



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD

FACILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Shields-Carter Meeting Room

Bennett Administrative Center

102 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61801

MINUTES – *Approved as Distributed September 8, 2026*

Committee Members

Present: Dennise Arres, Elly Hanauer-Friedman, Jenny Lokshin, Bethany Vanichtheeranont, Daniel Wiggs, and Jeff Wilson

Absent: Ben Crane and Stephanie Fortado

County Staff: Michelle Jett (Acting Facilities Director), Steve Summers (County Executive), Jarod Tinsley (Maintenance Manager) and Mary Ward (Recording Secretary)

Others Present: Jennifer Locke (Board Chair) and Judge Rosenbaum

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Lokshin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

II. Approval of Agenda/Addenda

MOTION by Mr. Wilson to approve the agenda; seconded by Ms. Hanauer-Friedman. Upon voice vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes – February 3, 2026

MOTION by Mr. Wilson to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2026 meeting; seconded by Mr. Wiggs. Upon voice vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IV. Public Input

Jason Benda spoke about recycling at Bennett and how that is currently being handled.

V. Communications

Mr. Wilson spoke about NASA and the Artemis II space mission to the moon and how exciting it was.

Mx. Arres thanked Chris Smith for his years of service to Champaign County and wished him the best in his future endeavors.

VI. New Business

A. Discussion and Request for Approval of Invitation to Bid on ITB#2026-004, a Photovoltaic System Installation at Champaign County Pope Jail and Juvenile Detention Center

Ms. Jett stated we would like to put this out for bid to see if the project is feasible and if the costs match our estimates. Ms. Vanichtheeranont said that costs are not going to go down. Mr. Wilson asked what our target price was. It is \$1.4 million. We have \$800,000 from the geothermal rebates available to help pay for the project. We will need to determine where the other funds come from.

MOTION by Ms. Vanichtheeranont to approve the release of ITB 2026-004, a Photovoltaic System Installation at Champaign County Pope Jail and Juvenile Detention Center; seconded by Mx. Arres. Upon voice vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

B. Courthouse Projects – Courtroom F Splitting and Chillers

Ms. Jett started the discussion on splitting Courtroom F. This can be done if we swap out CARF list projects. If we do not replace the carpet and wallpaper for the Courtrooms, we can use those funds to split Courtroom F. Judge Rosenbaum was present and said he understood that. He would like those projects to go back on the CARF list as a future project.

Mr. Wilson asked if we have an anticipated start date and end date. Ms. Jett said it will start this fall. An end date will depend on scheduling as we will have to work around the Court's schedule. Ms. Locke added that summertime is when a lot of school projects are done so it wouldn't start until fall. There will have to be contingencies with respect to scheduling. We anticipate that problems are going to happen. There will probably be some evening and weekend work required depending on the Court's schedule. Mr. Wilson reminded the committee to be aware as that could open the door for lots of extra charges.

The consensus of the committee is to move ahead with the next steps for splitting the Courtroom.

Courthouse Chillers, there was a handout from GHR discussing installing two chillers of the same capacity as the existing chillers. This would be in lieu of installing new larger chillers sized for the projected expansion as discussed at a previous meeting. The sheet gave information for the committee to consider.

Ms. Hanauer-Friedman asked if this would be a project for 2027. Yes, it would be for 2027. Mx. Arres asked if there was an estimate for the future expansion, just so the committee could have for comparison. Mr. Wilson said that with either the same or increased capacity, the project will need a larger footprint to sit on.

Mr. Wiggs asked if the option of 225 was looked at without adding electrical scope to the project. We will need to check on that.

C. Maintenance Job Changes

Jarod Tinsley, Maintenance Manager, introduced himself to the committee. We are looking at moving to a tiered maintenance structure that would be based on skills. We would also be

developing skills through various training, certifications and formal education. We will work with HR to update and standardize job descriptions. One goal is to save money by completing advanced tasks in-house.

Mr. Wilson asked about the skill set that is required and if they do a lot of repairs or preventive maintenance. HVAC is the biggest need along with minor electrical and minor plumbing. A lot of the work is preventive maintenance along with repairs. The 24/7 buildings require more repairs, especially the Pope Jail. There are a vast array of duties.

Ms. Jett added that there are currently set positions with set numbers at each and it is hard to move up. With this system it would be possible to test to move up the ladder.

Ms. Hanauer-Friedman asked how this fits into the recent re-structure. This would fall under the Maintenance Manager. It gives more flexibility. We will not start everyone at level 1.

Mr. Wiggs asked if these would be union positions. They are union now. Mr. Wiggs suggested that since there is a lot of very diverse equipment and a lot to know that maybe the local trades could work with us on training.

Mx. Arres asked about the funding for the training. It will be paid for by the County. We currently have someone signed up for HVAC training. He will attend that in the mornings and then come into work for the rest of the day.

D. ARPA Spending Update

Ms. Jett said she did not get an update from Kathy. She knows the invoices are coming in. She will have something at the next meeting.

VII. Other Business

There was no other business.

VIII. Presiding Officer's Report

There was no presiding officer's report.

A. Future Meeting – **May 5, 2026 @ 6:30 pm**

Ms. Lokshin announced that the next meeting will be on May 5, 2026 at 6:30 pm.

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

There are no items for the Consent Agenda.

X. Adjournment

Chair Lokshin adjourned the meeting at 7:09 p.m.