



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

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

County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Shields-Carter Meeting Room

Bennett Administrative Center

102 E. Main Street, Urbana, Illinois

**OPEN MINUTES – Approved as Distributed**

**Members Present:** Dennise Arres, Jon Cagle, Ben Crane, Lorraine Cowart, Aaron Esry, John Farney, Jake Fava, Elly Hanauer-Friedman, Jenny Lokshin, Brett Peugh, Emily Rodriguez, Jilmala Rogers, Monique Settles, Ed Sexton, Matt Sullard, Bethany Vanichtheeranont, Daniel Wiggs, Jeff Wilson and Jennifer Locke

**Members Absent:** Samantha Carter, Stephanie Fortado, and Eric Thorsland

**Others Present:** Michelle Jett (Director of Administration), Chris Smith (Building and Grounds Manager), Liz Pollock (Public Defender), Julia Rietz (State's Attorney), Dustin Heuerman (Sheriff), Shannon Siders (Probation & Court Services Director), Lynn Canfield (Mental Health Board Director), Dalitso Sulamoyo (Regional Planning Commission Chief Executive Officer), Tami Ogden (Regional Planning Commission Chief Operating Officer) and Megan Robison (Recording Secretary)

**Agenda Items**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Locke 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 Mr. Sexton to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Vanichtheeranont.

**MOTION to AMEND** by Mr. Esry to correct item VIII. A. 2b to say CUMTD; seconded by Mr. Sullard.

Upon vote, the **MOTION to AMEND CARRIED** unanimously.

Upon vote, the **MOTION with Amendment CARRIED** unanimously.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

A. November 10, 2025 – Regular Meeting

**MOTION** by Ms. Vanichtheeranont to approve the minutes of November 10, 2025; seconded by Ms. Rogers.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED**.

**V. Public Input**

Jason Benda, County employee and City of Champaign resident, spoke about his dismay when his original polling location required him to cross an expressway to get there from his home. This makes him pleased about the way Champaign County conducts their elections, reminding everyone that they may go to any voting location. He also expressed his appreciation for the public questions the Finance Committee is recommending for the March ballot.

Mr. Cagle entered the meeting.

**VI. Communications**

Ms. Lokshin reminded everyone that this is the third anniversary of the passing of Senator Scott Bennett and read information from the dedication plaque.

Mr. Wilson spoke about the wonderful Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance program done by the American Legion Post 559. He also reminded everyone of the upcoming Hanukkah holiday on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Locke thanked Mr. Crane for his service to help save a dog earlier in the day.

**VII. Justice and Social Services**

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

- Emergency Management Agency – November 2025
- Probation & Court Services – October 2025
- Public Defender – November 2025
- Animal Control – August, September & October 2025

Received and placed on file

B. Approval of an Agreement between the County of Champaign and Street College for Re-Entry Services

**MOTION** by Ms. Locke to recommend County Board approval of a resolution approving an agreement between the County of Champaign and Street College for Re-Entry Services; seconded by Ms. Lokshin.

Mr. Farney raised some concerns about how the full amount of funds will be spent in 2026. Ms. Gold-Patterson, CEO of Street College, stated they have the financial data from 2025, they have been told it is not needed, but they can provide that at any time. She also clarified the time spent on the program inside and outside of the Juvenile Detention Center. Ms. Rodriguez would prefer to create a battery of questions to ensure they diversify these funds. Ms. Locke explained some of the difficulties with the previous program that used these funds. Ms. Hanauer-Friedman requested financial data before the County Board meeting.

**MOTION to TABLE** to the December County Board meeting by Ms. Locke; seconded by Ms. Rodriguez. Upon vote, the **MOTION to TABLE CARRIED** unanimously.

C. Other Business

None

D. Chair’s Report

None

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

None

**VIII. Policy, Personnel, & Appointments**

**A. County Executive**

**1. Monthly HR Report – November 2025**

Received and placed on file

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

- a. Reappointing *Mark Brown (D)* to the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District, term 1/1/2026-12/31/2030
- b. Reappointing *Alan Nudo (R)* to the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District, term ending 1/1/2026-12/31/2030

**OMNIBUS MOTION** by Mr. Sullard to recommend County Board approval of resolutions appointing Mark Brown and Alan Nudo to the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District; seconded by Mr. Crane. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- c. Reappointing *Molly McLay* to the Mental Health Board, term 1/1/2026-12/31/2029

**MOTION** by Ms. Rodriguez to recommend County Board approval of a resolution appointing Molly McLay to the Mental Health Board; seconded by Mr. Farney. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- d. Appointing Dianne Husby-Gordon to the Developmental Disabilities Board, term ending 6/30/2028

**MOTION** by Ms. Lokshin to recommend County Board approval of a resolution appointing Diane Husby-Gordon to the Developmental Disabilities Board; seconded by Ms. Hanauer-Friedman. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- e. Appointing Evan Alvarez to the Rural Transit Advisory Group, term ending 12/31/2026

**MOTION** by Mr. Esry to recommend County Board approval of a resolution appointing Evan Alvarez to the Rural Transit Advisory Group; seconded by Mr. Sullard. Mr. Esry stated Mr. Alvarez has the experience and is an excellent candidate for this position. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

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

Information only

- g. Applications for open appointments

Information only

**B. County Clerk**

**1. Monthly Fee Reports – November 2025**

Received and placed on file

2. Establishing Places of Election for Champaign County for the 2026 General Primary Election

**MOTION** by Mr. Sullard to recommend County Board approval of a resolution establishing places of election for Champaign County for the 2026 General Primary Election; seconded by Ms. Hanauer-Friedman. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

C. Other Business

None

D. Chair's Report

None

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

VIII. A. 2a-e, B. 2

**IX. Finance**

A. Budget Amendments/Transfers

1. Monthly General Corporate Budget Amendment Report – November 2025

Information only

B. Auditor

1. Monthly Reports through June are available on the Auditor's webpage

Information only

C. Treasurer

1. Monthly Reports through October are available on the Treasurer's webpage

Information only

D. Circuit Clerk

1. Approval of an Ordinance Revising Civil Fees to be Charged by the Clerk of the Circuit Court

**MOTION** by Ms. Vanichtheeranont to recommend County Board approval of an ordinance revising civil fees to be charged by the Clerk of the Circuit Court; seconded by Ms. Locke. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

E. County Executive

1. Available Budget Report – November 2025

Information only – Mr. Wilson found this report very helpful and wondered if it would be replacing the Auditor's report. Ms. Hanauer-Friedman stated this report is additional information for the Board members in the absence of the Auditor's reports.

2. Resolution Requesting the Submission of a Public Question to the Electors of Champaign County Regarding an Increase to Sales Tax on Purchases of Goods

**OMNIBUS MOTION** by Mr. Farney to recommend County Board approval of a resolution requesting the submission of three public questions to the electors of Champaign County; seconded by Ms. Vanichtheeranont.

Ms. Hanauer-Friedman explained that these questions are meant to educate the public on the County's financial status and solicit the public's input. The input will then be used when the Board is making budget decisions for FY2027. Board members discussed the questions being on a previous ballot, adding the additional options, these being non-binding questions and the possibility of receiving a "no" to all three questions. Mr. Peugh received many questions from his constituents that he wanted the other Board members to answer.

Upon vote for the question regarding an increase to the sales tax on goods, the **MOTION CARRIED**.

3. Resolution Requesting the Submission of a Public Question to the Electors of Champaign County Regarding an Increase to the County's Property Tax Rate

Upon vote for the question regarding an increase to the property tax rate, the **MOTION CARRIED**.

4. Resolution Requesting the Submission of a Public Question to the Electors of Champaign County Regarding a Reduction in County Services

Upon vote for the question regarding a reduction in services, the **MOTION CARRIED**.

F. Other Business

1. January 27, 2026 – Study Session

Ms. Hanauer-Friedman explained this study session will be the first opportunity for the Board to discuss the FY2027 budget

2. Closed Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)5 to discuss the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body

**MOTION** by Mr. Fava to enter into closed session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)5 to discuss the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body. He further moved that the following individuals remain present; Director of Administration, RPC Chief Executive Officer, RPC Chief Operating Officer and recording secretary; seconded by Ms. Locke. Upon roll call vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

The committee entered into closed session at 8:09 p.m.

The committee resumed open session at 8:40 p.m.

G. Chair's Report

None

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

IX. D. 1

X. Other Business

None

XI. Adjournment

Chair Locke adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.