

RESUME OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
October 24, 2024

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, October 24, 2024, at 6:30 PM in the Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center, 1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois, with County Executive Steve Summers presiding and Matthew Cross and Angie Patton as Clerks of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following members present Sexton, Smith, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wilson, Cowart, Farney, Fortado, Greer, Locke, Michaels, Owen, and Carter – 16; absent: Rogers, Rodriguez, Esry, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin – 5. Peugh arrived late at 6:31PM -1. 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 September October 9, 16, 23, 2024.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA

Board Member Sexton offered a motion to approve the Agenda/Addenda; Board Member Locke seconded.

Board Member Fortado offered an amendment to move up items XVI-A1

1. (ARPA Update) to be placed after X. Board Member Thorsland seconded.

The motion as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Study Sessions:

- A. Joint Labor & Policy, Personnel, &
Appointments Committee Study Session
Tuesday, October 29, 2024 @ 6:00PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room

Standing Committees:

- A. County Facilities Committee Tuesday, November 6, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m. Shields-Carter Meeting Room
- B. Environment & Land Use Committee Thursday, November 7, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m. Shields-Carter Meeting Room
- C. Highway & Transportation Committee Friday, November 8, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m. 1605 E Main Street, Urbana

Committee of the Whole:

- A. Justice & Social Services; Policy, Personnel & Appointments; Finance Tuesday, November 12, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m. Shields-Carter Meeting Room

County Board:

- A. Regular Meeting Thursday, November 21, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m. Shields-Carter Meeting Room

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Board Member Stohr offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-258 Honoring County Employees for Years of Service, Board Member Cowart seconded. Board Member Stohr read the resolution.

County staff that were part of the 2024 40 Under 40 celebration were also recognized.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chris Evans spoke against the Public Safety Sales Tax.

Isabel Scott spoke against the Public Safety Sales Tax and the use of County funds for an informational campaign.

IL State Representative, Carol Ammons spoke in opposition to the Public Safety Sales Tax.

Public Defender, Liz Pollock spoke in support of funding the Public Defender's office and for the Public Safety Sales Tax.

Auditor, George Danos gave an update about the status of the audit. Danos thanked former Chief Deputy Orion Smith for his work on this. Auditor Danos also covered the issue for purchases not following policy. Specifically, the printing invoices that didn't get 3 bids.

Brian Dolinar spoke against the Public Safety Sales Tax.

Martel Miller spoke in opposition to the Public Safety Sales Tax.

AFSCME representatives David Beck (who was joined by CeCe Phillips) spoke in support of the public safety sales tax and appreciated the Board's courage in putting it on the ballot.

Reynaldo Camus spoke about his concerns about Board Member Rodriguez being asked about her residency.

Rohn Kester spoke against the Public Safety Sales Tax.

Sara Saboowala spoke in opposition to the Public Safety Sales Tax.

Ben Joselyn thanked the public officials who attended the meeting. He spoke in support of keeping the Auditor and against the Public Safety Sales Tax.

Mike Ingram spoke in support of getting rid of the Auditor and for the Public Safety Sales Tax.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Member Straub made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Board Member Michaels seconded the motion. The motion comprising 24 resolutions (nos. 2024-236, 2024-2037, 2024-127, 2024-232, 2024-238, 2024-239, 2024-240, 2024-241, 2024-242, 2024-243, 2024-243, 2024-244, 2024-245, 2024-246, 2024-247, 2024-248, 2024-249, 2024-250, 2024-251, 2024-252, 2024-253, 2024-254, 2024-255, 2024-256, and 2024-257)

Yeas: Sexton, Smith, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wilson, Cowart, Farney, Fortado, Greer, Locke, Michaels, Owen, Peugh, and Carter – 17

Nays: none

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Farney expressed condolences for State Trooper Corey Thompson and asked everyone to keep the family in their thoughts and prayers.

Board Member Fortado asked for a moment of silence in honor of State Trooper Corey Thompson

Board Member Thorsland spoke about ELUC Committee and thanked staff and Dr. Stohr for his efforts. Also spoke about ARPA funding going away an alternative for revenue would be utilizing wind energy.

Board Member Straub spoke about the Black Mental Health Conference and the Disability Resource Fair events happening this weekend.

Board Member Straub noted several community events happening-Pride Fest, Black Arts Expo, and the upcoming Disability Resource Fair.

Board Member Wilson spoke about the history of Veteran's Day and the upcoming Goldstar Memorial at the Savoy Municipal Building.

Board Member Wilson thanked Board Members for their supporting homeless veterans at the Veterans Stand Down event. The event was made possible through ARPA funds. He also expressed appreciation for the 9/11 event.

Board Chair Carter spoke about the board's behavior and the need for accountability. She also spoke to her concerns about spending County funds for the informational campaign for the Public Safety Sales Tax.

Board Member Owen spoke about his work dealing with a budget deficit and considers a budget a moral document. Spoke about concerns using County funds for the Public Safety Sales Tax campaign.

Board Member Fortado spoke in support of the Public Safety Sales Tax. Referenced the downtown jail closing with the expectation that the numbers housed there would drop, and they didn't. She also spoke in support of home rule and how that would have allowed them other funding opportunities.

Board Member Peugh talked with his constituents, and they don't support the Public Safety Sales Tax.

Board Member Taylor announced Centennial Archery team will be honoring local veterans.

ARPA UPDATE

Kathy Larson gave a brief update about ARPA and asked if there were any questions. Board Member Stohr asked about status of EDC. Larson said that they were trying to hire people to get the marketing campaign done. Board Chair Carter asked about the Low Hurdle Small Business initiative. Larson said there wasn't a meeting set, but she would follow up with Carly McCrory-McKay. Board Member Wilson invited Robbie Walker and Nicole Massey to present an update about the Healing Invisible Wounds conference.

IT UPDATE

Chief Information Officer, M.C. Neal presented on the projects County IT are working on. Various board members discussed and asked questions. Board Members thanked MC for his work with limited resources.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the County Board of September 19, 2024; Board Member Michaels seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ARPA Project Manager Kathy Larson presented an update of ARPA-funded projects. Board Member Wilson inquired about the State's Attorney's request for printers. Board Member Fortado mentioned the upcoming Special Finance meeting is to give recommendations to the Executive's office.

OTHER BUSINESS

Public Defender, Elisabeth Pollock, requested funding for expert witness testimony to get her through until the end of 2024. Various Board Members discussed and by a showing of thumbs up, the Board was in support of allocating funding to the Public Defender.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Board Member Fortado offered a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-259 Approving Amended Judgment in 2008-L-202; Board Member Farney seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Farney offered an omnibus motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-260 Authorizing Payment of Claims and Resolution No. 2024-261 Approving Purchases Not Following Purchase Policy. Board Member Straub seconded. Board Member Fortado expressed concern for the ongoing issues in the Auditor's office. Motion carried by voice vote, with Board Member Wilson voting nay.

Board Chair Carter offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-262 Approving Amendment to Contract with Broeren Russo Inc for County Plaza Renovation Project. Board Member Locked seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Thorsland offered an omnibus motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-263 Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement Between Champaign and Ford Counties Head Start and Early Head Start; Resolution No. 2024-264 Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement Between Champaign and Iroquois Counties Head Start and Early Head Start; Resolution No. 2024-265 Approving an Intergovernmental

Agreement Between Champaign and Vermillion Counties Head Start and Early Head Start. Board Member Owen seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-266. Board Member Straub seconded.

Yeas: Sexton, Smith, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wilson, Cowart, Farney, Fortado, Greer, Locke, Michaels, Owen, Peugh, and Carter - 17

Nays: None

Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Board Member Taylor offered a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-267 Approving Budget Amendment BUA 2024/10/478. Board Member Farney seconded.

Yeas: Sexton, Smith, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wilson, Cowart, Farney, Fortado, Greer, Locke, Michaels, Owen, Peugh, and Carter - 17

Nays: None

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Andrew Hall. Board Member Peugh seconded the motion. County Executive Summers read the full text of the Resolution. Various Board Members discussed what union Mr. Hall worked for. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Executive Summers invited Auditor Danos to speak about the audit status as it was on the agenda. Auditor Danos was not present after public comment. Various Board Members discussed suspending the rules to move the audit update to the top of the agenda so Board Members could ask questions of the Auditor. Board Member Cowart suggested all Department Heads come to the monthly meetings to present reports. Board Member Fortado reminded the Board that there would be a study session on 10/29/24 at 6PM.

RECESS

County Executive Summers recessed the meeting at 9:22 PM.



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