

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS  
Committee of the Whole Meeting

Tuesday, September 12, 2023 – 5:45 p.m.  
Jennifer Putman Meeting Room  
Brookens Administrative Center  
1776 E. Washington St.  
Urbana, IL 61801

Present: Taylor, Straub, Patterson, Lokshin, Rogers, Hanaur-Friedman,  
Vanichtherrnot, Fortado, Thorsland, Locke, Patterson, Ingram, Carter, Cowart,  
Rodriguez

1. **Call to Order:** 5:47 pm
2. **Approval of the Agenda–**
  - a. Moved by Thorsland, second Locke, unanimous approval.
3. **Approval of the Minutes from August 15, 2023.**
  - a. Moved by Rogers, second Locke, unanimous approval
    - i. Thorsland said they were splendid.
4. **Public Participation–**
  - a. none
5. **Announcements/Communications–**
  - a. **Peugh** October 14 is the next electronics recycling event. Sign up early.
6. **Review and Discussion of the Committee of the Whole Agenda**
  - a. **Policy Personnel & Appointments– Stohr**
    - i. Many appointments. Let's not argue about
    - ii. Item 3 are up for approval or denial, CD are information only.
  - c. **Finance– Fortado**
    - iii. **RPC-** received money for three new housing projects. Dr, Fortado has asked if someone from RPC will attend the meeting.
    - iv. **SA–** 6 people have left. \$15K in benefits need to be paid out. It's not usual for us to pay those out in the middle of the year. The memo we received doesn't include the statute-mandated bump in salary, so that would need to be included before we could consider it. If we let all elected officials do this, it would be very hard to honor.
    - v. **Sheriff-** Last year camera updates were approved and paid out. They then received a grant to cover those costs. He is asking for that grant

money to be put back in their budget. The sheriff has also had pretty unprecedented spending with very significant lateral raises and the out-of-county housing of prisoners. These grant funds could provide relief to the general fund, OR they could help tick another one-time purchase from the Sheriff's list.

- vi. **Fiber Optic Loop Cable Replacement** for Brookens and all other buildings– not Bennet Building– Terrazon Group has a low bid by \$53K
- vii. **Health Insurance**– The AFSCME contract has a cap of \$158, no other union or non-union employees have a cap. For the first time ever, the cost is exceeding the cap. Our dependent plan is not competitive at all, which is actually driving our healthcare plans up in cost because our insured population keeps getting older.
- viii. **Budget Philosophy Conversation**– There will be a PowerPoint of options for revenue generation. We need to either make more money or start being realistic about what we can fund.

**d. Justice and Social Services–**

**a. Closed Session Minutes**

**e. Other Business- none**

6. **Next Caucus Meeting:** Thursday, September 21, 2023, 5:45 pm

7. **Adjournment** 6:27 pm