



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

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

County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

Tuesday, April 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 May 14, 2024

Members Present: Samantha Carter, Lorraine Cowart, Aaron Esry, John Farney, Carolyn Greer, Elly Hanauer-Friedman, Jennifer Locke, Jenny Lokshin, Diane Michaels, Donald Owen, Brett Peugh, Emily Rodriguez, Jilmala Rogers, Tom ‘Ed’ Sexton, Chris Stohr, Jennifer Straub, Leah Taylor, Eric Thorsland, Bethany Vanichtheeranont and Jeff Wilson

Members Absent: Stephanie Fortado and Mike Smith

Others Present: Michelle Jett (Director of Administration), Travis Woodcock (Budget Director), Dustin Heurman (Sheriff), Susan McGrath (Circuit Clerk), Julia Rietz (State’s Attorney), Cassandra Johnson (Treasurer), George Danos (Auditor) and Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)

Agenda Items

I. Call to Order

Chair Carter called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

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

Mr. Sexton entered the meeting.

III. Approval of Agenda/Addenda

MOTION by Mr. Owen to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Esry.

MOTION to Amend by Mr. Stohr to move items IX. C. 1-2 and D. 1 to immediately follow item VI.; seconded by Ms. Rogers. Upon vote, the **MOTION to Amend CARRIED** unanimously.

Upon vote the **MOTION to Approve the Agenda as Amended CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. March 12, 2024 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Ms. Locke to approve the minutes of March 12, 2024; seconded by Ms. Michaels. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

V. Public Participation

Brad Wakefield, Sheriff’s Detective and FOP Union Representative, came to speak in support of the resolution designating National Police Week. He gave some background on the history of National Police Week and explained this is a time to recognize the officers who have lost their lives for the safety and protection of others. The Sheriff’s Office lost one of their own, Glen “Bud” Hewerdine, in 1962. On May 14th, they will gather at the Champaign County Courthouse to honor Deputy Hewerdine and the countless others that have made the ultimate sacrifice. He requests the Board approve the resolution to honor those that have fallen and extended his appreciation to the Board Members for their support and commitment to the officers.

Susan McGrath, Circuit Clerk, gave an update on the Court Management Software Study. She plans to bring a recommendation to the Board in June. Ms. McGrath also mentioned the recommendation for the elected official salaries will be coming to them in May.

Ms. Cowart entered the meeting.

Aaron Borden, Correctional Officer, spoke in support of the resolution designating National Correctional Officer Week and thanked the Board members for bringing awareness to the important work that they do.

VI. Communications

Ms. Straub expressed her embarrassment after the last meeting. She stated that members of this governing board need to hold themselves and each other to a higher level of professionalism and decorum. She listed inappropriate behaviors and how disrespectful they are to the constituents and County staff. We need to do and expect better.

Mr. Wilson expressed appreciation for the Juvenile Detention Center, Director Siders and the Superintendent Allah. He had a great tour of the facility, and it was really an eye-opening experience. He also gave a shoutout to Board Member Farney who was there working with the youth, and it is so nice to see someone from the community helping others to better their lives.

Mr. Thorsland mentioned the windy month of March, explaining that wind power was the second highest producer of power in the whole country on March 24th & 25th. Texas is like a showroom for green power and solar is currently the cheapest green power option there. He reminded everyone of their non-compliance with the state regulations for solar and wind and they will need to revisit that in the near future.

Ms. Lokshin stated the Facilities Committee also took a tour of the Highway Department and how fascinating it was to see all of the work that gets done on site there. Many departments have opened their doors for tours and she welcomes Board Members to reach out if interested.

Ms. Rodriguez shared the same sentiments as Ms. Straub. She stated that behavior cannot continue. Board Members need to be able to have conversations that are free of intimidation and if they are unable to achieve that, they are failing the County. The comments at the last meeting were out of line and dangerous. The personal attacks and questioning the character of constituents are all things that cannot continue. None of the Board Members are proud of this behavior and she stated this will not continue.

Mr. Farney recognized the untimely passing of Patrick McHale. He was a teacher for the Regional Office of Education, and he had been educating the students at the Juvenile Detention Center for the last five years. Mr. McHale was in his 50th year of teaching, he was an excellent role model and mentor who will be missed dearly. Mr. Farney also addressed the situation from last week's meeting. He clarified that he has never attacked anyone on this Board, he did raise his voice and has apologized for that explaining he was just shocked by the information that came from a FOIA request and that someone would defend those type of behaviors. Mr. Farney stated that he occasionally meets with the County Executive for his constituents, and he will not be intimidated to stop those meetings. Finally, he described the behavior of the County Board Chair at the last meeting and stated this cannot be tolerated.

Ms. Carter responded to the comments by stating it would not happen again. She said she is very frustrated and has not gotten clear answers to all of her questions. She is trying her best to fulfill the duties of the County Board Chair. She is working to get meetings in order to figure out what path to take to better serve her fellow County Board Members.

VII. Justice and Social Services

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

- Public Defender – February & March 2024
- Emergency Management Agency – February & March 2024
- Veterans’ Assistance Commission – February & March 2024
- Probation & Court Services – February 2024
- Animal Control – February 2024

Received and placed on file.

B. Rosecrance

1. Re-Entry Reports
 - a. Financial Report – January & February 2024
 - b. Program Report – February 2024

Received and placed on file.

2. Program information/update

Ms. Locke introduced the speakers; Dave Kellerhals, Clinical Services Director, Jaylenn Myart, Re-Entry Case Manager, and her successor Gabrielle Calderone.

Mr. Kellerhals began by stating they would explain some of the services that the program offers, some of the challenges faced by this population and data updates.

Ms. Calderon explained what Re-Entry is, the areas of support, the programs offered, and what case management means. Ms. Myart continued with details of case management, the process of the program, top issues in the area, and barriers to success. Mr. Kellerhals then moved on to explaining the new data reporting form and a summary of data from the first two months of this quarter. They also listed some of the items that are currently in the works.

Ms. Straub thanked them for their honest data and would like to find a way to correct the housing issues. Ms. Carter thanked them for identifying the barriers to success. Ms. Michaels thought Rosecrance would be a leader in their line of work but feels they may have gotten diluted in the past, and it sounds like they may be back on track now.

Ms. Hanauer-Friedman asked about the current number of clients served, how they coordinate with other services in the community and how long they work with each client. Mr. Kellerhals explained that he thinks their clientele numbers are low and they are working to increase the amount of people they reach, they have a large resource binder to use in helping connect clients with additional services, and typically they work with clients for four to five months.

Ms. Locke clarified that the type of support a client would receive from a case manager is much different than they would receive from peer support. While some redundancy is necessary, the Re-Entry Council is working on finding the minimal amount of redundancy to use the funding as appropriately as possible.

C. Other Business

None

D. Chair's Report

None

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

None

VIII. Finance

A. Budget Amendments/Transfers

1. Budget Amendment BUA 2024/3/411
Fund 1080 General Corporate / Dept 075 General County
Increased Appropriations: \$64,641.25
Increased Revenue: \$0
Reason: To pay the final invoice for the 2022 Workforce Study.

MOTION by Mr. Owen to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2024/3/411; seconded by Ms. Vanichtheeranont. Discussion continued regarding the timing of when this invoice was received, why it may have been missed, and clarifying that the Board had allocated money for this in 2022 but it was never paid. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

2. Budget Amendment BUA 2024/4/13
Fund 2638 Coroner Statutory Fees / Dept 042 Coroner
Increased Appropriations: \$25,000
Increased Revenue: \$0
Reason: Purchase of a new vehicle to provide reliable transportation of decedents to the Coroner's facility.

MOTION by Mr. Esry to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2024/4/13; seconded by Ms. Michaels. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

B. Auditor

1. Monthly Report – February 2024 – Reports are available on the Auditor's webpage

Received and placed on file.

2. Authorizing Interfund Loans from Fund Reserves to Other Funds

MOTION by Mr. Esry to recommend County Board approval of a resolution authorizing interfund loans from fund reserves to other funds; seconded by Ms. Rodriguez. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

C. County Executive

1. Financial Forecast

Mr. Woodcock presented his Financial Forecast. He gave an overview of the General Fund, the current challenges, the drastic drop in Personal Property Replacement Taxes, and the economic environment. He presented charts showing a potential slowing in sales tax growth and economic growth. He also presented yield curves, explaining a negative yield curve has been a historical predecessor to a recessionary period and there is a high probability of a recession in the near future.

Mr. Woodcock moved on to the forecast of revenues and expenditures, explaining if revenue drops personnel cuts are the only expenditure that would make a significant difference. The current expenditures are growing faster than revenue, causing the County to run at a structural deficit. If there are no significant changes in the forecast, the County will be under the minimum recommended General Fund balance by FY2029. Finally, he gave an overview of the Public Safety Sales Tax Fund, Capital Asset Replacement Fund and ARPA Fund. He wrapped up his presentation with a list of County needs/desires that are not addressed in the current forecast and some recession scenarios.

Mr. Stohr asked if the demolition of some of the County's deteriorating buildings are built into the budget/forecast. Ms. Jett explained the older nursing home building is scheduled for this year but it has been a slow process because of asbestos and the Downtown Jail is in the Capital Plan for approximately 2026.

Mr. Farney reminded everyone of the extensive list of County needs/desires coupled with the current structural deficit. This Board is going to have several tough decisions to make in the near future.

D. Other Business

1. Inappropriate Action Regarding Procurement Process by County Auditor

Mr. Wilson got clarification from fellow Board Members that this is considered inappropriate because this is not a role of the County Auditor's Office.

Ms. Rodriguez asked the State's Attorney to clarify exactly why it was inappropriate. Ms. Rietz explained a committee has been formed to review the County's needs for a case management system, Mr. Danos is not a member on that committee, and they are still in the very preliminary stages of the procurement process. The County's current vendor for a case management system, informed Ms. Rietz that the Auditor had reached out to her for cost estimates and the vendor expressed their discomfort with the conversation. Reaching out to the current vendor goes against the County's Purchasing Policy and could potentially put that vendor in a better (or worse) position than other vendors.

Ms. Vanichtheeranont stated that interfering with the procurement process can open the County up to liability. Ms. Michaels reiterated that this system is for the offices involved in the court system, and not used by the Auditor's Office.

E. Chair's Report

None

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

VIII. A. 1-2, B. 2

IX. Policy, Personnel, & Appointments

A. County Executive

1. Monthly HR Report – March 2024

Received and placed on file

2. Appointments/Reappointments (*italics indicates incumbent*)

- a. Resolution Appointing *David Bosch* to the Broadlands-Longview Fire Protection District, term 4/1/2024-4/30/2027**

- b. Resolution Appointing *Stewart Williams* to the Eastern Prairie Fire Protection District, term 4/1/2024-4/30/2027
- c. Resolution Appointing *John Flavin* to the Ivesdale Fire Protection District, term 4/1/2024-4/30/2027
- d. Resolution Appointing *Jill Stewart* to the Edge-Scott Fire Protection District, term 4/1/2024-4/30/2027
- e. Resolution Appointing *Jeremy Delanty* to the Edge-Scott Fire Protection District, term ending 4/30/2026
- f. Resolution Appointing *Patrick Quinlan* to the Ludlow Fire Protection District, term 4/1/2024-4/30/2027
- g. Resolution Appointing *Tyler Wright* to the Ogden-Royal Fire Protection District, term 4/1/2024-4/30/2027
- h. Resolution Appointing *Robert Wood* to the Pesotum Fire Protection District, term 4/1/2024-4/30/2027
- i. Resolution Appointing *Michael McHenry* to the Philo Fire Protection District, term 4/1/2024-4/30/2027
- j. Resolution Appointing *Douglas Enos* to the Sangamon Valley Fire Protection District, term 4/1/2024-4/30/2027
- k. Resolution Appointing *Paul Berbaum* to the Scott Fire Protection District, term 4/1/2024-4/30/2027
- l. Resolution Appointing *Brian Buss* to the St. Joseph-Stanton Fire Protection District, term 4/1/2024-4/30/2027
- m. Resolution Appointing *William Nigh* to the Thomasboro Fire Protection District, term 4/1/2024-4/30/2027
- n. Resolution Appointing *Dennis Davis* to the Tolono Fire Protection District, term 4/1/2024-4/30/2027
- o. Resolution Appointing *Robert Kolakowski* to the Tolono Fire Protection District, term 4/1/2024-4/30/2027
- p. Resolution Appointing *David Dupre* to the Windsor Park Fire Protection District, term 4/1/2024-4/30/2027

OMNIBUS MOTION by Ms. Rogers to recommend County Board approval of resolutions appointing the above listed members to their respective fire protection districts; seconded by Ms. Straub. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- q. Resolution Appointing *Doug Stierwalt* to the Bailey Memorial Cemetery Association, term ending 6/30/2030

MOTION by Mr. Esry to recommend County Board approval of a resolution appointing *Doug Stierwalt* to the Bailey Memorial Cemetery Association; seconded by Ms. Lokshin. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- r. Resolution Appointing *Benjamin Beaupre* as the Citizen/Community Representative on the Re-Entry Council, term ending 11/30/2024

MOTION by Ms. Locke to recommend County Board approval of a resolution appointing *Benjamin Beaupre* as the Citizen/Community Representative on the Re-Entry Council; seconded by Mr. Thorsland. Board members discussed how no one has ever officially been appointed to this position but Mr. Beaupre already comes to all of the meetings and engages in great discussions. They are excited to make this appointment official. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

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

Information only

- t. Applications for open appointments

Information only

B. County Clerk

1. Monthly Fee Reports – March 2024

Received and placed on file

C. Sheriff

1. Proclamation Designating the Week of May 5th as National Correctional Officer Week

MOTION by Ms. Michaels to recommend County Board approval of a resolution designating the week of May 5th as National Correctional Officer Week; seconded by Ms. Lokshin. Captain Voges explained how this is such a great week for the correctional officers that are often unseen, and she appreciates this recognition. She also gave an update on staffing, explaining that they are in a really good position to be able to move inmates back by the end of the year. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

2. Proclamation Designating the Week of May 12th as National Police Week

MOTION by Ms. Locke to recommend County Board approval of a resolution designating the week of May 12th as National Police Week; seconded by Mr. Sexton. Sheriff Heurman thanked the Board Members for their consideration of these proclamations and the positive relationship that his office has with the Board. He also invited everyone to the Courthouse on May 14th for the Police Memorial Ceremony. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

D. County Board

1. Resolution to Honor Bruce Hannon Naming the Bruce Hannon Memorial Courthouse Clock

MOTION by Ms. Michaels to recommend County Board approval of a resolution to honor Bruce Hannon naming the Bruce Hannon Memorial Courthouse Clock; seconded by Mr. Farney. Steve Beckett read the resolution and shared stories with the Board Members about Mr. Hannon and how vital he was to the restoration of the Courthouse Clock Tower. He also suggested the commemorative plaque say “Eternal Keeper of the Clock”. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

E. Other Business

None

F. Chair’s Report

None

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

IX. A. 2a-r, C. 1-2

X. Other Business

None

XI. Adjournment

Chair Carter adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.