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MINUTES

SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD

SEPTEMBER 11, 2018

The Sangamon County Board met in Regular Statutory Session on September 11, 2018 in the County Board Chambers. Chairman Van Meter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Sullivan gave the Invocation and Mr. Tjelmeland 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. Preckwinkle and Mr. Snell were excused.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Chairman Van Meter made a motion to suspend the rules and invite members of the public to speak now. There were no objections. Chairman Van Meter stated there are three people who signed up to speak.

Scott Allen, residing at 1219 Interlacken Road in Springfield, addressed the County Board. He discussed the proposed solar ordinance. Since the passage of the Future Energy Jobs Act, the State of Illinois is now going to see 3,000 megawatts of solar power generation by 2030. Currently they have about 100 megawatts of solar generation, so that is a 4,000% increase that is mandated within the state. This is a pretty big opportunity for Sangamon County and for all counties around the state. As part of his job, he travels to a lot of those counties and talks to people to try and get an idea of what they want to see from jobs for renewable energy. Some counties are more prohibitive and restrictive than others, and you can sometimes see those attitudes reflected in the communities. Trying to see how they might take advantage of this, when they are setting restrictions that are going to prohibit solar projects as they are coming in, is a bit of a challenge.

Sangamon County is in a good position to welcome these projects in at an early stage, otherwise those developers that might have developed here will go elsewhere. With those projects, you can expect a 30-year lifespan, that's presumably a 30-year tax base revenue. On top of that, there are jobs because 3,000 megawatts of solar electricity is millions of homes. There will be a lot of solar farms being built. Their provisions will mandate that those jobs be union jobs, so obviously that is a benefit. To address some complaints, he hasn't particularly heard a lot coming from Sangamon County but has heard from other places in the state. They tend to be uniform and are not based on any real evidence. Something he takes upon himself to do before he addresses these communities is to try and get an idea of the studies in those areas. He's not a scientist, but it still helps him to have those citations for people if they want them. That goes for everything in the utility world. He hears a lot of complaints about things like glare, sound that might be coming off the solar panels, radiation, and electromagnetic fields. The organization he works for is a consumer advocacy group, so they approach this strictly as consumer advocates. He does work with other organizations who are environmentalists and economic development corporations. Everything he has seen shows studies that none of these complaints are founded. There is no evidence of any of this. He thinks the County Board should consider these reasons before they take their vote. They are in a pretty good position right now to welcome these projects to Sangamon County and be an early adopter of this. Solar and wind is coming to Illinois whether people like it or not. The utilities are required to buy this electricity from renewable resources so he thinks they should take advantage of that here. Mr. Allen thanked them for their time.

Chairman Van Meter asked Mr. Allen what his job is. Mr. Allen stated he works for the Citizen's Utility Board.

The second person signed up to speak is Tim Thornton. Mr. Thornton addressed the County Board regarding firearm sanctuary. He is a lifetime resident of the City of Springfield. He is a local constitutional political activist. Right now their Sangamon County sanctuary team is trying to bring Sangamon County under the umbrella of sanctuary for firearms. There are a lot of County Board members here who own firearms, so they are familiar with this movement. He has provided a map for everyone showing how many counties are on board with this. There are now 40 counties that are on board with this now. There are 102 counties in the State of Illinois. They want Sangamon County to be on board with this movement. It is moving like wildfire across the state. He doesn't think there is any good reason to not be on board with this. The last time he was here he ran out of time, so he is trying to get through what he was going to speak about. He has provided a copy of the Effingham County Resolution, which was passed. This is a good model that Sangamon County could follow. He asked the County Board and State's Attorney to read through that and come up with a sanctuary amendment for Sangamon County. A declaration by Sangamon County can be impactful by dissuading state lawmakers from further encroachment of our constitutional civil liberties regarding firearms. At a time when America is dealing with rouge intelligence agencies that hijack Presidential Elections, lie to Congress and the American people on a daily basis, sponsor false flag shoot-em-up operations, leave our country borders wide open, and manufacture criminal evidence against U.S. citizens, you never know when you will need to protect yourself from assassins & executions committed by these agencies and their contractors. We also live in a time when police officers are ordered to stand down at a scene of Las Vegas and school-style shootouts.

Liberal congressmen have been calling for a public harassment crusade against Trump officials and supporters. Globalists, SJW's & Radicalized Leftist Democrats and their minions are calling for violent anarchy across America.

Chairman Van Meter asked Mr. Thornton to provide a copy of his speech to the board members. County Clerk Gray offered to take the copies and hand them out to all the board members.

The third person signed up to speak was Elizabeth Scrafford. Mrs. Scrafford and Girl Scout Troop #6195 of Pleasant Plains addressed the County Board regarding solar energy. She thinks solar is a great way to grow the tax base for the County. She knows that is something Sangamon County, along with a lot of other counties, needs. All she needs to say is "Go Solar".

Chairman Van Meter recognized former member of the media John Reynolds who was in the audience tonight.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Ms. Sheehan, for approval of the Minutes of August 14, 2018. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
MINUTES ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 1

1. Resolution approving a grant application utilizing IDOT special bridge program funds for the replacement of a road structure on County Highway 37-Cardinal Hill Road.

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 26 Yeas – 0 Nays. A motion was made by Mr. Fraase, seconded by Ms. Sheehan, to amend Resolution 1. Mr. Fraase stated Resolution 1 needs to be amended to reflect today's date instead of August 14th. A voice vote was unanimous on the amendment. A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolution 1, as amended.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 2

2. 2018-037 – Adam & Lyndsi Reid, 6500 block of Mechanicsburg Road, Springfield – Granting a Rezoning and Variances. County Board Member – David Mendenhall, District #3.

A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall, seconded by Mr. Krell, to place Resolution 2 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 for the adoption of Resolution 2.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 3

3. 2018-038 – Text Amendment to the Sangamon County Zoning Ordinance regarding Chapter 17.37-Solar Energy Systems.

A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf, seconded by Ms. Sheehan and Mr. Bunch, to place Resolution 3 on the floor.

Mr. Hall stated as they have gone through and tried to understand how they are doing the zoning on solar farms, he thinks the information they gather keeps changing. He knows they have gone from 50 feet to 500 feet to 250 feet trying to come up with a number that works. There was a board member on this board Bill Clark who used to use the term "You can't put the toothpaste back in the tube". Is 250 feet enough? He wants to know others thoughts on this if the committee approves this since they believe in a committee form of government. He understands why the 250 feet is there, but he wants to express that out loud and openly.

Mr. Stumpf stated they've had this Solar Farm Ordinance in place, and have worked on it through Regional Planning, Zoning, the Farm Bureau, and some other entities over the last year. In light of the solar farm projects that are coming before them, they opted to table them and change a few things to which they are proposing tonight. The amendment addresses a change of the setback to the 250 feet and to the equipment, and would require landscaping screening if a residence is located within 500 feet. It will clean up language to address the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement and the Illinois Department of Ag Agreement. It will require approval of a decommissioning plan and financial assurance of funds by the Public Health, Safety and Zoning Committee. Before, on the previously approved ordinance, they didn't have a last say with their committee, especially on the decommissioning process that a lot of board members felt strongly about. They wanted to put this in place to ensure there is a process there.

Mr. Mendenhall explained when they talked about changing the setback in committee from 500 to 250 feet, he originally supported that.

In the last six weeks he spent a lot of time out in Pennsylvania and Ohio. After looking at their setbacks and the impact it has, he has since reconsidered. Originally the 500 feet setback change was his idea. A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to change the setback back to 500 feet. Mr. Stumpf stated this has been through the committee process, in which Mr. Mendenhall's on, and he understands his objective of trying to get to the 500 feet. They have been through this process for almost a year now. They came up with the 250 feet from 50 feet. He understands there are nine other counties that are at the 250 range, possibly eight or nine that are below the 250 foot range, and a handful that are above the 250 foot range. He feels their committee, through due process, has come to a good number. Several members went up and looked at a 160 acre solar farm, and from what they seen, they agreed and came back to the committee with 250 feet, which he feels is very ample.

Mr. Hall stated he agrees that they do believe in a committee form of government. When you fly over Sangamon County you start to see how close houses are to this project and other projects coming through. He is not against a solar farm. He thinks it is good growth. Good growth is good growth in good locations. If there is anything he has been educated on in this board in the last couple month is, that is their message. He believes in democracy, and he knows there are people who are opposed to and in favor of this. It's really hard to struggle against the Girl Scouts. They are probably one of the best lobbyist groups he has ever seen here. This is a big investment on these young families that have homes close to these projects. He has stood in people's yards in Pleasant Plains and has listened to their complaints. They are very good at listening. His question is if 250 is adequate. If so, then that is what the board will vote. You see how close these homes are and you see people that put their life investment in these homes thinking they are going to expand their families and homes, or move to a nicer home. Are we harming the value of a home by putting a solar farm 250 feet from it? They really don't know that since this is their first one. If there is anything he has heard in this room is, they are government, they move slowly and that is what they do best.

A voice vote carried on the motion amend Resolution 3. The motion to amend was denied.

Chairman Van Meter asked for a roll call vote on the motion to adopt Resolution 3. Upon the roll call vote, there were 20 Yeas – 6 Nays. Those voting nay were: Mr. Hall, Mr. Mendenhall, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Scaife, Mr. Sullivan, and Mr. Thomas.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

RESOLUTION 4 - 7

4. Resolution approving the designation of the Mechanicsburg Christian Church as a Sangamon County Historic Landmark.

A motion was made by Mr. Mendenhall, seconded by Mr. Ratts, to place Resolution 4 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Smith, to consolidate Resolutions 4 – 7. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 5 – 7.

5. Resolution authorizing Sangamon County to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the Sangamon County Water Reclamation District for a sewer payment relief program.
6. Resolution approving the Recorder's Office fee schedule effective November 12, 2018.
7. Resolution authorizing Sangamon County to enter into an agreement with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to provide services to income-eligible customers through Community Resources.

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation. A voice vote carried for the adoption of Resolutions 4 – 7, as consolidated. Annette Fulgenzi abstained from voting on Resolution 7.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

WAIVER OF TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD

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

MOTION CARRIED
TEN-DAY FILING PERIOD WAIVED

RESOLUTIONS 8 - 10

8. Resolution approving the Comprehensive Law Enforcement Response to Drugs Grant.

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mrs. Deppe, to place Resolution 8 on the floor. A motion was made by Mr. Bunch, seconded by Mr. Smith, to consolidate Resolutions 8 – 10. Chairman Van Meter asked County Clerk Gray to read Resolutions 9 and 10.

9. Resolution approving the purchase of computers for Court Services
10. Resolution allowing Sangamon County to enter into a contract with Alice Campbell Staffing for the Department of Community Resources.

A voice vote was unanimous on the consolidation. A voice vote was unanimous for the adoption of Resolutions 8 – 10, as consolidated.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

OLD BUSINESS

A. Resolution 6 – Tabled 7/10/18

2018-028 – Solar Provider Group IL, LLC (SPG), 660 N. Oak Road, Rochester – Granting a Conditional Permitted Use and Variance. Country Board Member – Tom Madonia, Jr., District #9.

A motion was made by Mr. Madonia, seconded by Mr. Thomas, to place Resolution 6 on the floor. A voice vote was unanimous. Chairman Van Meter asked the professional staff to give the procedural history of the case. Zoning Administrator Trustin Harrison stated the petitioners are requesting a conditional permitted use for a Solar Farm Energy System and a variance to allow two uses on one parcel: a single family residence and Solar Farm Energy System. Steve Keenan, professional staff, stated the staff recommends approval. The petitioner is proposing to comply with all the specific setback requirements and additional standards in the Solar Energy System Ordinance and maintain the site. The petitioner will also use the type of solar panel that is designed to limit the negative impact on adjacent property owners. The petitioner states that “At the end of its lifespan, the system will be decommissioned, and the land will be returned to its prior state – fully guaranteed through a decommissioning plan”. So after the approximate 15-year lifespan, the SFES could be converted back to cropland, reverting the property back to one principal use. Mr. Harrison stated the Zoning Board of Appeals concurs with the staff recommendation.

A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf, seconded by Ms. Sheehan, to amend Resolution 6. Mr. Stumpf stated on Page 6-2 at the end of Line 5, add the following language: with the following conditions: The SFES shall not be located within 250 feet of an existing dwelling with the exception of the dwelling participating in the solar farm; and, a landscaping screen shall be provided for any part of the SFES that is visible to and located within 500 feet of an existing dwelling with the exception of the dwelling participating in the solar farm. The landscaping screen shall be located between the required fencing and the perimeter of the Solar Farm Energy System Project area. A voice vote was unanimous on the amendment.

Chris Mavity, with Solar Provider Group at 1 Atlantic Ave in Toronto Ontario, Canada, addressed the County Board. He stated he was here for the June meeting and answered some questions from the County Board. Since then, obviously this new ordinance has come into place. Solar Provider Group has worked with some members of Sangamon County to implement a screening plan for this project. They are proposing a screening plan for this project that should run along the western portion of the site and the south southern portion of the site, which blocks off the residential community to the southwest.

Chairman Van Meter asked if it is certain they will build this facility if they approve it here. Mr. Mavity stated it is not. With Ameren, the local utility company, there is a lottery system that is put in place. Even if it gets passed at the county level, it still goes into a lottery which will be near the end of the year or early next year. So, even if it does pass at this level, it is not certain this project will go through. Obviously they hope that it does.

Chairman Van Meter asked how many projects will be selected from the lottery. Mr. Mavity stated he believes it is 80 projects total from Ameren and 75 from another. Chairman Van Meter asked how many projects are anticipated to be submitted to the lottery. Mr. Mavity stated he can't confirm a total number. From what he heard over a month ago, there is over 400 projects at least.

Stacia Munroe, residing at 6 Meadowland Drive in Rochester, addressed the County Board. She stated she is one field length away from the proposed solar farm. She is a resident and is also a trustee for the Village of Rochester. She is not speaking for the Village of Rochester, but would like to remind them the village did submit a letter to all of them in recent weeks with their concerns. She asked that they take a look at that letter. She is speaking as Stacia Munroe, the resident who lives very close to the proposed solar farm. As she has heard comments this evening amongst other folks, their greatest concern is their property values, and they are also concerned about development. The area between the solar farm and her residence is actually in the TIF district. They are trying very desperately to expand in Rochester right now. They are concerned that expansion will not take place if a solar farm is in that direct area. She is not opposed to the technology or to the use of a solar farm. She thinks it is important and is a good alternative resource for folks, but she doesn't like the location. From her standpoint, on the west side it is very close to a residential street. There is North Oak Street and then the dividing street that stops it is Karen Rose Road, and there are homes and school bus stops very close. The 250 feet is going to be really pushing it at that line. The 500 feet would have been better. She does appreciate that they are looking at putting up landscaping and maintenance, but they do have some real reservations and concerns in her neighborhood. They would like them to consider maybe utilizing a different location versus so close to the village for the residents that do live in that area. She would like to know how they, as residents who are looking at this particular solar farm, can benefit and get the rebate of the energy.

Annette Fulgenzi asked what they are targeting for their TIF district if they don't think this is right for their district. Mrs. Munroe stated the area she is suggesting in her area would probably be the development of more single-family homes, which there is a high demand for in Rochester. They are looking for more commercial development in Rochester. She is not sure this property is specifically for that, but it is an expanding area of town and she sees that continuing.

Mr. Mavity gave his rebuttal. He stated as of right now there is no set plan in place for the subscription. It is still premature, and they are still working that out. The residents of the community will eventually be capable of subscribing to this community Solar Energy System as long as they are customers of Ameren.

Mr. Bunch asked Mr. Mavity to clarify if he is answering her question if they will benefit from this Solar Energy System in Rochester. Mr. Mavity stated they would.

Mr. Madonia stated he spoke to John Albers who is a real estate developer for IPS Solar. He mentioned there will be about a 15% discount through this subscription, which is about average, for the residents there.

Chairman Van Meter asked if the lottery is simply a matter of chance whether one of the 400 projects gets selected as one of the 80. Mr. Mavity sated it is as far as he knows. They do not have any control over that at all. Chairman Van Meter asked if there is no assessment that one project is better than the other. Mr. Mavity stated there is not.

Chairman Van Meter asked for a roll call vote on the motion to adopt Resolution 6, as amended. Upon the roll call vote there were 18 Yeas – 8 Nays. Those voting nay were: Mr. Fraase, Mr. Hall, Mr. Mendenhall, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Scaife, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Tjelmeland. Resolution 6 was adopted, as amended.

MOTIONS CARRIED

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

B. Resolution 8 – Tabled 8/14/18

2018-022 – Pleasant Plains Solar, LLC, 1557 Parkes Kinner Road, Pleasant Plains – Granting a Conditional Permitted Use. County Board Member – Craig Hall, District #7.

A motion was made by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Forsyth, to place Resolution 8 on the floor. Chairman Van Meter asked the professional staff to give the procedural history of the case. Zoning Administrator Trustin Harrison stated the petitioner is requesting a conditional permitted use for a Solar Farm Energy System. Steven Keenan, professional staff, stated staff recommends approval of the conditional permitted use for the Solar Farm Energy System. The petitioner is proposing to comply with all the specific setback requirements and additional standards in the Solar Energy System Ordinance and will professionally maintain the site. The petitioner will also use the type of solar panel that is designed to limit the negative impact on adjacent property owners. Mr. Harrison stated the Zoning Board of Appeals concurs with the staff recommendation.

A motion was made by Mr. Stumpf, seconded by Ms. Sheehan, to amend Resolution 8. Mr. Stumpf stated on Page 8-2 at the end of Line 4, add the following language:
with the following conditions: The SFES shall not be located within 250 feet of an existing dwelling; and, a landscaping screen shall be provided for any part of the SFES that is visible to and located within 500 feet of an existing dwelling. The landscaping screen shall be located between the required fencing and the perimeter of the SFES project area. A voice vote was unanimous on the amendment.

Keith Bolin, at 22294 925 East Street in Sheffield, Illinois in Bureau County, addressed the County Board. He stated Geronimo Energy is the developer on this project. He and his wife have worked for them for several years, out of the Bureau County office, developing other wind projects up north. They have supported the diversification of income for farmers in rural areas. They used to raise hogs and cattle on their farm, but don't do that anymore. Nine years ago they got involved as a way to float everybody's boat a little bit. Nobody gets super rich by it, but it's a decent system, and that is one of the reasons they supported wind, solar, and geothermal. Obviously the children that were here tonight support it for clean energy. He and his wife look at it as something for their farms to keep land in the hands of the family hopefully for generations to come. Geronimo is based in Minnesota, but has a long-term commitment to brick and mortar in the State of Illinois.

Mr. Hall stated earlier tonight they heard the words making more jobs. He asked how many more jobs this 40 acres is going to produce. Mr. Bolin stated they cannot say it will produce a job in that location. There will be contractors to mow the lawn or maintain the solar panels. They don't want to make a promise of something that ends up not being true. Mr. Hall asked if there are areas in Illinois they have these solar panels. Mr. Bolin stated they do not have solar panels in Illinois, but they do in Minnesota. Mr. Hall asked what kind of plant life they would plant on this property and if the seeds will be approved, non-approved, or if they are GMO. Mr. Bolin stated he was an alfalfa guy for many years. They had hogs in pasture, so he is very familiar with legumes, whether it is ladina clover that is short to the ground, or an alfalfa, which gets taller. It will be a shorter legume with a grass mix underneath the panel. On the outer side that doesn't affect the panel's production, you may have a taller grass. It has not been fully decided how they will handle it, but they've had discussions with a few of the neighbors. Henson Robinson is not one of them, but they have talked to neighbors to the east and to the north. He knows the Farm Bureau did not original support the screening, but he thinks they have kind of come around to Sangamon County's way of thinking.

Mr. Mendenhall asked if they have contractors they currently use, or if they will use local labor. Mr. Bolin stated he assumes it would be local for the mowing. As far as the folks who maintain the solar panels, he was in Peoria at ICC College recently and met with one of the instructors. There were 20 people taking classes that are wanting to get union type jobs. Some are somewhat disenfranchised people. They are looking for future, and that is one of the ways those folks are looking for a future. They hope these would be good paying union jobs with healthcare. Mr. Mendenhall stated in Pennsylvania and Ohio a lot of their questions and concerns were if there would be someone there local if there is a maintenance problem. He asked if they would have someone living here in Sangamon County to represent them and take care of it. Mr. Bolin stated he is two hours and five minutes north, and he gets Mr. Mendenhall's point. Their name is on there as the developer, and they are the ones that will pick up the phone calls. He had a landowner call the owner the other day on a different project. The owner of the company is a farmer from southwest Minnesota and owns 2,000 to 3,000 acres. The owner called him. The owner holds him and his wife, the other 90 employees, the contractors, and the construction people accountable. He cares about the landowner and about the land moving forward in the hands of farmers.

Mr. Robinson spoke in objection to the petition. He stated they have approximately 297 signatures on a filed objection petition from those who are opposed to this. About 127 of them are from the City of Springfield and the rest are out in the county. They are opposed to the location, but are not opposed to solar. They are sincerely concerned about their property values. This project is setting a precedence, which is something you are all very sensitive of. The solar company may state that you may not find any adverse effects to your real estate values, but this has been on such a fast track, not only in Illinois and Sangamon County, that it is difficult to say there will be effects. Talking with the County and City, they have all said they feel this will have adverse effects on property values. He's had two property owners come to him and state they would love to trade properties. They would offer their property, but the solar company was not willing to do so. He does not have any idea why. There are other places to put this. Solar is here to say. It is going to generate a lot of income for the County. Lord knows the County and the State needs it.

There are places to put this and he believes there are places not to put this. They are asking that they please vote no because they are sincerely worried about their property values.

Mr. Bolin gave his rebuttal. He stated they have reached out. There are four neighboring homes, and they have reached out to all four. They had a face to face with one neighbor, but the others they have not. Jim Cimarossa, to the east, was worried about how the notification was at first, but when he found out how the Zoning Board works as far as notifications, he realized he was treated like all the other neighbors. He said he won't be at any meetings objecting to the project. They did also talk to Ben on the north, and he was worried about what kind of seed was being used. His background is in agronomics just like his son, so they tried to address those issues with him. They have tried to address any issues these people have.

Mr. Robinson gave his rebuttal. He stated Jim Cimarossa's name is on the objection petition. He is asking them to please vote no. They are generally concerned about their property values. They do not oppose solar. There have been others that have said they would be more than happy to trade, but this is not going to happen because the solar company refused to. Mr. Robinson thanked Chairman Van Meter, his staff, legal counsel, the Farm Bureau, County Board, and everybody that has taken time out of their day because this is a very serious thing coming to Sangamon County and it can generate a lot of money.

Mr. Fraase asked Mr. Robinson how long he has lived out there. Mr. Robinson stated he has lived there for 24 years.

Mr. Hall stated he thinks this board has earned the reputation for being just not the representatives of Sangamon County, but of Central Illinois. He's talked to County Board Members from Morgan County and other counties, and other leaders from other areas that are watching this tonight trying to make sure they can mirror what they do. The reason why is because they do things right and cautiously. A few months ago they had a zoning case that he worked through and he understands the importance of neighbor's voices. That night made a difference. Tonight he hopes that voice makes a difference again. What they are doing here tonight is not just approving this one. If one comes in near Springfield then they are going to say nor or yes to that one. That group could then maybe sue them or take them to court. He doesn't know if they are opening themselves up to this.

Mr. Mendenhall states he strongly supports solar. He agrees with Mr. Hall that there are places you build them and places you don't. There are places you build hog houses and places you don't. They wouldn't be having this discussion tonight if they were going to build a hog house 450 or 250 feet from these residences. They wouldn't allow it. He strongly supports the fact that as a property owner you should have the right to develop your property to what you think is best as long as it doesn't have a negative influence on adjoining property owners, whether it be their property values or their vision. There are plenty of other places in Sangamon County that you could build a solar farm that would accommodate everything they want, doesn't take prime agricultural farmland out of production, and doesn't have a potential negative impact on adjoining residences. Mr. Hall said earlier that there is CRP ground coming out. That is a benefit for all.

It's a benefit for the Federal Government because they can quit paying the fees and put solar and wind farms on them and develop them. Not every area of them would be sufficient, but a lot of them would. He strongly supports solar, but this is the wrong location.

Chairman Van Meter asked for a roll call vote on the motion to adopt Resolution 8, as amended. Mr. Bunch explained that he has a great great granddaughter about the age of the girl scouts here tonight, and he also has a great great grandson, and he hopes that they remember his vote tonight for protecting them for their future. Mr. Fraase stated he is voting no. He does think solar is the future for them but just not in this location. To take farm ground out of production and put a solar farm close to all the residents out there is not fair at all, especially when someone has lived out there for 24 years.

Upon the roll call vote, there were 17 Yeas – 9 Nays. Those voting nay were: Mr. Forsyth, Mr. Fraase, Mr. Hall, Mr. Mendenhall, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Scaife, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Tjelmeland. Resolution 8 was adopted, as amended.

MOTIONS CARRIED
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolutions

There were no new resolutions.

B. Appointments

Appointment of Julie Pittman to the Sangamon County Workplace Safety Board for a term expiring August, 2021.

Appointment of Tim Eggleston to the Sangamon County Workplace Safety Board for a term expiring August, 2021.

Appointment of David Mendenhall to the Sangamon County Central Dispatch System for a term expiring September, 2019.

Appointment of Tom Chi to the Sangamon County Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2019.

Appointment of Dan Parrish to the Sangamon County Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2019.

Appointment of Dick Rentschler to the Sangamon County Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2019.

Appointment of Kenneth Winslow to the Sangamon County Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2019.

Appointment of Joseph Powell to the Sangamon County Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2019.

Appointment of James Good to the Sangamon County Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2019.

Appointment of Richard Coon to the Sangamon County Emergency Telephone System Board for a term expiring September, 2019.

Appointment of Clyde Bunch to the Sangamon County Sewer Rebate Board for a term expiring September, 2019.

Appointment of Judy Johnson to the Sangamon County Sewer Rebate Board for a term expiring September, 2019.

Appointment of Herman Senor to the Sangamon County Sewer Rebate Board for a term expiring September, 2019.

Appointment of Sarah Graham to the Community Services Block Grant Advisory Board for a term expiring September, 2021.

Appointment of Elizabeth Delheimer to the Springfield Airport Authority for a term expiring November, 2021.

A motion was made by Ms. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. Bunch, for approval of the appointments. A voice vote carried. Annette Fulgenzi voted no on the Springfield Airport Authority appointment.

MOTIONS CARRIED
APPOINTMENTS ADOPTED

**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 Ms. Sheehan, to place the reports on file with the County Clerk. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION CARRIED
REPORTS FILED

Mr. Hall stated he is proud to say their attorneys work well for them. In their committee they had a lawsuit facing Sangamon County. They had a few meetings on that back and forth. They met with an arbitrator, Linda Douglas Williams, himself, Dwayne Gab, and the attorney they hired to represent them. They couldn't come to an agreement. With continued effort from their attorneys they went from \$50,000 to \$1,000. The attorney is pretty impressive and they are proud of that. They say yes when they do wrong and say no when they do no wrong, and they filled their job.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Chairman Van Meter to adjourn the meeting to October 9, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED
MEETING ADJOURNED

Don Gray
Sangamon County Clerk