

RESUME OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
July 24, 2025

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, July 24, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center, 102 East Main 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: Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Sullard, Thorsland, Wiggs, Wilson, Cagel, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, and Locke – 17; late: Carter (arrived at 6:32 missing no business) and Fortado (arrived at 7:17 during Public Input) – 2; absent: Vanichtheeranont and Cowart – 2. County Executive Summers declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business. Board Member Carter departed early at 8:17 following the County Work Functions discussion.

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

County Executive Summers read a blessing for the Bennett Administrative Building, 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 July 10, July 17, and July 23, 2025.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA

Board Member Esry offered a motion to adopt the Agenda/Addenda; Board Member Lokshin seconded.

Board Member Farney offered a motion to amend the agenda to strike item XII. A. Approval of the Minutes of the March 20, 2025, Regular County Board Meeting and to move item XI. B. Board Member Communications to follow XIV. Other Business; Board Member Crane seconded. The motion to amend the Agenda/Addenda carried by unanimous voice vote.

The motion as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

APPOINTING JASON VOTAVA

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-206 appointing Jason Votava as County Board Member in District 10 to fill Chris Stohr's unexpired term

Champaign County Board

July 24, 2025

ending November 30, 2026; Board Member Rogers seconded. Board Member Sullard noted a typographical error in the resolution title which identified the County Board District as 7 and not 10. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote, pending the noted correction.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

County Clerk and Recorder Aaron Ammons administered the Oath of Office to Board Member Votava.

DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Standing Committees:

A. County Facilities Committee

Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

B. Environment and Land Use Committee

Thursday, August 7, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

C. Highway and Transportation Committee

Friday, August 8, 2025 at 9:00 AM

1605 E Main St, Urbana

Committee of the Whole:

A. Justice and Social Services; Policy, Personnel, and Appointments; Finance

Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

County Board:

A. Regular Meeting

Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Board Member Crane offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-207 honoring county employees for years of service; Board Member Wiggs seconded. Board Member Wilson read the entire text of the resolution. Probation and Court Services Director Shannon Siders was invited to join the discussion; she praised the work of Siobhan Reynolds, Heidi Slough, Jeremy Jessup, and Crystal Sullivan. Director Siders also read a statement from Circuit Court Administrator Lori Hansen praising the work of Crystal Sullivan. Board Member Wilson read a statement from Crystal Sullivan about the honor of working in the County. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Champaign County Board
July 24, 2025

PUBLIC INPUT

Jason Benda, County Facilities employee, spoke about the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) contract negotiations, thanked the union and county for coming to an agreement, and urged the Board to approve Resolutions 2025-214 to 2025-218.

Stan Harper, retired County Board Member of unincorporated Ogden Township, spoke about drainage district taxing issues, noting that their exclusion from the May 2025 tax bill required resending corrected tax bill, resulting in an unnecessary, wasteful expense.

Cece Phillips, Circuit Clerk employee and AFSCME Local 900 President, thanked AFSCME Local 900 members and the County for the contract agreement and urged the County Board to continue to support county employees throughout the contract.

Brian Jones, a United Sovereign Americans member of Winnebago County, alleged that the 2024 General Election was corrupt and fraudulent and read the first portion of Unite 4 Freedom's "Resolution for a Legally Valid 2026 General Election."

Babe Paukstys a United Sovereign Americans member of Cook County, continued reading Unite 4 Freedom's "Resolution for a Legally Valid 2026 General Election."

Tom Kozik, a United Sovereign Americans member of Kane County, continued reading Unite 4 Freedom's "Resolution for a Legally Valid 2026 General Election."

Jodie Zitko, a United Sovereign Americans member of Kane County, continued reading Unite 4 Freedom's "Resolution for a Legally Valid 2026 General Election."

Ken Zitko, of Kane County and Illinois President of United Sovereign Americans, concluded reading Unite 4 Freedom's "Resolution for a Legally Valid 2026 General Election." He asked the Board to invited Unite 4 Freedom to return to give a presentation on their alleged corruption of past elections.

COMMUNICATIONS

County Director of Administration Michelle Jett gave a brief presentation about access to the Bennett Administrative Building for County Board members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the County Board on June 26, 2025, Board Member Carter seconded. Board

Champaign County Board

July 24, 2025

Member Farney requested a minor correction—the second sentence of the second paragraph on page 3, “Board Member Peugh requested to speak and was ignored”—“ignored” be changed to “not recognized”. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote, pending correction.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Esry offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-208 authorizing payment of claims; Board Member Sullard seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Lokshin offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-209 purchases not following purchasing policy; Board Member Hanauer-Friedman seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

County Executive Summers noted the Fiscal Year 2024 Audit update in the Agenda Packet. Board Chair Locke and Board Member Hanauer-Friedman both praised the work of Budget Director Travis Woodcock and the county finance staff.

County Executive Summers congratulated Director Woodcock on county receiving the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for the fiscal year (FY) 2025 budget.

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-210 Budget Amendment BUA 2025/7/211 appropriation of the Adult Redeploy Illinois Grant Funds for SFY26; Board Member Farney seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Sullard, Thorsland, Votava, Wiggs, Wilson, Cagle, Carter, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Fortado, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, and Locke – 19

Nays: none

Temporarily absent: Peugh – 1

Board member Hanauer-Friedman offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-211 approving an exception to the Champaign County Purchasing Policy Ordinance 2022-9; Board Member Esry seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-212 approving the FY2025 Salary Administration Plan for non-bargaining employees; Board Member Esry seconded. Board Member Farney noted a typographical correction to the second “WHEREAS” to state “pursuant to the recommended of the County Executive, the Finance Committee recommend the following ...”. Director Jett was invited to join the discussion; she added that the Max column for salary grade G is incorrect and should be an \$30.58 hourly rate at \$59,632.00 for a 1,950-hour work year and \$63,606.40 for a 2,050-hour work year. The motion carried by unanimous voice, pending corrections.

Champaign County Board
July 24, 2025

Board Member Wilson offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-213 appointing Mark Brown to the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District, unexpired term ending 12/31/2025; Board Member Wiggs seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-219 recognizing National Emergency Management Awareness Month; Board Member Sullard seconded. Board Member Wilson read a statement from Emergency Management Agency Director John Dwyer about the importance of emergency management. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

County Executive Summers noted the American Rescue Plan Act Update memo in the Agenda Packet.

County Executive Summers noted to Grant Coordinator Update memo in the Agenda Packet.

Board Member Rodriguez offered an omnibus motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-214 approving the agreement between the Champaign County Executive, Sheriff, Treasurer, Corner, and Clerk/Recorder and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31 for the General Bargaining Unit, January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2026; Resolution No. 2025-215 approving the agreement between the Champaign County State's Attorney and the and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31, January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2026; Resolution No. 2025-216 approving the agreement between the Chief Judge of the Sixth Judicial Court and the and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31, January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2026; Resolution No. 2025-2017 approving the agreement between the Champaign County Circuit Clerk and the and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31, January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2026; *and* Resolution No. 2025-218 approving the agreement between the Champaign County Executive and the and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 31 for the Highway Department, January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2026; Board Member Thorsland seconded. Board Member Farney noted a typographical omission and requested Resolution No. 2025-214 include the Auditor's office in the list of offices included in the contract. Board Member Rodriguez spoke positively about the contract and the county's commitment to its employees. Board Member Carter praised the county employees. Board Member Fortado thanked Board Member Rodriguez for her work as the Labor Committee Chair. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote, pending corrections.

County Executive Summers raised the issue of the Labor/Management Health Insurance Committee's (LMHIC) FY2025 Co-pay Resolution proposal. Director Jett was

Champaign County Board

July 24, 2025

invited to join the discussion and provided background on the Co-pay issue where the County agreed to cover (but has not) medical co-pays and deductibles greater than \$2,000.00 up to the insurance maximum of \$5,000.00, per the LMHIC contract, which both the Fraternal Order of Police and AFSCME have filed grievances over the issue. She presented the County's proposed solution to make fair on the contract: the County dissolves the Health Care Account (HCA) with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois and creates an HCA with Flex Spending to cover the deductibles and both doctor visit and prescription co-pays for 2025, occurring in September or October, with reimbursement for any individual expenditures between \$2,000.01 and \$5,000.00. Director Jett was unable to provide an exact dollar amount for this proposal but estimated that the current HCA fund will have enough cover the costs. Board Chair Locke asked if there would be any costs associated with terminating the existing Blue Cross/Blue Shield HCA contract; Director Jett stated that while there would be no cost to terminate the contract, there would be increased administrative costs with the Flex Spending HCA. Board Member Fortado asked for a potential timeline with the LMHIC; Director Jett stated that it could be presented at the August 5, 2025, LMHIC meeting and, if approved by LMHIC, be presented as a resolution for Board approval at the August 21, 2025, regular County Board Meeting.

County Executive Summers raised the topic of County Work Functions; Directors Jett and Woodcock were invited to join the discussion. Directors Jett and Woodcock emphasized that the problems are the result of the Auditor himself, and they did not fault the staff of the office. Board Member Hanauer-Friedman spoke about the disfunction in the Auditor's Office, and she solicited input and guidance from both the County Board and County Administration. Board Member Fortado spoke about the vast increase in late vendor payments by the Auditor's Office in the past year. Board Chair Locke asked about the consequences and repercussions from the Auditor's delinquency. Director Woodcock stated the unreported interest can affect state reporting, grant funding access, and department budgeting; incorrect or insufficient bank reconciliations effect various fund balances; not posting printed checks can create inaccurate fund balances; and late credit card payments result in unbudgeted fees and interest. Various board members discussed details and intricacies of faults in the Auditor's work and the associated consequences. Board Member Fortado spoke about the Munis system processes and how it is used by all County offices and departments and thus errors in the system have negative consequences for all aspects of the county. Board Member Carter noted that while bank reconciliations are now done exclusively by the Auditor, they were previously done jointly by the Auditor and Treasurer; she suggested that the reconciliations return to the joint responsibility. Board Member Farney noted that in most Illinois counties, the work of the Auditor is an administrative not elected position, especially since the Auditor creates a single point of failure. Board Members Farney, Wilson, and Hanauer-Friedman asked County Administration to investigate the statutory responsibilities of the elected auditor and how the county can create workarounds for the disfunction of the Auditor, and to present their findings at the August 12, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting.

Champaign County Board

July 24, 2025

COMMUNICATIONS

County Executive Summers stated that Board Member Carter recently made personal attacks directed at Board Member Farney on social media in violation of Board Policy and would be sending her an email directing her to cease personal attacks on Board Members.

Board Member Peugh noted the Love and Peace Barbecue at Douglass Park in Champaign on Sunday, July 27, 2025.

Board Member Wilson noted the 72nd anniversary of the end of the Korean War and spoke briefly about the war and its veterans.

Board Member Lokshin spoke about her recent meeting with Experience Champaign-Urbana and noted that they are in need of community ambassadors, especially retirees and LGBTQ individuals.

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman praised the bipartisan work of the County Board.

Board Member Farney noted a firearms safety training at the Swearingen Memorial Library in St. Joseph on July 28, 2025.

Board Member Thorsland solicited water donations for the unhoused community and requested a visible clock be hung in the Shields–Carter Meeting Room.

ADJOURN

County Executive Summers adjourned the meeting at 8:27 PM.



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