

RESUME OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
November 21, 2023

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, November 21, 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: Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wilson, Carter, Esry, Farney, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Ingram, Locke, Lokshin, Michaels, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Smith, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, and Patterson – 20; absent: Cowart – 1; late: Peugh (arrived at 7:24, missing only the Approval of the Agenda/Addenda vote) – 1. County Executive Summers declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business. Board Members Michaels and Farney departed early at 8:37 PM and missed the votes on Resolutions Nos. 315-322; Board Member Peugh departed early at approximately 9:00 PM and missed no subsequent vote. Board Chair Patterson and Board Member Stohr returned late from the recess and missed the Consent Agenda vote, and Board Member Ingram was not present for one vote on Resolution No. 2023-312.

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 November 2, November 9, and November 16, 2023.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA

Board Member Lokshin offered a motion to approve the Agenda/Addenda; Board Member Smith seconded.

Board Member Michaels offered an amendment to move item XIII A (Resolution No. 2023-318) to between X (Approval of Minutes) and XI (Standing Committees); Board Chair Patterson seconded. The amendment carried by unanimous voice vote.

The motion as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Standing Committees:

- A. County Facilities Committee
Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room
- B. Environment & Land Use Committee
Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room
- C. Highway & Transportation Committee
Friday, December 8, 2023 at 9:00 AM
1605 E Main Street, Urbana

Committee of the Whole:

- A. Justice and Social Services; Policy, Personnel and Appointments; *and* Finance
Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room

County Board:

- A. Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Sandra Ahten of Mahomet thanked the County Sheriff Heuerman and the Board for their work on the new Champaign County Jail telephone contact that guarantees two free phone call per day.

Jim Goss of Mahomet urged the county board to oppose zoning Ordinance No. 2023-16 and spoke about wasteful spending by the Board on various lawsuits.

Ted Hartke of Sidney Township urged the county board to oppose zoning Ordinance No. 2023-16.

Larry Franks of Philo urged the county board to oppose zoning Ordinance No. 2023-16.

Ryan Elwell, Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Chair, urged the county board to reject the county executive's appointment of new members to the ZBA, advocating for the reappointment of incumbent Board Members.

Josh Kamerer of Crittenden Township applauded three outgoing ZBA for their actions regarding rural zoning action and urged the county board to oppose zoning Ordinance No. 2023-16.

Rebecca Kamerer of Crittenden Township applauded three outgoing ZBA members for their actions regarding rural zoning action and urged the county board to oppose zoning Ordinance No. 2023-16.

Justin Leerkamp of Raymond Township applauded three ZBA members for their actions regarding rural zoning action and urged the county board to oppose zoning Ordinance No. 2023-16.

Susan Mantell of Sidney Township applauded three outgoing ZBA members for their actions regarding rural zoning action and urged the county board to oppose zoning Ordinance No. 2023-16.

Stan Harper of Ogden Township urged the county board to oppose zoning Ordinance No. 2023-16.

Roger Henning of Philo Township urged the county board to oppose zoning Ordinance No. 2023-16.

David Happ, Village of Philo Trustee, urged the county board to oppose zoning Ordinance. No. 2023-16.

Darrel Rice of Sidney Township applauded three outgoing ZBA members for their actions regarding rural zoning action and urged the county board to oppose zoning Ordinance No. 2023-16.

RECESS

County Executive Summers recessed the meeting from 7:25PM to 7:33PM.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Member Patterson offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Board Member Locke seconded. The motion comprising 50 resolutions (Nos. 2023-262, 2023-263, 2023-264, 2023-265, 2023-266, 2023-267, 2023-268, 2023-269, 2023-270, 2023-271, 2023-272, 2023-273, 2023-274, 2023-275, 2023-276, 2023-277, 2023-278, 2023-279, 2023-280, 2023-281, 2023-282, 2023-283, 2023-284, 2023-285, 2023-286, 2023-287, 2023-288, 2023-289, 2023-290, 2023-291, 2023-292, 2023-293, 2023-294, 2023-295, 2023-296, 2023-297, 2023-298, 2023-299, 2023-300, 2023-301, 2023-302, 2023-303, 2023-304, 2023-305, 2023-306, 2023-307, 2023-308, 2023-309, 2023-310, and 2023-311) carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wilson, Carter, Esry, Farney, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Ingram, Locke, Lokshin, Michaels, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Smith, Straub, and Taylor – 19

Nays: none

Not Present: Stohr and Patterson – 2

COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Farney recognized local athletes from Champaign County for their accomplishments at the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) State Cross Country Championships held November 4, 2023, at Detweiler Park in Peoria:

Class 2A girls' cross country: Champaign Centennial High School qualified as a team, finishing 14th.

Individuals qualifying: Ava Boyd (Mahomet-Seymour High School), Taylor Mills (Mahomet-Seymour High School), Abigail Fairbanks (Urbana High School), Marley Yau (Urbana High School), and Aleigha Garrison (Champaign Central High School)

Class 2A boys' cross country: Caleb Mathais (Champaign Central High School) finished 16th and earned all-state honors.

Individuals qualifying: Augustus Gaudio (Mahomet-Seymour High School) and Hudson Coady (Urbana High School)

Class 1A girls' cross country: Unity High School won state championship as a team with two athletes named all stars: Makenzie Pound and Erica Woodard. The High School of St. Thomas More qualified as a team, finishing 24th.

Individuals qualifying: Chloe Burkhalter (St. Joseph-Ogden High School) and Savannah Franzen (St. Joseph-Ogden High School)

Class 1A boys' cross county: St. Joseph-Ogden High School qualified as a team and finished in sixth place overall, with two athletes named all stars: Carson Maroon finishing ninth and Aden Armstrong finishing 22nd.

Unity High School qualified as a team, finishing 25th.

Individuals qualifying: Clark Roland (Heritage High School)

Board Member Lokshin recognized Josh Hooper (Centennial High School) as individual qualifying for state at the IHSA cross country championship, and emphasized congratulations expressed by Board Member Farney,

Board Member Thorsland noted the importance of addressing homelessness and food insecurity amid the Thanksgiving holiday.

Board Member Ingram read, in response to a statement made in Public Participation, a brief essay from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum "Why Holocaust Analogies are Dangerous" discouraging aforesaid analogies.

Board Member Wilson addressed the Veteran Stop the Violence program scheduled for Saturday, December 2, 2023, from 9 AM to 1:30 PM at the Rantoul Business Center.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Smith offered a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the County Board of October 19, 2023; Board Member Michaels seconded.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Following the consideration of Resolution No. 2023-318, Board Member Smith noted that the text of the Consent Agenda in the October minutes stated incorrectly that Board Member Locke offered the motion for approval and the correct member was Lokshin. Board Member Smith offered a motion to amend the minutes to correct the error; Board Member Michaels seconded. The motion to amend the minutes carried by unanimous voice vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-318 HONORING RETIRED COUNTY BOARD MEMBER JIM GOSS

Board Member Michaels offered a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-318 honoring Retired County Board Member Jim Goss; Board Member Esry seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Following the vote, Board Member Wilson read the entire text of the resolution.

STANDING COMMITTEES

County Executive Summers noted that the Summaries of Action Taken for the Highway & Transportation Committee on November 3, 2023, the County Facilities Committee on November 7, 2023, and the Environment and Land Use Committee (ELUC) on November 9, 2023, were received and placed on file.

ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE COMMITTEE

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2023-16 Amending Zoning Ordinance, Zoning Case 086-AT-23; Board Member Lokshin seconded. Board Member Thorsland noted ELUC recommended the County Board approve the ordinance and that that the Villages of St. Joseph and Mahomet had rescinded their protests. He further explained that the ZBA voted not to recommend the, but the proposed ordinance puts zoning in compliance with current state law and that the Board's failure to approve the ordinance would place the county in violation of the state law. Planning and Zoning Director John Hall was invited to join the discussion. Board Member Farney asked questions of Director Hall about changes pertaining to St. Joseph and Mahomet; Hall answers that a prohibitive waiver will be added to the ordinance pursuant to local leaders asking for strengthened county enforcement of subdivisions' authority. Board Member Farney asked if this is comparable to the Homer solar farm matter; Director Hall answers no. Board Member Farney asks if the County could override this portion of the ordinance; Director Hall answers no. Board Member Wilson explained his opposition to the proposed ordinance and reaffirmed support of the ZBA's recommendation and stated his opposition to overbearing non-local government.

Board Member Esry explained his opposition to the proposed ordinance and disagreed that passing the ordinance would preempt potential lawsuits against the county. Board Member Smith expressed his opposition to the proposed ordinance and explained that the state law does not represent the interests of the people. The motion failed to achieve the required 17 affirmative votes by roll-call vote.

Yeas: Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Carter, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Ingram, Locke, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, and Patterson – 15

Nays: Wilson, Esry, Farney, Michaels, Sexton, and Smith – 6

Board Member Taylor offered an omnibus motion to adopt Ordinances No. 2023-17 Granting a Special Use Permit, Zoning Case 099-S-23 “Champaign Solar 1” PV Solar Farm including the Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan *and* 2023-18 Granting a Special Use Permit, Zoning Case 100-S-23 “Champaign Solar 1B” PV Solar Farm including the Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan; Board Chair Patterson seconded. Board Member Thorsland noted ELUC recommended the County Board approve both ordinances. Board Member Farney asked why the two are separated under community solar and if they should be a single larger project; Board Member Thorsland cited differences in waivers, set-back requirements, and other details. Board Member Smith asked about waiver discrepancies on pages 76 and 83 of the Agenda Packet; Board Member Thorsland explains they are two different cases. Board Member Smith disagreed, reasserting what appears to be a mistake; Board Member Thorsland invited Director Hall to join the discussion; Director Hall characterized the referenced text as a typo. Board Member Wilson asks if there were any objections in Pesotum Township; Director Hall answered no. Board Member Wilson asked if the power grid interconnection is in queue to acquire agreement; Director Hall confirmed it is in queue as part of the application and will get proof. Board Member Wilson asked about electrical inverters’ placement at 42 feet instead of the required 275 feet away from property lines; Director Hall explained the exemption was due to their placement adjacent to railroad tracts which will minimize noise impact and closest residence is 1,000 feet away, and as such the inverters’ noise would not be an issue. Board Member Michaels asks that the ELUC minutes be corrected; Director Hall agrees. The motion carried by roll-call vote.

Yeas: Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Carter, Farney, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Ingram, Locke, Lokshin, Michaels, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, and Patterson – 18

Nays: Wilson, Esry, and Smith – 3

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

County Executive Summers noted that the Summary of action from the Committee of the Whole (Justice and Social Services; Finance; Policy, Personnel, and Appointments) on November 14, 2023, was received and placed on file.

FINANCE

Board Member Michaels offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-19 FY2024 Annual Tax Levy Ordinance Champaign County, Illinois; Board Member Taylor seconded. Board Member Fortado offered the Finance Committee's recommendation that the County Board adopt the ordinance. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wilson, Carter, Esry, Farney, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Ingram, Locke, Lokshin, Michaels, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Smith, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, and Patterson – 21

Nays: none

Board Member Ingram offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2023-20 FY2024 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance; Board Member Lokshin seconded. Board Member Fortado offered the Finance Committee's recommendation that the County Board adopt the ordinance and thanked county staff and Board Members for assisting in budgeting process. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wilson, Carter, Esry, Farney, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Ingram, Locke, Lokshin, Michaels, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Smith, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, and Patterson – 21

Nays: none

POLICY, PERSONNEL AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

Board Member Carter offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-312 Appointing Cynthia Cunningham to the Zoning Board of Appeals, term 12/1/2023-11/30/2028; Board Member Straub seconded. Board Member Stohr offered the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee's recommendation that the County Board adopt the resolution.

Board Member Michaels offered a motion to postpone all ZBA appointments (Resolutions No. 2023-312, No. 2023-313, and No. 2023-314) for at least 30 days and allow incumbent members to serve until the appointment of new members for the following term; Board Member Rogers seconded. The motion to postpone failed by roll-call vote.

Yeas: Wilson, Esry, Farney, Michaels, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, and Smith – 8

Nays: Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Carter, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Locke, Lokshin, Peugh, Stohr, Straub, Taylor, and Patterson – 12

Not Present: Ingram – 1

Board Member Farney emphasized the integrity of the current ZBA and criticized the County Board majority for disrespecting rural areas. Board Member Rodriguez disputed Board Member Farney's claim that the county board majority does not listen and work together with all parties; she noted that appointments are brought by the County Executive. Board Member Wilson praised public comment participants for their opinions on the ZBA, noted that while he does not have a rural background, he respects rural residents' views, noted his surprise that there were only three ZBA appointments, and

expressed that the county board majority process is disrespectful. The motion carried by voice vote.

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-313 Appointing Chris Flesner to the Zoning Board of Appeals, term 12/1/2023-11/30/2028; Board Member Lokshin seconded. Board Member Stohr offered the Policy, Personnel, and Appointments Committee's recommendation that the County Board adopt the resolution. Board Member Michaels explained her opposition to appointees is not personal but with the process. Board Member Taylor notes appointees are not chosen by county board, members only vote on approval. County Executive Summers explained that his appointment process includes meeting with Chair and Vice Chair of Policy, Personnel, and Appointments Committee to seek guidance on his appointment decisions. The motion carried by voice vote.

Board Member Carter offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-314 Appointing Brian Anderson to the Zoning Board of Appeals, term 12/1/2023-11/30/2028; Board Member Locke seconded. Board Member Stohr offered the Policy, Personnel, and Appointments Committee's recommendation that the County Board adopt the resolution. The motion carried by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered an omnibus motion to adopt Resolutions No. 2023-315 authorizing payment of claims and No. 2023-316 approving purchases not following purchasing policy; Board Member Rogers seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-317 for 2024 services from state's attorney's appellate prosecutor; Board Member Taylor seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Carter offered an omnibus motion to adopt Resolutions No. 2023-319 designating the 2024 holiday calendar and No. 2023-320 designating the 2024 Champaign County Board calendar of meetings; Board Member Sexton seconded. Board Member Thorsland noted the County Facilities Committee's November meeting is scheduled for Election Day and stated past practice was to move the meeting to the next day.

Board Member Locke offered a motion to amend Resolution No. 2023-320 to change the November 2024 County Facilities Committee meeting date from Tuesday, November 5, 2024 to Wednesday, November 6, 2024; Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded. The motion to amend the resolution carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Fortado suggested a study session in the second half of 2024 to discuss domestic violence in the county. The omnibus motion as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Carter offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-321 approving intergovernmental agreement with the City of Champaign, City of Urbana, and Champaign County for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program; Board Member Taylor seconded.

Board Member Taylor offered a motion to amend the resolution to replace “Exhibit A” in section two with “Exhibit 1” in the text, so it matches the text of the exhibit; Board Member Straub seconded. The amendment carried by unanimous voice vote.

The motion as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

LABOR COMMITTEE

Board Member Rodriguez offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-322 approving agreement between the Champaign County Board, the Sheriff of Champaign County, and the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Corrections Sergeants Division – January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2025; Board Member Esry seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

SHERIFF

County Sheriff Dustin Heuerman was invited to join the discussion. Board Member Wilson asked Sheriff Heuerman about the differences between previous jail phone contracts and the new contract; Sheriff Heuerman explained two free daily phone calls per inmate are now allotted via the company the county partnered with at no additional charge to the county, along with cost-effective telephone and video rates which are that are less than previous rates, while still providing the necessary safety and security features. Board Members Lokshin, Carter, Fortado, and Straub thanked the Sheriff, County Executive, and the relevant County Board Task Force members who worked to secure the new contract including free phone calls for inmates.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

County Executive Summers shared that the county intends to resolve broadband contracting matter before the end of the month. Board Chair Patterson informed that two Republican seats are vacant on the relevant task force, and asked Republican Caucus to consider who should fill those vacancies. Board Member Fortado asked to postpone discussion on increased revenue options and new county seal; majority of Board Members signaled by raised hand that they agree with postponing those topics.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

Director of Administration Michelle Jett was invited to join the discussion. Board Member Carter asked about return American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds; Director Jett explained that administration anticipates reallocations in March 2024. Board Member Fortado noted that projects will require follow up before June 2024 funding funding-reduction decisions, informs that Champaign County Chamber of Commerce shared that first microloan applications are being processed and e-commerce are close to finished. Board Member Wilson expressed concern that as of September 30, 2023, only 18% of ARPA funds have been spent, believes organizations are not fulfilling obligations. Board Member Fortado explained that funds are not expected to be spent by the end of the year, only Sangamon Valley Sewer Group did not and will not spend their allocation and those funds will be returned to county. Board Member Wilson suggested that spreadsheets should reflect when funding will be spent. Board Member Lokshin expressed that the county board was already aware that organizations would not immediately utilize funds. Board Member Rodriguez reemphasized Board Member Fortado's suggestion that the discussion be delayed to the next meeting. County Executive agreed with Board Member Rodriguez's statement, particularly since ARPA Project Manager Kathy Larson was not present for the meeting.

Board Member Ingram informed the County Board that he is resigning his office at the end of the meeting. He expressed his thanks and gratitude for his opportunity to serve the county and other board members for their service.

ADJOURN

County Executive Summers adjourned the meeting at 9:05 PM.



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