

RESUME OF MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
November 21, 2019

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, November 21, 2019, at 6:32 P.M. in the Lyle Shields Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center, 1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois with County Executive Darlene Kloeppel presiding and Matthew Cross as Clerk of the meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call showed the following members present: Dillard-Myers, Eisenmann, Esry, Fortado, Goss, Harper, McGuire, Patterson, Rector, Stohr, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Tinsley, Vachaspati, Wolken, Young, Clemmons, and Cowart – 19; absent: Ingram, Clifford, and Board Chair Rosales – 3. Thereupon, County Executive Kloeppel declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business.

**PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

County Executive Kloeppel read a prayer from Teresa of Ávila. 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 October 29, 2019.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA**

Board Member Cowart offered to move item C3 (Res. 2019-334) from the Consent Agenda, as it required amendment. Board Member Goss offered a motion to approve the Agenda/Addenda with item C3 (Res. 2019-334) pulled from the Consent Agenda to be dealt with individually later in the meeting; seconded by Board Member Taylor. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS**

**Standing Committees:**

A. Highway & Transportation Committee Meeting–CANCELLED

B. County Facilities Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, December 3, 2019 @ 6:30 PM  
Lyle Shields Meeting Room

C. Environment & Land Use Committee Meeting  
Thursday, December 5, 2019 @ 6:30 PM  
Lyle Shields Meeting Room

**Committee of the Whole:**

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A. Justice & Social Services; Policy, Personnel, & Appointments; Finance  
Tuesday, December 10, 2019 @ 6:30 PM  
Lyle Shields Meeting Room

**County Board:**

A. Regular Meeting  
Thursday, December 19, 2019 @ 6:00 PM  
Lyle Shields Meeting Room

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Kacie Osterbur of Penfield spoke in favor of the prohibition on cannabis in unincorporated portions of the county.

Linda Reynolds of Urbana spoke against the construction of a new jail and asked for more social services.

Scott Reifsteck, Chair of the Embarras River Mutual Drainage District, spoke on the issues of late tax distribution and the lack of financial reports from the County Treasurer.

County Treasurer Laurel Prussing spoke on the taxation inequalities between home owners versus mobile-home owners, and proposed the county adopt a 1.5 percent tax for both.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Board member Esry offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended (removing item C3 [Res. 2019-334]), comprising 27 Resolutions; Board Chair Rosales seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Yeas: Dillard-Myers, Eisenmann, Esry, Fortado, Goss, Harper, McGuire, Patterson, Rector, Stohr, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Tinsley, Vachaspati, Wolken, Young, Clemmons, and Cowart – 19

Nays: None

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Representative Carol Ammons (103<sup>rd</sup> District) gave an update on the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Pretrial Practices and then took questions from various board members. The commission will advocate for a shift away from the pretrial detention, cash-bail system, where low-level, nonviolent offenders will be free pending trial, shifting the default from detention to freedom and the burden of proof for pretrial detention from the defendant to the prosecutor. The commission expects to conclude its work in April 2020 and issue its report shortly thereafter. Rep. Ammons spoke on the negative effects of the current pretrial detention, including an increased presumption of guilt, financial hardship, an increase of guilty pleas solely to shorten detention time, and the cost to the

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counties. Those arrested under suspicion for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol will not be eligible for immediate release. Champaign County already has low failure to appear rates. Similar reforms have shown significant success in various other areas, including New Jersey, California, Oklahoma, and Washington, DC. Rep. Ammons noted she has met with the State's Attorney and much work will need to be done to implement the changes. A full transcript of Representative Ammons presentation has been placed on file in the County Clerk's office and is part of the official record.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board Member Rector offered an omnibus motion to approve the minutes of both the Truth in Taxation Hearing of October 24, 2019 and the Regular County Board Meeting of October 24, 2019; seconded by Board Member Taylor. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

County Executive Kloeppel noted the Summaries of Action taken for County Facilities (November 5, 2019), Environment and Land Use (November 7, 2019), and Highway and Transportation (November 8, 2019) were accepted and placed on file.

The Environment and Land Use Committee recommended an ordinance before the board. Board Member Esry offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-10 prohibiting cannabis business establishments; Board Member Clemmons seconded. Board Member Esry noted that the committee had tied in its vote to recommend. Significant discussion between various board members followed; Planning and Zoning department head John Hall was invited to join the discussion. Board Members Vachaspati and Clemmons both independently suggested the ordinance needed further review in committee, with more details added. Board Member Vachaspati offered a superseding motion to send the ordinance back to the Environment and Land Use Committee; Stohr seconded. The superseding motion to return the ordinance to the Environment and Land Use Committee motion carried by roll call vote.

Yeas: Esry, Fortado, Goss, Harper, Patterson, Rector, Stohr, Summers,  
Taylor, Thorsland, Tinsley, Vachaspati, Wolken, Young, Clemmons,  
and Cowart – 16

Nays: Dillard-Myers, Eisenmann, and McGuire – 3

### **AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY**

County Executive Kloeppel noted the Summary of Action taken for the November 12, 2019 Committee of the Whole (Justice & Social Services; Finance; Policy, Personnel, & Appointments) was accepted and placed on file.

Policy, Personnel, & Appointments

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Board Member Young offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-333 appointing Danielle Chynoweth to the Public Aid Appeals Committee, term 12/1/2019-11/30/2021; Board Member Tinsley seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Young offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-14 establishing Cannabis, Drug and Alcohol Use/Abuse Policies; Board Member Esry seconded. Significant discussion between various board members followed; Deputy Director of Administration Isak Griffiths was invited to join the discussion, explaining that the policy comes from the county legal firm and was vetted by the State's Attorney, protects the county from unknown liabilities stemming from legalized cannabis starting January 1, 2020, and it applies only to non-bargaining employees. Board Member noted inconsistencies in the language where the policy appears to be addressing bargaining employees. Board Member Vachaspati offered an amendment to the ordinance, adding the text to the end "The Policy will cease to be in effect June 1, 2020, to allow for County Board review." Tinsley seconded. The motion as amended carried by roll call vote.

Yeas: Dillard-Myers, Fortado, Patterson, Stohr, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Tinsley, Vachaspati, Young, and Cowart – 11

Nays: Eisenmann, Esry, Goss, Harper, McGuire, Rector, Wolken, and Clemmons – 8

#### Finance

Board Member Goss offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-8 FY2020 Annual Tax Levy Ordinance – Champaign County; Board Member Esry seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Yeas: Dillard-Myers, Eisenmann, Esry, Fortado, Goss, Harper, McGuire, Patterson, Rector, Stohr, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Tinsley, Vachaspati, Wolken, Young, Clemmons, and Cowart – 19

Nays: None

Board Member Goss offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2019-9 FY2020 Annual Budget & Appropriations Ordinance; Board Member Thorsland seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Yeas: Dillard-Myers, Eisenmann, Esry, Fortado, Goss, McGuire, Patterson, Rector, Stohr, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Tinsley, Vachaspati, Wolken, Young, Clemmons, and Cowart – 18

Nays: Harper – 1

Board Member Cowart offered an amendment to Resolution No. 2019-334, moving the October 9, 2020 County Highway and Transportation Committee meeting to October 2, 2020; Board Member Summers seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

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Board Member Young offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-334 designating the 2020 Champaign County Board Calendar of Meetings; Board Member Cowart seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Finance**

Board Member Cowart offered a motion to approve the adoption of Resolution No. 341 authorizing Budget Amendment 19-00057 Fund 084 County Bridge / Dept 060 Highway; seconded by Board Member Taylor. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Yeas: Dillard-Myers, Eisenmann, Esry, Fortado, Goss, Harper, McGuire, Patterson, Rector, Stohr, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Tinsley, Vachaspati, Wolken, Young, Clemmons, and Cowart – 19

Nays: None

Board Member Goss offered a motion to approve the adoption of Resolution No. 2019-342 authorizing Budget Amendment 19-00056 Fund 671 Court Documents Storage FD / Dept 030 Circuit Clerk; seconded by Board Member Taylor. Circuit Clerk Katie Blakeman was invited to join the discussion; she explained the need for special file folders mandated for paper court records, but one judge has gone fully paperless and hopefully more will do so in the future, thus reducing the need for future file folder expenditures. The motion carried by roll call vote.

Yeas: Dillard-Myers, Eisenmann, Esry, Fortado, Goss, Harper, McGuire, Patterson, Rector, Summers, Taylor, Thorsland, Tinsley, Vachaspati, Wolken, Young, Clemmons, and Cowart – 18

Nays: Stohr – 1

### **Other Business**

Board Member Cowart offered a motion in the semi-annual review of closed session minutes to remain closed; seconded by Esry. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Vachaspati offered a motion in the request for an extension to file Champaign County Circuit Clerk's audit report for the year ending December 31, 2018 with the Administrative office of the Illinois courts; seconded by Board Member Summers. Circuit Clerk Katie Blakeman was invited to join the discussion; she stated that they were still waiting on the report from the outside auditor, as had happened the previous year with the same outside auditor. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Cowart offered a motion to approve the adoption of Resolution No. 2019-343 authorizing payment of claims; Board Member Young seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

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Board Member Vachaspati offered a motion to approve the adoption of Resolution No. 2019-344 authorizing purchases not following purchasing policy; Board Member Cowart seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Vachaspati announced he would be tendering his resignation from the County Board shortly following the meeting.

**ADJOURN**

County Executive Kloeppele adjourned the meeting at 9:06 PM.



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