

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS
Committee of the Whole
Tuesday, October 15, 2024 – 5:45 p.m.
Jennifer Putman Meeting Room
Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington St.
Urbana, IL 61801

Present: Carter, Cowart, Fortado, Greer (**5:49**), Locke, Lokshin, Owen, Rodriguez, Rogers (**5:52**), Stohr, Taylor, Vanichtheeranont

Absent: Hanauer-Friedmann, Peugh, Straub, Thorsland

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

2) **Approval of the Agenda**–

a) Moved by Owen, second by Locke; unanimous approval.

3) **Approval of the Minutes from September 10, 2024.**

a) Moved by Vanichtheeraont, second by Locke; unanimous approval

4) **Public Participation**–

a) None

5) **Announcements/Communications**–

a) Member Locke: Several interviews for Facilities Director after retirement of Dana Brenner.

b) Member Taylor : Organizational Caucus date to be set.

c) Member Stohr: ELUC referred a resolution for a moratorium on CO2 Sequestration beneath the Mahomet sole source Aquifer to the Zoning Board of Appeals at last meeting 10/10. Timeline provided by Director and Zoning Administrator • Champaign County Department of Planning and Zoning John Hall shows that the resolution will be brought before the Board February 20, 2025 meeting.

d) Member Locke: Change orders for Sheriff Dept cameras at the Bennett Building, right at 10%

6) **Review and Discussion of the COW Agenda**

a) Finance–Fortado

i) Animal Control – mobile radios and range of expenses. Gen Fund.

ii) Boiler burnout [Brookens] – Locke said installation of boiler requires boil out procedure to extend life of boiler. \$17,000

iii) Gun Safety grant – hired person does not need benefits. Budget adjustment. Late filing and restrictions.

iv) County Clerk - Release RFP 2024-005 Champaign County Clerk Voter Registration and Pollbook Software and Vendor Support

- v) Participate in the service program of the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor for 2025.
- vi) Recommendation to the County Board to receive and place on file the FY2025 Tentative Budget
- vii) Cancellation, Deed of Conveyance, and Mobile Home Tax Sales
 - (1) Stohr notes that the change in ownership and management of mobile homes parks has seen an increase in space rental fees which is a burden for mostly low-income [i.e., affordable] housing. Furthermore, owner-occupied mobile homes on rental property do not qualify for financial assistance in repairs as do owner-occupied houses on owned-property. This is a disparity which deserves attention and a remedy.
 - (2) NOTE: apparently the Illinois Housing Development Authority does not recognise Mobile Homes which are not on a permanent foundation as real property. This appears to be a technicality because the MH could be moved leaving me to ponder how often this happens.
- viii) Approval of Amended Judgment in the hospital cases
- ix) Chair's Report,
 - (1) Investment Policy
 - (2) ACFR Update – grants from 5 Departments which are not eligible for extension. If audit completed by end of month they have adequate funds. However requires 2 weeks for review so audit will be too late.
 - (3) Bond Refinancing Update – bond refinancing rumors. Bond rating has not dropped because refinancing of 2014 bond. Time for financing delayed. Consultant said go forth without audited financials. Interest rate changed last week so 'we' will only earn \$293,250 rather than a larger amount. We must maintain a 2-month reserve. We are seeking to maintain a 3-month [or 40%] basis. CC scored poorly on fund balance bc other counties maintain a higher fund balance.
 - (4) Delayed Invoice Payments – Rogers raised this issue with Finance Chair because of concern within the Courthouse. How can the Board provide oversight? The Treasurer would like oversight of investments and policy. 49 delayed payments from 2023! What is role of Auditor and Departments who 'sit' on bills? Only one department replied. SUGGESTION – item [bill] that will be late memo should be attached explain why presented late perhaps the Department Head should explain the delay to the Board. Concern about late Audit. Board should monitor progress.
- b) Closed Session regarding litigation, move to later in the meeting.
- c) Policy, Personnel & Appointments - Stohr
 - i) Joint Labor Agreement Deferred Compensation Committee
 - ii) Appointments
 - (1) Lloyd Esry to St Joseph #3 Drainage District
 - (2) Dr Neil Sharma to Developmental Disabilities Board
- 7) Justice and Social Services – Taylor. Reports are posted.
- 8) **Next Caucus Meeting:** November 12, 2024 @ 5:45pm.
- 9) **Adjournment** 6:23 pm