

RESUME OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
June 20, 2024

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, June 30, 2024, at 6:35 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: Locke, Lokshin, Michaels, Owen, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Smith, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, Wilson, Cowart, Esry, Farney, Fortado, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, and Carter – 21; absent: Thorsland – 1. County Executive Summers declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business. One member departed early: Peugh (at 8:37 PM at the Standing Committees section of the Agenda and missed all subsequent votes).

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

County Executive Summers read 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 June 13, June 18, and June 20, 2024.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA

Board Member Lokshin offered a motion to approve the Agenda/Addenda; Board Member Esry seconded.

Board Member Stohr offered an amendment to move up items XII. B. 2. (Resolution No. 2024-154) and XIV. C. 3 and 4. (American Rescue Plan Act: Vision to Succeed and DREAAM updates) to be placed between IX. (Communications) and X. (Approval of Minutes); Board Member Farney seconded. The amendment carried by unanimous voice vote.

The motion as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

County Board:

B. Study Session

Tuesday June 25, 2024, at 6:00 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room

A. Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jodie Zitko, Kane County resident representing United Sovereign Americans, spoke about claims of voting discrepancies in Illinois in the 2022 general election, questioning the validity of that election, and she read the first portion of an election-related “resolution” that United Sovereign Americans wished the Board to consider.

Babe Paukstys, Cook County resident representing United Sovereign Americans, continued reading the group’s “resolution.”

Joe Bridge, Tazwell County resident representing United Sovereign Americans, continued reading the group’s “resolution.”

Ken Zitko, Kane County resident and Illinois Co-Chair of United Sovereign Americans, completed reading the group’s “resolution,” offered to distribute the “resolution” to Board Members, and urged the Board to take up the “resolution” either that night or at a subsequent meeting.

Darlene Kloeppe, former Champaign County Executive, presented to the county, a quilt commissioned during her time as County Executive by the Illini Country Stitchers.

Tony Grillo, of Donato Solar, briefly spoke about Ordinance 2024-7 and noted that he will be available to answer questions during the discussion of that ordinance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Member Michaels offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Board Member Sexton seconded. The motion comprising 21 resolutions (Nos. 2024-131, 2024-132, 2024-133, 2024-134, 2024-135, 2024-136, 2024-137, 2024-138, 2024-139, 2024-140, 2024-141, 2024-142, 2024-143, 2024-144, 2024-145, 2024-146, 2024-147, 2024-148, 2024-149, 2024-150, and 2024-151) carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: Locke, Lokshin, Michaels, Owen, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Smith, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, Wilson, Cowart, Esry, Farney, Fortado, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, and Carter – 21

Nays: none

Board Chair Carter offered a motion to approve Consent Agenda Addendum: Resolution No. 2024-160 approving extension for the RY2023 separate annual audit for the Circuit Clerk of Champaign County; Board Member Farney seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: Locke, Lokshin, Michaels, Owen, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Smith, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, Wilson, Cowart, Esry, Farney, Fortado, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, and Carter – 21

Nays: none

COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Wilson noted that June 20 was both the first day of summer and national Bald Eagle Day. He spoke about veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and noted that June 27 is PTSD awareness day. He read an excerpt from the Declaration of Independence and noted that he has small American flags to distribute for the Fourth of July.

Board Member Esry urged drivers to be cautious in rural areas with tall crops and freshly tar-and-chipped roads.

Board Member Straub solicited water donations for homeless services in the county.

RESOLUTION No. 2024-154

Board Member Stohr offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-154 honoring the memory of Champaign County Corrections Officer Jennie Ashley; Board Member Lokshin seconded. Board Member Stohr read the entire text of the resolution. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

Banio Koroma, Vision to Succeed founder and Chief Executive Officer, presented an update about the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded program, demonstrating the progress and future plans. Various Board Members praised the program. Board Chair Carter asked about the request for further funds; Mr. Koroma stated the program is seeking \$100,000 in post-ARPA funds. Board Member Michaels advised the program seek non-governmental grant funding as well. Board Member Hanauer-Friedman noted similar work by Project Unloaded in Chicago and recommended partnering with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). Board Member Cowart asked about the program's recruitment methods; Mr. Koroma stated that the most effective recruitment method is peer-to-peer word of mouth.

Tracy Dace, Driven to Reach Excellence and Academic Achievement for Males (DREAAM) founder and Chief Executive Officer, presented an update about the ARPA-funded project, demonstrating progress and outlining future plans. The Nunn family (mother Danisha and children Synthany and TJ) also spoke about their experiences with the program. Mr. Dace noted an upcoming program Up Lift Hope, at 5:00 PM on June 29, at the I Hotel. Mr. Dace requested \$500,000 in additional funds to continue and expand the program to include remodeled office space. Various Board Member

praised the program. Board Member Michaels asked about partnering with local park districts for programmatic space use and recommended seeking funding from other local groups. Board Member Wilson asked about the social work students working with the program; Mr. Dace provided the background on the UIUC Master of Social Work internships and the exchange program between the UIUC School of Social Work and the National Taiwan University's Department of Social Work.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Farney offered an omnibus motion to approve the minutes of the Stydt Session of the County Board of April 23, 2024, and the Regular Meeting of the County Board of May 23, 2024; Board Member Cowart seconded. Board Member Locke noted a typographical error that stated the County Clerk instead of the Circuit Clerk in the Regular Meeting minutes (p. 7 of the minutes and p. 48 in the Agenda); County Executive stated the minutes will be corrected. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES

County Executive Summers noted that the Summary of Action Taken for the County Facilities Committee on June 4, 2024, was received and placed on file.

Board Member Lokshin offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-152 approving extension letters of understanding with Bailey Edward Design, Inc., Reifsteck Reid and Company Architects, *and* GHR Engineers and Associates, Inc.; Board Member Locke seconded. Board Member Wilson objected to extending the contracts without opening a new request for quotation (RFQ) process. Board Member Lokshin noted that the firms are currently managing the two high-profile county projects: the County Plaza renovation and the Jail Consolidation; Board Member Fortado stated that it could prove disastrous to change firms mid-project. Board Members Michaels, Lokshin, and Fortado stated that the extension will be through 2025, with a new RFQ process following. Board Member Wilson suggested the firms could be retained for the County Plaza and Jail Consolidation projects, and an RFQ process for all other projects; Board Member Fortado stated that such a plan would be complicated and financially irresponsible; Board Member Lokshin added that the current contracts allow for a two-year extension, and Board Member Farney noted that the pay rates will remain the same in the extension. The motion carried by voice vote.

County Executive Summers noted that the Summary of Action Taken for the Environment and Land Use Committee on June 6, 2024, was received and placed on file.

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-7 granting a special use permit, Zoning Case 111-S-23 Donato Solar – Bondville LLC" PV Solar Farm including the decommissioning and site reclamation plan; Board Member Owen seconded.

Board Member Farney provided some background on the Environment and Land Use Committee's consideration of the ordinance. The motion carried by roll-call vote.

Yeas: Locke, Lokshin, Michaels, Owen, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Smith, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, Cowart, Farney, Fortado, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, and Carter – 18

Nays: Wilson and Esry – 2

Board Member Esry offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-8 approving the decommissioning and site reclamation plan for the "Wolf/Wertz Site1 Solar Project" community solar farm (south part of Zoning Case 903-S-18); Board Member Michaels seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: Locke, Lokshin, Michaels, Owen, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Smith, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, Wilson, Cowart, Esry, Farney, Fortado, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, and Carter – 20

Nays: none

Board member Esry offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-9 approving the decommissioning and site reclamation plan for the "Woodard Trust Solar Project" community solar farm (Zoning Case 907-S-18); Board Member Straub seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: Locke, Lokshin, Michaels, Owen, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Smith, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, Wilson, Cowart, Esry, Farney, Fortado, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, and Carter – 20

Nays: none

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

County Executive Summers noted that the Summary of action from the Committee of the Whole (Justice and Social Services; Finance; Policy, Personnel, and Appointments) on June 11, 2024, was received and placed on file.

Board Member Taylor offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-10 establishing Champaign County Animal Control policies and procedures; Board Member Michaels seconded. Board Member Michaels noted that section 5.6 C requires the Board to select a rabies inoculation registration tag fee waiver base on either age or income.

Board Member Michaels offered a motion to amend the ordinance selecting the age-base fee waiver, exempting those 65 years of age or older; Board Member Farney seconded. Various Board Members discussed the pros and cons of the two waiver options, including approving both or neither, and the verification process of the income-based waiver. Director of Administration Michelle Jett was invited to join the discussion; she stated that Animal Control is solely funded through its fees and does not receive general funds. Board Member Michaels asked about the financial impact of the fee waiver on Animal Control; Director Jett stated that is not currently know, and County Executive Summers added that the data is currently being collected and will be available in the near future. Board Member Vanichtheeranont noted that rabies is a serious concern and that it is in the best interest of the county to maximize the vaccinated population rates.

Board Member Michaels asked if the Board must resolve the issue immediately; Director Jett noted that other portions of the ordinance require immediate action. The motion to amend the ordinance setting the age-based fee waiver carried by unanimous voice vote.

The motion to adopt the ordinance as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Fortado offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-153 placing the question of Approval of the Special County Retailers' Occupation Tax for Public Safety on the November 5, 2024 General Election ballot; Board Member Taylor seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Locke offered a motion to approve a Recreation and Entertainment License for Fisher Fair at the Fisher Fairgrounds, 226 East Sangamon Street, Fisher, IL, to be held July 7 – July 13, 2024; Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board member Farney offered an omnibus motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-155 authorizing payments of claims and Resolution No. 2024-156 approving purchases not following purchasing policy. Board Member Smith seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Lokshin offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-157 approving Budget Amendment BUA 2024/6/84 to purchase computer equipment for the new judge with funds from AOIC's Technology Modernization program; Board Member Esry seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: Locke, Lokshin, Michaels, Owen, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Smith, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, Wilson, Cowart, Esry, Farney, Fortado, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, and Carter – 20

Nays: none

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-158 approving amendment to contract with P.J. Hoerr Inc. for County Jail Consolidation Project; Board Member Lokshin seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

County Executive Summers raised the discussion of the revised County Logo. Board Member Locke noted that her family members who farm approved of the corn on the revised logo. Board Member Michaels decried the wasted time and money in the County Logo change project. Board Member Lokshin noted that the logo would be incrementally implemented, introduced when old items bearing the logo are replaced. Director Jett was invited to join the discussion; she stated that the Board will soon need to decide on the logo, in order for it to be used at the County Plaza. Board Member

Stohr asked if department heads were consulted in the project; County Executive stated they had not been consulted as it will not change the official seal, just create a new logo.

County Executive Summers noted the Decennial Committee Reports to the County Board from Moyers District Library and the Joint Sadorus Township and Road District have been received and placed on file and are available for viewing on the County's website.

No ARPA updates were presented.

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-159 authorizing an amendment to intergovernmental agreement with the Village of St. Joseph; Board Member Sexton seconded. Board Member Esry thanked the Board for committing ARPA fund to the Village of St. Joseph's water infrastructure project. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURN

County Executive Summers adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.



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