



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
LABOR COMMITTEE**
County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois
Thursday, June 6, 2024 – 4:30 p.m.

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

Committee Members:

Aaron Esry
John Farney – Vice Chair
Stephanie Fortado
Donald Owen
Emily Rodriguez – Chair

Agenda Items

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Roll Call**
- III. **Approval of Agenda**
- IV. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. May 15, 2024
- V. **Public Participation**
- VI. **Closed Session Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)2 to Consider Collective Negotiating Matters Between the County and its Employees or their Representatives**
- VII. **Other Business**
- VIII. **Adjournment**

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County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois
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10 **MINUTES – Subject to Approval**

11 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Stephanie Fortado, Don Owen, Emily Rodriguez (Chair),

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13 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Aaron Esry, John Farney (Vice Chair)

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15 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Summers (County Executive), Michelle Jett (Director of
16 Administration) and Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)

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18 **Agenda Items**

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20 **I. Call to Order**

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22 Chair Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

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24 **II. Roll Call**

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

27

28 **III. Approval of Agenda**

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30 Chair Rodriguez requested to move Other Business before New Business in order to give
31 additional time for other members to arrive.

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33 **MOTION** by Ms. Fortado to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Mr. Owen.
34 Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

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36 **IV. Approval of Minutes**

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38 A. April 11, 2024

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40 **MOTION** by Mr. Owen to approve the minutes of April 11, 2024; seconded by Ms.
41 Fortado. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

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43 **V. Public Participation**

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45 None

46

47 **VI. New Business**

- 48 A. Resolution Censuring Champaign County Auditor George P. Danos for Failure to
49 Serve as an Independent Watchdog of County Taxpayer Funds and Conduct
50 Unbecoming an Elected Official

51
52 Chair Rodriguez explained that this document has been through several drafts. The
53 Committee sent a list of questions to the State's Attorney's Office and based on the
54 response to those questions, edits were made to the resolution. Ms. Fortado feels good
55 about the current draft because everything that was included is documented and there
56 are no gray areas.

57
58 Ms. Fortado understands that people make mistakes but there is no indication that the
59 Auditor plans to correct or change this behavior. Chair Rodriguez said this is a statement
60 of support for employees and they recognize that this won't change everything. Mr.
61 Owen believes the County Board's role is to be an arbitrator and a voice for the
62 employees.

63
64 **MOTION** by Ms. Rodriguez to recommend County Board approval of a resolution
65 censuring Champaign County Auditor George P. Danos for failure to serve as an
66 independent watchdog of County taxpayer funds and conduct unbecoming an elected
67 official; seconded by Ms. Fortado. Upon roll call vote, the **MOTION CARRIED**
68 unanimously.

69
70 **VII. Other Business**

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72 Ms. Rodriguez let the Committee Members know that AFSCME labor negotiations will
73 begin next month. She asked the members to give administration some guidance on
74 what information they need for negotiations and their priorities.

75
76 Ms. Fortado asked for a landscape of how many employees are represented by a union
77 in each department. Ms. Jett stated she will also add information on the demographics
78 and longevity of those employees.

79
80 Chair Rodriguez then moved on to another item she needed to bring to the Committee's
81 attention. The members of the Auditor's Office had a meeting with AFSCME
82 Representatives to discuss becoming a bargaining unit. She stated the County Auditor,
83 George Danos, found out about the meeting and interrupted the meeting by yelling at
84 the employees and the union representatives.

85
86 Ms. Jett explained exactly what happened stating the Auditor was visibly upset and
87 challenging the representatives on the appropriateness of the meeting. Ms. Rodriguez
88 asked if the Auditor's behavior could have intimidated the employees and Ms. Jett
89 explained that she would have felt intimidated if he was her boss.

90

91 Ms. Fortado suggested having the State's Attorney's Office send information to all
92 department heads explaining and reminding them of the employees' rights to organize.

93

94 **VIII. Adjournment**

95

96 Chair Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.