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MINUTES

SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD

JUNE 25, 2009

The Sangamon County Board met in Reconvened June Session on June 25, 2009 in the County Board Chambers. Chairman Van Meter called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Mr. Montalbano gave the Invocation and Mr. Moore led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Van Meter asked the Clerk to call the roll. There were 27 Present – 1 Absent. Mr. O'Neill was excused.

TOM SONNEBORN – F.O.P.

A motion was made by Mr. Goleman to suspend the rules of the regular order of business to allow Tom Sonneborn to address the Board.

Chairman Van Meter explained that Mr. Sonneborn is very knowledgeable and articulate and has been working with the Sheriff over the past six weeks to help find a way around the budget problem they are facing, and to help them meet their commitment of avoiding layoffs. There have been moments of contention to be expected, but all parties have worked in good faith. The deputies in the Sheriff's Office have to live this everyday, and this change of shifts is a major consideration. The entire Board appreciates the effort made by the deputies, Neil Williamson and Jack Campbell. They have learned today that they can use a Jag Grant to help fill the deficit hole in the Sheriff's budget. They believe combining this grant with a lot of the work the F.O.P and the Sheriff have done, they can fill the gap without asking the deputies to change to the 12-hour shifts. This will resolve the problem for this year, and they will be able to avoid layoffs. There will still be a challenge ahead of them for next year, and the work on that starts tomorrow.

Tom Sonneborn, Chief Negotiator for the F.O.P., addressed the Board. He stated that he just found out about an hour and a half ago that the County found out, through a telephone conversation with the Justice Department, that the Jag Grant money could be used by the County to avoid layoffs and changing to the 12-hour work schedule. They explained to the Board Chairman, Finance Chairman, and Administrator that over the past six weeks these men and women have lived with this decision to make a commitment to the citizens of Sangamon County to work a schedule they do not want to work and to change their personal lives around. They have had to change their children's babysitting and day care arrangements around, and those who are little league coaches have resigned or made alternative arrangements. They voted overwhelmingly to make this change. There were 59 people present and only 2 people voted against this.

This evening they learned, based on a telephone conversation, that this change is not necessary. Everyone should understand they are already in the process of or have already made these changes in their personal lives. They just can't go to them now and say just forget it. They have to look at their lives, and the stability they need in order to properly do their jobs. They are going to continue to work with the Sheriff, Chief Deputy Sheriff, and their staff to make preparations to make this transition. They had originally planned for the transition to occur on July 5, 2009. There are already deputies being put in different places on the shifts, and there are people being re-assigned within the department. They are going forward with those preparations until the Board can present something concrete from the Federal Government saying they can do this. They are not comfortable relying on someone telling them on the phone they can do this. This is good news for them, but they don't want to be in the situation where they tell the employees it's okay and then two weeks from now someone from the Federal Government says "well I don't know who that was, but you can't do this". They are not resisting the Board and are not trying to be difficult. The deputies are committed to the Board and to the County, and they need the same kind of commitment back to them.

They are going to continue forward with the preparations, and will cooperate in any way they can to get a commitment from the Sheriff's Department and the County Board. When they get something from the Government, they will sit down with them again and continue to try to do this. Mr. Sonneborn stated that he thinks a real partnership was formed here, and it is something that can benefit everyone. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them.

PROCLAMATION

Mr. Preckwinkle presented a Proclamation, in honor of Independents Week, to Tony Leone with the Pasfield House and Tia Schoen with the Illinois Times. They are two of the founding members of the Capital Area Independent Business Alliance.

Ms. Schoen thanked the Board for recognizing the organization. It is their goal to help local businesses survive and thrive. Mr. Leone stated that this is a brand new organization and they are hoping to get all locally owned businesses involved. When you spend money with a local business, \$45 remains in the community. When you spend money with a large franchise, only \$13 remains in the community. In these economic hard times, it is very important and prudent to spend locally.

RECOGNITION

Chairman Van Meter stated that over the past week or so, the entire Board has unanimously agreed to express their appreciation and thanks to Brian McFadden, County Administrator, for the hard work and long hours he has put in on two large projects over the past several weeks. Mr. McFadden thanked the Board for the recognition.

CORRESPONDENCE

A motion was made by Mrs. Long, seconded by Mrs. Turner, to place any correspondence on file with the County Clerk. A voice vote was unanimous. There was no correspondence to file.

RESOLUTION 1

1. Resolution approving a loan to CopperTree as agreed in the Community Services Block Grant Loan Program.

A motion was made by Mr. Moss, seconded by Mr. Stumpf, to place Resolution 1 on the floor. A voice vote was unanimous on the adoption of Resolution 1.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2

2. Resolution amending Sections 15.05.080, 15.06.040, 17.76.060, and 6.04.100 of the Sangamon County Code.

A motion was made by Mr. Goleman, seconded by Mr. Fraase, to place Resolution 2 on the floor. A voice vote was unanimous on the adoption of Resolution 2.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 3

3. Resolution relating to the lease and potential purchase of property located at 2833 S. Grand Avenue in Springfield.

A motion was made by Mrs. Long, seconded by Mrs. Turner, to place Resolution 3 on the floor.

Mr. Goleman addressed the Board. He asked Jeff Ball, with Hanson Engineering, to step forward and address the Board because he has been involved in this process for quite some time. This resolution will allow them to enter into negotiations to lease, and eventually purchase, a property at the old Cub Food building on South Grand Avenue East. Since the merger of the City and County Public Health Departments, they have said that if the opportunity came for them to consolidate the three facilities into one building then they would do that. They made a promise they would do this within a medically underserved district. The consolidation of these three facilities would save about \$105,000. The timing is right, and there is a window of opportunity for them to move forward on some negotiations to secure the property. It is easy access for those in the rural communities and for the citizens in the urban areas. Yesterday they had a press conference with a diverse group of members from the community who spoke overwhelmingly in favor of this. He stated that they are now asking for the Board's support. They have visited the facility and are very impressed with its condition.

Jeff Ball, with Hanson Engineering, addressed the Board. He stated that at first they were a bit concerned because the building had been vacant for around three years. They were actually pleasantly surprised on the condition of the building from a structural perspective. The facility can work very well for the County's needs. There is quite a bit of square footage, which is beyond what the County needs. This will be good for future growth and expansion for the various departments that may be housed in the facility. There are some issues with the roof that are part of the negotiations with the developers.

Mr. Bunch stated that he was on the other committee when they were looking at putting the Public Health building on Clearlake. When that fell through, he kept wondering how they could keep this facility on the East side of town. He was driving down South Grand, saw the empty building, and looked into the cost of it. He sat down with the Chairman and discussed the possible costs of obtaining the building. The Chairman promised he would give this building all the consideration he could, and he has shown that he is good on his word. This is on the right side of town, and will serve the purpose for the people of that community.

Mr. Fraase stated that there is six acres with two extra acres available, and he feels they should look into purchasing the extra acreage because they are always looking to expand. They will also be able to control what is being built there.

Mr. Montalbano asked if they are committed to the number of parking spaces that were disclosed. Mr. Ball stated there would be roughly 263 regular spots and 9 that are accessible. One of the many deal breakers is that there is already a traffic signal there with an entrance access on South Grand Avenue. This facility will also offer good visibility.

Mr. Stumpf asked if Hanson Engineering will oversee the design build and the entire project until the end. Chairman Van Meter stated that they would.

Mrs. Fulgenzi stated that they are going to move the Community Resources Department to that building with all the extra room. She asked if there would be any other departments they could move out there to service the community. Mr. Goleman explained that they would be using the extra space for storage for other offices.

Jim Stone, Director of Public Health, stated that there is roughly 3,400 square feet at this point that would be undeveloped and could be used for storage or additional office space. Mr. Van Meter stated that they are still looking at some other departments that may be able to move to the building, but they should probably not be counting on other departments being moved there other than Community Resources.

Mr. Smith applauded the committee for their work on this. It is great they are re-using an existing structure in town and getting it back into service. He asked if the Board will have the opportunity to vote again on the final deal negotiations of the lease and purchase option. Mr. Van Meter explained that there will be two more resolutions presented to the Board regarding the lease and financing for the project. Mr. Goleman stated that they will have the opportunity to look at the documents ahead of time, and they will be voted on at the regularly scheduled July County Board meeting.

Mr. Fulgenzi asked if Child Advocacy expressed any interest in moving there. Mr. Van Meter explained that is a separate deal altogether. Brian McFadden, County Administrator, explained that Child Advocacy is a County owned facility so they don't pay an outside lease. The square footage of the new facility would not work for them.

Mr. Goleman commended Mrs. Turner for her work on this project. This would be in her district. Mr. Van Meter stated that she has been the major advocate for combining the Community Resources Department in this building. The constituents who use that department will also be served by the Public Health Department.

Mrs. Turner expressed her excitement about the location of the new facility. When they first talked about consolidating all three of the buildings there were commitments made to the community, and this location fits perfectly with all the commitments they made. The community will definitely be able to say the County Board listened to them and did not forget what they promised. This will serve the entire County well, and is a perfect opportunity to use a building that has been sitting vacant. She explained that she has worked with the Q5 on East Springfield and has been looking at doing something for the South Grand corridor. This fits in perfectly with that project. She stated that she is happy they can do this and do it within the budget they said.

Mr. Moore asked how many people the Public Health Department serves on a daily or weekly basis. Jim Stone stated that they are busy in the Fall with children getting ready for school and because of the flu season.

There is a WIC caseload of a little over 5,000 with those clients coming to them three to four times a year. That is 20,000 visits for one program. They also give 5,000 to 10,000 immunizations per year. The case management assignment is roughly 4,000 individuals who come in, and they also do home visits. In the course of a flu season, they immunize 18,000 to 21,000 individuals. It is very busy at certain peak times.

Mr. Moore pointed out that having this kind of traffic through a building in that community will help those businesses in that immediate community. He asked if they could possibly accommodate something like voter registration or early voting, or to get more exposure for the Sheriff's Deputies. Mr. Goleman stated they would entertain anything like that. This is a proud moment in the sense that it would be a Sangamon County services building. Mr. Moore stated that as Chairman of the Health, Safety and Zoning Committee, he is thankful for the members of his committee for their support on this.

Mr. Mendenhall expressed his gratitude to the committee. He echoed Mr. Fraase's comments. It wasn't too long ago that the Jail and ESDA Committee were looking for a piece of ground to relocate ESDA and the Rescue Squad. They were able to find that, and it has turned out to be a nice facility. Some time in the near future there is going to be a need for another piece of property for the County.

Mr. Moss stated that as Chairman of the Community Resources Committee, he is excited about moving the department out there. There are so many grants and needs of those individuals that would be going into the Public Health Department. It will be a lot more accessible to those individuals.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Ball if they are prepared with ideas on costs for this project to compare the proposed purchase price with new construction. Mr. Ball stated that the committee did their due diligence in serving the taxpayers of Sangamon County when they did this process. They looked for a facility in a medically underserved area, and they looked at a lot of land available for development for new construction. With the cost comparisons they did, they are looking at about \$200 per square foot for new construction. At the time they were looking at about 45,000 square feet. Now they are looking at over 46,000 square feet. With 45,000 square feet at \$100 per square foot, they were looking at around \$9 million. Also, to acquire the land and for the parking they were looking at another \$2 million. The reconstruction of the existing facility will be roughly 35% cheaper.

Mr. Goleman explained that they are still looking at a few issues, but are confident the developers will see things their way through the negotiating process so they will be able to move forward with this.

Mr. Stumpf stated that if something does not go right, they have permission to drop this project if needed. Mr. Van Meter stated that they are fully committed to going through with this, but it will not be absolutely complete until the Board votes on it at the next meeting.

Mr. Hall stated that his issue is with the change orders. He wants to be assured the change orders are done by members of this Board because that is one thing that really wipes out a project really quick. The other issue is they should not let the opportunity go by to purchase the other piece of land. They just do not know who is going to own that ground right next to them.

Mr. Van Meter stated that they are going to address the issue of the change orders in a resolution that will be going before the Board next month.

Chairman Van Meter asked for a roll call vote on the adoption of Resolution 3. Upon the roll call vote, there were 26 Yeas – 0 Nays.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 4

4. Resolution to change the hours of business in the Sheriff's Department.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Preckwinkle, to place Resolution 4 on the floor. A voice vote was unanimous on the adoption of Resolution 4.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

REPORTS

A motion was made by Mrs. Long, seconded by Mrs. Turner, to place any reports on file with the County Clerk. A voice vote was unanimous. There were no reports to file.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mrs. Turner, seconded by Mrs. Long, to adjourn the meeting to July 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING ADJOURNED