



Effingham County Board  
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# EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD

## REGULAR MEETING

December 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, December 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

Reg Ankrom, with Simec Energy, who is an energy consultant gave an update to the board. He recommended to pause the electric aggregation program for one year and recommended to continue with Ameren for the next 12 months. The Ameren rate is the better rate and option for Effingham County.

#### 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 Updated FY25 Meeting Schedule

##### Legislative/Personnel Committee

- Approve Decennial Reports
  - Dieterich Park District
  - St. Francis Township

- St Francis/Teutopolis Multi-Township Assessing District
- Approve Resolution – Amending Predictable Fee Schedule for Recorder’s Office
- Approve Delinquent Property Resolution – Permanent Parcel Number 03-16-042-038
- Approve FY25 Employee Handbook with State’s Attorney Approval
- Approve Appointments
  - Dive Rescue
    - Terry Trueblood (12/16/2024-12/31/2026)
    - Jeremy Kyle (12/16/2024-12/31/2026)
  - 708 Board
    - Shannon Griffith (1/1/2025-12/31/2027)

**Road and Bridge Committee**

- Approve Award to Low Bidders from MFT Rock Letting

**Building and Grounds Committee**

- Approve Review of All Bids Received for Effingham County Museum Roof Replacement
- Approve Participation in ABE Community Solar Program

**Transportation Committee**

- Approve Submission of Architectural and Engineering Services RFP to IDOT
- Approve Updated FY25 Meeting Schedule

**Tax and Finance Committee**

- Approve Allocation of \$10,000.00 in Earmarked ARPA Funds to Regional Airport for A/C Unit Replacement
- Approve Allocation of \$25,000.00 in Earmarked ARPA Funds to Village of Dieterich for Community Building Roof Replacement
- Approve Allocation of \$23,394.00 in Earmarked ARPA Funds to Sheriff’s Office for Padded Jail Cell
- Approve Return of \$887.00 in Earmarked ARPA Funding for Sheriff’s Office Back to ARPA
- Approve Return of \$39,900.00 in Earmarked ARPA Funds for Childcare Research Gap Scholarship Back to ARPA
- Approve Allocation of \$17,691.74 in Earmarked ARPA Funds to Village of Montrose for Village Hall Improvements
- Approve Allocation of \$5,000.00 in Earmarked ARPA Funds to Dive Rescue for Equipment and Building/Grounds Maintenance
- Approve \$17,000.00 Increase in ARPA Funds for Total Allocation of \$80,000.00 in ARPA Funds to Mason Township for Storage/Office Building
- Approve \$2,189.00 Increase in ARPA Funds for Total Allocation of \$15,000.00 in ARPA Funds to Banner Township for Vehicle Purchase
- Approve Allocation of \$9,863.00 in ARPA Funds to Regional Airport for Second A/C Unit Replacement
- Approve Allocation of \$3,675.00 in ARPA Funds to EMA for Generator Rehabilitation
- Approve Allocation of \$8,060.00 in ARPA Funds to Highway Department for 4-Way Stop Updates on Moccasin Road
- Approve Dissolution of Effingham County Childcare Committee and Turn Over Duties to Tax and Finance Committee to Monitor Last Two Years of Scholarship Payments
- Approve Disbursement of \$15,000.00 to Effingham County Senior Services
- Approve Renewal of Capital Investor Catalyst Membership with Effingham County Chamber of Commerce
- Approve ClearGov Budgeting Software with Review of Program in September 2025

**Public Safety Committee**

- None

**Reports Committee**

- None

#### **Ambulance Oversight Committee**

- Approve Renewal of Contract with RuralMed for a 12-Month Term

#### **CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS**

- Member D. Campbell pulled agenda item “Approve Resolution – Amending Predictable Fee Schedule for Recorder’s Office”. Chairman placed item as #4A.
- Member D. Campbell pulled agenda item “Approve Allocation of \$3,675.00 in ARPA Funds to EMA for Generator Rehabilitation”. Chairman placed item as #4B.
- Member D. Campbell pulled agenda item “Approve Allocation of \$8,060.00 in ARPA Funds to Highway Department for 4-Way Stop Updates on Moccasin Road”. Chairman placed item as #4C.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL**

- Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the consent agenda except items pulled agenda items. Member D. McCain seconded. Motion carried on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain

#### **4. EXTRACTED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

##### **#4-A - APPROVE RESOLUTION – AMENDING PREDICTABLE FEE SCHEDULE FOR RECORDER’S OFFICE**

Member D. Campbell pulled this agenda for Michelle Kollmann, County Recorder. She informed the board of some additional amendments that will need to be made to the predictable fee schedule. She highlighted the items that would be changed. Member C. Keller made a motion to approve the resolution amending the Predictable Fee Schedule. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

- **#4-B - APPROVE ALLOCATION OF \$3,675.00 IN ARPA FUNDS TO EMA FOR GENERATOR REHABILITATION**

Member D. Campbell pulled this agenda item. An update was received from Pals Electric in regards to the EMA generator maintenance. A leak was detected in the radiator which caused additional expense. The original amount was \$3,675.00 which is being paid from ARPA and the updated amount is \$6,250.00. There is a difference of \$2,575.00. It was discussed to reduce the ARPA allocation for the 4-way stop sign update on Moccasin Rd or use contingencies to pay for the difference. Member S. Rich made a motion to approve a disbursement of \$2,575.00 from contingencies to pay for the additional expense for the EMA generator. Member J. Deters seconded. ***Motion carried*** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain

- **#4-C - APPROVE ALLOCATION OF \$8,060.00 IN ARPA FUNDS TO HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FOR 4-WAY STOP UPDATES ON MOCCASIN ROAD**

Member D. Campbell pulled this agenda item if an adjustment was needed for the EMA generator. Since the difference was paid from contingencies, there was no need to a change this allocation. Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the allocation of \$8,060.00 in ARPA funds to the Highway Department for the 4-Way Stop Updates on Moccasin Rd. Member C. Keller seconded. ***Motion carried*** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

#### **5. APPROVE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF EFFINGHAM FOR AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS AS APPROVED BY AIRPORT COMMISSION WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

It was stated this is the final document to initiate the request of payment of \$100,000.00 from the City of Effingham with the Effingham Regional Airport Runway Improvements Project. Greg Koester, Airport Commission, stated this a simple agreement. Aaron Jones, States Attorney, has reviewed and approved the agreement. Member T. Ellis made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Effingham and the Effingham County Airport Commission. Member J. Deters seconded. Member S. Rich abstained from the vote. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 7 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 1 abstain.

**6. APPROVE \$38,180.00 DISBURSEMENT OF EARMARKED ARPA FUNDING FOR HISTORIC COURTYARD AND GAZEBO PROJECT WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

Chairman J. Douthit stated he received another bill in the amount of \$38,180.00 from F&C Concrete for the Courtyard and Gazebo project. Member D. McCain made a motion to approve the disbursement of \$38,180.00 from ARPA funds for the F&C Concrete invoice. Member M. Buzzard seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain

**7. APPROVE AWARD OF BID FOR EFFINGHAM COUNTY MUSUEM ROOF REPLACEMENT WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

Chairman J. Douthit stated there were four bids presented for the County Museum Roof Replacement Project. The bid submitted from ProVantage was the low bid and within the earmarked ARPA amount. It was also noted the earmarked ARPA funds are \$200,000.00. Chairman Douthit pointed out some of the differences on the bids which included EPDM removal on parts of the roof and the cedar shake removal on clocktower. These differences added additional costs to the bid with ProVantage. Several board members spoke on the scope of the project with the clocktower, comparing the bids with the additional cost with ProVantage, gutters, not including the clocktower in roof replacement project and the concern with the museum being on the National Register of Historic Buildings. It was stated the museum is willing to assist with the expense up to \$50,000.00. The board members considered several different options to compare the costs for the roof replacement and to maximize all funding from ARPA and from Effingham County Cultural Center and Museum. It was decided to not do any replacement work on the clocktower at this time. Member T. Ellis made a motion to accept the bid from ProVantage for the Mansard Cedar Shake Roof Replacement and remove/replace all EPDM on ledge for a total amount of \$168,495.00. Member J. Deters seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain

**8. APPROVE ALLOCATION OF EARMARKED ARPA FUNDS FOR EFFINGHAM COUNTY MUSEUM ROOF REPLACEMENT WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the allocation of \$200,000.00 of earmarked ARPA funds for the County Museum Roof Replacement Project. Member M. Buzzard seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

**9. APPROVE ALLOCATON OF ANY UNDESIGNATED ARPA FUNDS WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.**

Member N. Soltwedel made a motion to allocate any remaining ARPA funds to lost revenue in the General Fund. Member C. Keller seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain

**10. ELECTION OFFICIALS REPORTS**

- Paul Kuhns, Sheriff, recommended to increase the office space currently leased to Pretrial Services. They are expanding and need additional space. Paul is willing to rent them the adjacent office room. He stated to increase the rent per foot with this new area and the lease is coming up soon. It decided to discuss this in the building and grounds committee.

- Deb Ruholl, Treasurer, notified the board of the upcoming tax sale which will be held on December 19, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. Currently there are 202 parcels which will be on the sale. She is expecting that number to decrease as tax buyers will be making payments before the tax sale.

#### **11. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Member D. Campbell informed the board the Economic Development Committee is working a possible second USDA Rural Development Grant.
- Member D. Campbell reported from Dive Rescue. They are thankful for the TowFish Sonar and pressure washer. Also, the trenching and gutter work will be done soon.

#### **12. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- None

#### **13. CLOSED SESSION**

- None

#### **14. ADJOURN**

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