



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

EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

February 17, 2026 – 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS: Joshua Douthit-District B, Chair, David Campbell-District D, Vice Chair, Norbert Soltwedel-District A, Tim Ellis-District C, Christopher Keller-District E, Mike Buzzard-District F, Doug McCain-District G, Sandra Rich-District H, Jeremy Deters-District I.

1. ROLL CALL, PLEDGE, PRAYER

The County Board of Effingham County, Illinois met pursuant to a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, County Building, City of Effingham, and State of Illinois. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Joshua Douthit. Roll call was taken with the following **Board Members present:** Joshua Douthit, David Campbell, Tim Ellis, Mike Buzzard, Doug McCain, Sandra Rich, Jeremy Deters. Pledge of Allegiance was said. Chairman J. Douthit gave the prayer.

2. RECOGNIZE PERSONS WHO WISH TO SPEAK ON AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman J. Douthit made a statement to the request from Pat Lewis. At the Administrative Committee meeting, Pat requested a declaration from Effingham about condemning racism or bigotry. Josh noted the resolutions that have been passed by the board are based on county business, policy, matters of state statute, etc. It was stated the matters of racism and discrimination are referenced in the county handbook.

3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVE MINUTES

ACCEPT OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORTS

APPROVE BILLS – COUNTY BOARD PER DIEM & EXPENSES

COMMITTEE AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS

Administrative Committee

- Approve Disbursement of up to \$4,500.00 to American Legal Publishing for Updated Code of Ordinances
- Approve \$10,000.00 Disbursement to Effingham County Public Transportation for Free Rides for Senior, Disabled, and Veteran County Residents for 2026

- Approve Modification of Board Approved Hour House Opioid Request Based on Submitted Written Proposal

Road and Bridge Committee

- Approve 2025 Annual State Compliance Reviews Effingham County-Township Bridge Funds
- Effingham County MFT Funds
- Effingham County Road Districts MFT Funds

Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

- Approve Bid Received from SEICO, Inc. in the Amount of \$19,239.63 for Control Systems in Government Center
- Approve Use of Historic Courtyard for Event and Signage for Downtown Effingham Business Group’s Bunny Bash Scheduled Saturday, March 28, 2026
- Approve Use of Historic Courtyard for Event and Signage for Downtown Effingham Business Group’s Halloween in Downtown Scheduled Saturday, October 24, 2026.

Ambulance Oversight Committee

- None

Capital Improvement Advisory Committee

- Approve Transfer of \$600,000.00 from Surplus of Funds within FY25 Budget into Capital Improvement Replacement Fund
- Approve Capital Improvement List and Investment Schedule for FY26

Public Safety Committee

- None

Reports Committee

- None

CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS

Member T. Ellis pulled agenda item “Approve Modification of Board Approved Hour House Opioid Request Based on Submitted Written Proposal”. Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #4A.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the consent agenda except the item pulled from the consent agenda considerations. Member D. McCain seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 6 ayes; 0 nays; 2 absent; 0 abstain

4. EXTRACTED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

#4-1 - APPROVE MODIFICATION OF BOARD APPROVED HOUR HOUSE OPIOID REQUEST BASED ON SUBMITTED WRITTEN PROPOSAL

Member T. Ellis pulled this agenda item to state Hour House was at the Administrative Committee meeting to discuss an amendment on how they may utilize the Opioid funds. He noted the proposal was submitted and the new amendment is valid and meets the guidelines. Member T. Ellis made a motion to approve the modification of the approved Hour House Opioid funding request based on the submitted proposal. Member S. Rich seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

5. APPROVE UPDATED HANDBOOK 3-11 BEREAVEMENT LEAVE WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Aaron Jones, States Attorney, stated he reviewed the modification to the bereavement leave in the employee handbook. The language was presented at the meeting. This modification includes one day paid leave to include special relationship and for niece/nephew. Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the updated handbook 3-11 bereavement leave. Member M. Buzzard seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

6. COMMITTEE REPORT

- Dave Campbell reported the Economic Development committee reapplied for the Revolving Loan Fund grant. He requested letters of interest be submitted. These letters would help with the approval process.
- Mike Buzzard acknowledged that Krista Phillips Effingham County Fair Queen was crowned as the new Illinois State Fair Queen.
- Jeremy Deters gave a shout out to the Teutopolis 7th grade boys' basketball team as they are State Champions.
- Tim Ellis noted the St. Anthony 7th grade boys' basketball team are State Champions.

7. ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS

- Michelle Kollmann, County, Clerk, informed the board that the start of the General Primary Election voting season began on February 5 with early voting they have had 135 voters so far. They have mailed out approximately 750 ballots and will be awaiting their return. The preparation for the election is moving along.
- Aaron Jones, States Attorney, stated Effingham High School Winter Guard both Junior Varsity and Varsity are State Champions.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None

9. 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.

Member D. McCain made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to Illinois State Statue Section 5 ILCS 120/2 (C) (5) to discuss Matters Related to Collective Negotiation. Member D. Campbell seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote of 6 ayes; 0 nays; 2 absent; 0 abstain

10. TAKE ACTION IN CLOSED SESSION

Member J. Deters made a motion to return to open session. Member S. Rich second. Unanimous. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote of 6 ayes; 0 nays; 2 absent; 0 abstain.

The regular meeting of the Effingham County Board reconvened. Chairman J. Douthit stated the board acted in closed session. The board agreed to accept the contract proposal between the Effingham County Sheriff's dept and the Fraternal Order of Police. Member J. Deters made a motion to adopt the FOP contract with Effingham County Sheriff's Department contingent upon approval from the States Attorney. Member S. Rich second. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote of 5 ayes; 0 nays; 2 absent; 1 abstain. Member M. Buzzard abstained from the vote.

11. ADJOURN

- Member D. McCain motioned to adjourn this meeting. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**