

Champaign County Board Democratic Caucus
7/20/21

Present:

Kyle Patterson, Eric Thorsland, Jen Straub, Leah Taylor, Steve Summers, Emily Rodriguez, Jenny Lokshin, Jordan Humphries, Lorraine Cowart, Mary King, Samantha Carter, Stephanie Fortado, Wayne Williams, Angie Patton, Michelle Jett.

6:31: Meeting called to order by Taylor. Agenda moved by Summers, 2nd by Thorsland, passes unanimously.

6:32: Communications: Straub received emails from constituents opposed to the bee ordinance. Thorsland explains that there is no ordinance on file and one is currently going through the process with ELUC and ZBA, which takes some time. This is due to one beekeeper who has not been responsible, and the proposal is up in the air.

6:35: King states she was also contacted by constituents opposed to the bee ordinance.

6:39: Patterson was also contacted by several constituents opposed to bee ordinance.

6:42: Summers discusses the June Mental Health Board budget transfer and how no GOP board members voted in support of it. He met with Harper, Goss, Patterson and Fortado, and believes that we will pass the funds. Summers asks for heat to be turned down during discussion.

6:46: Rodriguez follows up about the next steps for the mental health board vote, and Fortado explains that we will be voting on it at this meeting.

6:48: Carter states she has been vocal on social media about her discontent with GOP voting down mental health funding and that the GOP deserves criticism.

6:50: Patterson states that the GOP's behavior is wrong, but that it is important to be civil and diplomatic so that we can obtain the funding.

6:53: Thorsland takes poll of members who would like to attend the County Board meeting in person. Taylor states she has to stay home, but encourages anyone attending in person to mask up and be safe.

6:57: Finance Committee: Fortado explains the routine agenda items. Discusses RPC security cameras being requested.

6:59: Fortado explains the Count Clerk's grant, and highway department expenditures.

7:02: Cowart explains that a dump truck order was late.

7:04: Fortado explains work force study, personnel shortfalls of the county such as turnover, low salaries, lack of an HR department, insufficient discrimination training and policies.

7:08: Summers explains that at the labor management health care committee the labor rep asked if administrative services had a memo explaining the benefits to new hires, and the county does not. Michelle Jett explains that Debbie Heiser used to do a training.

7:12: Policy, Personnel, and Appointments Committee: Taylor explains that Stohr is not present, but wanted to communicate his support for the appointment of Jon Bergee for Board of Review and Monte Cherry for Sangamon Valley Water District. He is fine with all the other appointments.

7:14: Thorsland states that he knows Monte Cherry and he will be a good voice on that board.

7:15: Patterson discusses the appointments to the Broadband Task Force.

7:17: Fortado explains that the broadband RFQ only had one response and it was Comcast. It was not out for long enough and she has concerns about a design-build conflict of interest by Comcast.

7:21: Fortado explains that with the mental health vote, the GOP wants to make sure unspent funds get returned to ARPA and Harper will be amending the resolution. Fortado discusses the memo that was just received from the auditor and treasurer.

7:26: Fortado discusses ARPA department requests in packet. Explains that we need three more study sessions, one for community violence, water infrastructure, and housing and we need to set a date.

7:30: Taylor states that Fortado should pick dates that work best for her.

7:33: Taylor adjourns meeting.