



Effingham County Board
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EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

September 16, 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, September 16, 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, 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. RESOLUTION – HONORING TRAVIS MONNET ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 20 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Chairman J. Douthit presented a resolution and clock to Travis Monnet for his service to the Effingham County Sheriff's dept and his retirement from the department after 20 years of employment. Sheriff Paul Kuhns spoke on Travis Monnet's employment with the dept. Member D. McCain made a motion to approve the resolution for Travis Monnet's retirement. Member S. Rich seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

4. PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

Chairman J. Douthit read the proclamation for National 4-H week in Effingham County which will be held from October 6 thru October 12, 2024. Several 4-H members and leaders were present at the meeting. The motion for the proclamation was done during the consent agenda items.

5. PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Chairman J. Douthit read the proclamation for October to be National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Several individuals from CSS were on hand for the presentation. It was noted board member S. Rich recommended to have these individuals recognized thru this proclamation. The motion for the proclamation was done during the consent agenda items.

6. 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 Scheduling One (1) Public Hearing in the Next Three (3) Months to Educate the Public on Opioid Funding
- Approve HopeTrust as the Employee Group Health Carrier for 2024-2025.

Legislative/Personnel Committee

- Approve Proclamation – National 4-H Week
- Approve Proclamation – National Disability Employment Awareness Month
- Approve Appointments a. Ambulance Oversight Committee – Brant Yochum (10/1/2024 – 9/30/2026)

Road and Bridge Committee

- None

Building and Grounds Committee

- None

Transportation Committee

- None

Tax and Finance Committee

- Approve \$53,100.00 as Remaining Earmark in ARPA Funding for Childcare Research Committee Gap Scholarship with Outstanding Previously Earmarked Funds Returning to ARPA Funding
- Approve \$6,881.57 Disbursement in ARPA Funding for Payment of Nelson Tree Service, Inc. Invoice with Remainder Balance to be Paid from Trail Maintenance Fund
- Approve \$709.00 Disbursement in ARPA Funding for County Boardroom Bookshelf
- Approve Wrights Furniture Bid in the Amount of \$21,232.00 for Carpet Replacement on 4th Floor of County Building

Public Safety Committee

- None

Reports Committee

- None

Economic Development Advisory Board

- Approve \$19,500.00 Disbursement from Revolving Loan Fund to Heartland Health Foods

CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS

- Member N. Soltwedel pulled agenda item “Approve \$53,100.00 as Remaining Earmark in ARPA Funding for Childcare Research Committee Gap Scholarship with Outstanding Previously Earmarked Funds Returning to ARPA Funding” Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #7-A.
- Member C. Keller pulled agenda item “Approve HopeTrust as the Employee Group Health Carrier for 2024-2025”. Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #7-B.

- Member S. Rich pulled agenda item “Approve \$19,500.00 Disbursement from Revolving Loan Fund to Heartland Health Foods”. Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #7-C.
- Chairman J. Douthit pulled agenda item “Approve Scheduling One (1) Public Hearing in the Next Three (3) Months to Educate the Public on Opioid Funding”. Chairman J. Douthit placed items as #7-D

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

- Member J. Deters motion to approve the consent agenda except items pulled under the consent agenda considerations. Member C. Keller seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

7. EXTRACTED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- **#7-A - APPROVE \$53,100.00 AS REMAINING EARMARK IN ARPA FUNDING FOR CHILDCARE RESEARCH COMMITTEE GAP SCHOLARSHIP WITH OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY EARMARKED FUNDS RETURNING TO ARPA FUNDING**

Member N. Soltwedel pulled this agenda item to amend the disbursement amount from \$53,100.00 to \$51,300.00. This adjustment is for a GAP scholarship applicant who is a teacher and will not have employment during the summer months. Member N. Soltwedel made a motion to amend the ARPA disbursement to \$51,300.00 of remaining earmarked ARPA funds for the GAP scholarship and with any outstanding previously earmarked funds returning to the ARPA fund. Member M. Buzzard seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

- **#7-B - APPROVE HOPETRUST AS THE EMPLOYEE GROUP HEALTH CARRIER FOR 2024-2025**

Member C. Keller pulled this agenda item to make a request for the current insurance provider Weis Insurance to discuss health insurance. Kate Passalacqua with Weis insurance spoke to the board to present additional ideas or options to possibly utilize additional funds if the board was going to increase the employer contribution. She noted the insurance plans presented will remain the same. She requested to retain the coverage for the dental and vision plans. There was board discussion at the committee meeting that the recommendation was with HopeTrust, there was due diligence at the employee meetings about their health insurance carrier preference and the amount of the employer contribution which will be discussed at the special tax and finance meeting on October 15, 2024. Member N. Soltwedel made a motion to approve HopeTrust as the employee group health insurance carrier for 2024-2025. Member T. Ellis seconded. Member C. Keller opposed. **Motion carried.**

- **#7-C - APPROVE \$19,500.00 DISBURSEMENT FROM REVOLVING LOAN FUND TO HEARTLAND HEALTH FOODS**

Member S. Rich pulled this agenda item to noted she is in favor of the disbursement. She wanted to give awareness and gave some highlights of the Revolving Loan Fund program. The owner of Heartland Health Foods spoke about the benefits and the process to apply for the funds. Member D. Campbell made motion to approve the disbursement of \$19,500.00 from the Revolving Loan Fund to Heartland Health Foods. Member J. Deters seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

- **#7-D - APPROVE SCHEDULING ONE (1) PUBLIC HEARING IN THE NEXT THREE (3) MONTHS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ON OPIOID FUNDING**

Chairman J. Douthit pulled this agenda items to note the date of the public forum hearing for the Opioid Settlement funding. It was recommended to hold one public meeting and the proposed date will be Thursday, October 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Member S. Rich made a motion

to set the public hearing date for the Opioid funding to be on Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

8. APPROVE DENTAL AND VISION COVERAGE FOR 2024-2025 WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was noted Delta Dental will be the carrier for the dental insurance and Mutual of Omaha will be carrier for the vision insurance with no increases to the premiums. Weis Insurance will be the insurance agency. Member J. Deters made a motion to retain current dental and vision insurance coverage with Weis Insurance for 2024-25. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

9. APPROVE \$148,680.00 DISBURSEMENT IN ARPA FUNDING IN PAYMENT OF FINAL INVOICE FOR FIRE DEPARTMENTS RADIO PURCHASE WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.

Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the final payment of \$148,680.00 for the fire department radio from ARPA funding. Member S. Rich seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

10. APPROVE CONTRIBUTION TO EFFINGHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR TRADES, SKILLS & MANUFACTURING DAY WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was noted last year the annual contribution to the Effingham Chamber of Commerce for Trades, Skills and Manufacturing Day was for \$2,000.00 from Economic Development. Member T. Ellis made a motion to approve the \$2,000.00 contribution to the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce for Trades, Skills and Manufacturing Day from Economic Development. Member D. McCain seconded. **Motion carried** roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

11. ELECTION OFFICIALS REPORTS

- Michelle Kollmann, County Clerk, reported early voting starts Thursday, September 26, 2024 and voting will take place on the first floor of the County Building in the Benwood Conference room from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Also, any voter who requested a vote by mail ballot the first day to mail those is also September 26. Election judge training will take place on October 9th at the Effingham Public Library.
- Paul Kuhns, Sheriff, informed the board he will be on air with Cromwell Radio to discuss mental health issues in the County Jail.
- Deb Ruholl, Treasurer, noted the Treasurer's office has collected over 42 million-dollars in real estate taxes. The first distribution will be on October 6, 2024 and the second installment is due on October 18, 2024.
- Pam Braun, Assessor, thanked the board for the approval of the new carpet for the Assessor's office.
- Angie Thompson, County Board office administrator, gave a reminder of the Flu Clinic on October 2, 2024 and a special Tax and Finance meeting on October 15, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- None

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None

14. CLOSED SESSION

- **CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO ILLINOIS STATUTES SECTION 5 ILCS 120/2 (C) (1) IN ORDER TO DISCUSS EMPLOYMENT MATTERS RELATED TO WORKER'S COMPENSATION**

- Member C. Keller made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to Illinois State Statute Section 5 ILCS 120/2 (C) (1) to discuss employment matters related to Worker's Compensation. Member S. Rich seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote of 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain
- Member D. Campbell made a motion to return to open session. Member D. McCain second. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote of 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain
- The regular meeting of the Effingham County Board reconvened. Chairman J. Douthit stated there was no action taken in the matters of employment.

15. ADJOURN

- Member C. Keller motioned to adjourn this meeting. Member M. Buzzard seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**