

RESUME OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
February 23, 2023

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 6:31 PM in the Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center, 1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois, with Board Chair Kyle Patterson presiding and Matthew Cross as Clerk of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following members present: Harper, Ingram, Locke, Lokshin, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Williams, Wilson, Cowart, Esry, Fortado, and Patterson – 18; absent: Goss, Hanauer-Friedman, Michaels, and Carter – 4. Board Chair Patterson declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business.

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Chair Patterson read a prayer from Rabbi Norman Klein, 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 February 2, February 9, and February 16, 2023.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA

Board Member Straub offered a motion to approve the Agenda/Addenda; Board Member Cowart seconded. Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to pull Item VIII A 5 (Res. 2023-22) from the Consent Agenda and place it as XI B 1 due to a modification of the text in the resolution since it was considered by the Environment and Land Use Committee; Board Member Stohr seconded. Offering Board Member Straub and seconding Board Member Cowart both agreed to the amendment. The motion to approve the Agenda/Addenda as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Standing Committees:

- A. County Facilities Committee
Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room
- B. Environment and Land Use Committee
Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Champaign County Board
February 23, 2023
Shields-Carter Meeting Room
C. Highway and Transportation Committee
Friday, March 10, 2023 at 9:00 AM
1605 E Main Street, Urbana

Committee of the Whole:

A. Justice and Social Services; Policy, Personnel and Appointments; *and* Finance
Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room

County Board:

A. Study Session
Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 6:00 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room
A. Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Member Ingram offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Board Member Taylor seconded. The motion comprising 16 resolutions (Nos. 2023-21, 2023-23, 2023-24, 2023-25, 2023-26, 2023-27, 2023-28, 2023-29, 2023-30, 2023-31, 2023-32, 2023-33, 2023-34, 2023-35, 2023-36, and 2023-37) and 4 ordinances (Nos. 2023-1, 2023-2, 2023-3, and 2023-4) carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: Harper, Ingram, Locke, Lokshin, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Williams, Wilson, Cowart, Esry, Fortado, and Patterson – 18

Nays: none

COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Wilson noted that he recently attended a Veterans' Assistance Commission Board meeting; He briefly spoke about the work of the Commission and lauded the work of its Superintendent Brad Gould. He also noted to presence of several veterans at the meeting and thanked them for their service.

Board Member Ingram added to Board Member Wilson's remarks, detailing the Recorder's Office's work with registering Veterans' honorable discharges. He also thanked retiring Board Member Williams for his service to the county.

Champaign County Board
February 23, 2023

Board Member Taylor spoke briefly about her first meeting with the Board for the Care and Treatment of Persons with a Developmental Disability, and she noted accessibility barriers for those with hearing issues and asked board members to speak directly into their microphones so it can be heard on the streaming broadcast and thus be captured by captioning software.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the County Board of January 19, 2023; Board Member Taylor seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Standing Committees

Board Chair Patterson noted the Summaries of Action Taken for County Facilities on February 7, 2023, and Environment and Land Use Committee on February 9, 2023 were received and placed on file.

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-22 authorizing agreement to use State Farm Center parking lot for Illinois Environmental Protection Agency-sponsored one-day household hazardous waste collection on April 15, 2023; Board Member Esry seconded. Board Member Thorsland explained that the text had been altered since its approval at the Environment and Land Use Committee, necessitating its removal from the Consent Agenda; the University of Illinois had requested a change in Section 2 changing the site clearing deadline from 11:00 pm—now stating “Site shall be cleared of all vehicles, staff, and materials by 5:00 pm on April 15.” *and* adding a line in Section 7 stating “University may terminate this Agreement without cause upon 30 days’ written notice to Licensee.” Board Member Wilson asked if, in the event the University cancels the event, would the event be rescheduled; Board Member Thorsland replied that the hope would be to find an alternative location instead of rescheduling the date and Board Member Esry stated that it would be either moved or rescheduled, noting that the event was held by the University last year and hoped it will become a yearly event. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

County Executive Summers noted the Summary of Action take for the Committee of the Whole (Justice and Social Services; Finance; Policy, Personnel, and Appointments) on February 14, 2023, was received and placed on file.

Board Member Stohr offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-38 amending the schedule of authorized positions of the Public Defender’s Office; Board Member Lokshin seconded. County Public Defender Elisabeth Pollock was invited to join the discussion.

Champaign County Board

February 23, 2023

Board Member Vanichtheeranont asked who won the game; Public Defender Pollock replied, “we did not.” Board Member Wilson noted his appreciation for Public Defender Pollock’s dedication to the Public Defender’s Office. The motion carried by voice vote with one decent.

Board Member Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-39 approving budget amendment BUA 2022/121/1716 to cover variances for the FY2017 and FY2018 Accounts Payable and General Corp bank accounts; Board Member Fortado seconded. Board Member Fortado explained this was the result of a fee mistake from 2017 that was not identified until recently and the appropriation is need both for transparency and to pay the deficit; she also asked for an explanation by any members intending to vote against the motion. Board Member Wilson asked about the source of the mistake and a discrepancy of cost in the resolution variously cited as \$27,011.83 and \$27,012.00; Board Member Fortado explained the discrepancy is simply the result of rounding to the nearest dollar. Board Member Lokshin asked if paying off the debt would have an impact on the County’s credit rating; Board Member Fortado explained that it would likely not impact the credit rating and that the County’s current credit rating is probably as high as possible. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: Harper, Ingram, Locke, Lokshin, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Williams, Wilson, Cowart, Esry, Fortado, and Patterson – 18

Nays: none

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-40 approving budget amendment BUA 2022/12/1759 to address budget shortages in office supplies marriage surcharge, outside services, temporary staff, travel gas, and election worker lines; Board Member Taylor seconded. The motion carried by roll-call vote.

Yeas: Ingram, Locke, Lokshin, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Williams, Wilson, Cowart, Fortado, and Patterson – 16

Nays: Harper and Esry – 2

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-41 authorizing payment of claims; Board Member Fortado seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Williams offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-42 authorizing purchases not following purchasing policy; Board Member Locke seconded. Board Member Fortado explained the resolution is mostly to address funding shortfalls from FY2022 and the one outlier is due to the Illini Union’s refusal to submit an itemized statement to the Clerk’s Office for voting at the Illini Union; she further stated that she intended to contact the Illini Union for an explanation. Board Member Harper asked about the Sheriff’s Office’s \$15,641 line; Board Member Fortado stated it was the result of a cost increase for medications and that it was covered in detail during the

Champaign County Board
February 23, 2023

Committee of the Whole meeting the prior week. Board Member Wilson expressed confusion at the Illini Union not issuing an itemized statement, as he received the same for his dinner at Bunny's Tavern that evening. He also asked about the budget shortfalls; Board Member Fortado explained the budget shortfalls are typical for February Board Meetings as it is the last month to clean to books from the prior fiscal year. Various Board Members engaged in a tangential discussion of their preferred food at Bunny's Tavern. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Esry offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-43 encouraging the Illinois Department of Transportation to fulfill commitment to replace bridge; Board Member Harper seconded. Board Member Esry explained the importance of the Interstate 74 crossing, particularly to the farming community. He urged the state to replace the bridge and not to merely remove the crossing, stating that the closure puts more agricultural traffic on US Route 150, making it more hazardous. Board Member Taylor stated her agreement with Board Member Esry, adding that the closure also increases emergency service response time. Board Member Esry added that the closure is not just an issue for the County Board as the issue is also being raised by Representatives and Senators in the Illinois State General Assembly. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Board Chair Patterson raised the Letter of Support for the City of Champaign TIF District Extension. Board Member Fortado stated the City of Champaign is reevaluating their TIF Districts for funding and added her support for the letter of support. Board Member Williams noted that the City of Champaign not only is seeking to extend the TIF District but also expand it to the west and north; he further added that TIFs are rarely allowed to expire and that they take funding from schools and raise property taxes. Board Member Wilson asked when the TIF District in question is set to expire; Board Member Williams stated that the TIF is set to expire in 2025 and the extension will add 12 years. Board Member Taylor asked for clarification that TIFs are commonly renewed, so they are not allowed to expire, effectively making them permanent; Board Members Fortado and Williams confirmed. The board signaled its unanimous support by a raise of hands.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Project Manager Kathy Larson provided an update on County ARPA projects. Board Member Wilson asked for an update on the Mahomet Aquifer Airborne Mapping Project; ARPA Project Manager Larson stated that the helicopter mapping has been completed; Board Member Stohr stated that preliminary data should be available in three months, but that would be followed by ground verifications, and he added that a project with the scope of the Mahomet Aquifer Airborne Mapping Project cannot produce immediate results. Board Member Wilson asked about the status of the rural broadband

Champaign County Board
February 23, 2023

project; ARPA Project Manager Larson stated that contracts and agreements were in the drafting stage. Board Member Wilson asked for updates by project type; ARPA Project Manager Larson stated those updates were in the ARPA Project Update Memo. Board Member Wilson asked for quarterly finance updates on ARPA Projects; ARPA Project Manager Larson stated the memo contains monthly financial updates. Board Member Fortado requested the Urbana Park District's ARPA request be drawn from the Community Violence Prevention fund. She also asked board members to propose their final ARPA projects by March 24, 2023 and the ARPA committee reconvene thereafter. Board Chair Patterson noted the Republican board members need to appoint a board member to the Community Violence Prevention Task Force to replace the retired Jim McGuire.

Tim Bartlett (Urbana Park District Executive Director) and Corky Emberson (Urbana Park District Superintendent of Recreation) gave a presentation to request ARPA funds for a new health and wellness center to be constructed on the eastern portion of Prairie Park on East Washington Street in Urbana, between the Brookens Administrative Center and Dr. Preston L. Williams Jr. Elementary School; Executive Director Bartlett and Superintendent of Recreation Emberson were invited to join the discussion. Board Member Ingram asked about the fee difference between visitors residing within and outside the boundaries of the Urbana Park District, noting much of the nearby Scottswood subdivision is not in the Urbana Park District; Superintendent of Recreation Emberson stated the park district is creating membership scholarships to be available to non-resident visitors; Executive Director Bartlett added that the Urbana Parks District has a reciprocal relationship with the Champaign Park District; Superintendent of Recreation Emberson also added the facility will have free gym time available to anyone. Board Member Stohr noted that the Champaign County Forest Preserve District is interested in partnering with the Urbana Park District. Board Member Fortado stated she was concerned with Parks, Race, and Equity, particularly regarding access, stating that parks provide recreation but also community meeting spaces and youth employment opportunities. Board Members Stohr and Williams both proposed ARPA funding for the project at \$500,000. Board Member Straub asked that the park district commit to ensuring accessibility beyond scholarships, and Board Member Lokshin noted the neighbor access policy at the Champaign Park District's Martens Center. Board Member Rogers asked about the proposed buildings connection with the neighboring elementary school; Superintendent of Recreation Emberson stated the park district is working on sustainable afterschool projects; Executive Director Bartlett stated that Urbana Park District is committed to serving the community beyond the district borders. Board Member Harper stated his support for funding the project up to \$500,000. Board Member Wilson stated that he did not want to commit to funding at the meeting, especially when four members were not present; Board Member Fortado stated that ARPA fund allocations are not formally voted, but the project will require a voted-upon intergovernmental agreement; Board Member Lokshin added the Community Violence Prevention fund, from which the Urbana Park District would draw, has

Champaign County Board
February 23, 2023

more than \$2 million in unallocated funds. Board Member Wilson asked if the City of Champaign might contribute funds instead of the county. Board Member Rodriguez asked how funding at \$500,000 instead of the requested \$1 million would affect the project; Executive Director Bartlett stated the project is high priority and the park district was determined to find the funds elsewhere to make up the difference; Superintendent of Recreation Emberson stated that they have identified cost savings measures within the plans to account for potential shortfalls. Board Member Straub added that Urbana Park District could request more funds at a later date. By a show of hands, the board unanimously agreed to direct ARPA Project Manager Larson to contribute \$500,000 to the project from the Community Violence Prevention ARPA fund and to begin drawing an intergovernmental agreement.

The board took up discussion of the Supervisor of Assessments request for fund for exemption monitoring; Chief County Assessment Officer Paula Bates was invited to join the discussion. Chief Assessment Officer Bates explained that the exemption monitoring through TruRoll audits existing property exemption and it also identifies property exemptions not currently being applied, and she asked for a six-month extension of TruRoll exemption monitoring. She added that monitoring should ideally be conducted every three to four years. Board Member Fortado thanked Board Member Williams for raising this issue with the board and stated her support for the request. Board Member Williams thanked Chief Assessment Officer Bates for her hard work and dedication, and he stated his support for the request. The board indicated unanimous support for funding the six-month extension of TruRoll exemption monitoring by a showing of raised thumbs.

ADJOURNMENT

County Executive Summers adjourned the meeting at 8:47 PM.



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