

EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE SHELBY COUNTY BOARD

October 21, 2024

Courtroom A – Shelby County Courthouse

[Video archive of meeting at shelbycounty-il.gov – You Tube](#)

The Shelby County Board met on Monday, October 21, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. in Courtroom A of the Courthouse in Shelbyville, Illinois.

County Clerk Jessica Fox called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Everyone in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Clerk Fox called the roll. Amling, Martin, and Martz were absent.

Firnhaber made motion to appoint Julie Edwards as Chair pro tem. Williams seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (17 yes, 0 no).

Edwards called for Public Body comment.

Comments/opinions expressed by the public are summarized as follows (verbatim public comments can be found on YouTube):

Recent court hearing pursuant to TRO about Farm, board member/Judge conversations

Urgency by some to sell the farm

Hatch Act complaints made against Williams

Williams's response to those complaints

FY 2022 audit

FY 2025 budget

A vacancy was announced in County Board District #7 due to the resignation of Robert Orman.

A vacancy was announced in County Board District #2 due to the resignation of Mark Bennett.

Edwards called for nominations for board chairman. Firnhaber made motion to nominate Sonny Ross. Williams seconded said motion.

Williams made motion to close nominations. Nelson seconded said motion. Edwards called for discussion on closing nominations. Edwards called the vote to close nominations, which passed by voice vote (15 yes, 2 no Edwards, Ross).

Boehm asked State's Attorney Woolery if the lawsuit that was filed about the farm would follow the new Chair. Woolery said the lawsuit would follow the new chair, so whomever was elected to the Board Chair position should have voted in favor of the resolution to sell the farm, in her opinion. Boehm requested a roll call vote to elect the board chair.

Motion and second to elect Ross as chair passed by roll call vote (13 ayes, 4 nays). Ayes: Brown, Edwards, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, McCormick, Nelson, Otis, Ross, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams. Nay: Boehm, Cole, Mayhall, and Morse.

Chairman Ross took his seat and called for nominations for Vice Chair.

Firnhaber made motion to nominate Julie Edwards as Vice Chair. Keenan seconded said motion. Williams made motion to close nominations, Tate seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (17 yes, 0 no).

Firnhaber's motion to nominate Edwards, seconded by Keenan passed by roll call vote (15 yes, 2 no). Ayes: Brown, Edwards, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, Mayhall, McCormick, Morse, Nelson, Otis, Ross, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams. Nays: Boehm and Cole.

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Ross made motion to appoint Carol Cole to the budget committee. Mayhall seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (17 yes, 0 no).

McCormick made motion to enter Closed Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c 11) pending litigation. Firnhaber seconded said motion which passed by roll call vote (12 yes, 5 no). Ayes: Boehm, Cole, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, McCormick, Morse, Nelson, Otis, Ross, Shuff, and Tate. Nays: Brown, Edwards, Mayhall, Wallace, and Williams. (Due to convenience for the public, the closed session was held in Courtroom B)

CLOSED SESSION OF THE COUNTY BOARD

The board returned to Courtroom A following the closed session. Tate made motion to return to open session. McCormick seconded said motion, which passed by roll call vote (17 yes, 0 no). Ayes: Boehm, Brown, Cole, Edwards, Firnhaber, Hardy, Keenan, Mayhall, McCormick, Morse, Nelson, Otis, Ross, Shuff, Tate, Wallace, and Williams.

There was no action taken in Closed Session.

Ross stated the Board's Order of Business does not state the Vice Chair is part of the budget committee. Ross said he would like to revisit agenda item #14. Firnhaber made motion to reconsider agenda item #14 appointment to the budget committee. Williams seconded said motion.

Ross made motion to appoint Edwards to the budget committee. Firnhaber seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (17 yes, 0 no).

Ross stated he would like to remove Williams from the budget committee and appoint Mayhall. Cole seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (16 yes, 1 no – Brown).

At this time Chairman Ross called for Public Body comment.

Comments/opinions expressed by the public are summarized as follows (verbatim public comments can be found on YouTube):

Attacks on board members/family
Resignation of Benford & Brown as County Auditor
Efforts to find new auditor
FY 2025 budget
Board focus on things other than audit and budget
Court hearing

No other business could come before the Shelby County Board.

Nelson made motion to adjourn the meeting. Firnhaber seconded said motion, which passed by voice vote (17 yes, 0 no) and the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 PM.

Jessica Fox
Shelby County Clerk and Recorder