

# DON GRAY

SANGAMON COUNTY CLERK



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## MINUTES

### SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

The Sangamon County Board met in Regular Statutory Session on September 14, 2021 in the County Board Chambers. Chairman Van Meter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Stumpf gave the Invocation and Chairman Van Meter 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 – 2 Absent. Mr. Delgiorno and Mr. Thomas were excused.

### SIU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE PRESENTATION

Rikeesha Phelon, Executive Director of Marketing and Communications Engagement at SIU School of Medicine, addressed the County Board. She wanted to take a moment to recommend some next steps based on research the SIU School of Medicine has done. The “Stand up Vax up” campaign was a 4 to 6 month marketing campaign to raise Awareness and engage stakeholders on the COVID-19 vaccination.

They actually ended up doing seven months of ads starting in February and ending in August. There were 1.1 million impressions online and 1.3 million in the traditional way. She gave a brief update on vaccination rates. They are still kind of in a middling place with the actual rate she talked about in August. Sangamon County was at 7.9 %, meaning of those who are fully vaccinated 7.9% were black. Champaign County is at 8.8%, Macon County is at 11%, but those numbers do not take into account the actual black population in the cities. When you look at the actual black population and get the black vaccination rates in the same cities. Sangamon County is at 31.4%, Champaign County is at 32% and Peoria County is at 27%.

She has three short-term recommendations. Moving forward, in terms of marketing, any dollars used for marketing should be focused on specific events. It has to be a marketing strategy that is matched with on the ground clinical access that makes the vaccine as accessible, easy, and as available as possible. These are three strategies she would recommend to employ local churches and cultural health ambassadors in a more permanent way. Look for ways to develop training programs and to establish equity and health literacy teams that cannot only be ready to help address issues with COVID for this time, but they need to start thinking about what the next public health intervention is. If our efforts are just short-term and only thinking about how we get shots in arms just for this pandemic, they will have wasted an opportunity to really build a health equity infrastructure that matters in this community.

The second recommendation would be door-to-door efforts. This is something that's happening nationally. It's also happening pretty effectively in Illinois counties. The best way to move forward with door-to-door is to make sure that those that are going door-to-door are trained. They also need to be of the community and they need to be making sure they're going with these door-to-door strategies connected to clinical operations. So, not just going to the door knocking on the door, dropping a pamphlet, but saying there's going to be a pop-up clinic, in your town, in your neighborhood on this day. Asking "can we help you get there"? It has to be connected to on the ground clinical access strategies.

The third recommendation is they can pursue some incentive programs, but with caution. Their research shows it is possible to get a bump in rates for incentive programs but it's unsustainable for most programs. They can get your numbers to shoot up real quick with that incentive program, but if they care about the overall rates there are a couple of considerations they need to keep in mind. One of them is there are some underlying unspoken messages about incentives that make some people believe if "they've got to pay you to do it, there must be something wrong with that." So that is the message for some people. There are other ways they are seeing some backlash in some communities with incentive programs. People might come for the first shot where the incentive is given out, but getting people to come back for that second one is a harder task.

Those are the three short-term recommendations. Employ and train cultural health ambassadors for long haul, launch door-to-door efforts connected to clinical operations, and then pursue incentive programs with some caution. One of the ways they came to these recommendations was as a result of a survey they did. They worked with IDPH and Public Health Association to put a survey in the field of all local health departments, and they did get 40 responses. They asked very intentionally, what are their intentional strategies to reach out to the minority Community? They responded, 21 of them gave us their exact plans and what they were doing, and there was nothing new there. They're already doing all of the things. It was comforting but also a little sad too because she thinks she was hoping to find some sort of "magic bullet".

The other way they made these recommendations was they did a strong literature review to see what has worked with other vaccinations like flu and HPV. They saw the rates for those vaccination programs are very similar to what they are seeing with COVID. Her recommendation is that their marketing dollars be used to promote very specific clinical operation events that they focus on those three strategies. There is a group in town that is doing that. The COVID-19 vaccination work group, which includes Ms. Phelon, a couple people in the boardroom, and the hospitals. They are working on strategies that meet every one of the recommendations she has outlined. They will have to see what the results of their efforts are, but she wants them to know there is a plan that is bigger than this room and it is an operation. Ms. Phelon thanked the County Board for their support.

Chairman Van Meter added that Rikeesha knows “her numbers”. She doesn’t spend any money unless it’s working. She is their key person for this project and will be monitoring these next steps and they will wait to hear back from her on what further steps they might take. She is their “guru” on this!

### **COVID-19 REPORT**

Gail O’Neill, Director of the Sangamon County Department of Public Health, addressed the County Board. COVID-19 is not gone. There have been 24,000 people in Sangamon County that have been infected with COVID. They’ve recently had an increase in deaths to 261. So it's not going away. Their newest challenge seems to be the schools. The kids, the teachers and all the potential contacts. They have been working with their contact teams with the schools and are coming up with a better way of rapid response between the schools and Public Health with a new kind of reporting system that is going to be in place in the next couple days. With the last round, when they were telling people they had COVID or had been exposed, most people were home. They were not working. This was all somewhat new and everybody was scared or concerned, and they did not have the attitude they are seeing now. Everyone is tired of it, but people are adamantly refusing to cooperate, not the majority, but there are some people doing that and there could be a lot more going on behind the scenes, but they continue to do their best. The community is still working together. Our community has a 54% vaccination rate right now. They are specifically targeting the schools to try to get more vaccines in the high school age kids. If possible, that is going to help their teams. Jennifer Gill asked them to partner with that. They are certainly going to do that and make sure they get the coaches at high school level to encourage that and provide some education. The positivity rate is down. It is down to 3.52% today. They are still having a situation where the numbers are 297 cases per 100,000. It is still around and definitely still a problem. They are working on education as Rikeesha talked about and are trying to make sure they are doing the best they can.

Mrs. Annette Fulgenzi was questioning whether the mortality rates among younger age groups was going up. From reports, she thinks it looks like there are more 20, 30, and 40 year olds that are dying with COVID.

Mrs. O'Neill said no, the last time they had large deaths were from mostly older persons and from long-term care facilities. They were the ones vaccinated first and they did some intensive work with the elderly. So that is not who they are seeing now and the numbers are smaller, but they are seeing some in different age groups. They look at that and study it. It seems that even the younger ones have some other underlying health conditions. The older ones generally, have underlying health conditions too. It is rare that they see somebody that just has COVID on there, but it takes a while for the Coroner's office to do some research or get the medical records, but for the most part, they are seeing diabetes, obesity, and the high-risk categories for the people who do not make it through.

Mr. Krell wondered what the rate of vaccinated people was that were contracting COVID. He has some friends that have been vaccinated and have caught the virus.

Mrs. O'Neill stated she would get those numbers and send them out. She does not think it is a huge number, but they are starting to see more of that.

Mr. Bunch remarked that he had both shots and got it. He also had a niece and nephew that died as a result of COVID and both had refused to get the shots.

Mr. Snell reported that his family broke through as well.

Mrs. Annette Fulgenzi added that people interested in vaccinated versus unvaccinated information should utilize Memorial Hospital Systems website that does a great daily graphic showing vaccinated versus unvaccinated that are in the hospital. It also shows those on ventilators who are vaccinated versus unvaccinated and those that are in the ICU units who are vaccinated versus unvaccinated, so it is really interesting to see it because it is very clear that unvaccinated is the majority of the cases.

Mrs. Linda Fulgenzi addressed the board. Her family was a breakthrough case as well. Her daughter called them on a Monday morning to tell her she had COVID because they all had been together for the weekend. Her daughter tested positive and was developing all the symptoms including loss of taste loss of smell. She is a marathon runner and she could not even walk around the block. Her granddaughters, both in high school, tested positive but were asymptomatic. Her son and husband in the same home came up negative. Mrs. Fulgenzi and her husband were both negative. She told her daughter that had she not been vaccinated she would be in the hospital right now because she was that bad. So the vaccination didn't keep her from getting it, but it kept her from being in the hospital and possibly dying. She was unlucky to get it but lucky to have the vaccination.

Mrs. Hayes asked if there were any requirements for employers to quarantine employees who are exposed to COVID. She knows of a case where an individual was exposed on the job and the employer was insisting she continue working after being exposed.

Mrs. O'Neill responded by saying they should not be doing that. They should be calling them first. They need to verify the contact. They have heard this before and will follow up with those folks saying "We have heard you are doing this and this is what you should be doing." The other part for people to realize is that it is important for Public Health to know and to encourage people to participate in contact tracing because they will not know about contacts unless the positive person tells them or tells the contact tracers.

Mrs. Annette Fulgenzi asked if the quarantine restrictions after exposure were the same for vaccinated versus unvaccinated or if they are different.

Mrs. O'Neill stated with quarantining, the main issue is if you have symptoms or not. If you are asymptomatic without symptoms and vaccinated you don't quarantine. If you start to develop symptoms you do and you test because there are some breakthrough cases.

Chairman Van Meter thanked Mrs. O'Neill for her report.

### **MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mr. Bunch, for approval of the Minutes of the August 10, 2021 and August 23, 2021 meetings. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED  
MINUTES ADOPTED

### **PROCLAMATIONS**

Mr. Mendenhall presented a Proclamation to Casey Acree, a resident born and raised in Harristown currently residing in Illiopolis. He is a 2011 graduate of Sangamon Valley High School and despite being born without the lower portion of his left arm, lettered in football, basketball, track and was a state qualifier in track. Upon completing his Master's degree at Eastern Illinois University, he began experimenting with weight lifting techniques. After mastering the necessary techniques and training in the sport of CrossFit, in 2017 he qualified for the CrossFit adaptive athlete division at Wodapalooza, Miami, Florida and won his division every year since. He has never been beat in worldwide competition in the adaptive athletic division anywhere. In July, 2021 the CrossFit Games were held in Madison, Wisconsin for the first time in history and added an Adaptive Athletics division, where he won his division winning six of seven events outright. Casey is now officially the fittest adaptive athlete in the world. The County Board recognized his outstanding achievements, his determination to overcome his disability, and to be a shining example to athletes everywhere.

Mr. Acree thanked the County Board and everyone there. He stated that it has been an honor to represent where he is from. He is very proud of where he is from and is thankful for all the

support he has been given by his father-in-law, Sheriff Jack Campbell, as well as other residents of Sangamon County and the surrounding area.

Mrs. Linda Fulgenzi presented a Proclamation to County Board Member Jason Ratts upon his resignation as County Board Member District 10 after first being elected in 2010. She recognized his significant contributions to the County Board including: assisting with the Sangamo Scripts program, advocating for increased Cybersecurity and enhanced information and technology to better serve the citizens of his district all within the guidelines of sound and balanced fiscal management. He served on the Public Health Committee since 2010 and also served as Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee, Co-Chair of Community Resources, and was a member of the Finance and Employee Services Committees.

Mr. Ratts thanked the County Board and let them know he has loved what he has been able to do for the past 11 years and has not taken any of it lightly. He has enjoyed making everyone laugh. He likes seeing the softer and lighter side of things. He remembers the day he was sworn in, and it was right after the board had a moment of silence for the passing of Mayor Tim Davlin that had happened earlier in the day.

He will never forget the passion and fun he had with the County Board. It has been a real treat for him and he thanked everyone for being with him.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mrs. Williams, to place correspondence on file with the County Clerk. A voice vote was unanimous.

### **RESOLUTION 1**

1. Resolution approving a professional services contract with Quigg Engineering, Inc. of Springfield, IL for the replacement of a structure on Divernon Road for the City of Auburn.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. Hall, to place Resolution 1 on the floor. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to call the roll. Upon the roll call vote, there were 26 Yeas – 0 Nays.

MOTION CARRIED  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

**RESOLUTION 2**

2. Resolution approving a professional services contract with Cummins Engineering Corporation of Springfield, IL for the replacement of a structure on Hergenrother Road in Cartwright Township.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. Krell, to place Resolution 2 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Preckwinkle that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolution 2. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

**RESOLUTION 3**

3. 2021-031 – Loren C. Shanle Jr. and Karen Shanle, 6438 Gaule Road, Rochester – Granting a Rezoning and a Variance. County Board Member – Tom Madonia, Jr., District #9.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. Stumpf, to place Resolution 3 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf to waive the professional staff’s report. There were no objections. A voice vote was unanimous on the adoption of Resolution 3.

MOTIONS CARRIED  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

**RESOLUTION 4**

4. 2021-032 – Daniel L. McCurdy and John Ryan McCurdy as Co-Trustees of the Residuary Testamentary Trust of Nellie M. Ryan and Andrew E. Ryan, Co-Trustees, 825 N. Old Covered Bridge Lane, Springfield – Granting Variances. County Board Member – Tom Fraase, Jr., District #1.

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

MOTIONS CARRIED  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

**RESOLUTION 5**

5. 2021 – 033 – Sangamon Solar LLC, 4890 Polecat Creek Road and 9500-11000 Block of State Route 4, Chatham – Granting a Conditional Permitted Use. County Board Member – Craig Hall, District #7.

A motion was made by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Stumpf, to place Resolution 5 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf, seconded by Mr. Mendenhall and Mr. Bunch to table the resolution. A voice vote carried.

MOTIONS CARRIED  
RESOLUTION TABLED

**RESOLUTION 6**

6. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Building and Grounds from Seico, Inc. for the purpose of replacing/upgrading a DVR in the jail in the amount of \$39,361.

A motion was made by Mr. Tjelmeland, seconded by Mr. O’Neill, to place Resolution 6 on the floor. Mrs. Hayes questioned why it was so expensive for a DVR. Mr. McFadden responded that it is not just a DVR but it is to replace portions of the video systems in the jail including new cameras, upgrading cameras, and replacing a failed DVR. A motion was made by Mr. Preckwinkle that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolution 6. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

**RESOLUTION 7**

7. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from Sentinel Technologies, Inc. for the purpose of replacing all county phone systems in the amount of \$1,404,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Ratts, seconded by Mr. Krell, to place Resolution 7 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Preckwinkle that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolution 7. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

**RESOLUTION 8**

8. Resolution allowing the Department of Community Resources to change their office hours to 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

A motion was made by Mrs. Linda Fulgenzi, seconded by Mrs. Annette Fulgenzi, to place Resolution 8 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Preckwinkle that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolution 8. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

**WAIVER OF THE TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD**

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

MOTION CARRIED

TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD WAIVED

**RESOLUTIONS 9 - 13**

9. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Court Services from Miles Chevrolet for the purpose of purchasing three Equinox SUV's in the amount of \$62,859.

A motion was made by Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Forsyth, to place Resolution 9 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Smith, to consolidate Resolutions 9 – 13. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 10 –13.

10. Resolution approving a grant application for SMART from the Illinois Department of Transportation for the CRRSA (COVID relief) in the amount of \$400,838.
11. Resolution approving a grant application from SMART from the Illinois Department of Transportation for Rebuild Illinois.
12. Resolution approving an agreement between Illinois Power Company d/b/a AmerenIP and Sangamon County to relocate natural gas utilities for an estimated \$125,312.24.
13. Resolution to approve an Employee Benefits Contract for dental and vision insurance for 2022.

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation. A motion was made by Mr. Preckwinkle that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolutions 9 – 13, as consolidated. A voice vote carried. Ms. Annette Fulgenzi abstained from voting on Resolution 11.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

**OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Resolution 12 – Tabled 06/08/2021 – Remains Tabled  
-Resolution concerning the use of County funds for Defense Logistics Agency’s Law Enforcement Support Office Program 1033.
  
- B. Resolution 13 – Tabled 06/08/2021 – Remains Tabled  
-Resolution providing public notice of the realignment of precinct boundaries.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Resolutions

There were no new resolutions.

- B. Appointments

Appointment of Senator Doris Turner to the Sangamon County Board of Health for a term expiring September, 2024.

Appointment of Clyde Bunch to the Sewer Rebate Board for a term expiring September, 2022.

Appointment of Judy Johnson to the Sewer Rebate Board for a term expiring September, 2022.

Appointment of Herman Senor to the Sewer Rebate Board for a term expiring September, 2022.

Appointment of David Mendenhall to the Sangamon County Central Dispatch System for a term expiring September, 2022.

Appointment of Tom Chi to the Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2022.

Appointment of Dan Parrish to the Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2022.

Appointment of Dick Rentschler to the Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2022.

Appointment of Kenny Winslow to the Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2022.

Appointment of Joe Powell to the Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2022.

Appointment of Rich Coon to the Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2022.

Appointment of Dr. Lance Thurman to the Land of Lincoln Workforce Investment Board for a term expiring September, 2022.

Appointment of Deputy Mayor Kathleen Alcorn to the Land of Lincoln Workforce Investment Board for a term expiring September, 2022.

Appointment of Leslie J. Picco Fyans III to the Land of Lincoln Workforce Investment Board for a term expiring September, 2024.

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

MOTION CARRIED  
APPOINTMENTS ADOPTED

The nominations for appointment in October were also submitted.

A. Procurement/Grant Notifications

There were none.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bill Houlihan addressed the County Board. He has spent 45 years working in public service. He worked for Senator Phil Rock when he was Senate President for 14 years, worked for Senator Durbin for 25 years, 10 months and 9 days, worked for Senator Carol Moseley Braun for 4 years, and worked in other capacities on boards and commissions over the years. He takes his job very seriously, whether it is public service or political service. He believes in both of them. He is partisan Democrat as there are people that are partisan Republicans in this room. What Chairman Van Meter said is true after the elections are over, Bill Houlihan works with Democrats, Republicans and

Independents to get things done. He has a history of doing that in this city, in this county, and in this state his entire career.

But when he heard about what our Circuit Clerk said on August 19th, whether he wants to say that it was tongue in cheek or not, he really thinks it does a disservice to each and every one of us. People look up to the 29 of you elected to the County Board, Don Gray an elected County Clerk, and myself as a County Chairman, whether they like it or not.

Some don't, and he will be honest, they don't because they think there are too many negative things being said. He is here tonight-asking Republicans, as well as Democrats, when someone says something that is out of line they do not have to get up on the stage and point it out, but would be nice if they said something to him, so he does not say it again. He wanted them to know one of the nicest things he ever saw during a political campaign happened in 2008 and probably everybody in the room saw it as well. Senator John McCain was doing a Town Hall meeting in Minnesota and they were passing the microphone around. An elderly white woman took the microphone and said to Senator McCain, "Barack Obama scares me. He is a Muslim." John McCain took the microphone out of her hand and said, "No, no, no, he is a good man. I know him." People said "Wow". That night, Senator Barack Obama called Senator McCain and thanked him for doing that. That lowered the temperature in that campaign. That is what they, as leaders, have to do whether you are a Democrat or Republican. He calls people out when he sees they are right and when they are wrong. He thinks Paul Palazzolo owes each one of them an apology for what he did that day. There all sorts of things he can say about what the Republican Party has done, but to go after the Governor, to go after the Speaker of the United States Congress in ways that are not about an issue, was a personal attack, and those are things that he is against. He hopes they will join him in standing up and saying that is wrong because when he spoke with the reporters at the fairgrounds, there was not one Republican that said what he said was wrong. The Chairman of the Republican Party Don Tracy said "He will not be asked to be MC again." It is important they let people know this when they are out of place, and that is rhetoric they do not need. He thanked the County Board for their time. He enjoys working with the Chairman and they have a great working relationship. He is going to continue with that on the political side through the election and after the election is over, and he will be back to work with them.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED  
REPORTS FILED

**ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mr. Bunch, to adjourn the meeting to October 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED  
MEETING ADJOURNED

***Don Gray***  
***Sangamon County Clerk***