

Champaign County Board Democratic Caucus 8/10/2021

Present:

Stephanie Fortado, Leah Taylor, Steve Summers, Emily Rodriguez, Jenny Lokshin, Chris Stohr, Mary King, Kyle Patterson, Jen Straub

5:35: Taylor calls meeting to order. Agenda moved by King, second by Thorsland, passes unanimously

No public comment

5:37: Communications: Taylor was told by Executive Kloeppe that the COW and board meetings will be remote, but not the smaller committees.

Taylor recognizes the life of Johanna Cowart-Williams.

Fortado discusses upcoming study sessions in August

5:43: Justice and Social Services: Taylor explains there are only routine items on the agenda. Lokshin asks if the board has a committee to make legislative referrals and Stohr explains that Policy Personnel and Appointments can do that.

5:45: Policy, Personnel and Appointments: Stohr discusses appointments on the agenda and the Jail Facilities Subcommittee and urges support for it.

5:48: Finance: Fortado discusses budget transfers. CCSO needs funds to deal with staff shortages. CCSO doing study on surveillance system, Taylor insists they need to select a system that will not be obsolete soon.

5:55: Fortado discusses cancellation of certificates of trailers and the auditor/treasurer memo on reconciliations

5:56: Fortado discusses EMA grant application, CCSO sign on bonuses for correctional officers hired during 2021, receiving half now and half in 2023. King polls the caucus on support of CCSO sign on bonuses. Stohr supports and suggests it may be needed for road deputies, Summers says staffing is low because pay is so low and this can help to fight that, Straub supports and believes corrections pay is too low. Taylor asks if we plan to raise corrections pay, and Fortado states the county is currently doing a workforce study and the pay for juvenile detention officers was raised recently.

6:03 Fortado discusses multiple departments want staffing increases, coroner wants 2 new positions and public defender wants 1 more attorney.

6:08: Taylor polls caucus on support for jail facilities changes. King states that we need to get people out of downtown jail, Straub says bail reform may affect population, Fortado expresses concerns around funding inmates out of county and that it is unaffordable long term.

6:17: Taylor adjourns meeting