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MINUTES

SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD

JUNE 14, 2011

The Sangamon County Board met in Regular Statutory Session on June 14, 2011 in the County Board Chambers. Chairman VanMeter called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Mr. Moore gave the Invocation and Mr. Sullivan led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Chairman VanMeter asked the Clerk to call the roll. There were 27 Present – 1 Absent. Mr. O'Neill was excused.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY BOARD MEMBER

Chairman VanMeter asked for a motion to appoint Rose Ruzic to serve out the remaining term of Doris Turner. A motion was made by Mr. Montalbano, seconded by Mr. Bunch, for approval of the appointment. Upon a roll call vote, there were 26 Yeas – 0 Nays. The County Clerk swore in Mrs. Ruzic.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mr. Boyster presented a proclamation in recognition of Frontiers International and to congratulate the recent graduates of The Springfield Club/Frontiers on their achievements. He stated that he is a member of the Springfield Frontiers International Group, and they just recently had a graduation of their junior frontiers program. This is an outstanding program that helps young men help themselves. Leon Taylor, President and James Boykin, who is very involved with the Junior Frontiers, accepted the Proclamation. They thanked the County Board for this honor and explained that the Junior Frontiers program deals with scholarship, leadership, community involvement and citizenship. They believe if they can teach these young men the aspects of all four of these components, they will be better and more contributing individuals, and will become great members of society, wherever they may land, once they graduate from high school, college, vocational or technical school.

Mr. Montalbano presented a Proclamation in recognition of the Relay for Life. He recognized Lou Robisch and all the work she has done for this program. He encouraged everyone to come out this weekend to the fairgrounds to see these cancer survivors. This gives you a good feeling and is really something to see. Tony Garvin, who is 13 years old and a 10 year cancer survivor, was present to accept the Proclamation.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Montalbano, seconded by Mr. Bunch, for approval of the Minutes of May 31, 2011. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MINUTES ADOPTED

CORRESPONDENCE

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

PRESENTATION

A motion was made by Mr. Goleman, seconded by Mr. Montalbano and Mr. Bunch, to suspend the rules and proceed out of the regular order of business to hear a presentation by Bruce Cowans on the study of the Coroner's Office. A voice vote was unanimous.

Chairman VanMeter stated that Mr. Cowans is not unknown to members of the Board. He and his staff have worked with the Board staff on a number of projects over the years which have successfully saved the taxpayers of Sangamon County a great deal of money, and the Board is very grateful for that.

Mr. Cowans explained that several months ago the County asked for their thoughts about establishing and strengthening citizen confidence in the operations of the Coroner's Office. They have not yet done an examination of that office and have not spoken with anyone from that office. They will not make any findings of fact of whether someone did or did not do what the law required. They are not doctors or lawyers, but they do advise literally thousands of governments on management. They have prepared a work plan that will do essentially two things. First, they have some options on how to handle death investigations in the County. They could leave things as they are and use the Coroner's office. There is also an option, which some counties follow, to have a medical examiner instead. They also have the ability for the Sheriff to be in charge of death investigations. Some counties share with another county or a medical school. They are seeing an increasing number of counties that are looking at some sort of cooperative agreement like that. They will look at the cost of the various operations and will come up with a finding of which is the least expensive. (Having confidence in the findings and work of the Coroner's office goes to a management problem.) There may be medical or legal issues, but the County will have to keep those on a separate track.

In terms of having confidence, the question is “what are the policies and procedures of the office and are they followed?” Nationally, the research shows that many counties voiced some concern that the findings are not entirely reliable. It may be difficult to say that any office would ever be 100% right all the time on everything. In terms of managing the risk, the questions are “are there policies and procedures?” and “are they updated to benefit from experience?” and “do people follow them?” and “what are the greatest categories of risk?” Mr. Cowans stated that they do not know what they are going to find. It would be premature to declare the findings of an analysis they have not done yet. It would be very important for you to hear the results of that kind of an analysis and to make a determination of whether some changes may be in order to firm up public confidence that death investigations are reaching appropriate and reasonable conclusions.

Chairman VanMeter asked if Mr. Cowans would be reporting to Mr. Goleman’s committee, which is the largest committee of the Board. Mr. Goleman stated that he would. He has reported in the past on several different occasions, and when they have used their services there has not been a time when they have not seen a savings to the taxpayers of Sangamon County.

Chairman VanMeter asked what the time frame will be on reporting to the committee. Mr. Cowans stated that their goal is to be on site for interviews the week of July 4th. They would come in the night of July 4th and be here all week for interviews. They would like to get a report to the Board in September. If they find justification for changing from a Coroner based model to some other model that requires approval on the ballot, they would need some time for the Board to consider this and ask questions.

Mr. Moore asked if the scope of their review is going to be outside of Illinois. Mr. Cowans stated that they probably would not do a lot of research outside of Illinois. They don’t normally do a lot of research outside of Illinois. They spoke with McLean County and want to speak with some other Central Illinois offices. They will ask what kinds of policies, procedures and checklists they have, and if they use them. There is a substantial buzz in the community over a lack of standards with death investigations. Illinois law is very high level on this. It establishes that you may have a Coroner, but he cannot find anything that says how to do a death investigation. He can’t tell them anything about what already exists in Sangamon County because they do not know yet. Many other Sangamon County offices have written policies and procedures and some do not. Some of those offices are software driven, and in that case the software becomes a guide on how to do the work. It would be important in the case of a death investigation that there be some written guidance on what to do. The public policy on death investigations is pretty clear. If there is legal accountability for a death, you would want to know that. It’s frustratingly unscripted in most death investigations, and there is just not a lot there.

Mr. Schweska asked if this is the study they set aside \$43,000 for. Chairman VanMeter explained that this is basically the same study, but it has been modified to be less of a review of the office and more of a review of alternatives. Mr. Schweska asked if this has basically turned into an efficiency review. Mr. Cowans explained that he would not characterize it as an efficiency review. From their perspective, confidence goes to how you manage. If there are cost issues they will certainly flag them. They do not know if this will save money. Their focus is not on how to do more with less, but how to know that what is being done is defensible and should inspire public confidence.

Mr. Goleman asked if they looked at all aspects of that particular office with their studies in the past. Mr. Cowans stated they would certainly need to know that. Some of the offices are really entirely on top of this. There are two parts to the question which are “are there policies and procedures in the place?” and second “do people follow them?” You can have great policies and procedures, but if people do not follow them they do not do much good.

Mr. Schweska stated that he and quite a few citizens were under the impression that this would be a study under the current administration’s Coroner’s office to find out exactly what is going on. Now this is turning into an overall efficiency overview and has changed mid-form. Mr. Cowans explained that the original study involved pulling some records to see if the tests were being done, and it will happen here as well. This is also slightly more modest in cost. Fundamentally it is the same study, but they had to calibrate a little to address having a new Coroner. Mr. Schweska stated that he understands Mrs. Edwards needs time to get set up, but he wants to make sure both issues get addressed. Mr. Cowans stated that they did not understand their charter to be a legal fault finding mission of whether things were or were not done right. To some extent those are medical or legal questions better answered by a physician or an attorney. They intended for this to be a management review of the ability of the office to formulate and execute a plan and to document that it did so.

Mr. Montalbano questioned the timing of this. They have a new Coroner in place and she has already started initiating some money saving ideas. He asked if it would be better to wait about six months to see how their performance is. Chairman VanMeter explained that he asked them to come in now because if they are going to make any recommendation of any change to the nature of the office, that recommendation has to be made to the voters. That recommendation needs to coincide with an election in order to save the cost of a special election on one single referendum issue. If they were going to bring an issue before the voters, the most cost effective time to do that would be either in the April Primary or the November General Election. They asked the company to come in now, review the situation and make their recommendation. If they are going to make a recommendation to the public they can do it coincidentally with the elections that are already scheduled. Mr. Montalbano stated that he has a problem with someone doing this study right off the bat.

Mr. Boyster asked how they are going to let the general public know about the findings of this study once it is complete. Chairman VanMeter stated that Mr. Cowan’s group will be making their presentations to the Finance Committee and the Finance Committee would be making their recommendations to the full Board. Mr. Cowans stated that they would also issue a written report.

Mr. Hall stated that their strength is their trust, and the people of this County have grown to trust them. He thinks having them involved right now is to cause trust, and this is the perfect time because they have new people and new ideas. It makes sense to have it right now over any other time.

Mr. Stumpf asked if this company would provide the Finance Committee with the associated costs of upgrading or doing something else in the Coroner’s office, such as moving towards a medical examiner or to work with other counties. Mr. Cowans stated that is in their scope of work.

RESOLUTION 1

1. Resolution approving the annual Prevailing Wage Rates for Sangamon County.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. Hall, to place Resolution 1 on the floor. Chairman VanMeter asked the County Clerk to call the roll. There were 26 Yeas – 0 Nays for the adoption of Resolution 1. Mr. Smith was not present during the roll call vote and did not vote on Resolution 1.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2

2. Resolution approving the annual agreement with the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf, seconded by Mr. Preckwinkle, to place Resolution 2 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Goleman, seconded by Mr. Montalbano, that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolution 2. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 3

3. Resolution approving an amendment for an engineering agreement for the Bradfordton Road/Old Jacksonville Road improvement.

A motion was made by Mr. Davsko, seconded by Mrs. Musgrave, to place Resolution 3 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Goleman that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolution 3. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 4

4. 2011-19 – Robert Kaufman, 8220 Farmington Cemetery Road, Pleasant Plains – Granting a Variance. County Board Member – Harry “Tom” Fraase, Jr., District #1.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mrs. Fulgenzi, to place Resolution 4 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Moore to waive the reading of the professional staff’s report. There were no objections. A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 4.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 5

5. 2011-20 – Michael Singleton, 11619 Bell Fountain Road, Dawson – Granting a Rezoning and Variance. County Board Member – David Mendenhall, District #3.

A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall, seconded by Mr. Ratts, to place Resolution 5 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Moore to waive the reading of the professional staff's report. There were no objections. A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 5.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 6

6. 2011-21 – Carole Grigiski, in the 500 block of S. State Route 4, Chatham – Granting a Rezoning. County Board Member – Donald Stephens, Jr., District #5.

A motion was made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Tjelmeland, to place Resolution 6 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Moore to waive the reading of the professional staff's report. There were no objections. A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 6.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 7

7. 2011-24 – Jean F. Boosinger Trust, 2768 W. Jefferson, Springfield – Granting a Conditional Permitted Use and Variance. County Board Member – Mike Sullivan, District #11.

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Boyster, to place Resolution 7 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Moore to waive the reading of the professional staff's report. There were no objections. A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 7.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 8

8. 2011-25 – Jeffrey L. Schoneweis, in the 10900 block of Salisbury Road, Pleasant Plains – Granting a Rezoning and Variance. County Board Member – Craig Hall, District #7.

A motion was made by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Forsyth, to place Resolution 8 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Moore to waive the reading of the professional staff's report. There were no objections.

A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 8.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 9

- 9. 2011-26 – Courtney & Jillaine Grimes, 3716 Sherman Street, Springfield – Granting a Variance. County Board Member – Tim Krell, District #15.

A motion was made by Mr. Krell, seconded by Mr. Schweska, to place Resolution 9 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Moore to waive the reading of the professional staff’s report. There were no objections. A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 9.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 10

- 10. 2011-27 – William Jerry Winter, 895 Taintor Rd., Springfield – Granting a Rezoning and Variance. County Board Member – John Fulgenzi, District #17.

A motion was made by Mr. Fulgenzi, seconded by Mrs. Ruzic, to place Resolution 10 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Moore to waive the reading of the professional staff’s report. There were no objections. A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 10.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 11

- 11. 2011-28 – Tom & Joan Rippel, in the 700 block of Shoshoni Drive, Springfield – Granting a Variance. County Board Member – Abe Forsyth, District #27.

A motion was made by Mr. Forsyth, seconded by Mr. Snell, to place Resolution 11 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Moore to waive the reading of the professional staff’s report. There were no objections. A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 11.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 12

- 12. Resolution approving the adoption of updated versions of building codes and to amend Section 15.05.070 of the Sangamon County Code.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Goleman, to place Resolution 12 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Montalbano and Mr. Bunch, to table Resolution 12. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION TABLED

RESOLUTIONS 13 - 16

13. Resolution to procure radio base stations for the Office of Emergency Management.

A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall, seconded by Mr. Bunch, to place Resolution 13 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mrs. Fulgenzi, to consolidate Resolutions 13 – 16. Chairman VanMeter asked the County Clerk to read Resolutions 14 – 16.

14. Resolution endorsing participation with U.S. communities and approving the U.S. Communities Master Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement.

15. Resolution approving a contract with AOS Systems, Inc. to upgrade the County’s I.T. core network and McAfee antivirus systems.

16. Resolution approving the execution of a contract between Houseal Lavigne Associates, LLC and the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission.

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation. A motion was made by Mr. Goleman, seconded by Mr. Montalbano, that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolutions 13 – 16, 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 Mr. Bunch, to waive the ten-day filing period. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD WAIVED

RESOLUTION 17

17. Resolution approving an intergovernmental agreement between Sangamon County and the Springfield Metro Sanitary District.

A motion was made by Mr. Goleman, seconded by Mrs. Ruzic, to place Resolution 17 on the floor.

A motion was made by Mr. Goleman, seconded by Mr. Bunch, that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolution 17. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 18

18. Resolution approving a loan to Centrum Café as agreed in the Community Services Block Grant Loan Program.

A motion was made by Mr. Boyster, seconded by Mr. Schweska, to place Resolution 18 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Goleman, seconded by Mr. Stumpf, that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolution 18. A voice vote carried. Mrs. Fulgenzi voted Present.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 19

19. Resolution approving the realignment of precincts.

A motion was made by Mr. Tjelmeland, seconded by Ms. Dillman, to place Resolution 19 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Tjelmeland, seconded by Mr. Montalbano and Mr. Bunch, to table Resolution 19. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION TABLED

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolutions

There were no new resolutions.

B. Appointments

Appointment of Rose Ruzic as County Board Member for District #19 with a term to expire November, 2012.

Appointment of Craig Hall to the New Berlin-Chatham Water District for a term to expire May, 2013.

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

MOTION CARRIED
APPOINTMENTS ADOPTED

Mr. Schweska addressed all the County Board members who are Army Veterans and wished a happy 236th birthday to the Department of the Army.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Montalbano, to place the reports on file with the County Clerk. A voice vote was unanimous. Paul Palazzolo, Auditor, submitted a Workplace Safety Board update report.

MOTION CARRIED
REPORTS FILED

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mr. Montalbano, seconded by Mr. Bunch, to adjourn the meeting to Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING ADJOURNED