



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

EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

October 21, 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, October 21, 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. APPROVE MINUTES

ACCEPT OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORTS

APPROVE BILLS – COUNTY BOARD PER DIEM & EXPENSES

COMMITTEE AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS

Legislative/Personnel Committee

- Approve Resolution - Appellate Prosecutor

Road and Bridge Committee

- Approve Form BLR 02120-Resolution Requesting Consent to the Reappointment of the Incumbent as County Engineer
- Approve Minor Subdivision by Jack Poff Located NW of Shumway

Building and Grounds Committee

- Approve Authorization for County Board Chairman to Draft RFP for Historic Courthouse Roof Replacement and Investigate Funding Opportunities for Project

- Approve Removal of Dying Tree on SE Corner of Historic Courtyard with Replacement of New Tree

Tax and Finance Committee

- Approve Stipend of up to \$1000.00 Monthly for Premium of County Employees Enrolled in County Group Health Coverage Programs along with Stipend of \$1650.00 to Health Savings Accounts of Enrolled Employees
- Approve Eliminating Group Health Insurance Waiver Incentive
- Approve Eliminating Medicare Incentive
- Approve Allocation of \$100,000.00 of Opioid Settlement Funding to Effingham County Sheriff's Office
- Approve Return of \$60.91 in Previously Allocated ARPA Funding for Mason Township Park District to ARPA Funds
- Approve Allocation of \$54,895.00 in ARPA Funding for Historic Courtyard and Gazebo Project
- Approve Intergovernmental Agreement with County of Effingham and City of Effingham for Historic Courtyard and Gazebo Project
- Approve Allocation of \$3600.00 in ARPA Funding to Childcare Research Committee for Gap Scholarship Recipient Retroactive to September 2024
- Approve Allocation of \$3600.00 in ARPA Funding to Childcare Research Committee for Gap Scholarship Recipient
- Approve Disbursement of \$15,000.00 to Effingham Regional Growth Alliance
- Approve Effingham Sheriff's Office Disposal of Abandoned Property to FISH
- Approve Disbursement of \$98,421.00 for Payment to Superior Windows Company
- Approve Proposed FY24 Tax Levy with Amendments

CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS

- Member S. Rich pulled agenda item "Approve Intergovernmental Agreement with County of Effingham and City of Effingham for Historic Courtyard and Gazebo Project" Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #4-A
- Chairman J. Douthit pulled agenda item "Approve Proposed FY24 Tax Levy with Amendments" Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #4-B

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

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

Member N. Soltwedel commended Paul Kuhns, Sheriff, on his proposal for the treatment plan on opioid and drug use for the jail inmates.

4. EXTRACTED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

#4-A - APPROVE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH COUNTY OF EFFINGHAM AND CITY OF EFFINGHAM FOR HISTORIC COURTYARD AND GAZEBO PROJECT

Member S. Rich pulled this agenda to abstain from the vote. Member D. McCain made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with County of Effingham and City of Effingham for Historic Courtyard and Gazebo Project. Member T. Ellis seconded. Member S. Rich abstained from voting. One member opposed. **Motion carried.**

- **#4-B - APPROVE PROPOSED FY24 TAX LEVY WITH AMENDMENTS**

Chairman J. Douthit stated this agenda item was pulled because it needs to be tabled until the special board meeting held the end of November. Member C. Keller made a motion to table the

FY24 Tax Levy with amendments until the special board meeting next month. Member S. Rich seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

5. APPROVE PROPOSED FY25 BUDGET FOR THIRTY (30) DAY LAYOVER WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Chairman J. Douthit stated this agenda item needed formal action in order place the proposed FY25 budget for a 30 day layover. The proposed budget will be made available for public inspection. Member N. Soltwedel made a motion to approve the proposed FY25 budget for a 30 day layover. Member J. Deters seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain

6. APPROVE F&C CONCRETE AGREEMENT FOR HISTORIC COURTYARD AND GAZEBO PROJECT WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Chairman J. Douthit stated he has met with the contractor and all funding has approved. Aaron Jones, States Attorney, stated a provision was added to the agreement to require lien waivers from subcontractors from the general contractor. Member T. Ellis made motion to approve the F & C Concrete agreement with the additional verbiage. Member D. McCain seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

7. ELECTION OFFICIALS REPORTS

- Michelle Kollmann, County, Clerk, stated the preparation for the November General Elections is moving along. As of today, they had over 2000 early voters, mailed out around 1650 ballots with a total of approx. 725 ballots having been returned back to the office. Last week the State Board of Election conducted an internal test of the DS200 tabulators and they found no issues. This Friday, October 25 at 9:00 a.m. our office will hold the public test and the public may attend.
- Deb Ruholl, Treasurer, informed the board the second installation of taxes were due on October 18 and over 63 million dollars in taxes have been collected. The second distribution of taxes will take place on November 18. Also, certified letters for unpaid taxes will be mailed on November 8.
- Angie Thompson, County Board office administrator, informed the department heads the budget for their office will be sent out for review.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Doug McCain noted CEFS is looking for some help.
- Tim Ellis thanked Sheriff Paul Kuhns on his hard work with the Opioid treatment plan. Also, a thank you to Chairman Josh Douthit for his efforts on the Courtyard and Gazebo project and partnering with the City of Effingham for additional funds.
- Josh Douthit also thanked the City of Effingham for the additional funds and the working relationship the County and City have.
- Josh Douthit noted Hope Trust will be on site at the County Building for open enrollment with county employees on October 22 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. He thanked the county board members for their support on the \$1,000.00 employee monthly stipend.
- Josh Douthit talked about the completed window replacement project with Superior Windows Co. He complimented Chad Walls on his assistance with the project.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Courtney Yockey informed the board Thursday October 25 will be the Rural Partners Showcase at Dieterich.

10. CLOSED SESSION

- **CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO ILLINOIS STATUTES SECTION 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) IN ORDER TO DISCUSS REAL ESTATE MATTERS RELATED TO PURCHASE OF PROPERTY.**
- Member C. Keller made a motion to go into Closed Session Pursuant to Illinois Statutes Section 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(5) In Order To Discuss Real Estate Matters Related To Purchase Of Property. Member D. McCain seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote of 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain
- Member S. Rich made a motion to return to open session. Member D. Campbell 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 the board acted in closed session. This is in regards to the Rebuild Illinois Grant with Effingham Public Transportation for their maintenance facility building. The board will purchase 3 acres of real estate on South Raney Street in the amount of \$150,000.00. The purchase is from American Way Enterprise Park Partners. Member J. Deters made a motion to enter into a purchase agreement with American Way Enterprise Park Partners for 3 acres in the amount of \$150,000.00. Member C. Keller seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote of 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

11. ADJOURN

- Member C. Keller motioned to adjourn this meeting. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**