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MINUTES

SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD

NOVEMBER 13, 2007

The Sangamon County Board met in Reconvened Adjourned September Session on November 13, 2007 in the County Board Chambers. Chairman VanMeter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Montalbano gave the Invocation and Mr. Moore 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 NEW MEMBER

A motion was made by Chairman VanMeter to nominate Jim Good to replace Dennis Wieland in County Board District #8. Upon a roll call vote, there were 26 Yeas - 0 Nays. The County Clerk swore in Mr. Good.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mr. Moore presented 2 Proclamations to the Public Health Department. Jim Stone, Director of Public Health, read the first Proclamation congratulating the department’s Healthy Family Illinois Program and its staff on their recent Home Visiting Team of the Year award and for their efforts to help prevent child abuse and neglect in Sangamon County. Connie Clark, Jenny Marder, Kimberly Johnson, and Lori McCutchan were present to accept the Proclamation.

Mr. Moore and Mr. Stone also presented a Proclamation to Julie Palmer, R.N. & Supervisor of Clinic Services with the Public Health Department, recognizing her actions to prevent a potentially life-threatening situation for a client. Ms. Palmer accepted the Proclamation.

Mr. Smith and Mrs. Long presented a Proclamation to the Williamsville Junior High Girl's Fastpitch Softball Team congratulating them on their outstanding season and the IESA AA State Championship 3rd Place Victory.

The team members and coaches were present to accept the Proclamation.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Turner, seconded by Mrs. Long, for approval of the Minutes of October 9, 2007. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MINUTES ADOPTED

CORRESPONDENCE

A motion was made by Mrs. Turner, seconded by Mrs. Long, 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 motor fuel tax funds for the annual maintenance of County highways.

A motion was made Mr. Montalbano, seconded by Mr. Bunch, for the adoption of Resolution 1. Upon a roll call vote, there were 27 Yeas – 0 Nays.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTIONS 2 - 4

2. Resolution approving an agreement with the Village of Rochester for a bridge replacement.

A motion was made by Mr. Montalbano, seconded by Mr. Stephens, for the adoption of Resolution 2. A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Smith, to consolidate Resolutions 2 – 4. Chairman VanMeter asked the Clerk to read Resolutions

3 and 4.

3. Resolution approving a Federal Aid Agreement for a bridge replacement in the Village of Rochester.
4. Resolution approving the low bids for a bridge replacement on Luthin Road in Williams Township.

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation. A motion was made by Mr. Goleman, seconded by Mr. Moss, 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. 2007-62 – Jay Harmony, 3304 South Douglas, Springfield – Denying a Use Variance. County Board Member – Linda Fulgenzi, District #12.

A motion was made by Mrs. Fulgenzi, seconded by Mrs. Dillman, for the adoption of Resolution 5. Chairman VanMeter asked the professional staff to give the procedural history of the case.

Linda Wheeland stated that the petitioner is requesting a use variance to allow a landscaping company. Randy Armstrong stated that the case involves two lots, a small lot that has a home on it which is planned for an office, and a large vacant lot that is proposed to be used for plant storage for the landscaping business.

Ms. Wheeland stated that there are four standards to be addressed for granting use variances. Because there are no special circumstances related to use of the property and it is surrounded by residences, there would be no particular benefit to the community to have a landscaping business at this location, and there is a concern with the impact of such a business on the nearby residences; the staff recommends denial. Mr. Armstrong stated that the Zoning Board of Appeals concurs with the staff report and recommends denial.

John Long, Attorney for the petitioner, addressed the Board. He stated that his address is 407 E. Adams in Springfield. Mr. Long distributed copies of a petition to the County Board members in support of the variance from local businesses and neighbors. The recommendation to deny this was based upon misconceptions about the use of the property. Mr. Long stated that Ron Richards, who will be using the property, will address the Board on these issues.

Ron Richards, residing at 2501 S. 4th Street in Springfield, addressed the Board. He explained that the property will be used for storage of plants and landscaping materials with a pick up truck and trailer also being stored there. This will not result in increased traffic because there is no intention of having wholesale delivery or a retail business. Lighting will not be increased, there will be no chemicals stored there, and there will be no yard waste burned.

Ben Harmony, residing at 3321 S. MacArthur in Springfield, addressed the Board. He explained that on his street there are businesses right behind the property to be zoned on Douglas. In this area there are individual homes, a mobile home court, apartment complexes, a church and several nice businesses. Small businesses are important for the economy today because they employ local people, but they are finding it more difficult to find locations they can afford due to guidelines and covenants in these areas. It is better to allow small businesses in these neighborhoods rather than have it deteriorate. The Richards are a family who have kept their properties looking nice and they would be an asset to this neighborhood. The Board should allow a zoning change or at least a variance.

Eleanor Haseley, residing at 3300 S. Douglas in Springfield, addressed the Board. She stated that she is right next door to the property being discussed and would like to see it in there because everything is going down in the seventy years she has been there. She explained that she would like something come in to liven it up a little bit.

Dorothy Karrick, residing at 3321 S. Douglas in Springfield, addressed the Board. She stated that she lives across the street and would like to know why this is being zoned agriculture when this will be a small business that is not agricultural. She also wanted to know who will be the owner of this property. She explained that she is against this because of the lighting situation on this street and because of the heavy traffic during the day when he is doing business.

Doug Rothe, residing at 1910 Cardinal Drive in Springfield, addressed the Board. He stated that this is not really commercial. The issue is not really just about this business, it is because of other things that will come in ten years from now. There are some people who live in the neighborhood that have put a substantial amount of money into their property by doing renovations and upgrades and they want to know if this is going to be a commercial area. If it is commercial they may make different decisions about how they are doing things. He stated that he would like to see the properties upgraded, but he does not think knocking the houses down and putting in a commercial business is the right answer to residential housing problems. The trailer courts should be refurbished and not knocked down and replaced with truck stops or filling stations.

Mr. Long gave his rebuttal. He explained that R.J. Landscaping is the owner of this business. There would be no heavy equipment or chemical storage and it would only be used for storage of plants and materials. As far as development, they considered the trend of development in the area and the fact that it is surrounded by businesses. This

will be a small business and the property will be cleaned up to increase the value of this property and surrounding properties.

Mr. Bunch asked how many people will be involved with this. Mr. Richards stated that it would just be him and one to two employees. Mr. Bunch asked if there would be a lot of traffic. Mr. Richards stated there would not and he owns just one truck and one trailer.

Mr. Smith asked what the intention is for the home on the property currently. Mr. Richards stated it is pretty dilapidated so they would temporarily use it as an office and in a couple years they will tear it down and put up a small office and small storage facility.

Mr. O'Neill asked about the lighting and fencing issues. Mr. Richards explained that 2/3 of the fencing is already privacy wood fencing and the rest would have to be replaced. The rest of area would be enclosed with a normal wood privacy fence. The lighting would be no different than normal motion sensor lighting on any garage.

Mr. Moss asked what they would do with debris from the jobs. Mr. Richards explained that they would take it to a normal disposal site and would not hold any debris at the site. Mr. Moss asked if they intend to do any repairs to make the place look better. Mr. Richards stated that they would.

Mr. Fulgenzi asked if there would be a problem with dust from the rock and sand. Mr. Richards explained that the storage would be for holding plants and landscaping materials. The plants would be held for a few weeks and then taken to the jobs. The landscaping materials would just be landscaping, retaining and paper block.

Mr. Montalbano asked if there would only be two vehicles there at one time. Mr. Richards explained that there would just be the one truck and trailer and parking would be in the enclosed fenced area in the back.

Mrs. Musgrave asked if there would be customers coming to this location. Mr. Richards stated that there would be no retail business and he would meet with the customers at their homes. He stated that he would work from the office and it would be used to store paperwork.

The opponents gave their rebuttal. Ms. Karrick asked where the chemicals will be stored. She stated that she is also worried about nobody being there at night. She asked where the trees and shrubs would be kept.

Mr. Rothe explained that they are concerned more about what comes next than what these gentlemen will do with their business. The commercial businesses that are in the area now have been there for years and this area is not going commercial. Two things have been rejected in the last two years. This area is advertised as residential but could have zoning changes. The realtor involved does mostly commercial and not residential.

Mr. Bunch asked Mr. Rothe if he lives close to the property. Mr. Rothe stated that he does not, but he owns three single story duplexes in the area.

Chairman VanMeter asked for a roll call vote on the motion to adopt Resolution 5. Upon the roll call vote, there were 2 Yeas - 25 Nays. The Resolution written to “deny a use variance” was denied and the use variance was granted.

MOTIONS CARRIED
VARIANCE GRANTED

RESOLUTION 6

- 6. 2007-63 – D & M Mapes Partnership, 1514 West Jefferson, Springfield – Granting a Use Variance. County Board Member – Mike Sullivan, District #11.

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Moore, for the adoption of Resolution 6. 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 on the motion to adopt Resolution 6.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 7

- 7. 2007-65 – Shirley Shymansky, 2430 Old Beardstown Road, Springfield – Granting a Rezoning. County Board Member – Mike Sullivan, District #11.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore to withdraw Resolution 7. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION WITHDRAWN

RESOLUTION 8

- 8. 2007-66 – Darren Burris, Inc., 2831 S. Whittier, Springfield – Granting a Rezoning and Variance. County Board Member – Clyde Bunch, District #21.

A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Good, for the adoption of Resolution 8. 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 on the motion to adopt Resolution 8.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 9

9. Resolution approving contracts for employee benefits for 2008.

A motion was made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mrs. Musgrave, for the adoption of Resolution 9. A motion was made by Mr. Goleman, seconded by Mr. Kamper, that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolution 9. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 10

10. Resolution supporting the "25x25 Initiative" encouraging all County Departments to purchase fleet vehicles and fuels that utilize renewable energy sources.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dillman, seconded by Mrs. Fulgenzi, for the adoption of Resolution 10. A motion was made by Mr. Goleman, seconded by Mr. Snell, that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolution 10. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 11

11. Resolution approving the Annual Budget and Appropriation for the County of Sangamon, Illinois for the Fiscal Year December 1, 2007 through November 30, 2008.

A motion was made by Mr. Goleman, seconded by Mrs. Turner, for the adoption of Resolution 11.

Mr. Goleman addressed the Board regarding the budget. He thanked the department heads and elected officials for their cooperation. This is a good budget and the County has adopted a strategy and philosophy that is very clear and that is they have to live within the tax caps the voters overwhelmingly approved. This is a solid budget that adequately funds the departments. At the same time they have made it clear they need to hold the line on their spending. He pointed out that the tax levy would go down because they paid off the County Complex and they would not ask for an increase from the voters by raising their taxes. There were people who thought that if they lowered it last year, then this year their taxes would be increased, but this is not going to happen. In fact, the tax levy will be less than last year with the cooperation of everyone working together on this.

Ryan McCrady, County Administrator, gave a slide presentation on the budget for FY 2008. The fiscal year starts December 1, 2007 and runs to the end of November 2008.

The first thing Mr. McCrady discussed was the overall changes in the 2008 budget in comparison to the 2007 budget. The budget documents show an increase of about \$3.4 million in the Fiscal Year 2008 budget above the 2007 budget. It is about a 3.7 % increase, if you consider that the personnel cost is about 70 to 75% of the budget. The Consumer Price Index next year is going to 2.5 %. It is not really that much of an increase on a percentage basis. This budget does not have a lot of new projects or programs and is basically a no frills budget. They are doing what they can within the tax caps and the money that is given to them. They will be cutting five headcount positions going into 2008 through attrition.

Mr. McCrady discussed the budget philosophy the County has used over the last 15 years which has helped the County through a lot of ups and downs and changes in the economy. The Consumer Price Index is set by the Illinois Department of Revenue and the County has always tried to tie as many things, on the expense side, as they could to this. This Consumer Price Index for 2007 property taxes payable in 2008 is 2.5 %. With other tax revenues the County receives, such as sales tax and personal property replacement tax and other types of tax, the County has always tried to set those revenues at the prior years audited revenues. This prevents them from over projecting revenues and helps to stay within the budget. This also helped to weather the Sept. 11th down turn in the economy. They are also projecting other sales tax revenue would only be 1.5 % over what it was in 2007 and it is based completely on what they received in 2006.

The next philosophy they have always used is a target budget methodology for doing the budgets. Mr. McCrady explained that he consults with the Finance Committee and County Board Chairman and also works with David Connor in the Auditor's Office to put together what is called a target budget, which was also filed for the County Board to review earlier in the year. The target budget is also sent out to the departments and they try to anticipate what they think the departments will need. They use a bottom line budget so that the departments can move the amounts around in each line item to accomplish their work for the next year as long as they do not go over the bottom line amount. If they think they need more money they would need to go before their committee and the Finance Committee to ask for additional money. That is where the Finance Committee gets involved to hear appeals for over-target budgets.

Another budget philosophy is the carry-over philosophy which was started 10 or 15 years ago. With this, if the department does not spend all of their money on a bottom line basis, then it will go over into a carry-over fund. The departments have been good at using that for capital purchases such as new office furniture and computer equipment or for remodeling in the office. This helps to level off expenses every year and avoid these spikes of going up and down each fiscal year. This has been used successfully in the Election Office to try and give them a level budget every year.

Some years when they do not have as many elections they under-spend their budget. But, on years such as 2008 there will be a Presidential Election and a Primary and it would be a year when they would spend more than normal. This is when they would use their carry over. This helps to manage and predict the budget every year.

One of the major changes in the budget this year is an increase in funding for the Sheriff's Office of about \$1.3 million with the majority of this going to overtime and benefit expenses. There was a change to the pension calculations for Sheriff's Deputies about 1 ½ years ago that caused some of the pension contribution expenses to be higher. That change was made by the State of Illinois with a change in the law. In the 2007 budget they did not put all the overtime money in the budget they thought they would need because they had some outstanding contracts they were not certain about. It will show in the budget because the 2007 budget had not been amended when they did the target budget for 2008. Another thing they will start doing, based on a request from the Finance Committee, is try to utilize the centralized fuel purchasing to recognize some cost savings.

They will be working with the Highway Department to see if there is a way to start centralizing fuel purchases there because they have a fuel system they may be able to use. Before 2001 they were able to buy contracts for fuel, lock the price in and use that price no matter what the pump prices were. Since then you cannot hardly do that anymore. You can lock a price in, but you pay the price of the fuel along with what is known as a terrorism premium. The Finance Committee has also asked the Sheriff's Office to make quarterly reports to them and the Jail Committee throughout the year to keep track of the overtime expenses to see what they can do to help manage this a little bit better.

The Juvenile Detention Center funding was an item they talked about when doing the 2007 budget. However, this budget has decreased again by \$55,000 and the County General Fund contributions decreased by about \$145,000. These savings result from efficiency changes that the Courts and County Board worked together on for the 2007 budget. They did shut down the operations of one wing which allowed them to eliminate some positions through attrition. They were concerned how this would affect their State salary reimbursement which is a huge part of funding for the Juvenile Center operations, but they have recently found out the State reimbursement is going up slightly. This shows the State recognizes the work the staff has done to try and operate efficiently and have recognized what the County has learned, which is that programs are really the best way to reform juveniles and not locking them up.

The State's Attorney's Office saw an increase in their budget of about \$226,000, which is mostly due to regular personnel services increases. This also includes the funding for a new Warrant Officer position which will allow them to focus on warrant duties. Now the attorney's take turns doing those duties, and while they are doing that some of their other duties are lapsing. This should make that operation much more efficient and could possibly affect the jail population in a positive way by moving some of these cases along.

The Highway Department is scheduled to replace six bridges next year. Most of these are Township bridges with 80% being funded through State money, 10% through the County and 10% is funded through the Township. There are also drainage projects taking place and other projects that could happen next year depending on State and Federal funding.

The Integrated Criminal Justice Program is nearing final completion. The dispatch and criminal records portion went live in December 2006. The full completion and implementation should be done by the end of November. There are now deputies who can do their police reports from their squad cars and send them to their supervisors and then directly into the criminal records database. Also, if they arrest someone the information will be there waiting for them when they pull up to the Jail. The deputies are spending less time writing reports, less time booking people, and more time out there patrolling the County. A big part of this project was funded through what is called the COPS MORE Program. MORE stands for "Making Officer Redeployment Effective", which means they will have officers out on the streets doing their jobs and not in the office typing reports.

The Tax Levy will be voted on in December 2007. The tax rate this year is staying stable. Last year the County paid off the County Building and announced they are abating that tax. They received calls from people saying this is a one year thing and they would increase the rate back up next year. Because of tax caps, the County cannot do that. This tax rate is only the Counties portion. They do not control the rates for the school districts, villages, drainage districts or anything else on the property tax bill. The County is working within the tax caps and are doing the best they can to control their rate. It is staying stable and is down very slightly. There will be a Truth in Taxation Hearing on Tuesday, November 27, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. and members of the public will be able to attend and ask questions. Right now the County is within the quadrennial reassessment. All parcels in Sangamon County have to be reassessed every four years. If they have questions about their assessment they can talk to the Sangamon County Supervisor of Assessments and their Township Assessor.

Mr. McCrady thanked the elected officials, department heads, David Connor from the Auditor's Office, and Mark Crawford from the Treasurer's Office. He also thanked the County Board Members and asked them to call him with any questions.

Mr. Goleman encouraged everyone, especially the new Board Members, to attend the Finance meetings when they deal with the budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Goleman, seconded by Mrs. Turner, that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolution 11. A voice vote carried. Mr. Kamper voted Present on Resolution 11.

Mr. Bunch commended the Finance Committee and stated that they really need to be cautious with how they move with budgets because they do always make it a point to move within their means.

He stated that down the road they may find themselves in trouble financially if they don't do things a little different because of increases in such things as union payrolls and overtime. He explained that he just does not want to see money dwindle away and they really do need to be cautious. Mr. Bunch stated that he is proud to support this budget and to serve with the people on the Finance Committee.

Chairman VanMeter stated that the Finance Committee does have a difficult job under tax caps to deal with increasing expenses and to meet the taxpayer's expectations.

Mr. Goleman agreed with their comments and explained that they do need to be very frugal and adequately fund the departments. The committees need to continue to work together and watch the taxpayer's dollars. The Board should be proud of the fact that they are doing this.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

WAIVER OF TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD

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

MOTION CARRIED
TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD WAIVED

RESOLUTIONS 12 - 14

12. Resolution authorizing Sangamon County to enter into a contract with Health Professionals, Ltd. to provide professional medical services for the Sangamon County Jail.

A motion was made by Mr. Buecker, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, for the adoption of Resolution 12. A motion was made by Mr. Goleman, seconded by Mrs. Long, to consolidate Resolutions 12 – 14. Chairman VanMeter asked the Clerk to read Resolutions 13 and 14.

13. Resolution approving changes to the Sangamon County Employee Policy Manual.
14. Resolution approving the return of funding to DCEO of unused Community Development "CDAP" money which remained after dissolution of the Capital Fund.

Chairman VanMeter commended Ryan McCrady, Jim Stone, the Employees Services Committee, the Collective Bargaining Committee, and the Finance Committee for the work they have done on the complete review of the Sangamon County Employee Policy Manual to benefit the employees.

A voice vote was unanimous on the motion to consolidate Resolutions 12 – 14. A motion was made by Mr. Goleman, seconded by Mrs. Long, that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stand as the roll call vote for Resolutions 12 – 14, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolutions

There were no new resolutions.

B. Appointments

Appointment of John Davsko, replacing Debbie Cimarossa, to the Community Services Block Grant Advisory Council for a term expiring September, 2008.

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

MOTION CARRIED
APPOINTMENTS ADOPTED

COMMITTEE REPORT ON CLAIMS

A motion was made by Mrs. Turner, seconded by Mrs. Long, to place the Committee Report on Claims on file with the County Clerk. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
REPORT FILED

RECESS

A motion was made by Mrs. Long, seconded by Mrs. Turner, to recess the meeting to December 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING RECESSED