

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS
Full Board Meeting
Thursday, 7/18/24 – 5:45 p.m.
Jennifer Putman Meeting Room
Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington St.
Urbana, IL 61801

Present: Carter, Cowart (6:22), Fortado, Greer (6:25), Hanauer-Friedman (6:25), Locke, Lokshin, Owen, Peugh (5:46), Rodriguez, Rogers (5:49), Stohr, Straub, Taylor, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont (5:50)

1. **Call to Order:** 5:45 pm

2. **Approval of the Agenda–**

- a. Moved by Locke second Carter
unanimous approval.

3. **Approval of the Minutes from June 20, 2024.**

- a. Moved by Lokshin, second Thorsland
unanimous approval

4. **Public Participation–**

- a. Executive Summers– Sent DEIA letter in early June with the intention of finding a professional firm to help county find better representation of
 - i. There was a scheduled meeting
 - ii. Been accused of racial discrimination and threatened legal action and “many FOIAs” would be received
 - iii. Labor Chair Rodriguez has been harassed
 - iv. Executive Summers emphasized that he will not abandon the DEIA work. However, he has also stressed the importance of the board making a well-considered decision rather than simply avoiding potential drama.
- b. Angie Patton is here to provide any info on the items on the agenda for the Clerk’s office.
- c. Sheriff’s office here because of budget resolution

5. **Announcements/Communications–**

Chair Carter delivered a statement addressing concerns regarding email communication and meeting scheduling. She specifically noted concerns with Michelle Jett. She also shared her preference for meetings to take place on Mondays and Tuesdays due to her availability on those days. Additionally, she expressed her intention to vote against the proposal for appointing the auditor, citing

concerns about potential mistreatment of George. Furthermore, she expressed reservations about how the DEIA+ task force is being established. She provided a comprehensive list of potential members for the task force and indicated a desire to discuss additional appointments with board members. She emphasized the need for a longer timeline for these decisions and conveyed a commitment to ongoing communication, expressing a desire for improved collaboration from all team members.

b. Member Stohr– Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) involves capture of CO₂ gas from making ethanol or burning coal or making fertilizer. There will be four applications for sequestering CO₂ beneath the Mahomet Aquifer. One of them will have a petition submitted in mid September. Dr. Stohr has some concerns about whether this will affect the quality of the ground water.

c. Chair Carter again– will be going to both jails in Kankakee County regarding complaints made by locals with Vice-Chair Jennifer Locke and Member Chris Stohr.

d. Member Fortado– Orien will be completing the external audit due to the departure of the Deputy Auditor and Auditor Danos facing challenges with logging into the system that has been used for years to conduct the external audit. This situation highlights the significant work issues within the office. Member Fortado will provide the board with details regarding the expenses associated with this external audit.

6. Review and Discussion of the Full Board Agenda

- a. (XI. A.) Authorizing Amendment to Professional Services Agreement between Champaign County and Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, LLC
 - i. They will be here to review the hardcopies we have been provided today.
 - ii. Member Fortado is encouraged with their confidence to move our data affordably.
- b. (XI. B.) Employee Recognition - this will be a monthly item
- c. (XI. C.) Authorizing Payment of Claims -
- d. (XI. D.) Purchases Not Following Purchasing Policy–
 - i. There were a number of these that should have been paid in 2023
 1. All from RPC this time
- e. (XI. E.) County Clerk Budget Transfer to pay temp election employees
 - i. As the scope of elections change, judges have a very specific cap. Election workers work longer than that and need a different line item to finance that.
- f. (XI. F.) Budget Amendment BUA 2024/6/297 – funding police training program–not new money, paid for by grant.
- g. (XI. G.) Approving Budget Amendment BUA 2024/6/424– Funding summer

cooling program through RPC with ARPA money.

- i. This is money we have already approved, but they need a budget amendment to put it in the budget. It is already anticipated to be completely spent by next week.
- h. (XI. H.) Approving Budget Amendment BUA 2024/7/5– Grant for data storage of body cams.
 - i. This is a grant we have received a couple of times, but there is no certainty it will always be available.
- i. (XI. I.) Approving Budget Amendment BUA 2024/7/24– IT interns from Parkland– not new money.
 - i. We are hopeful this will take some burden off the IT staff and lead to keeping them on staff after the internship
- j. (XI. J.) Granting Authority to Execute Documents for the Release of Use Restrictions
 - i. This has been approved by the SAO and makes the most sense given the timeline requirements
- k. (XI. K.) IGA between the County of Champaign, the City of Champaign, the City of Urbana, and the Village of Savoy for an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Sponsored One-Day Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event in 2024
 - i. This is a standard annual event
- l. (XI. L.) Approving the Appointment of Election Judges for the 2024-2026 Term
- m. (XI. M.) Approving polling sites for general election
- n. (XI. N.) Approving Amendment to Contract with Broeren Russo Builders Inc. for County Plaza Renovation Project
 - i. Change orders that need to be on FB because no COW this month
- o. (XI. O.) Approving Amendment to Contract with P.J. Hoerr Inc. for County Jail Consolidation Project
 - i. Change orders that need to be on FB because no COW this month
- p. (XI. P.) Establishing a DEIA+ task Force
 - i. Vote your heart
- q. (XI. Q.) Placing the Question of Elimination of the Office of County Auditor on the November 5, 2024 General Election Ballot
 - i. Vote your heart
- r. (XII. C. 1.) ARPA Update - will be after employee recognition
- s. (XII. C. 2.) Promo Video for small businesses will go after ARPA update earlier in the agenda

6. **Next Caucus Meeting:** August 13, 2024

7. **Adjournment** 6: 30 pm