

RESUME OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
January 19, 2023

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, January 19, 2023, 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 as Clerk of the meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call showed the following members present: Fortado, Goss, Hanauer-Friedman, Harper, Ingram, Locke, Lokshin, Michaels, Rogers, Sexton, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wilson, Carter, Cowart, and Patterson – 19; absent: Rodriguez, Williams, and Esry – 3. County Executive Summers declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business.

**PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

County Executive 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 January 6, January 12, and January 18, 2023.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA**

Board Member Michaels offered a motion to approve the Agenda/Addenda; Board Member Taylor seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS**

**Standing Committees:**

- A. Highway and Transportation Committee  
Friday, February 3, 2023 at 9:00 AM  
1605 E Main Street, Urbana
- B. County Facilities Committee  
Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 6:30 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room
- C. Environment and Land Use Committee  
Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 6:30 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room

Champaign County Board  
January 19, 2023

**Committee of the Whole:**

- A. Finance Study Session  
Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 6:00 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room
- B. Justice and Social Services; Policy, Personnel and Appointments; *and* Finance  
Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 6:30 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room

**County Board:**

- A. Regular Meeting  
Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 6:30 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mike Heaton and Sue Thomas of Braver Angels, a national organization working against political polarization, discussed their work and invited local elected officials to a town hall on February 15, 2023, at the I Hotel, organized in conjunction with the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Board Member Ingram offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Board Member Carter seconded. The motion comprising 13 resolutions (Nos. 2023-1, 2023-2, 2023-3, 2023-4, 2023-5, 2023-6, 2023-7, 2023-8, 2023-11, 2023-12, 2023-13, 2023-14, and 2023-15) and 2 ordinances (Nos. 2023-9 and 2023-10) carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: Fortado, Goss, Hanauer-Friedman, Harper, Ingram, Locke, Lokshin, Michaels, Rogers, Sexton, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wilson, Carter, Cowart, and Patterson – 19

Nays: none

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Board Member Fortado promoted the upcoming special Finance Study Session on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 6:00 PM and encouraged all to attend, especially new board members.

Board Member Harper wished County Executive Summers' father a happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Champaign County Board  
January 19, 2023

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the County Board of December 15, 2022; Board Member Straub seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the County Board of December 19, 2022; Board Member Lokshin seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

County Executive Summers noted the Summaries of Action Taken for County Facilities on January 3, 2023; Environment and Land Use Committee on January 5, 2023; *and* Highway and Transportation Committee on January 6, 2023, were received and placed on file.

### **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 January 10, 2023, was received and placed on file.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Board Member Fortado offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-16 authorizing payment of claims; Board Member Cowart seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Fortado offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-17 authorizing purchases not following purchasing policy; Board Member Thorsland seconded. Board Member Goss noted the County Clerk's Office had five unauthorized purchases in the past six month. Board Member Wilson asked why the County Clerk's Office had not received multiple bids for a purchase. County Auditor George Danos was invited to join the discussion; he stated the Clerk's purchases were initially misdocumented as there is an existing contract for the purchase. Board Member Thorsland stated that purchases are often tied to specific equipment and thus receiving multiple bids for a purchase may not be possible. Board Member Ingram noted that the purchase documentation is new and confusion with it may have caused the misdocumentation. The motion carried by voice vote.

Board Member Ingram offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-18 increasing juror pay for petit jurors in trials reasonably expected to endure for more than three (3) weeks; Board Member Taylor seconded. Champaign County Resident Circuit Judge

Champaign County Board  
January 19, 2023

Ben Dyer, Sixth Judicial Circuit of Illinois, was invited to join the discussion. Board Member Straub asked how many petit jury trials last longer than three weeks; Justice Dyer stated they are uncommon, occurring once or twice a year. Board Member Fortado thanked Deputy Finance Director Tami Ogden for her budgetary work to make the pay increase possible for longer trials, and she stated that the \$10 per day rate has not changed since 1960 and hopes to raise that to \$15 per day in the future. Board Member Wilson asked why the threshold of three weeks and the \$40 per day increased rate was settled upon; Justice Dyer stated the \$40 per day for trials expected to last longer than three weeks was deemed palatable to the County Board and possible within current budget constraints; he noted that there is an upcoming trial scheduled to last eight weeks, which is a significant commitment for jurors. Justice Dyer also stated he would appreciate a future study of juror compensation; Board Member Ingram agreed that a study is needed, and the current pay greatly reduces working-class juror participation. Board Member Thorsland thanked Board Member Wilson for his questions; he stated that longer trials require significant sacrificed for jurors and the county should consider graduated pay rates for longer service. Board Member Wilson asked about the logistics of a board study; Board Chair Patterson suggested Deputy Finance Director Ogden and the courts could work together for a solution to present to the Finance Committee and Board Member Fortado offered more specific details in the process outlined by Board Chair Patterson. Board Member Carter stated that longer trials require a significant commitment by jurors and asked how that impacts jury diversity; Justice Dyer outlined the jury selection process and stated that due to jury service conflicts with employment, especially non-salaried employment, the jury pool is not always representative of the county population. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **LABOR COMMITTEE**

Board Member Goss offered a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-19 approving agreement between the Chief Judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit and the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Adult and Juvenile Probation Officers, January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2025; Board Member Thorsland seconded. Chief Deputy Sheriff Shannon Barrett was invited to join the discussion. Board Member Wilson asked Chief Deputy Sheriff Barrett to summarize the changes in the contract, as he had not yet read the document; Chief Deputy Sheriff Barrett stated the contract added seniority transference from other Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) bargaining positions within the county, increased the sick-leave accrual maximum to match other county FOP contracts, and included a 7 percent wage increase with a \$2,500 bonus for the first year, a 5 percent wage increase with a \$2,500 bonus for the second year, and a 5 percent wage increase for the third and final year of the contract. Board Member Wilson asked if the contract was fair for both the bargaining officers and the county; Chief Deputy Sheriff Barrett stated the contract was fair to both parties. Board Member Stohr asked if the new contract would help fill vacancies; Chief Deputy Sheriff Barrett said she believed it would.

Champaign County Board  
January 19, 2023

Board Member Goss asked how much sick leave is accumulated yearly; Chief Deputy Sheriff Barrett stated that it is graduated based on service time. Board Member Fortado stated she was happy to see paid paternal leave added to the new contract. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

#### AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Project Manager Kathy Larson was invited to join the discussion. Board Member Wilson asked about unspent ARPA project money for 2022; ARPA Project Manager Larson stated the financial reports presented are only through November 2022 and are not final, year-end reports, and she stated that some unspent money will roll over to 2023 and some will return to the county's ARPA fund. Board Member Fortado noted that projects had varied start dates throughout 2022 and most projects are in progress and not yet complete. Board Member Carter proposed a June 2024 Special County Board Meeting to discuss the completion of ARPA projects; Board Member Fortado clarified that all ARPA funds must be allocated by the end of 2024 and completed and spent by the end of 2026. Board Member Goss stated his agreement with Board Members Carter and Fortado. Board Member Carter stated that she would like to address Dobbins Downs streetlights and other infrastructure with ARPA funds in the near future. Board Chair Patterson asked if there were only three ARPA projects that had not yet started; ARPA Project Manager Larson confirmed.

County Executive Summers raised the request for purchase of a replacement x-ray machine for the Coroner's Office with ARPA funds, noting the current x-ray machine is not operable and all Coroner x-rays must be outsourced to other counties. Board Chair Patterson stated his astonishment that an x-ray machine cost only \$41,000. The Board indicated their approval by the raising of hands.

County Executive Summers raised the request to purchase Justice Text Program with ARPA funds. The Board indicated their approval by the raising of hands.

#### ADJOURNMENT

County Executive Summers adjourned the meeting at 7:34 PM.



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