



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Finance/ Policy, Personnel, & Appointments/Justice & Social Services

County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Shields-Carter Meeting Room

Brookens Administrative Center

1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois

MINUTES – Approved as Distributed on June 11, 2024

Members Present: Aaron Esry, John Farney, Stephanie Fortado, Carolyn Greer, Elly Hanauer-Friedman, Jennifer Locke, Jenny Lokshin, Diane Michaels, Donald Owen, Brett Peugh, Emily Rodriguez, Jilmala Rogers, Mike Smith, Chris Stohr, Jennifer Straub, Leah Taylor, Eric Thorsland and Jeff Wilson

Members Absent: Samantha Carter, Lorraine Cowart, Tom ‘Ed’ Sexton and Bethany Vanichtheeranont

Others Present: Steve Summers (County Executive), Michelle Jett (Director of Administration), Travis Woodcock (Budget Director), David Murphy (VAC Superintendent), Susan McGrath (Circuit Clerk), Liz Pollock (Public Defender), Katie Harmon (RPC Continuum of Care Coordinator), Lisa Benson (RPC Community Services Director) and Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)

Agenda Items

I. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Locke called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

III. Approval of Agenda/Addenda

MOTION by Ms. Straub to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Lokshin.

MOTION to Amend by Mr. Stohr to change item X. A. to say “New County Logo”; seconded by Ms. Taylor. Upon vote, the **MOTION to Amend CARRIED** unanimously.

Upon vote the **MOTION to Approve the Agenda as Amended CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. April 9, 2024 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Mr. Esry to approve the minutes of April 9, 2024; seconded by Mr. Thorsland. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

V. Public Participation

Cathy Emanuel, Advocates for Aging Care Member, came to support lifting the restrictions on the old Nursing Home property. In the last year, they have learned the current facility is no longer a viable option for a skilled nursing home and trying to retain it as such will no longer support the aging population of our community. She explained that they have formed a community collaborative, done research, submitted an application for grant funding, released an RFQ for a consultant and they are now in the process of completing a needs assessment. They will be presenting the results at the June 11th Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Susan Schnuer, Advocates for Aging Care Member, shared a story about someone she met who struggled to find a local nursing facility for a family member. This is a problem in our community, and they are working to find a solution. Lifting the deed restrictions is the first step in the right direction.

VI. Communications

Ms. Hanauer-Friedman mentioned the grant for the Firearm Safe Storage and job opening that will be paid through this grant.

Mr. Wilson participated in the National Police Officers Week and shared details from the service in Springfield. He also quoted Susana Mendoza's speech speaking out against hate and violence against police. He expressed his sorrow for those that have given the ultimate sacrifice and gratitude for those that continue to serve and protect us.

Mr. Stohr attended the Drug Court Graduation. He reminded everyone of how the County Board has funded more staff for this initiative. He explained the successes of the Drug Court Program. Now the County Board needs to take the steps to create a Mental Health Court to combat the domestic violence that plagues the community. Also, Mr. Stohr attended the Emerging Contaminants in the Environment Conference and explained that rising amounts of PFAS (Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances) are being found people and the products we buy. It is in our best interest to remove this from our drinking water, but we may see an increase in our bills because it is an expensive process.

Mr. Owen expressed his disappointment with the leadership at the University of Illinois for the mishandling of the students' liberation zone on April 26th. Law enforcement was called in to deal with "increasing tension" and he personally did not witness any tension until the officers arrived. The Illinois Marathon was cancelled due to their actions, causing a major economic lose to the community. He is truly appalled that students were arrested for exercising their first amendment rights.

Ms. Fortado stated that domestic violence in our community is an ongoing health and safety emergency, and we need to do better. She would like to convene a task force of community stakeholders to find better solutions. The time to act is now.

Mr. Thorsland informed the Board that 60% of the power used in Europe, in January & February, came from renewable energy sources. One of the biggest drivers of those statistics has been the repowering of old wind farms with new turbines and blades. In the U.S., we currently have 40 active repowering projects. Champaign County's wind ordinance is not compliant with state law, and he will continue to remind the Board members that they have failed to bring the County into compliance.

Ms. Locke reminded everyone that March was national MS month but today marked fifteen years since her own diagnosis. She listed many of the symptoms and asked everyone to share with their family members to aid in quicker diagnosis'.

VII. Justice and Social Services

A. Monthly Reports – All reports are available on each department's webpage

- Public Defender – April 2024
- Emergency Management Agency – April 2024
- Veterans' Assistance Commission – April 2024
- Probation & Court Services – March 2024 & 1st Quarter Statistics
- Animal Control – March 2024

Received and placed on file

B. Rosecrance Re-Entry Reports

- Financial Report – March 2024
- Program Report – March 2024

Information only

C. Continuum of Service Providers to the Homeless Strategic Plan

Ms. Harmon shared some details of her background and what she does for the Regional Planning Commission. The Continuum of Service providers to the Homeless have approved a 3-year strategic plan and she shared details of their plan. She gave details of about funding, the participants, and their mission statement. She listed the planning priorities and details of each priority; permanent housing, data utilization & quality, equity, landlord engagement and lived experience representation. She then wrapped up the presentation with their upcoming priorities.

Mr. Owen asked about engagement with the school districts and Ms. Harmon explained that they are working to reestablish that connection. There were questions about some of the data and Ms. Harmon explained there is a homeless management information system, and the goal is to get more groups to enter their data into this system, so they have a better overall picture of homelessness in Champaign County. Ms. Fortado is interested in the low-income housing tax credit program and asked administration to look into it.

D. Veterans' Assistance Commission Annual Update

Mr. Murphy requested to give an update after holding office for the last year. He has hired an administrative assistant who has also been accredited as a Veteran's Service Officer. He has assisted veterans in our community to receive approximately \$1 million annually in disability funds. He is working with Rockford County to put together a one-stop-shop type program that they do weekly. He has been working with community partners to get this program started in Champaign County. Finally, he gave information about some upcoming events for veterans.

Board members continued to discuss the number of veterans they assist on a weekly basis and how long they spend with each one. Mr. Peugh invited Mr. Murphy to Post 559, and he shared a lot of good information with the veterans. Ms. Fortado will be sending him contact information for the organized building trades because they may be interested in participating in the one-stop-shop program.

E. Other Business

None

F. Chair's Report

None

G. Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda

None

VIII. Policy, Personnel, & Appointments

A. County Executive

1. Monthly HR Report – April 2024

Received and placed on file

2. Appointments/Reappointments (*italics indicates incumbent*)

- a. Resolution Appointing *Susan Frobish (D)* to the Board of Review, term 6/1/2024-5/31/2026
- b. Resolution Appointing *Chris Diana (R)* to the Board of Review, term 6/1/2024-5/31/2026

OMNIBUS MOTION by Ms. Lokshin to recommend County Board approval of resolutions appointing Susan Frobish and Chris Diana to the Board of Review; seconded by Mr. Esry. Mr. Farney would like to hear from the Board of Review regarding their the office hours. He has had many complaints about them being closed on Fridays. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- c. Resolution Appointing *Richard Rayburn* to the Farmland Assessment Review Committee, term 6/1/2024-5/31/2028
- d. Resolution Appointing Daniel Herriott to the Farmland Assessment Review Committee, term 6/1/2024-5/31/2028

OMNIBUS MOTION by Mr. Farney to recommend County Board approval of resolutions appointing Richard Rayburn and Daniel Herriott to the Farmland Assessment Review Committee; seconded by Mr. Esry. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- e. Resolution Appointing *Charles Nerone* to the Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District, term 6/1/2024-5/31/2027

MOTION by Ms. Michaels to recommend County Board approval of a resolution appointing Charles Nerone to the Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District. Mr. Wilson mentioned what a great addition Mr. Nerone has been to the this Board and hope he continues the great work. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- f. Resolution Appointing Paul Debevec (D) to the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District, term ending 12/31/2025

MOTION by Mr. Thorsland to recommend County Board approval of a resolution appointing Paul Debevec to the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District; seconded by Ms. Rogers. Mr. Thorsland stated he knows Mr. Debevec uses the bus routes often and is very well educated on the mass transit system. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- g. Resolution Appointing Samantha Carter as a County Board Liaison on the Region 8 Human Service Transportation Plan (HSTP) Policy Committee, term ending 11/30/2024

MOTION by Mr. Peugh to recommend County Board approval of a resolution appointing Samantha Carter as the County Board Liaison on the Region 8 Human Service Transportation Plan Policy Committee; seconded by Ms. Locke. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- h. Currently vacant appointments – full list and information is available on the County’s website

Information only

B. County Clerk

1. Monthly Fee Reports – April 2024

Received and placed on file

C. Other Business

None

D. Chair's Report

None

E. Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda

VIII. A. 2. a-g

IX. Finance

A. Budget Amendments/Transfers

1. Budget Amendment BUA 2024/5/22

Fund 1080 General Corporate / Dept 040 Sheriff

Increased Appropriations: \$122,020

Increased Revenue: \$122,020

Reason: Appropriation of the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board grant funds.

MOTION by Ms. Michaels to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2024/5/22; seconded by Ms. Straub. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

2. Budget Amendment BUA 2024/5/23

Fund 1080 General Corporate / Dept 043 Emergency Management Agency

Increased Appropriations: \$40,000

Increased Revenue: \$40,000

Reason: The funds received from the sale of the old mobile command post, were deposited into the General Fund. The EMA would like to use those funds for replacing another vehicle in their fleet.

MOTION by Mr. Smith to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2024/5/23; seconded by Mr. Thorsland. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

3. Budget Amendment BUA 2024/5/84

Fund 2500 County Grant Fund / Dept 075 General County

Increased Appropriations: \$150,388.69

Increased Revenue: \$150,388.69

Reason: Appropriation for the Firearms Safe Storage Strategies grant funds.

MOTION by Ms. Hanauer-Friedman to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2024/5/84; seconded by Ms. Greer. Discussion followed regarding who this position reports to and the length of this position. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

B. Regional Planning Commission

1. Funding request for Summer Cooling Program

Ms. Benson explained that the Summer Cooling Program is separate from the LIHEAP program. All funds for LIHEAP have been exhausted as of May 9, 2024. The Regional Planning Commission is proposing a summer cooling program to fill the gaps of LIHEAP. This year there is less funding due to the pandemic ending but the utility costs have continued to increase. This program would only be for people with a disconnection notice who have someone in their household that is at a higher risk when exposed to the heat of the summer. They have requested additional funding from ARPA funds to assist more households.

Board members continued to discuss how many people would receive assistance and how long the program will last. Ms. Fortado mentioned all of the current requests for ARPA funding that they will be discussing at the County Board Meeting. She wanted to make sure they had some time to learn about this program and ask questions before they make a decision next week.

C. Auditor

1. Monthly Report – February 2024 – Reports are available on the Auditor’s webpage

Received and placed on file

2. GFOA’s Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Information only

3. Resolution Establishing Salaries of Elected Officials – County Auditor, Circuit Clerk, Coroner Treasurer and County Clerk/Recorder

Ms. Fortado gave some historic background on the elected officials salaries and the evergreen resolution. She clarified that the evergreen resolution is still in place, and they do not need to take action. The Auditor, Circuit Clerk and Coroner have presented a new resolution to replace the evergreen resolution. Unfortunately, the resolution they presented would need some substantial changes before it could legally be approved.

Ms. McGrath joined the conversation and explained that the chief deputies are making more than the department head in many offices. She would like to bring all of the elected official salaries in-line throughout Champaign County.

Board members continued the discussion about parity and equity in the County and what that means, the information that is missing from the proposed resolution, putting lower paid staff before elected officials, and just leaving the current resolution in place. Mr. Farney clarified that setting the salaries for elected officials is a duty of the County Board. The evergreen resolution takes away that duty and he would like to get back to making this decision every four years before the election. He requested to update this resolution. Board members conquered that they would discuss this further at the County Board meeting.

D. County Executive

1. Intergovernmental Agreement in Opposition to the Water Rate Increase Proposed by Illinois-American Water Company

Ms. Jett stated she is still waiting to receive the completed agreement from the City of Champaign. She would like to know if the Board has any questions about this agreement before it comes to them for a final vote. Ms. Fortado asked about the cost of this agreement. Ms. Jett explained that the other entities are paying a percentage according to their population and the County settled on a flat rate of \$5,000.

Mr. Peugh left the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

2. Resolution Supporting Illinois House Bill 4512 (HB4512)

MOTION by Mr. Thorsland to recommend County Board approval of a resolution supporting Illinois House Bill 4512; seconded by Mr. Farney. Discussion continued regarding how this would help save the County money. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

3. Resolution Adopting the Champaign County Financial Policies

MOTION by Mr. Farney to recommend County Board approval of a resolution adopting the Champaign County Financial Policies; seconded by Ms. Straub. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

4. Resolution Establishing the Budget Process for Champaign County for FY2025

MOTION by Ms. Michaels to recommend County Board approval of a resolution establishing the budget process for Champaign County for FY2025; seconded by Ms. Lokshin. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

E. County Board

1. Approval of travel reimbursement to County Board Member Brett Peugh for the annual NACo Conference

MOTION by Ms. Locke to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving travel reimbursement to County Board Member Brett Peugh for the annual NACo Conference; seconded by Mr. Thorsland. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of costs increasing and inquiring if other members would like to attend the conference.

MOTION to AMEND by Ms. Fortado to allow for expenses up to \$2,500; seconded by Mr. Farney. Upon vote, the **MOTION to AMEND CARRIED** unanimously.
Upon vote, the **MOTION with AMENDMENT CARRIED** unanimously.

F. Other Business

1. Future budgetary needs in the Public Defender's Office

Ms. Pollock wanted to clarify some information that has been given to them by other department heads that do not work in her office. Her office is currently fully staffed according to the positions she is allowed to fill but the American Bar Association says they need at least eleven more positions to meet all of their constitutional requirements and to prevent burnout. Survival is not a way to provide services to our community. She asked all of the Board members to reach out to her if they have questions about the needs of her office.

The Board members recognize how difficult the work of a public defender is and they thank everyone in the office for the work they do. In order to create more positions in this office, the County will need more revenue.

G. Chair's Report

1. Explanation of fund balances and bonds

Ms. Fortado listed several items of incorrect information in the report that was given by the County Auditor last month. She wanted to ensure that County Board members understand fund balances and bonds, so she included additional information in the packet in regard to those items that were misrepresented in the

Auditor's Report. She asked anyone that has questions to please reach out to her and she would be more than happy to discuss or clarify information.

H. Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda

IX. A. 1-3, D. 2-4, E. 1

X. Other Business

A. New County Logo

Ms. Jett presented the latest updates to the County Logo after the feedback received at previous meetings.

XI. Adjournment

Vice-Chair Locke adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.