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MINUTES

SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD

APRIL 11, 2012

The Sangamon County Board met in Reconvened Adjourned September Session on April 11, 2012 in the County Board Chambers. Chairman Van Meter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Montalbano gave the Invocation. He remembered County Board member John Davsko who recently passed away. Mr. Davsko was an inspiration to everyone and ignited a spirit through wisdom, courage and strength. He was a fine athlete and a deserving member of the Springfield Hall of Fame. He asked for a moment of silence in Mr. Davsko's memory. Mr. Ratts led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Van Meter asked the County Clerk to call the roll. There were 26 Present – 1 Absent. Mr. Moore was excused.

PRESENTATION BY CORONER CINDA EDWARDS

Chairman Van Meter recognized Cinda Edwards for a brief presentation. She thanked the County Board for allowing her to update them on her office. She stated that when she took office she was fortunate enough to have Linda Scott and Janette Boedigheimer in place. She also added Jim Allmon. These are all her three full-time employees and she counts on them daily. They all have a warm, compassionate communication style with families. They care deeply about their jobs and the grieving citizens of Sangamon County. She is also fortunate enough to have great part-time contractual employees. Considering the 24-7 nature of their job, they are invaluable.

When she took office the county did the Maximus study almost immediately. They made recommendations, and her office has implemented most of them. They were very pleasant to work with, and her office has gained valuable information from that study. She explained some of the changes they have implemented since June 1st.

First they implemented a computer program called CoronerME. It is designed specifically for coroner's offices. It is a web-based computer program in which they can input data and scan documents into the system for permanent and safe storage. Everything will be contained within the decedent's record forever. They can also remotely access this data from home or at the scene. If a family member calls and has questions, they will be able to give them information on the spot. This has been a great system.

She also started working on a policy and procedure manual when she took office. It is a project in the works. Every Deputy Coroner has one at this point, but they are constantly upgrading and expanding the manual to cover all activities of the office.

They have also created standardized forms that they use on a daily basis. One example is that they have an investigative worksheet for death investigations, which is a seven page form. It follows the data requested by the computer program. It helps to ensure the deputies document all the data needed for a comprehensive death investigation. It really helps to ask all the questions and put in all the data that is needed. They also respond to death scenes and are going to the scenes. This includes home deaths, accidents and emergency room deaths. They gather valuable information every time they go to a location. For example, when they go to a home they take all prescription medicines that belong to the decedent and catalogue and count them. They write down when they were prescribed, how many pills were given, when prescribed, and how many pills were left. They then seal them in an evidence bag. They keep an evidence locker in the basement and periodically go through and do inventory on that locker. They have been able to document overdoses, non-compliance and have been able to remove dangerous drugs from the community. Another example of the investigation form is the sudden unexplained infant death form. It is a very comprehensive form that they use. They go through the extensive questionnaire with the caregiver and also arrange to go to the home. They will take a doll and do a re-enactment, take pictures of where the child was sleeping, check what bedding was in the crib, document any hazards and any history of co-sleeping. Obviously, that baby can't speak for them self so they make sure to do their best to determine, with accuracy, what caused the death.

Thanks to the Sheriff's department, they have a cargo van on loan from their department. They take the van to scenes and transport the bodies with their own staff. This is something they had to pay for before. They also transport decedents to Bloomington for autopsies. They started using the van around November 19th. Taking into consideration deducting fuel costs from their savings and their manpower costs, they have saved the County \$18,561.33. It brings their staff a lot of satisfaction to operate efficiently within the constraints of the budget they have. This is a prime example of how two agencies can work together for the common good.

They are using Dr. Denton in Bloomington for autopsies. They are getting excellent pathology service and timely reports. The reports are professional and arrive in 1 to 7 days after all toxicology, histology and other reports are complete. Families can rest assured that there will be no long delays in the permanent death certificates, which allow them to handle legal, insurance and banking matters for their loved ones.

They also use a toxicology lab that is a certified forensic toxicology lab and is located in Philadelphia. The local toxicology labs just do not have the equipment that these big labs do. The lab they use has the latest technology and equipment. With this they can get toxicology off of anything on the decedent. Toxicology is very important in determining the cause of death. They can also get the results back in about 10 days. Previously they were waiting four to six weeks for toxicology reports.

They are also establishing great rapport with other parties they work with. They have found all Sangamon County law enforcement agencies to be very cooperative and willing to work as a team. She expressed her appreciation for what they do as well as the fire departments and EMS.

One area she has made great stride is with the medical community. They are sharing information with the trauma teams who meet monthly. She gathers the autopsy reports on decedents they have worked on. She provides them with the information on exactly what was wrong with the decedent. This helps provide better care for all of them down the road. It is a very important aspect in improving standard of care. She also shares information with ER doctors and primary care physicians and specialists who have participated in the care of the decedents. They gather extensive past medical history on the decedents, which can help her and the pathologists in determining accurate cause and manner of death.

March was a very busy month, and they had about twice the load they normally have. Everyone in the office has been very busy giving 110% to make sure the office runs smoothly. All in all, she feels her office is heading in the right direction.

Chairman Van Meter asked if Dr. Denton is a Board Certified Pathologist. Mrs. Edwards stated that he is.

Mr. Montalbano asked what they implemented to correct the issue with the delays in getting autopsy reports to the families. Mrs. Edwards stated that they corrected this problem by changing the pathologist to Dr. Denton.

Mr. Fraase asked how the records were kept before the new system. Mrs. Edwards stated that there were paper files with bits and pieces of paper in them. They now hand type some of the data and also scan pictures, medical records and any paper copies into the computer system.

Mr. Goleman asked for confirmation if the return time for autopsies, with using Mr. Denton, is between 1 and 10 days. Mrs. Edwards stated that the toxicology takes about 10 days and it is usually within one to two days, or even the same day, after that to get the reports from Dr. Denton.

Mr. Smith asked how the back log of cases, which were there before, is coming along. Mrs. Edwards stated that they have finally got them all caught up, and all 75 of them are completed.

Mrs. Edwards thanked the Board.

Chairman Van Meter recognized Judge Brian Otwell to present a Proclamation. Mr. Otwell presented the Proclamation to Don Casper. Also present was Bob Scherschligt, Chief Public Defender of Sangamon County. Mr. Otwell stated that the Public Defender's office in Sangamon County is one of the best and most efficient in the State of Illinois, and it has been for many years. They work with substantially less resources than many other counties who are similarly situated. One of the reasons they have been able to do that is because of the attorneys who work there, such as Don Casper.

Mr. Casper was a public defender beginning back in 1971 for a period of time when there was a very small handful of public defenders. He worked on many important cases, including one murder trial, as co-counsel. He left that position for a period of time to concentrate on other areas of his private practice. Mr. Otwell stated when he was appointed the First Chief Public Defender in 1995, Mr. Casper returned as a part-time public defender in the traffic and misdemeanor division of the office where he has remained until his recent retirement. He certainly holds the record for longevity for cases handled in that division and for citizens represented in those cases. He is and was an attorney who came to court day after day, month after month and year after year and did his job with class and grace. He was, essentially, the Cal Ripken of the Public Defender's office. Mr. Otwell stated that Mr. Casper is going to be very hard to replace, and he does not envy Bob Scherschligt's job in replacing him. Mr. Casper accepted the Proclamation, thanked the County Board and expressed his appreciation.

Mr. Boyster presented a Proclamation to Resource One. Mr. Boyster stated that you often hear that small businesses are the backbone of America, and he believes that. To see an example of a true small business you just need to go downtown to Adams Street, sometimes at 11:00 p.m., and you will see Cindy Davis and Craig Mannschreck, and on the weekends you will see Larry Davis working because they are dedicated to their business. They are not only dedicated to their business, but also to their community and to downtown. This small business recently had a milestone and celebrated their 25th anniversary. He thought that since they are downtown and since Resource One has given so much to their community, the County Board should give back and present them with this Proclamation.

Cindy Davis, Craig Mannschreck and Larry Davis were present to accept the Proclamation. Cindy Davis thanked the community for supporting their business and for helping them to succeed. They have had a great history of creating great spaces for businesses. They have enjoyed that part of it and have also enjoyed serving the community. They want everyone to know that they are here to stay. She thanked the County Board for the recognition.

Mr. Fulgenzi, Mr. Stumpf, Mr. Ratts, Mrs. Ruzic, Mrs. Douglas Williams and Mr. Boyster presented a Proclamation to the Lanphier Lions Basketball team and coaching staff for their State Championship Tournament run and their many accomplishments in sports. Mr. Fulgenzi stated that he saw the Lanphier/East St. Louis game at the Convention Center, and it was the best high school game he has ever seen. Lanphier played an extremely well game. He complimented the team, statisticians and the whole school for everyone that supports their team. Mr. Fulgenzi read the Proclamation. The team and coaches were present to accept the Proclamation.

Coach Shanklin thanked the Board. He stated that in his profession they say “you learn a lot from losses, but you also learn a lot from success”. These young men are very deserving of each and everything they have gotten, have worked very hard, and they have handled success very well. He stated that he is so proud of them and is proud to represent Sangamon County. He asked for everyone’s support, not only this year, but in years to come.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

RESOLUTION 1

1. Resolution appropriating motor fuel tax funds for the annual maintenance of county highways.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. O’Neill, to place Resolution 1 on the floor. Chairman Van Meter asked for a roll call vote. Upon the roll call vote, there were 25 Yeas – 0 Nays.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTIONS 2 - 6

2. Resolution approving the low bids for the township bituminous materials.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. Krell, to place Resolution 2 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Ms. Dillman, to consolidate Resolutions 2 – 6. Chairman Van Meter asked the Clerk to read Resolutions 3 – 6.

3. Resolution approving the low bid for a bridge replacement in Maxwell Township.
4. Resolution approving a federal aid agreement for pavement preservation on various routes.
5. Resolution approving a federal aid agreement for a bridge replacement on County Highway 40.
6. Resolution approving a federal aid agreement for a bridge replacement on Panther Creek Road in Auburn Township.

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation.

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 Resolutions 2 – 6, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 7

7. 2012-009 – Patricia & Zachary Libben & Ollie Minder, in the 8100 block of Telstar Road & Fuhrwork Lane, Riverton – Granting a Variance. County Board Member – Jim Good, District #8.

A motion was made by Mr. Good, seconded by Mr. Sausaman, to place Resolution 7 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Goleman 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. 2012-010 – Melinda S. Gilbreth, 3429 Robinson Rd., Pleasant Plains – Granting a Use Variance and Variance. County Board Member – Craig Hall, District #7.

A motion was made by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mrs. Musgrave, to place Resolution 8 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Goleman 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. 2012-011 – Paul & Nicole Hull, 4264 Old Rte. 36, Springfield – Granting a Rezoning. County Board Member – Sarah Musgrave, District #9.

A motion was made by Mrs. Musgrave, seconded by Mr. Forsyth, to place Resolution 9 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Goleman, 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

WAIVER OF TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD

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

MOTION CARRIED
TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD WAIVED

RESOLUTION 10

10. Resolution approving an agreement to provide public transportation in rural Sangamon County and Menard County.

A motion was made by Chairman Van Meter to withdraw Resolution 10 so they can work out some additional details with their colleagues in Menard County. There were no objections.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION WITHDRAWN

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolutions

There were no new resolutions.

B. Appointments

There were no appointments. The nominations for appointment in May were submitted.

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

Paul Palazzolo, Auditor, gave a report on what the Workplace Safety Board has done with worker's compensation. He stated that the Workplace Safety Board meets on a monthly basis and is now chaired by Mr. Bunch. Mr. Krell and Mr. Mendenhall also serve on the committee along with some county employees. The committee meets monthly to review injuries in hopes that the injuries do not have an opportunity to re-occur. Mr. Palazzolo officially reported that there were 104 injuries in 2010, and after the Workplace Safety Committee did their work in engaging with the employees, that number reduced to 74 in 2011, which is nearly a 30% reduction.

The Sheriff's office, particularly with Neil Williamson and Jack Campbell being very cooperative, saw a 26% reduction in workplace injuries as part of that overall reduction. They went from 53 injuries in 2010 to 39 injuries in 2011.

A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Montalbano, to place the Committee Report on Claims on file with the County Clerk. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
REPORTS FILED

RECESS

A motion was made by Mr. Montalbano, seconded by Mr. Bunch, to recess the meeting to May 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING RECESSED