

RESUME OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
November 20, 2025

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, November 20, 2025, 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: Settles, Sexton, Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, and Locke – 16; late: Cowart (arrived at 6:41, during the discussion of Resolution No. 2025-324) – 1; absent: Wilson, Cagle, Carter, and Fortado – 4. County Executive Summers declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business.

**PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

County Executive Summers read a prayer, 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* on November 6, November 13, and November 19, 2025.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA**

Board Member Sullard offered a motion to adopt the Agenda; Board Member Sexton seconded.

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to amend the agenda to move item XII. Communications to follow item XVII. C. Opioid Settlement Task Force; Board Member Lokshin seconded. The motion to amend the Agenda carried by voice vote.

The motion as amended carried by unanimous voice vote.

**APPOINTING DENNISE ARRES**

Board Member Rodriguez offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-330 appointing Dennise Arres as a County Board Member in District 6 to fill Carolyn Greer's unexpired term ending November 30, 2026; Board Chair Locke seconded. Board Chair Locke read the entire text of the resolution. Board Member Rodriguez noted that the

addition of Dennise Arres would add a second Latine board member. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **ADMINISTRATION OF OATH**

County Clerk and Recorder Aaron Ammons administered the Oath of Office to Board Member Arres and photographs were taken.

### **DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS**

#### **Standing Committees:**

- A. County Facilities Committee  
Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 6:30 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center
- B. Environment and Land Use Committee  
Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 6:30 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center
- C. Highway and Transportation Committee  
Friday, December 5, 2025 at 9:00 AM  
1605 E Main St, Urbana

#### **Committee of the Whole:**

- A. Justice and Social Services; Policy, Personnel, and Appointments; Finance  
Monday, December 9, 2025 at 6:30 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

#### **County Board:**

- A. Regular Meeting  
Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 6:30 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Bennett Administrative Center

### **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-323 honoring county employees for years of service; Board Member Lokshin seconded. Board Member Vanichtheeranont read the entire text of the resolution. Probation and Court Services Director Shannon Sider was invited to speak about the service of Paul McKinney; she noted that while Mr. McKinney was being recognized for five years of consecutive service, but he had eleven years prior service and, thus, 16 years of cumulative service in the county. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Sullard offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-324 honoring retiring county employees; Board Member Thorsland seconded. Board Member

Vanichtheeranont read the entire text of the resolution. Clerk Ammons was invited to speak and he praised the service of Barbara McClain. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Jason Benda, County Facilities employee, spoke in praise of colleague Melissa Messer's ten years of service to the county.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Board Member Cowart offered a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda; Board Member Rogers seconded. The motion consisting of 15 resolutions (Nos. 2025-239, 2025-309, 2025-310, 2025-311, 2025-312, 2025-313, 2025-314, 2025-315, 2025-316, 2025-317, 2025-318, 2025-319, 2025-320, 2025-321, and 2025-322) carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Settles, Sexton, Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Arres,  
Cowart, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh,  
Rodriguez, Rogers, and Locke – 18

Nays: none

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board Member Vanichtheeranont offered a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the County Board on October 23, 2025; Board Member Sexton seconded. Board Member Sullard noted typographical errors on page 1. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote, pending the correction of the error.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

County Executive Summers noted that the Summaries of Action Taken for County Facilities Committee of November 4, 2025, and Highway and Transportation Committee of November 6, 2025, were received and placed on file.

### **AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

County Executive Summers noted the Summary of Action Taken at the November 10, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting (Justice and Social Services; Finance; *and* Policy, Personnel, and Appointments) was received and place on file.

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-14 approving the FY2026 Annual Tax Levy; Board Member Esry seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Settles, Sexton, Sullard, Thorsland, Wiggs, Arres, Cowart, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, and Locke – 18

Nays: none.

Board Member Hanauer-Friedman offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-15 approving the Annual Budget and Appropriation; Board Member Farney seconded.

Board Member Farney offered an amendment to the County IT personnel and budget, to add “one additional IT Manager, one additional Systems Administrator, and three additional Jr. Systems Administrators,” to amend the Administrative Services organizational chart to add one additional Administrative Assistant position, and to amend the FY26 IT budget with “a \$477,000 increase to the IT revenue line of charges for services, General Fund 1080, Department 28, Line 400701” and “a \$477,000 increase to the IT full-time personnel line, General Fund 1080, Department 28, Line 500103;” Board Member Hanauer-Friedman seconded. Board Member Farney stated the amendment is due to the County taking over the Regional Planning Commission’s (RPC) IT services from an outside contractor. County Executive Summers stated that the agreement will be beneficial to both RPC and the County. The amendment carried by voice vote.

The motion, as amended, carried by roll-call vote:

Yeas: Settles, Sexton, Sullard, Thorsland, Wiggs, Arres, Cowart, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Rodriguez, Rogers, and Locke – 17

Nays: Peugh – 1

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Board Member Sullard offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-325 authorizing Payments of Claims; Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Arres offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-326 purchases not following purchasing policy; Board Member Esry seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Project Manager Kathy Larson provided a brief update on ARPA-funded projects and noted the memorandum in the Agenda Packet. She added that the Safety, Lighting, Energy Efficiency Program (SLEEP) is now up to 51 clients.

County Executive Summers stated that the Grant Coordinator's update can be found in the Agenda Packet.

Board Member Rodriguez offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-327 approving agreements between the County of Champaign and Fire Protection Districts for first responder equipment; Board Member Wiggs seconded. Board Chair Locke expressed her appreciation in being able to provide rural fire protection districts with life-saving equipment. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Esry offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-238 approving an exception to the Champaign County Purchasing Policy Ordinance No. 2022-9; Board Member Thorsland seconded. Board Chair Locke noted that the exception was required because the County was making such a large purchase of life-saving equipment for the fire protection districts. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-239 approving Budget Amendment BUA 2025/11/192 appropriating Opioid Settlement Funds to support various fire protection districts with the purchase of first responder equipment; Board Member Sexton seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Settles, Sexton, Sullard, Thorsland, Wiggs, Arres, Cowart, Crane, Esry,  
Farney, Fava, Hanauer-Friedman, Lokshin, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers,  
and Locke – 18

Nays: none.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Board Member Lokshin noted a document distributed to members on the support, care, and treatment of individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

Board Member Peugh spoke about the Day of Trans Remembrance.

Board Member Farney recognized local athletic accomplishments: the St. Joseph-Ogden High School girls cross country team finished sixth in the state, the St. Joseph-Ogden High School boys cross country team finished seventh in the state, and St. Joseph-Ogden High School sophomore Grace Bresner received All-State honors, finishing 17<sup>th</sup> overall. He also noted that the County still has free gunlocks available.

Board Chair Locke spoke about a new emergency winter men's shelter at the Armory building at the corner of North Second Street and Park Avenue in Champaign, noting that it is not a walk-in shelter, and unhoused individuals will need to be approved by either Cunningham Township or the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District. The shelter will be holding an open house November 20, 2025.

Board member Rodriguez added that RPC also has housing resources.

Board Member Thorsland spoke about the federal suspension of citizenship naturalization ceremonies in New York state, and he urged the public to safely and peacefully document any Immigration and Customs Enforcement activities in the community.

**ADJOURNMENT**

County Executive Summers adjourned the meeting at 7:12 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron Ammons". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

---

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