

**SHELBY COUNTY BOARD MEETING**  
**CLOSED SESSION**

**January 12, 2023**

The Shelby County Board met in Closed Session following a motion and roll call vote, for the statutory citation 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(11) - litigation. Appointed counsel for the Shelby County Board/County Treasurer Chris Koester, from Taylor Law and Treasurer Erica Firnhaber also attended the meeting.

The purpose of the Closed Session was to update the Board on the lawsuit brought against the Shelby County Board and the Shelby County Treasurer by AFSCME Council 31 due the Treasurer's refusal to sign the AFSCME Union Contract for 2021-2024. Board member Boehm stated she had received a call at 5:00 PM and was told that AFSCME members had not agreed to any settlement and were not aware of any agreement. Attorney Koester stated he had spoken with the AFSCME attorney regarding this issue. Treasurer Firnhaber stated she had made it clear to the Union President and the Board she would abide by the Union contract but would not sign it. To date the county has paid Mr. Koester \$3,942 for legal representation in this suit. Mr. Koester stated Firnhaber did not have to sign the contract and had not been part of the negotiations. Koester spoke about the statutory duties of County Treasurers and that County Boards don't have authority of the elected Treasurer. It was questioned if the County Board /Treasurer could request AFSCME pay the attorney fees. Koester stated this would result in more fees and wasn't certain a Judge would side with the County in awarding the payment of attorney fees.

A settlement between AFSCME Council 31, County of Shelby and the County Treasurer stating the Treasurer has and will abide by the contract but is not required to sign. Discussion was held and several members of the board felt it in the best interest of everyone to agree to the settlement agreement and put bring resolution to this lawsuit instead of spending more money to litigate for attorney fees.

Mr. Koester informed the board he would make the Union attorney aware of the board's decision the next business day.

Discussion followed, opinions expressed, and questions were answered by Koester.

There was no further business for the Closed Session.

There was no action taken in the Closed Session.

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Jessica Fox  
Shelby County Clerk and Recorder

Opened by Board action July 11, 2024