

RESUME OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
January 22, 2026

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 6:31 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: Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Arres, Cagle, Esry, Farney, Fava, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rogers, Rodriguez, Settles, and Locke – 16; absent: Wiggs, Wilson, Carter, Cowart, Crane, and Settles – 6. County Executive Summers declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business.

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

In lieu of a prayer, County Executive Summers read public service announcement about the forecasted winter storm with very cold temperatures during the upcoming weekend 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 January 8, January 15, and January 21, 2026.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA

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

Board Member Sullard offered a motion to amend the agenda to move item XI. Communications to follow item XVI. B. Resolution No. 2026-26 and to remove item X. A. HTEM Mahomet Aquifer Mapping Results presentation until the February 2026 Regular County Board Meeting; Board Chair Locke seconded.

The motion to amend the Agenda/Addenda carried by unanimous voice vote.
The motion as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Standing Committees:

A. County Facilities Committee

Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

- B. Environment and Land Use Committee
Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center
- C. Highway and Transportation Committee
Friday, February 6, 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, February 10, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

County Board:

- A. Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-14 Honoring County Employees for Years of Service; Board Member Lokshin 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 Alison Watkins. Mental Health Board Executive Director Lynn Canfield was invited to speak and praised the service of Shandra Summerville, as did Board Member Fortado. Board Member Farney noted a typographical error in the resolution. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote, pending correction.

PUBLIC INPUT

Democratic County Executive candidate Sanford Hess spoke about the poorly planned and chaotic County finances and the ever-expanding power and staffing of the County Executive's Office.

Jim Goss of Mahomet encouraged Board Members to research and understand the downsides of data centers, particularly their high water consumption, and asked the Board protect the Mahomet Aquifer from data center exploitation.

Cunningham Children's Home President/CEO Marlin Livingston spoke about the County's involvement in the work of the Champaign County Redeploy Initiative and noted that he and other shareholders are willing to work with the county, they also want independence from the county. He added that the Redeploy grant is not at risk.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda; Board Member Sullard seconded. The motion consisting of thirteen resolutions (Nos.2026-1, 2025-2, 2025-3, 2025-4, 2025-5, 2025-6, 2025-7, 2025-8, 2025-9, 2025-10, 2025-11, 2025-12, and 2025-13) and one ordinance (No. 2026-1) carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Arres, Cagle, Esry, Farney, Fava, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rogers, Rodriguez, Settles, and Locke – 16

Nays: none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the County Board on December 18, 2025; Board Member Sullard 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 January 6, 2026, and Highway and Transportation Committee of January 8, 2026, were received and placed on file.

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-2 amending Zoning Ordinance for a zoning map amendment on certain property; Board Member Farney seconded. Board Member Thorsland noted that the ordinance requires twelve voter for passage and spoke about specifics of the property in question. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Arres, Cagle, Esry, Farney, Fava, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rogers, Rodriguez, Settles, and Locke – 16

Nays: none

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 January 13, 2026, was received and placed on file.

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-15 amending the Schedule of Authorized Positions in the Administrative Services Department–Grant Coordinator and Grant Reporting Clerk; Board Member Sullard seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-16 amending the Schedule of Authorized Positions in the Physical Plant and Administrative Services Department—Maintenance Manager, Custodial and Grounds Manager, and Facilities Project Manager; Board Member Lokshin seconded. Board Member Peugh stated that he had spoken with Physical Plant staff and they had a negative reaction to the proposed position changes. Board Member Arres asked for documentation on the personnel expenses and the projected cost-savings. Director of Administration Michelle Jett was invited to speak; she stated the wages for the new positions would be covered by funds available from eliminating the Facilities Director position. The motion carried by voice vote.

Board Member Rogers offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-17 authorizing a Safety Assessment Management and Mitigation Team intergovernmental agreement; Board Member Sullard seconded. Board Chair Locke noted an error in the resolution that, in one instance, incorrectly stated the intergovernmental agreement was with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services instead of with the City of Champaign, City of Urbana, and Parkland College. The motion carried by voice vote, pending correction.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered an omnibus motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-18 authorizing payment of claims and Resolution No. 2026-19 purchases not following the Purchasing Policy; Board Member Cagle seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-20 authorizing an intergovernmental agreement for Animal Control and Impound Services with the villages of Bondville, Deland, Homer, Ivesdale, Ludlow, Ogden, Pesotum, Philo, Sidney, and Thomasboro; Board Member Farney seconded. Board Member Farney thanked Animal Control Director Chelsea Angelo for consolidating the agreement, instead of having ten individual village agreements. Board Chair Locke noted that an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded software purchase enabled the agreement consolidation and the associated cost savings. County Executive Summers thanked both Director Angelo and Director Jett for their work on the multi-village intergovernmental agreement.

Board Member Lokshin offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-21 approving a letter of understanding with GHR Engineers and Associates, Inc. for mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and engineering services, pursuant to RFP 2025-014; Board Member Thorsland seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-22 approving letters of understanding with Baily Edward Design, Inc.; Reifsteck, Wakefield, Fanning, and Company; and IGW for architectural services, pursuant to RFP 2025-015; Board Member Esry seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-23 authorizing application and, if awarded, acceptance of the Emergency and Transitional Housing Grant; Board Member Hanauer-Friedman seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-24 approving Budget Amendment BUA 2026/1/108 appropriating Emergency and Transitional Housing Grant funding for the purchase of new equipment to improve shelter facilities; Board Member Rogers seconded. Board Member Vanichtheeranont noted the necessity of the shelter given the severe cold weather forecast for the upcoming weekend. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Arres, Cagle, Esry, Farney, Fava, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rogers, Rodriguez, Settles, and Locke – 16

Nays: none

Board Member Sullard offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-25 approving Budget amendment BUA 2026/1/84 an interfund loan to the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) for facility-related expenses; Board Member Esry seconded. Board Member Farney asked if project was being funded through the General Fund. Board Chair Locke spoke about the necessity of the project, creating rooms in the open office space, and the constraints of grant-funded facility-related projects but stated that the funds would be a loan from the General Fund, but she suggested it be changed to simply a payment from the General Fund.

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman offered a motion to remove the loan language and have it simply funded through the General Fund; Board Member Rogers seconded. Board Member Farney stated that the Board cannot start overspending the budget for the start of the year. Board Member Rogers suggested ARPA fund interest could be used for the project. Board Member Lokshin stated that the privacy, which the project would provide, is necessary for the CAC. CAC Executive Director Lisa Liggins-Chambers and State's Attorney Julia Rietz were invited to speak. Director Liggins-Chambers stated that CAC's grants stipulate privacy and confidentiality standards with which the current office configuration does not comply, not only putting the grants at risk but also creating a legal issue; she further stated that the project would make the space safer for children. State's Attorney Rietz spoke about specifics of the room and the CAC's needs. Board Member Lokshin stated that the CAC office space was originally designed for the Auditor's Office before the Auditor refused to relocate to the Bennett Administrative Center, and the remodeling is necessary given the unique needs of the CAC. Various Board Members spoke about the spatial needs for CAC and the liability issues associated with the current configuration. Board Member Fortado encouraged the CAC to include facilities funding in future grants. Board Members Esry and Farney stated their disappointment that the issues was not raised sooner, at least with enough time to be considered in committee; State's Attorney Rietz stated that the issue had been raised previously and noted that she had intended for its inclusion at the January Committee of the Whole, but missed the unpublished deadline for inclusion by

one day, and she requested that county departments be made aware of the County Board's committee deadlines. The motion to amend the resolution to remove the loan language carried by voice vote.

The motion, as amended, carried by roll-call vote:

Yeas: Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Arres, Esry, Farney, Fava, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rogers, Rodriguez, Settles, and Locke – 15

Nays: Cagle – 1

OTHER BUSINESS

ARPA Project Manager Kathy Larson provided a brief update on ARPA-funded projects and noted the memorandum in the Agenda Packet. Board Member Farney requested the Broadband project partners present an update at the next Regular County Board Meeting; Board Members Thorsland and Sullard noted an upcoming Broadband Task Force meeting on February 11, 2026, at 6:30 PM in the Shields-Carter Meeting Room. Board Member Fortado requested a timeline from the Regional Planning Commission on the Safety, Lighting, Energy Efficiency Program. Board Member Fortado asked for an update on the Economic Development Corporation's Small Business Loan program; Project Manager Larson stated that there were already 31 loans completed. Board Member Fortado asked why the City of Champaign had not yet sent invoices for the Garden Hills project; Project Manager Larson stated that the City of Champaign had sent the invoice but not yet sent the accompanying paperwork. Board Member Fortado stated the ARPA funds must be spent by the end of the year. Director Jett was invited to join the discussion; she requested the Board set firm spending deadlines for ARPA projects.

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-26 amending the Schedule of Authorized Positions in the Administrative Services Department—Program Director, Therapist, Case Manager, and Family Engagement; Board Member Fortado seconded.

Board Member Sullard moved to table the discussion until the February Regular County Board Meeting; Board Member Farney seconded. Board Members Sullard, Rodriguez, and Fortado all noted the ongoing discussions with various stakeholders about the Redeploy program management. State's Attorney Rietz was invited to join the discussion; she gave background on the Redeploy Program and requested the resolution be removed not just tabled for a month, noting the ongoing discussions with the various stakeholders and the work needed to be done before the county acts. Cunningham Children's Home President/CEO Martin Livingston was invited to speak; he asked the county to be considerate of all the Redeploy stakeholders before acting, and he noted the current Redeploy grant is for planning purposes. The motion to table the resolution carried by voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman reminded the Board of the Study Session on County Finances on Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

Board Member Vanichtheeranont spoke about the upcoming January, 31, 2026, Clean Energy Homes Alex Long Tour of a fully electrified home in Urbana.

Board Member Peugh requested that the Board Meetings not include last-minute additions or details of items, so that members can have the time to evaluate their decisions.

ADJOURNMENT

County Executive Summers adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.



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