

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

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 6:30 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 as Clerk of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following members present: Carter, Cowart, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Fortado, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Stohr, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Wilson, Cagle, and Locke – 20; late: Peugh (arrived at 8:02, during the discussion following the FY2023 Audit Presentation) – 1; absent: Sullard – 1. County Executive Summers declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business. Board Member Carter departed early at 8:03, during the discussion following the FY2023 Audit Presentation.

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

County Executive Summers recited 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 December 5, December 12, December 18, 2024.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA

Board Member Esry offered an amended motion to adopt the Agenda/Addenda, moving up item XIV. A. 1-6 (American Rescue Plan Act); Board Chair Locke seconded. The motion as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. County Facilities Committee
Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room
- B. Environment and Land Use Committee
Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room

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C. Highway and Transportation Committee

Friday, January 10, 2025 at 9:00 AM

1605 E Main Street, Urbana

Committee of the Whole:

A. Justice and Social Services: Policy, Personnel, and Appointments; and Finance

Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Shields-Carter Meeting Room

County Board:

A. Regular Meeting

Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Shields-Carter Meeting Room

B. Study Session – FOIA Training

Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Shields-Carter Meeting Room

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Board Member Stohr offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-303 honoring county employees for years of service; Board Member Farney seconded. Board Member Stohr read the entire text of the resolution. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-304 honoring retiring county employees; Board Member Stohr seconded. State’s Attorney Julia Reitz was invited to speak; she spoke in honor of State’s Attorney’s Office employees Chantelle Jasper (five years of service), Troy Lozar (20 years of service), and Janelle Albrecht (retiring after 36 years). The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Following the vote, Ms. Albrecht posed for photos in front of the County Seal with State’s Attorney Reitz and County Executive Summers.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nicole Massy and Robby Walker spoke about the accomplishments of their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded Stop the Violence – Healing Invisible Wounds veterans’ program.

Bobbie Johnson, county employee of 20 years, spoke about the current American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) contract negotiations with the county, noting that the Labor Committee offered a one percent per year raise to the Highway Department bargaining employees.

Natalie Nagel, AFSCME representative, spoke about the ongoing AFSCME negotiations

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with the county.

Leslie Erdman, county employee of nine years, spoke about the ongoing AFSCME negotiations with the county.

Cece Phillips, Circuit Clerk's Office employee, spoke about the ongoing AFSCME negotiations with the county.

COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Carter spoke about gathering signatures to eliminate the County Executive elected position on the 2026 ballot.

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman gave an update on the county's grant funded gun safety program.

Board Member Thorsland spoke about the Allerton Park's Holiday GLOW event running through the end of the year. He also noted that the United Kingdom's 2024 energy use was greater than 50 percent renewable and added that the County is still non-compliant with state regulation on solar energy.

Board Chair Locke noted the Urbana Health and Wellness Center, which was partially funded through County ARPA funds, will be open to the public on January 4, 2025.

Board Member Farney spoke about recent accusations made about him online by Craig Walker. He read a letter his lawyer wrote to Mr. Walker, which he also distributed to all County Board Members.

Board Member Wilson spoke in defense of both Board Member Farney and County Executive Summers and wished a happy Hanukkah to all who celebrate.

Board Member Sexton spoke in defense of Board Member Farney and spoke about the importance of teachers at the Juvenile Detention Center.

Board Member Lokshin spoke in defense of Board Member Farney.

Board Member Fortado spoke in defense of both Board Member Farney and County Executive Summers.

Board Member Rodriguez thanked the AFSCME member who spoke during Public Participation.

PRESENTATION

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County Auditor George Danos and CliftonLarsonAllen Principal Hope Wheeler, who prepared the county's external audit, presented the results of the Fiscal Year 2023 Audit. Board Member Farney asked about the \$26,000,000 position increase; Auditor Danos stated it was largely the result of an increase of capital assets; Principal Wheeler added that it is also caused by fluctuations of pension liabilities. Various Board Members questioned Auditor Danos about errors and delays that Auditor Danos stated were the result of staffing turnovers; Auditor Danos stated that in the future, he will be more active in the training of new hires and cross-training staff for understanding of all aspects of the office, and at present, the office needs a Chief Deputy Auditor and an accountant. Various Board Members noted the consequences of the late audit, especially the ramifications on the Regional Planning Commission (RPC); Auditor Danos stated that everything will be fine once the audit is submitted. Board Member Fortado invited Auditor Danos to provide monthly audit reports to the Committee of the Whole; Auditor Danos stated that he would take that into consideration. Board Member Wilson asked how the significance of audit findings was determined; Principal Wheeler stated that the ranking is based on both dollar amount and professional judgement. Board Member Wilson also asked about the finding that the county lacked year-end controls; Principal Wheeler stated that ideally the county would preform an internal audit before the external audit and internal reviews did not occur in FY2023. Board member Rodriguez issued a Point of Order, stating that the Presentation was intended for Principal Wheeler and Auditor Danos to present the findings report of the FY2023 Audit, and not an open discussion or debate between Board Members and Auditor Danos. County Director of Administration Michelle Jett was invited to join the discussion. Director Jett asked if the external audit is complete and done; Principal Wheeler stated that two steps remain before finalizing; Auditor Danos stated he anticipates final submission to the state on January 2, 2025; Director Jett noted that January 6, 2025, is the deadline before significant consequences are instated by the state. Board Member Stohr asked that the County Collector respond to the results of the audit; County Executive Summers stated that would be beyond the scope of the report presentation. County Executive Summers stated that it was foolish of Auditor Danos to reject additional staffing funds for the audit only to then deliver a late audit.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ARPA Project Manager Kathy Larson presented a brief update on projects. Board Member Stohr asked about the SLEEP project in the Scottswood neighborhood; Project Manager Larson stated she did not have a neighborhood level breakdown at that moment.

Director Jett spoke about the Jail Consolidation Project, noting that it was under budget and that the county would need to reallocate all surplus ARPA funds, and she asked board members to submit recommendation for small projects. Board Member Stohr asked about the timeline; Director Jett stated that the agreements needed to be in by December 31, 2024. Board Member Hanauer-Friedman asked how much surplus was anticipated; Director Jett stated it was millions of dollars. Board Member Wilson asked

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why the issues was not raised earlier; Director Jett stated that County Administration was not aware until early December. Director Jett stated that no surplus funds will be reallocated until the completion of the County Jail Consolidation Project, which was anticipated for March 2025. Board Member Fortado added that none of the projects for reallocation can have recurring expenses.

Board Member Wilson summarized the findings and recommendation of the Broadband Task Force found in the Agenda Packet, noting the Task Force selected the second option. Board Member Stohr asked why the Task Force chose the option that would serve less households; Board Member Wilson stated that while it would serve approximately 200 fewer people, it has the infrastructure to be expanded in the future. Board Member Thorsland added that the county could increase rural broadband funding to serve more households; he also praised the work of Volo Internet and Technology Solutions on the project.

Board Member Sexton offered a motion to adopt resolution No. 2024-315 authorizing an amendment to an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Royal; Board Member Lokshin seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-316 authorizing an amendment to an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Pesotum; Board Member Esry seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board member Greer offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-317 authorizing an amendment to an intergovernmental agreement with the Housing Authority of Champaign County; Board Member Thorsland seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-318 authorizing an amendment to an intergovernmental agreement with the Pesotum Consolidated Drainage District; Board Member Esry seconded. Board Member Fortado implored that all extended projects must be complete by the dates prescribed in the amending resolutions. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Esry offered an omnibus motion to approve the minutes of the Regular County Board Meeting of November 21, 2024, and the minutes of the Biennial Organizational Meeting of December 2, 2024; Board Member Thorsland seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

APPOINTMENTS TO COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEES

County Executive Summers read the appointments.

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Committee of the Whole Areas of Responsibility	Regular Meeting Time/Day/Place	Chair	Vice Chair	
Justice and Social Services	2 nd Tues after the first Monday – 6:30 p.m., Shields-Carter	Jilmala Rogers	Ed Sexton	
Policy, Personnel, and Appointments	2 nd Tues after the first Monday – 6:30 p.m., Shields-Carter	Chris Stohr	Jeff Wilson	
Finance	2 nd Tues after the first Monday – 6:30 p.m., Shields-Carter	Stephanie Fortado	John Farney	
Standing Committees		Chair	Vice-Chair	Members
Environment and Land Use Committee (7)	First Thursday after the first Monday – 6:30 p.m., Shields-Carter	Eric Thorsland	Aaron Esry	Emily Rodriguez Jilmala Rogers John Farney Chris Stohr Jennifer Locke
Facilities (8)	First Tuesday after the first Monday – 6:30 p.m., Shields-Carter	Jenny Lokshin	Jeff Wilson	Stephanie Fortado Beth Vanichtheeranont Elly Hanauer-Friedman Carolyn Greer Daniel Wiggs Ben Crane
Highway and Transportation (7)	First Friday after the first Monday – 9:00 a.m., Highway Building, 1605 E. Main, Urbana	Lorraine Cowart	Ed Sexton	Brett Peugh Samantha Carter Jake Fava Matt Sullard Jon Cagle
Special Committees		Chair	Vice Chair	Members
Labor (5)	As needed – time TBD	Emily Rodriguez	John Farney	Stephanie Fortado Aaron Esry Daniel Wiggs
Litigation (5)	As needed – time TBD	Eric Thorsland	Aaron Esry	Chris Stohr Jennifer Locke Jeff Wilson
Opioid Settlement Task Force (5)	As needed – 6:30 p.m.	Jennifer Locke	Ed Sexton	Chris Stohr Emily Rodriguez Aaron Esry
Broadband Task Force (5)	As needed – 6:30 p.m.	Bailey Conrady	Samantha Carter	Lorraine Cowart Jeff Wilson Eric Thorsland Jon Cagle
DEIA+ Task Force (3)	As needed – 6:30 p.m.	Jilmala Rogers	John Farney	Samantha Carter

Board Member Wilson asked about the Board Member Liaison appointments; County

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Executive Summers stated that was in progress and would be presented at the next board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-15 FY2025 Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance; Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded. The motion carried by roll-call vote.

Yeas: Cowart, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Fortado, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Stohr, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Wilson, Cagle, and Locke – 20

Neas: none

Board Member Esry offered a motion to approve to release RFP 2024-008 real estate broker services for the County of Champaign; Board Member Hanauer-Friedman seconded.

Board Member Lokshin offered a motion to amend the RFP as recommended by absent Board Member Sullard to add language encouraging applications by minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses; Board Member Rodriguez seconded. The motion to amend the RFP carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Wilson offered a motion to amend the RFP to adding language barring the contracted real estate agent from also representing any potential buyers of the property; Board Member Farney seconded. The motion to amend the RFP carried by unanimous voice vote.

The motion as amended to include language encouraging applications by minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses and barring the contracted real estate agent from also representing any potential buyers of the property carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Rodriguez offered a motion to approve the use of Opioid Settlement Funds for a \$7,500 sign-on bonus for an Addiction Medicine Practitioner through Rosecrance; Board Member Lokshin seconded. Board Chair Locke spoke about the need for an Addiction Medicine Practitioner in the community. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman offered an omnibus motion to adopt Resolutions No. 2024-305 authorizing payments of claims and No. 2024-306 approving purchases not following purchasing policy; Board Member Sexton seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-307 appointing Eric Hoene as the Champaign County Facilities Director; Board Member Esry seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Wilson offered an omnibus motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-308

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appointing Anthony Nichols to the Mental Health Board, term 1/1/2025-12/31/2028, Resolution No. 2024-309 appointing Joseph Omo-Osagie to the Mental Health Board, term 1/1/2025-12/31/2028, and Resolution No. 2024-310 appointing Kyle Patterson to the Mental Health Board, term 1/1/2025-12/31/2028; Board Member Thorsland seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Lokshin offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-311 extending the timeline for the DEIA+ Task Force; Board Member Cowart seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-312 appointing Don Owen as a Community Member on the DEIA+ Task Force; Board Member Rogers seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-323 approving extended contract between Rosecrance and the County of Champaign for re-entry programming; Board Member Greer seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Rogers offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-314 approving Budget Transfer BUA 2024/11/183 to cover benefit payouts for five employees; Board Member Sexton seconded. The motion carried by roll-call vote.

Yeas: Cowart, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Fortado, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Stohr, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Wilson, Cagle, and Locke – 20

Neas: none

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-316 revising the civil fees to be charged by the Clerk of the Circuit Court; Board Member Rogers seconded. County Circuit Clerk Susan McGrath was invited to join the discussion. Circuit Clerk McGrath noted a recent Illinois State Supreme Court decision that had simplified to a single \$306 eviction fee. Board Members Farney and Rogers accepted this as a friendly amendment. The motion as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

County Executive Summers raised the discussion the Circuit Clerk Transfers. Board Member Fortado invited Circuit Clerk McGrath to join the discussion and asked if Auditor Danos assessment that the incorrect transfers were the result of a computer error; Circuit Clerk McGrath agreed with Auditor Danos.

County Executive noted the approval of Closed Session Minutes of November 21, 2024, was struck from the Agenda, as reflected in the Addenda.

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County Executive Summers noted the Grant Coordinator update memorandum in the Agenda Packet.

County Executive Summers noted Post Issuance Compliance Reporting for the 2022 A and 2022 B Bonds information contained in the Agenda Packet. Board Member Farney thanked County Administration staff for their work on the FY2025 County Budget, especially praising County Executive Summers, Director Jett, and Finance Director Travis Woodcock.

County Executive Summers noted the applications for open appointments are in the Agenda Packet.

County Executive Summers noted the Decennial Committee Reports to the County Board from the Joint Newcomb Township and Newcomb Township Road Commission *and* the Joint Somer Township and Somer Township Road Commission were received and placed on file and are available for viewing on the County website.

ADJOURN

County Executive Summers adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.



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