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**MINUTES****SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD****APRIL 11, 2022**

The Sangamon County Board met in Reconvened Adjourned September Session on April 11, 2022 in the County Board Chambers. Chairman Van Meter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Smith gave the Invocation and Mr. Schackmann 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. Preckwinkle were excused.

PROCLAMATIONS

There were no proclamations.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Ms. Deppe, for approval of the minutes of March 8, 2022. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES ADOPTED

CORRESPONDENCE

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

RESOLUTION 1

1. Resolution approving a Local Public Energy Agency Agreement for federal participation with the Illinois Department of Transportation.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. Tjelmeland, 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 27 Yeas – 0 Nays.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2

2. Resolution approving a County Bridge Petition from Buffalo Hart Township for a drainage structure on Lynn Road.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Ms. Scaife, to place Resolution 2 on the floor. A motion was made by Ms. Williams 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. 2022-001 – William Jennings, 2933 Tozer Road, Springfield – Granting a Rezoning and Variances. County Board Member – James Schackmann, District #11.

A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf, seconded by Mr. Schackmann, 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. 2022-002 – Dowson Family Farms, L.P., 1953 Hogan Road, Divernon – Granting Variances. County Board Member – Sam Snell, District #6.

A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf, seconded by Mr. Snell, 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. 2022-003 – Text amendment to the Sangamon County Zoning Ordinance regarding Chapter 17.37 Solar Energy Systems; Chapter 17.10-A Agricultural District; Chapter 17.28-I-1 Restricted Industrial District; and Chapter 17.30 I-2 General Industrial District.

A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf, seconded by Ms. Linda Fulgenzi, to place Resolution 5 on the floor.

Mr. Stumpf addressed the County Board. They passed zoning cases for solar farms about four months ago and since then their committee has heard from the Sangamon County Farm Bureau, the Soil Conservancy, and a couple of their colleagues and constituents. They presented proposals for changes and their versions of what should be changed in the solar ordinances. Their committee heard everything for three months and developed these changes with Regional Planning and Zoning and the State's Attorney's office. One of the biggest changes would be that Solar Farm Energy Systems are now known as Commercial Solar Energy Systems. They also address vegetation, battery systems and a number of other issues. They worked on this for a solid three months and this is as far as they wanted to go at this point. They are still in consultation with the Farm Bureau and the Soil Conservancy working on other things that are coming up. They worked in collaboration with everyone and there have been many good conversations occurring.

Barb Mendenhall, 3151 Leach Road, Rochester, addressed the County Board. She is the Chair of the Sangamon Conservancy Trust, which is an IRS approved 501c3 charitable organization committed to farmland protection and preservation as defined by Section 170h of the Internal Revenue Code. They are about protecting farmland, preserving it and keeping it open space. They currently hold 11 conservation easements in Christian, Logan, Sangamon and Menard counties on 4043 acres, and they do not permit wind or solar commercial developments on the easements.

Everyone should have received a letter from her explaining the problems with the current ordinance that is being presented to the County Board. They understand the landowners should have the right to do what they want with their land. They also feel like it is the County Board's responsibility to set some parameters on the size and location of these commercial solar developments.

When solar developments first started appearing in the county, they were small, but all of a sudden at one County Board meeting on November 9, 2021 the board approved two solar projects. One has 960 acres south of Chatham, which is a 100-megawatt solar development, and one has 4085 acres.

They are willing to work with the Regional Planning Commission, but they felt that tonight was the night to ask the County Board to table approval of the ordinance and continue to work until they have a well-defined ordinance.

Mr. Hall asked Ms. Mendenhall if the issue she is hearing the most about is from adjacent property owners concerns with drainage. If so, he asked how the drainage would be affected, Ms. Mendenhall said if you look at the topography of the land they will be putting these developments

on, it is flat ground with little drainage, unless they have done some sort of tile drainage on their own. When you prepare a piece of agricultural land for a subdivision, you are required to have a drainage plan as part of the development. The water table in all of Sangamon County is very high. The County has a lot of flooding issues that are very prominent even when there are medium-sized rains. There will be issues with flooding on the road and tile drainage may end up breaking when they're putting in the solar developments. There is no drainage ordinance in Sangamon County. The project up in Logan County requires a drainage plan with their development.

Mr. Hall wanted to know when the solar panels are being installed, how do they know they aren't harming the value of the neighboring ground? He asked how many miles of field tile have been installed. Many of those field tiles are installed to increase the value of production, which increases the value of your land. How do they know the developers aren't piercing those tiles?

Ms. Mendenhall agreed and stated that this is where the County comes in. They need to make requirements for these developers that they actually have a drainage plan and what they would do as far as taking care of any tiles that have been broken. There needs to be more regulation through the County for something like that.

Mr. Stumpf replied that Sangamon County has some of the strictest ordinances in the entire state. Their committee, over the past three months, has heard a lot of testimony from several different entities and he would recommend not tabling this. They have spoken with the State's Attorney and had a stoppage or a moratorium for the last three months and would be extremely reluctant to go past this evening for the purposes of litigation. With that being said, there are going to be changes in the industry. They can always add to this but to stop this now and tell developers they can't come in and develop would be the wrong thing to do. He added that he'd like professional staff and regional planning to talk about state and county laws pertaining to underground tiles and why they don't aggressively go after that right now.

Molly Berns responded that when they passed the original solar ordinance back in 2018 it does require for a building permit to be issued. It should be submitted to the appropriate Sangamon County permitting office which in this case is the Zoning office. In the code, Section F refers to field tile location. So before the developer can be issued a Certificate of Compliance, they have to identify the location of all the field tiles which would have already been done as a part of the equitable impact mitigation statement that was required by state law to have in effect with the Department of the AG. Even more importantly, if in fact the field tile location is not identified correctly, then the County does have an impact in this because Trustin and his office could say they are not in compliance anymore because they did not identify a correct location of a field tile and therefore they've caused some damage. At that point-in-time, the developer would also work with the property owner and would have some sort of provision about field tile maintenance and repair. Ms. Berns does believe the ordinance covers a field tile locational issue. She feels comfortable that they are covered on that issue.

Ms. Small had questions about the drainage plan. She feels the developers should have all the information they need before they start drilling and breaking tiles. They have proved this, so she is questioning that they are trying to hold this up.

Ms. Mendenhall wondered if they realized the magnitude of a 4000-acre solar system? There is one being put in up north near Broadwell that is 874 acres. The smallest one in Sangamon County that has already been approved is 960 acres. Take four and a half times that – that is the size of the one that is going in down by Lowder. So they will see six square miles of solar panels and then what happens to those panels? What if there is a tornado, damaging storm or hail that comes through and damages those panels?

Ms. Small responded that when you make plans for something like this, there should already be a maintenance plan set up.

Chairman Van Meter directed Ms. Small's question to professional staff. Is there a maintenance plan requirement?

Ms. Berns replied that she would not call it a maintenance plan, per se, however; there are certain things under the decommissioning plan and under the certificate of compliance plan that the developer will actually submit. The decommissioning plan is reviewed by the Zoning and Land Use Committee. It does not come to the full County Board, but the members of that committee will actually review it. There is flexibility if, in fact, they have identified something that was not covered from the developer. A member of that committee can request that it be included in the plan. Regarding damage from a tornado, there is not damage from a tornado if it takes out a grain bin. There is no provision for that. She also wanted to remind the board that this is an amendment to an existing ordinance. She stated that the question before the County Board is if the language of the amendment is acceptable not whether or not to allow solar.

Ms. Scaife had a question for professional staff. She wondered when these projects are initiated if someone goes out there and finds the field tile. Ms. Berns responded yes, the developer will be required to do that before they file the actual plan and finalize it with the certificate of compliance to the building permit and that is placed on file with the Building and Zoning office.

Mr. Hall stated that in the Talkington Township area back in the 40's there were field tile drainage districts maps. Many of these have been altered and changed and they don't know where these drain tiles are on their own farms. He stated that they are asking him to trust a developer that's going to possibly harm the drainage of a neighboring property because farms cooperate with each other. When that tile is pierced, you won't know it until you start to have full flooding on your property. At this point, do you go to the developer? Do you go to the acreage owner or do you go to the County and say, "Hey, you allow this"? If you stand out and look at the thousands and thousands of acres that are going to be affected if someone pierces a tile, it is very important – it's a man's livelihood. Should they trust the developer to let someone know they harmed tile or will they just fix it?

Ms. Berns replied they should trust the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement, which was developed by the State Farm Bureau and was put forth with the legislature to cover situations exactly like this related to drainage tile. This is why, in 2018, Sangamon County at the recommendation of staff, added that to the solar ordinance to make sure that IMA was a part of the requirements and the drainage tile and the investigation of that is a part of the IMA.

Mr. Mendenhall added that the drainage issues are a huge issue, but the developer, the landowner, and the tenant farmer are not going to know that the tile was damaged. They are not drilling through the tile. If you drilled through the tile like you were setting a fencepost, chunks of the tile would come up. However, they are not drilling; they are pushing it into the ground so they're not going to know if it's damaged. The farmer and the tenant may not know the damage for a couple years. He dealt with that up in Logan County with the same developer here. Once they are done, they are going to fly back to the Cayman Islands and they are not going to know if anything was damaged or not.

Ms. Small questioned about the land being surveyed before building begins to know where everything is. Both parties including the landowner and the developer should know and they should work together.

Ms. Berns has not seen an agreement between the developer and the landowner nor should she. That is a private legal agreement between the two of them. She added that she's been told there is some language in the finalized agreements between the developer and the landowner regarding the location of field tiles, the actual surveying of those and identifying those tiles as part of the legal agreement. She has also been told, as part of that legal agreement, there is a provision for damage of the drain tile and effect on neighboring property owners. Both the developer and the landowner have told her that.

Mr. Mendenhall added that he just purchased a property and has no idea where the tile is. He cannot tell the developer and the developer cannot tell, so you are not going to know until the tile is damaged. With that being said, if it's damaged tomorrow and they go six or eight months or a year of really dry weather, it's not going to be a drainage issue. The next year, if there is all kinds of moisture, it's going to be a drainage issue and it's not necessarily going to be just him. Tile runs through his farm and goes into the road and runs through fourteen hundred other acres. It will be a huge issue.

Ms. Scaife wondered if they would have to report it to Zoning. She asked Trustin Harrison if he had seen any reporting with where tiles are located. Mr. Harrison replied that there has been no plan submitted. It is in the current ordinance that they will have to submit those plans before they forward the project.

Ms. Berns stated there is also an annual report filed with the zoning office as well. Any problems associated with the site would be reported during that annual reporting. If the reporting finds there needs to be mitigation related to the site, it would be done at that time as well. That annual report is on file with the Zoning office.

Mr. Thomas agreed that he thinks there is still work to be done. He is on the Zoning Committee and it is a process they are still going through. He thinks what needs to be passed tonight is text, but that is just a start. He thinks they should continue to work on the drainage issues.

Mr. Krell stated they do have a way of finding these things. They have ground-penetrating radar and other new ways of finding stuff underground. Maybe some new language could be added that the builder would have to adhere to which would utilize some of this new technology.

Mr. Stumpf stated he is a plumber and he realizes you can hit pipes. The developer can hit pipes. If it is in the plan and it is not in the right spot or they don't know where it is, it becomes a civil issue. It will become a civil issue if they damage the entire three farms behind it and they can't grow their crops and they have a lower yield. Tonight, they aren't rehashing zoning for solar farms. Every month a new thing crops up and it has for the last three to five years. This will be addressed with their committee. People are trying to stop these projects, which is fine, but the State's Attorney has said that they do not want us to table this ordinance anymore. It is going to put the county in a legal liability. What is before the County Board tonight are changes that were brought forward with the three months of testimony from the Soil Conservancy, George Preckwinkle, Lucy Stafford, the Farm Bureau and other constituents. These are all their changes. Is it all of their changes? No – tonight this is about the changes to the ordinance. This is not about whether we are going to have solar farms or not or companies coming in that want to put in solar farms. This is what the groups wanted and what the committee put together.

Mr. Bunch inquired about how deep into the ground the field tile are. Ms. Berns did not really know, but a lot of it depends on the location, where it is in Sangamon County, the water table as well as the flow and how the topography is shaped. Chairman Van Meter clarified that there is no standard answer to that question. Mr. Bunch also thought that having the heavy combines in the fields and the semis loading corn could cause some damage if the tiles are not down too deep.

Mr. Miller asked for some clarification from legal. Assistant State's Attorney Joel Benoit stated that he was asked to do a little bit of research on the idea of a moratorium. His research revealed that this was not allowed. If somebody knows that this board is considering amending a zoning ordinance, they cannot just rush in and say I want to file an application to develop under the existing ordinance. They are trying to give notice that the board is going to consider amending an ordinance in a certain way, but they just can't take forever to do this. They have to let people move on with their plans and can't be a moving target. Three months ago, the committee was changing some things in the ordinance and now they are bringing up consideration of where the tiles are. It is a moving target so he tends to agree that the safer course is to vote whatever is in front of the board tonight, up or down, and then if somebody ever wants to change it a different way they could bring that to the committee when there is time to do it. He also thinks that the board members should consider if there is a group of people who are for this.

Ms. Linda Fulgenzi asked to call the question. Chairman Van Meter had a couple more questions. He wanted to know the relationship of Ms. Mendenhall to Mr. Mendenhall. Ms. Mendenhall said they are not related at all. He is from the Buffalo area and she is from Rochester. Chairman Van Meter also inquired as to what her organization's opinion is on wind farms. Ms. Mendenhall stated that as far as the trust goes, they do not allow wind farms either. Chairman Van Meter also asked if the trust had purchased the 11 easements, which they hold. She stated the landowner still owns the land but they hold them under the guide of the agricultural easement. That means the farmland stays farmland. There will be no commercial development on the farmland.

Chairman Van Meter asked how they came to have the easements. Ms. Mendenhall said they were donated by the landowner. Chairman Van Meter also asked if her organization had funding to purchase the easements. Ms. Mendenhall replied they did not.

Michelle Curby, 14650 BAB Road, Auburn, addressed the County Board. She is a board member of the Conservancy trust but is also the wife of a farmer. She is asking to table this ordinance for at least two months to gather more information. They are asking the County Board to consider the economic and exponential loss of income of removing thousands of acres of farm ground from production for 30 to 35 years. They are asking the County Board to consider what the impact of removing thousands of acres would have on cost of the remaining farm ground. Currently, an acre of farmland in Sangamon County is going for \$20,000 an acre. This is some of the most expensive farm ground in the country. Taking thousands of acres out of production, only increases the cost of the land and increases the rights for farmers, like her husband, and will only serve to push out small family farms. They are asking the County Board to consider what the impact, passing a broad solar ordinance, would have on the County's history and culture of farming.

Her husband is in his late 30's and she can count on her hand the number of peers he has. Most everyone else is near retirement age. Leasing land to solar developers is more lucrative to a landowner than farming. Currently landowner farmers net about \$100 per acre, whereas leasing to a solar developer nets a landowner about \$800 an acre. She is concerned that without "guard rails" in place, Sangamon County could be a sea of solar panels. If that is the case, where will her kids farm?

She is asking the County Board to consider the county's agricultural heritage and the natural resource of the soil. If they don't table the ordinance tonight, how many more acres will go under contract by the time they get around to amending the ordinance appropriately? If the County Board has any questions, she is inviting them to come to their farm and farm with them and hear their insight.

Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to call the roll. Upon the roll call vote, there were 17 Yeas – 8 Nays – 1 Present. Those voting Yes were: Mr. Bunch, Ms. Deppe, Mr. Forsyth, Mr. Fraase, Ms. A. Fulgenzi, Ms. L. Fulgenzi, Mr. Hartman, Mr. Madonia, Mr. McGuire, Mr. Schackmann, Ms. Small, Mr. Smith, Mr. Snell, Mr. Stumpf, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Truax, and Ms. Williams. Those voting No were: Mr. Hall, Mr. Krell, Mr. Mendenhall, Mr. Miller, Mr. O'Neill, Ms. Ruzic, Ms. Scaife, and Mr. Tjelmeland. Voting Present was Ms. Douglas Williams.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 6

6. Resolution authorizing a lawsuit settlement agreement in the amount of \$700,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Hall, seconded by Ms. Deppe, to place Resolution 6 on the floor. A motion was made by Ms. Williams that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolution 6. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 7

7. Resolution authorizing a lawsuit settlement agreement in the amount of \$100,000.

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

MOTION CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTIONS 8 - 18

8. Resolution authorizing the application for a Capital Assistance Grant for paratransit vehicles.

A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Schackmann, to place Resolution 8 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Smith, to consolidate Resolutions 8 – 18. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 9 – 18.

9. Resolution authorizing the execution and amendment of the Section 5311 Grant Agreement.
10. Resolution approving the Public Transportation Applicant Ordinance.
11. Resolution for approval of the application and forward to the County Board for approval of the Consolidated Vehicle Procurement Grant with anticipated revenue to be determined.
12. Resolution for approval of the application and forward to the County Board for approval of the Capital Funds Grant with anticipated revenue to be determined.
13. Resolution approving a grant application for Community Resources for a grant from DCEO for the HHS Weatherization Program in the amount of \$263,196.
14. Resolution approving a grant application for Community Resources for a grant from DCEO for the DOE Weatherization Program in the amount of \$201,732.
15. Resolution approving a grant application for Community Resources for a grant from DCEO for the State of Illinois Weatherization Program in the amount of \$101,844.
16. Resolution approving the contract with RD Lawrence Co. Ltd. for the construction of the Sangamon County Complex addition and renovation in the amount of \$8,550,000.
17. Resolution amending Chapter 8.16 of the Sangamon County Code concerning ambulance services for providers dispatched by the Sangamon County Central Dispatch System.

18. Resolution authorizing the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission to prepare the Sangamon County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation. A motion was made by Ms. Williams that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolutions 8 – 18, as consolidated. A voice vote carried. Ms. Annette Fulgenzi abstained from voting on Resolutions 13, 14 and 15. Ms. Small voted present on Resolution 18.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

WAIVER OF TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD

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

MOTION CARRIED
TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD WAIVED

RESOLUTIONS 19 – 23

19. Resolution approving a grant application for the State’s Attorney from the Illinois Attorney General’s Office for the Violent Crimes Victim Assistance Program in the amount of \$31,000.

A motion was made by Mr. O’Neill, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to place Resolution 19 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Thomas, to consolidate Resolutions 20 – 23 with Resolution 19. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 20 – 23.

20. Resolution approving amendments to the FY 2021 Sangamon County Budget.
21. Resolution authorizing the Chairman of the County Board to sign a contract on behalf of Sangamon County with RD Lawrence Co. Ltd. for the construction and renovation of the South Complex Sheriff’s Evidence Storage Facility in the amount of \$1,463,675.00.
22. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Election Office from Election Systems and Software for the purpose of 2022 election voting equipment hardware maintenance and a software/firmware renewal license in the amount of \$79,687.88.
23. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Election Office from Platinum Technology Resource, LLC for the purpose of a 3-year renewal license for voter registration, same day registration, and election worker software in the amount of \$283,383.45.

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation. A motion was made by Ms. Williams that the roll call vote for Resolution 1, stand as the roll call vote for Resolutions 20 – 23, 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 Don Wulf to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term expiring April, 2027.

Appointment of Phil Sidles to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term expiring April, 2027.

Appointment of JD Sudeth to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term expiring April, 2027.

Appointment of Frank Lane to the Buffalo, Dawson, Mechanicsburg Sewer Commission for a term expiring April, 2028.

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

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

Appointment of Brian McFadden to the Springfield Economic & Community Development Commission for a term expiring April, 2025.

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

MOTION CARRIED
APPOINTMENTS ADOPTED

The nominations for appointment in May were also submitted.

C. Procurement/Grant Notification

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENT – JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Cherena Douglass, 4003 Pickfair Road, addressed the County Board regarding the upcoming Juneteenth Celebration. They were at the County Board meeting last year to inform and push them to support Juneteenth. Juneteenth is not just a city or county holiday, it is not just a state holiday but is now a federal national holiday. Juneteenth is a freedom celebration. They like to speak of it as the true Independence Day for America. This signifies that all men could finally secure pure and full freedom as far as citizenship is concerned. They have done a tremendous amount of work in Springfield as is documented in the handout.

They have consistently celebrated Juneteenth for over 20 years. They did this before it was a holiday, before it was the thing to do. They have been trying to educate the community on the importance of Juneteenth. Why is Juneteenth important to the County Board? She said to think about some of the things that are going on in the news right now. It wasn't one of the County's officers, but it was an officer that was at one time policing the area. He had some anti-semitic, high racism, sexism thoughts and issues. She wondered where that comes from. It starts from a lack of education.

Juneteenth is not just a party in the park. They are very much focused on education, which is why they have partnered with the Illinois State Museum. Twenty years ago, they started out in Comer Cox Park and were in one district. They are now trying to spread out through multiple districts because it is not just for one side of town it is for everyone.

She questioned how they grow Juneteenth. This is the home and Land of Lincoln. Why is Juneteenth important? Because of the Emancipation Proclamation. Who is Lincoln? He is the great emancipator. This should be one of the biggest Juneteenth celebrations in the nation outside of Galveston, Texas. How do they make that happen? They have to have everyone at the table. It can't just be the same people organizing the celebration. They have new stakeholders such as the Illinois State Museum, and are seeking out the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum as well as Lincoln's home. They have a connection with the City and now are looking at that connection with the County.

Everyone always comes to the County begging and that's exactly what they are there to do. They need more than just money. They want to establish a relationship for years to come. This should be the place that all people come to celebrate Juneteenth. They need to implore all of the resources that Sangamon County offers to those that are in the park during Juneteenth. Right now, they have a four day celebration that starts at the Y-block and ends at Comer Cox Park.

How can this impact our community? They need capital resources not just money. They need all kind of things that your boards, commissions and departments house. They need our people out in the park celebrating. They would like to come to any committee meetings to present this to the Board.

They want to continue this relationship with the County for years to come and hope the board understands that they are important to the Juneteenth celebration continuing within this area. She commended the board on how well they run their meetings.

Ms. Annette Fulgenzi commented that she and her family attended Juneteenth a couple years ago and there was great food and music and they had a lot of fun.

Mr. Schackmann added that as an employee of the Springfield Park District they did an excellent job.

PUBLIC COMMENT – ANIMAL CONTROL

Jane McBride, 3300 Forsyth Drive, addressed the County Board regarding the Animal Control Facility. She stated that the MGT report had a concerning characterization of the volunteers, but also developments regarding employees. She said that the board looks at what is called a “chain of command” policy statement that has been issued, and look at it in conjunction with the letter of lack of confidence with the director. The employees were following a chain of command. They were talking to the director and that was not working. She witnessed this herself that this was not working. They did take it up and elevate it and continued to elevate it. They now have a chilling chain of command policy, which culminates with the fact that they cannot take something up to the next level unless they have the permission of their immediate supervisor to do so.

What they have witnessed from the director and what she has witnessed herself, are egregious erroneous statements that have been made about herself and the Illinois Humane Society. This is the individual who has the final say as to whether an employee can elevate a concern or a complaint. She does not understand what the board is doing. They are squelching communication. They have serious concerns about what is going on out there. They are starting to see incidences of panleukopenia in cats. What measures have been taken to ensure this will not be another problem this year?

She questioned what Mr. Roesch’s expertise is in animal shelters. What does he know about how to work with employees? They also had a horrible incident with investigations of euthanasia incidences being published. She claims he is pitting employees against each other in the most difficult tasks that these employees have to undertake. She states that you do not handle it in that manner. You support those employees and work through the issues that are involved with these.

They are also losing their front staff. Three out of the four front desk people are stepping away right now as they are going into their busiest season. Their job includes public interface and animal records. What are they doing to get this outfit under control and straightened up. Whom do they trust to do this? Where is that \$24,000 going that you are paying Mr. Roesch who knows nothing about animal shelters?

Timothy Seibert was signed up to address the board but was not present.

Mary Coventry, 102 Winter Park Drive, Chatham addressed the County Board regarding the Animal Control Facility. Friends of Sangamon County Animal Control is a volunteer group involved in providing enrichment support for the animals, primarily walking and any other interactions with the animals. Their assistance was initially well received and their involvement has evolved over time. They want major policy decisions. The definition of policy includes the words advocate, advocate, advocate. The county board redoes policies all the time. They want to rewrite some of the policies. They spend more time with the animals than anyone else does out there. They asked about policies denying adoptions because there was none. The fees are higher than everybody else's. Euthanasia rates are higher than everybody else's. There is no public engagement. They advocate for oversight day-to-day and reduced fees. She is tired of watching people crying because they cannot get their animal back.

The staff is being pitted against each other, which is unfortunate because it will lead to a major accident out there because kennel staff need the officers and the officers need the kennel staff. New staff came out there with absolutely no experience with animals. She realizes that speaking here is not her target audience, but people are starting to take notice. They will continue to come here. What they love is that the board does print out a write-up of everything and people are printing out everything that people are coming up here saying. They will send those out until they find their target audience and someone takes notice.

If anyone has any questions about handling a dog, or anything else – come to her – she is the director on training, she sits on the Friends board. Do not come up to their volunteers in a public setting and belittle them. They behave themselves out there.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED
REPORTS FILED

RECESS

A motion was made by Ms. Willams, seconded by Mr. Bunch, to recess the meeting to May 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING RECESSED

Don Gray
Sangamon County Clerk