

RESUME OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
January 18, 2024

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 6:34 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: Carter, Esry, Farney, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Locke, Lokshin, Michaels, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Smith, Stohr, Straub, Vanichtheeranont, and Patterson – 17; absent: Wilson, Cowart, Taylor, and Thorsland – 4. County Executive Summers declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business.

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 January 4, January 11, and January 17, 2024.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA

Board Member Michaels offered a motion to approve the Agenda/Addenda; Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded.

Board Member Farney offered an amendment to defer item XII. A. 1. (Ordinance 2024-1) to the February meeting agenda and to move up items XVI. A. 1. and 2. to be placed between IX. Public Participation and X. Consent Agenda; Board Member Lokshin seconded. The amendment carried by unanimous voice vote.

The motion as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-1

Board Member Carter offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-1 appointing Carolyn Greer as a County Board Member in District 6 to fill Mike Ingram's unexpired term ending November 30, 2024; Board Chair Patterson seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Chief Deputy County Clerk Angela Patton administered the oath of office to Board Member Greer.

DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Standing Committees:

- A. County Facilities Committee
Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room
- B. Environment & Land Use Committee
Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room
- C. Highway & Transportation Committee
Friday, February 9, 2024 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, February 13, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room

County Board:

- A. Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ron Hursey, of Bondville, declined to speak.

Luke Saathoff, of Bondville, spoke against the solar array in Ordinance No. 2024-1, noting that the project is too close to the village of Bondville and its infrastructure and asked the developer to work more closely with the village.

John Garth, Mayor of Bondville, spoke against the solar array in Ordinance No. 2024-1, noting that the project is too close to the village of Bondville.

Mike Hagemeyer, electrical contractor for Donato Solar, spoke in favor of the solar array in Ordinance No. 2024-1, noting the local economic impact and local employment of the project.

Jesse Childress, of Gifford, declined to speak.

Tony Grilo, on behalf of Donato Solar, spoke in favor of the solar array in Ordinance No. 2024-1, noting the local economic impact and local employment of the project.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Project Manager Kathy Larson was invited to join the discussion and provided brief updates on various ARPA projects. Board Member Fortado noted that spending progress on the Sangamon Valley Public Water District and Village of Royal water infrastructure projects have slowed, and wanted to know if those projects are nearing completion and if so what, if any, money will return to the county. County Director of Administration Michelle Jett was invited to join the discussion; she noted that the Broadband Task Force will meet in late January with all principal partners present. Board Member Michaels noted a need for other rural water projects; Board Member Fortado stated that at the present the Board cannot commit to more allocations, and Director Jett added that starting new projects would be difficult at this point.

County Treasurer Cassandra Johnson was invited to present her ARPA funding request for \$25,000 for equipment and personnel. Board Member Farney asked what portions will be for equipment and for personnel; Treasurer Johnson stated \$5,000 for furniture and \$20,000 for personnel. Board Member Farney asked if this would be an expansion of the summer part-time personnel funding; Treasurer Johnson state confirmed but added that the current funding line is depleted. Board Member Fortado asked from which ARPA fund this would draw; Director Jett was invited to join the discussion and stated it would come from the interest-earned line. Board Member Fortado asked if there are any ARPA funds directed towards personnel; Director Jett stated no and as such would require a Budget Amendment resolution—Fortado, later in the discussion, noted that there are two personnel fund lines: one for Project Manager Larson and one for the Auditor’s Office; Director Jett stated that she would like to confer with Project Manager Larson about the need for a Budget Amendment resolution before the Board commits to the funding. Board Member Farney asked that the equipment be funded separately from the personnel so they could approve that. By a showing of raised thumbs, the Board directed \$5,000 in ARPA funds for the equipment.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Member Farney offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Board Member Smith seconded. The motion comprising six resolutions (Nos. 2024-2, 2024-3, 2024-4, 2024-5, and 2024-6) carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: Carter, Esry, Farney, Fortado, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, Locke, Lokshin, Michaels, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Smith, Stohr, Straub, Vanichtheeranont, and Patterson – 18

Nays: none

COMMUNICATIONS

Board Chair Patterson announced his resignation, effective February 5, 2024, having been appointed the City of Champaign Township Supervisor. He thanked the Board and his constituents for the opportunity to serve to county and thanked his fellow board members.

Board Member Fortado lauded Board Chair Patterson and thanked him for his dedicated work.

Board Member Carter lauded Board Chair Patterson and thanked him for his dedicated work.

County Executive Summers invited County Auditor George Danos to address the Board about recent vandalism to his personal property. Board Member Farney asked why he did not first raise the issue with the Board before speaking to the press; Auditor Danos stated that the vandalism occurred in the driveway of his home and that he did not speak with the press about it. Board Member Straub asked if both incidents of vandalism were documented with the police; Auditor Danos stated that only the second incident was filed with the police. Auditor Danos declined to provide any details about either incident, citing an on-going police investigation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Locke offered a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the County Board of December 21, 2023; Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES

County Executive Summers noted that the Summaries of Action Taken for the County Facilities Committee on January 4, 2024, was received and placed on file.

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 January 9, 2024, was received and placed on file.

Board Member Stohr offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-7 establishing place of election for the 2024 primary election; Board Member Carter seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Straub offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-8 authorizing payments of claims; Board Member Fortado seconded. Auditor Danos was invited to join the discussion; he stated that the significant total of more than \$17 million was inflated by the costs associated with out-of-county jail stay needs. Auditor Danos asked to give a presentation on county finances; County Executive Summers stated that was not appropriate for the discussion of the resolution at hand and suggested future

presentations take place at the Committee of the Whole meetings. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Michaels offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-9 approving the agreement between the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District, the County of Champaign, and the Champaign County Health Department for the provision of public health services by the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District to the Champaign County Health Department; Board Member Carter seconded. Board Member Farney asked of any other entities that provide the same or similar services; County Executive Summers stated that he is not aware of any but will investigate for review when the agreement expires. The motion carried by voice vote, with one dissent.

OTHER BUSINESS

SALE OF FORMER NURSING HOME BUILDING

Board Member Esry stated that currently there has been no offers to buy the former county nursing home property to operate it as a nursing home, noting the significant cost to upgrade the entire facility to current code requirements; he emphatically stated that the building will not be used as a nursing home in the future and recommended allowing the sale of the property without the deed restriction to nursing home use. County Executive Summers suggested the Board hold a Study Session meeting to get public input and more details from the bank which now holds the deed to the property. Board Member Lokshin agreed with Board Member Esry assessment and with County Executive Summers's suggestion of a Study Session. Board Member Fortado stated that the facility, as it currently stands, will not be licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health to operate as a nursing home. Director Jett was invited to join the discussion; she asked the Board to commit to a February Study Session, so the Board can take action at the March regular County Board meeting; the Board as a whole expressed their support for this timeline. Board Member Straub expressed heartbreak over the realities of the nursing home situation.

ADJOURN

County Executive Summers adjourned the meeting at 7:33 PM.



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