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## **MINUTES**

### **SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD**

**JANUARY 11, 2011**

The Sangamon County Board met in Reconvened Adjourned September session on January 11, 2011 in the County Board Chambers. Chairman VanMeter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Moore gave the Invocation and Mr. O'Neill led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ROLL CALL**

Chairman VanMeter asked the County Clerk to call the roll. There were 27 Present – 2 Absent. Mr. Goleman and Mr. Stephens were excused.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Mrs. Turner and Mrs. Musgrave presented Brian McFadden and Lou Robisch with belated Christmas gifts.

Jim Stone, Director of Public Health, addressed the Board on the occasion of the County closing on the new Public Health facility. He presented the Chairman and the County Board with a plaque signed by all the employees as a token of their appreciation. Chairman VanMeter stated that one week ago they signed the papers and the building is officially theirs.

Chairman VanMeter introduced Bob Scherschligt, the new Sangamon County Public Defender. Mr. Scherschligt addressed the Board and introduced himself to everyone. He stated that he is happy to be here again, he was previously here as first assistant to Brian Otwell. He stated he is very humbled and honored that the Judges selected him. In these tough economic times, he is going to do everything he can to do more with less. He thanked the Board for their support.

Norm Sims, Director of Regional Planning, addressed the Board. The Citizen's Efficiency Commission was passed by referendum in November. Under the resolution that was passed, the Planning Commission was called upon to assist and help staff that commission in its work. They were very happy and pleased to be called upon to do that. They currently do work with a number of jurisdictions and municipalities in the County, and they have seen the kind of financial stress those jurisdictions are in as they struggle to provide services to their citizens and at the same time not putting additional tax burden on them. That is one of the reasons they became involved in the energy efficiency program, which they would not normally do. They saw this as a way they could assist the communities to reduce the burden on the taxpayers to the extent that they use less energy. There is a savings to them with this.

Since the referendum and because of their staff work, they have been researching how similar groups around the country operate in this regard. They want to bring a couple things to their attention and even make a recommendation. A number of board members and members of the public have approached them and said they would like this work to begin as soon as possible to look at ways they can be more efficient and effective at the local government special jurisdiction level. At this time, they are suggesting to put off the establishment and operation of this body until the spring, specifically after the April election. One reason is that a number of the local jurisdictions in the County are going to have elections. They feel it would be appropriate for any new leadership to have involvement in the selection of the representatives that will serve on this commission. Also, the resolution calls for the members to be citizen members, and that means the locally elected officials and their staff may not be members of this commission. If they hold this off until the spring, they will have a better understanding of what the pool of candidates who can serve on this commission will be. It may be a different group after April than what they are right now. This also gives the Planning Commission some time to work this into their work plan. It is important to start doing some pre-planning for this group so they can hit the ground faster and better than they might if they start without doing that kind of work.

They just finished a draft of "frequently asked questions" that can go to the municipal jurisdictions to explain to them what their role may be. They do need to find ways to communicate with and involve the public about what this commission is all about. He also brought to their attention that the Planning Commission is a small staff and some staff time comes from funds where they can only do certain work because those funds may not be available to them on the efficiency commission. They need time to identify individuals in the community who are willing to volunteer. They are starting to put together a virtual rolodex of people that would be available to work through the commission staff to do this work. Under the resolution, this commission has 36 months after the referendum to complete its work. They anticipate that they will have plenty of time to do a very good job for the residents of Sangamon County. They are just asking for some patience and understanding from this body and from all the jurisdictions they work with as this unfolds. They want to allow the municipalities and jurisdictions to get past the April election.

Mr. Montalbano asked if they have thought what they might do if there is resistance to the plan.

Mr. Sims explained that the resolution does not require municipalities to adopt the recommendations. They hoped some of the recommendations were clear enough that the jurisdictions would see the value of them and would want to implement them. They also hoped there would be some emphasis from the public for the municipal bodies to start looking at these kinds of recommendations to make some changes in that regard.

Mr. Moore asked what the number and composition of the citizen members is and what their qualifications are. Mr. Sims stated that the resolution calls for 23 members consisting of the following: four citizens nominated by the Mayor of Springfield and appointed by the Springfield City Council, four citizens nominated by the Sangamon County Board Chairman and appointed by the County Board, two citizens appointed collectively by the village boards in Sangamon County, two citizens appointed collectively by the townships in Sangamon County, two citizens appointed collectively by the school districts in Sangamon County, one citizen appointed by the park district, one by the Metropolitan Sewer District, one by the Mass Transit District, one by the Springfield Airport Authority, one by the Springfield Metropolitan Exposition Auditorium Authority Board, one appointed collectively by the community college districts in Sangamon County, one appointed collectively by the fire protection districts in Sangamon County, one citizen appointed collectively by the library districts in Sangamon County, and one citizen appointed collectively by the water district.

Mr. Sims stated that part of the challenge is getting them to work together to make these appointments. One of the conditions placed on this is that the appointees cannot be elective members of these bodies or staff. Staff can be called upon to provide assistance, but they cannot be voting members of the commission. Also, in selecting members of the commission, individuals appointed should not be in the position to augment their income or promote their special interests through membership on the commission. He specified that this is an unpaid commission. They are not selected based upon political party affiliation, and it should be a non-partisan group. They should be broadly representative of the communities' geographic, economic, racial and cultural diversity. They should be knowledgeable, active or interested in community affairs, and should commit to their availability to meetings of the committees or task forces that may be established. They should also reflect a fair representation of the local governments in Sangamon County. All of those appointed will serve a two-year term.

Chairman VanMeter asked if they plan to use this organizational period to personally speak with the groups that will be nominating people to the commission. Mr. Sims explained that they plan to communicate with them by mail first and then do a follow-up with them. One of the things they will have to sort out is how they will go about doing this. Mr. VanMeter asked if they plan to have personal contact with them. Mr. Sims stated that they do.

Mr. Schweska asked what the application process would be and when the citizens would start submitting their names. Mr. Sims suggested they submit names after the April election. In some cases, you may not even know if an individual is eligible until after the election.

Mr. Krell asked who would be the chief legal counsel for this. Mr. Sims stated that they could be from any of the bodies. He does not believe that is resolved yet. Mr. Krell stated his concern is if there were things that would arise which would have a cost factor. Mr. Sims stated that there may even be legal questions regarding whether or not shared services or activities would be legal in a non-home rural community under State law. This is a question they will need to resolve.

Mr. O'Neill asked how often they would meet. Mr. Sims stated it would be up to the commission. Other commissions usually set up an executive committee to just handle paperwork and then they break down into subcommittees. Some committees meet monthly while others meet weekly, depending on what they are working on.

Mrs. Turner suggested they utilize the current system or something similar that the County Board has in place for board appointments because it is a very fair and equitable system. They really need to think about what they allow the volunteers and staff to do.

Mr. Boyster asked what efforts the bodies are using to recruit citizens for the commission. Mr. Sims stated that they do not know yet. Mr. Boyster asked Mr. Sims if his staff is working on that. Mr. Sims stated that they are not at this time.

Mr. Stumpf asked who would approve the legal counsel. Mr. Sims stated it would be under the direction of that body. Mr. Stumpf asked how long they would have to serve. Mr. Sims stated it would be a two-year term.

Mrs. Fulgenzi asked what they see as their responsibility before and after the commission is appointed. Mr. Sims stated that a lot of material needs to be pulled. They are looking at what similarities there are amongst jurisdictions, such as services they provide and their needs. The resolution calls for them to establish by-laws under which they will operate, so between now and then they may draft some by-laws to consider and to get them started. It can sometimes take months for bodies to establish these by-laws. There will be a lot of meetings, papers and other materials they will have to find. The question of what occurs after they complete their work will be a question to the jurisdictions or municipalities as they see what recommendations are coming from the groups. There is going to be a need to communicate with the public. The resolution specifies that there has to be Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act coverage. The postings of meetings will take up a good amount of time to make this work. They will not know some of the scale of what needs to be done until they actually get into the meetings.

Mr. Hall stated that they are educating the people involved and themselves. The people they choose will help them understand how each body actually functions. The concern he has heard in the unincorporated areas is that this will give Springfield the chance to be the power broker on issues in the unincorporated areas and maybe lose the voice of the hometown. This is a non-binding group, with no teeth, that is going to come back to them and say here are our findings. He asked if there is any chance this Board will have some teeth on this.

Mr. Sims stated that the teeth of this exercise are the quality of the ideas that come from it and the support from those ideas. They are not going into this with any pre-suppositions about what this body might look at or what their recommendations would be. They are trying to find things they may want to consider. They could probably find where there would be a savings that was done collectively.

Mr. Stumpf stated he believes no matter what the recommendation, they are still not the final say for the unincorporated, rural or city areas. They would need to put that back before the voters of the municipality it is going to affect.

Mr. Krell asked if the denominational churches have any say on this Board. Mr. Sims stated that they are not identified as a jurisdiction that would have a membership on the Board. There is nothing that would keep somebody from one of these churches from being appointed a citizen member by one of these bodies.

Mr. Fulgenzi stated that the City of Peoria did this about six months ago, so they may want to contact them to see what they are doing and possibly suggest it to the committee itself. Mr. Sims stated that they will follow up on that.

Chairman VanMeter asked what the vote totals were on the referendum. Brian McFadden, County Administrator, stated that the referendum passed County-wide with almost 63% of the votes. Those returns were pretty uniform, whether it was urban, rural, East side, North county, or South county.

Chairman VanMeter asked if there was objection to the Regional Planning's Office recommendation that they use the next four months to organize this. There were no objections. Chairman VanMeter stated that they now have their approval.

### **Q5 INITIATIVE UPDATE**

Erich Bloxdorf, Executive Vice-President of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, addressed the Board. One of his roles at the Chamber is working with the Quantum Growth Partnership, which many know as Q5, on their economic development plan for Sangamon County. He explained that he has sat on the side as a volunteer and now works as Chamber staff. For over 30 years they have partnered with Sangamon County and with the City of Springfield in their economic development efforts, and this body was one of the first organizations to step forward and support this new vision for economic reality for this county. The subsequent four years have been rich with opportunity and challenges, and he believes they have worked very well together. Some of the high points are that they have been able to attract, expand and retain over 1,700 jobs in Sangamon County. They have made 28 loans to minority businesses, and have had less than a 15% default rate on those loans. They have been helping young minority entrepreneurs get their businesses started successfully. They have also launched programs to help spur entrepreneurial aspirations in their community with project innovation and business plan composition. They have expanded the workforce capacity in the community through nurse training at Lincoln Land Community College, St. John's College of Nursing and also through Benedictine University.

Certainly, they have stood shoulder to shoulder with this fine organization to stop increased freight traffic and high speed rail on the Third Street corridor. They have also been the primary support for the Mid-Illinois Medical District over the past several years. While he thinks they have made some strides against the economic head wounds they have been experiencing, he believes there is so much more they can accomplish.

Mr. Bloxdorf talked about some of the things they accomplished in 2010 and gave an overview of where they are going in 2012 and beyond. With the high speed rail, they helped to ensure that the high speed rail and increased freight traffic would not get run down the Third Street corridor, and they are hopeful they will be successful in that fight. They feel they will play a continued role in that effort. Just this last fall they commissioned a study which showed the devastating impact on the healthcare community and the Mid-Illinois Medical District that this Third Street rail corridor would have if selected. In early December they convened a pretty comprehensive public relations campaign to send a message to the decision makers on this particular effort that the Third Street rail corridor is not a viable corridor for high speed rail and increased freight traffic. They do continue to work very hard and will continue to work very closely with the County, City and citizen's groups until a final recommendation and decision is made by the F.R.A.

They often talk about East Springfield re-development at the Chamber. In 2010 they worked very closely supporting the Springfield project in acquiring a \$1.4 million grant to do residential reconstruction in East Springfield. They are now happy to say "reconstruction has started", and there are 17 homes coming up right now. The interesting part of this is that it is a revolving loan fund. There is a pool of qualified candidates to take these homes over and purchase them. Once those are financed by a bank, that money comes back into the program, and they can continue to build and grow in East Springfield. Last year they held Project Innovation One, which was a business plan competition targeted specifically at the healthcare industry. They gave away \$26,000 worth of grants to entrepreneurs who are starting businesses in the healthcare industry. It is meant to directly increase jobs in Springfield and Sangamon County. They are excited about the efforts that have been coming out of that particular project. One of those efforts is a continuation called Project Innovation Two, which is called Innovation and Acceleration. This year they are expanding that project beyond the healthcare borders, and they are also looking at companies that are not only in the start-up mode, but are ready to be launched. This includes businesses that just need a little kick start to move their business into higher job creation. They are in the middle of accepting applications for Project Innovation Two. This spring they will be hosting that competition and sending notices. They hope everyone will be able to attend this ceremony where these entrepreneurs get the opportunity to present their projects. It is exciting to see some of these entrepreneurial efforts bubble up in Springfield and Sangamon County.

Mr. Bloxdorf explained that when he got to the Chamber in 2009 their business attraction pipeline had a total of zero business opportunities in it. He is now proud to say that with the work from people at the County, City, and Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, they now have nine projects in their pipeline. They range from distribution to manufacturing. The total number of jobs, if they were able to win all nine projects, would be 725 jobs for Springfield and Sangamon County.

He stated that he is not delusional to think they will win all nine of those projects, but it is exciting to have the opportunity to bid and try to find opportunities for these employers who want to be located in Springfield and Sangamon County. He thanked the County Board members who have helped in their business attraction efforts. They have helped connect them to villages and communities throughout Sangamon County to identify sites these businesses may be able to use. They do appreciate that effort and look forward to continuing efforts on that.

Mr. Bloxdorf explained that they are not turning a blind eye to commercial redevelopment opportunities in East Springfield. With their friends at the Springfield Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission and the City of Springfield, they have commissioned a study to look at how they can better implement commercial redevelopment in East Springfield to support the residents of that community and also the residents of Springfield and Sangamon County as a whole. They are about 60 days into that project right now, and they are having a meeting tomorrow to talk about what their urban planners have found so far. They are going to be engaging many folks from Springfield and Sangamon County in this particular process to seek input on how they can better develop commercial redevelopment in East Springfield. Many people ask what is next. He thinks they all realize economic complexities are much different today than they were in 2005 and 2006 when they first, as a County, came up with the Quantum Growth Partnership. They have reached out and engaged a national renowned firm called Market Street Services to help this community and county develop a new economic and strategic plan for Sangamon County, and they are in the middle of that right now. He encouraged everyone to go to their website at [www.gscc.org](http://www.gscc.org). They have a competitive assessment published there, and it is rather eye opening. They have compared themselves to Bloomington, Rochester, Minnesota and Topeka, Kansas, which are communities that are very similar to ours. They can see where they may have advantages and disadvantages and weaknesses.

They do have three other phases that will occur, and at the end of the day, they will have an economic development and implementation plan they can all use to move this county forward and improve the economic prosperity of everyone in this county. He thanked the County Board for their support.

Mr. Bunch applauded them for their efforts and stand on the Third Street rail issue.

Mr. Montalbano congratulated them on all the ways they entice business. He asked about businesses that have left Springfield. He asked if there is a way they can contact someone in Washington to see if some of the things from these businesses can be made here. Mr. Bloxdorf stated that they make frequent trips to Washington and lobby for more specific projects this community is looking for them to support. One of the concerns they have always had is trying to understand what types of programs and incentives the successful communities in the United States have in place to attract jobs. He is not certain of the full arsenal of incentives they could employ to attract businesses here.

He has instructed their Business Attraction Unit at the Chamber to look at successful communities and come up with a list of options, ideas and incentives they might be able to use to attract business to Sangamon County. They are not looking for free giveaways or free money, as the economy is too difficult there, but are looking for creative ways that other communities are using to attract and retain business. One of them could be just to reach out at the federal level.

Chairman VanMeter asked if Q5 is still looking at establishing a fund that would support entrepreneurial activities developing here in this community. Mr. Bloxdorf stated that they are, and last fall they had an interest group meeting to find out if there was interest in forming an Angel Investor Group, and there is some traction being gained there.

Mr. Fulgenzi asked if there is any outreach to State government about bringing back some of the jobs that were taken to Chicago during the past administrations. Mr. Bloxdorf stated that is a rather difficult endeavor, but not one they are turning a blind eye to. Their focus has been on trying to attract different types of businesses to Sangamon County that diversify the employment base.

### **MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Turner, seconded by Mr. Montalbano, for approval of the Minutes of December 14, 2010. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED  
MINUTES ADOPTED

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A motion was made by Mr. Montalbano, seconded by Mrs. Turner, to place the correspondence on file with the County Clerk. A voice vote was unanimous. There was no correspondence to file.

### **RESOLUTION 1**

1. Resolution approving the purchase of one tandem axle dump truck with wing plow and one single axle dump truck with snow plow.

A motion was made by Mr. Fulgenzi, seconded by Mr. Montalbano, to place Resolution 1 on the floor. Upon a roll call vote, there were 26 Yeas – 0 Nays for the adoption of Resolution 1.

MOTION CARRIED  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

## **RESOLUTIONS 2 – 8**

2. Resolution approving the purchase of a Ford F450 from the State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Contract.

A motion was made by Mr. Fulgenzi, seconded by Mr. Montalbano, to place Resolution 2 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Ratts, to consolidate Resolutions 2 – 8. Chairman VanMeter asked the Clerk to read Resolutions 3 – 8.

3. Resolution approving the purchase of a Ford Expedition from the State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Contract.
4. Resolution approving a letter of intent with the Illinois Department of Transportation.
5. Resolution identifying acquisition contracts for the Courthouse roof replacement.
6. Resolution approving the appropriation of funds for financing the operation of the Office of the State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor.
7. Resolution approving a contract with Advanced Correctional Healthcare to provide medical services to the Sangamon County Jail.
8. Resolution developing a County-wide agreement for fuel cards for County vehicles.

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation. A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. Stumpf and Mr. Moore, that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolutions 2 – 8, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED  
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

## **WAIVER OF TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD**

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

MOTION CARRIED  
TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD WAIVED

## **RESOLUTION 9**

9. Resolution allowing the Board of Review to be held in session until the 2010 complaints and subsequent administrative duties are completed.

A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Preckwinkle, to place Resolution 9 on the floor. A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 9.

MOTION CARRIED  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

### **RESOLUTION 10**

10. Resolution approving the renewal of the County's insurance contract.

A motion was made by Mr. Tjelmeland, seconded by Mrs. Musgrave, to place Resolution 10 on the floor. A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 10.

MOTION CARRIED  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Resolution 4 – Tabled 11/9/10  
2010-40 – Illinois National Bank Land Trust #04-407, 13487 BAB Road, Auburn-  
Granting a Rezoning and Variance. County Board Member – Sam Snell, District #6.

Resolution 4 remains tabled.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### A. Resolutions

There were no new resolutions.

#### B. Appointments

Appointment of Michael G. Neuman to the Woodwreath Cemetery Association Board for a term expiring November, 2016.

Appointment of Robert B. Hitt to the Woodwreath Cemetery Association Board for a term expiring November, 2016.

Appointment of William M. Pfeffer to the Woodwreath Cemetery Association Board for a term expiring November, 2016.

Appointment of David Butt as Sangamon County OEM Director for a term expiring December, 2012.

Appointment of Sharmin Doering as Sangamon County Community Resources Director for a term expiring December, 2012.

Appointment of Jim Grohne as Sangamon County Ethics Officer for a term expiring December, 2012.

Appointment of Brian McFadden as Sangamon County Administrator for a term expiring December, 2012.

Appointment of Wayne Rovey as Sangamon County Information Systems Director for a term expiring December, 2012.

Appointment of Joe Lindley as Sangamon County Supervisor of Assessments for a term expiring December, 2012.

Appointment of Sam Montalbano as Sangamon County Liquor Commissioner for a term expiring December, 2012.

Appointment of Brian Schackmann as Sangamon County Liquor Inspector for a term expiring December, 2012.

Appointment of Norm Sims as Sangamon County Director of Regional Planning for a term expiring December, 2012.

A motion was made by Mr. Montalbano, seconded by Mrs. Turner, for approval of the appointments. A voice vote was unanimous.

**MOTION CARRIED  
APPOINTMENTS ADOPTED**

The nominations for appointment in February were also submitted.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Montalbano, seconded by Mrs. Turner, to place the reports on file with the County Clerk. A voice vote was unanimous.

Paul Palazzolo, Auditor, submitted the notice of availability for the Sangamon County quarterly financial report.

Chairman VanMeter asked the staff to research the April meeting to see if they need to adjust it so they correctly anticipate the schedule of the Township meetings.

**RECESS**

A motion was made by Mrs. Turner, seconded by Mr. Montalbano, to recess the meeting to February 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. A voice vote was unanimous.

**MOTION CARRIED**  
**MEETING RECESSED**