

RESUME OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
April 23, 2026

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, April 23, 2026, 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: Arres, Cagle, Carter, Cowart, Farney, Fava, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Sexton, Thorsland, Wiggs, and Locke – 15; absent: Crane, Esry, Rogers, Settles, Sullard, Vanichtheeranont, and Wilson – 7. County Executive Summers declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business. Board Member Carter departed early at 9:42 PM, missing all votes following the Consent Agenda.

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

County Executive Summers read an agrarian 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* April 9, April 16, and April 22, 2026.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to adopt the Agenda; Board Member Arres seconded.

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to amend the Agenda to move item XI. Communications to follow items XVI. Other Business and to remove item XII. B. Ordinance No. 2026-9 to follow Item VIII. Public Input; Board Member Farney seconded. The motion to amend the Agenda/Addenda carried by unanimous voice vote.

The motion as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Standing Committees:

- A. County Facilities Committee
Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 6:30 PM

- Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center
- B. Environment and Land Use Committee
Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center
- C. Highway and Transportation Committee
Friday, May 8, 2026 at 9:00 AM
1605 E Main St, Urbana

Committee of the Whole:

- A. Justice and Social Services; Policy, Personnel, and Appointments; Finance
Monday, May 12, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

County Board:

- A. Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-77 Honoring County Employees for Years of Service; Board Member Sexton seconded. County Executive Summers read the entire text of the resolution; he read an additional name, William Watts, not included in the text. State's Attorney's Office Civil Division Chief Andrew Bequette was invited to speak and praised the service of Andrew Muller and Michelle Coronado. Probation and Court Services Director Shannon Siders was invited to speak and praised the service of Jessica Hendrix. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC INPUT

Chris Powers of Rantoul spoke against data centers using an artificial intelligence (AI) bot to read his statement.

Samuel Grayson of Urbana spoke about a Freedom of Information Act request he submitted, 15 days prior, to the County for AI surveillance cameras, for which he had yet to receive a response.

Bryana (no surname, residence, or affiliation provided) spoke against data centers and AI.

Jason Votava of Urbana spoke against data centers.

Samuel Tomory of Urbana spoke against data centers and AI.

Elizabeth Kirby of Champaign spoke against data centers.

Ann Marie Shapiro of Champaign spoke against data centers.

Amy Young of Urbana spoke against data centers and urged the Board to institute a twelve-month moratorium for Ordinance No. 2026-9.

Christine Bidner of Mahomet spoke against data centers.

Diane Marlin of Urbana urged the Board to institute a twelve-month moratorium in Ordinance No. 2026-9, suggesting that they study the example of Auora, Illinois. She also spoke of protecting the Mahomet Aquifer.

Krissy Webber, Roofers' Local 97 Business Manager, spoke in support of the nine-month moratorium specified in Ordinance No. 2026-9.

Joyce Mast of Champaign spoke in support of a twelve-month moratorium for Ordinance No. 2026-9.

Bhavana Bheem, University of Illinois Graduate Student in Computer Science, spoke against data centers and AI.

Dee Hucal of Champaign spoke in support of a twelve-month moratorium for Ordinance No. 2026-9.

Roma Chenoweth, owner of a farm in Philo Township, spoke against the Rural Broadband project.

Maria Tucker of Urbana spoke against data centers.

Board Chair Locke moved to extend Public Input beyond the sixty minutes outlined in the Board Rules; Board Member Fortado seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Stuart Levy of Champaign spoke against data centers and in support of a twelve-month moratorium for Ordinance No. 2026-9.

Cindy Shepherd of Urbana spoke in support of a twelve-month moratorium for Ordinance No. 2026-9.

Andrew Rehn, Prairie Rivers Network Director of Climate Policy, spoke in support of a twelve-month moratorium for Ordinance No. 2026-9.

Charlie Deakin, Plumbers' and Pipefitters' Local 149 Business Manager, spoke in support of the nine-month moratorium specified in Ordinance No. 2026-9.

Sean Williams of Champaign spoke in support of a twelve-month moratorium for Ordinance No. 2026-9.

Kane Rubel of Urbana spoke against data centers and AI.

Kevin Sage, East Central Illinois Building and Construction Trades Council President, spoke in support of the nine-month moratorium specified in Ordinance No. 2026-9.

Chyna Figueroa Dixon of Champaign spoke in support of a twelve-month moratorium for Ordinance No. 2026-9.

ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE COMMITTEE

County Executive Summers noted the Summary of Action Taken for the Environment and Land Use Committee of April 9, 2026, was received and placed on file.

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-9 Amending the Zoning Ordinance, Zoning Case 196-AT-26; Board Member Rodriguez seconded.

Board Member Rodriguez offered an amendment to change the moratorium specified in section 5.5.2. from “nine months or 270 days” to twelve months; Board Member Thorsland seconded. Board Member Peugh requested a roll-call vote. The motion to amend the ordinance carried by roll-call vote:

Yeas: Arres, Carter, Cowart, Fava, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Sexton, Thorsland, and Locke – 12

Nays: Cagle, Farney, and Wiggs – 3

The motion as amended carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Arres, Cagle, Carter, Cowart, Farney, Fava, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Sexton, Thorsland, Wiggs, and Locke – 15

Nays: none

RECESS

County Executive declared a brief recess at 8:19 PM; the Board reconvened at 8:30 PM.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda; Board Member Cagle seconded. The motion consisting of four resolutions (Nos. 2026-73, 2025-74, 2025-75, and 2025-76) and one ordinance (No. 2026-8) carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Arres, Cagle, Carter, Cowart, Farney, Fava, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman,

Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Sexton, Thorsland, Wiggs, and Locke – 15
Nays: none

PRESENTATION

Dr. Kisa Mwakanyamale Gilkie, Illinois State Geological Survey Associate Research Scientist at the Prairie Research Institute, presented the findings of the American Rescue Plan Act-funded HTEM Mahomet Aquifer Mapping Project. County Director of Administration Michelle Jett and Carbon Dioxide Sequestration Activities Task Force member Andrew Rehn were invited to join the discussion.

County Finance Director Travis Woodcock presented the County Financial Forecast. Director Jett was invited to speak.

Board Members Thorsland and Fortado warned that the budgetary resolutions (Nos. 2026-90 and 2026-91) later in the Agenda require 15 affirmative votes for passage and that there were only 15 members present at the meeting. During this explanation, Board Member Carter departed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Chair Locke offered an omnibus motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the County Board on February 19, 2026, and the Study Session on March 24, 2026; Board Member Sexton seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES

County Executive Summers noted that the Summaries of Action Taken for County Facilities Committee of April 7, 2026, and Highway and Transportation Committee of April 10, 2026, were received and placed on file.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

County Executive Summers noted that the Summary of Action Taken for Committee of the Whole Meeting (Justice and Social Services; Finance; *and* Policy, Personnel, and Appointments) of April 14, 2026, was received and placed on file.

Board Member Farney offered an omnibus motion to adopt Resolutions No. 2026-78 appointing Lillian Williams to the Eastern Prairie Fire Protection District, term ending April 30, 2029; No. 2026-79 appointing Denny Jayne to the Ivesdale Fire Protection District, term ending April 30, 2029; No. 2026-80 appointing Kevin Chalmers to the Philo

Fire Protection District, term ending April 30, 2029; No. 2026-81 appointing Eric Stalter to the Sangamon Valley Fire Protection District, term ending April 30, 2029; No. 2026-82 appointing Chris Karr to the Scott Fire Protection District, term ending April 30, 2029; No. 2026-83 appointing Howard Marsh to the St. Joseph-Stanton Fire Protection District, term ending April 30, 2029; No. 2026-84 appointing Kevin Wolken to the Thomasboro Fire Protection District, term ending April 30, 2029; and No. 2026-85 appointing Dale Grimm to the Tolono Fire Protection District, term ending April 30, 2029; Board Member Lokshin seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-86 appointing Ladell Myrick to the Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District, term ending April 30, 2029; Board Member Cagle seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Farney offered an omnibus motion to adopt Resolutions No. 2026-88 approving the Proclamation designating the week of May 10th as National Police Week and No. 2026-89 approving the Proclamation designating the week of May 3rd as National Correctional Officer Week; Board Member Sexton seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Chair Locke offered an omnibus motion to table until the May 21, 2026, Regular County Board Meeting, Resolutions No. 2026-90 approving Budget Transfer BUA 2025/12/1705 and No. 2026-91 approving Budget Amendment BUA 2026/3/302, as the resolution require 15 affirmative votes for passage and only 14 members were present; Board Member Fortado seconded. The motion to table carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Arres offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-92 authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control and Impound Services with the Village of Gifford; Board Member Lokshin seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Board member Arres offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-93 authorizing payment of claims; Board Member Wiggs seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

County Executive Summers noted the American Rescue Plan Act update memo in the Agenda Packet and the lack of Purchases Not Following Purchasing Policy report from the County Auditor.

COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Thorsland announced his retirement from the Board following the Environment and Land Use Committee meeting on May 7, 2026,

Board Members Fortado and Lokshin thanked Board Member Thorsland for his service to the County.

Board Member Lokshin noted that the U.S. Department of Justice had extended to Title II compliance deadline.

Board Member Arres shared that constituent Nico Lang authored a book on trans youth (American Teenager: How Trans Kids Are Surviving Hate and Finding Joy in a Turbulent Era) and will be holding a reading at New Covenant Fellowship in Champaign on May 2, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

County Executive Summers adjourned the meeting at 9:55 PM.



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