpf, to the Board of Health, for a term expiring September, 2028.

Appointment of David Mendenhall, to the SCCDS, for a term expiring September, 2027.

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 approval in November were also submitted.

The chairman announced interim committee leadership changes following board member resignations. Mr. Madonia will serve as Finance Committee chair, Mr. Miller as Finance vice chair, and Mr. Truax as Community Services Committee chair until the board reorganizes at its December meeting.

B. Emergency/Procurement Notifications

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 November 10, 2026. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING RECESSED

Don Gray
Sangamon County Clerk