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SANGAMON COUNTY CLERK



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MINUTES

SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD

AUGUST 11, 2015

The Sangamon County Board met in Reconvened Adjourned June Session on August 11, 2015 in the County Board Chambers. Chairman Van Meter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Smith gave the Invocation and Linda Fulgenzi led the County Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to call the roll. There were 27 Present – 1 Absent. Mr. Tjelmeland was excused.

NOMINATION & APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY BOARD MEMBER FOR DISTRICT #4

Chairman Van Meter nominated Jeffrey Thomas as County Board Member for District #4. A voice vote was unanimous for the nomination and appointment of Jeffrey Thomas as County Board Member for District #4. Mr. Thomas was sworn in by County Clerk Gray.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Montalbano, seconded by Mr. Bunch, for approval of the minutes of July 14, 2015. 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.

RESOLUTION 1

1. Resolution approving a bridge petition for the replacement of a drainage structure on Hunley Road in Auburn Township.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. Thomas, to place Resolution 1 on the floor. Chairman Van Meter asked for a roll call vote. County Clerk Gray called the roll. There were 27 Yeas – 0 Nays.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2

2. Resolution approving the establishment of an altered speed zone on Mansion Road in Chatham Township.

A motion was made by Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mrs. Deppe, to place Resolution 2 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. O'Neill 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. 2015-021 – Thomas & Jerry Gaston, 2805 South 16th Street, Springfield – Denying a Variance. County Board Member – Joel Tjelmeland, Jr., District #14.

A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf, seconded by Mrs. Sheehan, to place Resolution 3 on the floor. Chairman Van Meter asked the professional staff to give the procedural history of the case.

Cyndi Knowles, professional staff, stated the petitioners are requesting a variance to allow an 8-foot solid privacy fence along the rear property line and 30 feet along the south side property line, in the rear yard, instead of the allowed 6-foot privacy fence. Molly Berns, professional staff, stated the staff recommends denial. There is concern that granting the variance could set a negative precedent for future requests. The zoning ordinance contemplates fences in residential areas to be 6 feet in height in rear yards to allow emergency personnel to easily see over the fence and easily access a site with their gear.

While staff recognizes the proposed design of the fence at this location might not decrease emergency personnel visibility and access to the site, there is a concern that granting this variance could set a negative precedent for future cases. For instance, the number of requests for 8-foot fences in rear yards could increase. In addition, the standards of variation are not met because there is no reason the property cannot be economically used with a 6-foot fence. The petitioner also did not specify any circumstance unique to the property that justifies granting the variance requested. Mrs. Knowles stated the Zoning Board of Appeals concurs with the staff recommendation and recommends denial.

Jerry Gaston, petitioner residing at 2805 S 16th in Springfield, addressed the County Board. She explained that they want a variance for an 8-foot fence because there is an issue with the neighbor behind them whose property is higher than theirs. A 6-foot fence would not alleviate the problem of him looking into their back yard all the time and screaming obscenities and causing very uncomfortable situations when they are trying to sit on their back deck. It has come to their attention that there is another issue within the neighborhood of a property owner violating the Illinois drainage laws. They may have to ban together with the neighbors to hire a lawyer to deal with this. Woodside Township was going to take this guy to court, but now it does not appear they are. So now their fence money may go to a lawyer. They would still like to have the variance to someday put the fence up.

Mr. Hall stated he spoke with Joel Tjelmeland and he believes the 8-foot fence is needed. Mr. Hall stated he will be voting no on this. If they allow this for them they could start having every neighborhood in Sangamon County coming to them saying there is a person in their neighborhood like them. He understands their reasoning because he has met their neighbor, but he believes this is not a fence issue, but is an enforcement issue and they should call the local law enforcement. Mrs. Gaston stated that they have.

Mr. Stumpf explained they would have to seek legal recourse regarding the drainage issue. In the case of the fence, unless their property is in economic hardship or is unique, if the county sets a precedent with the 8-foot fence they would have to approve them all over the county. Mr. Stumpf clarified that Mr. Hall's no vote would be to adopt the resolution and deny the variance.

Mr. Montalbano asked if there is a 6-foot fence there now. Mrs. Gaston there is not. There is a 4-foot chain link fence there now. Mr. Montalbano asked if a 6 foot fence would make a difference. Mrs. Gaston stated it would not because the neighbor's property sits higher than theirs, and his fence is 6 feet tall.

Mr. Bunch suggested they find some shrubbery or fast growing trees to plant to put along the back fence. Mrs. Gaston stated that someone else has already given them that idea.

Chairman Van Meter asked for a vote on Resolution 3. A voice vote carried. Resolution 3 written "to deny a variance" was adopted.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 4

4. 2015-022 – Janet Cripe, 1401 East Cottonwood Street, Springfield – Granting a Use Variance and Variance. County Board Member – Joel Tjelmeland, Jr., District #14.

A motion was made by Mr. Forsyth, seconded by Mrs. Hills, to place Resolution 4 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf 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. 2015-024 – Tommy Sheppard, 17020 Old Route 54, New Berlin – Granting a Conditional Permitted Use and Denying a Variance. County Board Member – Craig Hall, District #7.

A motion was made by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Fraase, to place Resolution 5 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf 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. 2015-025 – Sean C. Bandy, 740 W. Camp Sangamo Road, Springfield – Granting a Use Variance and Variances. County Board Member – Annette Fulgenzi, District #17.

A motion was made by Mrs. Fulgenzi, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to place Resolution 6 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf to waive the reading of the professional staff's report. There were no objections. A motion was made by Annette Fulgenzi, seconded by Mr. Ratts, to amend Resolution 6. Mrs. Fulgenzi stated Resolution 6 should be amended as follows: One Page 6-2, delete #1 and replace with: 1. That the petitioner will hook up to water provided by CWLP as soon as possible, but no later than one year. On Page 6-2, delete #4 and replace with: 4. That the hours of operation will be Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

A voice vote was unanimous on the amendment. A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 6, as amended.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 7

7. Resolution setting forth budget policies for the preparation of the FY2016 Sangamon County Budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Preckwinkle, seconded by Mr. Smith, to place Resolution 7 on the floor. Brian McFadden, County Administrator, addressed the County Board. He explained this is the annual resolution to adopt the budget policies, guidelines and time frame. They will distribute target budgets to all the departments on September 4th. After that they will have a two week period for the oversight committees to meet and for elected officials and department heads to present their budgets.

Mr. McFadden stated the main purpose this evening is to discuss this and to get the County Board up-to-date on what is going on with state finances and how it is affecting county finances. County finances and state finances interconnect in three different ways. They conduct revenue sharing with the state, they have state grants and they receive salary reimbursements from the state. Revenue sharing with the state is something the County Board is probably very familiar with. They talked about it during their annual budget presentation. When he talks about revenue sharing he is talking about motor fuel tax, income tax and sales tax. There are a number of taxes collected by the state and disbursed to the county. They are in fairly good shape there. They get about \$14 million per year total in those revenue sharing items. All of those, per a court order, are being sent to the county with the exception of the video gaming tax. They receive about \$30,000 a month in video gaming. That is being upheld due to the fact there isn't an appropriation to allow for the transfer of the funds. The rest are done through the local government. The courts have ruled that money will continue to flow from the state to the county.

Grants are another large revenue item for the county. They receive about 50 or more grants per year in the amount of \$13 million annually. They have about 15 departments that receive grants. They had six state grants alone tonight that the Finance Committee approved. It is a significant revenue source and nearly all those grants are on hold. The money is not flowing to the county. Between the grants and salary reimbursements, they are estimating, worst case scenario, this will have a \$2 million impact on the county's finances. That is not an insignificant number. There are three big players in the grant activity. Public Health gets over \$4 million in grants, Community Resources gets \$3.6 million and the Workforce Investment gets \$2.8 million. About 85% of their grant activity comes through those three departments. They have smaller grants for Veteran's Assistance, Child Advocacy Commission and the Regional Planning Commission. They receive about \$6 million per year in salary reimbursements from the state. Salary reimbursements are received for Court Services for probation officers and juvenile detention employees.

They also receive a large reimbursement through MFT for the Highway Department. The State's Attorney, Public Defender, Supervisor of Assessments and Regional Office of Education's salaries are all reimbursed by the state. Those are all now on hold. They are not being funded for those to the tune of about \$5.8 million. Mr. McFadden stated he has been meeting with Terry, Brad and Auditor Andy Goleman from the Auditor's office and the departments impacted by the grants and salary reimbursements. He thanked the elected officials and department heads for their cooperation during this situation to try and minimize the impact as much as possible. He is very happy with the support and assistance they have received from them. Every one of these grants is unique, so there is no across the board approach to this. It is more of a surgical approach. Some grants are federal pass through money and some are state money. Some are distributed on a monthly basis and some are on a quarterly basis, so they have to look at each one individually. They have been doing that and compiling information. Things are extremely fluid.

There is legislation moving through state legislature now to take some of the state funds and have them flow directly to the counties and not be held up because of a lack of appropriation. The uniqueness and fluidity of this is kind of complicated, but they have been monitoring it on a weekly basis. They have been talking with the County Treasurer's office, and have done a cash flow analysis to see where they are. They are straddling a fine line here, and are not going to overreact. This situation could be resolved quickly, but they are also not going to put their heads in the sand and pretend nothing is happening. They have held up some positions that were going to be filled. They have worked with the Department of Public Health in holding off on filling some positions. The departments are working with them to try and minimize the impact. They will be looking at this on a weekly basis to decide if they need to make any changes above and beyond what they have done to date. Of course in late September they will be receiving property tax revenue, which will help the cash flow situation. This isn't something the county can continue doing indefinitely, so hopefully the state will resolve their problems to help them resolve some of the county's issues. They will be beginning the budget process, which will be complicated by the cash flow situation and the fact they do not know what will happen with their income tax revenue. There have been discussions at the state of cutting that by 50% and of capping property taxes.

Chairman Van Meter stated they are stepping gingerly forward and keeping an eye on the situation. He stated Mr. McFadden is always available to discuss this and see how things are going.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolutions

There were no new resolutions.

B. Appointments

Appointment of George Preckwinkle to the Sangamon County Board of Health for a term expiring December, 2015.

Appointment of Pam Deppe to the Sangamon County Workplace Safety Board for a term expiring August, 2018.

Appointment of Jeff Van Hoos to the Sangamon County Workplace Safety Board for a term expiring August, 2018.

Appointment of Jim Sausaman to the Sangamon County Workplace Safety Board for a term expiring August, 2018.

Appointment of Tim Eggleston to the Sangamon County Workplace Safety Board for a term expiring August, 2018.

Appointment of Ryan Vaughn to the Sangamon County Workplace Safety Board for a term expiring August, 2018.

Appointment of Don Dufour to the Auburn Fire & Rescue District for a term expiring May, 2018.

Appointment of Elizabeth Royce to the Illiopolis Fire Protection District for a term expiring May, 2018.

Appointment of Edward Riedel to the Loami Fire Protection District for a term expiring May, 2018.

Appointment of Jeffrey Bodine to the Loami Fire Protection District for a term expiring May, 2017.

A motion was made by Mr. Montalbano, seconded by Mr. Bunch, for approval of the appointments. A voice vote was unanimous. Nominations for appointment in September were also submitted.

MOTION CARRIED
APPOINTMENTS ADOPTED

C. 2016 County Holiday Schedule

A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Montalbano, for approval of the 2016 County Holiday Schedule. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
HOLIDAY SCHEDULE ADOPTED

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

County Auditor Goleman stated one of the Auditor's duties, by statute, is to present an outside audit of independent findings. They have that tonight. On or about July 22nd he sent out an email with a copy of the audit and audit findings. It is also available on the county's website, and he has hard copies of the audit available in his office. Tonight they have Mr. Randy Ragan, who is a partner with McGladrey, present to give details of the audit findings to the County Board.

Randy Ragan addressed the County Board. He stated he is present tonight as opposed to normally being at the Finance Committee because of a new state law which requires all public bodies have their audit presented to the full County Board. They completed the audit of the FY2014 financial statements on June 26th. They conducted four audits including: the audit of the county; the audit of the county's federal funds, which falls under the Single Audit Act-Circular A-133; add on audits including the Circuit Clerk's office in conjunction with the requirements of the Clerk of the Circuit Court Act; and they also audited the Sangamon County Central Dispatch System. They audited under three different levels of auditing. They audited under generally accepted auditing standards, which every audit in the United States is audited under. Because the county is a governmental body, they are also subject to being audited under government auditing standards. The county is also required to be audited under the Federal Single Audit Act because of the level of federal funding they have and expend each year.

Mr. Ragan went over some highlights of the audit. They rendered six different opinions on financial statements. All of them were unmodified opinions. That is the highest level of attestation a CPA firm can render on a set of financial statements. They had three internal control findings, and by the time the audit was wrapped up, under the direction of the County Auditor's office, corrective action plans had been put into place to address all of the findings by the end of this current fiscal year. They had no questions identified in the audit of the federal funds. They rendered four opinions on compliance and noted no violations of any laws, regulations or contracts. There were only four adjusting entries made to the financial statements, which given the thousands of transactions every year, that is very minor and acceptable in their eyes as auditors. They had full cooperation from the elected officials and department heads. The audit went very well.

Mr. Montalbano asked Mr. Ragan if they audit other municipalities, villages and governmental bodies. Mr. Ragan stated they do. Mr. Montalbano asked how they find Sangamon County to be compared to other bodies. Mr. Ragan stated for FY2014, with over \$150 million of assets and a net position or equity in a commercial business of over \$85 million, it is financially strong. The accounting system is very good. As a board member you should have a good sense of reliance on those financial statements you get every month.

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

MOTION CARRIED
REPORTS FILED

RECESS

A motion was made by Chairman Van Meter to recess the meeting to September 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING RECESSED

DON GRAY
SANGAMON COUNTY CLERK