



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
LABOR COMMITTEE**
County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois
Thursday, April 11, 2024 – 4:30 p.m.

Jennifer Putman Meeting Room
Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

MINUTES – Approved as Distributed on May 15, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Aaron Esry, John Farney (Vice Chair), Don Owen, Emily Rodriguez (Chair),

MEMBERS ABSENT: Stephanie Fortado

OTHERS PRESENT: Leah Taylor (County Board Member), Jenny Lokshin (County Board Member), Steve Summers (County Executive), Michelle Jett (Director of Administration) and Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)

Agenda Items

I. Call to Order

Chair Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

A verbal roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

III. Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Mr. Farney to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Owen. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. February 2, 2023

MOTION by Mr. Esry to approve the minutes of February 2, 2023; seconded by Mr. Farney. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously with Mr. Owen abstaining.

V. Public Participation

None

VI. New Business

A. Response to concerns about Champaign County Auditor's Office

Chair Rodriguez explained she would like to first start with a discussion about any questions, ideas, thoughts that Committee Members may have about this topic. In particular, any questions they may have for the State's Attorney's Office to determine what levers they have at their disposal.

Mr. Farney stated he does have a long list of questions for the State's Attorney's Office because he worries that the County is open to litigation because of the County Auditor's actions. He has meetings set to talk with employees in the office who are experiencing things first-hand. He wants to ensure the well-being of the employees but also doesn't want crucial staff members leaving in the middle of the annual audit.

Mr. Owen believes it is the role of County Board Members to ensure that the employees are protected, and the workplace is not hostile. He questioned what the Board can do, without overstepping, to protect the employees under an elected official. He believes they really need to focus on what they want the County Auditor to do.

Ms. Jett discussed with the Committee members the oversight that they do and don't have in regard to an elected official's office.

B. Review of draft response to Champaign County Auditor's Office

Mr. Farney explained the draft resolution has been created using censure resolutions passed in Madison County and Tazwell County.

Committee members discussed changes and reordering of items in the draft resolution. Ultimately, they decided to send the draft and a list of questions to the State's Attorney's Office for review.

VII. Other Business

A. Approval of closed session minutes

1. February 2, 2023

MOTION by Mr. Esry to approve the closed session minutes of February 2, 2023; seconded by Mr. Farney. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously with Mr. Owen abstaining.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 5:21 p.m.