



Effingham County Board
101 N. 4th Street, Suite 301, Effingham, IL
217.342.4990

**Administrative Committee
of the Whole of the Effingham County Board
3rd Floor Board Room, Effingham County Building
Monday, February 9, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.**

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: David Campbell; Chairman, Sandra Rich; Vice Chair, Josh Douthit, Tim Ellis, Chris Keller, Sandi Rich, Norbert Soltwedel, Doug McCain, Mike Buzzard

Committee Members Present: N. Soltwedel, J. Douthit, T. Ellis, D. Campbell, C. Keller (left early), M. Buzzard, D. McCain, S. Rich, J. Deters

This meeting was called to order by Chair David Campbell.

1. Approve Minutes

- Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the Administrative Committee minutes. Member M. Buzzard seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

2. Unfinished Business

- Opioid Funding
Member T. Ellis noted in 2025 the amount of \$63,042.28 was earmarked to three organizations for opioid funding. The available funds for Opioid funding is \$83,163.69. Travis Buhnerkempe, Chief Deputy Sheriff, updated the board on the Medication Assisted Recovery program which is funded by Opioid Settlement funds. Two representatives with ROSC and Hour House were present at the meeting to discuss the modified request that was submitted to the board. The modification is for the replacement for the CPRS position with Hour House. It was stated Hour House is actively looking for a qualified replacement and this replacement would need to have certification for the CPRS position. The amended proposal would include certification and training costs. Member J. Douthit requested an amended proposal be submitted to include the certification costs into the wages for the new hire. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board approval of a modification to the Hour House opioid request based on the written proposal to be submitted before the board meeting. Member C. Keller seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**
- Ordinance for Small Subdivision Upkeep and Appearance Requirements
Aaron Jones, States Attorney, stated the need for board input and feedback on the changes to the Ordinance for Small Subdivision. He noted some other counties that have ordinances

similar to this issue. Aaron stated there are statutes to give counties authority in this matter. He noted some concerns such as enforcement policy or procedures, exceptions for farm property, staffing, etc. He questioned if this ordinance should apply to small subdivisions only. Also, this ordinance could create more complaints which could involve more burden to the county for staffing issues with an overload of courts cases and call outs for the Sheriff Dept. Chairman D. Campbell noted the need to address this issue. It was suggested to include a footage restriction and not include farmland. Aaron will draft a nuisance ordinance for board review.

3. New Business

- American Legal Publishing – Updated Code of Ordinances
The update to the Code of Ordinances includes the submission of approximately 40 ordinances since 2019. The estimated cost to update the code of ordinances is a range of \$3,500.00-\$4,500.00. Member J. Douthit noted there are funds available in the budget for this update. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the updated Code of Ordinances with a disbursement up to \$4,500.00 to American Legal Publishing. Member S. Rich seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**
- Effingham County Public Transportation – Free Rides for Senior, Disabled, and Veteran County Residents for 2026
Member J. Deters talked with CEFS and they noted the program is being used by county residents. The funds are available in the budget. There was discussion with including free rides to residents who are using services for drug recovery or counseling services. Member N. Soltwedel suggested work with Probation office to provide transportation for these individuals. Member J. Deters also noted the county received an additional \$8,500.00 from the state and several municipalities have donated or made contributions to this program. Member J. Deters made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the disbursement of \$10,000 to Effingham County Public Transportation for the Free Rides for Senior, Disabled and Veteran County residents for 2026. Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**
- Resolution – Repeal of SB1950 Medical-Aid-In-Dying Law and Encouraging All Medical Providers to opt Out
Member J. Douthit brought a resolution to Repeal SB 1950 Medical-Aid-In-Dying Law and Encourage all Medical Providers to Opt-out before the board. He noted several reasons to oppose this bill and the need to send a message to state legislatures. SB1950 was passed and will take effect on September 12, 2026. Member Douthit encouraged board members to review the resolution and seek input from the public. A final draft of the resolution will be presented at a future meeting. Kim Rhodes, Coroner, also addressed some of the concerns from the Coroner’s Association. Member J. Douthit made a motion to table the agenda item until the March 2026 Administrative committee meeting. Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**
- Update Handbook 3-11 – Bereavement Leave
It was requested the employee handbook be amended to allow a request for one day paid bereavement leave for a special person. The elected official or department head would give approval of the bereavement leave. Also, there was a request to add one day of paid bereavement leave for a niece or nephew. The amended language will be review by Aaron Jones, States Attorney. This item will be placed on the agenda for the regular board meeting without committee recommendation.

4. Appointments

- None

5. General Information/Public Comments

- Kasey Kemme, U of I Extension, was present at the meeting. She introduced Megan Pierson who is the new Effingham County 4-H Educator and Michelle Fombelle who is the SNAP Educator. Kasey updated the board on the new hire for office support, the upcoming workshops and the 4-H program. Megan highlighted her career and stated she is working with ROSC on Health Day. Michelle talked about the Hunters Feeding Illinois deer donation program. She did note the need for donations or fundraising for this program.
- Health Department Update
Member N. Soltwedel stated Jeff Workman was unable to attend the meeting. Norbert suggested to Jeff that staff at the Health Dept attend the Medication Assisted Recovery event hosted by ROSC for drug addiction.
- Member D. McCain complimented the maintenance crew for the removal of the snow.
- Courtney Yockey stated the annual meeting for the Alliance will take place next week. He spoke about the Effingham Regional Manufacturing Collaborative meeting that took place in January.
- Pat Lewis, Democrat Party Chairman, inquired about the final draft on the resolution to Repeal SB1950 Medical-Aid-In-Dying Law. The board stated they would receive public comment and the final draft would possibly be presented at the regular board meeting. Pat also asked for a consideration on resolution from Effingham County condemning racism in our county.

6. Closed Session

Convene in Closed Session Pursuant to Illinois Statutes Section 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2) in Order to Discuss Matters Related to Collective Negotiation.

Travis Buhnerkempe, Chief Deputy Sheriff, stated there was no need for closed session. He was hopeful to have closed session at the regular board meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

7. Adjourn

Member J. Douthit made a motion to adjourn this meeting. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle M. Kollmann
Effingham County Clerk