



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

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

County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

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Shields-Carter Meeting Room

Bennett Administrative Center

102 E. Main Street, Urbana, Illinois

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

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**Members Present:** **Dennise Arres, Jon Cagle, Samantha Carter, Lorraine Cowart, Aaron Esry, John Farney, Stephanie Fortado, Elly Hanauer-Friedman, 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, Jake Fava, and Monique Settles**

**Others Present:** **Steve Summers (County Executive), Michelle Jett (Director of Administration), Chris Smith (Building and Grounds Manager), Shannon Siders (Probation & Court Services Director), Shawna Den Otter (Training & Outreach Coordinator), and Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)**

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**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 Ms. Vanichtheeranont to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Sullard.

**MOTION to AMEND** by Ms. Hanauer-Friedman to move item VI. Communications to immediately follow item X. Other Business; seconded by Ms. Lokshin. Upon vote, the **MOTION to AMEND CARRIED**.

Upon vote, the **MOTION** to approve the Agenda as amended **CARRIED**.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

A. January 13, 2026 – Regular Meeting

**MOTION** by Ms. Vanichtheeranont to approve the minutes of January 13, 2026; seconded by Mr. Sexton.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**V. Public Input**

Marci Adelston-Schafer came to speak in support of the RIFL Act resolution on the agenda. She listed details of the act, how the fees would be determined and how the funds would be used. She stated this act does not impinge on second amendment rights.

## **VI. Communications**

Ms. Locke reminded everyone of the opioid funds they gave to C-U at Home to renovate their new facility. They will be providing a tour of the facility and anyone that would like to attend the tour may email Ms. Locke.

Mr. Peugh shared details of an event recognizing local veterans.

Ms. Carter begged their constituents to vote and reminded everyone that early voting is open.

Mr. Wilson wished Abraham Lincoln a happy birthday and shared details of his life, the state slogan and why the party was formed.

## **VII. Justice and Social Services**

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

- Probation & Court Services – December 2025 & 4<sup>th</sup> quarter statistics
- Public Defender – January 2026
- Emergency Management Agency – January 2026
- Animal Control – November & December 2025

Received and placed on file

B. County Board

1. Responsibility in Firearm Legislation (RIFL) Act

Dr. Anthony Douglas, a surgical resident at the University of Chicago, came to implore the Board to pass a resolution supporting the RIFL Act. He shared details of the RIFL Act legislation that is currently being proposed in Illinois. He stated that Champaign County is in the top 9 counties for violent crimes in Illinois. Gun-related deaths are the number one reason for deaths in children and pregnant women. He explained that gun manufacturers currently bear no cost and have immunity when their products wreak havoc on communities. This act would require manufacturers to pay annual fees based on how frequently their products are used in violent crimes. Those funds will provide survivor services and improve community violence intervention efforts. By passing the RIFL Act, the save will save nearly 300 million in the first year in costs deferred, lives saved and investments in violence prevention strategies.

Mr. Sexton asked how this would do anything other than make it harder for those that get firearms legally and Dr. Douglas explained this act does not affect law abiding citizens. Mr. Farney asked for clarification on how the savings are calculated. Dr. Douglas explained the majority of the savings calculations are indirect costs such as work loss productivity, quality of life and the value of a statistical life. Mx. Arres asked how the funds would be dispersed. Dr. Douglas stated the funds would go towards the existing Reimagine Public Safety Act Grants. Mr. Wilson believes this does violate second amendment rights. Board Members continued discussion with Dr. Douglas about the additional fees being passed down to law abiding citizens, comparing these fees in other types of situations and the toll that violence takes on families, medical staff and the community.

2. Resolution supporting the Responsibility in Firearm Legislation (RIFL) Act

**MOTION** by Hanauer-Friedman to recommend County Board approval of a resolution supporting the Responsibility in Firearm Legislation (RIFL) Act; seconded by Ms. Lokshin.

Mr. Wilson stated he will be sticking with the second amendment. Ms. Rodriguez read the second amendment and stated there are many interpretations of that language. Ms. Vanichtheeranont called the question.

**MOTION to AMEND** by Mr. Farney to add additional language to the resolution stating the board is not unified, along with a copy of the roll call vote results; seconded by Mr. Sexton. Upon vote, the **MOTION to AMEND CARRIED**.

Upon roll call vote, the **MOTION CARRIED**

Yeas: Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Arres, Carter, Cowart, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sullard, and Locke  
Nays: Wilson, Cagle, Esry, Farney, Sexton  
Abstain: Peugh (refused to provide a reason)

C. Other Business

None

D. Chair's Report

None

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

None

**VIII. Policy, Personnel, & Appointments**

A. County Executive

1. Monthly HR Report – January 2026

Received and placed on file

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

- a. Reappointing *Alicia Beck* to the Rural Transit Advisory Group, unexpired term ending 12/31/2027

**MOTION** by Ms. Locke to recommend County Board approval of a resolution appointing Alicia Beck to the Rural Transit Advisory Group; seconded by Mr. Thorsland. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED**.

- b. Reappointing *Kyle Patterson* to the Mental Health Board, unexpired term ending 12/31/2029

**MOTION** by Ms. Fortado to recommend County Board approval of a resolution appointing Kyle Patterson to the Mental Health Board; seconded by Ms. Lokshin. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- c. Reappointing *Linda Turnbull* to the Housing Authority Board of Champaign County, unexpired term ending 7/31/2030

**MOTION** by Ms. Rogers to recommend County Board approval of a resolution appointing Linda Turnbull to the Housing Authority Board of Champaign County; seconded by Ms. Lokshin. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED**.

d. Appointing Cynthia Cunningham as the Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals

**MOTION** by Mr. Esry to recommend County Board approval of a resolution appointing Cynthia Cunningham as the Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals; seconded by Mr. Thorsland. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

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

Information only

B. County Clerk

1. Fee Report – January 2026

Received and placed on file

C. County Executive

1. Updating the County Travel Policy to prioritize Willard Airport for all air travel

**MOTION** by Ms. Locke to recommend County Board approval of an ordinance updating the County Travel Policy to prioritize Willard Airport for all air travel; seconded by Ms. Lokshin. Mr. Summers clarified that they only want departments to consider Willard Airport when flying for work but they are not required to use Willard if there are better options. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

D. Probation & Court Services

1. Approval of an Exception to the Purchasing Policy

**MOTION** by Mr. Farney to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving an exception to the Purchasing Policy for the Probation and Court Services Department; seconded by Mr. Wiggs. Ms. Siders explained the instrument she needs to purchase, how it is used and why they need a new one. The current contract for the machine expires at the end of March and the urgency comes from the need to purchase a new instrument before the end of the contract in order to continue testing in-house. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

E. Other Business

None

F. Chair’s Report

None

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

VIII. A. 2a, d, D. 1

**IX. Finance**

A. Budget Amendments/Transfers

1. Monthly General Corporate Budget Amendment Report – January 2026

Information only

2. Budget Amendment BUA 2025/12/1292  
Fund 1080 General Corporate / Dept 041 State's Attorney  
Increased Appropriations: \$3,936.13  
Increased Revenue: \$0  
Reason: Appropriation to cover remaining invoices for FY2025.

**MOTION** by Mr. Thorsland to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2025/12/1292; seconded by Ms. Lokshin. Board members discussed how budgeting is not an exact science, and this department will be returning \$16,000 in unspent personnel funds. Ms. Hanauer-Friedman requested to withhold this item from the Consent Agenda. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

3. Budget Amendment BUA 2026/2/9  
Fund 2500 County Grant Fund / Dept 031 Circuit Court  
Increased Appropriations: \$71,823.81  
Increased Revenue: \$0  
Reason: Appropriation of the Adult Redeploy Illinois Grant funds for FY2026.

**MOTION** by Mr. Farney to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2026/2/9; seconded by Ms. Carter. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

4. Budget Amendment BUA 2026/2/11  
Fund 2500 County Grant Fund / Dept 075 General County  
Increased Appropriations: \$27,695.64  
Increased Revenue: \$0  
Reason: Appropriation of the Firearms Safe Storage Strategies Grant funds for FY2026.

**MOTION** by Mx. Arres to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2026/2/11; seconded by Mr. Thorsland.

Ms. Den Otter shared a quick update on the connections she has made in the community, some of the events she has attended and how many safes/locks she has disbursed to the community. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

5. Budget Amendment BUA 2026/2/12  
Fund 2500 County Grant Fund / Dept 036 Public Defender  
Increased Appropriations: \$57,937.50  
Increased Revenue: \$0  
Reason: Appropriation of grant funds to offset the Public Defender's expert witness program expenses.

**MOTION** by Ms. Carter to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2026/2/12; seconded by Ms. Locke. 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 – January 2026 – Reports are available on the Treasurer's webpage

Received and placed on file

2. Resolution Authorizing the County Executive to Assign Mobile Home Tax Sale Certificate of Purchase, permanent parcel 25-045-0011

**MOTION** by Mr. Farney to recommend County Board approval of a resolution authorizing the County Executive to assign mobile home tax sale certificate of purchase, permanent parcel 25-045-0011; seconded by Mr. Esry. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

D. County Executive

1. Available Budget Report – January 2026

Information only

2. FY2024 Audit Update

Information only – Ms. Hanauer-Friedman read the update memo. Board members discussed the status of the audit and when it would be completed. Many members discussed and clarified that the basic accounting work was not done correctly by the Auditor's Office in 2024, therefore causing many delays in the completion of the audit. Ms. Carter believes the Finance Chair and Vice-Chair hold all the blame and should resign from their positions.

3. Post-Issuance Compliance Reporting for 2022A and 2022B Bonds

Information only

4. Resolution Abating Certain Taxes Hereto Levied to Pay the Principal of and Interest on Various Outstanding Bonds of the County of Champaign, Illinois

**MOTION** by Mr. Esry to recommend County Board approval of a resolution abating certain taxes hereto levied to pay the principal of and interest on various outstanding bonds of the County of Champaign, Illinois; seconded by Mr. Sexton. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

E. Sheriff

1. Approval of Release of an RFP for Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Planning

**MOTION** by Mr. Thorsland to approve the release of an RFP for Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Planning; seconded by Ms. Locke. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

F. Other Business

None

G. Chair's Report

None

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

IX. A. 3-5, C. 2, D. 4

**X. Other Business**

A. March 24, 2026 – Study Session regarding OMA & FOIA

Chair Locke encouraged all Board members to attend the March Study Session, especially newer members.

Ms. Carter left the meeting at 8:41 p.m.

**XI. Adjournment**

Chair Locke adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.