



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

Tax & Finance
Committee of the Whole of the Effingham County Board
3rd Floor Board Room, Effingham County Building
Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

TAX & FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: Norbert Soltwedel Chairman, Sandi Rich Vice Chair, Chris Keller, Dave Campbell, Josh Douthit, Doug McCain, Jeremy Deters, Tim Ellis, Mike Buzzard

Committee Members Present: Chair N. Soltwedel, Vice Chair S. Rich, C. Keller, D. Campbell, J. Douthit, D. McCain, J. Deters, M. Buzzard.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Norbert Soltwedel

1. Approve Minutes

Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the minutes. Member C. Keller seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

2. Unfinished Business

• ARPA Earmarked Funds

○ Effingham Childcare Research – Gap Scholarship

Courtney Yockey, Childcare Research Committee, stated the research committee reviewed an application but the candidate is not eligible for the program. After the previous meeting, another application was received from Brayden Hubble. He meets the qualifications and has recently applied for CCAP. Courtney is requesting the application be approved without recommendation from the childcare committee. Member M. Buzzard made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the Gap Scholarship for Brayden Hubble. Member C. Keller seconded. Member J. Douthit questioned the application request for APRA funds. He wanted know if the applicants request for the scholarship was within the deadline and if it was a modification of funding. Courtney gave an update on the current applicants for the scholarship and the remaining allocated ARPA funds for the current applicants. There was discussion of the deadline for the applicants, the current applications and to table the above request. Member M.

Buzzard made a modification to his motion. Member M. Buzzard made a motion to recommend to the full board to table the approval of the application for the Gap Childcare scholarship. Member C. Keller seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

- **Effingham County Regional Airport Hangar**

Greg Koester, Airport, submitted a report breaking down the expenses for the airport hangar. He provided an update on the allocated ARPA funds for the Regional Airport.

- **Effingham County Regional Airport A/C Unit**

Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board to allocate \$10,000.00 in earmarked ARPA funds for the Regional Airport for the A/C unit. Member S. Rich seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

- **Effingham County Highway Department**

Greg Koester, County Engineer, provided an update and report that noted which ARPA funds that have been spent on the Township Bridge Program and the remaining ARPA funds to be spent.

- **Historic Courthouse Courtyard and Gazebo**

There was no action on this agenda item

- **Village of Montrose**

The Village of Montrose submitted a list of improvements and expenses for their project. Member J. Deters made a motion to recommend to the full board to allocate \$17,692.74 of earmarked ARPA funds to the Village of Montrose. Member C. Keller seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

- **Effingham County Museum**

Member J. Douthit stated all bids were opened and only one bidder was under the earmarked ARPA amount for the County Museum roof. It was suggested to discuss the bids at the county board meeting and this item be placed on the agenda as without committee recommendation. Member J. Deters made a motion to recommend to the full board to table this agenda item to the regular county board meeting on December 16, 2025. Member S. Rich seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried***

- **Mason Township**

There was action on this agenda item under Re-Allocation of Unused ARPA Funds.

- **Village of Dieterich**

Member C. Keller made a motion to recommend to the full board to allocate \$25,000.00 of earmarked ARPA funds to the Village of Dieterich. Member M. Buzzard seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

- **Banner Township**

There was action on this agenda item under Re-Allocation of Unused ARPA Funds.

- **Dive Rescue**

Member D. Campbell made a motion to recommend to the full board to allocate \$5,000.00 in earmarked ARPA funds to Dive Rescue. Member J. Douthit seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

- **Effingham County Sheriff's Office**

Travis Buhnerkmpe, Chief Deputy, noted \$887.00 of earmarked ARPA funds will be returned back to the ARPA fund. The final cost of the padded jail cell was \$23,394.00. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board to return back \$887.00 to the ARPA fund. Member C. Keller seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.** Member J. Deters made a motion to recommend to the full board to allocate \$23,394.00 in earmarked ARPA funds to the Sheriff's dept for the padded jail cell. Member C. Keller seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

3. New Business

- **ARPA Funding**

- **Assignment in Oversight of Childcare Committee Duties**

- **Dissolve Effingham County Oversight Childcare Committee**

Courtney Yockey spoke to the board in what matter the Oversight Childcare Research Committee and administration should move forward. He discussed the needs of the committee and the need to assign duties or dissolve the childcare committee. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board to dissolve the Childcare Research committee and to turn over all remaining duties to the Tax and Finance committee. The Tax and Finance committee will handle the current scholarships Member M. Buzzard seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

- **Re-Allocation of Unused ARPA Funds**

- Childcare Research Gap Scholarship - There was discussion on the pending applications for the Childcare Gap scholarship. It was decided to honor the two current applications for the Childcare Gap scholarships. Those funds for the current applications were allocated. Member J. Deters made a motion to recommend to the full board to return back \$39,900.00 of the remaining ARPA fund for Childcare Research Gap scholarship back to the ARPA fund. Member S. Rich seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

- EMA Generator – Pals Electric submitted a bid for the inspection and maintenance of the EMA generator. Pam Jacobs, EMA Director, stated her office will cover the inspection costs of \$375.00. The generator full maintenance and repair costs of \$3,675.00 will be covered under ARPA funds. The repair technician stated the generator is solid and in great condition. It was stated going forward the annual maintenance will be funded by EMA. Member D. Campbell made a motion to recommend to the full board to allocate \$3,675.00 of earmarked ARPA funds to EMA for the generator maintenance. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried**

- Regional Airport A/C unit replacement – The total cost for the second air conditioning unit for Regional Airport is \$9,863.00. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board to allocate \$9,863.00 in ARPA funds to the Regional Airport for the second A/C unit for the airport. Member D. Campbell seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

- Mason Township - Mason Township submitted a previous request of \$80,000.00 for ARPA funding. This request was for the Mason Township storage building. There has already been an earmark of \$63,000.00 in ARPA funds for this project. Member C. Keller made a motion to recommend to the full board to increase the allocation of ARPA funds by \$17,000.00 to Mason Township for the storage building project. The total allocation of ARPA funds will be \$80,000.00 Member S. Rich seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

- Banner Township - Banner Township submitted a previous request for \$15,000.00 for a purchase a new truck. There has already been an earmark of \$12,811.00 in ARPA funds for this purchase. Member S. Rich made a motion to recommend to the full board to increase the allocation of ARPA funds by \$2,189.00 for Banner Township for the purchase of a new truck. The total allocation of ARPA funds will be \$15,000.00. Member M. Buzzard seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**
- 4-Way Stop Sign on Moccasin Road – The total cost of the 4-Way light stop sign is \$11,917.08. The total remaining ARPA funds that have not been earmarked or allocate is \$8,060.00. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board to allocate \$8,060.00 for the 4-Way Stop Sign on Moccasin Road. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**
- **Effingham County Senior Services**
The Effingham County Senior Services receive an annual contribution of \$15,000.00 for their services. Member C. Keller made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the annual \$15,000.00 contribution. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**
- **Effingham County Chamber of Commerce**
Capital Investor Catalyst Membership Renewal
Becky Brown, Membership Director Effingham County Chamber of Commerce, spoke to the board on the renewal of their membership with the Chamber of Commerce. The renewal will be as a 2025 Capital Investor Catalyst membership. The renewal rate is \$3,180.00. She spoke on the benefits of being an Effingham County Chamber of Commerce member. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board to renew the membership with Effingham County Chamber of Commerce at the Capital Investor Catalyst level. Member C. Keller seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**
- **ClearGov**
Angie Thompson discussed the ClearGov budget software. She noted last year this software was presented and currently the County is on the last month in which a discount would be offered for the annual subscriber fee. The amount has been budgeted for the annual fee. She highlighted the benefits of the program and this would be a one year commitment. Member S. Rich made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the purchase of the ClearGov software. Member D. Campbell seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

4. Appointments

- None

5. General Information/Public Comments

- Courtney Yockey informed the board of More for Montrose which will take place on December 12. The Village of Teutopolis is updating their comprehensive planning and the meeting will take place on Monday, December 16.

6. Closed Session

- None

7. Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle M. Kollmann
Effingham County Clerk