



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

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

County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Shields-Carter Meeting Room

Brookens Administrative Center

1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois

---

**MINUTES – Approved as Distributed on September 10, 2024**

---

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

**Members Absent:** Stephanie Fortado, Diane Michaels, and Donald Owen

**Others Present:** Steve Summers (County Executive), Michelle Jett (Director of Administration), Travis Woodcock (Budget Director), Susan McGrath (Circuit Clerk), George Danos (Auditor), Jerry Kellems (Animal Control), Steve Thuney (Coroner), Orion Smith (RPC Fiscal Director) 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.

**III. Approval of Agenda/Addenda**

**MOTION** by Ms. Locke to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Thorsland.

**MOTION** by Mr. Stohr to amend the agenda, moving items IX. A. 1a-b before public participation; seconded by Mr. Farney. Upon vote the **MOTION to amend the agenda CARRIED** unanimously.

Upon vote, the **MOTION to approve the amended agenda CARRIED** unanimously.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

A. June 11, 2024 – Regular Meeting

**MOTION** by Ms. Locke to approve the minutes of June 11, 2024; seconded by Ms. Cowart. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

**V. Public Participation**

George Danos spoke in opposition to the referendum questions that will be on the November ballot. First, he spoke about the question to eliminate the Office of County Auditor, explaining why the language in the question is incorrect and why an internal auditor is needed. He then moved on to the question to add an additional tax explaining that he believes the reasons for it are not legitimate.

**VI. Communications**

Ms. Locke shared details for the Re-Entry Resource Fair on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Rodriguez spoke about the proposal that will be coming from the Opioid Settlement Task Force and shared details for the Scott Bennett Resource Day on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Thorsland stated we are now on track for wind and solar to provide more energy to the grid than coal for the whole year for the first time ever. He reminded everyone that the County continues to not be in compliance with the state law on solar and wind ordinances.

Mr. Wilson shared details of the Veterans' Standdown event on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Stohr mentioned that the Household Hazardous Waste event is full but you can contact the cities to be placed on the waiting list.

Ms. Rogers shared details about Amnesty Week and the Expungement Summit in the Circuit Clerk's Office.

## **VII. Justice and Social Services**

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

- Probation & Court Services – May 2024
- Public Defender – June 2024
- Emergency Management Agency – June & July 2024
- Animal Control – April, May, June & July 2024

Received and placed on file

B. Rosecrance Re-Entry Reports

- Financial Report – May & June 2024
- Program Report – May & June 2024

Information only

C. Coroner

1. Office Update

Coroner Thuney shared an update from the Coroner's Office. He spoke about staffing, budget shortfalls, and gave details about the facility. He shared details on the death investigation process, autopsies, forensic testing and death certificates. Then he moved on to speak about training and education for coroner employees and the affects of recent legislative changes. He ended his presentation with information about community outreach, the Secretary of State's emergency contact program and the Gift of Hope organization.

Mr. Stohr left the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Ms. Lokshin mentioned her recent tour of the facility and asked if there are any grant funds for investigating cold cases. Mr. Thuney explained that those cases actually belong to the forensic anthropologist who works on those cases for free.

Board members continued to discuss the statistics shared in the presentation, details on how long bodies are held, what they do with the DNA that is collected and what happens to the personal belongings of a decedent. Mr. Thuney concluded with information about a Narcan training that they will be holding, and he would like to invite all of the Board Members to attend.

D. County Clerk

1. Restrictive Covenant Mapping Update
2. Election Center Conference

Clerk Ammons gave the County Board several updates from his office. He began with information about the Certified Election Registration Administrators (CERA) and announced that he has successfully completed the coursework and will be graduating on September 10<sup>th</sup>. He then moved on to information about the Restrictive Covenant Project. He encouraged everyone to attend their next educational event in September. They recently met with the Dean's Office to determine how law students can engage the information and understand the impact these restrictive covenants have on the community. Also, he is working on a documentary with Jim Young, that will premiere on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Spurlock Museum and he shared details of the documentary project. Finally, Clerk Ammons listed a couple awards that his office has received.

County Board members discussed details of each ongoing project and congratulated Clerk Ammons and his staff for all of the work they have done.

E. Sheriff

1. Out of County Boarding

Sheriff Heuerman gave an update on the jail consolidation project and explained that they believe the inmates, being held out of county, should be able to move back to Champaign County by the end of the year. They will always have a need to house inmates out of county due to protective custody and other issues. They typically use Piatt and DeWitt County for that need. Currently, the majority of inmates are housed in Kankakee because they had the largest amount of available beds and it is easier on County staff for the inmates to all be in one location. Superintendent Voges invited all of the Board Members to attend a tour of the new construction.

Board Members discussed their tour of the Kankakee facilities, asked questions about increasing our staff, and if there are any services that we do not provide at the Champaign County Jail. Ms. Lokshin also reminded everyone that this facility is named the Pope Jail and we should move away from calling it the satellite jail.

F. Circuit Clerk

1. Public Safety Records Management System Intergovernmental Agreement & Amendments

**MOTION** by Ms. Locke to recommend County Board approval of a Resolution Authorizing Public Safety Records Management System Intergovernmental Agreements and Amendments; seconded by Mr. Sexton. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

G. Other Business

None

H. Chair's Report

None

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

VII. F. 1

**VIII. Finance**

A. Budget Amendments/Transfers

1. Budget Amendment BUA 2024/7/451

Fund 2638 Coroner Statutory Fees & 3105 Capital Asset Replacement Fund / Dept 042 Coroner

Increased Appropriations: \$14,210

Increased Revenue: \$0

Reason: Transferring funds from the Capital Asset Replacement Fund to the Coroner's Statutory Fees Fund to cover the cost of a vehicle that was purchased in March.

**MOTION** by Ms. Straub to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving budget amendment BUA 2024/7/451; seconded by Ms. Taylor. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

B. Auditor

1. Reports are available on the Auditor's webpage

- Monthly Reports – May & June 2024
- Second Quarter Report

Received and placed on file

C. Treasurer

1. Monthly Report – May 2024 – Reports are available on the Treasurer's webpage

Received and placed on file

2. Amending the Schedule of Authorized Positions in the Treasurer's Office – Account Clerk

Treasurer Johnson explained why this additional position is needed in her office. County Board Members agreed and would like this to be brought to the County Board meeting for approval.

D. Other Business

None

E. Chair's Report

None

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

VIII. A. 1

**IX. Policy, Personnel, & Appointments**

A. County Executive

1. Employee Recognition

- a. Resolution Honoring Retiring County Employees

**MOTION** by Mr. Stohr to recommend County Board approval of a resolution honoring retiring County employees; seconded by Ms. Taylor. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

b. Resolution Honoring County Employees

**MOTION** by Mr. Stohr to recommend County Board approval of a resolution honoring County employees; seconded by Mr. Farney. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

2. Monthly HR Report – June & July 2024

Received and placed on file

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

- a. Resolution Appointing *Kyle Windler* to the Yearsley Cemetery Association, unexpired term ending 6/30/2030

**MOTION** by Ms. Vanichtheeranont to recommend County Board approval of a resolution appointing Kyle Windler to the Yearsley Cemetery Association; seconded by Mr. Thorsland. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- b. Resolution Appointing Adam Sharp to the Beaver Lake Drainage District, term 9/1/2024-8/31/2027
- c. Resolution Appointing *Tim Huls* to the Drainage District #10 Town of Ogden, term 9/1/2024-8/31/2027
- d. Resolution Appointing *Paul Berbaum* to the Drainage District #2 Town of Scott, term 9/1/2024-8/31/2027
- e. Resolution Appointing *Gerald Reifsteck* to the Fountain Head Drainage District, term 9/1/2024-8/31/2027
- f. Resolution Appointing Kevin Emkes to the Kerr & Compromise Drainage District, term 9/1/2024-8/31/2027
- g. Resolution Appointing *Mark Birkey* to the Nelson-Moore-Fairfield Drainage District, term 9/1/2024-8/31/2027
- h. Resolution Appointing *Gerald Henry* to the Okaw Drainage District, term 9/1/2024-8/31/2027
- i. Resolution Appointing *Keith Harms* to the Prairie Creek Drainage District, term 9/1/2024-8/31/2027
- j. Resolution Appointing *Reggie Peters* to the Salt Fork Drainage District, term 9/1/2024-8/31/2027
- k. Resolution Appointing *Bruce Killian* to the Sangamon & Drummer Drainage District, term 9/1/2024-8/31/2027
- l. Resolution Appointing *Mark Douglas* to the Silver Creek Drainage District, term 9/1/2024-8/31/2027
- m. Resolution Appointing *William Shumate* to the Somer #1 Drainage District, term 9/1/2024-8/31/2027
- n. Resolution Appointing *Greg Smith* to the St. Joseph #4 Drainage District, term 9/1/2024-8/31/2027
- o. Resolution Appointing *Barry Fisher* to the St. Joseph #6 Drainage District, term 9/1/2024-8/31/2027
- p. Resolution Appointing *David Wolken* to the Triple Fork Drainage District, term 9/1/2024-8/31/2027
- q. Resolution Appointing *Colten Allen* to the Union Drainage District #3 of South Homer & Sidney, term 9/1/2024-8/31/2027
- r. Resolution Appointing *Donald Maxwell* to the Upper Embarras River Basin Drainage District, term 9/1/2024-8/31/2027
- s. Resolution Appointing Kevin Harms to the West Branch Drainage District, term 9/1/2024-8/31/2027

**OMNIBUS MOTION** by Mr. Esry to recommend County Board approval of resolutions appointing the above-mentioned members to their respective drainage districts; seconded by Mr. Smith. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

t. Currently vacant appointments – full list and information is available on the County’s website  
Information only

u. Applications for open appointments  
Information only

**B. County Clerk**

1. Fee Reports
  - June & July 2024 – Monthly Report
  - January-June 2024 – Semi-Annual Report

Received and placed on file

**C. County Board**

1. Rules and Procedures of the Champaign County Board
  - a. Changing the Order of Business for meetings

Mr. Farney shared his desire to change the Board rules, allowing employee recognition to go straight to the County Board Meeting and for it to be placed close to the beginning of the meeting. Board Members discussed these changes and were all in agreement. Administrative staff will make the changes and bring a draft to the County Board meeting for approval.

**D. Other Business**

1. Regional Office of Education – Superintendent Retiring March 2025

Mr. Wilson read Mr. Lewis’ resignation letter and Mr. Summers stated it has been a joy to work with such a wonderful educator and he will be sorely missed.

**E. Chair’s Report**

Mr. Wilson thanked all of the people who volunteer on drainage districts and the other various committees throughout the County.

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

IX. A. 1a-b, 3a-s

**X. Other Business**

None

**XI. Adjournment**

Chair Carter adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.