

RESUME OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
December 18, 2025

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center, 102 East Main Street, Urbana, Illinois, County Executive Steve Summers presiding and Matthew Cross as Clerk of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following members present: Sexton, Sullard, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Wilson, Arres, Cagle, Carter, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Peugh, Rogers, and Locke – 19; late: Cowart (arrived at 6:40, missing the agenda vote) – 1; absent: Thorsland and Settles – 2. County Executive Summers declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business.

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

County Executive Summers read a prayer, 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 December 4, December 11, and December 17, 2025.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to adopt the Agenda/Addenda; Board Member Wiggs seconded.

Board Member Sullard offered a motion to amend the agenda to move item XI. Communications to follow item XVI. B. Grant Coordinator Update; Board Member Hanauer-Friedman seconded. The motion to amend the Agenda/Addenda carried by voice vote.

The motion as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Standing Committees:

A. County Facilities Committee

Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

- B. Environment and Land Use Committee
Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center
- C. Highway and Transportation Committee
Friday, January 9, 2026 at 9:00 AM
1605 E Main St, Urbana

Committee of the Whole:

- A. Justice and Social Services; Policy, Personnel, and Appointments; Finance
Monday, January 13, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

County Board:

- A. Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center
- B. Study Session
Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Board Member Arres offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-337 Honoring County Employees for Years of Service; Board Member Wilson seconded. Board Member Vanichtheeranont read the entire text of the resolution. Probation and Court Services Director Shannon Siders was invited to speak and praised the service of Daryl Jackson. County Clerk and Recorder Aaron Ammons was invited to speak and praised the service of Phillip Duling. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-338 Honoring Retiring County Employees; Board Member Wilson seconded. Board Member Vanichtheeranont read the entire text of the resolution. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC INPUT

Street College Faculty Jay Walker spoke in support of Resolution No. 2025-344 funding Street College for a full year; he spoke about the effectiveness of the program and noted that Street College also receives matching grants dependent on County funding.

Educator Ellen Dahlke spoke in support of Resolution No. 2025-344 funding Street College for a full year.

Street College Faculty Shannon McFarland spoke in support of Resolution No. 2025-344 funding Street College for a full year.

Cunningham Children's Home President/CEO Marlin Livingston spoke about the County's increased involvement in the work of the Champaign County Redeploy Initiative and noted a lack of transparency.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Member Esry offered a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda; Board Member Arres seconded. The motion consisting of six resolutions (Nos. 2025-331, 2025-332, 2025-333, 2025-334, 2025-335, and 2025-336) and three ordinances (Nos. 2025-16, 2025-17, and 225-18) carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Sexton, Sullard, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Wilson, Arres, Cagle, Carter, Cowart, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Peugh, Rogers, and Locke – 20

Nays: none

PRESENTATION

Experience Champaign Urbana President and CEO Jayne DeLuce gave a presentation on the work of Experience Champaign Urbana, the official tourism destination marketing and management organization for Champaign County, which also managed several American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded programs. Board Chair Locke praised the work of Experience Champaign Urbana and asked what demographics they most need for Welcome Crews; President DeLuce stated they need representative from the LGBT+ community and young professionals.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Cagle offered a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the County Board on November 20, 2025; Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES

County Executive Summers noted that the Summaries of Action Taken for County Facilities Committee of December 2, 2025, and Highway and Transportation Committee of December 4, 2025, were received and placed on file.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

County Executive Summers noted that the Summary of Action Taken for Committee of the Whole Meeting (Justice and Social Services; Finance; *and* Policy, Personnel, and Appointments) of December 9, 2025, was received and placed on file.

Board Member Cowart offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-344 approving an agreement between the County of Champaign and Street College for Re-Entry Services; Board Member Lokshin seconded.

Board Member Rodriguez offered an amendment to reduce the agreement to six months, renewable for another six months, with a proportional reduction in spending; Board Member Cagle seconded. Board Member Rodriguez stated this was done due to present insecurities where the County currently has a stop-payment order caused by the delayed yearly audit, which precludes all grant applications, and that the County is currently without a Re-Entry Council. Board Members Fortado and Rogers both stated their preference to fully fund Street College. Director Siders was invited to speak; she praised the work of Street College at the Juvenile Detention Center and expressed a need for continuity in re-entry programs. Board Members Carter and Farney expressed support for fully funding Street College and requested that future Street College funding be included in the annual county budget. Board Member Peugh noted the exceptional work of First Followers in addition to Street College. Board Member Rodriguez asked what effect a six-month reduction would have on the program. Street College's Shannon McFarland was invited to speak and stated that it would have an adverse effect on programming and limit long-term re-entry goals. Board Member Cagle asked if the proposed reduction would affect Street College's other funding; Street College's Shannon McFarland stated that as many grants are matching, it would significantly reduce their other funding sources. Board Member Rodriguez withdrew her amendment.

Board Chair Locke offered an amendment to change the Purchasing Policy exemption to "III. C. 1. A. Goods and services between \$30,000.01 and \$100,000.00"; Board Member Rogers seconded. The motion to amend the resolution carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Farney noted that Street College will be funded through the Public Safety Sales Tax and, thus, will not impact the County's General Fund. The motion, as amended, carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-339 requesting the submission of a public question to the electors of Champaign County regarding an increase to sales tax on purchase of goods; Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

Board Member Hanauer Friedman offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-340 requesting the submission of a public question to the electors of Champaign County regarding an increase to the County's property tax rate; Board Member Sullard seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-341 requesting the submission of a public question to the electors of Champaign County regarding a reduction of County services; Board Member Sullard seconded.

Board Member Farney offered an amendment to change the question to read “To address Champaign County’s General Fund structural deficit, I support” and the binary answers to read “raise taxes” and “cut personnel and services” and that the question be placed on the ballot above those of Resolutions No. 2025-339 and No. 2025-340; Board Chair Locke seconded.

Board Member Wilson stated his partial support of the amendment but offered an amendment for the question to read “I support a reduction in County services” with yes and no answers; Board Member Crane seconded. Various Board Members began to discuss the procedure of handling the multiple amendments. Board Member Crane asked for confirmation that Board Member Farney’s amendment also would change the ballot question order; Board Member Farney confirmed the change, as it would put the basic question of County finances before more specific question about taxation. Board Member Hanauer-Friedman stated her belief that the question should include language that specifies service cuts and asked if the language would require review by the State’s Attorney; Board Member Farney stated that he had already had his proposed amendment reviewed by Assistant State’s Attorney Andrew Bequette. Board Member Cagle stated that original language is designed to elicit emotions and doing so feels manipulative to voters, whereas the language of both amendments offered is more straightforward. Board Member Arres asked why the Farney amendment doesn’t have a yes or no response; Board Member Farney stated it was intended to reframe the question away from an easy “no taxes” answer while showing a clear distinction of the results of taxes versus services. Board Member Sullard stated that the Farney amendment would provide the Board with more information for planning than a strict yes or no response. Board Member Peugh noted that County highway maintenance does not draw from the County General Fund, and as such, it would not be impacted by a deficit to the General Fund as referenced in the original resolution text. Various Board Members discussed the order in which to address the two amendments proposed and whether the Wilson amendment was an amendment to the resolution or an amendment to the Farney amendment. Various Board Members also discussed the Farney amendment’s proposed ballot order change. Board Member Wilson withdrew his amendment.

The motion to amend the resolution carried by voice vote.

The motion, as amended to place the question first on the ballot and to change the language of the question and answers, carried by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Sexton offered an omnibus motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-342 authorizing payments of claims and Resolution No. 2025-343 purchases not following Purchasing Policy; Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded. Board Member Wilson stated his disagreement with approving non-compliant room service purchases. Board Member Arres noted a spelling error in the non-compliant purchases. The motion carried, pending correction, by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Arres offered a motion to authorize for the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) to continue negotiations for the purchase of real property; Board Member Cagle seconded. Board Member Farney expressed his concerns for the purchases based on the current financial and grant funding uncertainty, especially with the federal government and the County's current position on the stop-payment list; and he expressed further concerns about the fate of the Brookens building and the maintenance costs of a new building. Board Member Fortado expressed concern for the long-term funding of the Capital Asset Replacement Fund for Brookens and a potential new building. RPC CEO Dalitso Sulamoyo and Director of Operations Tami Ogden were invited to join the discussion. RPC Director Ogden stated that RPC would not rely on the County's Physical Plant division for maintenance, noting that RPC has approximately \$120,000 budget for maintenance, any potential building purchase would include a building condition assessment, and that RPC plans to create a capital improvement plan. RPC CEO Sulamoyo spoke about RPC's strong grant funding position, noting that there is broad bipartisan support for RPC programs with congressional budgeting being supportive despite presidential threats, and he noted that RPC has successfully weathered past grant-reduction periods, particularly during the Rauner governorship. Board Member Peugh expressed uncertainty about future grant funding and concern for the responsibility of a new building in addition to the Brookens building. Board Member Wilson stated that grant funding will always be risky but is confident in RPC leadership and supports their search for a new building. Board Member Carter thanked RPC for all the good work they do in the community. Board Member Farney reiterated that RPC is entirely self-sufficient and not dependent on the county for funding. Board Member Hanauer-Friedman expressed concern with financing a new building and the continued costs of Brookens. The motion carried by voice vote.

Director of Administration Michelle Jett reminded the Board that while the Brookens building will go on the market, they should not plan on any sales revenue in budgeting but rather anticipate additional expenditures related to the sale of the property.

OTHER BUSINESS

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Project Manager Kathy Larson provided a brief update on ARPA-funded projects and noted the memorandum in the Agenda Packet. Board Member Wilson asked about underspending of various projects for 2025; Project Manager Larson stated that the unspent funds budgeted for 2025 will carryover to 2026.

Board Member Wilson asked about the Rural Broadband program; Project Manager Larson and County Executive Summers both noted that Volo is currently finalizing easement contracts.

Board Member Fortado offered a motion to approve a funding request from the University of Illinois Extension Office for the SNAP-Ed Program in FY2026; Board Member Hanauer-Friedman seconded. Board Member Fortado spoke about the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) program needs, and she stated the funds would come from accrued ARPA interest and noted the program would receive outside matching funds as well. Board Member Peugh noted that the University of Illinois takes a large portion of program funding for overhead and administrative expenses. Board Members Farney and Wilson noted the Board had previously decided that ARPA funds should not be used to fund permanent programs or salaries. Board Members Farney and Sexton noted that the County has pressing needs. Board Member Fortado stated that the SNAP-Ed program is in the spirit of ARPA's intentions and community has acute nutrition needs, and the funding would allow SNAP-Ed time to seek other funding. Board Member Wilson stated that the Board had agreed to spend accrued ARPA interest on County Facilities projects; Board Member Fortado corrected Board Member Wilson that the County Facilities projects would be funded through the surplus from the Jail Renovation Project. Various Board Members discussed the use of accrued ARPA interest, determining that accrued ARPA interest is not bound by the same restrictions of ARPA funds. Various Board Members discussed the role of the Champaign Urbana Public Health District (CUPHD) in SNAP-Ed, concluding that while CUPHD does have a SNAP-Ed program, it is limited and does not serve the entire county. The motion failed by voice vote.

County Executive Summers stated that the Grant Coordinator's update can be found in the Agenda Packet.

COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Peugh asked why the County is not flying an American flag outside the Bennett Administrative Center.

Board Member Carter questioned Director Jett's dual role as interim Facilities Director and spoke against the Board's financial decisions, calling for the resignation of Board Members Hanauer-Friedman and Farney as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, of the Finance Committee. County Executive Summers defended the work of Director Jett. Board Members Peugh and Farney stated the discussion of an employee's salary in an open meeting was out of order.

Board Member Wilson spoke about Hanukkah and the mass shooting targeting a Jewish celebration of Hanukkah in Bondi Beach, Australia, four days prior. He denounced antisemitism.

ADJOURNMENT

County Executive Summers adjourned the meeting at 8:44 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron Ammons". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

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