

# **DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS COW**

**Minutes Tuesday, January 10, 2023 –**

**5:45p.m.**

**Jennifer Putman Meeting Room  
Brookens Administrative Center  
1776 E. Washington St.  
Urbana, IL 61801**

**In attendance:** Thorsland, Taylor, Straub,  
Stohr, Locke, Hanaur-Friedman, Rodriguez,  
Fortado, Cowart, Ingram, Lokshin, Carter,  
Patterson

1. **Call to Order** 5:47 pm
2. **Approval of the Agenda** Moved by Ingram, second by Lokshin, approved.
3. **Announcements/Communications:**

Thorsland– concern about taking out the safe on the first floor at County Plaza. Lokshin clarified that the safe removal is already written into the cost of renovations. Leaving it in would affect publicly accessible space for meetings, voting, etc. The concern is that taking this out will make this the most expensive part of the building. This is not the safe that

the sheriff will use, which is in the basement.

## **5. Finance**

Fortado: January study session will be a new board orientation. The focus will be finance. Fortado will chair. Megan and Michelle are collaborating on this with member Fortado.

If there is an ARPA-related project we are interested in, we need to get those formal requests in soon. We want to see what Urbana is doing with their money first, so we do not duplicate plans. We have received internal requests from the Public Defender's Office for software and from the Coroner's Office for an x-ray machine. Stephanie will be meeting with Kathy from the ARPA office regularly now.

(VII. A. 1) Treasurer: We gave the treasurer a raise but didn't put the fund the raise, so we need to correct that.

(VII. A. 2) \$2600 for circuit clerk– a long-term staff member left and we need to pay out their benefits.

(VII. A. 3) Law library– one of the subscriptions doesn't have an electronic option and the paper subscription is quite expensive, but the fees for using it

(VII. A. 4) Coroner's office needs more funds for toxicology expenses. There will be one more appropriation request in Feb.

(VII. A. 5) SA has three people who have left the office. These are the payouts.

(VII. A. 6) Public Defenders: Need to cover contracted attorneys.

Treasurer will be coming to explain the mobile home tax sales tonight.

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

(VIII. A. 2) Job Content Evaluation Committee: Tammy Ogden has asked for support for human resources, especially in the areas of payroll and insurance.

(VIII. A. 3. a) Robert Kolakowski: This is the fire chief's preferred appointee.

(VIII. A. 3. b.) Liaison Assignments will be assigned tonight.

We have 60 job vacancies.

Ad hoc workforce committee? Dr. Stohr is interested in forming one. Dr. Fortado encourages waiting for more information about the workforce study results.

## **8. Justice and Social Services**

Public Defender Elizabeth Pollock is coming tonight.

## **9. Other Business**

Locke: has some specific questions about PD software request. Fortado: State Leg blew a hole through our budget by passing an unfunded mandate that counties spend .02% of the Equalized Assessment Value (EAV) for veteran services (this is about \$900,000 as opposed to the \$80,000 we have budgeted). This would also require more than the part-time staff that we have working on this now.

**10. Next Caucus Meeting** – January 19<sup>th</sup> @ 5:45

p.m.

**11. Adjournment** 6:25 pm