



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Finance/ Policy, Personnel, & Appointments/Justice & Social Services

County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Shields-Carter Meeting Room

Brookens Administrative Center

1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois

MINUTES – Approved as Distributed on February 13, 2024

Members Present: Samantha Carter, Aaron Esry, John Farney, Stephanie Fortado, Elly Hanauer-Friedman, Jennifer Locke, Jenny Lokshin, Kyle Patterson, Brett Peugh, Emily Rodriguez, Jilmala Rogers, Tom ‘Ed’ Sexton, Mike Smith, Chris Stohr, Leah Taylor, Eric Thorsland, Bethany Vanichtheeranont and Jeff Wilson

Members Absent: Lorraine Cowart, Diane Michaels, Jennifer Straub

Others Present: Steve Summers (County Executive), Michelle Jett (Director of Administration), Travis Woodcock (Budget Director), Aaron Ammons (County Clerk), Angela Patton (Chief Deputy County Clerk), Elisabeth Pollock (Public Defender), George Danos (Auditor) and Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)

Agenda Items

I. Call to Order

Chair Patterson called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

III. Approval of Agenda/Addenda

MOTION by Ms. Carter to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Sexton. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. December 12, 2023 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Ms. Locke to approve the minutes of December 12, 2023; seconded by Ms. Vanichtheeranont. Upon vote, the **MOTION with amendment CARRIED** unanimously.

V. Public Participation

None

VI. Communications

Ms. Carter wanted to express her apologies to the constituents of District 6 regarding the recent information in the media. She said she was unaware of that these things would be brought forward. She extended her hand out to the Republicans and asked them to go for coffee.

Mr. Stohr reminded everyone of the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebrations on January 14th and encouraged everyone to attend.

Ms. Taylor stated the Cunningham Township is still in need of winter gear of all sizes.

Mr. Thorsland asked everyone to take advantage of the opportunities they have as a Board to make a difference in the overall temperature of the world. He would like to see them continue working together to get smart policies and projects moving forward.

VII. Finance

A. Budget Amendments/Transfers

1. Budget Amendment BUA 2023/12/369

Fund 2110 Workforce Development Fund / Dept 110 Workforce Development

Increased Appropriations: \$100,000

Increased Revenue: \$100,000

Reason: To allow the Workforce Development Program to adequately drawdown funding from the existing grants through the end of 2023.

MOTION by Ms. Vanichtheeranont to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2023/12/369; seconded by Mr. Farney. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

2. Budget Amendment BUA 2023/12/675

Fund 2089 County Public Health Fund / Dept 049 Board of Health

Increased Appropriations: \$150,000

Increased Revenue: \$350,000

Reason: To appropriate funds from the IDPH Strengthening Illinois Public Health Administration grant for FY2023.

MOTION by Mr. Smith to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2023/12/675; seconded by Ms. Locke. Ms. Fortado clarified that this grant funding goes through 2027 and they are just spending a portion of it now. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

3. Budget Amendment BUA 2023/12/695

Fund 1080 General Corporate / Dept 031 Circuit Court

Increased Appropriations: \$47,756

Increased Revenue: \$0

Reason: To cover outstanding expenditures for professional services and for a final payout to a retiring employee.

MOTION by Mr. Smith to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2023/12/695; seconded by Ms. Hanauer-Friedman. Mr. Smith asked if there were additional funds put in the line for FY2024 and Ms. Fortado stated there is an additional \$200,000 for FY2024. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

4. Budget Amendment BUA 2024/01/29

Fund 2634 Public Defender Grant Fund / Dept 036 Public Defender

Increased Appropriations: \$144,979

Increased Revenue: \$144,979

Reason: To appropriate grant funds for the hiring of two mitigation specialists in FY2024.

MOTION by Mr. Farney to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2024/01/29; seconded by Ms. Carter. Board members commended Ms. Pollock on the work she has done to get these grants. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

B. Treasurer

1. Monthly Report – November 2023 – Reports are available on the Treasurer’s webpage

Received and placed on file

C. Auditor

1. Monthly Report – November 2023 – Reports are available on the Auditor’s webpage

Received and placed on file – Mr. Wilson asked the Auditor if he had some summary discussion points about the monthly report. Mr. Danos did not have a summary but reminded everyone that the monthly report comes out on the tenth of each month and the December report is not ready because this meeting fell before the tenth of January.

D. County Clerk

1. Increasing Compensation for Election Judges

MOTION by Mr. Thorsland to recommend County Board approval of a resolution increasing compensation for election judges; seconded by Ms. Lokshin. Discussion continued around the need for more election judges and the qualifications. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

E. Chair’s Report

1. Review of County Bonds, Public Safety Sales Tax and Fund Balance

Ms. Fortado mentioned the inaccurate information that was stated during public participation at their last meeting and wanted to make sure the County Board members understand the County bonds, Public Safety Sales Tax, and the fund balance. She gave a quick presentation on these items to ensure everyone understands how they work together. She explained that eventually the revenue will not be able to keep up with their recurring costs and they need to begin discussing options for 2026 when the financial predictions show a significant shortfall.

Ms. Jett clarified that due to all of the additions in the most recent budget, the significant shortfall is not anticipated to occur in 2025. Mr. Esry mentioned the monthly updates that were given by previous Auditor’s and how helpful that would be when making decisions at each meeting. Ms. Fortado was happy to announce that the Budget Director will begin quarterly financial reports to the Board this spring.

F. Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda

VII. A. 1-4, D. 1

VIII. Justice and Social Services

A. Monthly Reports – All reports are available on each department’s webpage through the department reports page

- Public Defender – December 2023 & 2023 Annual Report
- Emergency Management Agency – November 2023
- Animal Control – November & December 2023
- Veterans’ Assistance Commission – November & December 2023

Received and placed on file

Mr. Wilson commended the Public Defender for issuing an annual report. He asked if the felony caseload is average for our County and how we compare to surrounding counties. Ms. Pollock explained that 2023 was pretty average compared to previous years but we are definitely higher volume than other counties our size. Ms. Pollock also explained why the probation violation cases take so long to close.

B. Rosecrance Re-Entry Financial Report – November 2023

Information only – Ms. Taylor mentioned how these reports are not very helpful and Rosecrance has stated they would be willing to reconfigure the reports to make them more beneficial to show the services provided. As the County Board Liaison on the Re-Entry Council, Ms. Locke listed the items she would like to see on the report and requested Board members send her additional items they would like to have on the report. The Board would like to have them attend a meeting at the end of the first quarter.

C. Other Business

None

D. Chair’s Report

None

E. Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda

None

IX. Policy, Personnel, & Appointments

A. County Executive

1. Monthly HR Report – December 2023

Received and placed on file – Mr. Stohr called everyone’s attention to the large number of vacancies at the County Jail and asked that they try to do everything possible to fill these vacancies. Mr. Wilson asked if some of these vacant positions are still needed if they have been open this long. Board members continued to discuss why these positions are vacant and why they are still needed.

2. Appointments/Reappointments

a. List of Appointments Expiring in 2024

Information only – Mr. Stohr asked everyone to take notes of the upcoming appointments

b. Currently vacant appointments – full list and information is available on the County’s website

Information only

c. Applications for open appointments

Information only

B. County Clerk

1. Fee Reports

- December 2023 – Monthly Report
- July-December 2023 – Semi-Annual Report

Received and placed on file

2. Establishing Place of Election for the 2024 Primary Election

MOTION by Mr. Farney to recommend County Board approval of a resolution Establishing Place of Election for the 2024 Primary Election; seconded by Ms. Locke. Discussion continued regarding the equity of ballots at each location, the different sizes of each location and explaining that efficiency is not the goal of elections. Ms. Patton also reminded everyone that all locations are now universal. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED**.

C. Other Business

None

D. Chair's Report

None

E. Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda

None

X. Other Business

None

XI. Adjournment

Chair Patterson adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.