

# DON GRAY

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## MINUTES

### SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD

**AUGUST 11, 2020**

The Sangamon County Board met in Reconvened Adjourned June Session on August 11, 2020 at the BOS Center in Springfield. Chairman Van Meter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Stumpf gave the invocation and Mr. Fraase led the County Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### ROLL CALL

Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to call the roll. There were 29 Present – 0 Absent. A motion was made by Mr. Preckwinkle, seconded by Mr. Bunch, to let board members attend the meeting by phone, as allowed under the Open Meetings Act. A voice vote was unanimous. Those board members attending by phone were: Annette Fulgenzi, Mr. DelGiorno, and Mrs. Small.

### PRESENTATION OF 1908 RACE RIOT VIDEO

A slideshow presentation was given. Chairman Van Meter stated this is a presentation of a concept for the memorial to be constructed at the site of the homes that were discovered during the course of constructing the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Rail Project. At the time these homes were discovered, there was an immediate concern that it was going to slow down the project, but it did not slow the project at all. The community began to realize what an incredible opportunity this was for them, rediscovering the homes that were at the center of the 1908 race riot. It was a great opportunity to uncover those events and to celebrate the good that came out of them. The race riot event led to the formation of NAACP. When the site was uncovered, Hanson Engineers contracted with a firm out of Iowa, who are quite famous for developing monuments and exhibitions of this kind

around the country. They are the ones who prepared this slideshow presentation. It walks through the concept of this memorial to the 1908 race riot.

### **COVID – 19 REPORTS**

Gail O’Neill, Director of Public Health, addressed the County Board. Mrs. O’Neill started off by saying there were 51 new cases in Sangamon County on August 11<sup>th</sup>. The age groups spanned from teenagers to one person in their late eighties. When they get some more information from contact tracing, they will know if there is a common link. Most often, they are seeing that these cases do eventually link back to the younger people. They take it home and share it with their family. In the last week, they moved from being orange to blue on the state map as a warning on their designation. They put some mechanisms in place to identify that there are crowds that have a good time at the bars. They are going to try and reduce the risks there and at places that sell food. They have also put a lot of effort into their long-term care facilities and have not seen any huge outbreaks since this virus first began. They do have some little ones, but they are manageable at this time.

Mrs. O’Neill stated she had received some questions prior to the meeting. One of the questions she received is “Since the number of cases are going up, is this because the number of people being tested is going up?” She does still communicate with numerous doctors every week and she did look to them for clarification for this answer. The positivity rate is going up because the virus is becoming more wide-spread in the community. The more tests they are seeing people do should actually be reducing the positivity rate in the community and not increasing it. Another question she received is, “Should they be hosting food trucks similar to the fair?” They understand they are travelling to people for financial reasons to increase crowds, which also increases cases. This is somewhat true. They have, along with the city, been monitoring events at the bars and restaurants. The places that have been bringing in food trucks have a license with the county stating they are allowed to do so. The people running the food trucks know their employees must be masked and they know they have to manage the people waiting in line. It is their responsibility to space people out. The people running these know that going in. Public Health has been trying to monitor that and provide education to them. She has not heard of any of them having a big traffic jam yet, so she thinks people are learning how to move it along and she hopes it continues. They have been out offering warnings and suggestions to all the food and alcohol facilities in Sangamon County that they oversee. At these events, the masks are worn by the staff and anybody that is not eating or drinking anything. This will help reduce the risk of getting the virus. District 186 Superintendent Gill stated during the August 3<sup>rd</sup> Board of Education Meeting that a panel of 11 professionals recommended a vote of 9 to 11 to only provide remote education due to the local spike in cases. Another question is “If this is the recommendation, then why isn’t the Board of Health or the Department of Public Health directing or advising county schools to avoid in-person instruction?” They knew the school districts all wanted them to help make that decision. They met with the superintendents at the beginning of this when they were talking about not going back to

school. What they determined was that a guidance document might be the best thing to do. They are not school administrators, and they are in all the schools. It is like what they tried to do with The Villas. That was their first long-term care facility outbreak and they really did not what they were doing. However, they worked through the guidance and the science and what has become the document for District 186 and all the schools in Sangamon County. If they have not seen it yet, it will be linked on the Public Health's website. They have spoken with pediatricians about students returning to school, and in theory students could follow the guidelines like wearing a mask and social distancing and some classrooms could spread desks out, but each school is different. So they did not give a yes or no answer. Per the NPR report, it is uncertain if they have the local testing capacity to test K – 12 students once in-person instruction begins. Other states where schools have reopened have seen outbreaks and have rolled back their openings. Do they have the capacity for the testing? What will it take to get that capacity? Are the instant read tests administered at the old Walgreens advisable for school-aged children? Should this test be administered to all school-aged children prior to being admitted to school in person? This is a complicated question. Is this something they would want to do every day? They do not have the capacity for that. There is only one testing facility, the old Walgreens that gives test results back in a day, but she does not know how many tests they can complete in a day. She is checking to see if that test is useful for people under the age of 18. She is also looking into temperature checking at schools and the best way to do that. She does not know if temperature screening along with daily testing would actually be beneficial or if they take the parents' word that their child is not sick. She thinks this may be a challenge, but some schools might be able to handle this.

She also said the data from IDPH is always a week or two behind. For example, as of August 11, 2020, the most recent data they have is from the week of August 1<sup>st</sup>. Another question someone had is, "Are the county health officials keeping track of the testing done?" They want a current weekly average so they can have the numbers in real time. The problem with this is, in the very beginning of this pandemic if someone wanted to have a test done they had to have symptoms and it had to be approved by the IDPH. They were in control and knew what the numbers were. They knew who qualified to get a test, who they had approved to get a test, and what their test results were. Once the testing started ramping up and other places were offering tests, they did not know who was testing where. The Health Department only receives positive test results. They tried for a while with their hospital partners to get daily reports of who had been tested. That reporting was inconsistent, but they were trying to have something out every day so the public knew what was going on. Memorial Hospital was providing a lot more data than St. Johns and ultimately it was very hard to get those numbers every day. The thing they are certain of is the number of positive cases they are reporting. The reason the numbers may be differing from the state numbers is because they are reporting the number of positive people while the state is reporting the number of positive tests. Some people in nursing homes, hospitals, etc. are getting 5 or 6 positive tests if they are being testing frequently, and the County only counts it as one person. So they have only been tracking it by person.

The hospitals have more patients in the ICU with COVID-19 than is reported on their daily numbers. From the beginning, their regional hospitals were feeders for other counties to come in. There are people from all over the place. They were trying to identify what was happening with Sangamon County residents. They either were positive, recovering, or they were deceased. The hospitals do so much reporting because they have to. They have to notify the state daily. What is on those daily metrics? It shows their availability. They check weekly to find out what their level of people in the ICU for COVID-19 is to make sure there are enough beds and ventilators. The hospitals always tell them what their capacity is. Another question was, "What number should the public use to report non-mask compliance at places like bars and restaurants?" Their hotline number is 321-2601. People can also go online to make a report at [www.scdph.org](http://www.scdph.org). Those messages go straight to her. People who want to make a report after hours or on weekends can always call dispatch. Another question was, "If a person at a nursing home or long-term care facility tests positive, is the facility required to notify the Public Health Department?" The answer to that is they are supposed to. Their first requirement is to contact all the families in the nursing home or long-term care facility and let them know. Then they are to let the Health Department know. Sometimes they do and sometimes they don't. Luckily, there has really only been one large outbreak at a long-term care facility, the rest have been smaller. They are currently working with the Auburn Nursing Home because they do not seem to have the knowledge and were early to decline a visit from the doctors and from the Public Health Department.

Mr. Bunch said that his neighbor tried to get tested at the old Walgreens, but when she went there, no one was there. She tried calling and could not get a hold of anybody. Mr. Bunch stated he also tried calling over there and he could not get anyone to answer the phone either. He asked if that facility was still being used. Ms. O'Neill said that it was, and she just received results from them today; however, sometimes these places do not have the staffing or they run out of tests. She also said that she had heard there was a day where no one was there and that is not good.

Mr. Ratts said he moved his step-daughter into ISU at her sorority and they told her she had to have a test done. She got tested last Monday and still has not heard anything and then was told the Health Department may have lost over a hundred tests. He asked Mrs. O'Neill if she knew anything about this. She said she has not heard anything about that, but the State informed her there was a period of time from July 12<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> that one of their contract labs mishandled or lost tests that may never be found again, so that may be what happened with Mr. Ratt's stepdaughter. It is also very challenging for people to get copies of their tests. Mr. Ratts said his stepdaughter was tested last week and they hadn't heard anything. Mrs. O'Neill said she would give him the number that his stepdaughter can call.

Mr. Madonia said with the positivity rate being such a major metric and they are unable to get accurate data on the number of tests being performed, are they mandated by the state to use that as a way to change that? Are hospitals back up to full staffing with elective surgeries? Mrs.

O'Neill believes the hospitals are working back towards being fully operational. They still need to have people show proof of their negative test. The state numbers in the metric system are probably as good as they are going to get. She noticed there was only one death different from the state, so they are almost caught up to them. That metric system is used as a community warning system. She thinks the reason their numbers went up was there was one week where there was not a free testing site for children, so parents would end up taking them to the emergency room if they needed a test or their children were showing symptoms. So the two reasons that put them in orange were the number of positive tests and the people using the emergency department with COVID-like illnesses. That is not scientifically proven. Their numbers are going up in Sangamon County, but she does not see the other levels changing.

Mr. Ratts said in lieu of the place at the fairgrounds, is there any other place in Sangamon County that is going to be open too? Mrs. O'Neill said no, the fairgrounds would only open on Wednesdays. She said SIU set something up out there, and they will be there every Wednesday of this month at least.

Sheriff Jack Campbell addressed the County Board. As people have seen in the media, four of their correctional officers have tested positive for COVID-19. However, there is no indication that these cases have any connection to their facility. They have moved forward with testing all of their employees. They are in the process of doing that now in the jail. In the last seven days, they have tested 84 employees and fifteen inmate trustees. Of those 91 tests, they have received 64 negative results, with nine of those being the inmate trustees. They are still waiting on seven more trustee results and they still have more employees to test. With the Illinois Sheriffs Association winning their lawsuit against the Governor, last week they began transferring inmates over to IDOC. He had reported they had 52 inmates in the jail that should not be there, and they were able to transfer 20 of the 37 IDOC inmates last week. There are still some inmates that are supposed to go the DHS. They have not been able to transfer the other 17 because there was not room. On August 11, they will be able to start transferring the others one at a time. It is not very efficient, but it is the only way they can get it done. Once the four correctional officers tested positive, they reverted back to what they called their "March protocols." They locked down the jail, eliminated jail visitations and other activities that were considered nonessential, and suspended shift briefings by the deputies. No other deputies, court security, or inmates have tested positive, which further backs the idea that the people contracted the virus outside of the facility. The only question Sheriff Campbell had sent to him was if he and his staff would enforce the amount of people in attendance at outside events. He said the answer is yes, they will enforce the Public Health and Liquor Commission rules by educating the public using their discretion. In the case of an egregious violations or a refusal to comply, they will forward a report to the appropriate entity.

Bill Lee, Director of the Office of Emergency Management, addressed the County Board. OEM has fallen into a support role for the Department of Public Health, mostly securing alternate housing for those who test positive or need to be quarantined. To date, they have assisted in housing

six guests, two of them were this month. They have also worked with Mrs. O'Neill and have been discussing some triggers that might reactivate the EOC from a Public Health mission to a county-wide mission like we had earlier. They are still throwing around some of those ideas. Some of those triggers consist of an increase in daily numbers, dramatic change in ventilators and ICU bed availability, an increase in outbreaks at living facilities, and an increase in deaths. They are also monitoring the needs of PPE in the county and are working very hard to find reliable sources. There are a lot of scams out there regarding masks, so they are working very hard with IEMA to get a list out there of reliable sources. OEM does support first responders, schools, and some assisted living facilities with PPE, but they are not intended to be the primary or sole source of PPE. They are there in case there is something those facilities cannot get their hands on. They got a press release out to media to discuss the Public Assistance Grant. There is some confusion on how that money can be spent. There is a lot of available money out there for local municipalities and they got the message out the best they could. They are trying to encourage every small agency that has a cost of \$3,300 or more to put that claim in. Their department is also going to be set up to meet one on one with the agencies to help them with the process.

Chairman VanMeter said Mr. Lee mentioned the central command established is standing down at the current time, but there is still very good coordination between the County and the City in dealing with issues of enforcement and very recently it's been back and forth. He asked Mr. Lee to confirm that. Mr. Lee said yes, they started with a countywide incident command consisting of Public Health and the fire department. They did that initially to get organized, get word out, and start to get things going. Once it became solely a Public Health mission, they stepped back because they felt they were getting in the way of the daily progress. They are in communication daily and do help out with the process on a regular basis.

Brian McFadden, Sangamon County Administrator, addressed the County Board. As far as county operations, nothing has really changed since last month. All of the offices are open and all the staff has returned to work. The one thing they are still struggling with is the court system. They have been trying to find a balance between knocking down a very significant back log, particularly with traffic court and orders of protection, and maintaining the integrity of the building and not having the building be overwhelmed with court participants. This has been a struggle, but he is working with Judge Madonia, the State's Attorney, and others to try to figure out the upcoming months. They have decided to start doing Saturday courts, but the really big challenge they are facing operationally, besides the budget, is the court operations. People would overwhelm the front of the building and the elevators, so trying to manage that has been difficult. People seem to be complying as well as they hoped, but just dealing with the volume of people is challenging.

As far as the budget goes, most people have been made aware that the County is eligible for up to \$1.4 million in reimbursement through the state through the Cures Grant Program. That is good news, but unfortunately there is about \$2 million dollars in COVID-19 related costs they have incurred. They know they probably will not get the full \$1.4 million, but anything will help at

this time. They have begun the process of a draw down program, and he has submitted data to the state to make them eligible for that. This will be through November where there will be a status check. There does appear to be some relief on the horizon, but not quite enough to make them completely whole during this time. Cash flow does remain solid. This was a huge concern at the beginning of all this, but they had better and more timely participation with the property tax cycle and the payment of property tax bills. As far as the budget goes, the resolution for the schedule of the budget is on the agenda tonight, they are flying blind. They are seeing about a 10% drop in sales tax since April. They do not know if that is going to rebound or not. Their court fines and fees, which is a large revenue item for them at about \$15 to \$16 million a year, is depressed significantly. His notice to the Board is they might have to revisit this later when they have a better idea of how all of this is going to go.

### **PRESENTATION BY JEFF WILHITE**

Jeff Wilhite, Sangamon County Public Relations Officer, addressed the County Board. He is going to go over how the County Facebook page went during its first month of being active, as well as some edits they want to make to the website. They started the Facebook page about a month ago, with some of the data being back dated, making it look like it was active before then. It started with 0 likes and now has 1,269 likes. He did a comparison to other neighboring counties around the same size as Sangamon and McLean County, who had their Facebook for 3 ½ years, only has 670 likes and Peoria County, who had their Facebook for 12 years, only has 3,700 likes. So Sangamon County's Facebook is definitely doing well. All of the likes are organic, meaning no money was being offered to encourage likes. He asks that if people have Facebook, to please share the page so others can utilize it.

One thing they have noticed is how they put their content online. He presented a slideshow presentation. They have to put their news directly onto their website. He wants to note that their site might not be the flashiest, but it is extremely easy to use. They have links to COVID reports, and want to add more to their homepage to scroll through. Another thing they want to do is turn their news section into a blog. They are going to make their news section almost exactly like Will County does theirs. They will be able to back date any content they may have. They will also be able to turn on likes, comments, and shares, just like Facebook. There are two great benefits to this. One is that all of this content is going to draw people to their site. Whenever something is updated on the website, it automatically updates on the Facebook page. It could also post to any other type of social media they choose to use in the future. This also allows people who do not have Facebook to see what is posting to their page.

The last plug he would like to mention is SAM. This is going to launch within the next week and a half. It is going to be a big media push. They are going to be on TV, the radio, as well as Facebook. To get this out there, they are going to show a video with each of the 29 districts uploading a five to seven second video telling their constituents to get out and use this service.

They will then upload this video on Facebook and in the comments. The video itself will have a link to get this new service. He is hoping this will really get people to sign up for this. Mr. Wilhite stated he would be contacting each County Board member to see if this is something they would be willing to do.

Mr. Thomas asked how to find the County's Facebook page. Mr. Wilhite said on Facebook, go to Sangamon County Government, then it will pop right up.

Chairman VanMeter wanted to emphasize the SAM system is critically important for them in delivering immediate messages to the entire community or a section of the community when there is an emergency situation. Chairman VanMeter asked Bill Lee if there is an official launch date yet. Bill Lee said their target date was the 18<sup>th</sup>. They are in the process of getting the local jurisdictions that they have offered accounts to, to opt in and allow them to place their name as a place to receive information from. With the opt-in process they have going now, they have offered accounts to all village mayors and presidents, the local police and fire departments, and the school superintendents. There will be others to follow, but these are their targets right now. As of the 11<sup>th</sup>, 29 have opted-in. So their launch date really depends on getting people to opt-in.

Chairman Van Meter stated he is really counting on every County Board member to do a quick PSA about this.

### **MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mrs. Williams, for approval of the Minutes of July 14, 2020. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED  
MINUTES ADOPTED

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

### **RESOLUTION 1**

1. Resolution approving the FY2021 Unified Planning Work Program for the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf, seconded by Mr. Preckwinkle, 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 29 Yeas – 0 Nays.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

### **RESOLUTIONS 2 – 5**

2. Resolution approving a preliminary engineering agreement and a master purchase order with Cummins Engineering Corporation for a structure replacement on Treat Road in Chatham Township.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. Hall, to place Resolution 2 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Smith, to consolidate Resolutions 2 – 5. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 3 – 5.

3. Resolution approving a motor fuel tax contract for Springfield Township for a road improvement on Camp Sangamo Road.
4. Resolution supporting the consolidation of the Sangamon County Building Department with the Zoning and Liquor Department.
5. Resolution setting forth budget policies for the preparation of the FY2021 Sangamon County Budget.

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 2 – 5, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

### **WAIVER OF 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 6 – 9**

6. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services from Gateway Foundation, Inc. for the purpose of substance abuse treatment services in the amount of \$140,010.

A motion was made by Mr. O’Neill, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to place Resolution 6 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Smith, to consolidate Resolutions 6 – 9. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 7 – 9.

7. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services from SIU School of Medicine for the purpose of trauma treatment services in the amount of \$50,000.
8. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services from Byers Printing Company for vote by mail packets in the amount of \$32,686.
9. Resolution in support of Frank Vala as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Springfield Airport Authority.

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 6 – 9, as consolidated. A voice vote carried. Mrs. Williams voted Present on Resolution 7 and Mr. DelGiorno voted Present on Resolution 9.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Frank Vala, Chairman of the Springfield Airport Authority, addressed the County Board. By now, most everyone has probably heard about the conflict between himself and Mayor Langfelder with his four appointees to the Airport Authority Board. Eighteen years ago, he was appointed to the Springfield Airport Authority Board. At that time, Abraham Lincoln’s name was not even a part of the airport. Up until a few weeks ago, he had a board he could work with easily and was very agreeable. He does not understand what Mayor Langfelder is up to, he can only assume that he wants him to be replaced by Mayor Houston because he owed him a favor. He remains on the Board with a 3 by 3 tie, and he thinks the mayor is going to continue to call special meetings in and have a vote. He has been chairman of the board for 14 years. He wants to make a note that Dallas/Fort Worth still remains on their schedule. Peoria has lost all Delta and Bloomington just lost American Airlines to Chicago temporarily. Springfield has not lost an airline. He finds it amazing that Mayor Langfelder thinks it is only the Airport that is the economic generator. It is quite an economic generator, but Amtrak denounced cutting Springfield out and Mayor Langfelder never made one comment.

What he would like to do is summarize the last five years. One of the early things they did was rehabilitation of Hanger #3, one of the largest hangers where they repair planes or store the larger planes. That was a \$5 million job. He sat down with their Executive Director Mark Hanna, and they called in the engineers to see what they could use there to save money. They ended up using the steel skeleton that was there and the flooring. They ended up getting the job done for \$1.3 million. In FY2015, they did \$700,000 worth of rehabilitating old storm sewers and cleaned up some drainage areas. They also rehabilitated the Charlie Ramp T-Hanger for a quarter of a million dollars. They also prepared a space for possible leasing for \$80,000 and updated the security and fire alarm system for \$1.5 million. They also replaced some older technology with some newer technology and replaced the roof of the airport for \$185,000. They did some projects to some of the airport roads as well. In FY2016, they dedicated the LRS Lincoln Land School of Aviation. He imposed on a private friend and that friend donated \$850,000 to build a classroom and update the restrooms and storage for the school. They also rehabilitated the north hanger road, and for \$1,268,000 they did some terminal ADA improvements, capacity improvements, installed a jet bridge, and rehabilitated Gate 1 and security lighting. They also replaced some passenger seats at Gate 1, and installed a new elevator from baggage claim to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. They bought a new loader to help with snow removal, used a Clean Energy Grant to replace some old sodium vapor lights with energy-efficient LED lights, rehabilitated the new Public Safety Building, and rehabilitated the airfield perimeter road network.

In FY2018, they rehabilitated some more roads and parking lots, they removed the old 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and replaced the exterior glass and partitions in the west terminal. They are expanding the capacity of the terminal and upgrading it. It will be easier to go through TSA, the windows will go out farther, and so will the over-hangers. In FY2019, they did a \$6 million addition to the passenger service area ticket counter and secured a lounge capacity in the main terminal. In FY2020, \$85,000 went toward a passenger boarding bridge air conditioning. They also spent \$2,091,000 to improve the fence, and utility and draining improvements. It sounds like a lot of money, but they have a lot of land and the fence has to go 4 feet in the ground. They acquired some more land as well and updated the Public Safety Building and Electrical Building and improved the roof. They also had some commercial property they spent \$116,000 to rehabilitate, and had \$176,911 for the Public Safety Department communication upgrade. It is his understanding that the previous director of Public Safety neglected to buy these types of radios that keep everybody in communication with the police and fire department. They had another revision of the bravo ramp expansion that was \$303,000. In FY2021, they are being required by the FAA to remove runways 18-36. It is the only place where two airstrips cross. For the five years he has been speaking about, they have spent \$58,624,000, which is a pretty good generator for their revenue and has boosted the economy of Sangamon County. He does not understand why some would want new leadership. Their votes have been consistent with very little dissent.

Another thing he would like to bring up is the Springfield Airport Authority has received their award for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the US and Canada. This is the 14<sup>th</sup> year in a row they have received that. So without a comptroller, they seem to be doing pretty well. He is also happy to say, through the cooperation of Lyman Hubbard's son, they have displayed Lyman Hubbard's flight suit. Lyman Hubbard is the only member of the Tuskegee Airmen from Springfield. The Tuskegee were the all African-American Air Force during WWII. They were also called Red Tails because of the red painting on the tail of their planes. Something happened during WWII with the fire squadron that was supposed to protect the bombing raid. The Tuskegee Airmen were out there protecting those bombers throughout Europe. Throughout all of WWII, not one bomber was lost when escorted by the Red Tails. So they are very proud to display that at the Capitol Airport. They also have a plaque and display of all the Illinois Airmen.

Going back to the economic impact, he has a report done by CDM Smith to contract with the Department of Transportation, and they recognize the commercial airports and economic impact they provide to their community. Their economic impact is larger than Peoria and Bloomington. He is very proud of the work he and the people of the airport do and he always will be proud of that. He thanked the County Board for their time.

Mr. Hall stated he has been on this Board for over 20 years. He remembers when the Springfield Airport was referred to as the "malfunction junction." He is proud they use the name "Abraham Lincoln". One of his favorite quotes is "Your political enemies are like your shadow, they are always at your heel and there's no substance." He just wants to say thank you to Mr. Vala for all his hard work through these years.

Chairman VanMeter wanted to be clear if the Board did vote to fill the comptroller position with the mayor's sister-in-law. He has not seen or heard this reported anywhere in the media. Mr. Vala said that yes they did at the annual meeting they have. The annual meeting is where they elect the officers and pass resolutions giving certain board members authority to sign for loans and bonds. When there was a 3 by 3 tie for Chairman, they said Mr. Vala could keep the position, but the bylaws state they have to keep voting until the tie is broken. The next thing was the appointment of the secretary and the treasurer. After that was when Mayor Houston made the announcement of the appointment of the comptroller. Mr. Vala brought up the fact that Mayor Houston has never wanted that position filled. Chairman VanMeter stated he knew about the 3 by 3 tie for chairman, but he could not find anything in the media about the comptroller position being filled. Mr. Vala stated the treasurer, secretary, and comptroller were all 4 by 3 votes. Chairman VanMeter stated the media follows every political appointment in their community and he and no one else saw anything about this appointment.

Chairman VanMeter stated the Mayor is a very easy person to get along with. He asked if they ever had a flight to Decatur that they lost. Mr. Vala said no. The one thing that did happen is during COVID, sometimes there was only one person on a flight. The flight to Decatur is mandated

by federal law to receive some type of commercial aviation and they get some subsidies for that. Springfield gets no subsidies. When the flights were at such a low capacity, United Airlines told them that Chicago return flight will have to make a stop in Decatur, then go to Springfield. They never lost that route. They had a 30 minute delay, but the flight always started in Springfield and ended in Springfield. There was no flight from Springfield to Decatur ever.

Chairman VanMeter said he understands with COVID, not many people are flying so there has been a significant drop in traffic there. But from 2018 to 2019, there was a 15% drop in traffic. It is his understanding that this is because Allegiant discontinued one flight to Sanford Airport. Mr. Vala said this is correct. Other than this, their trajectory has been going up for the last 14 or 15 years. Chairman VanMeter stated Allegiant had some equipment changes that caused the reduction and it was nothing Springfield did.

Chairman VanMeter said Mr. Vala was instrumental in getting the funding for the LLCC classroom by being good personal friends with Dick Levi. Mr. Vala said that is correct. Chairman VanMeter stated Mr. Vala did not explain why that was critically important to this community. It is because they have high paying jobs in this community for reconditioning these commercial and private jets. These are very high paying jobs for kids who go through this program. It is not just about getting this classroom, but getting jobs for the kids in the program.

Chairman VanMeter stated when they lost Direct Air, the original low cost carrier, because they went bankrupt, everyone said they lost good cheap flights and now everything is going to go back to zero. Mr. Vala had said no, they are going to guarantee Allegiant and they will back up the cost of bringing flights in here and they will bring Allegiant in. Within four months of this happening, he had brought Allegiant in and had the same low cost flights. This really shows the leadership of Mr. Vala and how critically important his skills are. He stepped up and took that risk and he is the reason they have the low cost airfare in Springfield.

Chairman VanMeter asked when FBO, the private air terminal, will complete its construction. Mr. Vala said they did run into some delays because of COVID-19, but the ribbon cutting should be within the next two or three months. The pilots' lounge is effective and the terminal is functional. Chairman Van Meter asked when they would be ready for the new build out of their passenger terminal, which is necessary because of the increase in traffic at the terminal. Mr. Vala said it will be a year and a half. Chairman VanMeter asked if there was ill feeling on board and if the board members got along well. Mr. Vala said up until three weeks ago, the Board got along very well. They worked well as a board.

Chairman VanMeter said Mr. Vala is on the cusp of opening the private terminal and the public terminal will be finished within a year and a half. Why is he being thrown out as Chairman when they have all of these great achievements? It seems beyond any kind of good business judgement and just mean. It does not make sense to throw someone out who has accomplished so

much and has made all of these achievements. Mr. Vala said the Mayor thinks there is a better way to do things. He said there are restaurants in Springfield that were open for 40 years that will now never reopen and there are empty buildings all over town. The economic impact of the mayor seems to be shortcoming.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Mrs. Scaife, seconded by Mr. Bunch, to move the County Board meeting to 6:00 p.m. during the Pandemic. A voice vote was unanimous..

MOTION CARRIED

MEETING TIME CHANGED

A. Resolutions

There were no new resolutions.

B. Appointments

Appointment of Ryan McCrady to the Sangamon County Workforce Investment Board for a term expiring September, 2023.

Appointment of Jamil Steele to the Sangamon County Workforce Investment Board for a term expiring September, 2023.

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

MOTIONS CARRIED

APPOINTMENTS ADOPTED

A. Procurement/Grant Notifications

There were none.

**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 reports on file with the County Clerk. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED  
REPORTS FILED

**RECESS**

A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mrs. Williams, to recess the meeting to September 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED  
MEETING ADJOURNED

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