

RESUME OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
September 18, 2025

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center, 102 East Main Street, Urbana, Illinois, County Executive Steve Summers presiding and Matthew Cross as Clerk of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following members present: Rogers, Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Cagle, Carter, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, and Locke – 16; late: Rodriguez (arrived before 6:39, missing the Agenda and Appointment votes) and Cowart (arrived at 6:44, after the Resolution No. 2025-260 vote) – 2; absent: Sexton, Wilson, and Fortado – 3. County Executive Summers declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business. Board Members Peugh and Carter returned late from the recess but missed no votes.

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

County Executive Summers recited 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 September 4, September 11, and September 17, 2025.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA

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

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to amend the agenda to move item XII. Board Member Communications to follow XVII. Other Business, and to move item XVI A. American Rescue Plan Act to follow XVIII. Public Input; Board Member Sullard seconded. The motion to amend the Agenda carried by unanimous voice vote.

The motion as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

APPOINTING NEW BOARD MEMBER

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-264 appointing

Monique Settles as a County Board Member in District 10 to fill Jason Votava's unexpired term ending November 30, 2026; Board Member Carter seconded. Board Member Farney asked for confirmation that the appointment fulfills the legal obligations; County Executive Summers affirmed the legality of the appointment of Monique Settles. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

Matthew Cross administered the oath of office to Board Member Settles.

DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Standing Committees:

- A. County Facilities Committee
Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center
- B. Environment and Land Use Committee
Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center
- C. Highway and Transportation Committee
Friday, October 10, 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, October 14, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

County Board:

- A. Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Board Member Carter offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-260 honoring county employees for years of service; Board Member Lokshin seconded. Board Member Vanichtheeranont read the entire text of the resolution. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Probation and Court Services Director Shannon Sider was invited to speak about the service of Andrew Griffeth, Teresa Zebe, and Lori Hansen.

PUBLIC INPUT

Linda Hambleton Mahomet Township spoke in opposition to the proposed solar farm in Ordinance No. 2025-11, noting the environmental impact and the negative effect on property value.

Rick Hambleton declined to speak.

Debbie Bunch of Mahomet Township spoke in opposition to the proposed solar farm in Ordinance No. 2025-11, noting the impact on the neighborhood.

Nick Taylor of Mahomet spoke in opposition to the proposed solar farm in Ordinance No. 2025-11, noting the negative impact on real estate value and development.

Matthew Corray of Mahomet Township spoke in opposition to the proposed solar farm in Ordinance No. 2025-11, noting the negative impact on the neighborhood and questioned why, if the solar farm proposal was admissible, the Board would need to waive rules regarding solar farms.

Karen Hansen of Mahomet Township spoke in opposition to the proposed solar farm in Ordinance No. 2025-11, noting her displeasure of the process and Summit Ridge Energy's tactics.

Cheryl Sproul of Mahomet Township spoke in opposition to the proposed solar farm in Ordinance No. 2025-11, noting her displeasure of the process and Summit Ridge Energy's tactics.

David Sproul of Mahomet Township spoke in opposition to the proposed solar farm in Ordinance No. 2025-11, noting Summit Ridge Energy's threatened lawsuit if the ordinance was not approved.

Mike Murphy, Mahomet Spring Lake Association President, spoke in opposition to the proposed solar farm in Ordinance No. 2025-11.

Diana Harmon of Mahomet Township spoke in opposition to the proposed solar farm in Ordinance No. 2025-11.

Alexis Godbee of Mahomet Township spoke in opposition to the proposed solar farm in Ordinance No. 2025-11.

Tyler Bozarth of Mahomet Township spoke in opposition to the proposed solar farm in Ordinance No. 2025-11, noting the poor location and planning.

Bridget Callahan, Summit Ridge Energy Vice President of Project Development, spoke about the benefits of the proposed solar farm and acknowledged the company's poor community relations with the project. She requested the proposal be amended in the

Part D waiver for providing financial assurance for the Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan to replace the “surety bond” with “cash escrow account in an amount equal to 100% of the decommissioning estimate in an escrow agreement agreeable to both Mahomet IL Solar 1, LLC, c/o Summit Ridge Energy LLC, and Champaign County prior to the issuance of a Zoning Use Permit, in-lieu of a letter of credit per Section 6.1.5Q.”

Dale Johnson, Summit Ridge Energy Civil and Design Engineer, spoke about the positive environmental impact of the propose solar farm.

Ben Jacobi, attorney for Mahomet Solar 1 LLC and Summit Ridge Energy, spoke about the project’s compliance with state and county laws and noted solar farms’ positive impact on property value.

County Auditor George Danos spoke about County Director of Administration Michelle Jett’s salary as interim Facilities Director does not conform to County payment policy and spoke against the predicted county deficit, noting that County Administration is predicting a budget deficit and asking departments to consider reducing staff, while simultaneously greatly expanding its own workforce.

John Bambenek of Mahomet spoke against the tactics used by Summit Ridge Energy and suggested the Board table the ordinance until October or November to evaluate their options.

Micah McMahon, County correctional officer and Fraternal Order of Police Illini Lodge #17 Trustee, spoke about the understaffing at the County jail as a cost-savings measure creates an unsafe work environment.

Board Member Sullard offered a motion to extend Public Input beyond the prescribed 60 minutes; Board Member Farney seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Jason Benda, County Facilities Custodian, spoke positively about the convenience and accessibility of the Bennet Administrative Center compared to the Brookens building.

Ted Hartke, an engineer/land surveyor, spoke in opposition to the proposed solar farm in Ordinance No. 2025-11, noting that other counties have rejected solar farm special use permits.

Kyle Hawkinson, Summit Ridge Energy Engineer, spoke positively about environmental impact of the proposed solar farm.

Reynaldo Camas of Champaign spoke about the improved accessibility at the Bennett Administrative Center and noted the poor audio in recent County Board YouTube broadcasts. He spoke against the threatened Summit Ridge Energy lawsuit and accused Board Member Carter of trying to intimidate him at an earlier Committee of the

Whole Meeting by photographing him while speaking during public input. He stated that while the Board's personnel decisions have been positive, they have been poorly communicated to the public.

RECESS

County Executive Summers declared the Board in Recess at 8:11 PM.

County Executive Summers reconvened the Board at 8:17 PM and roll call showed the following members present: Rodriguez, Rogers, Settles, Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Cagle, Cowart, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, and Locke – 17; absent: Sexton, Wilson, and Fortado – 3; late returning: Carter and Peugh returned at 8:20 and missed no business.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Project Manager Kathy Larson provided a brief update on various ARPA projects, noting the comprehensive memorandum in the Agenda Packet. Board Member Carter asked why she was excluded from the Small Business Loan meeting; Project Manager Larson stated that she could not answer as she was not present at the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda; Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded. Board Chair Locke requested that item C. 6. Resolution No. 2025-259 be removed from the Consent Agenda and be place at the start of XVI. Other Business, at the request of Assistant State's Attorney Joel Fletcher due to the addition of a signature line and corrected spelling since it was approved in committee. The motion consisting of 11 resolutions (Nos. 2025-248, 2025-249, 2025-250, 2025-251, 2025-252, 2025-253, 2025-254, 2025-255, 2025-256, 2025-257, and 2025-258) carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Rodriguez, Rogers, Settles, Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Cagle, Carter, Cowart, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, and Locke – 19

Nays: none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the County Board on August 21, 2025; Board Member Crane 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 of September 2, 2025, and Environment and Land Use Committees of September 4, 2025, were received and placed on file.

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to deny Ordinance No. 2025-11 granting a Special Use Permit Zoning Case 162-S-25 “Mahomet Solar 1, LLC, c/o Summit Ridge Energy LLC” solar farm including the decommissioning and site reclamation plan; Board Member Rogers Seconded.

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to amend Waiver D to state “Part D: A waiver for providing financial assurance for the Decommissioning and Site Reclamation Plan in the form of a cash escrow account in an amount equal to 100% of the decommissioning estimate in an escrow agreement agreeable to both Mahomet IL Solar 1, LLC, c/o Summit Ridge Energy LLC, and Champaign County prior to the issuance of a Zoning Use Permit, in-lieu of a letter of credit per Section 6.1.5Q.”; Board Chair Locke seconded.

Board Member Farney moved to table the ordinance and the amendment until the October County Board Meeting; Board Member Crane seconded. Board Member Farney stated that newly appointed Board Member Settles should be given an opportunity to understand the ordinance and the delay would allow the Board to get legal advice on the ordinance. Board Members Thorsland and Carter stated their agreement with the tabling proposal. The motion to table Ordinance No. 2025-11 carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Rodriguez, Rogers, Settles, Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Cagle, Carter, Cowart, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, and Locke – 19

Nays: none

County Executive Summers noted the Summary of Action Taken for the Highway and Transportation Committee of September 5, 2025, was received and place on file.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

County Executive Summers noted the Summary of Action Taken at the September 9, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting (Justice and Social Services; Finance; *and* Policy Personnel, and Appointments) was received and place on file.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-259 authorizing a Reconciliation Fund Settlement Agreement relating to the Payment of Claims from the Presence V. Champaign County Board of Review, et al., 15-L-75; Board Member Esry seconded. Board Chair Locke explained that the resolution was pulled from the Consent

Agenda, at the request of Assistant State's Attorney Fletcher due to the addition of a signature line and corrected spelling in the time since it was approved in committee. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-261 Authorizing Payment of Claims; Board Member Thorsland seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-262 purchases not following purchasing policy; Board Member Esry seconded.

Board Member Sullard offered a motion to amend the resolution to remove the second item, the Administrative Services Violation of Salary Administration Guidelines, as it was not properly listed; Board Member Farney seconded. The motion to amend the resolution carried by voice vote.

The motion as amended carried by voice vote.

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-263 authorizing the execution of a Deed of Conveyance of the County's interest on real estate, permanent parcel 26-30-09-177-004; Board Chair Locke seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

County Executive Summers noted the Property Tax/Levy/Rate Projection FY2026 was included in the Agenda Packet.

OTHER BUSINESS

County Executive Summers noted the Grant Coordinator Update was included in the Agenda Packet.

Board Member Rodriguez offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-265 approving the Employee Health Insurance and Related Benefit Plans for FY2026; Board Member Lokshin seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Carter stated "if you benefit from white supremacy, you'll never talk against it."

Board Member Esry spoke about crop harvest season and asked drivers to be cautious around farm equipment.

Board Member Thorsland spoke briefly about his September 11 experience and spoke about the prevalence of gun violence in America.

Board Member Lokshin spoke against government censorship.

Board Member Farney spoke about suicide as gun violence.

Board Member Rogers noted the upcoming meeting for the Illinois African-Descent Reparations Commission on October 4, 2025, at the University of Urbana-Champaign.

Board Member Sullard noted the upcoming local-celebrity bartender fundraiser at Hotel Royer on October 8, 2025, to benefit the Men Wear Pink breast cancer program.

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman spoke about September as Suicide Awareness Month and noted upcoming County gun safe and gun lock programs at the Champaign Public Library on September 23, 2025, and Tolono Library on September 27, 2025, and an event to be determined in Mahomet.

Board Member Peugh noted that September 18 is the birthday of the United States Air Force and that the Illini men's and women's hockey season starts the upcoming weekend.

ADJOURN

County Executive Summers adjourned the meeting at 8:41 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron Ammons". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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