



Effingham County Board  
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# EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD

## REGULAR MEETING

October 16, 2023 – 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 Gillet-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, October 16, 2023 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, Elizabeth Huston, Doug McCain, Sandra Gillet, Jeremy Deters.

Pledge of Allegiance was said. Chairman J. Douthit gave the prayer. A moment of silence was held for the victims in the Teutopolis Anhydrous Incident.

#### 2. NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK PROCLAMATION

- Chairman J. Douthit read the National Apprenticeship Week Proclamation. Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the National Apprenticeship Week Proclamation. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion Carried.***

#### 3. RECOGNIZE PERSONS WHO WISH TO SPEAK ON AGEND/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- None

#### 4. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

##### APPROVE MINUTES

##### ACCEPT OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORTS

##### APPROVE BILLS – COUNTY BOARD PER DIEM & EXPENSES

##### COMMITTEE AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS

- Approve Acceptance of Blue Cross Blue Shield Quote for FY24 Employee Health Coverage
- Approve Acceptance of Delta Dental Quote for FY24 Employee Dental Coverage

- Approve Acceptance of Mutual of Omaha Quote for FY24 Employee Vision Coverage
- Approve Mound Township Decennial Committee Report
- Approve Intergovernmental Agreement – 911 and City of Effingham
- Approve Animal Control Lease Agreement
- Approve Kelly Lockhart as Replacement for Phil Toops, Effingham County Program Compliance Oversight (PCOM) beginning November 1, 2023
- Approve Appointments
  - South Central Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission- Robert Bohnhoff as replacement for Ernest Garbe
- Approve Airport Road Reconstruction (Section 21-00100-00PV) Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Effingham
- Approve County Contribution of \$765.96 for Employee Monthly Health Insurance Premium and \$300.00 for Employee HSA Account
- Approve FY24 Budget for 30-day Layover
- Approve Allocation of Additional \$7914.00 in ARPA funding for Payment of Added Costs from Emergency Masonry Repairs
- Approve Allocation of \$46,463.65 in Earmarked APRA funding to Effingham County Fair
- Approve Disbursement out of Contingency for Prior Years Trustees “Tax Sale Proceeds”
- Approve Modifying Regular Ambulance Oversight Meeting Schedule to Bi-Monthly

**CONSENT AGENDA PULLED ITEMS:**

- Member S. Gillet pulled item “Intergovernmental Agreement – 911 and City of Effingham”. Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #4M.
- Member E. Huston pulled item “Allocation of \$46,463.65 in Earmarked APRA funding to Effingham County Fair”. Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #4N.
- Member E. Huston pulled item “Modifying Regular Ambulance Oversight Meeting Schedule to Bi-Monthly” Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #4O.

**CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL**

- Member D. McCain made a motion to approve the consent agenda except items pulled under the committee agenda considerations. Member N. Soltwedel seconded. Motion carried on a roll call vote 7 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent; 0 abstain.
- **#4M - APPROVE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT – 911 AND CITY OF EFFINGHAM.**  
Member S. Gillet pulled this agenda item to abstain from the vote. Member D. Campbell made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement – 911 and City of Effingham. Member J. Deters seconded. Member S. Gillet abstained. **Motion carried** 6 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent; 1 abstain.
- **#4N - APPROVE ALLOCATION OF \$46,463.65 IN EARMARKED APRA FUNDING TO EFFINGHAM COUNTY FAIR.**  
Member E. Huston pulled this agenda item to abstain from the vote. Member T. Ellis made a motion to approve the Allocation of \$46,463.65 in Earmarked ARPA Funding to Effingham County Fair. Member S. Gillet seconded. Member E. Huston abstained. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 6 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent; 1 abstain.
- **#4O - APPROVE MODIFYING REGULAR AMBULANCE OVERSIGHT MEETING SCHEDULE TO BI-MONTHLY.**  
Member E. Huston pulled this agenda item to abstain from the vote. Member S. Gillet made a motion to approve Modifying the Regular Ambulance Oversight Meeting Schedule to Bi-weekly.

Member D. McCain seconded. Member E. Huston abstained. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 6 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent; 1 abstain.

**5. APPROVE FIRST RESPONDER RESOLUTION WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.**

- Member J. Deters spoke on the incident in Teutopolis with the Anhydrous leak. He presented the resolution to show support and honor for all the first responders in Effingham County. Several board members spoke in regards to the event. Member D. McCain made a motion to approve the First Responder Resolution. Member J. Deters seconded. **Motion carried.**

**6. APPROVE RESOLUTION – STATE OF ILLINOIS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT CORONAVIRUS PROGRAM WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.**

- The grant amount approved was \$125,599.36 in which \$114,181.00 is going back to the nine businesses who applied for this grant. Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the resolution of The State of Illinois Community Block Grant Coronavirus Program. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried**

**7. APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF \$32,780.00 FROM CONTINGENCY FOR VOTER REGISTRATION SOFTWARE WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.**

- The voter registration software with Platinum Technologies has the capability for voters to check their status, info on the polling place and their vote by mail ballot. This software will also report the election results on election night on the county website. Member D. McCain made a motion to approve the disbursement of \$32,780.00 from contingency for the voter registration software. Member S. Gillet seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 7 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent; 0 abstain.

**8. ELECTION OFFICIALS REPORTS**

- Michelle Kollmann, County Clerk, stated last week the Recorder's office went live with the new software with Fidar. They are adjusting to the new process and this software has the ability for the public to search land records on line, the option for their customers to e-record their documents and to electronic file the property transfer tax declarations. The electronic filing of the PTAX form will help the Assessor's office too. The vital record's dept also had a software change to Fidar which allows couples to apply for a marriage license online and soon the office will give the public the option to request for certified copies of birth, death and marriages online too.
- Paul Kuhns, Sheriff, noted that his department is working on getting mental health assistance for the inmates in the jail which will be for 4 hours of counseling a week. The mental health care will be from Heartland Human Services is scheduled to start on October 23, 2023.
- Aaron Jones, States Attorney, noted the Safe-T Act has been in effect for a month and details are being worked out. There are still questions on the act and the legislation. Paul and Aaron stated it has been a team effort to implement this new act.
- Deb Ruholl, Treasurer, stated the first disbursement of taxes will take place by the end of the week. The second installment of taxes will be due on November 3, 2023.
- Kim Rhodes, Coroner, thanked Jeremy for the resolution. She gave an update on the victims from the incident.

**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Josh Douthit suggested the board members visit the Effingham County Fairgrounds to check out the progress on the carnival area. Josh gave recognition to the St. Anthony golf team and St. Anthony Jr. High cross country team.
- Dave Campbell thanked Jeremy for the resolution and Phil Toops as the PCOM coordinator for his service.

- Norbert Soltwedel talked about the proposed 30 day lay over budget.

#### **10. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Kelly Lockhart was introduced as the new Effingham County PCOM coordinator. He has been with Coles County for 10 years. This a mandated position to oversee the funding for public transportation.
- Courtney Yockey spoke on the monthly webinar which will be Hometown Holiday Happenings to inform the public on the holiday events and to encourage shopping at local businesses.
- Angie Thompson stated the new county website will be completed in January 2024. Also, she talked about the online training for sexual harassment and cybersecurity.

#### **11. CLOSED SESSION**

- **CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO ILLINOIS STATUTES SECTION 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) IN ORDER TO DISCUSS REAL ESTATE**
- **CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO ILLINOIS STATUTES SECTION 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) IN ORDER TO DISCUSS LITIGATION**

Member J. Deters made a motion to go into Closed Session. Member D. McCain seconded. Motion carried on a roll call vote 7 ayes; 0 nays; 1 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 real estate or litigation.

#### **12. ADJOURN**

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