



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

EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

August 19, 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, Mike Buzzard-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, August 19, 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, Mike Buzzard, Doug McCain, Sandra Rich, Jeremy Deters. Pledge of Allegiance was said. Chairman J. Douthit gave the prayer.

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

Health and Insurance Committee

- Approve Development of Opioid Advisory Committee Based on J. Workman Recommendations for Members of Said Committee

Legislative/Personnel Committee

- Approve Updated Board Member Committee Assignments
- Approve County Holidays for 2025
- Approve Decennial Reports
 - Teutopolis Fire Protection District

- Shumway Fire Protection District
- Approve Appointments a. Island Grove Drainage District – Joe Niemerg (9/3/2024-9/7/2027)
- Lucas Township Drainage District – Curtis Stortzum (9/3/2024-9/7/2027)
- South Island Drainage District – Dennis Niemerg (9/3/2024-9/7/2027)
- St. Francis Township Drainage District – Steve Borries (9/3/2024-9/7/2027)

Road and Bridge Committee

- Approve Eugene Niemerg Subd, No. 2 Second Addition (minor subdivision)

Building and Grounds Committee

- Approve Highway Department to Remove Two (2) Dying Trees in Historic Courthouse Courtyard
- Approve Tree Expert to Inspect Tree on Southeast Corner of Historic Courthouse Courtyard and Replacement with New Tree if Removal is Recommended
- Approve Chairman to Move Forward with Negotiations and Accept Bid Received from F&C Concrete & Excavating in the Amount of \$353,195.00 for Historic Courtyard and Gazebo Project
- Approve Use of Exterior County Property for Downtown Cruise and Car Show on Saturday, September 7, 2024
- Approve Carpet Replacement on Fourth Floor of County Building

Transportation Committee

- Approve Updated Title VI Plan

Tax and Finance Committee

- Approve \$32,500.00 Disbursement in ARPA Funding to Effingham Regional Career Foundation
- Approve \$33,693.00 Disbursement in ARPA Funding for Dive Rescue Vehicle Purchase
- Approve \$99,120.00 Disbursement in ARPA Funding for Payment of Second Installment for Fire Department Radios

Public Safety Committee

- None

Reports Committee

- None

Economic Development Advisory Committee

- Approve Disbursement of \$20,000.00 from Revolving Loan Fund for Arena Trampoline Park

CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS

- Member N. Soltwedel pulled agenda item “Approve Development of Opioid Advisory Committee Based on J. Workman Recommendations for Members of Said Committee” Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #4-A
- Member S. Rich pulled agenda item “Approve Chairman to Move Forward with Negotiations and Accept Bid Received from F&C Concrete & Excavating in the Amount of \$353,195.00 for Historic Courtyard and Gazebo Project” Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #4-B.
- Member N. Soltwedel commented on the tree removal on the southeast corner of the courtyard. He suggested to possibly trim the tree and not removal. Chairman J. Douthit noted a tree arborist has been contacted about the damaged tree.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

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

4. EXTRACTED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- **#4-A - APPROVE DEVELOPMENT OF OPIOID ADVISORY COMMITTEE BASED ON J. WORKMAN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF SAID COMMITTEE**

Member N. Soltwedel pulled this agenda item because he wanted more consideration with the formation of the committee. A representative from Hour House was present to give some feedback. It was suggested to hold a public forum to determine what organizations and entities could apply for the opioid settlement funds. The opioid overdose settlement funds are to be utilized for education and prevent substance abuse. It was stated county offices could apply for these funds. Member N. Soltwedel made a motion to refer this agenda item back to the Health and Insurance committee. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

- **#4-B - APPROVE CHAIRMAN TO MOVE FORWARD WITH NEGOTIATIONS AND ACCEPT BID RECEIVED FROM F&C CONCRETE & EXCAVATING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$353,195.00 FOR HISTORIC COURTYARD AND GAZEBO PROJECT**

Member S. Rich pulled this agenda item to request more discussion and information on this project. Chairman J. Douthit stated that one bid from F & C Concrete and Excavating was submitted for the Courtyard Gazebo project. The bid was in the amount of \$353,195.00. A rendering of the project was submitted and he noted the landscaping and black fencing was not included on the bid. Jared Carlen with F&C Concrete was present to address any questions or concerns with the project. He discussed the timeframe and completion of the project, the direction of the gazebo and any required permits with the City of Effingham. There was board discussion on the funding for the gazebo which includes the earmarked ARPA funds, matching grant funds and possible ARPA funds to cover the balance. It is the intent of the board to use federal funding thru ARPA or grants for the gazebo costs so general county tax funds would not be spent. Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the chairman to move forward with negotiations and accept the bid from F&C Concrete and Excavating for \$353,195.00 without increasing general county fund dollars being used on the project. Member S. Rich seconded. ***Motion carried*** on a roll call vote 7 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent; 0 abstain

5. ELECTION OFFICIALS REPORTS

- Michelle Kollmann, County Clerk, stated the Permanent Vote by Mail letters and applications were mailed to voters in Effingham County. This gives the voter the opportunity to make application to vote by mail for 2024 General Election, any future elections or to opt out of any future mailings for vote by mail.
- Deb Ruholl, Treasurer, informed the board her office has mailed out over 23,000 tax bills on August 2. The first installment is due on September 6, 2024.
- Greg Koester, County Engineer, reported the airport road construction is completed and the road will open next week.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Dave Campbell thanked the board for the approval of the loan for the Arena Trampoline Park thru the revolving loan fund.
- Josh Douthit noted prior to the monthly board meeting a public hearing was held for the Business Resiliency grant report.
- Josh Douthit stated the Airport Runway Extension groundbreaking will take place on September 4, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at the Effingham Regional Airport.
- Norbert Soltwedel informed the board of a new bus stop shelter by the Effingham County Building. This was made possible by the Noon Rotary and the City of Effingham assisted with the project.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Courtney Yockey informed the board of the upcoming webinar of August 29, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. and the topic will be cannabis in the work place.

8. CLOSED SESSION

- None

9. ADJOURN

- Member S. Rich motioned to adjourn this meeting.
Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***