

RESUME OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
COUNTY BOARD, CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
January 23, 2025

The County Board of Champaign County, Illinois met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the Shields-Carter Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center, 1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois, with County Executive Steve Summers presiding and Matthew Cross as Clerk of the meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call showed the following members present: Cowart, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Stohr, Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Cagle, and Locke – 18; late: Carter (arrived at 6:38, shortly after the board entered into Closed Session) – 1; absent: Fortado, Lokshin, and Wilson – 3. County Executive Summers declared a quorum present and the Board competent to conduct business.

**PRAYER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

County Executive Summers recited an excerpt of a Maya Angelou, 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 January 9, January 16, and January 22, 2025.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDA**

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt the Agenda; Board Chair Locke seconded.

Board Member Farney offered a motion to amend the Agenda to move up item XIV. A. (Closed Session) to follow item VI (Date and Time of Next Regular Meetings); Board Chair Locke seconded. The motion to amend the Agenda carried by unanimous voice vote.

The motion as amended carried by voice vote.

**DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS**

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

- A. County Facilities Committee
  - Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 6:30 PM
  - Shields-Carter Meeting Room

- B. Environment and Land Use Committee  
Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 6:30 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room
- C. Highway and Transportation Committee  
Friday, February 7, 2025 at 9:00 AM  
1605 E Main Street, Urbana

**Committee of the Whole:**

- A. Justice and Social Services: Policy, Personnel, and Appointments; and Finance  
Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6:30 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room

**County Board:**

- A. Regular Meeting  
Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 6:30 PM  
Shields-Carter Meeting Room

**CLOSED SESSION**

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to enter into executive session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11) to consider litigation that is pending against or on behalf of Champaign County and litigation that is probable or imminent against or on behalf of Champaign County and that Legal Counsel Brian Smith, Assistant State's Attorney Andrew Bequette, Director of Administration Michelle Jett, Recording Secretary Angela Patton, and County Executive Summers remain present; Board Member Sexton seconded. The motion carried by roll-call vote:

Yeas: Cowart, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Stohr, Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Cagle, and Locke – 17

Nays: Peugh – 1

The Board immediately entered into closed session at 6:36 PM.

The Board returned to open session at 6:59 PM by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Cowart, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Stohr, Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Cagle, Carter, and Locke – 19

Nays: none

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

Board Member Stohr offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-303 honoring county employees for years of service; Board Chair Locke seconded. Board Member Stohr read the entire text of the resolution. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Susan Mantell, of Sidney Township, spoke in support of the Board's proposed moratorium on carbon dioxide sequestration in the Mahomet Aquifer and urged community support for similar legislation in the Illinois General Assembly.

Andrew Rehn, of Urbana, spoke about protections for the Mahomet Aquifer and in support of the moratorium.

Diane Marlin, City of Urbana Mayor, spoke about protections for the Mahomet Aquifer.

Vijay Shah, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign doctoral student, spoke about the science of carbon dioxide sequestration and in support of protections for the Mahomet Aquifer.

Marcia Morrow, of Savoy, spoke about her experience with well water in Champaign County and in support of protections for the Mahomet Aquifer.

Allen Wehrmann, licensed civil engineer and retired Illinois State Water Survey ground water engineer, spoke in support of protections for the Mahomet Aquifer.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Board Member Farney offered a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda; Board Chair Locke seconded.

Board Member Farney offered a motion to separate Item A.1 (Ordinance No. 2025-1) and Item D. 7. (Resolution No. 2025-21) from the Consent Agenda to consider individually; Board Chair Locke added striking Item C. 10. (Resolution No. 2025-10) from the Consent Agenda and to be raised at the February Committee of the Whole Meeting; Board Chair seconded. The motion to amend the Consent Agenda carried by unanimous voice vote.

The motion as amended to consist of 20 resolutions (Nos. 2025-1, 2025-2, 2025-3, 2025-4, 2025-5, 2025-6, 2025-7, 2025-8, 2025-9, 2025-10, 2025-11, 2025-12, 2025-13, 2025-14, 2025-15, 2025-16, 2025-17, 2025-18, 2025-19, 2025-20, and 2025-22) carried by unanimous roll-call vote:

Yeas: Cowart, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Stohr, Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Cagle, Carter, and Locke – 19

Nays: none

## **ORDINANCE No. 2025-01**

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-1 amending

Zoning Ordinance, Zoning Case 157-AT-24; Board member Farney seconded. Board Member Farney spoke about constituent's opinions on the ordinance, noting the majority not only approve of the moratorium but also would prefer a stronger, permanent ban on carbon sequestration within the boundaries of the Mahomet Aquifer.

Board Member Farney offered a motion to amend the ordinance to strike the word "temporary" in section 5.5.1. A., to strike section 5.5.1. B. entirely, to strike in section 5.5.2. "will expire in 12 months, or 365 days, after its effective date" and replace with "may be rescinded by action of the Champaign County Board at a future date", to strike in section 5.5.3. A. "expiration or revocation of this temporary moratorium" and replace with "rescission of this moratorium by the Champaign County Board", and to strike in section 5.5.3. B. "the 12-month long moratorium has expired or been revoked" and replace with "the moratorium has been rescinded by the Champaign County Board."; Board Member Peugh seconded. Board Member Thorsland stated his reluctance to support the amendment due to potential legal ramifications; he said he ultimately supports a total ban but would prefer to first enact the twelve-month moratorium to allow time to work out a legally vetted, permanent ban. Board Member Stohr stated his agreement with Board Member Farney's amendment but, like Board Member Thorsland, would prefer to first enact the twelve-month moratorium to allow time to work on a permanent ban. Board Members Rodriguez and Peugh both expressed support for the amendment to enact a permanent ban. Board Chair Locke stated her preference for a permanent ban, but preferred to first enact a twelve-month moratorium, allowing time to follow proper procedures and mitigate legal risk to the County. Board Members Rogers and Fava both stated that while they ultimately support a total ban, they prefer to first enact the twelve-month moratorium. Board Member Sexton requested a roll-call vote. The motion to amend the ordinance failed by roll-call vote:

Yeas: Cowart, Crane, Esry, Farney, Peugh, Rodriguez, Sexton, and Cagle  
– 8

Nays: Fava, Greer, Hanauer-Friedman, Rogers, Stohr, Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Carter, and Locke – 11

Board Member Farney expressed doubt that the State would enact appropriate protections to the Mahomet Aquifer and hoped for support from the other counties sharing the Mahomet Aquifer. Board Member Stohr said he was proud of the community action to spearhead the protection of the Mahomet Aquifer and stated that the twelve-month moratorium in the ordinance would allow the time necessary to get the total ban process correct. Board Member Esry stated his support for a full ban in the future, both in the county and statewide. The motion to adopt the ordinance carried by roll-call vote:

Yeas: Cowart, Crane, Esry, Farney, Fava, Hanauer-Friedman, Peugh, Rodriguez, Rogers, Sexton, Stohr, Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, Wiggs, Cagle, Carter, and Locke – 18

Nays: Greer – 1

**RESOLUTION No. 2025-21**

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-21 appointing Jon Kelly as the Regional Superintendent of Schools for Champaign and Ford Counties, unexpired term 3/1/2025-6/30/2027; Board Member Thorsland seconded. Board Member Farney abstained from discussion and the vote due to his current employment by the Champaign-Ford Regional Office of Education. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote, with Board Member Farney abstaining.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

County Executive Summers noted the County Employee Recognition lunch on Friday, January 24, 2025, and invited Board Members to join.

Board Member Rodriguez spoke about the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Union contract negotiations with the County and spoke on the trustworthiness of the Labor Committee. She asked constituents to direct questions about contract negotiations to Labor Committee members.

Board Member Carter spoke against County Administration and discussed alleged salary raises for non-bargaining employees in County Administration.

Board Member Farney read a statement from Megan Robison and DeShonna Matthews, both non-bargaining employees in County Administration, disputing the allegations by Board Member Carter, stating that their last salary increase occurred in January 2024 at a 4% increase, as detailed in the June 2023 County Board Resolution No. 2023-143. Board Member Carter repeatedly interrupted while Board Member Farney had the floor. Board Member Farney concluded with calling on the resignation of Board Member Carter.

Board Member Stohr spoke about recent disaster response training he had attended, especially noting pipeline disasters responses. He requested the Board invite the group to present their training to the Board.

Board Chair Locke noted the recent death of an unhoused individual due to the recent extreme cold and solicited donations, especially blankets and coats. Board Chair Locke also encouraged patronage at local restaurants participating in the Experience Champaign Urbana Restaurant Week, January 24 to February 1, 2025.

Board Member Esry noted the upcoming January 28, 2025, County Board Study Session to cover Freedom of Information Act training.

Board Member Carter began speaking against County Executive Summers and County Administration without recognition. County Executive Summers stated that Board Member Carter had already had an opportunity to speak and was not recognized to

speak. County Executive Summers alleged slander to the Board and the County by Board Member Carter.

Board Member Thorsland spoke about the effect of President Trump's attacks on the transgender community and offered his support. He noted the TransLifeline at (877) 565-8860.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular County Board Meeting of December 19, 2024; Board Member Sexton seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

County Executive Summers noted the Summaries of Action Taken at the January 7, 2025, County Facilities Committee Meeting and the January 9, 2025, Environment and Land Use Committee were received and placed on file.

### **AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

County Executive Summers noted the Summary of Action Taken at the January 14, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting (Justice and Social Services; Finance; and Policy, Personnel, and Appointments) was received and placed on file.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Board Member Sexton offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-30 approving acceptance of a settlement agreement with Amy Jo Foster; Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded. Board Member Farney abstained from discussion and the vote due to his prior role as Ms. Foster's employer. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote with Board Member Farney abstaining.

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-24 approving contract for sale of county property located at 404 Dodson Drive South, Urbana; Board Member Rogers seconded. Board Member Thorsland gave a brief history of the property and the sale to renovate the house. Board Member Esry expressed relief that the property was no longer under the care of the county. Board Member Farney noted that the property was purchased for a fair market value and asked that the additional funds gained be directed towards upkeep of inherited county properties. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Farney offered an omnibus motion to adopt Resolutions No. 2025-25 authorizing payment of claims and No. 2025-26 approving purchases not following purchasing policy; Board Member Sullard seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Cowart offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-27 appropriating Motor Fuel Tax funds for County highway improvement, section #24-00472-00-BR; Board Member Farney seconded. County Engineer Jeff Blue was invited to join the discussion; County Engineer Blue stated that the road in question was 25-years old, receives heavy truck traffic, and is no longer patchable, and he added that the work will also include a paved shoulder. Various Board Members thanked County Engineer Blue for his work on this and other County Highway projects. County Executive Summers asked if the project in question will include cold, in-place asphalt recycling; County Engineer Blue confirmed that it will. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Chair Locke offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-28 appointing County Board Members Farney and Peugh to the Opioid Settlement Task Force; Board Member Hanauer-Friedman seconded. Board Chair Locke thanked those Board Members for their willingness to serve. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Thorsland offered a motion to adopt resolution No. 2025-29 establishing place of election for the 2025 Consolidated Election; Board Member Stohr seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board Member Greer offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025.31 approving amendment to contract with Broeren Russo Builders Inc. for the County Plaza Renovation project; Board Member Vanichtheeranont seconded. County Facilities Director Eric Hoene was invited to join the discussion. Board Member Carter asked for an anticipated move-in date; Director Hoene stated that the date is unknown at the present. Board Member Stohr asked for a progress update; Director Hoene stated the largest delay is the elevators, but he anticipates that to be completed by May 2025. Board Chair Locke asked about the change order presented in the resolution; Director Hoene stated that the Sheriff's Office, as a safety precaution, requested all customer windows for offices sharing the floor with the Sheriff's Office to have bullet-proof glass. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Project Director Kathy Larson gave a brief update on various ARPA-funded projects and noted the memo included in the Agenda Packet. Board Member Vanichtheeranont asked for a update on the Rural Broadband Project; Project Manager Larson stated that Volo is starting the physical work. Board Member Thorsland asked about the water infrastructure project north of Mahomet; Project Manager Larson stated she was unsure beyond the engineering work, which was the County's ARPA contribution. Board Member Stohr asked about the low hurdle grants

program; Project Manager Larson gave an update on the work of the Champaign County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) and stated that if the EDC is ultimately unable to administrate the low hurdle grants, she would explore other organizations to substitute for the EDC; County Executive stated that he would contact the EDC for a more detailed progress update. Board Member Carter asked for an update on the Safety, Lighting, Energy Efficiency Program (SLEEP); Project Manager Larson stated that SLEEP has already assisted 22 households.

County Executive Summers noted the Decennial Committee Report to the County Board by the Joint Sidney Township and Sidney Township Road District has been received and placed on file and is available for viewing on the County website.

Board Member Esry offered a motion to approve the closed session minutes of November 21, 2024; Board Member Sexton seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **ADJOURN**

County Executive Summers adjourned the meeting at 8:26 PM.



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