

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS County Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 9, 2023 – 5:45 p.m.
Jennifer Putman Meeting Room
Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington St.
Urbana, IL 61801

Present: Taylor, Fortado, Stohr, Locke, Straub, Ingram, Patterson, Lokshin, Rogers, Peugh, Hanaur-Friedman, Rodriguez

1. **Call to Order:** 5:47 pm

2. **Approval of the Agenda–**

- a. Moved by Lokshin, second Locke, unanimous approval.

3. **Approval of the Minutes from April 11, 2023.**

- a. Stohr and Lokshin, unanimous approval

4. **Public Participation–**

- a. Clerk Aaron Ammons–

- i. Vote by Mail (VBM) is not processed on election day because of staffing. This creates lots of questions. Many other clerks have high-speed tabulators (HST) which would remedy this. VMB tabulators will also start being audited, and this is going to take a lot of extra staff time and tabulator time.
 - 1. Purchasing a HST would cost about \$40-50K
 - 2. Renting one is something we could investigate, but this is complex during audits.
 - 3. Stephanie prefers buying.
- ii. For 2022 elections, we spend \$5K+ to rent trucks and \$3K+ for 2023 elections. Clerk Ammons and Angie Patton are investigating the price of buying trucks of this size. Ford or Penske is about \$78K. Ms. Cowart suggested checking with the state, which gives discounts to county governments.

5. **Announcements/Communications–**

- a. Rodriguez– Had another meeting regarding opioid settlement money (\$140K for now, but more cases are being settled). We need to think about how to manage this money and what kind of oversight it would require. Some thoughts are Narcan vending machines, etc.
- b. Peugh– Skelton Park– wants outlets in the musical performance area,

additionally benches, picnic areas, and trash cans. Tim at Visit Champaign County says 4 benches would cost about \$10k. Jennifer Locke sits on the committee and says this is the first step in a long-term plan. Locke wants to meet with Peugh to discuss this further. Fortado wants to revisit this at the full-board caucus.

6. Review and Discussion of the Full Board Agenda

a. Policy Personnel & Appointments– Stohr

- i. Sanitary District, Mental Health Board, and Board of Review appointments
- ii. Lots of performance and job description reviews. We are going to try to direct them to the committee first.
- iii. New job descriptions will not necessarily mean new raises.
- iv. Peugh worries that HR Specialist position doesn't offer proper compensation. Lots of discussion. This may need to be pushed back to the committee at some point.
- v. Resolution Honoring Stanley Summers (Steve is very grateful)

b. Finance

- i. (VIII. A. 1) Dump truck was purchased in 2022, and now is here. This is moving the funds already appropriated to this year's budget.
- ii. (VIII. A. 2.) Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) is severely understaffed. Some budget needs to be moved to locate juveniles to other facilities. It is currently capped at 12 here and there are 3 outside of our county right now.
- iii. (VIII. A. 3) Moving funds from one line item to another to offer a one-time relocation payment for a new lawyer at the Public Defender.
- iv. (VIII.B.1) Finance reports are almost completely up to date.
- v. (VIII. D. 1.) Mental Health Court
- vi.

c. Other Business- none

6. Next Caucus Meeting: May 18, 2023, 5:45 pm

7. Adjournment 6:28 pm