

MINUTES

SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD SPECIAL SESSION

FEBRUARY 7, 2006

The Sangamon County Board met in Special Session on February 7, 2006 in the Sangamon County Board Chambers. Chairman VanMeter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Montalbano gave the Invocation and Mr. Pace led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Pace asked for a moment of silence in memory of Coretta Scott King who recently passed away and who will be a huge part of American history.

ROLL CALL

Chairman VanMeter asked the County Clerk to call the roll. There were 25 Present – 4 Absent. Mr. Bond, Mr. Buecker, Mr. Tjelmeland, and Mrs. Turner were all excused.

RESOLUTION 1

1. Resolution approving an Intergovernmental Agreement for the merger of the City and County Public Health Departments.

A motion was made by Mr. Goleman, seconded by Mrs. Long and Mr. Bunch, for the adoption of Resolution 1.

Mr. Cahnman stated that back in March of last year he abstained from voting on this because he thought they needed to get input from the City into the agreement. Since then there has been an Election and the voters have voted for the merger. The County has negotiated with the City and has tried to accommodate them as much as possible. He stated that this is an excellent proposed Intergovernmental Agreement and he will be voting for this and encourages everyone else to do so. It has been approved unanimously by the Public Health Board which includes Democrats and Republicans.

He urged his democratic colleagues on the City Council to also vote in favor of this as well as republican members. Chairman VanMeter thanked Mr. Cahnman for his heartfelt comments.

Ms. Cimarossa stated that she feels this is a non-partisan issue and is a public health and public safety issue. She encouraged everyone to vote for this.

Mr. Moore stated that he made some remarks at first that he was not in favor of extending the deadline of this merger agreement through the 28th of this month because he felt the team had done what they needed to do. In the interest of all the citizens of this County, this is a good deal for the City. If they do a rational review of this they will come to the same conclusion as the County.

Mr. Goleman complimented members of the County Board for working in a bi-partisan effort to go forward with this. All members have studied the issues and have worked together to come up with a good intergovernmental agreement. The staff has spent countless hours working on this. He thanked the staff for their hard work and the Chairman for his leadership in this. Most of all the staff deserves a big round of applause because they have worked very hard. He urged the City Council members to move forward with this. This is a public health issue. People are tired of the partisanship. Partisan politics should not be played in this.

Chairman VanMeter agreed with Mr. Goleman's comments on the hard work of the staff and especially thanked the State's Attorney and Assistant State's Attorney who spent countless hours on this effort by working through the day and night to redraft the document after the work of the Board of Public Health last night.

Mr. Pace stated that he has witnessed this process from start to finish and is very pleased with the way this matter has been handled by the County and he is concerned by some sentiments expressed by some County Board Members. The Board should be proud of what they have accomplished. They County has done everything they could do in good faith. This is a solid plan that helps everyone and every concern has been taken in and everything the City has proposed has been accommodated except for these few snags.

Mr. Montalbano asked if this will be the end of this if it is passed tonight. Chairman VanMeter agreed that it would be.

Mr. Vaughn stated he also is a member of the Board of Health and in this contract there is wording that the City suggested the County should adopt. Dwayne Gab, Assistant State's Attorney, stated that there were significant changes made. The lease agreement was modeled after what the City presented on Monday afternoon. Mr. Vaughn added that there were also other things in there the County adopted about the employees.

Mr. Moss reiterated congratulations to the people who took the extra hours to work and put this deal together. He added that the people in his district are within the City and the \$1.3 million savings will go a long way in buying needed equipment.

Mr. Fulgenzi stated that when this all started it was agreed they didn't want the City to pay the County anything. Now there is a situation where the County is going to pay rent for their building. The County has done everything the City has asked to make this merger possible. The County has tried to make every concession possible for the good of the community and are trying to save the taxpayers of Sangamon County \$1.3 million. At some point the City needs to quit spending.

Ms. VanHoos stated that they are elected by the citizens of this community to serve them and to make decisions for them and she feels the County has, in good faith, tried to meet the negotiations. It is time for the County to say they are done. The City needs to quit coming back to the drawing board and asking for more and more and should listen to the voters who have said they want the merger. The negotiations should be over with.

Mrs. Long stated that she feels this would be a new beginning for health care for the citizens of Springfield. It is sad that the City is proposing such things as having all City employees' jobs guaranteed for life. It is time now to move on and realize they have all done the best job they can with this.

Mr. Hall stated that he knows they will be able to help all the people and will have all the equipment to travel out into the different areas and he feels the County helps the City more than the City helps the County.

Mrs. Scaife stated that she feels all citizens would be better served with this merger.

Chairman VanMeter stated that with public health issues there are no boundaries, no economic classification, and no race distinction. This certainly seemed like a project that would be good for the community. The County held out the opportunity to benefit everyone. It is really disappointing when a project like this doesn't come together, but you just have to turn the page because there are other projects to work on and the County will just keep working on those things.

Chairman VanMeter asked for a roll call vote on the motion to adopt Resolution 1. Upon the roll call vote, there were 24 Yeas – 0 Nays.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2

2. Resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding with AFSCME relating to the merger of the Springfield and Sangamon County Health Departments.

A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Griffin, for the adoption of Resolution 2.

Mr. Griffin explained that there were long hours worked with Attorney's Bruce Stratton and Justin Reichert and union employees from AFSCME to put this document together. They are very much on board and very happy with the agreement. Issues regarding the problems with merging a unionized department and non-unionized department have been solved and there are now no problems at all. He encouraged everyone to vote in favor of this.

Upon a roll call vote, there were 24 Yeas – 0 Nays.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

RECESS

A motion was made by Mrs. Long, seconded by Mr. Bunch, to recess the meeting to the next regularly scheduled meeting on March 14, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING RECESSED