

Sharon K. Williams, District 1
Junior Watkins, District 2
Betty Duncan, District 3
Chairperson-Andrew A. Rand, District 4
Brandy Bryant, District 5
Eden S. Blair, District 6
James C. Dillon, District 7
Phillip Salzer, District 8
Kathrin Pastucha, District 9



Andrew A. Rand - Chairperson
Rachael Parker, County Clerk

Robert Reneau, District 10
Linda Daley, District 11
Rachel Reliford, District 12
Vice-Chairperson-James T. Fennell, District 13
Brian Elsasser, District 14
Steven Rieker, District 15
Matthew Windish, District 16
Jennifer Groves Allison, District 17
Paul Rosenbohm, District 18

**PEORIA COUNTY BOARD and
PEORIA COUNTY BOARD BUDGET
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 14, 2021
6:00 PM**

County Courthouse • 324 Main Street • County Board Room 403 • Peoria, Illinois 61602
Voice: (309) 672-6056 • Fax: (309) 672-6054 • TDD: (309) 672-6073
www.peoriacounty.org

**CALL TO ORDER
MOMENT OF SILENCE
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL BY THE COUNTY CLERK**

Attendance was taken with the Roll Call-Pro voting system, and the following members of the Board were present: Members Blair, Bryant, Daley (Via teleconference), Dillon, Duncan, Elsasser, Fennell, Groves Allison, Pastucha, Reliford, Reneau, Rieker, Rosenbohm, Salzer, Watkins, Williams, and Windish, with Member Rand absent.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approval of September 9, 2021 County Board Meeting Minutes

Member Elsasser moved for approval of the minutes and Member Duncan seconded. The minutes were approved by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes.

II. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A proclamation recognizing Bartonville Hardware on the occasion of their 70th Anniversary
- A proclamation recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Heart of Illinois United Way

III. CITIZENS' REMARKS

Jackie Petty addressed the Board with regard to Item 11, specifically the Auditor's proposed budget. She referred to the referendum from 2018 and asked the Board to respect their vote. She said the Auditor must have a budget and employees to get the job done.

Katherine Swise, attorney for Miller, Hall, & Triggs speaking on behalf of Jessica Thomas, addressed the Board with regard to Item 11, specifically the Auditor's proposed budget. She identified there are eleven statutory duties of the County Auditor set forth in the County Code. She contended that eliminating the staff and reducing the budget effectively budgets the office out of existence. She asserted that the only way to eliminate the Auditor position is by referendum.

Nia McFarland-Drye addressed the Board with regard to Item 11, specifically the Auditor's proposed budget. She spoke in favor of restoring the Auditor's budget and allowing the union



employees to keep their jobs. She echoed the statements made previously by Ms. Petty and Ms. Swise. She urged the Board to maintain integrity as elected officials and sustain the office that the people voted to keep.

Kathy Martin-McNeil addressed the Board with regard to Item 11, specifically the Auditor's proposed budget. She summarized the referendum on the County Auditor's office which appeared on the ballot in the 2018 Primary Election. She asserted that the people voted to keep the position of County Auditor as an elected position.

Lawrence Maushard addressed the Board with regard to Item 11, specifically the Auditor's proposed budget. He conveyed that the margin in which Jessica Thomas won her election into office should be considered a mandate.

Margaret Kowalski, Assistant Auditor for Peoria County, addressed the Board with regard to Item 11, specifically the Auditor's proposed budget. She described the workload of the Auditor's office and urged the Board to check their conscience before voting.

Karrie Alms addressed the Board with regard to Item 11, specifically the Auditor's proposed budget. She stated that County officials, elected officials, and the citizenry need to work together. She highlighted the statutory duties of the Auditor's office and contended that these duties could not be removed from the office.

Jessica Thomas, Peoria County Auditor, addressed the Board with regard to Item 11, specifically the Auditor's proposed budget. She expressed that eliminating jobs would leave her office without the ability to perform many of its statutory duties. She asserted that the removal of these duties adversely impacts the Peoria County taxpayers.

Brittany Strickland addressed the Board with regard to Item 11, specifically the Auditor's proposed budget. She expressed her concerns over removing funding from the Auditor's office. She asked for the Board to listen to the will of the people. She stressed that working together to solve difficult problems is essential.

Lorry Saunders addressed the Board with regard to Item 11, specifically the Auditor's proposed budget. She summarized the proposed budget amounts for both the Auditor's office and Finance department and questioned whether there was a cost savings.

Kristen Meierkord, ACLU President, addressed the Board with regard to Item 11, specifically the Auditor's proposed budget. She noted a state statute and contended that the authority to oversee accounting and internal audit systems belongs to the Auditor.

Myles Davis addressed the Board with regard to Item 11. He commented on the challenges the County employees face daily with members of the community. He urged the Board to invest in the County's employees.

See attached for electronically submitted public comments.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

C1. The Treasurer report consisting of the Bank and CD's Portfolio for the month of August 2021 and Revenue & Expenditure Reports for the



month of July 2021.

- C2.** The Auditor's report of expenditures from Accounts Payable system is accessible at www.peoriacounty.org/auditor/transparency.
- C3.** A resolution (items 1, 4-6 surrenders, items 2-3, 7-8 reconveyances; items 9-22, 24- 33 conveyances) from the Ways and Means Committee recommending that the County Board Chairman be authorized and directed to execute deeds of said property to the highest bidder and be authorized to cancel the appropriate Certificates of Purchase. This resolution shall be effective ninety days from October 14, 2021 and any transaction between the parties involved not occurring within this period shall be null and void.
- C4.** A resolution from your Executive Committee recommending approval of an appropriation in the General Fund of grant funds in the amount of \$800,000.00 from the Illinois Department of Transportation related to the Distillery Labs Smart City/Mobility Living Laboratory.
- C5.** A joint resolution from your Finance, Audit and Legislative Affairs Committee and your Public Safety and Justice Committee recommending approval of an additional appropriation in the amount of \$500,000.00 to the County Sheriff's budget for costs related to the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between Peoria County and the Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council (FOP-Corrections Unit)
- C6.** A resolution from your Public Safety and Justice Committee recommending approval of the annual salary of the Public Defender of Peoria County in the amount of \$165,090.76 effective July 1, 2021.
- C7.** A resolution from your Public Safety and Justice Committee recommending approval of SFY22 Family Violence Coordinating Council Grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority in the amount of \$38,800.00 for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.
- C8.** A resolution from your Public Safety and Justice Committee recommending approval of FFY21 State Court Improvement Grant from the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts for Peoria County Guardian ad Litem Project, in the amount of \$114,200.00 for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.
- C9.** A resolution from your Public Safety and Justice Committee recommending approval and appropriation of FFY21 State Court Improvement Program COVID-19 Grant from the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts for the Peoria County Remote Juvenile Court Project, in the amount of \$41,026.00 for the period September 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.
- C10.** A resolution from your Public Safety and Justice Committee



recommending approval of FFY21 State Court Improvement Grant from the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts for Peoria County Child Protection Data Courts Project, in the amount of \$10,558.00 for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.

- C11.** A resolution from your Public Safety and Justice Committee recommending approval of FFY22 DUI Court Grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation, in the amount of \$305,603.12 for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.
- C12.** A resolution from your County Operations Committee recommending approval of a 3-year contract, with the option to renew up to two additional years, with Gallagher Bassett as Third Party Administrator (TPA) for Risk Management Services, at an estimated annual cost of \$52,000.00.
- C13.** A resolution from your Infrastructure Committee recommending approval of the lowest responsible material proposal of Metal Culverts, Inc., Jefferson City, MO, in the amount of \$59,675.75, for a corrugated structural plate box culvert on Slane Road.
- C14.** A resolution from your Infrastructure Committee recommending approval of a Local Public Agency Agreement for Federal Participation for Phase I and II Preliminary Engineering for the rehabilitation of a bridge (Structure Number 072-3132) on Pulsifer Road.
- C15.** A resolution from your Infrastructure Committee recommending approval of a Local Public Agency Agreement for Federal Participation for bridge replacement (Structure Number 072-3105) on Dogtown Lane.
- C16.** A resolution from your Infrastructure Committee recommending approval of a Resolution of Non-Participation rejecting future maintenance responsibilities of proposed pedestrian accommodations (sidewalk) on a portion of Airport Road under State of Illinois jurisdiction.
- C17.** A resolution from your Infrastructure Committee recommending approval of annual appropriation of Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) funds in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 for County Highway maintenance activities in accordance with Illinois Department of Transportation regulations for calendar year 2022.

Member Rosenbohm moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Member Blair seconded. The Consent Agenda was approved by a roll call vote of 16 ayes and 1 nay, with Member Windish voting nay.

V. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

- 1.** A resolution from your County Health Committee recommending approval of the scope of work and funding with the Center for Prevention of Abuse for the creation of a Long Term Care (LTC)



Ombudsman/Senior Advocate position.

Member Williams moved to approve the resolution and Member Pastucha seconded. Member Reneau stressed the positive effect this will have in the community. He expressed this will be a great partnership with the Center for Prevention of Abuse. He said this is something we should be proud of doing for the seniors in the community. The resolution passed by a roll call vote of 16 ayes and 1 nay, with Member Windish voting nay.

2. A resolution from your County Operations Committee recommending adoption of Peoria County's Employee Health Plan Premium increases for the Standard PPO \$2,000 Plan, the Qualified High Deductible Health Plan, and the IMRF Medicare Eligible Retiree Plan, effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. *(Pending approval of the substitute resolution by County Operations, the Board may be voting on the substitute resolution in lieu of the original)*

Member Rieker moved to approve the resolution and Member Blair seconded. Member Reneau moved to amend the resolution and Member Blair seconded. Shauna Musselman, Assistant County Administrator, explained that the substitute resolution establishes a subsidy for a portion of the employee share of the health plan premium. Ms. Musselman stated that the original proposed increase in premium was significant. She reported that the committee approved a plan to keep the unit cost the same but reduce a portion of the increase the employee would pay and taking that from other County funds instead.

Vice-Chairman Fennell said that this softens the hardship on employees. Member Reneau mentioned that he should not have taken this vote out of committee. He apologized for any stress that this brought upon employees. He stated that he was happy with the settled conclusion. Member Elsasser agreed that the plan is more palatable for employees, but he recommended other options be explored in the future to maintain affordable health insurance for employees.

Jennie Cordis Boswell, Assistant State's Attorney, summarized the requirements for posting agendas. Member Salzer remarked that the healthcare issue is one of the biggest concerns for employees. He thanked Member Reneau for doing his best to come up with a solution.

The motion to amend passed by a unanimous roll call vote of 17 ayes. The resolution as amended passed by a roll call vote of 16 ayes and 1 nay, with Member Windish voting nay.

3. A resolution from your County Operations Committee recommending approval to settle Circuit Court Case No. 18-L-110 for a payment amount of \$26,676.53. *(Pending Committee Approval)*

Member Reneau moved to approve the resolution and Member Duncan seconded. Member Rieker asked for legal counsel to give an overview of the resolution for transparency. Ms. Cordis Boswell summarized that the case involves the refund of certain court filing fees. The resolution passed by a roll call vote of 16 ayes and 1 nay, with Member Windish voting nay.

4. A resolution from your County Operations Committee recommending approval of the FY 2022 Authorized Staffing Count for Administrative Departments.

Member Pastucha moved to approve the resolution and Member Watkins seconded. Member Rieker asked for clarification of the purpose of the resolution. Scott Sorrel, County Administrator, explained that as part of the annual budget process the Board must establish the number of authorized positions through County Administration. Mr. Sorrel summarized the number of



positions in various departments for FY2022. He stated there is a direct correlation between the Heddington Oaks reduction and the Finance department's increase in positions.

Member Elsasser questioned whether the addition of positions to the Finance department from Heddington Oaks and Sheriff's department would be temporary. Mr. Sorrel stated that one of the positions related to accounts receivable is budgeted for a portion of FY2022 and the employee is aware.

The resolution passed by a roll call vote of 16 ayes and 1 nay, with Member Windish voting nay.

5. A resolution from your Infrastructure Committee recommending approval of a Local Agency Agreement for participation in the Illinois Department of Transportation's 2022 County Engineer's Salary Program.

Member Salzer moved to approve the resolution and Member Elsasser seconded. Member Salzer described the program and emphasized the County should participate. The resolution passed by a roll call vote of 16 ayes and 1 nay, with Member Windish voting nay.

6. A joint resolution from your Finance, Audit, and Legislative Affairs Committee and your Executive Committee recommending approval of amendments to the County Board's financial policies.

Member Reliford moved to approve the resolution and Member Williams seconded. Mr. Sorrel detailed the amendments to the financial policies. The resolution passed by a roll call vote of 16 ayes and 1 nay, with Member Windish voting nay.

7. A joint resolution from your Finance, Audit, and Legislative Affairs Committee and your Executive Committee recommending approval of the Annual Authorization for Year End Transfers.

Member Reliford moved to approve the resolution and Member Blair seconded. Mr. Sorrel explained that the resolution allows adjustments to be made in period thirteen of the fiscal year and to ensure the books are balanced in preparation for the annual external audit. The resolution passed by a roll call vote of 16 ayes and 1 nay, with Member Windish voting nay.

8. A joint resolution from your Finance, Audit, and Legislative Affairs Committee and your Executive Committee recommending approval to abate the tax levy for the principal and interest payments due in 2022 for:
 - a. The General Obligation Bonds (alternate revenue source) Series 2020B (previously 2010F)
 - b. The General Obligation Bonds (alternate revenue source) Series 2011

Member Rosenbohm moved to approve the resolution and Member Dillon seconded. Mr. Sorrel detailed the bond payments and the purpose of the resolution. The resolution passed by a roll call vote of 15 ayes and 2 nays, with Members Elsasser and Windish voting nay.

9. An Executive Committee report submitted by the Executive Committee Chairman and the County Administrator on the 2022 Annual Budget for all Funds, including amendments recommended by all standing committees:
 - a. County Operations Committee – Rob Reneau
 - b. Infrastructure Committee – Phillip Salzer
 - c. Ways and Means Committee – Steven Rieker
 - d. Land Use Committee – James Dillon



- e. County Health Committee – Sharon Williams
- f. Public Safety and Justice Committee – Paul Rosenbohm
- g. Joint Finance Audit and Legislative Affairs / Executive Committee – James Fennell / Andrew Rand

Member Pastucha moved to approve the resolution and Member Groves Allison seconded. Mr. Sorrel summarized the change made during the committee process. The resolution passed by a roll call vote of 16 ayes and 1 nay, with Member Windish voting nay.

10. Adoption of the Annual Tax Levy – All Funds.

Member Salzer moved to approve the ordinance and Member Watkins seconded. Mr. Sorrel summarized the levy amounts by fund. He mentioned that there will be no levy for debt service next year because of short term debt that was paid off this year. He provided examples of how the levied funds are used. The ordinance was approved by a roll call vote of 16 ayes and 1 nay, with Member Windish voting nay.

11. Adoption of the Peoria County Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.
a. Floor Amendment #1

Member Williams moved to approve the ordinance and Member Blair seconded. Jodi Hoos, Peoria County State’s Attorney, conveyed the core function of the Board is to set a fiscally responsible budget. Ms. Hoos stressed that the Auditor’s office is not being eliminated but is being right-sized for the duties it performs.

Member Rieker moved to amend the ordinance and Member Reneau seconded. Member Rieker explained that the employee healthcare subsidy would be funded by the ARPA fund, instead of the general fund. Member Bryant specified her reasons for voting no on the proposed budget. Member Dillon contended that more sustainable healthcare needs to be addressed for the future. He questioned from where the ARPA funds would come. Member Rieker explained the funds would come from an adjustment made to the Building Improvements fund. Member Dillon contended he cannot support taking ARPA funds while there is money from the general fund that could be used. He requested a broader discussion on the subject. Member Elsasser noted he is in support of using the ARPA funds. Member Daley suggested being mindful of the Heddington Oaks bonds and supported paying for the premium subsidy from ARPA since General Funds could be used to pay down the Heddington Oaks bonds. Member Reliford agreed with Member Daley. The motion to use ARPA funds passed by a roll call vote of 13 ayes and 4 nays, with Members Bryant, Dillon, Salzer, and Windish voting nay.

Member Dillon moved to amend the ordinance and Member Bryant seconded. Member Dillon summarized the amendment would provide for the Auditor’s office employees to make a lateral move to another department. Member Reneau expressed he hopes the employees will take advantage of this opportunity. The motion to amend passed by a roll call vote of 16 ayes and 1 nay, with Member Windish voting nay.

Member Rieker asked for an explanation of the key points in the budget. Mr. Sorrel discussed the proposed budget across all funds. He provided examples of the planned use of funds in FY2022. Member Rieker thanked the departments who go through the budget process for starting earlier this year. Member Dillon thanked Administration, Elected Officials, and their staff for their hard



work. He noted this budget does not include any tax increases. The ordinance as amended passed by a roll call vote of 15 ayes and 2 nays, with Members Bryant and Windish voting nay.

12. SUSPENSION OF RULES

Ms. Cordis Boswell detailed that to consider the next item, which did not come through a committee, the Board must suspend the rules. Member Pastucha moved to suspend the rules and Member Williams seconded. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 16 ayes and 1 nay, with Member Windish voting nay.

13. A Proclamation extending the Declaration of Emergency due to COVID-19 in Peoria County, Illinois.

Member Pastucha moved to approve the resolution and Member Groves Allison seconded. The resolution passed by a roll call vote of 13 ayes and 4 nays, with Members Elsasser, Reliford, Rosenbohm, and Windish voting nay.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the Vice-Chairman announced the meeting was adjourned.



The following public comments were submitted.

Mike Deluhery

From: Diane F. Brown <dianefullerbrown@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 11:30 AM
To: CoClerk-Public Email
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Peoria County proposed Budget

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Elected Peoria County Board Members and others listening--

How well is the Peoria County Board acting with transparency as it votes on the proposed Budget? Most Peoria County citizens are unlikely aware that this Budget proposal hobbles the County's internal Auditor. I am aware and wonder: Why?

The Auditor's job is to oversee that the collected tax dollars are spent correctly. For some unknown reason (to me and others), many members on the County Board fight against the Auditor position -- even though an Auditor is required by law for every Illinois County over 75,000 in population.

When Jessica Thomas was newly elected as Peoria County Auditor in 2018, there was an legal attempt to work around the Illinois law with a ballot proposal that would have eliminated the Auditor position. Voters turned that proposition down, reaffirming the need for an elected Auditor who cannot be hired nor fired by those she or he is auditing.

Sadly the County Board seems NOT to have accepted the will of the people, since you are now about to vote on the County Board Budget that will effectively eliminate the Auditor's staff. This is done in your proposed Budget by moving money to the Treasury Department. So it is not saving county taxpayers money. The Auditor's Department has union staff jobs, is that part of the goal, to eliminate Union positions? Their jobs would be ending right in time for Christmas.

What is up, Peoria County Board? You're looking like Scrooge. Why another scheme to go-around the Illinois law? Why would the Board avoid being audited?

Rather than looking like potential law breakers, I highly recommend the County Board vote in a Budget that keeps the Auditor's office at full capacity. In the future, if you want a change, you need to convince Peoria citizens that this hobbling of the State law makes sense.

Sincerely,
Diane F Brown
Peoria Resident for 27 years

309-453-0802 (cell)

Mike Deluhery

From: CARL HOLLOWAY <carlholloway979@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 11:32 AM
To: CoClerk-Public Email
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Auditor Office

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello:

Please accept the following points

1. Respect the will of the people;
2. Return statutory duties back to the Auditor;
3. Fully fund the Auditor's office;
4. Allow the Auditor's office to operate in its own capacity.

Thank you.
Carl Holloway
Peoria Citizen

Mike Deluhery

From: Jean Sloan <fortunat@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 12:52 PM
To: CoClerk-Public Email
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: County budget/Office of County Auditor

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear County Board Members,

The people of Peoria County voted for fiscal accountability and transparency when they voted specifically to retain the elected office of County Auditor in 2018 and elected Jessica Thomas to fill the position. The voters made this choice. Now this independent fiscal oversight chosen by County voters is threatened by a proposed county budget that would effectively prevent the office of County Auditor from functioning.

Apparently, the County Board has shifted duties rightly belonging to the Auditor to the County Administration and eliminated staff positions, union jobs, from the Auditor's office and has drafted a budget that nearly eliminates funding for the elected office of Auditor. Can the position of Auditor be effectively eliminated in this way, despite the will of the voters?

No, said Roland Burris when he was Illinois Attorney General: " it is my opinion that the county board may not use its budgetary powers to circumvent the auditor's internal control of his office, or refuse to appropriate sufficient funds for equipment and staff. Moreover, it is also my opinion that the county administrator cannot properly delegate accounting functions to the county treasurer, since those functions have been delegated by law to the auditor."

We voted specifically to retain a County Auditor elected by, and responsible to, us, properly funded and thus able to provide an effective independent check on how our tax dollars are spent. Illinois law says the County Board cannot undo the election results and 'disappear' the Office of Auditor.

As a voter and resident, I object to the use of the budgeting process to circumvent the decision that Peoria County voters made in 2018 and would welcome some transparency -- some public discussion -- of why the position of Auditor seems to be targeted for quiet virtual elimination.

Sincerely,

Jean Sloan
9324 W. Grimm Lane
Edwards, IL 61528
309-674-0755 (land line)
309-678-8099 (mobile)

Mike Deluhery

From: Elaine Hopkins <ehopkins7@prodigy.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 12:51 PM
To: CoClerk-Public Email
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Defunding the auditor's office

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

It's a disgrace that the Peoria County Board is planning to defund the county Auditor's office, a taxpayer approved office and part of the checks and balances of the county.

The Auditor is accountable to the public, not the board members. That's why the office exists, but it cannot do its job without workers.

Shame on the board members for even considering to defund this office.

--

Elaine Hopkins
309-231-5758
www.peoriastory.com



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Mike Deluhery

From: Nia M <n.mdrye@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 1:13 PM
To: CoClerk-Public Email
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment 10/14/2021

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good morning,

I am writing to you today to express concern about the proposed budget cuts to the Peoria County Auditors Office. I hope that you maintain integrity as elected officials by voting to sustain an office that the people of Peoria voted to keep. It's unethical and disrespectful to undermine the vote of the people in this manner. Additionally it's disrespectful to release a statement disregarding public concerns by stating that a 19 vote margin is barely a mandate. If any of you won a seat by 19 votes it would be honored right? The fact that this board is going through these lengths to discard this office is disturbing and suspicious.

The current proposed budget would eliminate the entire staff of the office, laying off union employees in the middle of a pandemic. According to that same budget, revenues are up and the current economic forecast for the area is positive. In fact, Scott Sorrell, the County Administrator, was recently quoted as saying, "The County is in good financial condition". With these things being true, there is no reason to layoff hard working women in the Auditors office. In fact, the potential for lawsuits from Local 3586 will make any meager savings from this process be eaten up in legal fees and time wasted from carrying forth the county's business.

When the county is claiming that they are having difficulty filling positions, laying off employees for seemingly no reason makes little sense. I urge you to reject this part of the budget and stand with the men and women of AFSCME Local 3586.

In addition to that, in 2018 the voters of Peoria County in a referendum elected to keep the Auditor's Office as a separate, elected position within the county. An independent financial watchdog is essential for transparency in government. By electing to eliminate the position by budgetary means, the county administration seems to be attempting to circumvent the will of Peoria County voters.

This presents our county with yet further lawsuits and ill will which I believe will cost the county far more than what this proposal would save in the short and long term.

For those reasons, I respectfully ask that you restore funding to the Peoria County Auditor's Office, allow the staff to get back to work without the threat of layoffs hanging over their head, and respect the will of the voters of Peoria County.

Thank you,

Nia McFarland- Drye

Mike Deluhery

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 12:23 PM
To: CoClerk-Public Email; Danielle Fuller; Mike Deluhery
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Online Form Submittal: Contact County Clerk

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Contact County Clerk

First Name	Charlotte
Last Name	Thomas
Email Address	charlotteljthomas@gmail.com
Phone Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Question / Comment	<p>I am a Peoria County resident and taxpayer who votes. Myself and the citizens of Peoria County demand fiscal accountability in our County Government . In 2018 we the people of Peoria County have chosen to preserve the elected Auditor's office and rejected a move to replace the elected auditor's role with a county-appointed one. Now is the time for the Peoria County Board to respect the legal rights of the taxpayers of Peoria County to a fully functional, funded and staffed Peoria County Auditor's office . We demand that you stop the corrupt attempts to disable, dismantle and defund our Auditor's Office. We have spoken at the polls. Remember we are the ones who voted you into office and if you misrepresent us we will vote you out!</p>
Attachment	<i>Field not completed.</i>

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Mike Deluhery

From: Jessica Thomas
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 12:27 PM
To: CoClerk-Public Email
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] County Auditor

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Public Comment please see below

Sincerely,

Jessica Thomas, MBA

Peoria County Auditor

Illinois Association of County Auditors 1st Vice President

Phone: (309) 495-4651 Cell: 309-573-2370 Fax: (309) 677-6234

Address: 324 Main Street, Suite G-02 Peoria, IL 61602

Email: JeThomas@PeoriaCounty.Org



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From: Kathleen Ann Reising <kar313@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 8:45 AM
To: Rachel Reliford <rlreiford@peoriacounty.org>
Cc: Jessica Thomas <jethomas@peoriacounty.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] County Auditor

It is imperative that the votes of the citizens of Peoria County be honored by maintaining the office of County Auditor and reinstating the three full time staff. The function of this office is a necessary oversight. Having this independent watch on how our tax dollars are spent is crucial.

Kathleen Ann Reising
6406 N Frostwood Parkway
Peoria, IL 61615
kar313@comcast.net

Mike Deluhery

From: Jackie Petty <jackiepetty1961@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 12:33 PM
To: CoClerk-Public Email
Subject: [EXTERNAL] County Auditor

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

We are confused. Please explain to us why you continue to harass the Auditor's Office. Did we not vote several years ago to retain the auditor's office?

Please respect our vote. It appears that you have a personal vendetta, and you are determined to over-ride our democracy.

The Auditor has to have a budget and employees to get the job done.

Stop and decrease your harassment, PLEASE.

Jackie & Gene Petty

Mike Deluhery

From: Assitant Auditor <socialmediacoord1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 1:05 PM
To: CoClerk-Public Email
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written statement for Peoria County Board meeting 10/14
Attachments: AFSME letter.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear County Board Members,

I am writing to you today to express concern about the proposed budget cuts to the Peoria County Auditor's Office. The current proposed budget would eliminate the entire staff of the office, laying off union employees in the middle of a pandemic. According to that same budget, revenues are up and the current economic forecast for the area is positive. In fact, Scott Sorrell, the County Administrator, was recently quoted as saying, "The County is in good financial condition". With these things being true, there is no reason to layoff hard working women in the Auditor's office. In fact, the potential for lawsuits from Local 3586 will make any meager savings from this process be eaten up in legal fees and time wasted from carrying forth the county's business.

When the county is claiming that they are having difficulty filling positions, laying off employees for seemingly no reason makes little sense. I urge you to reject this part of the budget and stand with the men and women of AFSCME Local 3586.

In addition to that, in 2018 the voters of Peoria County in a referendum elected to keep the Auditor's Office as a separate, elected position within the county. An independent financial watchdog is essential for transparency in government. By electing to eliminate the position by budgetary means, the county administration seems to be attempting to circumvent the will of Peoria County voters.

This presents our county with yet further lawsuits and ill will which I believe will cost the county far more than what this proposal would save in the short and long term.

For those reasons, I respectfully ask that you restore funding to the Peoria County Auditor's Office, allow the staff to get back to work without the threat of layoffs hanging over their head, and respect the will of the voters of Peoria County.

Signed by 474 Peoria County Residents

Mike Deluhery

From: Lorry Saunders
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 1:16 PM
To: CoClerk-Public Email
Subject: Written statement for 10/14 Peoria County Board meeting
Attachments: AFSME letter.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear County Board Members,

I am writing to you today to express concern about the proposed budget cuts to the Peoria County Auditor's Office. The current proposed budget would eliminate the entire staff of the office, laying off union employees in the middle of a pandemic. According to that same budget, revenues are up and the current economic forecast for the area is positive. In fact, Scott Sorrell, the County Administrator, was recently quoted as saying, "The County is in good financial condition". With these things being true, there is no reason to layoff hard working women in the Auditors office. In fact, the potential for lawsuits from Local 3586 will make any meager savings from this process be eaten up in legal fees and time wasted from carrying forth the county's business.

When the county is claiming that they are having difficulty filling positions, laying off employees for seemingly no reason makes little sense. I urge you to reject this part of the budget and stand with the men and women of AFSCME Local 3586.

In addition to that, in 2018 the voters of Peoria County in a referendum elected to keep the Auditor's Office as a separate, elected position within the county. An independent financial watchdog is essential for transparency in government. By electing to eliminate the position by budgetary means, the county administration seems to be attempting to circumvent the will of Peoria County voters.

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