

DON GRAY

SANGAMON COUNTY CLERK

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MINUTES

SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD

JANUARY 12, 2021

The Sangamon County Board met in Reconvened Adjourned September Session on January 12, 2021 partially by phone and some members were present in the County Board Chambers. Chairman Van Meter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Smith gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to call the roll. There were 29 Present – 0 Absent. Mrs. Scaife was excused for part of the meeting but was present later.

COVID-19 REPORT

Public Health Director Gail O'Neill addressed the County Board. She stated they had 54 new cases in Sangamon County that day, which is a continuing downward number. They had been asked a lot of questions about the vaccine. To date, Sangamon County has gotten 12,500 doses of the vaccine. About 10,000 of those were sent to the two hospitals for their frontline and essential workers. They are done with their first dose and partially done administering the second dose. It has been going very well and the response has been positive. St. Johns Hospital did have some vaccines left, which they administered to some of their patients. The Health Department had about 4,000 doses left after giving some to Central Communities Health Center, SIU School of Medicine, and Springfield Clinic. They have given about 2,170 doses in the past 10 days and have about 1,830 on hand. They can give about 1,740 doses every week. Right now, they have enough vaccines for the people they have scheduled, but she is hesitant to administer more until she knows how much they are going to be getting from the state. They are supposed to find out each Tuesday what their allotment for that week is going to be, and they have not received word on how much they are getting yet. It is a daunting task with everybody needing two doses of the

vaccine, and they are trying to figure out how to vaccinate 150,000 people without it taking two years. She has spoken with their state representative about getting a higher allotment for the vaccine, but right now it is impossible due to the fact that the state's allotment is not high enough yet.

Chairman Van Meter asked if the goal was to vaccinate 150,000 people in Sangamon County, excluding school-age children. Mrs. O'Neill said that was correct. To date, they have vaccinated 8,950 people in Sangamon County. Chairman Van Meter said they are currently vaccinating people at the Public Health department and then they are moving outdoors. He asked Mrs. O'Neill if she could explain what that means. Mrs. O'Neill said one of the biggest challenges with administering the vaccine is having to social distance. They cannot just line people up back to back because they all have to be six feet apart. Once the vaccine is given, the person receiving the vaccine must be observed for 15 minutes to make sure they do not have a reaction. During the week, they use a conference room to administer the vaccine. The vaccinations are done by three or four nurses in that room, and then the people are observed in a different room by other nurses. They have opened their front clinic, which was used to administer child immunizations, to now be a vaccination center. By opening the front clinic, they were able to get quite a few more vaccines administered. The next step is to move outside. They have a large drive-thru structure in their parking lot being erected, which will allow them to have about eight cars in there at a time for vaccinations. They also have two sheds. One for people who first come onto the property where they are given the paperwork, and the other is for the staff to get some heat during these cold months. So people will drive through, get their vaccination, have their questions answered by the nurses on staff, and then drive to another part of the parking lot where they will be monitored for 15 minutes. This is the best way to move people through in a safe manner.

Chairman Van Meter asked how many people of the 8,000 have received their second dose of the vaccine. Mrs. O'Neill said she thinks around 3,000 people have received the second dose. Daily, they have been vaccinating around 200 people. The vaccine is just starting to trickle into the community and they have a long way to go. The best thing they can do is set up this mass vaccine process so when more vaccines become available, they will be ready for it. They need to learn how to administer this process and that is what they are doing with the 200-300 vaccinations per day.

Mr. Ratts said there is a lot of confusion in receiving the second dose of the vaccine. He asked if Mrs. O'Neill could explain the process. Mrs. O'Neill explained after someone receives their first dose of the vaccine, they are given a packet of information about the vaccine. One of the pieces of paper tells them when their 15 minutes are up and how to make a second appointment. There is also a QR code on the blue vaccine card that everyone gets. When it is scanned, it will go straight to the appointment-making webpage. Setting up appointments for a second dose is a challenge with people still trying to get the first dose.

Chairman Van Meter asked if Mrs. O'Neill could address the complaint of the appointments filling up so fast. Mrs. O'Neill said it is difficult to explain. The B group is very large and includes a very diverse group of people. The State set the system up to be in groups instead of one at a time. They do not have enough vaccines to pick a particular group and say they are just going to do them. It seemed it was just the fairest way to fill up the amount of appointments for the vaccine they had available. Chairman Van Meter said they want to be fair when allocating the vaccine, but they are just in the experimental stage and learning the process. They want to find the best way to get this vaccine out there and as more vaccines become available, more appointments will become available. Mrs. O'Neill said it is a very hard decision to decide who should get the vaccine first. It would be a hard decision for anyone. Chairman Van Meter said with 290 doses a day, they are not in a position to determine who is more important. They are just learning how to administer the mass vaccination.

Mr. Madonia said he has a friend who is a manager at Walgreens. His friend said he has vaccinated 14 nursing homes already in Springfield and Decatur and there are 60 left. Mr. Madonia asked if those are separate from the general citizens of Sangamon County. Mrs. O'Neill said that early on they were told they would not be vaccinating the nursing homes. The State had contracted with CVS and Walgreens to vaccinate the nursing homes. She said she is glad they are doing that and helping with the nursing homes since they are where most of the deaths are coming from. She is not sure if the data is included with theirs, but she will get more information. She also heard there are some assisted care facilities and nursing homes that do not fit the criteria of Walgreens and CVS. They have been communicating with them about vaccinations, but until they know how many vaccines they will be allotted, it is hard to give any additional information.

Chairman Van Meter said the State is really in charge of the vaccine and distribution. They set up a special distribution network through the pharmacies for nursing homes. They expect the State is going to do more of these distributions. Mrs. O'Neill said the State is also learning how to distribute the vaccines. They will start having programs for seniors and other special groups available as vaccines become available.

Mr. Bunch stated he knows nothing about computers, and they are telling him he needs to go online to make an appointment. He does not have a way to get on the computer. He does not mind waiting, but he wants to know what he and other people like him should do. Mrs. O'Neill said she would have them call the hotline, which is (217)321-2606, and make the appointment. If the appointments are full, which they currently are, then call back in a week. She also said she knows some people are not comfortable going through a drive thru to get their vaccinations, so they will have the option to go into the building to receive the vaccine.

Chairman Van Meter asked Mrs. O'Neill to explain why they would have people call back in a week instead of scheduling them in later months, such as April. Mrs. O'Neill said they do not know what is going to happen between now and then. One thing she did hear from the State was

that Johnson & Johnson has come out with a single-dose vaccine. That vaccine is being sent for approval in February. They need to take what they are given and do what is best for their community. Chairman Van Meter said they do not want to give people dates because the whole distribution system could change at any time.

Mr. Schackmann asked when an individual schedules an appointment and they get their vaccine, if are they scheduled at that time for the second dose. He said it would not make sense if they got their first vaccine and then there is not enough of the vaccine for the second dose. Mrs. O'Neill said the State was going to hold back vaccines, but have assured them they will have enough vaccines for the second dose. This is a very well monitored program.

Mr. Ratts asked if they have enough staff as they start to ramp up vaccinations. Mrs. O'Neill said they do have enough staff and they have many volunteers. This is not a one or two month project. Chairman Van Meter pointed out that the union has been an immense help with all of this.

Linda Fulgenzi asked how people find out about where to register for Level B and where the list is because she cannot find a list. Mrs. O'Neill said they do not have a list and it is appointment based. It would be impossible to call everybody back on a list and not mess something up. They are still in "learning mode" right now so there are not very many appointments available. She said she has talked to Channel 20 and different schools about getting the word out. They did not want to advertise too much though because of the amount of people who are disappointed already about not being able to get an appointment. They do not want to create a demand they cannot serve. Linda Fulgenzi said she does not want special treatment, but thinks the County Board members should be told this information so they can relay it to their constituents. Mrs. O'Neill said that was a good idea. She can send them a document with the information, but this information could change at any time.

Chairman Van Meter said they are not in a position to do a broadcast to the community. Many people are upset about the lack of advertisement, but they are in a beta-test stage with this distribution. They don't want to broadcast too much until they know more about how many vaccines they'll get from the state and how they will be able to distribute them.

Linda Fulgenzi said if the County Board members had more information, then maybe they could answer more questions from their constituents instead of them having to call Public Health. Chairman Van Meter said the assumption is that the vaccine is here in full. This is not the case. The vaccine is barely here. Right now, the vaccine is just trickling in and they are just doing a beta test on the mass vaccination process for when the bulk of the vaccine finally flows. He is getting the same questions from his constituents because they are under same assumption that the bulk of the vaccine is here when it isn't. Chairman Van Meter said he probably should have sent out a memo to the County Board members explaining this, so that is on him and not Public Health.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mr. Bunch, for approval of the Minutes of December 8, 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 appropriating Motor Fuel Tax funds for the 2020 annual maintenance of county highways.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. O'Neill, 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

RESOLUTIONS 2 – 11

2. Resolution appropriating Motor Fuel Tax funds for IMRF expenses.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. Preckwinkle, to place Resolution 2 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Smith, to consolidate Resolutions 2-11. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 3 – 11.

3. Resolution appropriating Motor Fuel Tax funds for the County Engineer's salary and expenses.
4. Resolution approving an agreement between Sangamon County and the Illinois Department of Transportation to transfer Surface Transportation Program funds for State funds.
5. Resolution approving the FY2021 procurement of water, electric, and sewer services from City Water, Light, & Power.

6. Resolution approving the FY2021 procurement of motor fuel for use by the Highway Department.
7. Resolution approving the FY2021 procurement of tires from Goodyear Commercial Tire through the State of Illinois Joint Purchase Program.
8. Resolution approving the FY2021 procurement of parts and service from Rush Truck Centers through the State of Illinois Joint Purchase Program.
9. Resolution approving a Local Agency Participation Agreement between Sangamon County and the Illinois Department of Transportation for highway/rail grade separations on Woodside Road and Iron Bridge Road.
10. Resolution approving the execution of a stipulated agreement between the Illinois Commerce Commission, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois Central Railroad Company and Sangamon County for the renewal of the crossing surface on New City Road (CH 40) between Interstate 55 and Old Route 66.
11. Resolution approving the low bids for the township aggregate supply contracts.

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 – 11, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 12

12. 2020-039 – Vera O'Donnell, 10000 Block of Waverly Road, Waverly – Granting Variances. County Board Member – Craig Hall, District #7.

A motion was made by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Stumpf, to place Resolution 12 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf to waive the reading of the professional staff's report. There were no objections. A voice vote was unanimous on the adoption of Resolution 12. Mr. Hall wanted them to be aware that Vera O'Donnell is his aunt, but he has no ownership of any of this acreage. He is going to be voting in favor of this resolution.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 13

13. 2020-040 – DEW Investments, LLC (Dustin and Emily Walker), 7100 Mechanicsburg Road & 53 Etherton Lane, Springfield – Granting a Rezoning and Variances. County Board Member – David Mendenhall, District #3.

A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall, seconded by Mr. Stumpf, to place Resolution 13 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf to waive the reading of the professional staff's report. There were no objections. A voice vote was unanimous on the adoption of Resolution 13.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 14

14. 2020-041 – Harvey Daniels, 2980 Cantrall Creek Road, Cantrall – Granting a Rezoning and a Variance. County Board Member – James Schackmann, District #11.

A motion was made by Mr. Schackmann, seconded by Mr. Tjelmeland, to place Resolution 14 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf to waive the reading of the professional staff's report. There were no objections. A voice vote was unanimous on the adoption of Resolution 14.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTIONS 15 – 26

15. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for SMART from WEX for the purpose of vehicle fuel in the amount of \$120,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Preckwinkle, seconded by Mr. Bunch, to place Resolution 15 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Smith, to consolidate Resolutions 15 – 26. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 16 – 26.

16. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for SMART from 1800 E Adams, LLC for the purpose of renting a bus barn and office space in the amount of \$60,000.

17. Resolution approving the modification of Intergovernmental Agreement between the Sheriff's Office, the US Department of Justice, and the US Marshals Service.

18. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from ConvergeOne, Inc. and other vendors for the purpose of updating the Sangamon County computer network in the amount of \$125,000.
19. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Central Services from Office Essentials and other various vendors for the purpose of paper and office supplies in the amount of \$50,000.
20. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Central Services from the United States Postal Service for the purpose of pre-paid postage in the amount of \$150,000.
21. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Building & Grounds from CWLP and other vendors for the purpose of utility services in the amount of \$947,500.
22. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Building & Grounds from Masco Packaging and other vendors for the purpose of maintenance and janitorial supplies in the amount of \$150,000.
23. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Building & Grounds from Anderson Electric and other vendors for the purpose of contractual maintenance services in the amount of \$430,000.
24. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Building & Grounds from Building Maintenance Services and other vendors for the purpose of janitorial services in the amount of \$205,000.
25. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Building & Grounds from Republic Services and other vendors for the purpose of various contractual services in the amount of \$100,000.
26. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Building & Grounds from AT&T and other vendors for the purpose of communication expenses in the amount of \$67,000.

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 Resolution 15 – 26, as consolidated.

A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

WAIVER OF TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD

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

MOTION CARRIED

TEN-DAY FILING WAIVED

RESOLUTIONS 27 – 36

27. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Election Office from Election Systems and Software for the purpose of obtaining 2021 election equipment hardware maintenance and software and firmware renewal licenses for voting equipment in the amount of \$79,687.88.

A motion was made by Mr. Snell, seconded by Mr. DelGiorno, to place Resolution 27 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Smith, to consolidate Resolutions 27 – 36. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 28 – 36.

28. Resolution approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between Sangamon County ETSD and Logan County ETSD for the Tyler Public Safety Computer Aided Dispatch System.

29. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Public Defender’s Office from Dr. Pan for the purpose of forensic examinations in the amount of \$40,000.

30. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Clerk of the Circuit Court from Hanson Information Systems for the purpose of disaster recovery in the amount of \$31,159.20.

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

32. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Public Health Department from Lifestar Ambulance for the purpose of ambulance standby services for COVID vaccine shots in the amount of \$47,120.

33. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Public Health Department from Truax, Inc. for the purpose of Naloxone kits and training for use to first responders and other agencies in the amount of \$403,800.
34. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Public Health Department from GlaxoSmithKline for the purpose of purchasing vaccines in the amount of \$102,000.
35. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for the Public Health Department from FFF Enterprises for the purpose of purchasing vaccines in the amount of \$131,600.
36. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for County Administration from Neuhoff Media and other vendors for the purpose of a mass media campaign in the amount of \$45,000.

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation. Chairman Van Meter asked Mr. Madonia if he could give an update on Resolution 36. Mr. Madonia said that so far they have run 2,140 ads across the three radio groups, each ad being between 30 to 60 seconds long. This is 25% more than they had planned for, so that is good. This extension would allow ads on both radio and Facebook to continue for the next 6 to 8 weeks. The Midwest family has really created a new social media campaign for this project. They are expecting the same amount of ads to run. So far, 155 businesses have taken advantage of this program. He asks his fellow members to take a look at the list of businesses and have their constituents take advantage of this free advertising. A motion was made by Mr. Preckwinkle that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolution 27 – 36, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Scaife is now present at the meeting.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bunch would like to give advice to the new board members. If they have something come before the Board that might be for a family member, they have the right to vote present. That way they are not voting for or against them.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolutions

There were no new resolutions.

B. Appointments

Appointment of Rick M. Monical to the Deputy Merit Commission for a term to expire January, 2023.

Appointment of Jim Hofferkamp to the Williamsville Fire District for a term to expire May, 2021.

Appointment of Byron Deaner as Supervisor of Assessments at a salary of \$105,004.19.

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

MOTIONS CARRIED

APPOINTMENTS ADOPTED

The nominations for appointment in February were also submitted.

C. Procurement/Grant Notifications

- Grant application to CASA of Sangamon County from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information authority for CASA of Sangamon County Program in the amount of \$228,826.00
- Public Health purchase order for a vehicle in the amount of \$33,022.
- Building & Grounds purchase order for the purpose of assembling, renting, and disassembling a temporary drive-thru in the amount of \$95,000.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cristina Suerdieck, residing at 304 N. Park in Rochester, addressed the County Board. She is deeply disappointed in the Sangamon County Health Department. They need to start making better data driven decisions in the best interest of the citizens of Sangamon County. She wonders how many decisions have been made out of compliance and control instead of concern for the spreading of this virus. The Health Department stated that the restaurants could open earlier than the state, but Mayor Langfelder does not trust the intent behind the change. He strongly encouraged restaurants to only do take-out and delivery until January 12th. He wanted to strongly contest any spike in the numbers that were not attributed to their establishments. He knows the restaurants will take another hit. The metrics of below 12% were also taken down to an 8%

positivity rate. The Mayor did not want the restaurants to open for four days and then close like they did on Halloween, which was shortsighted by the Health Department. Not only can the Health Department not be trusted, they also are very unprofessional with the businesses. They go in bars, order drinks, and wait to give citations. Sometimes they get pleasure in issuing citations, which she found in a Health Department email. They are using Facebook and anonymous complaints to target small bars and restaurants. Rude and disrespectful behavior should never be acceptable in employees. A Public Health Department staff member came into their hardware store and told her husband that he did not have to wear a mask for her. If she were truly concerned about spreading the disease, why would she do that? She also made derogatory comments about another small business. She wonders if this was a professional visit or a personal one. The Health Department worker never announced who she was or why she was there. The CDC recommends that people with COVID, or people who have been exposed, should quarantine for 7 to 10 days, but their Health Department decided not to follow CDC guidelines. They feel 14 days is better. It may be better for people who get a paycheck every 14 days, but not better for those who do not. The Health Department should be looking at all people in Sangamon County. There were 400 accidental overdoses in 2019. That does not even include the suicide numbers. Sangamon County Coroner Jim Allmon had stated he has never seen the death rate so high. They have 187 deaths from COVID. What about the other deaths? Maybe they need to look at those as well. Every life matters. They have done a great job stopping the flu with the masks, but not COVID. The Health Department is going to need to have relationships with bars and restaurants well past 2021, so they might need to start treating them with more respect. Gail O'Neill put in a report that it was National Pastry Day, and she wished she had planned ahead for it. Mrs. Suerdieck responded to her saying not everyone can afford pastries right now, maybe a little compassion might be appropriate.

Joe Suerdieck, residing at 304 N Park in Rochester, addressed the County Board. Gail O'Neill had stated on the evening news back in late spring that she would not be enforcing the Governor's order, but just weeks later she was up to her eyeballs in enforcement. On December 1st, Mrs. O'Neill made the public statement, "80% of the deaths in Sangamon County are from people over 70 years old. Protecting the elderly will be my priority." It has been said since day one of hearing about COVID that the elderly, especially those with underlying conditions, would be most vulnerable. He said welcome to the ballgame Gail. Glad you are deciding to participate, one year later. As of January 8th, two-thirds of the deaths in Sangamon County are from long-term care facilities and one-third of deaths are from only five facilities. They used to hear contract tracing was the science behind closing businesses, but now they only hear about places of exposure. Contact tracing did not put bars and restaurants at the top of the list. In fact, bars and restaurants only made up about 2% of contact tracing. There were metrics for reopening Region 3. The number of hospital beds that were available changed seemingly overnight. Even the local hospitals said this was very misleading. Thousands of hospital beds disappeared all of a sudden. Was this to make the Thanksgiving surge look even worse? He spoke to two County Board members concerning this topic. One of them stated that Sangamon County received about \$4.2 million from

the State, and if they do not follow their guidance then the government will pull their funding. He hopes this is not actually happening. He wants to make sure this Board understands how desperately they need to keep businesses open and the Board isn't solely making decisions based on \$4.2 million dollars. He hopes they are actually using the science from multiple sources and basic common sense. The Health Department has shown a complete lack of judgement through this pandemic. They have been unprofessional, rude, overreaching, and a complete embarrassment to their County. They have caused many jobs to disappear and businesses to close. Families are struggling. Action by this Board is past due. It is time to put this Health Department on a leash. Also, the County Board needs to apologize to these businesses just as publicly as these businesses were demonized. The County Board needs to open businesses back up, void any citations, and refund any citations that have been paid. These people are struggling already. The County Board needs to replace the Public Health Director and any other superiors that were involved in policy. They have proven themselves incapable of leadership.

Keith Spaniel, presenting for his dad and teammates, addressed the County Board. He wants to thank the County Board for allowing him to speak on behalf of the Williamsville football team. Last fall, their season ended before it even started due to COVID and it was said to them that the decision was for their own health. This decision was made without asking the players, whom this would affect the most. This year, they do not intend to let the season be banned again, even though they will likely have a similar infection rate of COVID to last fall. He asks that the County Board represent the players and push for their spring season. They believe the numerous benefits of playing football is well worth the slight risk of COVID to their age group.

Noah Sanders, residing at 116 Cherry Circle in Williamsville, addressed the County Board. The opportunity to play football means more than playing a game they love. Football promotes daily exercise, whether it is practice or weight lifting, which promotes their overall health. For a large part of last year, they were not allowed to do either of these things because of COVID. Sports also teach valuable life lessons, such as perseverance and how to work with others. Nowadays without sports, morale has been at an all-time low. With online school, they sit behind a screen all day and have no outlet for all this frustration and boredom. There is a feeling of hopelessness and despair right now among many high school students, but especially athletes. Helping them have a season would fix that.

Connor McCormick, residing at 715 Prairie in Sherman, addressed the County Board. For high school athletes looking to play at the next level, the recruitment has been affected tremendously. For smaller schools like Williamsville, their exposure has been even more limited without a senior season. Some students may not be able to go to college because their only route was hoping to get a scholarship in football. Not letting them play had too much of an impact on their lives, both mentally and physically.

Corey Walbert, residing at 405 Sundance in Sherman, addressed the County Board. Data shows the 35 states that played a full football season did not show a related spike in COVID cases. If other states were able to do it, why can't they? They have followed every precaution the State has put in place. He is asking them, what else can they do?

Mr. DelGiorno said he knows they do not typically respond to public comment, but he felt he needed to. When all the bars and restaurants were shut down back in November, they all know there was a significant surge in COVID infection rates, especially in long-term care facilities. His father, who was a resident at Heritage Health, was diagnosed with COVID on Thanksgiving. At that point in the game, the reason long-term care facilities were seeing a spike in infection rates was because their employees were not just going to work and going home, but going out and socializing and then bringing it back to the facility. Similarly, many underpaid staff members who have to work in multiple settings have also contributed to the spread. As a result, his father received COVID from his roommate's therapist. He was hospitalized on December 1st and has struggled ever since. Last Saturday he was put on hospice because of organ failure. So, for people to just simply say that they are shutting down bars and restaurants for no reason, they may as well say the elderly don't matter. Yes they are old, but their lives do matter and people need to quit being so selfish. He understands the government needs to take care of the small businesses. Gail O'Neill and other Public Health officials are doing what they are supposed to be doing and trying to protect all of them.

Annette Fulgenzi stated that Mrs. O'Neill and her crew are doing a great job. For people who make these comments about the County Board keeping the businesses shut, they are already going against the Governor's orders and nothing they do seems to be enough. She had nine family members infected with COVID at Christmas. It was their fault because they decided to get together for their grandmother's 98th birthday. Her grandmother was put into hospice because of this, and two other family members just got out of the hospital from having COVID. One was in their 60's and the other was only 29 with no underlying health conditions. So for anyone who thinks this virus is not real, it is real and can happen to anybody, even people who are upset at the Health Department when they are just trying to do their jobs. She wants to echo her support for Gail O'Neill and the other people at the Health Department. They have been working their tails off since March, and they certainly do not deserve this type of treatment. They are professional and have a good staff. They have her support 100%.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED
REPORTS FILED

RECESS

A motion was made by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mr. Bunch, to recess the meeting to February 9, 2021. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING RECESSED

Don Gray
Sangamon County Clerk