



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

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

County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

Shields-Carter Meeting Room

Bennett Administrative Center

102 E. Main Street, Urbana, Illinois

**MINUTES** – Approved as Distributed on February 10, 2026

**Members Present:** **Dennise Arres, Jon Cagle, Samantha Carter, Aaron Esry, John Farney, Jake Fava, Stephanie Fortado, Jenny Lokshin, Brett Peugh, Emily Rodriguez, Jilmala Rogers, Ed Sexton, Matt Sullard, Eric Thorsland, Bethany Vanichtheeranont, Daniel Wiggs, Jeff Wilson and Jennifer Locke**

**Members Absent:** **Ben Crane, Lorraine Cowart, Elly Hanauer-Friedman, and Monique Settles**

**Others Present:** **Steve Summers (County Executive), Michelle Jett (Director of Administration), Chris Smith (Building and Grounds Manager), Liz Pollock (Public Defender), Julia Rietz (State’s Attorney), Shannon Barrett (Chief Deputy Sheriff), Matt Welson (Detective), Kaitlyn Kuzio (Grant Coordinator), Lauri Brauer (Coroner), and Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)**

**Agenda Items**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Locke called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

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

**III. Approval of Agenda/Addenda**

**MOTION** by Mr. Esry to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Vanichtheeranont. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

A. December 9, 2025 – Regular Meeting

**MOTION** by Ms. Vanichtheeranont to approve the minutes of December 9, 2025; seconded by Mr. Sexton. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**V. Public Input**

Jason Benda, County employee, asked the Committee to take caution when voting to eliminate positions. He is not opposed to the proposed changes, but he has some concerns with the proposed changes. He listed some of his concerns and gave examples of why they can be an issue. He also believes the Director of Administration position will need to be re-graded after these changes.

Chris Smith, Building and Grounds Manager, spoke about the Facilities Department restructuring. He asked why this was necessary and wondered if administration did not like the work he was doing since they are proposing to eliminate his position. He mentioned that duties were missing, and others were duplicated across the job descriptions. Finally, he stated that this was a complete surprise to the entire department, and many may consider resigning.

Esley Carter chose not to speak when called.

Benjamin Beaupre, resident of Champaign, spoke about the loss of the Re-Entry Council but mentioned it is still a need in the community. He asked the County Board members to revisit the recommendations from the Racial Justice Task Force. He would like to see the recommendation for the community engagement oversight committee come to fruition, so the community members know about all of the resources within the community.

James Benson, Juvenile Redeploy Illinois Program Director, stated he is here to answer any questions that may arise when voting to add the grant positions to the Administrative Services Department. He stated they are looking to move to a location that is better aligned with the state's recommended program model. Also, they would like to move the program in order to retain staff. He wants to be intentional about who runs the program in order to provide the best services.

Marlin Livingston, Cunningham Children's Home Chief Executive Officer, expressed concern regarding the transfer of the Adult Redeploy Illinois grant positions to the County. He shared some background information and stated they were not given proper notice in regard to the proposed changes. The state has not expressed any performance concerns to him about the program.

## **VI. Communications**

Ms. Rogers shared mentioned the upcoming medical legal death investigation professional's week. She also shared information about the country's first coroner and wished all of them a happy coroner's week.

Mr. Wilson shared information from an article that was published about a Post 559 color guard that is retiring after 20 years of service.

## **VII. Policy, Personnel, & Appointments**

### **A. County Executive**

#### **1. Monthly HR Report – December 2025**

Received and placed on file.

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

##### **a. Reappointing *Dennis Butler* to the Pesotum Slough Special Drainage District, unexpired term ending 8/31/2028**

**MOTION** by Ms. Locke to recommend County Board approval of a resolution appointing Dennis Butler to the Pesotum Slough Special Drainage District; seconded by Mr. Esry. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

##### **b. Appointing Doug Bennett to the Sangamon & Drummer Drainage District, unexpired term ending 8/31/2028**

**MOTION** by Mr. Farney to recommend County Board approval of a resolution appointing Doug Bennett to the Sangamon & Drummer Drainage District; seconded by Mr. Wilson. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- c. Appointing Jilmala Rogers as the County Board Liaison on the Martin Luther King Jr Celebration Committee

**MOTION** by Ms. Lokshin to recommend County Board approval of a resolution appointing Jilmala Rogers as the County Board liaison on the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee; seconded by Mr. Sullard. Mr. Wilson thanked Ms. Rogers for being willing to serve on this committee. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- d. Appointing Ed Sexton as the County Board Liaison on the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study (CUUATS) Policy Committee

**MOTION** by Ms. Locke to recommend County Board approval of a resolution appointing Ed Sexton as the County Board liaison on the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study; seconded by Mr. Thorsland. Ms. Locke noted that the language in the CUUATS By-laws needs to be updated to reflect the county executive form of government. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- e. 2026 Annual Listing of Expiring Appointments

Information only

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

Information only

**B. County Clerk**

- 1. Fee Reports – December 2025 & Semi-Annual Report (July-December 2025)

Received and placed on file.

**C. County Executive**

- 1. Resolution Creating a Building and Grounds Safety Committee

**MOTION** by Mr. Farney to recommend County Board approval of a resolution creating a Building and Grounds Safety Committee; seconded by Mr. Wilson. Mr. Wilson asked if something specific occurred or if this is a way to be proactive. Ms. Jett explained that these are public buildings, and it is best to train the staff for any possible issues. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- 2. Amending the Schedule of Authorized Positions in the Coroner’s Office – Autopsy Technician and Pathologist

**MOTION** by Ms. Rogers to recommend County Board approval of a resolution amending the schedule of authorized positions in the Coroner’s Office; seconded by Mr. Sullard. Ms. Locke asked why they want to move this position from being contracted out to being a county employee. Ms. Brauer explained there is a shortage of pathologists nationwide and offering benefits is a way to attract them to Champaign County. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

3. Amending the Schedule of Authorized Positions in the Juvenile Detention Center – PREA Coordinator

**MOTION** by Ms. Lokshin to recommend County Board approval of a resolution amending the schedule of authorized positions in the Juvenile Detention Center; seconded by Mr. Esry. Mr. Farney reminded everyone that this position has already been funded in the FY2026 budget and will be required by the State moving forward. Ms. Lokshin also reminded everyone that this is a reimbursable position, so the County only pays for fringe benefits. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

4. Amending the Schedule of Authorized Positions in the Administrative Services Department – Grant Coordinator and Grant Reporting Clerk

**MOTION** by Mr. Thorsland to recommend County Board approval of a resolution amending the schedule of authorized positions in the Administrative Services Department; seconded by Mr. Sullard. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED**.

5. Amending the Schedule of Authorized Positions in the Administrative Services Department - Program Director, Therapist, Case Manager and Family Engagement Specialist

**MOTION** by Ms. Lokshin to recommend County Board approval of a resolution amending the schedule of authorized positions in the Administrative Services Department; seconded by Mr. Farney.  
**MOTION to TABLE** to the January County Board meeting by Mr. Sullard; seconded by Mr. Farney. Extensive discussion continued regarding whether a week would be enough time to get all of the stakeholders together to discuss how this change will affect them. Ms. Locke stated she would table the motion again at the January County Board meeting if the stakeholders were unable to meet. Upon vote, the **MOTION to TABLE CARRIED**.

Mr. Sullard left the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

6. Amending the Schedule of Authorized Positions in the Physical Plant and Administrative Services Departments – Maintenance Manager, Custodial and Grounds Manager and Facilities Project Manager Positions

**MOTION** by Ms. Lokshin to recommend County Board approval of a resolution amending the schedule of authorized positions in the Physical Plant and Administrative Services Department; seconded by Mr. Farney.

Ms. Jett explained that current positions have too much work on their plate. They would like to divide them more evenly, so staff can appropriately focus on their duties. Mr. Peugh raised concerns about the possibility of this being budget neutral and decreasing the use of architects and engineers for County projects. Ms. Fortado was surprised when she learned that the custodial management staff and the capital project manager were the same person in the current structure. Ms. Carter does not feel comfortable adding another task to the Executive's Office. Mr. Wilson believes the Project Manager position should be a standalone position that reports to Finance or directly to the Executive.

Upon roll call vote, the **MOTION CARRIED 12-5**.

Yeas: Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Arres, Esry, Farney, Fava, Fortado, Lokshin, Rodriguez, Sexton, Locke

Nay: Wilson, Cagle, Carter, Peugh, Rogers

D. Other Business

None

E. Chair's Report

None

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

VII. A. 2a-d, C. 1-3

**VIII. Finance**

A. Budget Amendments/Transfers

1. Monthly General Corporate Budget Amendment Report – December 2025

Information only

2. Budget Amendment BUA 2026/1/13

Fund 2500 County Grant Fund / Dept 075 General County

Increased Appropriations: \$74,377.88

Increased Revenue: \$74,377.88

Reason: Appropriation of the Firearms Safe Storage Strategies Grant funding for FY2026.

**MOTION** by Mr. Thorsland to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2026/1/13; seconded by Ms. Lokshin. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

3. Budget Amendment BUA 2026/1/14

Fund 2500 County Grant Fund / Dept 031 Circuit Court & 052 Court Services

Increased Appropriations: \$200,000

Increased Revenue: \$200,000

Reason: Appropriation of the Adult Redeploy Illinois Grant funds for FY2026.

**MOTION** by Ms. Vanichtheeranont to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2026/1/14; seconded by Mr. Sexton. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

4. Budget Amendment BUA 2026/1/15

Fund 2500 County Grant Fund / Dept 036 Public Defender

Increased Appropriations: \$25,000

Increased Revenue: \$25,000

Reason: Appropriation of Expert Witness Support Grant funds.

**MOTION** by Ms. Carter to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2026/1/15; seconded by Mr. Esry. Upon vote the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

5. Budget Amendment BUA 2026/1/16  
Fund 2679 Child Advocacy Center / Dept 179 Child Advocacy Center  
Increased Appropriations: \$37,500  
Increased Revenue: \$37,500  
Reason: Appropriation of grant funds from the United Way.

**MOTION** by Ms. Locke to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2026/1/16; seconded by Ms. Carter. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

6. Budget Amendment BUA 2026/1/19  
Fund 2679 Child Advocacy Center / Dept 179 Child Advocacy Center  
Increased Appropriations: \$3,500  
Increased Revenue: \$3,500  
Reason: Appropriation of grant funds from the Community Foundation of East Central Illinois.

**MOTION** by Ms. Vanichtheeranont to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2026/1/19; seconded by Mr. Cagle. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

7. Budget Amendment BUA 2026/1/18  
Fund 2634 Public Defender Grant Fund / Dept 036 Public Defender  
Increased Appropriations: \$14,471.85  
Increased Revenue: \$14,471.85  
Reason: Appropriation of remaining funds from the AOIC Grant.

**MOTION** by Mx. Arres to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2026/1/18; seconded by Mr. Thorsland. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

B. Auditor

1. Monthly Reports through June 2025 are available on the Auditor's webpage

Information only

C. Treasurer

1. Monthly Report – November & December 2025 – Reports are available on the Treasurer's webpage

Received and placed on file.

D. County Executive

1. Available Budget Report – December 2025

Information only

2. FY2024 Audit Update

Information only

E. Other Business

1. January 27, 2026 – Study Session

Information only

F. Chair's Report

None

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

VIII. A. 2-7

**IX. Justice and Social Services**

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

- Probation & Court Services – November 2025
- Public Defender – December 2025
- Emergency Management Agency – December 2025

Received and placed on file

B. Sheriff

1. Safety Assessment Management and Mitigation Team Intergovernmental Agreement

**MOTION** by Ms. Vanichtheeranont to recommend County Board approval of a Safety Assessment Management and Mitigation Team Intergovernmental Agreement; seconded by Mr. Thorsland.

Mx. Arres clarified what a SAMM Triage and Management Plan and how does this information affect members of the community. Detective Weldon explained how the triage process works, stating that many tips do not make it through the triage process. The tips that make it through the triage process go through a threat assessment that is applicable to their specific circumstances. Most of the information received will not affect community members because it will be kept confidential unless it becomes criminal in nature. Ms. Carter asked how this will be beneficial to the community. Detective Weldon explained that the goal is to interrupt anyone that is on a pathway to violence. Mr. Wilson inquired about other communities joining the SAMM Team. Detective Weldon explained that other communities are welcome to join.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED**.

C. Other Business

None

D. Chair's Report

None

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

None

**X. Other Business**

- A. Approval of Closed Session Minutes  
1. December 9, 2025

**MOTION** by Mr. Esry to approve the closed session minutes of December 9, 2025; seconded by Ms. Vanichtheeranont. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**XI. Adjournment**

Chair Locke adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.