



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

EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD REGULAR MEETING July 15, 2024 – 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, Elizabeth Huston-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 Monday, July 15, 2024 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, Norbert Soltwedel, Tim Ellis, Christopher Keller, Doug McCain, Sandra Rich, Jeremy Deters. Pledge of Allegiance was said. Chairman J. Douthit gave the prayer. A moment of silence was held for Ethan Bouser owner of Rural Med and for the three young teens with the tragic accident in Stewardson-Strasburg.

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

- None

3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVE MINUTES

ACCEPT OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORTS

APPROVE BILLS – COUNTY BOARD PER DIEM & EXPENSES

COMMITTEE AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS

- Approve Decennial Report - Banner, Liberty, Moccasin Multi-Township Assessing District
- Approve Addition of Question on November 5, 2024 Ballot Prohibiting Use of Tax Dollars in Relation to Immigration Crisis
- Approve Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement (Extreme Emergency Situations) with City of Effingham and Lake Land College
- Approve Election Judges Certification
- Approve Resignation of Elizabeth Huston, District F, from Effingham County Board

- Approve Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement for Section# 24-14110-00-BR – Watson Township, 700th Ave
- Approve Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement for Section# 24-09115-00-BR – Mound Township, 500th St
- Approve Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement for Section# 24-06109-00-BR – Lucas Township, 1st St
- Approve Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement for Section# 23-02116-00-BR – Bishop Township, 2100th St
- Approve Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement for Section# 24-13114-00-BR – Union Township, 1700th St
- Approve Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Construction for Section# 21-05108-00-BR – Liberty Township, along 400th St
- Approve Veteran’s Affairs Lease Agreement for term July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027
- Approve Bid Award to Grunloh Construction, Inc. in the Amount of \$38,820.00 for 911 Control Room Entranceway
- Approve Removal of Earmark on \$40,359.01 in ARPA Funding to Childcare Research Committee for CEFS Prevention Initiative Program Playground
- Approve Disbursement of \$2,973.00 in ARPA Funding to Effingham County Dive Rescue for Utility Trailer
- Approve FY2023 Audit Report for Effingham County
- Approve Resolutions for Public Defender and Sheriff Salaries
- Approve Release of Closed Session Minutes

CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS

- Member N. Soltwedel pulled agenda item “Approve Addition of Question on November 5, 2024 Ballot Prohibiting Use of Tax Dollars in Relation to Immigration Crisis”. Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #4-A.
- Member S. Rich pulled agenda item “Approve Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement (Extreme Emergency Situations) with City of Effingham and Lake Land College”. Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #4-B.
- Chairman J. Douthit pulled agenda item “Approve Resignation of Elizabeth Huston, District F, from Effingham County Board”. Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #4-C

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

- Member C. Keller made a motion to approve the consent agenda except items pulled under the consent agenda considerations. Member J. Deters seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 7 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent; 0 abstain.

4. EXTRACTED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- **#4-A APPROVE ADDITION OF QUESTION ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024 BALLOT PROHIBITING USE OF TAX DOLLARS IN RELATION TO IMMIGRATION CRISIS**
 Member N. Soltwedel pulled this agenda item to note in January 2024 the Effingham County Board passed a resolution to prohibit local tax dollars to be spent on the Immigration Crisis. Norbert voiced his concerns and how it is unnecessary to place this public question on the November ballot. Member N. Soltwedel made a motion to remove this item from the agenda. Motion failed from a lack of a second. Member S. Rich made a motion to approve the Addition of a Question on November 5, 2024 Ballot Prohibiting Use of Tax Dollars in Relation to Immigration Crisis. Member C. Keller seconded. There was discussion about the placement of the question on the ballot which included the referendum would be considered a non-binding

advisory question and the purpose is wanting public feedback on this topic. It was noted this question gives the voters a voice and the board will monitor future questions to be placed on the ballot. Member N. Soltwedel opposed. **Motion carried.**

- **#4-B APPROVE LAW ENFORCEMENT MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT (EXTREME EMERGENCY SITUATIONS) WITH CITY OF EFFINGHAM AND LAKE LAND COLLEGE**

Member S. Rich pulled this agenda item to abstain from the vote. Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement with City of Effingham and Lake Land College. Member C. Keller seconded. Member S. Rich abstained. **Motion carried.**

- **#4-C APPROVE RESIGNATION OF ELIZABETH HUSTON, DISTRICT F, FROM EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD**

Chairman J. Douthit pulled this agenda item to read the submitted letter of resignation from Elizabeth to the County Board members. Josh noted her dedication to the board. Member C. Keller made a motion to approve the Resignation of Elizabeth Huston, District F, from Effingham County Board. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

5. APPROVE BID RECEIVED FOR HISTORIC COURTYARD GAZEBO AND COURTYARD WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Member T. Ellis stated one RFP in the amount of \$494,026.00 was received from the Courtyard Gazebo project. A rendering was provided but the total cost seemed high. Pete Koester with Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council informed the board they are willing to help to secure more bids and there are contractors willing to work on the project. Member C. Keller made a motion to reject the submitted bid for the Courtyard Gazebo. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

6. APPROVE REPUBLISHING RFP FOR HISTORIC COURTYARD GAZEBO AND COURTYARD WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Chairman J. Douthit noted this agenda item was listed to republish the RFP if the previous bid was rejected. The dates will be set by the Building and Grounds Committee. Member D. McCain made a motion to resubmit the RFP for the Courtyard Gazebo and Courtyard. Member S. Rich seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

7. APPROVE RECOMMENDATION FROM REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR REPLACEMENT OF ELIZABETH HUSTON, DISTRICT F, ON EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Chairman J. Douthit stated he received a letter of recommendation for the Republican Central Committee for the replacement of Elizabeth Huston. The Republican Central Committee recommended to appoint Mike Buzzard to represent District F on the Effingham County Board. Chairman J. Douthit recommended to accept the party's recommendation of Mike Buzzard. The term would be July 16, 2024 thru November 30, 2024. Mike spoke briefly to the board. Member N. Soltwedel made a motion to approve the Republican Central Committee's recommendation of Mike Buzzard to the Effingham County Board, District F. Member C. Keller seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

8. ELECTION OFFICIALS REPORTS

- Michelle Kollmann, County Clerk, thanked the board for the approval for the election judges. She also noted the first part of August they will be mailing each voter in the county a letter and an application to vote by mail. If any voter prefers to opt out of the mailing list it must be marked on the application.

- Greg Koester, County Engineer, stated paperwork for the airway extension was sent and the ground breaking may take place soon.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Dave Campbell noted an application has been reviewed for the Revolving Loan Fund.
- Doug McCain stated the Health Committee will be setting up a task force for the Opioid Settlement Fund.
- Jeremy Deters noted Friday, July 19 the Teutopolis High School Volleyball team will be hosting a fundraiser for the Stewardson-Strasburg teens at Teutopolis Banquet Hall.
- Josh Douthit congratulated Angie Thompson as she is a recent graduate of the Leadership Academy hosted by UCCI.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Courtney Yockey informed the board of the monthly webinar which will take place on July 25, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

11. CLOSED SESSION

- **CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO ILLINOIS STATUTES SECTION 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(12) IN ORDER TO DICUSS MATTER PERTAINING TO SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM IN LITIGATION**

Member J. Deters made a motion to go into Closed Session. Member S. Rich seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote of 7 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent; 0 abstain.

Member J. Deters made a motion to return from Closed Session. Member D. McCain seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote of 7 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent; 0 abstain .

The regular meeting of the Effingham County board reconvened. Chairman J. Douthit stated the board acted in closed session. This is in regards to a final settlement agreement for payment from our insurance carrier to Effingham County. The settlement agreement was in the amount of \$75,000.00 for legal fees for the Lake Side EMS litigation case. Member C. Keller made a motion to execute this agreement for the acceptance of the \$75,000.00. Member D. McCain seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote of 7 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent; 0 abstain.

12. ADJOURN

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