

# DON GRAY

SANGAMON COUNTY CLERK



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## MINUTES

### SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD

**MAY 11, 2021**

The Sangamon County Board met in Reconvened Adjourned September Session on May 11, 2021 at the Bank of Springfield Center. Chairman Van Meter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Smith gave the Invocation and Linda Fulgenzi led the County Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### ROLL CALL

Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to call the roll. There were 27 Present – 2 Absent. Mr. O’Neill and Mr. Stumpf were excused.

### HEARTLAND PRESENTATION

Josh Sabo, Coordinator for the Heartland Continuum of Care, addressed the County Board. The key part of his position is to help establish and support a strategy to address homelessness in Sangamon County. Their federal government’s strategy in addressing homelessness involves every community having a Continuum of Care to serve as a local body that coordinates services and strategically works together to collaborate to address homelessness. There are 61 organizations connected to the Continuum and over 20 advocates.

The issue of homelessness is growing in Sangamon County, particularly unsheltered and chronic homelessness. Funding for Illinois Continuum of Care has increased \$25 million, but here in Sangamon County funding has dropped from \$656,000 to \$402,000. They are among the lowest funded communities for the last decade. Their system to address homelessness is stuck. The amount of people who need support for housing far outnumber both their unsheltered to sheltered capacity. This is becoming an unfortunate problem for homeless people. Now, there has been a little bit of progress. In 2018, The Heartland Continuum of Care adopted a system that is the best practice across the country called the Crisis Response System. This system involves a strong coordination between

their homelessness prevention efforts, their street outreach efforts, their coordinating entry process to assess the housing needs of individuals, and their permanent and supportive housing interventions. In 2020, a coordinator was hired, whose job is to help facilitate and develop the strategy that guides the Continuum's work. In 2021, they are in the process of collaborating with Sangamon County, the City of Springfield, local medical centers, and local philanthropic organizations to develop a community wide strategic plan. The hope of the process is to create a durable community consensus about how they can address homelessness together. The last time anything like this was done on this scale was in 2003 or 2004. He is encouraged by the steps they have taken to move forward with the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan. There is an unprecedented amount of funding to address homelessness if they use this money strategically. The outcome could be transformative.

Chairman Van Meter said their funding as a community had dropped over the past decade. He asked if Mr. Sabo could give them an idea of what places like Champaign or Rockford are receiving. Mr. Sabo said that when having these conversations, cities like Decatur and Peoria come up. Peoria receives almost a million dollars more than they do, but they do cover around three counties. Population wise, Decatur is very similar to Sangamon County, and they receive about \$300,000 more than they do. Chairman Van Meter stated the reason they are not getting more federal funding is because they perform so poorly and do not work together. Just Mr. Sabo's presence helping all of these very dedicated and thinly stretched organizations, has improved coordination amongst all of the organizations and their work on homelessness. With the funding that is now becoming available, this is an excellent opportunity where organizations could really achieve something if they continue to work together.

Mr. Hall stated that some people might think this is just a Springfield issue, but that is not true. He has seen it in rural areas like Loami and Pleasant Plains. He appreciates what Mr. Sabo is doing and wants people to know this is not just a Springfield issue. Mr. Sabo said he understands this is not just an urban issue. He used to be a pastor in New Berlin and would see homelessness there. Not every person who experiences homelessness is from an urban area and might thrive better in a rural area. They definitely take that into consideration when they try to offer housing support.

Chairman Van Meter stated that when talking to some of the board members whose districts are more rural, they have found many farmers in those areas have experienced homelessness on their property. This was one of the motivators for the County to say they needed to do something and help this project. He said the durable consensus of this project is just starting and the consultants have been hired.

Mr. Sabo stated they have not gotten the contracts yet. They are finalizing the scope of work and the cost of it. He anticipates they will get to the contracts in the next couple of weeks. They envision this to be an 18-month process. The development of the strategic plan would happen within the first 6 months. The 12 months to follow would focus on implementation of the plan.

## **SARA JIMENEZ PRESENTATION ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Sara Jimenez, who recently formed a consulting firm, addressed the County Board. She is working on multiple projects, including the new transportation center, the renovation of the County Building, and the Bicentennial year of Sangamon County. For the advisory committees, a big goal for the transportation center and County renovation project is to get the community engaged. They want to invite some of the community members in and help make decisions on these projects.

There are going to be many committees working together on these projects. One of the committees is the mural committee. There are plans for two very large murals on the SMTD side of the transportation center. One of them will face 11<sup>th</sup> Street and the other will face the railroad tracks. The committee has been very engaged in this project and they have met three times already. They posted their requests for qualifications last week. This means they are following the process the State uses. First, they send out an RFQ, which gives them a pool of very talented artists that would be interested in doing the work. Then, the committee looks at the pool and narrows it down to come up with what to do for the murals. Since they already sent the RFQ out last week, they should be getting responses by June. Those concepts should be finalized by the end of this year and they should have an artist chosen.

The next committee is the Café Advisory Committee. They are focusing on the space under the mural on the 11<sup>th</sup> Street side as food service area because that part of the construction will be done first. There will be another opportunity for a food provider service on the 9<sup>th</sup> Street side of the project. This is a very nice group of people who have been appointed to serve on the Café Advisory Committee. Yesterday they posted a Request for Information for this space to see who might be interested in it. The next step is a Request for Proposal.

Another committee is the County Square and Plaza Advisory Committee. The goal for this committee is to look at the different programmable spaces at the County Square inside and outside and engage with the community.

The last committee that has not been put together yet is the Exhibit Space Advisory Committee. There is space in the new transportation center that allows for an exhibit. They are planning to use the Race Riot artifacts for this exhibit space. The committee has not been put together yet because they are still trying to work out the logistics of the artifacts. They are at the Illinois State Museum now, but there is a national interest in these artifacts, so they want to make sure everything is coordinated properly. There will be other committees formed later this year as needed.

The final update Ms. Jimenez has is about the Bicentennial year of Sangamon County. She was asked to talk to some of the community groups about what is happening already and to come up with a few ideas on how to celebrate. Some of the ideas were throwing a big birthday bash, putting together a time capsule, making a cornerstone for the new transportation center, creating a video of

the Sangamon County experience, and talking with different school districts about getting the kids involved with a project. There was also an environmental idea of cleaning up the Sangamon River. A couple different organizations like the Sangamon County Experience and the Sangamon Historical Society are always doing things that go along with what they are trying to achieve with this Bicentennial year, so they have been in contact with them.

Linda Fulgenzi asked what the artists were proposing in terms of what they were going to do with the murals. She wanted to know if they were going to go with a painting or a mosaic. Ms. Jimenez said at this point they are just asking for qualifications for people to apply and what medium they work in. One of the things the committee is asking for is a durability maintenance plan. Linda Fulgenzi said she does not know how much money has been budgeted for this project, but she would like to know if the artists are expected to pay for their own work or if they are going to get sponsors. Ms. Jimenez stated there is money set aside in the budget for this public art project. Nationwide, the average cost for a mural is about \$10-\$15 per square foot. They have not yet determined a final amount because they need to know what the artist would charge for doing the mural.

Annette Fulgenzi said the transportation center is sitting on Route 66 as well and she hopes that maybe they could incorporate that theme into the center. Ms. Jimenez said the CDV recommended they hone in on picking an artist and keep the concept wide to see different artists' talents and their mediums at this point. She will write Mrs. Fulgenzi's suggestion down because the committee is brainstorming different ideas.

## **MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Williams, seconded by Mr. Bunch, for approval of the Minutes of April 12, 2021. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED  
MINUTES ADOPTED

## **COVID-19 REPORT**

Gail O'Neill, Director of the Sangamon County Department of Public Health, addressed the County Board. They had eight positive cases in the County on May 11<sup>th</sup>, which is better than it was one week prior, and they hope that trend continues. One of the questions she has received was about the FDA approving the Pfizer vaccine for ages 12-15, and when they were going to start administering it. As soon as the vaccine gets approval from the ACIP, they can move forward with giving it to the youths. Mrs. O'Neill stated that Williamsville and Rochester Schools have already scheduled clinics for these school-aged children on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of May. There are permission slips available on the Public Health Department's website and on site of these clinics. Getting the schools vaccinated is very important so they are trying to make this process as smooth and easy as possible. Another question she got was about schools, specifically colleges, and if it will be a

requirement to be vaccinated. People want to know if Public Health is going to make a decision on this. It is very difficult to mandate a vaccine, although they do strongly encourage it. Especially when these students are in close quarters and living in dorms. There will probably be further discussion about this topic down the road. She also received a question about people who have already had COVID. They want to know if people who have already had COVID still need to get the vaccine. Mrs. O'Neill stated even if someone had COVID they should still get the vaccine. This is still a fairly new disease and they do not have all the answers yet. There are also new variants of the virus coming to their community and they still have not hit that 'herd immunity' point yet, so they do want to strongly encourage everyone to get the vaccine.

Mr. Krell said he is very encouraged by these people getting the vaccination. He wants to know if they have better treatment for the people who do get the virus. Mrs. O'Neill said they have learned a lot about the treatment. There is an antiviral cocktail that can be an infusion, which has been changed many times to find different mixes that work better. If a person who has contracted COVID catches it early, they can take this antiviral cocktail and avoid any serious symptoms. While this all seems very positive, they still have some very sick people in the hospital. They do not want to be complacent about this. None of the people in the hospital have been vaccinated. While it is good news that the vaccine seems to be working and the numbers have dropped, there are still people getting sick. The Public Health Department wants to encourage as many people as possible to get the vaccine.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

### **RESOLUTION 1**

1. Resolution approving the purchase of three Ford F-150 pickup trucks from the State of Illinois Joint Purchasing Program.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. Tjelmeland, to place Resolution 1 on the floor. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to call the roll. Upon the roll call vote, there were 26 Yeas – 0 Nays.

MOTION CARRIED  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

### **RESOLUTION 2**

2. Resolution approving a supplemental contract with Hanson Professional Services for the Union Pacific engineering review fees and Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLC legal fees.

A motion was made by Mr. DelGiorno, seconded by Mr. Smith to place Resolution 2 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Preckwinkle that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolution 2. A voice vote carried. Mr. Hall voted Present.

MOTIONS CARRIED  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

**RESOLUTION 3**

- 3. Resolution approving the FY2021 township bituminous material MFT contracts.

A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Mr. Mendenhall, to place Resolution 3 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Preckwinkle that the roll call vote for Resolution 1 stands as the roll call vote for Resolution 3. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

**RESOLUTION 4**

- 4. 2021-016 – Christopher Ayers, 7251 Cascade Road, Rochester – Granting a Rezoning and Variances. County Board Member – Jeff Thomas, District #4.

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Deppe, to place Resolution 4 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall to waive the professional staff’s report. There were no objections. A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 4.

MOTIONS CARRIED  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

**RESOLUTION 5**

- 5. 2021-017 – Stephen and Christine Daniels, 9351 Cascade Road, Rochester – Granting a Conditional Permitted Use, a Variance for a Conditional Permitted Use with Conditions, and a Variance. County Board Member – Jeff Thomas, District #4.

A motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Forsyth, to place Resolution 5 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall to waive the professional staff’s report. There were no objections. A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 5.

MOTIONS CARRIED  
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

**RESOLUTION 6**

6. 2021-018 – Jeff Mizeur, 2327 N 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Springfield – Granting an amendment to an existing Conditional Permitted Use. County Board Member – Annette Fulgenzi, District #17.

A motion was made by Mrs. Fulgenzi, seconded by Mrs. Small, to place Resolution 6 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall to waive the professional staff's report. There were no objections. A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 6.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

**RESOLUTIONS 7 – 17**

7. Resolution approving a grant application for Community Resources for a grant from DCEO for the LiHeap program for utility assistance in the amount of \$777,930.

A motion was made by Mrs. Fulgenzi, seconded by Mrs. Douglas-Williams, to place Resolution 7 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Smith, to consolidate Resolutions 7 – 17. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 8 – 17.

8. Resolution approving a grant application for Community Resources for a grant from DCEO for the weatherization assistance program in the amount of \$395,762.
9. Resolution approving a grant application for Community Resources for a grant from DCEO for the Weatherization assistance program in the amount of \$154,133.
10. Resolution approving a grant application for Community Resources for a grant from DCEO for the weatherization assistance program in the amount of \$300,174.
11. Resolution approving a grant application for Community Resources for a grant from DCEO for the LiHeap program for utility assistance in the amount of \$398,819.
12. Resolution approving a grant application for Community Resources for a grant from DCEO for the LiHeap program for utility assistance in the amount of \$926,727.
13. Resolution approving a contract for the Land of Lincoln Workforce Alliance Program and Lawrence Education Center in the amount of \$162,337.
14. Resolution approving a contract for the Land of Lincoln Workforce Alliance Program and Fishes & Loaves Vocational and Literacy Center in the amount of \$260,000.

15. Resolution approving a contract for the Land of Lincoln Workforce Alliance Program and Capital Area Career Center in the amount of \$163,705.
16. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services for Information Systems from Pro-Tech Search, Inc. for the county phone upgrade in the amount of \$47,000.
17. Resolution approving the acceptance of the PY 2022 Springfield Area Transportation Study grant to the Regional Planning Commission by IDOT.

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 7 – 17, as consolidated. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTIONS CARRIED  
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

**WAIVER OF THE 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 PERIOD WAIVED

**RESOLUTIONS 18 – 25**

18. Resolution providing for the issue, in one or more series, of not to exceed \$46,000,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds and for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds.

A motion was made by Mr. Preckwinkle, seconded by Mr. Madonia, to place Resolution 18 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Smith to consolidate Resolutions 18 – 25. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 19 – 25.

19. Resolution approving a contract with Speer Financial, Inc., for a cost not to exceed \$50,000, to serve as financial advisor for the issuance of General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds in one or more series.
20. Resolution supporting local control of zoning and land use regulations.

21. Resolution approving an online access agreement between the Illinois Secretary of State and the Sangamon County Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court for retrieving computer stored information.
22. Resolution approving the purchase of seven vehicles for the County in the amount of \$184,255.
23. Resolution approving a grant application from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority for Court Services for the Adult Redeploy Illinois Program in the amount of \$487,037.
24. Resolution adopting the official logo for Sangamon County Bicentennial related events and activities.
25. Resolution approving the procurement of goods and/or services from Juvenile Redeploy for Court Services for the purpose of treatment services.

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 18 – 25, as consolidated. A voice vote carried. Mrs. Williams voted Present on Resolution 23 and 25. Annette Fulgenzi voted Present on Resolutions 7 – 12.

MOTIONS CARRIED  
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Bunch said one of his comrades was killed in Korea almost 70 years ago and he would like to welcome him home.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### A. Resolutions

There were no new resolutions.

#### B. Appointments

Appointment of Dick Ciotti to the Sangamon County Water Reclamation District for a term to expire May, 2024.

Appointment of David Mendenhall to the Sangamon County Extension Board for a term to expire May, 2022.

Appointment of Craig Hall to the Sangamon County Extension Board for a term to expire May, 2022.

Appointment of Mike Burg to the Athens Fire Protection District for a term to expire May, 2024.

Appointment of Donald Dufour to the Auburn Fire and Rescue for a term to expire May, 2024.

Appointment of Joe Lester to the Buffalo Fire Protection District for a term to expire May, 2024.

Appointment of George Perkins to the Chatham Fire Protection District for a term to expire May, 2024.

Appointment of Jamie Petitt to the Dawson Fire Protection District for a term to expire May, 2024.

Appointment of Brandy Lee to the Dawson Fire Protection District for a term to expire May, 2024.

Appointment of William Beaty to the Divernon Fire Protection District for a term to expire May, 2024.

Appointment of David Ball to the Eastside Fire Protection District for a term to expire May, 2024.

Appointment of Elizabeth Royce to the Illiopolis Fire Protection District for a term to expire May, 2024.

Appointment of Karla Gathard to the Lake Springfield Fire Protection District for a term to expire May, 2024.

Appointment of Thomas Everhart to the Northside Fire Protection District for a term to expire May, 2024.

Appointment of Bert Barlow to the Pawnee Fire Protection District for a term to expire May, 2024.

Appointment of Tom Harms to the Pleasant Plains Fire Protection District for a term to expire May, 2024.

Appointment of David Hermsmeyer to the Sherman Fire Protection District for a term to expire May, 2024.

Appointment of Peggy Knowski to the Sherman Fire Protection District for a term to expire May, 2024.

Appointment of Gary Fraase to the Western Fire Protection District for a term to expire May, 2024.

Appointment of Jim Hofferkamp to the Williamsville Fire Protection District for a term to expire May, 2024.

Appointment of Brian Mendenhall to the Williamsville Fire Protection District for a term to expire May, 2024.

Appointment of James Roth to the South Sangamon Water Commission for a term to expire May, 2023.

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

MOTION CARRIED

APPOINTMENTS ADOPTED

The nominations for appointment in June were also submitted.

C. Procurement/Grant Notifications

There were none.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Steve Welch, residing at 602 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street Road in Springfield, addressed the County Board. He stated he was at the last County Board Meeting. At that meeting, he said Resolution 26 was not an excess of democracy and he still has that belief. He also attended the Election Oversight Committee Hearing, where many issues regarding this Resolution arose and were discussed. Throughout his years teaching American History and government, he realized this was a teachable moment. This event of the census and districting only comes around every ten years. This teachable moment then becomes a learning moment. When talking about redistricting, he wants to know if they are being transparent enough. He wants to know if they are taking things like race, gender, socio-economic status, and levels of education into consideration. This is his concern. The demographics are a part of the process, not the end-recipient. It is a great idea to keep working on Resolution 26 from the last County Board meeting. He thanked the County Board for their time.

Jim Dixon, residing at 7 Homewood Court in Springfield, addressed the County Board. He is with the Faith Coalition for the Common Good. They were very much in support of Resolution 26 presented at the last County Board meeting, and were very disappointed to learn there would not be a commission. They were so interested in this because they wanted fairness. He would like to point out that there was an editorial about taking politics out of redistricting processes in Illinois. He hopes

they do not have a situation like what is happening in Bloomington, Illinois. A McLean County Board Member and his party have been plotting behind closed doors for months to create new district maps that would make it harder for Democrats to be elected. Republican Josh Barrett of Bloomington said County Board Chairman John McIntyre rejected his call for bipartisan party panels to help draw the maps. They are trying to dump Republican voters in rural areas into Bloomington Normal in an attempt to keep control of the County Board for the next decade. He thanked the County Board for their time.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mrs. Williams, 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 June 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED  
MEETING RECESSED

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