

RESUME OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
June 24, 2021

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 6:32 PM in the Shields-Carter Meeting Room, 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: Michaels, Passalacqua, Paul, Rodriguez, Stohr, Straub, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Wolken, Ammons, Carter, Cowart, Esry, Fortado, Goss, Harper, Humphrey, King, Lokshin, McGuire, and Patterson – 22; absent: none. County Executive Kloeppel declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business. Ten board members (Michaels, Passalacqua, Paul, Rodriguez, Taylor, Wolken, Esry, Goss, Harper, and McGuire) were physically present in the Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center; all other 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. Due to connectivity issues with Zoom Cowart missed one vote and Ammons missed two votes. Three board members (Michaels, Goss, and Harper) departed early at approximately 9:00 PM missing the final vote.

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

County Executive Kloeppel read a thought by Ruth Hayley Barton, 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 June 3, June 10, and June 17, 2021.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA

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

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

Nays: None

Champaign County Board
June 24, 2021

DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Committee of the Whole:

- A. Study Session – Finance Committee
Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at 6 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room
- B. Study Session – Finance Committee
Monday, July 19, 2021 at 6 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room

County Board:

- A. Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None. Board Member Thorsland asked that Zoom user “Republicans are Racist and Stupid” be removed from the attendees list. Board Member Michaels and County Executive Kloeppel both stated that attendees cannot be removed.

PRESENTATION

None. Baker Tilly 2019 Audit Report will be presented at the July 2021 Regular County Board Meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Member Goss offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, comprising 27 resolutions (Res. Nos. 2021-176, 2021-177, 2021-178, 2021-179, 2021-180, 2021-181, 2021-182, 2021-183, 2021-184, 2021-185, 2021-186, 2021-187, 2021-188, 2021-189, 2021-190, 2021-191, 2021-192, 2021-193, 2021-194, 2021-195, 2021-196, 2021-197, 2021-198, 2021-199, 2021-200, and 2021-201) and one ordinance (Ord. No. 2021-8); Board Member King seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Cowart – 1

Champaign County Board
June 24, 2021

COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Esry read an email from John Bell of the Eastern Prairie Fire Protection District praising the efforts of volunteer fire fighters and emergency medical technicians during the pandemic and asked for financial support from county's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Board Member Straub noted that the county currently has no operating emergency shelters.

Board Member Lokshin read an email from Creel Unbeloved, a resident of the Garden Hills neighborhood in Champaign, asking for ARPA funds to install streetlights in the Garden Hills neighborhood.

Board Member Fortado asked the board members for copies of the emails that have been read for the public record archive and asked County Executive Kloeppel to get clarification from the State's Attorney's Office about John Bell's request for compensation to volunteer fire fighters and emergency medical technicians.

Board Member Passalacqua read an email from Terry Gattis of Savoy asking for money to increase staffing for police and the Sherriff's Office and the closure of the Downtown Jail.

Board Member Cowart read a letter from John Bell of the Eastern Prairie Fire Protection District asking for an appointment of a third trustee to the Easter Prairie Fire Protection District Board and for the county to change the residency requirement for fire protection district boards.

Carter spoke about a meeting with Champaign City Council members Alicia Beck and Davion Williams about using ARPA funds to add streetlights in the Garden Hills neighborhood in Champaign.

Board Member Thorsland noted the poor water management infrastructure in lower income area and asked the county to invest in that infrastructure.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Thorsland offered an omnibus motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the County Board of April 22, 2021 and the Special Meeting of the County Board of May 28, 2021; Board Member Michaels seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: Michaels, Passalacqua, Paul, Rodriguez, Stohr, Straub, Summers,
Taylor, Thorsland, Wolken, Ammons, Carter, Cowart, Esry,

Champaign County Board
June 24, 2021

Fortado, Goss, Harper, Humphrey, King, Lokshin, McGuire, and
Patterson – 22
Nays: None

STANDING COMMITTEES

COUNTY FACILITIES

County Executive Kloeppel noted the Summary of Action Taken for County Facilities on June 8, 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 June 10, 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 June 15, 2021, was received and placed on file.

FINANCE

Board Member Fortado offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-202 approving Budget Amendment 21-00028; Board Member Straub seconded. Motion carried by roll-call vote

Yeas: Michaels, Passalacqua, Paul, Rodriguez, Stohr, Straub, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Wolken, Ammons, Carter, Cowart, Esry, Fortado, Goss, Humphrey, King, Lokshin, and Patterson – 20
Nays: Harper and McGuire – 2

NEW BUSINESS

Board member Stohr offered an omnibus motion to adopt Resolutions No. 2021 authorizing purchases not following purchasing policy and No. 2021-205 authorizing payment of claims. Motion carried by roll-call vote.

Yeas: Michaels, Passalacqua, Paul, Rodriguez, Stohr, Straub, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Wolken, Carter, Cowart, Fortado, Humphrey, King, Lokshin, and Patterson – 17
Nays: Esry, Goss, Harper, and McGuire – 4
Absent: Ammons – 1

Champaign County Board
June 24, 2021

Board Member Fortado offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-209 establishing a broadband task force; Board Member Lokshin seconded. Board Chair Patterson noted that the task force will include Board Members Passalacqua, Paul, Carter, and Thorsland, County Chief Information Officer M.C. Neil and yet undetermined community members. Board Member Harper added that two school superintendents had expressed a desire to be on the task force. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

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

Nays: none

Absent: Ammons – 1

Board Chair Patterson offered a motion to approve to release an RFP for a county broadband study; Board Member Stohr seconded. Board Member Michaels asked the task force to check for adequate upload/download speeds. Board Member Fortado talked about the importance of subcommittee work and other grants available besides the ARPA. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

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

Nays: none

Board Member Esry offered a motion to approve to release an RFP for full-body scanner; Board Member Carter seconded. Board Member Stohr asked of purchase money would cover training and maintenance. County Sherriff Heuerman was invited to join the discussion; he stated that it is estimated to cost approximately \$150,000 which would include equipment and training. Board Member Stohr asked about the retention of scan images; Sherriff Heuerman stated that he suspected the scans would be subject to standard public records rules. Board Member Fortado noted her support for the motion but added she would like advance notice as Finance Committee Chair before financial and ARPA-related items are added to the agenda. County Executive Kloeppel stated the Finance Committee needs to establish a process for receiving and reviewing ARPA applications. Board Member Thorsland stated that all ARPA applications need to go through the Finance Chair and Vice Chair and asked if the location of the scanner had been identified and maintenance costs; Sherriff Heuerman stated that a location had not yet been identified and maintenance costs were not yet determined. Board Member Fortado asked the expected lifespan of the scanner; Sherriff Heuerman estimated ten years. Board Member Paul asked about a policy for individuals to opt out of the scanner; Sherriff Heuerman stated that a policy will be developed, but any individual opting out of the scan would be subjected to a physical search. Board Member McGuire reiterated the desire for financially relevant items to first go through the Finance Committee. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: Michaels, Passalacqua, Paul, Rodriguez, Stohr, Straub, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Wolken, Ammons, Carter, Cowart, Esry,

Champaign County Board
June 24, 2021

Fortado, Goss, Harper, Humphrey, King, Lokshin, McGuire, and
Patterson – 22

Nays: none

Board Member Goss offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-206 approving budget amendment 21-00037; Board Member Esry seconded. Board Member noted the total compensation package for the Board of Review Chair is already generous and asked how the additional \$26,096 was reached. County Executive Kloeppel stated it was the request of the Board of Review Chair and noted that Supervisor of Assessments' salary is \$82,000. Board Member Stohr asked why it was not first presented to the Personnel Committee; County Executive Kloeppel stated it is time sensitive. Board Member Esry asked the effect of having no members of Board of Review; County Executive Kloeppel stated the county would have to contract with another county's board of review but does not know what that might cost and noted that current policy requires at least two members to sign documents and a third to break tie votes, so at the present the Board of Review cannot carry out its function. Board Member McGuire asked about potential appointments; County Executive Kloeppel stated there are currently no interested candidates; Board Members Summers and Thorsland both state they have had interested individuals reach out to them. Kloeppel stated that the state will not schedule a Board of Review exam in the county without confirmed interested parties. Board Member Summers asked how long County Executive Kloeppel had known of the two vacancies on the Board of Review; County Executive Kloeppel stated she had known for ten days and has contacted state licensing board. Board Member Fortado noted the request amounts to a salary raise of greater than 100 percent, the earliest an appointment could be made would be at the July County Board Meeting and stated she would support fulfilling half the request. County Executive Kloeppel noted that the Board of Review is a political appointment of two Democrats and one Republican with a set salary. Board Chair Patterson noted the tough position of the county and wants to focus on the recruitment of viable candidates; he also questioned the precedent of 109.4 percent raise for six months. Board Member McGuire stated that he reluctantly supported the raise because not doing so may have unintended consequences. Board Member Fortado noted issues with the Board of Review have been present for two years and noted the lack of notice to the County Board by the County Executive. Board Member Summers asked again about why the county had not yet requested an exam from the state; County Executive Kloeppel reiterated that the state will not administer an exam without confirmed candidate. Board Member Thorsland asked if interested candidates may travel to Springfield at the county's expense to take the state exam and inquired about prorating the additional money instead of a flat payment. Kloeppel stated candidates can take the exam wherever the state holds the exam. Board Member Taylor asked what work can be done with only one board member; County Executive Kloeppel stated that all work can be done up to the final decision which must be signed by two Board of Review members. Board Member Stohr noted that County Executive Kloeppel is proposing a \$500 bonus to county employees for working during the pandemic while proposing

Champaign County Board
June 24, 2021

\$26,096 to the Board of Review Chair. Board Chair Patterson read the county and state requirements for the position.

Board Member Fortado offered an amendment to the resolution, reducing to \$13,048 for three months from \$26,096 for six months and to re-evaluate the needs in August 2021; Board Member King seconded. County Executive Kloeppel stated the reduction would need to be approved by the State's Attorney's Office. Board Member Stohr stated it is still very generous even at half the proposed amount. Board Member Harper stated he supported neither the amendment nor the original resolution. Board Member Fortado reiterated the \$13,048 would be for three months and thus as prorated represents no reduction in pay from the original resolution only a proportional reduction to the reduced time. Board Member McGuire stated that due to the vacancies the Board of Review Chair is doing the work of three. The motion to amend the resolution carried by roll-call vote.

Yeas: Michaels, Passalacqua, Rodriguez, Stohr, Straub, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Wolken, Ammons, Cowart, Esry, Fortado, Humphrey, King, and Patterson – 16

Nays: Paul, Carter, Goss, Harper, Lokshin, and McGuire – 6

The motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-206 as amended to reduced to \$13,048 for three months carried by roll-call vote.

Yeas: Michaels, Passalacqua, Rodriguez, Straub, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Wolken, Ammons, Cowart, Esry, Fortado, King, Lokshin, and McGuire – 15

Nays: Paul, Stohr, Carter, Goss, Harper, Humphrey, and Patterson – 7

Board Member Rodriguez offered an omnibus motion to adopt Resolutions No. 2021-207 approving budget amendment 21-00038 and No. 2021-208 approving budget amendment 21-00039; Board Chair Patterson seconded. Board Member Wolken asked why the board was prepared to distribute ARPA money while still accepting applications. Board Chair Patterson stated it was up for consideration at that time because the programs have a scheduled start date of July 1, 2021, and time is crucial to their funding, and that the programs target the most vulnerable in the community. Board Member Fortado noted that the county is in a mental health crisis and the budgeting is needed now not in January 2022. County Mental Health Board Executive Director Lynn Canfield was invited to join the discussion and noted the funding targets mental health issues that have been exasperated by the pandemic and the current mental health crisis both in the jail and with addiction services. Executive Director Canfield stated the funding will reinforce the current programs, reinstate programs that had been dropped during the pandemic, and add new programs that target housing. Board Member Goss noted the expense of the programs and disagreement with some of the programs. Board Member Rodrigues spoke about the lack of community substance abuse programs. Board Members Michaels and McGuire noted the resolutions were rushed while ARPA applications are still open. Board Member Humphrey noted the community needs for the programs. Board Member Straub and Board Chair Patterson both note Executive Director Canfield sent a memo to the county board about the programmatic needs in April 2021. Board Member Fortado and Board Chair Patterson both noted the

Champaign County Board
June 24, 2021

programs had already been through the stringent vetting process of the Mental Health Board in their own grant process. Board Member Stohr asked about the pandemic's affect on the mental health issues in the county jail population. Sherriff Heuerman was invited to join the discussion and stated that a significant portion of the county jail population suffers from mental health needs and the programs will aid both those within the jail population and help individuals to avoid circumstances that might lead to their incarceration. The motion failed to carry by roll-call vote.

Yeas: Rodriguez, Stohr, Straub, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Ammons, Carter, Cowart, Fortado, Humphrey, King, Lokshin, and Patterson – 14

Nays: Passalacqua, Paul, Wolken, Esry, and McGuire – 5

Absent: Michaels, Goss, and Harper – 3

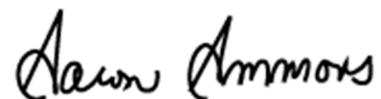
DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ONLY

No board members had questions for the County Treasurer.

Board Member Fortado suggested the board hold off on discussion of ARPA County staff premium pay until the July Regular County Board Meeting, but raised five questions for the board to consider in the meantime: does the board want to consider ARPA County staff premium pay at all?, should it include RPC staff?, should it include high-wage earners?, how much premium pay?, and distributed as a lump sum or in payments?. Board Member McGuire wanted to also consider who was physically at work and who had contact with the public. The board agreed to withhold further discussion on the topic until the July Regular County Board Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

County Executive Kloeppel adjourned the meeting at 9:14 PM.



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