



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, February 15, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

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

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair N. Soltwedel.

1. Approve Minutes

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

2. Unfinished Business

• ARPA Reports Review

A monthly spreadsheet was provided to the board members for review on the ARPA funds.

• ARPA Funding

○ Fire Department Radios

An agreement for the purchase of the equipment and services was provided to the members. The initial payment for the radios is \$247,800.00. Member J. Deters made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the disbursement of earmarked ARPA funds in the amount of \$247,800.00 to GTSi. Member S. Gillet seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried**

○ TREC Trail

The Effingham County Highway dept. submitted an itemized invoice for payment on the TREC trail maintenance. Member T. Ellis made a motion to recommend to the full board

to approve the disbursement of ARPA funds in the amount of \$11,037.29 to Effingham Highway Dept. Member J. Douthit seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

- Farm Bureau
The Effingham County Farm Bureau submitted a statement from GEO partners to terminate the study and no additional funds were needed. The Farm Bureau would like to withdraw their request for ARPA funding. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board to recover \$8,593.00 from Effingham County Farm Bureau ARPA funding back to ARPA. Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried**
- One Hope United
The contact person for One Hope United has left and no updates on the funding have been submitted. Member D. Campbell requested to keep One Hope United on the list for funding until the position is filled. Member J. Deters made a motion to recommend to the full board to refer back to the 708 Board for further discussion. Member J. Douthit seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried**

3. New Business

- **ARPA Funding**

- **Childcare Research Committee - Reallocation of Funding**
Courtney Yockey was present at the meeting and read a letter from the Childcare Research Committee. They are requesting a reallocation of \$40,359.01 in ARPA funding from the Childcare Research Increase Capacity program to CEFS. The reallocation is for the cost of an outdoor playground for CEFS. There was discussion on staffing and costs of the playground. The reallocation will use up the remaining funds for the ICP. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the reallocation of \$40,359.01 in ARPA funds to CEFS contingent the program starts with a director. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**
- **County Board Member Tablets**
Member J. Douthit requested ARPA funding for the purchase of tablets for the board members to utilize at meetings. This will help to reduce paper usage. The IT department recommended the Apple iPad 9th Generation tablet. The total cost would be around \$266 for each tablet and stand/cover. The tablets will remain at the county building. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board to earmark up to \$3,000.00 in ARPA funding for ten tablets and ten covers. Member J. Deters seconded. There were two oppositions to the vote. **Motion carried**
- **Effingham County Fair**
Phil Hartke with the Effingham County Fair was present at the meeting to make a request for the county's annual donation to the Effingham County fair. The past donation of \$5,000.00 was security at the fair. The donation includes an ad in the fair book and a sign. Member D. McCain made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve \$5,000.00 from hotel/motel tax for a donation to the Effingham County Fair. Member D. Campbell seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried**
- **Effingham/Effingham County Enterprise Zone Boundary Agreement**
Sasha Althoff, City of Effingham Economic Development Specialist, stated 50.31 acres of the Prairie Ace Estates subdivision is being proposed to be annexed to the Effingham/Effingham County Enterprise Zone for residential development. The property

owners of the subdivision were present at the meeting and a map was presented of the proposed addition. Also, this request meets the application requirements. This amendment to the enterprise zone will be voted on by the City of Effingham and Village of Teutopolis. A representative from Effingham Homes spoke to the committee. There was discussion on the current lots and lot prices, tax abatement and assessed values of the homes and low income housing and concerns the tax incentives could affect tax rates. N. Soltwedel presented a statement about the expansion of the Effingham Enterprise zone. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the Effingham/Effingham County Enterprise Zone Boundary agreement. Member D. Campbell seconded. Roll call vote was taken with 5 ayes; 2 nays. **Motion carried**

- **Resolution – Personal Property Tax Replacement Distribution**

Deb Ruholl, Treasurer, presented a resolution for Personal Property Tax Replacement Distribution. A total of \$567,029.04 will be placed in the General Fund and \$110,000.00 will be distributed to the entities listed on the resolution. Member J. Deters made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the resolution. Member S. Gillet seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried**

4. **Appointments**

General Information/Public Comments

- Kevin Bushur with CEFS gave an update on the ARPA funding for the Meals on Wheels. Deb's Catering provided meals to 398 individuals.
- Courtney Yockey noted a PAVE Community Breakfast will take place in Altamont on April 18, 2024.
- Dave Campbell inquired about the possibility of a permanent bus stop with a bench be built at the bus stop by the County Building. J. Deters stated a bus stop is in the works with the Transportation committee.
- Pam Braun, Assessor, informed the board recently her office mailed over 4,000 homestead exemption forms.

5. **Closed Session**

6. **Adjourn**

- Member S. Gillet made a motion to adjourn this meeting. Member J. Douthit seconded. **Motion carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle M. Kollmann
Effingham County Clerk