



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
LABOR COMMITTEE**
County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois
Wednesday, May 15, 2024 – 4:30 p.m.

Jennifer Putman Meeting Room
Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

MINUTES – Approved as Distributed on June 6, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stephanie Fortado, Don Owen, Emily Rodriguez (Chair),
MEMBERS ABSENT: Aaron Esry, John Farney (Vice Chair)
OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Summers (County Executive), Michelle Jett (Director of Administration) and Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)

Agenda Items

I. Call to Order

Chair Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

II. Roll Call

A verbal roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

III. Approval of Agenda

Chair Rodriguez requested to move Other Business before New Business in order to give additional time for other members to arrive.

MOTION by Ms. Fortado to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Mr. Owen. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. April 11, 2024

MOTION by Mr. Owen to approve the minutes of April 11, 2024; seconded by Ms. Fortado. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

V. Public Participation

None

VI. New Business

- A. Resolution Censuring Champaign County Auditor George P. Danos for Failure to Serve as an Independent Watchdog of County Taxpayer Funds and Conduct Unbecoming an Elected Official

Chair Rodriguez explained that this document has been through several drafts. The Committee sent a list of questions to the State's Attorney's Office and based on the response to those questions, edits were made to the resolution. Ms. Fortado feels good about the current draft because everything that was included is documented and there are no gray areas.

Ms. Fortado understands that people make mistakes but there is no indication that the Auditor plans to correct or change this behavior. Chair Rodriguez said this is a statement of support for employees and they recognize that this won't change everything. Mr. Owen believes the County Board's role is to be an arbitrator and a voice for the employees.

MOTION by Ms. Rodriguez to recommend County Board approval of a resolution censuring Champaign County Auditor George P. Danos for failure to serve as an independent watchdog of County taxpayer funds and conduct unbecoming an elected official; seconded by Ms. Fortado. Upon roll call vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

VII. Other Business

Ms. Rodriguez let the Committee Members know that AFSCME labor negotiations will begin next month. She asked the members to give administration some guidance on what information they need for negotiations and their priorities.

Ms. Fortado asked for a landscape of how many employees are represented by a union in each department. Ms. Jett stated she will also add information on the demographics and longevity of those employees.

Chair Rodriguez then moved on to another item she needed to bring to the Committee's attention. The members of the Auditor's Office had a meeting with AFSCME Representatives to discuss becoming a bargaining unit. She stated the County Auditor, George Danos, found out about the meeting and interrupted the meeting by yelling at the employees and the union representatives.

Ms. Jett explained exactly what happened stating the Auditor was visibly upset and challenging the representatives on the appropriateness of the meeting. Ms. Rodriguez asked if the Auditor's behavior could have intimidated the employees and Ms. Jett explained that she would have felt intimidated if he was her boss.

Ms. Fortado suggested having the State's Attorney's Office send information to all department heads explaining and reminding them of the employees' rights to organize.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.