

# DON GRAY

SANGAMON COUNTY CLERK

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## MINUTES

### SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD

**FEBRUARY 8, 2022**

The Sangamon County Board met in Reconvened Adjourned September Session on February 8, 2022 at the BOS Center in Springfield. Chairman Van Meter called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. Annette Fulgenzi 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 23 Present – 5 Absent. Linda Fulgenzi, Ms. Scaife, Mr. Smith, Ms. Williams, and Mr. O'Neill were all excused.

Chairman Van Meter acknowledged Rose Ruzic's husband George Ruzic.

Vera Small thanked everyone for all they did for her when she was dealing with the crisis with her daughter. They both appreciate them all and has not felt so much love in a long time.

### VETERAN'S ASSISTANCE COMMISSION PRESENTATION

Zoning Superintendent Dane Shaffer addressed the County Board to give an update on veteran's assistance. He presented the 2021 veteran's assistance numbers. They assisted 65 veterans with rent, utility & food for a total amount of \$33,224. They assisted 14 more veterans than 2020. They had \$7,390 in client interactions, which was up \$3,361 from the previous year and was a 49% increase. There were 68 trips to VA clinics and hospitals, which is 12 more than 2020. There were four burial refunds applied for, which is down 13. The number of claims appealed was 153.

That is up from 108 in 2020 and is a 70% increase. Compensation and pensions were 265 in 2021. That is up 181 from 2020 and is a 68% increase. Those numbers are huge. The total number of services rendered was 7,954, which is up 3,953 and is a 50% increase. Disability retroactive payments for 2021 were \$1,436,631 and is down \$209,368 because the 2020 claims did not go through. They are still waiting for the VA to make decisions on those. It is very unfortunate. There are mostly older veterans who are still waiting for those claims to be approved. Dependent retroactive payments for spouses and children was \$53,138, which is up \$22,980 and is a 43% increase. Pensions for the elderly veterans or surviving spouses was \$21,868. That is up \$10,010 and is a 45% increase. The total veteran's assistance awarded for 2021 was \$1,517,045. That is down \$176,765. Things are going good in their office, but they are very busy.

Mr. Thomas stated he has worked with Dane and he has gotten things to him in a very timely manner and has hooked him up with hospitals and clinics so quickly, and it has been amazing for him. He thanked Dane for all the help. Annette Fulgenzi commended them for the wonderful services they provide. Her father was a Vietnam veteran and applied for Agent Orange compensation in the 80's and was denied. She talked him into going in and talking to Dane. He reluctantly went in and applied again and got 100% disability, and it has changed his life. She encouraged all the board members to share the services of this office with their constituents. She thinks they will get a lot of positive feedback. Chairman Van Meter mentioned that they were waiting for them to settle into their quarters donated by Capital Township, but sometime soon, they should have a ceremony to recognize the new building. Mr. Shaffer agreed. The veterans are enjoying this building immensely. It is very convenient.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT – VETERAN'S ASSISTANCE**

A motion was made by Linda Fulgenzi to move up the public comment regarding veteran's assistance. There were no objections.

Jeffrey Dale Abbott, residing at 3429 Donna Street, Springfield, addressed the County Board regarding the Veteran's Assistance Office. He was a combat veteran, who served honorably and was discharged. He has been dealing with the Veteran's Assistance Office for about 8 years on his claim. He agreed with what they said about Dane. It is wonderful what services they provide in that office. Many veterans have chosen to go to this veteran's assistance office. They would prefer this one over the one on Spring Street. Without the support of the board to keep increasing that facility, they will fall behind in it. They are dealing with almost a 100% increase. He encouraged other veterans to use their services. The VA needs more incentive and help to perform their duties. The County VSO's do not seem to be compensated as well as those at the State of Illinois are.

## HEARTLAND CONTINUUM OF CARE PRESENTATION

Josh Sabo, Co-Sponsor/Coordinator for the Heartland Continuum of Care, addressed the County Board. The last time he came before them he was talking about the benefit of a strategic plan to address homelessness for their community. The County, along with seven other entities in our community, has helped to make that possible. Tonight he just wants to provide them with a brief update of where they are in the process and what is to come. Over the course of the past several months, they had a Steering Committee that met to guide the process as they have been reviewing data, as they have been conducting focus groups and interviews, and doing all the work it takes to gather the data to put together the strategic plan. That group is gathered around this vision statement to create a collaborative unified system that provides people experiencing homelessness an equitable trauma informed and coordinated community system where all can access the housing and support services that each person needs to thrive. It is an ambitious vision, and what they are convinced of is that not just the work of putting together a strategic plan, but the work it will take to implement it, will not only improve the life of people experiencing homelessness but will improve the life of our whole community.

While they have been going through this process, they have been engaging the community in a number of different ways. There have been over 10 focus groups. That steering committee, which has been assembled with stakeholders from the community, has met six times. Over 15 stakeholders have been involved with in-depth interviews, and they have collected over 200 surveys from providers, community members, stakeholders, and other people. They also had a series of community summits in November that were intended to be educational to provide information about best practices and what is working in communities across the country. It also provided a great opportunity for them to hear from community members about what they are hoping to see included in this plan. Over the course of the last couple months, there have been two sub committees that have been diving deep into topics that have come to the surface as being the most important topics as part of the strategic plan for them to address. They have engaged the community and heard what people would like to see, reviewed their data, and looked at the number of homeless and how long they have been homeless, and what services exist in our community to meet that need. These are four of the key areas they are focused on as they put the plan together. They are also working on an increase in affordable housing, an increase in mental and behavioral health services and outreach to connect people with services, improving coordination, efficiency, communication, and cooperation across all those who are engaged in this work in our community. They are working on an engaged community education and buy in process. If you think about what our community has experienced, not just over the last couple years, but over the last couple decades, there have been a number of projects that have emerged to address homelessness that just haven't been able to quite get to the finish line. A big part of what they are hoping to accomplish in the strategic plan is developing a durable community consensus, and agreeing as a community about how we want to move forward, and then putting the resources in place to actually improve the way our community addresses this need.

As we are getting closer to the draft of the strategic plan, the sub committees and steering committee are diving deep into three areas. With behavioral health, the draft goal they have at this point is to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness with behavioral health needs, to increase the number of affordable housing available, and reduce the number of people who have nowhere to go and are service resistant.

Mr. Sabo presented a slide, which shows the work that has taken place over the last couple months. Through the summits, they have heard more about what the community wants, and you can see the work that has been done by the committees. In the next couple of months, they plan to have the strategic plan draft completed. It is in a place where it is ready for another round of community conversations to ensure it is something they can get the whole community behind. Alongside that is implementation work. When they hired the partners to help them put together this plan, they hired them not for just the six months, but for another year to help them go through the initial action steps. There is not one glaring issue to address homelessness in Sangamon County. What they really have is a system that has many little broken pieces in it. For the community to get moving in the right direction, it is going to require them to improve on a number of different fronts. That is part of the reason they are partnering with those partners for 12 months following the completion of the draft. Alongside that, they have already begun some work around community education. They put together a community ambassador training. He would love for each of them to check it out. It does take about an hour to get through the entire training. You can find it on their homepage at <https://heartlandcontinuum.com/index.html>. The training walks you through what the continuum is, what it is trying to do, and what some of the best practices are in other communities that are doing this. If you complete it, you get a shirt.

Each year in January or February, they do the point in time count. It is a one-night count of every person who is experiencing homelessness in our county. He would love their help as people who oversee a district in the county. There are a couple of ways they can help. You could volunteer on that night to go with them as they send volunteers across the community to meet with folks and engage them. Another thing you can do to be helpful is to simply email him and tell him what you are seeing in your district. There are many they know about, but it is possible there could be an encampment that is not on their radar.

Chairman Van Meter stressed this is not just about the homeless in downtown Springfield. It is a countywide effort and is in the rural areas. They are interested in any feedback from board members. He asked Mr. Sabo if he could relay information to the board members about the mismatch of beds to people who need these beds. Mr. Sabo explained that they have an overabundance of emergency or transitional shelters, but the problem is with people who have chronic homelessness. They have been homeless for a year or longer and really need that long term support. Our county has an abundance of crisis support for a place to sleep and a meal, but they have an inadequate supply of things needed for people to no longer be homeless. They can put together more of a clear picture of that for them. There is information on their website as well.

Chairman Van Meter stated it is important to the success of this that they develop a system so comprehensive in its support of the homeless that the community members have such confidence in it that when they see a homeless person on the street, they don't just give them food or money, they get them connected with the system to actually get them housed. They are a long way from that, but are trying to develop a system the community they will have that kind of confidence in. Mr. Sabo stated the goal is to get them in housing in 30 days. Currently in our community it takes 88 days for the easy cases. Chairman Van Meter stated they have many beds available for the night, but some are dedicated to women and women with children.

Mr. Stumpf asked what date they will have people coming to collect data. Mr. Sabo stated it would be February 22, 2022 at 8:00 p.m. they will meet at the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Renaissance. If someone is homeless, they will do an interview with them. Mr. Stumpf asked how many people they would be looking for to help. Mr. Sabo stated they usually have upwards of 30 people. Mr. Stumpf stated he has worked with the St. Al's and St. Cabrini Parishes the last four years, and they have a homeless ministry. They also work with other churches, the Salvation Army, homeless veterans, and Helping Hands. They go out to the streets and help people. He can help to get people connected with you. They meet them on the streets where you cannot find them. They are all over the community. Many homeless are not allowed in the centers because of drug and alcohol problems and mental health. If you are not looking, you will not find these people because they are hidden. Chairman Van Meter stated that the churches are involved in this process.

Mr. Sabo stated it is the coldest part of the year when most of the people are in the shelters and others will be out on the street.

### **BICENTENNIAL PRESENTATION**

Sara Wojcicki Jimenez, with Kind Consulting, addressed the County Board regarding the Sangamon County Bicentennial. The campaign started in September and ran through December. They gathered more than 230 video testimonials including professional and selfie videos, and three written narratives came in. She played a couple of the videos to remind them of all the cool things that came in through the campaign. If you had a chance to peruse the website you seen they had local community leaders, business leaders, elected officials, school kids, and others of all ages and backgrounds that represent Sangamon County. They also launched a scholarship program in December and got participation from all the high schools in Sangamon County. She noted, in the coming months Mary will be in touch with you about your winner in your district so they can do a presentation of that scholarship before the end of the school year.

Jeff Wilhite gave some of the analytics on the campaign. This is a final look at some of the data on the total amount of views. They ended up with a combined total of all videos across all their platforms of 698,000 views. They are able to track everything except cable and radio. Looking at the positive versus negative comments, likes & shares, it was almost 10 to 1 positive. People were

watching them and loving what they were seeing. One thing consistent throughout the campaign when people started a video, they would finish it. Of the 698,000, 96.6% finished the whole 30 second to one-minute video.

Maria Palazzolo stated tonight they have a resolution that celebrates the success of the campaign. It also thanks all of the people that participated including Bicentennial Committee members and all of you. Sara is holding one of the two time capsules. There is a laptop, hard drive, a copy of the resolution, and instructions on how to use the hard drive in each time capsule. Who knows where they will be technologically in 50 years. One is going into the County Clerk's office and the other to the Abraham Lincoln Library for future research.

**COVID-19 REPORT**  
**GAIL O'NEILL, SANGAMON COUNTY DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Director of Public Health Gail O'Neill addressed the County Board to give a COVID update. She stated that cases are coming down. There are currently 55 Sangamon County residents hospitalized. They now have the ability to order the vaccine for 6 months to 4 year olds. That will be coming in the near future. Chairman Van Meter asked what she is hearing in the medical community about when they will have wide availability of the anti-viral therapeutics. Gail O'Neill stated it is starting to come into the community and is difficult to find. The pharmacies are having it and they are going to get some information out to the public. Memorial and the doctors they work with are trying to get the information out there to the local doctors. If you go to Urgent Care or to the doctor early in the COVID battle, there is an anti-viral available like the flu anti-viral. There is some available now and there will be more available in a couple weeks.

**PROCLAMATION**

Mr. Preckwinkle presented a Proclamation to the Kiwanis Club of Springfield-Downtown. Jack Dunn and other members of the Kiwanis Club were present to accept the Proclamation. They thanked the County Board for the recognition.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Preckwinkle, for approval of the minutes of January 11, 2022. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED

MINUTES ADOPTED

**CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**RESOLUTIONS 1 - 5**

- 1. Resolution approving the low bids for the FY2022 County MFT aggregate supply contracts.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, to place Resolution 1 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Krell, to consolidate Resolutions 1 – 5, Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 2 – 5.

- 2. Resolution approving the purchase of bulk rock salt for FY2022.
- 3. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services from TUSA Consulting Services for the Emergency Telephone System Department for consulting services for the implementation phase of the Rural Public Safety Radio System in the amount of \$229,104.
- 4. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services from OpenText for the Information Systems Department for the purpose of content management including scanning and archiving of documents in the amount of \$36,081.51
- 5. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services from ConvergeOne for the Information Systems Department for a 3-year subscription for an email filter and archiving cloud based solution in the amount of \$101,784.60.

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray for a roll call vote. Upon the roll call vote, there were 22 Yeas – 0 Nays. Resolutions 1 – 5 were adopted, as consolidated.

MOTIONS CARRIED  
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

**WAIVER OF TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD**

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

MOTION CARRIED  
TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD WAIVED

**RESOLUTIONS 6 – 10**

- 6. Resolution approving a grant application from the Federal Government, distributed by the IL State Board of Elections, for the Election Office for the 2022 HAVA Election Security Grant in the amount of \$31,754.

A motion was made by Mr. Snell, seconded by Ms. Deppe, to place Resolution 6 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Fraase, to consolidate Resolutions 6 – 10. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 7 – 10.

7. Resolution approving a grant application from the State of Illinois, distributed by the IL State Board of Elections, for the Election Office for the 2022 Illinois Voter Registration State Grant in the amount of \$203,834.
8. Resolution approving a grant application from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority for CASA of Sangamon County to provide expanded victim assistance to abused and neglected children in Sangamon County in the amount of \$228,826.
9. Resolution approving the purchase of goods and/or services from Advanced Correctional Healthcare for Court Services to provide on-site medical mental health services at the Juvenile Detention Center in the amount of \$140,087.17.
10. Resolution commending participants in the Sangamon County Bicentennial video campaign, approving the placement of the time capsule, and call for the time capsule to be opened in 50 years in 2071 for the County’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday.

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation. A motion was made by Mr. Preckwinkle that the roll call vote for Resolutions 1 – 5, as consolidated, stand as the roll call vote for Resolutions 6 – 10, 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 Henry "Patt" Patterson to the Sangamon County Building Code Board of Appeals for a term expiring November, 2022.

Appointment of Steven Ponder to the Sangamon County Building Code Board of Appeals for a term expiring November, 2022.

Appointment of Barbara Rochelle to the Community Services Block Grant Advisory Board for a term expiring February, 2025.

Appointment of Carole Keating to the Community Services Block Grant Advisory Board for a term expiring February, 2025.

Appointment of Rev. Silas Johnson to the Community Services Block Grant Advisory Board for a term expiring February, 2025.

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

MOTION CARRIED  
APPOINTMENTS ADOPTED

The nominations for appointment in March were also submitted.

## C. Procurement/Grant Notifications

1. Emergency Grant Notification for the Circuit Court from the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts for court technology modernization in the amount of \$305,000.

## D. AFSCME CBA Ratification-Sangamon County Dept. of Public Health

Mr. Madonia stated they are presenting a contract for AFSCME CBA for Sangamon County Department of Public Health. It is a 5-year contract and negotiations went very well. A motion was made by Mr. Madonia for the ratification of the contract. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED  
CONTRACT RATIFIED

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tim Seibert addressed the County Board regarding the Animal Control facility. He stated he would like Mr. McFadden to make the fee study available. Animal Control still does not have a commercial washer and dryer. They have dirty laundry covered in feces and urine, and are still trying to keep up with it. They have asked them to keep the back of the kennels open for the animals. There were two incidents where dogs have been caught and did not have access to their food and water. They don't understand why they cannot do this. There was a dog there with a disease and nobody in the building knew the procedure to deal with this. This is no longer neglect but is cruelty.

Mary Coventry addressed the County Board regarding the Animal Control facility. She stated there is black mold on the dog runs and uncovered trenches. They have photos of the conditions there, and the photos are very disturbing. A County employee has said they have tried to get rid of the volunteers. They prefer the old way of catch, hold & kill. This will be a kill center.

**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 Mr. Preckwinkle, 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. Preckwinkle, seconded by Mr. Bunch, to recess the meeting to March 8, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED  
MEETING RECESSED

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