

RESUME OF MINUTES OF STUDY SESSION OF THE  
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
March 24, 2026

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Study Session, Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 6:05 PM in the Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center, 102 East Main Street, Urbana, Illinois, with Board Chair Jennifer Locke presiding and Matthew Cross as Clerk of the meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call showed the following members present: Farney, Fortado, and Locke – 3; absent: Wiggs, Wilson, Arres, Cagle, Carter, Cowart, Crane, Esry, Fava, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, Settles, Sexton, Sullard, Thorsland, and Vanichtheeranont – 19. Board Chair Locke noted the lack of quorum but stated the meeting would continue as planned due to the lack of actionable items on the Agenda.

**READ NOTICE OF MEETING**

The Clerk read the Notice of the Meeting, said Notice having been published in the *News Gazette* on March 3, March 10, and March 15, 2026.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA**

Board Member Farney offered a motion to approve the Agenda; Board Member Fortado seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Jason Benda, of Champaign, thanked the Board for having the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Open Meetings Act (OMA) training, stressing its importance in educating both board members and the public at large.

Board Chair Locke noted that while only three board members and one member of the public were physically present, the meeting was being streamed and recorded for the public and any absent board members.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

### **PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION**

Andrew Muller, State's Attorney's Office (SAO, Civil Division, gave a presentation on the Open Meetings Act. Board Member Farney asked at what point a discussion of a topic veers too far from what is on a meeting agenda; Attorney Muller stated that organic discussions may stray from the topic but the hard line would be taking action on a discussion not included in the agenda; he noted that Special Meetings require very strict topic adherence. Board Member Farney noted that the Shields-Carter Meeting Room does not contain any general room microphones and, thus, cannot record off microphone discussions between board members during meetings; Attorney Muller stated that OMA does not set technological standards for meetings.

Attorney Muller gave a presentation on the Freedom of Information Act. Board Chair Locke asked how a FOIA officer can verify that a request is genuine and not generated by artificial intelligence; Attorney Muller stated the FOIA officer can reply to the requester via email or telephone to verify the request was made from a person. Board Member Fortado asked how media is defined in relation to "recurrent requester" exemption; Attorney Muller stated that the current media environment has significant gray area between journalistic media and interested individuals and requested FOIA officers contact the SAO if there is a question about media qualification. Board Member Farney asked if non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) between private corporations and public bodies are in violation of FOIA; Attorney Muller stated that NDAs are largely not applicable to public bodies, with some minor exceptions like proprietary trade secrets.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Locke adjourned the meeting at 7:02 PM.



---

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