



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, July 11, 2024 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, Elizabeth Huston

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

Committee Members Absent: Chair N. Soltwedel

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Sandi Rich

1. Approve Minutes

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

2. Unfinished Business

• ARPA Reports Review

The monthly spreadsheet was provided to the board members for review. The remaining ARPA amount that has not been designated is \$32,774.53.

- **ARPA Funding- Childcare Research CEFS Prevention Initiative Program Playground**
- Courtney Yockey stated the site director position was not filled so the CEFS Prevention Initiative Program Playground will not be completed. Connie with CEFS gave an update on staffing issues. A formal letter will be submitted by CEFS to recover the unspent ARPA funds of \$40,359.01. Member J. Deters made a motion to recommend to the full board to recover the earmarked amount of \$40,359.01 back into the ARPA fund. Member J. Douthit seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried***

3. New Business

- **ARPA Funding – Dive Rescue**

Member D. Campbell stated Effingham County Dive Rescue is need of a truck and trailer for the transportation of the members to a scene, operations and investigations. Dive Rescue used Central Management Services to get the bids for the truck and trailer. The submitted bids included \$44,655.00 for a Ford F-150 crew cab truck and \$2,973.00 for a utility trailer. The truck would be owned by Effingham County. There was discussion on the need, available ARPA funds, possibility to purchase used versus new truck. The board requested Dive Rescue to present three bids for a truck. The board agreed on the utility trailer purchase for \$2,973.00. Member C. Keller made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the purchase of the utility trailer for \$2,973.00 from ARPA funds. Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

- **FY2023 Audit Report for Effingham County**

Sandy Wheeler and Hope Perry with CliftonLarsonAllen talked about the FY23 audit. A brief explanation was given on the audit process which included highlighting the data gathered, audit deliverables, audit report highlights, report findings, a management letter and government communication. The financial statement and single audit report were submitted to the board. Member J. Deters made a motion to recommend to the full board to accept the FY2023 audit report submitted by CLA. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

- **Effingham County Soil and Water**

Denise Willenborg, with Effingham County Soil and Water, presented the yearly report for the ECSW. She gave details of the board's activities and services provided. Denise thanked the board for the continued support.

- **Resolution – Public Defender and Sheriff Salaries**

The salaries for the Public Defender and Sheriff are based off the Annual Salary Reimbursement COLA for the States Attorney. The resolutions were presented stating the annual salary for each. The effective date for the increase was July 1, 2024. Member J. Deters made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the resolution for the Public Defender and Sheriff salaries. Member C. Keller seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried**

4. Appointments

None

5. General Information/Public Comments

Paul Kuhns, Sheriff, wanted feedback from the board about the possibility of a full time county deputy being assigned to Department of Children and Family Services office in Effingham. DCFS is asking law enforcement agencies to partner with them and they will pay full salary, equipment, vehicle expense, IMRF and any other deemed expenses. Sheriff Kuhns is in favor of this agreement however he would like the board to consider raising his staffing level by one. If the board would increase his staffing level he would not lose an officer for street patrol. This agreement would be a considered a reimbursement. Several board members spoke in support of a county deputy assigned to DCFS. It was stated a resolution would be needed to add another deputy to the Sheriff's dept. There is no timeline to move forward and it was agreed that Sheriff Kuhns should continue to work out the details with DCFS.

Courtney Yockey gave details about the Small Business Downtown Center which opened downtown at the Midland Lofts.

6. Closed Session

7. Adjourn

- Member C. Keller made a motion to adjourn this meeting. Member J. Douthit seconded.
Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle M. Kollmann
Effingham County Clerk