

RESUME OF MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
April 22, 2021

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, April 22, 2021, at 6:30 PM in the Brookens Administrative Center, 1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois and remote participation via Zoom due to social distancing necessitated by the Coronavirus, with County Executive Darlene Kloeppel presiding, Matthew Cross as Clerk of the meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call showed the following members present: King, Lokshin, McGuire, Michaels, Passalacqua, Paul, Rodriguez, Stohr, Straub, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Wolken, Ammons, Cowart, Esry, Fortado, Goss, Harper, Humphrey, and Patterson – 21; absent: none. County Executive Kloeppel declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business. No board members were physically present at the Brookens Administrative Center; all members were remote via Zoom. Due to the remote attendance situation all voting must be by roll call, per Illinois Public Act 101-0640, approved by Governor Pritzker June 12, 2020.

**PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

County Executive Kloeppel read a prayer from the *Iona Abbey Worship Book* and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited.

**READ NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Clerk read the Notice of the Meeting, said Notice having been published in the *News Gazette* on April 1, April 8, and April 15, 2021.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA**

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to approve the Agenda/Addenda; Board Member Goss seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: King, Lokshin, McGuire, Michaels, Passalacqua, Paul, Rodriguez, Stohr, Straub, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Wolken, Ammons, Cowart, Esry, Fortado, Goss, Harper, Humphrey, and Patterson – 21

Nays: None

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**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2021-153**

Board Member Taylor offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-153 appointing Samantha Carter in District 6 to fill Cameron Raab's unexpired term ending November 30, 2022; Board Member Thorsland seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: King, Lokshin, McGuire, Michaels, Passalacqua, Paul, Rodriguez, Stohr, Straub, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Wolken, Ammons, Cowart, Esry, Fortado, Goss, Harper, Humphrey, and Patterson –  
21

Nays: None

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE**

Immediately upon the adoption of Resolution No. 2021-153, County Clerk Ammons administered the oath of office to Board Member Carter.

**DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS**

**Standing Committees:**

- A. County Facilities Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, May 4, 2021 6:30 PM  
Lyle Shields Meeting Room
- B. Environment & Land Use Committee Meeting  
Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 6:30 PM  
Lyle Shields Meeting Room
- C. Highway & Transportation Committee Meeting  
Friday, May 7, 2021 at 9:00 AM  
1605 E Main Street, Urbana

**Committee of the Whole:**

- A. Study Session – Finance Committee  
Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 6 PM  
Lyle Shields Meeting Room
- B. Justice & Social Services; Policy, Personnel, & Appointments; Finance  
Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 6:30 PM  
Lyle Shields Meeting Room

**County Board:**

- A. Regular Meeting  
Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 6:30 PM  
Lyle Shields Meeting Room

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## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

All public participation was remote via Zoom.

County Recorder Ingram offered his congratulations to Board Member Carter and welcomed her to his former board seat. He noted Board Member Carter is the 20<sup>th</sup> black board member in Champaign County; he then read the names of all that preceded her. He also noted Board Member Carter is the second cousin of Lloyd Carter, Jr.

County Executive noted the live meetings are no longer available on the IBM streaming webcast.

Clerk Ammons requested to speak. County Executive Kloeppel and Board Chair Patterson debated if Public Participation was an appropriate venue for an elected official to speak; Board Chair Patterson noted that the board rules do not disallow elected officials from speaking in Public Participation. Board Member McGuire notes that the Public Participation forum does not allow board members to respond. County Executive Kloeppel permitted Clerk Ammons to proceed. Clerk Ammons gave an update on election expenditures: noting a significant savings of more than \$400,000 to the county and grants that covered additional expenditures, for a total savings to the county of approximately \$800,000.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Board Member Lokshin offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, comprising of 26 resolutions (Res. Nos. 2021-122, 2021-123, 2021-124, 2021-125, 2021-126, 2021-127, 2021-128, 2021-129, 2021-130, 2021-131, 2021-132, 2021-133, 2021-134, 2021-135, 2021-136, 2021-137, 2021 138, 2021-139, 2021-140, 2021-141, 2021-142, 2021-143, 2021-144, 2021-146, 2021-147, and 2021-148) and 1 ordinance (Ord. No. 2021-5); Board Member King seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: King, Lokshin, McGuire, Michaels, Passalacqua, Paul, Rodriguez, Stohr, Straub, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Wolken, Ammons, Carter, Cowart, Esry, Fortado, Goss, Harper, Humphrey, and Patterson – 22

Nays: None

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Board Member Goss spoke on the need to resume in-person board meetings, with precautions, as much of the county has been vaccinated.

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Board Member Humphrey spoke about gun violence in the community as a systemic problem and suggested that underlying contributors should be addressed in the upcoming study session for the Finance Committee.

Board Chair Patterson asked why the meetings are no longer being streamed via IBM, leaving Facebook Live as the only available streaming of the meetings, and that not all past meetings are available on Facebook. County Executive Kloeppel stated IBM has ceased operations and the County is exploring other options; the unavailability of past meetings is due to technical issues with the recording.

Board Member McGuire spoke about gun violence and crime, noting that patrol officers are underfunded and over-regulated.

Board Member Thorsland thanked Board Member Goss for his positive message on proactive COVID precautions and spoke on the necessity of both taking safety precautions and vaccinations.

Board Member Carter spoke about gun violence and noted that solutions are not singular, requiring both the community and police to be proactive.

Board Member Passalacqua agreed with and thanked Board Member Carter for speaking on a holistic approach to community violence.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board Member Goss offered a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the County Board of March 18, 2021; Board Member Taylor seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: King, Lokshin, McGuire, Michaels, Passalacqua, Paul, Rodriguez, Stohr, Straub, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Wolken, Ammons, Carter, Cowart, Esry, Fortado, Goss, Harper, Humphrey, and Patterson – 22

Nays: None

### **LITIGATION COMMITTEE**

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-154 authorization for full and final release of all claims; Board Chair Patterson seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: King, Lokshin, McGuire, Michaels, Passalacqua, Paul, Rodriguez, Stohr, Straub, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Wolken, Ammons, Carter, Cowart, Esry, Fortado, Goss, Harper, Humphrey, and Patterson – 22

Nays: None

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## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **COUNTY FACILITIES**

County Executive Kloeppel noted the Summary of Action Taken for Facilities on April 7, 2021, was received and placed on file.

### **ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE**

County Executive Kloeppel noted the Summary of Action Taken for Environment and Land Use on April 8, 2021, was received and placed on file.

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 121 opposing SB1602 amending the counties code to add requirements for commercial wind energy facilities, amended to insert a new point 1 under “NOW, THEREFORE, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED ...”, to read “The Champaign County Board opposes SB1602, amending the Counties Code to add Requirements for Commercial Wind Energy Facilities.” The original point 1 (“The County Executive is hereby directed ...”) moved down to become point 2; Board Chair Patterson seconded. Board Chair Patterson noted future wind energy regulations will be tied into an upcoming county omnibus energy package. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: King, Lokshin, McGuire, Michaels, Passalacqua, Paul, Rodriguez, Stohr, Straub, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Wolken, Ammons, Carter, Cowart, Esry, Fortado, Goss, Harper, Humphrey, and Patterson – 22

Nays: None

### **HIGHWAY & TRANSPORTATION**

County Executive Kloeppel noted the Summary of Action Taken for Highway and Transportation on April 9, 2021, was received and placed on file.

## **AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

County Executive Kloeppel noted the Summary of Action taken for the Committee of the Whole (Justice & Social Services; Finance; Policy, Personnel, & Appointments) of April 13, 2021, was received and placed on file.

### **POLICY, PERSONNEL, & APPOINTMENTS**

Board Member Stohr offered a motion to adopt Resolution No, 2021-145 designating Meeting Room 1as Shields-Charter Meeting Room; Board Member

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Carter seconded. Board Member Carter praised the board for the resolution honoring former board member Lloyd Carter, Jr. Board Member McGuire took issue with the process and evaluation of qualifications in naming rooms after individuals. Board Member Summers read a statement from Illinois Treasurer (and former board member) Michael Frerichs in support of the resolution and praising Lloyd Carter, Jr. Board Chair Patterson took objection to Board Member McGuire's statement on qualifications; Board Member McGuire took offense to the perceived insult. Motion carried by roll-call vote.

Yeas: King, Lokshin, Passalacqua, Paul, Rodriguez, Stohr, Straub, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Wolken, Ammons, Carter, Cowart, Fortado, Goss, Harper, Humphrey, and Patterson – 19  
Nays: McGuire, Michaels, and Esry – 3

### FINANCE

Board Member Fortado offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-149 amending the schedule of authorized positions for the Champaign County Clerk's Office – Director of Operations; Board Chair seconded. Motion carried by roll-call vote.

Yeas: King, Lokshin, Passalacqua, Paul, Rodriguez, Stohr, Straub, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Wolken, Ammons, Carter, Cowart, Fortado, Humphrey, and Patterson – 17  
Nays: McGuire, Michaels, Esry, Goss, and Harper – 5

### NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Summers offered an omnibus motion to adopt Resolutions No. 2021-150 authorizing purchases not following purchasing policy and No. 2021-151 authorizing payment of claims; Board Member Fortado seconded. Motion carried by roll-call vote.

Yeas: King, Lokshin, Rodriguez, Stohr, Straub, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Wolken, Ammons, Carter, Cowart, Fortado, Humphrey, and Patterson – 15  
Nays: McGuire, Michaels, Passalacqua, Paul, Esry, Goss, and Harper – 7

Board Chair Patterson offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-152 authorizing interfund loans from fund reserves to other funds; Board Member King seconded. Board Member Michaels asked about the election assistance portion; County Auditor Danos was invited to join the discussion, and he stated that the resolution is strictly an accounting procedure relating to the previous fiscal year. Board Member Fortado notes that it is reimbursement for grant funds from the prior year. Board Member Goss asked why the fund transfer was on the April agenda and not December or January, and Board Member Michaels asked if it was dependent on the tax cycle. Auditor Danos stated the April timing is correct, as it follows all year-end bookkeeping (the equivalent

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resolution in 2020 was on the May agenda, a month late), and the interfund loans do not point to any financial problems within the county. Board member Fortado noted that the county cash reserves are fine. Motion carried by roll-call vote.

Yeas: King, Lokshin, McGuire, Michaels, Passalacqua, Paul, Rodriguez, Stohr, Straub, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Wolken, Ammons, Carter, Cowart, Esry, Fortado, Goss, Humphrey, and Patterson – 21

Nays: Harper – 1

Board Member Fortado offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-155 authorizing the execution of an agreement to participate in a minimum guarantee fund for the University of Illinois – Willard Airport; Board Member Stohr seconded. Board Member Passalacqua questioned spending \$15,000 for Champaign to Washington, DC flights and asked how it might benefit the community. County Executive Kloeppel stated the money would not necessarily be spent but would be put up as a guarantee and would only be needed in the event the minimum number of passengers is not met; she also noted that it would not just mean flights to Washington, DC but also access to connecting flights through Washington, DC. Board Member McGuire asked if the county has any voice in the funding or future guarantees; County Executive stated that she sits on the airport advisory committee representing the County. Board Member Summers noted the benefits to the community by the ease of access. Board Member Fortado stated that access to transportation drives economic growth and Willard Airport is limited with just flights to Chicago and Dallas, both located in the central US. Board Member Goss stated there is no need for a direct flight to Washington, DC and that due to the coronavirus, there is less need for travel in general. Board Member Harper stated that he was involved in an airport study 8-10 years ago and it was determined that Willard cannot maintain demand for flights nor compete with Bloomington's Central Illinois Regional Airport (CIRA) which receives tax funding from McLean County. Board Member Harper also stated that he wants more commitment from county businesses; County Executive Kloeppel replied that county partners have committed a total of approximately \$1 million and the county contribution is only a small portion. Board Member Fortado asked about the timing and if future federal funding could be used; County Executive Kloeppel stated the need to commit to the funding now. Board Member McGuire asked what fund the \$15,000 would be drawn from and if the resolution would require 15 votes; County Executive Kloeppel states that the resolution is only a commitment to the funding and would not require 15 votes, however, the future resolution to execute the money transfer would require 15 votes, but she would have no objections to attaching a 15-vote requirement for Resolution No. 2021-155. Board Member Passalacqua asked if there is a report indicating demand for Washington, DC flights; County Executive Kloeppel stated the airport has report showing Washington, DC as the highest target market for direct flights. Board Member Paul stated that if Willard were to compete with CIRA, it would take more than one additional flight route, but this would be a good start. Motion carried by roll-call vote and exceeded the 15-vote minimum.

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Yeas: King, Lokshin, Passalacqua, Paul, Rodriguez, Stohr, Straub, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Wolken, Ammons, Carter, Cowart, Esry, Fortado, Humphrey, and Patterson – 18  
Nays: McGuire, Michaels, Goss, and Harper – 4

County Executive Kloeppel raised the discussion of a property tax interest waiver. Board Member Fortado stated prior discussions indicated that an interest waiver would be too narrow to be sufficient to actually provide aide and would ultimately penalize entities like schools that are dependent on property taxes for funding; she suggested using federal funding to address needs with creating the county budget. Board Member Paul asked if the interest will still be charged; Board Member Fortado replied that the interest will be calculated but the federal funding will be used for targeted assistance.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Board Member Michaels offered a motion to keep closed the minutes of closed sessions; Board Member Thorsland seconded. County Executive stated the State's Attorney's office did not recommend any need to review any closed session minutes. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: King, Lokshin, McGuire, Michaels, Passalacqua, Paul, Rodriguez, Stohr, Straub, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Wolken, Ammons, Carter, Cowart, Esry, Fortado, Goss, Harper, Humphrey, and Patterson – 22

Nays: None

### **DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ONLY**

County Executive Kloeppel noted that the county COVID testing at the State Farm Center is up and running but so far has received little interest.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

County Executive Kloeppel adjourned the meeting at 8:09 PM.



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Aaron Ammons, Champaign County Clerk  
and ex-Officio Clerk of the Champaign County Board  
Champaign County, Illinois