

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS
Committee of the Whole
Tuesday, 03/12/2024 – 5:45 p.m.
Jennifer Putman Meeting Room
Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington St.
Urbana, IL 61801

Present: Carter, Fortado, Greer (5:52), Hanauer-Friedman, Locke, Owen, Rodriguez, Rogers (5:53), Stohr, Taylor, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont

Absent: Cowart, Lokshin, Peugh, Straub

1. **Call to Order:** 5:49 pm

2. **Approval of the Agenda–**

a. Moved by Thorsland second by Carter
unanimous approval.

3. **Approval of the Minutes from February 13, 2024.**

a. Moved by Carter second by Vanichtheeranont
approval (Owen abstains)

4. **Public Participation–** none

5. **Announcements/Communications–**

a. Thorsland, look out for “wannabe motorcyclists who are remembering how to ride.”

b. Taylor reminds caucus about Teams presentation about the Gallagher presentation. Also, thank you to Peugh for putting out parking map for USPS meeting tonight.

c. Stohr – Chamber of Commerce loan program. No new loans planned until fall because conserving funds. He told them to make loans and ask for extra.

d. Locke/Carter met with AAC regarding three phase plan to attract a non-profit nursing home operator. Phase 1 needs assessment will be complete soon, They are \$15,000 shy of funding Phase 2. Fortado says Public Health sitting on a mountain of money, they could pay for that.

6. **Review and Discussion of the COW Agenda**

A. **Finance**

1. Budget Amendments/Transfers

- a. Move \$32,972.37 non-payroll funds to cover shortfall in Workers' Compensation Line – normal end of year thing
 - b. Transfer \$37,119.54 to cover shortfall in non-payroll insurance line – normal end of year thing.
 - c. Transfer to reflect RPC grant expenditures in appropriate fiscal year - more Parkland students used assistance in 2023 than expected.
 - d. External audit will cost \$29,999 more than originally budgeted.
 - (i.) Danos & Fortado are super happy with the new Audit firm.
 - e. Transfer to pay for the remaining amount of the contract for Coroner's external physician search.
 - (i.) – Pathologist search is national and ongoing. Seeking piecemeal or full time. Almost had one, but slipped through our fingers. Per Fortado, we want to get this right.
 - (ii.) Carter spurred conversation about possible openings in another department. The party will have to choose the replacement because the position is elected.
 - f. Transfer \$44,999.96 to pay for two servers ordered in FY23, received in FY24
 - g. Transfer \$19,249.98 to pay for dental services provided by Promise Healthcare in FY23
2. Mobile Home Tax Sale– usual
 3. GIS travel reimbursement \$61.07 after 60 days
 4. Willard Airport requesting contribution to Minimal Revenue Guarantee Fund to attract a route to a recreational destination.
 - Thorsland is still a sceptic about giving more money. Fortado says \$15K isn't a big ask re: economic development.
 5. Finance Chair Four-Year expense projections.
 - not a budget forecast. This is projected revenue that emanates from public safety sales taxes as exists, if we increase it, and our current expenses and the expenses if the Board does what we claim we want to do,
 - 6 – Farm Bureau will be here next month re: cover crops then First Followers in May.

B. Policy, Personnel, and Appointments–

1. Designate March 19,2024 as National Agriculture Day
 - Storh wants to include stats re: Champaign County. We will pass this resolution, and add local info next year.
2. Reappoint Paula Bates Supervisor of Assessments
 - Lots of appointments are coming up next month.
3. Appointments to replace vacancies created by Kyle Patterson's resignation.
 - Labor Committee Member Owen, Vice Chair Farney, Litigation Committee Locke, and Broadband Task Force Cowart.

C. Justice and Social Services–

1. Renewal of Reentry Program Contract

6. Other Business

- Fortado impressed by the Chamber's programs listed in the brochure brought by Stohr. We should be involved financially in all of these. We should regularly contribute to economic development around the county. Either directly or by leveraging our tax power to incentivize economic development. Want to make this a priority now that we're "functioning as a county." Especially now that we have Travis to provide insight about how Champaign does it. Michelle Jett suggests a task force which would include outside entities like the farm bureau and EDC.

7. Next Caucus Meeting: March 21, 2024 @5:45pm

8. Adjournment 6:25 pm