



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Finance/ Policy, Personnel, & Appointments/Justice & Social Services Minutes

County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Shields-Carter Meeting Room

Bennett Administrative Center

102 E. Main Street, Urbana, Illinois

OPEN MINUTES – Approved as Distributed on October 14, 2025

Members Present: Jon Cagle, Samantha Carter, Lorraine Cowart, Aaron Esry, John Farney, Jake Fava, Stephanie Fortado, Carolyn Greer, Elly Hanauer-Friedman, Jenny Lokshin, Brett Peugh, Emily Rodriguez, Jilmala Rogers, Matt Sullard, Eric Thorsland, Bethany Vanichtheeranont, Daniel Wiggs, Jeff Wilson, and Jennifer Locke

Members Absent: Ben Crane, and Tom ‘Ed’ Sexton

Others Present: Steve Summers (County Executive), Michelle Jett (Director of Administration), Travis Woodcock (Budget Director), Liz Pollock (Public Defender), Dalitso Sulamoyo (RPC Chief Executive Officer), Tami Ogden (Chief Operating Officer), Andrew Bequette (Assistant State’s Attorney), Joel Fletcher (Assistant State’s Attorney), Suzanne Brock (HR Manager) and Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)

Agenda Items

I. Call to Order

Chair Locke called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

III. Approval of Agenda/Addenda

MOTION by Ms. Vanichtheeranont to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Esry.

MOTION by Mr. Sullard to **AMEND** the agenda by moving item IX. D. 2 after item V., moving item VI. after item X. A; seconded by Ms. Hanauer-Friedman. Upon vote, the **MOTION to AMEND CARRIED**. Upon vote, the **MOTION as Amended CARRIED**.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. August 12, 2025 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Ms. Vanichtheeranont to approve the minutes of August 12, 2025; seconded by Ms. Lokshin. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

V. Public Input

Jason Benda, County employee, spoke about location artifacts in buildings, on websites and in documents. He reminded everyone that there are many locations that the address must be changed and encouraged everyone be patient as the community learns where the offices are now located.

VI. Communications

Ms. Carter spoke about elected official salaries being cut, the bloated salaries in the Executive's Office and the lack of pay increases for County employees. She has reached out to the community in an effort to get more people to run for office because the current friendships aren't allowing people to see what is in the public's best interest. She would like to see the salary increase for the Interim Facilities Director to be rescinded.

Ms. Hanauer-Friedman reminded everyone that the County Executive's salary is the lowest of all elected officials, the Director of Administration salary is the lowest of all director positions and they are saving money by not hiring a Facilities Director at this time. She does not see any bloated salaries in the Executive's Office.

Mr. Sullard stated that this Committee would never go to another elected official and tell them to change the pay of one of their employees but that is what they are talking about right now. This is not about friendships, its about disliking a specific employee.

Ms. Lokshin reminded everyone that the Board set the salary for the County Executive, and it was reduced significantly from what the previous Executive was making.

Mr. Farney clarified that he did not know about the salary adjustment for the Interim Facilities Director until Ms. Carter sent an email to the full County Board.

Mr. Thorsland disbursed LLC brochures to everyone. He thanked the Board for their support of the Lincoln Legacy Committee. Also, he mentioned the renaming of Memorial Stadium and how frustrating it is to see money donated to a department that does not need it when there are so many other ways it could have been spent to help the community.

Mr. Wilson reminded everyone that the anniversary of 9/11 is coming up on this week and detailed the events of that historic day. He stated that we should never forget what happened on 9/11/2001 and he shared details of a local memorial event. He also spoke about an incident where first responders were injured. He encouraged everyone to keep those first responders in their thoughts and prayers. Finally, he mentioned a conversation he had with a constituent about the Interim Facilities Director's salary increase. He believes the increase appears as slightly excessive to a number of people in the community.

Mr. Peugh reminded everyone about the electronic recycling event that will be happening soon.

Ms. Carter shared a story about September 11th is now a special day for her.

VII. Justice and Social Services

A. CU Reparations Coalition

Jeffrey Trask introduced himself and detailed his background. He explained why this coalition was created and their goals. He described different forms of reparations and the history of reparations. He encouraged everyone to think outside the box for different ways to provide reparations to those that were harmed. Mr. Trask is asking the County Board to pass an ordinance creating a reparations commission, sponsor the commission with \$25,000, and provide a representative to serve on the commission.

The Committee members discussed how other towns funded reparations, what other local entities have joined the commission, what information the County can provide from its current resources and how the initial investment would be used. Ms. Rodriguez stated the Board would most likely support a resolution encouraging support from other local entities.

B. Monthly Reports – All reports are available on each department’s webpage through the department reports page

- Emergency Management Agency – July 2025
- Probation & Court Services – July 2025
- Public Defender – August 2025

Received and placed on file

C. Other Business

None

D. Chair’s Report

None

E. Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda

None

VIII. Policy, Personnel, & Appointments

A. County Executive

1. Monthly HR Report – August 2025

Received and placed on file – Committee members discussed the vacant Facilities Director position, expressed their frustration surrounding the interim director’s salary increase and asked why the Building & Grounds Manager was not given the interim position. Ms. Rodriguez and Mr. Farney reminded the Committee they do not have control over the internal affairs of an elected official’s office. Mr. Farney suggested budgeting salaries at 80% so none of the departments have large amounts of money to spend on salary increases throughout the year.

2. Appointments/Reappointments (*italics indicates incumbent*)

- a. Resolution Appointing *Wayne Cox* to the Owl Creek Drainage District, unexpired term ending 8/31/2028
- b. Resolution Appointing *Valerie Rogers* to the Blackford Slough Drainage District, unexpired term ending 8/31/2028
- c. Resolution Appointing *Joseph Klein* to the Kankakee Drainage District, unexpired term ending 8/31/2028

OMNIBUS MOTION by Mr. Sullard to recommend County Board approval of resolutions appointing Wayne Cox, Valerie Rogers and Joseph Klein to their respective drainage districts; seconded by Ms. Greer. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED**, unanimously

- d. Resolution Appointing Chandler Jones to the East Lawn Memorial Burial Park, unexpired term ending 6/30/2028

MOTION by Mr. Farney to recommend County Board approval of a resolution appointing Chandler Jones to the East Lawn Memorial Burial Park; seconded by Ms. Lokshin. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- e. Currently vacant appointments – full list and information is available on the County’s website at:

Information only

B. County Clerk

1. Monthly Fee Reports – August 2025

Received and placed on file

C. Other Business

Ms. Carter requested to add an item to the County Board agenda regarding the increase of salaries for supervisors. Committee members reminded her that this item must go through committee approval first and she needs to speak with the Chair of the committee to get that added to the next Committee agenda.

D. Chair’s Report

None

E. Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda

VIII. A. 2a-d

IX. Finance

A. Regional Planning Commission

1. Funding Status Update from Dalitso Sulamoyo

Mr. Sulamoyo detailed his background before taking the position as Chief Executive Officer of the Regional Planning Commission. He shared details of the history of the RPC, their governing structure and how they have grown over the years. The majority of their funding is from federal sources and many of them are grants that are reimbursed after they incur the expenses. Mr. Sulamoyo explained that the current uncertain landscape surrounding federal funding has been very stressful for the RPC. He explained the federal budgeting process and while there has been some potentially good news from Congress, there is still a long way to go before the budget is finalized. If there is a government shutdown, they do not know how that will affect the RPC.

Ms. Ogden detailed the pathways they have been exploring in their search for new office space and the policies they have enacted that will help them if they acquire a facility in the future. She explained that facility ownership would provide the most stability for the RPC but the uncertainty around federal funding has caused them to pause their search until they know how their federal funding will be affected. Ms. Ogden also shared details of the ICRT program and their search for a training center. Once they find a location, it will become a regional training center, which will be good for the local economy.

Ms. Hanauer-Friedman asked how long they could survive if there is a federal shutdown. Ms. Ogden believes they would only last about 30 days. Committee members continued to discuss how much space the RPC needs, how attractable Brookens is for them and the lack of comparable locations.

2. Resolution Authorizing the Application, and if Awarded, the Acceptance of the Nutrition and Healthy Eating for Head Start Children and Families Grant

MOTION by Ms. Carter to recommend County Board approval of a resolution authorizing the application, and if awarded, the acceptance of the Nutrition and Healthy Eating for Head Start Children and Families Grant; seconded by Ms. Lokshin. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

B. Budget Amendments/Transfers

1. Monthly General Corporate Budget Amendment Report – August 2025

Information only

2. Budget Amendment BUA 2025/8/260
Fund 2104 Early Childhood Fund / Dept 104 Early Childhood Development
Increased Appropriations: \$7,800
Increased Revenue: \$7,800
Reason: Appropriation of one-time funding to fulfill operations of Foundations for Lifelong Learning from the Women United Literacy Grant from the United Way of Champaign County.

MOTION by Ms. Vanichtheeranont to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2025/8/260; seconded by Mr. Thorsland. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

3. Budget Amendment BUA 2025/8/427
Fund 2075 Regional Planning Commission / Dept 100 Regional Planning Commission
Increased Appropriations: \$175,000
Increased Revenue: \$175,000
Reason: Appropriation of Homeless & Housing Innovations Phase II grant funding to operate a winter emergency overflow shelter for homeless households with minor children.

MOTION by Ms. Locke to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2025/8/427; seconded by Mr. Sullard. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

4. Budget Amendment BUA 2025/8/530
Fund 1080 General Corporate / Dept 036 Public Defender
Increased Appropriations: \$18,000
Increased Revenue: \$0
Reason: Additional funds required to satisfy outstanding and future obligations for expert witnesses in FY2025.

MOTION by Ms. Carter to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2025/8/530; seconded by Ms. Greer. Ms. Pollock explained why this was an unexpected cost. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

5. Budget Amendment BUA 2025/8/121
Fund 6476 Self-Funded Insurance / Dept 119 Workers Compensation Insurance
Increased Appropriations: \$7,675
Increased Revenue: \$0
Reason: Appropriation of funds to cover actuarial study that is performed every other year.

MOTION by Ms. Vanichtheeranont to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2025/8/121; seconded by Mr. Farney. Mr. Woodcock explained that the wrong amount was budgeted for this year and he has corrected that for the FY2026 budget. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

C. Auditor

1. Reports through April 2025 are available on the Auditor's webpage

Information only

D. Treasurer

1. Monthly Report – August 2025 – Reports are available on the Treasurer's webpage

Received and placed on file

2. Closed Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)11 to consider litigation that is probable or imminent against or on behalf of Champaign County

MOTION by Mr. Esry to enter into CLOSED session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) to consider litigation which is pending against or on behalf of Champaign County, and litigation that is probable or imminent against Champaign County and that the following parties remain present: Assistant State's Attorneys, County Executive, Director of Administration, Budget Director, IT staff and recording secretary; seconded by Mr. Farney. Upon roll call vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

The Finance Committee of the Whole entered Closed Session at 6:37 p.m.

The Finance Committee of the Whole resumed Open Session at 6:41 p.m.

3. Resolution Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement Relating to the Payment of Claims from the Presence V. Champaign County Board of Review, et al, 15-L-75

MOTION by Mr. Sullard to recommend County Board approval of a resolution authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement relating to the payment of claims from the Presence Vs. Champaign County Board of Review, et al, 15-L-75; seconded by Ms. Locke. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

E. County Executive

1. FY2024 Audit Update

Mr. Wilson asked if there have been any new surprises and Mr. Woodcock explained that it is just very obvious that they don't ever want to get behind on the audit in the future because it is very hard to get caught up.

2. Budget Direction to Administration

Mr. Woodcock provided a quick presentation detailing items that could potentially affect the budget and significant items that have already affected the budget. He suggested options for savings and the amount of cuts that are needed to reach their goal.

Committee members began discussing items that they would like to see funded. Ms. Jett requested the Committee focus on giving administration direction for ways to meet their fund balance goals. After significant discussion, administration has their direction and will present options at the September 30th Special Finance meeting.

F. Other Business

None

G. Chair's Report

None

H. Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda

IX. A. 2, B. 2-5, D. 3

X. Other Business

A. Closed Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)1 to consider employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of an employee, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)3 to consider the employment, performance, or dismissal of a public official, and pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)11 to consider litigation which is probable or imminent against or on behalf of Champaign County

MOTION by Mr. Cagle to enter into CLOSED session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) to consider litigation which is pending against or on behalf of Champaign County, and litigation that is probable or imminent against Champaign County and that the following parties remain present: Assistant State's Attorney, County Executive, Director of Administration, Budget Director, HR Manager and recording secretary; seconded by Mr. Farney. Upon roll call vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

The Litigation Committee entered Closed Session at 9:17 p.m.

The Litigation Committee resumed Open Session at 10:05 p.m.

XI. Adjournment

Chair Locke adjourned the meeting at 10:05 p.m.