



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, May 16, 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 Norbert Soltwedel.

1. Approve Minutes

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

2. Unfinished Business

- ARPA Reports Review
A monthly tracking report and spreadsheet was distributed to the board members noting a breakdown of earmarked amounts and funds spent on various projects. It was noted after December 1, 2024 the County can not reallocate the budgeted ARPA funds.
- ARPA – Effingham Regional Career Foundation
Norma Lansing provided paperwork with updates on the Effingham Regional Career Foundation program. She talked about the benefits of the program. She requested \$17,000.00 of the earmarked ARPA funds for the Spring 2024 tuition, fees and supplies. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board the distribution of \$17,000.00 of earmarked APRA funds to the Effingham Regional Career Foundation. Member D. Campbell seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

3. New Business

- ARPA Funding – Mason Township Park District – Budget Amendment

Mason Township Park District requested a reallocation of the earmarked ARPA funding to an emergency improvement from a gas leak. The previous earmark was for an upgrade to the building. It was requested an invoice be submitted for payment.

- **Lake Sara – 4th of July Fireworks**

The previous donation to the Lake Sara 4th of July fireworks was \$2,500.00. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board the distribution of \$2,500.00 from the hotel/motel tax fund to the Lake Sara 4th of July Fireworks. Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

- **School Resource Officers Agreement**

Travis Buhnerkempe, Chief Deputy Sheriff, spoke on the School Resource Officer Program. It was noted the annual cost will increase \$25.00 per student for the first year and \$26.00 per student for the second year. An agreement will be sent to the four participating school districts. Member T. Ellis made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the School Resource Officers Agreement and contribution increase. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

- **Law Enforcement Recruitment and Retention Grant**

Travis Buhnerkempe, Chief Deputy Sheriff, spoke on the Law Enforcement Recruitment and Retention grant. Lt. Brandon Murray wrote for the grant and was awarded funding in the amount of \$230,000.00 which was received in April 2024. The breakdown of the funds would include retention of sworn officers, recruitment for new hires, supplies, marketing for career fairs and overtime to work the career fairs. These expenses will be reflected in the FY25 budget.

- **Postage Machines**

Midwest Mailing and Shipping Systems has our current contract for the two postage machines which are located in the County Building and Government Center. USPS is expiring the meters on our current machines and the machines must be replaced by December 2027. The cost for one postage machine will be \$9,865.00 which will be the same machine with the required update. The County will need to purchase two postage machines. Currently \$20,000.00 is reflected in the budget under Capital Improvement for the postage machines. Member J. Deters made a motion to recommend to the full board the approval for the purchase of two postage machines. Member S. Gillet seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

4. **Appointments**

- None

5. **General Information/Public Comments**

- Courtney Yockey gave an update on CEFS. Last month an offer was made and was not accepted for the Director position for the 0-3 program. Currently another offer was extended to another individual and background checks are being conducted. It was also noted a vendor for the playground has been selected and the cost was \$32,500.00. They are currently accepting bids for the fence. He also noted the next monthly webinar will be on May 30th at 10:30 a.m.

6. **Closed Session**

- None

- **Adjourn**

- Member J. Deters made a motion to adjourn this meeting. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle M. Kollmann
Effingham County Clerk