

RESUME OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
February 20, 2025

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 6:29 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: Esry, Farney, Fava, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Stohr, Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Wilson, Cagle, Crane, and Locke – 19; late: Fortado (arrived at 6:30, during the Prayer) – 1; absent: Carter and Cowart – 2. County Executive Summers declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business. Board Member Rogers departed early at Resolution No. 2025-63; Board Member Peugh departed at 8:37 during the discussion of Circuit Clerk Reimbursement for Fines and Fees.

**PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

County Executive Summers recited the Serenity 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 February 6, February 13, and February 19, 2025.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA**

Board Member Sexton offered a motion to adopt the Agenda; Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded.

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to amend the Agenda to move up item XVI. A. 1. (ARPA Update) to follow item X. B. (Firearm Safe Storage Strategies Grant Update); Board Member Esry seconded. Board Member Esry also amended to remove Resolution No. 2025-31 from the Consent Agenda and place it as XIII. A. 1. for discussion; Board Chair Locke accepted this friendly amendment. The motion to amend the Agenda carried by unanimous voice vote.

The motion as amended carried by voice vote.

**DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS**

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

- A. County Facilities Committee  
Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 6:30 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room
- B. Environment and Land Use Committee  
Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 6:30 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room
- C. Highway and Transportation Committee  
Friday, March 7, 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, March 11, 2025 at 6:30 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room

**County Board:**

- A. Regular Meeting  
Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 6:30 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room
- B. Study Session  
Tuesday March 25, 2025 at 6:00 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

Board Member Stohr offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-56 honoring county employees for years of service; Board Member Esry seconded. Board Member Stohr read the entire text of the resolution. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Benjamin Beaupre, of Champaign, spoke about the effect of board decisions on real lives in the county and spoke about the importance of the Racial Justice Task Force work.

Cameron Belk, Sr., of Urbana, thanked the Board for the Rental Assistance Program, from which he personally benefitted, and requested the Board extend the assistance time limit from one year to two years.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Board Member Lokshin offered a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda; Board Member Thorsland seconded. The motion consisting of 24 resolutions (Nos. 2025-32, 2025-33, 2025-34, 2025-35, 2025-36, 2025-37, 2025-38, 2025-39, 2025-40, 2025-41, 2025-42, 2025-43, 2025-44, 2025-45, 2025-46, 2025-47, 2025-48, 2025-49, 2025-50, 2025-51, 2025-52, 2025-53, 2025-54, and 2025-55) and one ordinance (No. 2025-2) carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

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

Nays: none

## **PRESENTATION**

Regional Planning Commission Energy Efficiency Program Manager Peter Pasholk presented an update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded Safety Lighting Energy Efficiency Program (SLEEP) in the unincorporated Dobbins Downs, Scottswood, and Pleasant Acres neighborhoods. Board Member Peugh invited Program Manager Pasholk to give presentations in Board District 11. Board Members Wilson, Fava, and Rogers asked for details about the work done through the program; Program Manager Pasholk provided specifics and examples, noting that the main focus has been on exterior lighting and Ring Camera installations, with a maximum allocation of \$2,000 per house, and that the program aims to provide improvements to 200 households. Board Members Crane and Sullard asked about other program restrictions; Program Manager Pasholk stated that it is limited to owner-occupied houses in the three unincorporated neighborhoods; Board Member Lokshin noted a similar program in the City of Champaign. Various Board Members thanked Program Manager Pasholk for the work.

Champaign County Gun Safety Training Coordinator Shawna den Otter presented an update on the Firearm Safe Storage Strategies Grant which provides training on safe firearm handling and storage, firearm restraining orders, and veteran suicide prevention, and provides firearm locks and safes free of charge. Board Member Crane asked how many locks and safes remain for distribution; Coordinator den Otter stated that there is no limit on the quantity of locks the County can acquire and that they have more than 500 safes to distribute. Board Member Farney requested the program provide firearm safety training to the area Boy Scout summer camp. Board Member Peugh asked about the dimensions of the safes; Coordinator den Otter stated that they vary by model. Board Member Sullard spoke about firearm restraining order training; Coordinator den Otter stated that she was currently coordinating training for various local groups; Board Member Hanauer-Friedman stated that information is also available on the State's Attorney's website. Various Board Members thanked Coordinator den Otter, County Grants Coordinator Kait Kuzio, Board Member Hanauer-Friedman, and community member Erin Hardway for their work on the project.

ARPA Project Manager Kathy Larson provided a brief update on various ARPA-funded projects. Board Member Stohr asked about the low-hurdle grant program; County Executive Summers stated the program is expected to start in three weeks. Board Member Fortado reminded the Board that they need to finalize spending plans for the remaining ARPA funds, which will be decided at the March County Board Meeting. Board Member Wilson asked about the Garden Hills water infrastructure program; Project Manager Larson stated the work is ongoing and she expects bills for reimbursement to arrive this year. Board Member Vanichtheeranont asked about the Rural Broadband project; Project Manager Larson stated that Volo will start work in March.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Board Member Lokshin spoke about the need for developmental disability programs and encouraged Board Members and community members to voice their objections to cuts in Medicare and Section 504 disability protection rules. She also noted Spread the Word Day for inclusion on March 5, 2025. She later noted the IHSA state wrestling tournament at the State Farm Center February 20-22, 2025.

Board Member Wilson spoke about a recent Daughters of the American Revolution/Sons of the American Revolution Good Citizenship awards presented to local high school seniors. He named the recipients in his district: Tyler Clark and Madelyn Logsdon of Mahomet-Seymour High School and Asher Litman and Paige Hott of Fisher High School. He also spoke about President George Washington, who's birthday was February 22, 1732.

Board Members Sullard, Fortado, Farney, and Stohr thanked the retiring County Treasurer C.J. Johnson.

Board Member Farney recognized Daughters of the American Revolution/Sons of the American Revolution Good Citizenship awards presented to Brennan Struck and Loran Tate of Heritage, Alex Mowrer and Avery Watson of Unity, and Jackson Ennis and Sydney Reitmeier of St Joseph-Ogden.

Board Member Peugh noted that the men's Illini hockey team will be playing in a tournament in Bloomington.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board Sexton offered an omnibus motion to approve the minutes of the Regular County Board Meeting of January 23, 2025, and the Study Session Meeting of January 28, 2025; Board Member Thorsland seconded. Board Member Esry noted two typographical errors and an omission of the names of the two Board Members appointed to the Opioid Settlement Task Force in the minutes of the Regular Meeting; Board Chair Locke requested the minutes of the Study Session refer to Board Member

Rodriguez as Board Vice Chair Rodriguez, as she was presiding at the meeting. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote, pending corrections.

### **RESOLUTION No. 2025-31**

Board Member Lokshin offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-31 establishing the Bennett Administrative Center Dedication Committee; Board Member Thorsland seconded. Board Member Farney asked about the source of the \$6,000.00 appropriated to the committee; Director of Administration Michelle Jett was invited to join the discussion, and she stated the funds are from an anticipated surplus in the moving expenses allocated. Board Member Farney stated his opposition to appropriating \$6,000.00 to the committee, given the current County Budget, and he added that the expense was disrespectful to County employees. Board Member Thorsland asked if the committee could solicit donations instead of using County money. Board Member Sullard asked for what the funds would be used; Board Member Lokshin noted that the \$6,000.00 is a maximum available and might not be completely spent. Board Member Hanauer-Friedman asked if the committee formation and the budget could be separated; County Executive Summers noted that would be at the discretion of the Board. Board Member Wilson stated that he would support the establishment of the committee without a budget.

Board Member Farney offered a motion to amend the resolution to strike the sixth paragraph, establishing a budget of \$6,000.00; Board Member Sexton seconded. After various board members discussed the merits of simply removing the budget versus directing the committee to seek donations, Board Member Farney withdrew his motion to amend.

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to amend the resolution to replace the text of the sixth paragraph to read: "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Champaign County Board recommends the Ad Hoc Bennett Administrative Center Dedication Committee seek private funding for this event."; Board Member Farney seconded. The motion to amend the resolution carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Rogers noted that her surname was misspelled in the fifth paragraph. The motion to adopt the amended resolution carried by unanimous voice vote, pending the correction of Board Member Rogers's surname.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

County Executive Summers noted the Summaries of Action Taken at the February 4, 2025, County Facilities Committee Meeting; the February 6, 2025, Environment and Land Use Committee; and the February 7, 2025, Highway and Transportation Committee were received and placed on file.

Board Member Cagle offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-57 approving award of contract to Ruyle Mechanical Services, Inc. for on-site solar PV system services; Board Member Esry seconded. County Engineer Jeff Blue was invited to join

the discussion. Board Member Peugh stated he was glad to see the installation of solar panels on a County building. Board member Thorsland asked about the source of the funds; County Engineer Blue stated that will come from the Highway Building fund and added that the solar panels will pay form themselves in five years. County Executive Summers added that the roof of the Bennett Administrative Center should allow for solar panel instillation in the future, should the board so desire. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

County Executive Summers noted the Summary of Action Taken at the February 11, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting (Justice and Social Services; Finance; and Policy, Personnel, and Appointments) was received and placed on file.

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-58 supporting Senate Bill 180 to protect judicial representation in the Sixth Judicial Circuit; Board Member Lokshin seconded. Circuit Judge Chad Beckett was invited to join the discussion; Judge Beckett provided background about the Sixth Judicial Court judge positions, particularly at-large versus residential seats. Board Member Farney thanked Judge Beckett for speaking about the matter; he stated his opposition because correcting the state legislation is not the responsibility of the County Board. The motion carried by voice vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-59 authorizing payment of claims; Board member Sullard seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Lokshin offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-60 appointing Elly Hanauer-Friedman as the Deputy Chair of the Finance Committee of the Whole to replace Stephanie Fortado; Board Member Greer seconded. Board Member Wiggs noted an error in Board Member Hanauer-Friedman's first name in the resolution text. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote, pending the correcting of Board Member Hanauer-Friedman's first name.

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-61 authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Champaign, the City of Urbana, and Champaign County for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program; Board Member Thorsland seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-62 approving Budget Amendment BUA 2024/12/1171 because the final PTAX distribution

for extension services was slightly higher than budgeted; Board Member Sullard seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

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

Nays: none

Board Member Lokshin offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-63 approving Budget Amendment BUA 2024/12/1162 to cover outstanding invoices and a slight overrun in personnel costs; Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Esry, Farney, Fava, Fortado, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Sexton, Stohr, Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Wilson, Cagle, Crane, and Locke – 19

Nays: none

County Executive Summers raised the discussion of Circuit Clerk Reimbursements for Fines and Fees. Board Member Hanauer-Friedman raised questions about the account practices, the impact on the annual audit, and the quantity of funds. Board Member Fortado stated that a similar situation became a major issue in 2023 with the County Auditor's Office; she discussed the impact on the budget and the budgeting process; she noted that fund must be allocated in the year the funds are received and stressed the importance of adhering to the yearly budget. Board Member Farney stated that the relevant office holders had not been forthcoming about the issue, but added that the external auditor, CliftonLarsonAllen, has been made aware of the issue. County Finance Director Travis Woodcock was invited to join the discussion; He and Board Members Wilson, Fortado, and Hanauer-Friedman discussed various details of the issue. Board Member Wilson emphatically stated that this was a failure of the Auditor. Director Jett was invited to join the discussion; she added that the Auditor has been a major problem and is failing to do his job. Board Member Vanichtheeranont asked if the transfers could be automated; Director Woodcock stated that bank transfers and invoices require the Auditor and budget amendments require Board approval. Board Member Sexton asked if the general staff of the Auditor's Office can be reallocated by the Board; County Executive Summers stated that would be up to the Board. Various Board Members and Directors Jett and Woodcock discussed various fund requirements and deadlines. Board Member Wilson raised holding a Special County Board Meeting before the end of February to pass the required budget amendments, and various Board Members discussed the date and time to hold such a meeting with 48 hours-notice. The Board settled on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 5:30 PM. Board Member Farney immediately completed a written petition for the Special Meeting, signed by all of the 18 remaining members present.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Board Member Cagle offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-62 that

supersedes Resolution No. 2024-209 on Establishment of Organization, Duties, Rules, Policies, and Procedures of the Champaign County Board; Board member Farney seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

County Executive Summers noted the Decennial Committee Reports to the County Board by the Joint Mahomet Township and Mahomet Township Road District and the Joint Colfax Township and Colfax Township Road District have been received and placed on file and is available for viewing on the County website.

Board Member Lokshin offered a motion to approve the closed session minutes of January 23, 2025; Board Member Thorsland seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**ADJOURN**

County Executive Summers adjourned the meeting at 8:52 PM.



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