

RESUME OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
August 20, 2026

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, August 20, 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: Esry, Farney, Fava, Figueroa-Dixon, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Sexton, Sullard, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Arres, Cagle, Cowart, Crane, and Locke – 17; late: Fortado (arrived at 6:38 during the discussion of Resolution No. 2026-214) – 1; absent: Rogers, Schoell, Settles, and Wilson – 4. County Executive Summers declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business. Board Member Peugh was briefly absent from the room, missing the votes for Resolution Nos. 2026-218 and 2026-219. Two Board Members departed early: Crane (at 7:44, following the ARPA discussion) and Sexton (at 8:30, during the Automated License Plate Reader discussion).

PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

County Executive Summers held a moment of silence for those who lost loved ones in the recent severe weather, recited a prayer for calm weather, 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* August 6, August 13, and August 19, 2026.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to adopt the Agenda/Addendum; Board Member Figueroa-Dixon seconded.

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to amend the Agenda/Addendum by moving items XV. A. (American Rescue Plan Act) and B. (Automated License Plate Readers) to follow VIII. (Public Input), move item X. (Communications) to follow XIV. F. (Invitation to Bid 2026-005), and move Items XIV. A. (Closed Session) and B. (Resolution No. 2026-224) to follow the already moved item X. (Communications); Board Member Farney seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

The motion as amended carried by voice vote.

DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Standing Committees:

- A. County Facilities Committee
Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center
- B. Environment and Land Use Committee
Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center
- C. Highway and Transportation Committee
Friday, September 11, 2026 at 9:00 AM
1605 E Main St, Urbana

Committee of the Whole:

- A. Justice and Social Services; Policy, Personnel, and Appointments; Finance
Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center
- B. Special Finance
Tuesday, September 29, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

County Board:

- A. Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 6:30 PM
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Board Member Sullard offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-214 honoring county employees for years of service; Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded. Board Member Vanichtheeranont read the entire text of the resolution. County Public Defender Elisabeth Pollock was invited to speak and praised the service of David Appleman. County Sheriff Dustin Heuerman was invited to speak and praised the service of Howard Wilson and Brad Wakefield. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-215 honoring retiring county employees; Board Member Sullard seconded. Board Member Vanichtheeranont read the entire text of the resolution. Public Defender Pollock was invited to speak and praised the service of Janie Miller. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC INPUT

Jason Benda of Champaign praised the service of Suzanne Brock for her tenth anniversary with the county and spoke about the importance of public speaking at County Board Meetings and public discourse.

Ratan Hatte, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign student, spoke against automated license plate readers in the county.

Stuart Levi of Champaign spoke positively about the recent Data Center Task Force meeting and spoke in support of extending the data center moratorium.

Nancy Dietrich of Urbana spoke against data centers in the county.

Gabriel Dunn of Urbana spoke against personal attacks by Board Members and spoke against tax increases in the county.

David Young of Urbana spoke against automated license plate readers and corporate surveillance.

Antonia Herbstreet of Champaign spoke against data centers, noting the noise pollution.

Danna Seiden of Champaign Township spoke against data centers, noting the negative environmental impact.

Ruth Yontz of Champaign Township spoke against data centers.

OTHER BUSINESS

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Project Manager Kathy Larson provided a brief update on ARPA-funded projects.

Volo Internet and Technology Solutions Chief Executive Officer Peter Folk provided an update on Volo's portion of the ARPA-funded Rural Broadband project.

Project Manager Larson provided an update on the unspent funds for the Economic Development Corporation's Small Business Grant project; Board Member Fortado requested an additional update at the September County Board Committee of the Whole meeting.

Project Manager Larson and Board Member Fortado discussed the reallocation of the unspent non-Volo Rural Broadband funds; County Director of Administration Michelle Jett was invited to join the discussion. Board Member Fortado requested a spending plan for those funds by the September County Board Committee of the Whole meeting.

County Sheriff Dustin Heuerman presented information about the Sheriff's Office's use

of Flock automated license plate reader camera; County Sheriff's Lieutenant Brad Wakefield and State's Attorney Julia Rietz were invited to join the discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Member Sullard offered a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda; Board Member Farney seconded. The motion, consisting of 38 resolutions (Nos. 2026-176, 2026-177, 2026-178, 2026-179, 2026-180, 2026-181, 2026-182, 2026-183, 2026-184, 2026-185, 2026-186, 2026-187, 2026-188, 2026-189, 2026-190, 2026-191, 2026-192, 2026-193, 2026-194, 2026-195, 2026-196, 2026-197, 2026-198, 2026-199, 2026-200, 2026-201, 2026-202, 2026-203, 2026-204, 2026-205, 2026-206, 2026-207, 2026-208, 2026-209, 2026-210, 2026-211, 2026-212, and 2026-213) and two ordinances (Nos. 2026-15 and 2026-16), carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: Esry, Farney, Fava, Figueroa-Dixon, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Sullard, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Arres, Cagle, Cowart, and Locke – 16

Nays: none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Figueroa-Dixon offered a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the County Board on July 23, 2026; Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded. Board Member Esry noted the voting result of the proclamation motion were omitted. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote, pending correction.

STANDING COMMITTEES

County Executive Summers noted that the Summary of Action Taken for the Environment and Land Use Committee of August 6, 2026, was received and placed on file.

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-216 authorizing an agreement to use State Farm Center Parking Lot for Illinois Environmental Protection Agency-sponsored one-day household hazardous waste collection on September 26, 2026; Board Member Sullard seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

County Executive Summers noted that the Summary of Action Taken for the Highway and Transportation Committee of August 7, 2026, was received and placed on file.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

County Executive Summers noted that the Summary of Action Taken for the Committee

of the Whole (Justice and Social Services; Finance; Policy, Personnel, and Appointments) of August 11, 2026, was received and placed on file.

Board Member Lokshin offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-217 approving an Illinois Emergency Management Mutual Aid System (IEMMAS) agreement; Board Member Figueroa-Dixon seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-218 approving Budget Amendment BUA 2026/7/364 for appropriation of Insurance reimbursement funds for the purchase of a replacement patrol vehicle; Board Member Cagle seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: Esry, Farney, Fava, Figueroa-Dixon, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Rodriguez, Sullard, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Arres, Cagle, Cowart, and Locke – 15

Nays: none

Temporarily absent: Peugh – 1

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-219 approving Budget Amendment BUA 2026/7/453 appropriation of proceeds from the calendar collaboration; Board Member Esry seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: Esry, Farney, Fava, Figueroa-Dixon, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Rodriguez, Sullard, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Arres, Cagle, Cowart, and Locke – 15

Nays: none

Temporarily absent: Peugh – 1

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-220 approving Budget Amendment BUA 2026/8/30 appropriation of additional funds received for the Firearm Safe Storage Strategies grant; Board Member Wiggs seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

Yeas: Esry, Farney, Fava, Figueroa-Dixon, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Sullard, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Arres, Cagle, Cowart, and Locke – 16

Nays: none

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-221 authorizing the cancellation of the appropriate certificate of purchase on a mobile home, permanent parcel 14-019-0002; Board Chair Locke seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-222 authorizing the County Executive to assign mobile home tax sale Certificate of Purchase, permanent parcel 15-025-0844; Board Member Farney seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-223 appointing Stephanie Fortado as the Justice and Social Services Committee chair; Board Member Lokshin seconded. The motion carried by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

County Executive Summers noted the Financial Forecast Update memo distributed before the meeting by County Finance Director Travis Woodcock.

Board Member Figueroa-Dixon offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2026-225 authorizing payment of claims; Board Member Sullard seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Arres offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 20226 purchases not following Purchasing Policy; Board Member Cagle seconded.

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman offered an amendment to strike five items (the Administrative Services purchase from Warehouse Direct, invoice date July 20, 2026; the County Board purchase from SK Service Corp, invoice date June 15, 2026; the County Executive travel reimbursement to Steve Summers, invoice date July 10, 2026; the two RPC – Early Childhood travel reimbursements to A.S. (employee), invoice dates June 16, 2026, and June 4, 2026) as the Administrative Services and County Board purchases were incorrectly assessed as not following purchasing policy and travel reimbursement are not relevant to Purchasing Policy; Board Member Sullard seconded. The amendment carried by unanimous voice vote.

The motion, as amended, carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to approve to release Invitation to Bid (ITB) 2026-005 Champaign County Courtroom F Renovation Project; Board Member Cagle seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Figueroa-Dixon spoke about the August 17, 2026, Special County Board Meeting, noting that the walkout before the Public Input portion of the meeting denied the public a chance to speak on the matter of home rule and data centers, and she apologized for her emotional reaction in the aftermath.

Board Member Arres stated that they would be hosting an online discussion about data centers at denthedem.com on Saturday, August 22, 2026.

Board Chair Locke noted the County Court House anniversary celebration on Friday, August 21, 2026.

Board Member Peugh relayed a constituent request and asked board members for a show of hands in opposition to data centers. He noted on Monday, August 24, 2026, he and other community members would be cooking at Neil St. Blues in Champaign in a fundraiser for For the Culture and First Follower, and Tuesday, August 25, 2026, Resist AI Data Center Champaign County would hold a meeting at the Champaign Public Library. He recommended the County Nursing Home tax funds be given to Advocates for Aging.

Board Member Fortado stated she was absent for medical reasons from the August 17, 2026, Special County Board Meeting. She then spoke about the history of home-rule governance as a progressive issue.

Director Jett was invited to speak; she noted upcoming Scott Bennett Family Resource Day event at Lincoln Square Mall, Urbana on August 28, 2026.

CLOSED SESSION

Board Member Fava moved that the Board enter into Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) to consider litigation that is pending against or on behalf of Champaign County and litigation that is probable or imminent against or on behalf of Champaign County and that the following individuals remained present: Director Jett, County Finance Director Travis Woodcock, and Recording Clerk Angie Patton; Board Chair Locke seconded. Board Chair Locke noted that Director Woodcock was not present at the meeting. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote and the board entered Executive Session at 9:20:

Yeas: Esry, Farney, Fava, Figueroa-Dixon, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Sullard, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Arres, Cagle, Cowart, and Locke – 16

Nays: none

The Board returned from Closed Session by unanimous roll-call vote at 9:30:

Yeas: Esry, Farney, Fava, Figueroa-Dixon, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Sullard, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Arres, Cagle, Cowart, and Locke – 16

Nays: none

ADJOURNMENT

County Executive Summers adjourned the meeting at 9:31 PM.



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