

RESUME OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
September 19, 2024

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 6:32 PM in the Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center, 1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois, with County Executive Steve Summers presiding and Matthew Cross and Angie Patton as Clerks of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following members present: Peugh, Rodriguez, Sexton, Smith, Straub, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wilson, Cowart, Esry, Farney, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Locke, Lokshin, Michaels, Owen, Carter – 18; absent: Rogers, Stohr, Taylor, Greer – 4. County Executive Summers declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business.

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

County Executive Summers read a prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

READ NOTICE OF MEETING

The Clerk read the Notice of the Meeting, said Notice having been published in the *News Gazette* on September 5, 12, and 18, 2024.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA

Board Member Farney offered a motion to approve the Agenda/Addenda; Board Member Esry seconded.

Board Member Esry offered an amendment to move up items XVI-A1 and A2.

1. (ARPA Update) to be placed after XII.
2. (Public Defender Funding Request-Expert Witnesses) to be placed after XII.

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman seconded. The amendment carried by unanimous voice vote.

The motion as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Standing Committees:

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- A. County Facilities Committee Tuesday, October 8, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m. Shields-Carter Meeting Room
- B. Environment & Land Use Committee Thursday, October 10, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m. Shields-Carter Meeting Room
- C. Highway & Transportation Committee Friday, October 11, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m. 1605 E Main Street, Urbana

Committee of the Whole:

- A. Justice & Social Services; Policy, Personnel & Appointments; Finance Tuesday, October 15, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m. Shields-Carter Meeting Room

County Board:

- A. Truth in Taxation Hearing Thursday, October 24, 2024 @ 6:15 p.m. Shields-Carter Meeting Room
- B. Regular Meeting Thursday, October 24, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m. Shields-Carter Meeting Room

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Board Member Carter offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-229 Honoring County Employees for Years of Service, Board Member Thorsland seconded. Board Member Wilson read the resolution. Corrections Captain/Jail Superintendent, Karee Vogeys, joined the discussion to honor one of the staff.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jeanette Ellerbe spoke in opposition to removing Board Chair Carter.

Rey Camas spoke about his disappointment in Chair Carter's behavior.

Bryan Wrench spoke about explosions going off in Mahomet and his frustration from lack of response from law enforcement.

Blanton Bondurant, First Vice-President of the Champaign County NAACP, spoke to his frustration from the lack of response to a query made to County Executive Steve Summers.

Keith Sanitago expressed his desire to be part of the solution to end gun violence, citing his work as a gang specialist.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Member Locke made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Board Member

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Owen seconded the motion. The motion comprising 11 resolutions (nos. 2024-218, 2024-219, 2024-220, 2024-221, 2024-222, 2024-223, 2024-224, 2024-225, 2024-226, 2024-227, and 2024-228)

Yeas: Peugh, Rodriguez, Sexton, Smith, Straub, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wilson, Cowart, Esry, Farney, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Locke, Lokshin, Michaels, Owen, and Carter – 18

Nays: none

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

PROCLAMATIONS

Board Member Lokshin read the proclamation making the week of September 15-September 22 is hereby proclaimed as Champaign-Urbana Pride Fest Week 2024.

Board Member Michaels read the proclamation making the week of September 23-September 29 is hereby proclaimed as National See Tracks? Think Train Week 2024.

COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Esry gave a reminder that it's Harvest Season and to be aware of Farmers in the field and on the road.

Board Chair Carter expressed disappointment at current situation between Board Members and the County Exec office. Stated she became chair to bring the Board together and not to divide it.

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman stated CUPH received a grant and how it will be used for gun safety locks.

County Executive Summers noted that there will be no discussion about change in Board leadership as there is no agenda item and no action will be taken.

Board Member Straub noted several community events happening-Pride Fest, Black Arts Expo, and the upcoming Disability Resource Fair.

Board Member Fortado thanked the Board for supporting 800 Building and Service workers as they prepare to strike. She also shouted out DeShawn Williams and Chaundra Bishop for bringing food and beverages.

Board Member Wilson thanked Board Members for their supporting homeless veterans at the Veterans Stand Down event. The event was made possible through ARPA funds. He also expressed appreciation for the 9/11 event.

Board Member Owen said he would take opportunities at Board meetings to try and educate about the Genocide happening in Palestine. He also noted the Gallery Art Bar

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was hosting a 217 Film Festival and a film called *Where Olive Trees Weep*. He also noted Anthem bar would be screening *Stonewall* as well.

Board Member Peugh expressed support for SEIU members. He also thanked Board Members Carter and Wilson for showing up at 9/11 event. Also noting Pride Parade was this upcoming weekend.

Board Member Rodriguez expressed concern about current County Board Chair leadership and that other Board Members shared her concerns. She noted that even though the removal of the Board Chair wasn't on this agenda it would be at a future meeting where she hoped to discuss.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Locke offered an omnibus motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the County Board of August 15, 2024, and the Regular Meeting of the County Board of August 22, 2024; Board Member Smith seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ARPA Project Manager Kathy Larson presented an update of ARPA-funded projects. Board Member Wilson inquired about the State's Attorney's request for printers. Board Member Fortado mentioned the upcoming Special Finance meeting is to give recommendations to the Executive's office.

OTHER BUSINESS

Public Defender, Elisabeth Pollock, requested funding for expert witness testimony to get her through until the end of 2024. Various Board Members discussed and by a showing of thumbs up, the Board was in support of allocating funding to the Public Defender.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Board Member Fortado offered a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-230 Approving Employee Health Insurance and Related Benefits Plans for FY2025. Board Member Carter seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

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NEW BUSINESS

Various Board Members discussed the status update of the late audit from the Auditor's office. Board Members expressed concerns over the late audit and the impact to grant funding for the County; specifically how RPC may have grant funding withheld if the audit is not done on time. Board Members also expressed frustration about Auditor Danos not initiating communication about the late audit and the possible impacts. Board Members discussed Auditor Danos not attending the Board meeting to discuss the matter in person.

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to approve the release of RFP 2024-004 Cash Management System for the County of Champaign. Board Member Lokshin seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Esry offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-231 Authorizing Payment of Claims. Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-232 Approving Purchases Not Following Policy. Board Member Farney seconded the motion. Board Member Hanauer-Friedman inquired if they could separate the items listed. Various Board Members discussed whether the payments had already been made and the expense of the \$3,600 for advertisement of the Public Safety Sales Tax ballot question.

Yeas: Cowart and Carter - 2

Nays: Rodriguez, Sexton, Smith, Straub, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wilson, Esry, Farney, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Locke, Lokshin, Michaels, Owen – 16

Motion failed by roll call vote.

Board Member Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-233 Approving Amendment to Contract with P.J. Hoerr Inc. for County Jail Consolidation Project. Board Member Wilson commended the work of the contractor. Board Member Lokshin seconded the motion.

Yeas: Rodriguez, Sexton, Smith, Straub, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wilson, Esry, Farney, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Locke, Lokshin, Michaels, Owen, Cowart, and Carter – 18

Nays: None

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Board Member Owen offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-234 Authorizing the Acceptance of Head Start and Early Head Start Grant 05CH012823-01-00 for Vermilion, Iroquois, and Ford Counties. Board Member Hanauer-Friedman seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

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Board Member Michaels offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-11 providing for the issue of not to exceed \$8,800,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Public Safety Sales Tax Alternate Revenue Source), for the purpose of refunding certain outstanding bonds, providing for the pledge of public safety sales taxes and the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principle and interest on said bonds and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof. Board Member Straub seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-235 Honoring Mr. Andrew Hall. Board Member Peugh seconded the motion. County Executive Summers read the full text of the Resolution. Various Board Members discussed what union Mr. Hall worked for. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURN

County Executive Summers adjourned the meeting at 8:42 PM.



Aaron Ammons, Champaign County Clerk
and ex-Officio Clerk of the Champaign County Board
Champaign County, Illinois