



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

Tax & Finance
Committee of the Whole of the Effingham County Board
3rd Floor Board Room, Effingham County Building
Thursday, August 14, 2025 at 3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

TAX & FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: Norbert Soltwedel Chairman, Sandi Rich Vice Chair, Chris Keller, Dave Campbell, Josh Douthit, Doug McCain, Jeremy Deters, Tim Ellis, Mike Buzzard

Committee Members Present: Chair N. Soltwedel, Vice Chair S. Rich, C. Keller, D. Campbell, J. Douthit, D. McCain, J. Deters, T. Ellis.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Norbert Soltwedel

1. Approve Minutes

- Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the minutes. Member C. Keller seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

2. Unfinished Business

- Remaining ARPA Funding
The remaining ARPA funding available is \$2,588.89. A spreadsheet with a breakdown on all ARPA spending was provided. At the Building and Grounds committee meeting, there was discussion on the purchase of a flagpole outside of the Government Center. It was stated the flagpole would be a possible use for the remaining ARPA funds. Member D. McCain made a motion to recommend to the full board to earmark the remaining ARPA funding for the purchase of the flagpole for the Government Center. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

3. New Business

- Corvette FunFest
Marlyn Koester, with Corvette FunFest, was present at the meeting to highlight the activities of this upcoming event and she provided a financial breakdown on the expenses. She requested funding for the annual Corvette FunFest. The previous contribution to this event was \$2,000.00. There was discussion on the visitors attending this event staying at the local

Airbnb rentals. Also, it was noted the hotel/motel fund is over budgeted. There was board discussion to increase the FY26 budgeted amount for the hotel/motel fund because there is a need for additional funding. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board the disbursement of \$1,500.00 from the hotel/motel fund for the Corvette FunFest. Member C. Keller seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

- **Bids for Audit RFQ**

There were four bids submitted to provide audit services to Effingham County. The board members reviewed the packets. The bids submitted was for a three-year contract. The current audit is conducted by CliftonLarsonAllen. The bids were West & Company for \$299,900.00, CliftonLarsonAllen for \$342,823.00, Bakertilly for \$286,590.00 and Sikich for \$357,600.00. Bakertilly broke down the CIPT audit separately and the Sikich bid did not include the CIPT audit. It was stated West and Company was the previous auditor. Aaron Jones, States Attorney, informed the board about factors in determining the lowest responsible bidder and the justifications with not awarding the RFQ to the lowest bidder. Also, how prior experience, qualifications and resources to complete the project are factors to determine the winning bid. Member J. Deters made a motion to recommend to the full board to award the audit RFQ to West & Company for auditing services with Effingham County pending final approval from the States Attorney. Member S. Rich seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried**

4. Appointments

- None

5. General Information/Public Comments

- Andy Kistler, Community Support Systems, was present at the meeting and gave a brief report about Community Support Systems. He gave an annual report of the 377 Board, number of individuals served and talked about the benefits of the job training program. Member S. Rich, 377 board member, complimented the CSS program.
- Kasey, Kemme, U of I Extension County Director, highlighted the programs with the extension center which includes the 4-H program, Master Gardeners, donation of produce and SNAP-Ed. She talked about some staffing issues with filling open positions and loss of federal funding for some of the programs.
- A representative from the 708 Board was present at the meeting and spoke about the funding received for mental health. She talked about the services they provide to some of their agencies which are SAFE, Heartland Human Services, One Hope United and New Light Counseling. She noted requests for funding from new agencies so there is always a need for additional funding. Member D. Campbell spoke on behalf of the 708 Board and the funding they receive.
- Deb Ruholl, Effingham County Treasurer, gave an update on the expected revenue numbers for the remainder of the fiscal year. She stated the county is in good shape, revenue budget numbers for FY25 are on target and interest rates are doing well. N. Soltwedel talked about the upcoming budget process.

6. Closed Session

- None

7. Adjourn

- Member C. Keller made a motion to adjourn this meeting. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried***

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle M. Kollmann
Effingham County Clerk