



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

EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

December 18, 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, December 18, 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, Christopher Keller, Elizabeth Huston, Doug McCain, Sandra Gillet, Jeremy Deters. Pledge of Allegiance was said. Chairman J. Douthit gave the prayer.

2. EFFINGHAM REGIONAL CAREER FOUNDATION PRESENTATION

The facilitator and a student were present at the meeting for the presentation. Each spoke on the benefits of the program.

3. RECOGNIZE PERSONS WHO WISH TO SPEAK ON AGENDA/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 FY24 Health and Insurance Committee Meeting Schedule
- Approve Addition of Illinois Paid Leave for All Workers Act to Employee Handbook
- Approve Additional Personal Day for County Full-time Employees
- Approve Other Amendments to Employee Handbook

- Update Alcohol and Drug Abuse Policy
- Update Part Time Employee
- Update Overtime Compensation Policy
- Update to Victim’s Economic Security and Safety Act
- Update to Sick Leave Policy
- Update to Insurance
- Approve Mason Township Decennial Committee Report
- Approve Teutopolis Township Decennial Committee Report
- Approve FY24 Legislative/Personnel Committee Meeting Schedule
- Approve Appointments
 - Economic Development Advisory Board
 - Norma Lansing (12/18/23-11/30/25)
 - Ed Hoopingarner (12/18/23-11/30/25)
 - Todd Hull (12/18/23-11/30/24)
 - 708 Board
 - Betsy Scott (01/01/24-12/31/28)
 - 911 Board
 - Jason McFarland (12/18/23-11/30/26)
- Approve IDOT Compliance Review Audit for County
- Approve Local Public Agency Agreement for Airport Road Reconstruction (Section 21-00100-PV)
- Approve Resolution to Approve Lowest Responsible Bidders for Motor Fuel Tax Rock
- Approve Motor Fuel Tax 2024 Appropriation Resolution for Maintenance Under the Illinois Highway Code
- Approve Resolution Appropriating Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the 2024 County Engineer Salary
- Approve FY24 Road and Bridge Committee Meeting Schedule
- Approve FY24 Building and Grounds Meeting Schedule
- Approve Title VI Transportation Plan Ordinance
- Approve FY24 Transportation Committee Meeting Schedule
- Approve up to \$3,600.00 Disbursement in ARPA Funding for Effingham Childcare Gap Scholarship Applicant
- Approve \$15,000.00 Disbursement to Effingham County Senior Services
- Approve Effingham Chamber of Commerce 2024 Capital Investor Catalyst Membership Renewal
- Approve Purchase of SHRM Handbook Builder Program
- Approve Amended FY24 Salary Schedule
- Approve FY24 Tax and Finance Committee Meeting Schedule
- Approve FY24 Ambulance Oversight Committee Meeting Schedule
- Approve Membership with Discover Downstate Illinois
- Approve FY24 Economic Development Advisory Board Meeting Schedule

CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS

Member S. Gillet pulled item “Approve Effingham Chamber of Commerce 2024 Capital Investor Catalyst Membership Renewal.” Chairman J. Douthit placed item as # 4N.

Member D. Campbell pulled item “Approve Membership with Discover Downstate Illinois”. Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #4O.

Member E. Huston pulled item “Approve FY24 Ambulance Oversight Committee Meeting Schedule”. Chairman J. Douthit placed item as # 4P.

Member J. Deters pulled approval of the minutes. Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #4Q.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

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

 - **#4N - APPROVE EFFINGHAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2024 CAPITAL INVESTOR CATALYST MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL.**
Member S. Gillet pulled this agenda item to explore the benefits the Effingham County board receives from this membership renewal. Chairman J. Douthit explained and listed the benefits of the Capital Investor Catalyst membership. Member D. McCain made a motion to approve the Effingham Chamber of Commerce 2024 Capital Investor Catalyst membership renewal. Member C. Keller seconded. ***Motion carried*** on a roll call vote of 6 ayes; 2 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

 - **#4O - APPROVE MEMBERSHIP WITH DISCOVER DOWNSTATE ILLINOIS**
A representative with Discover Downstate Illinois was available at the meeting and presented packets about the membership. This membership supports tourism within Effingham County with no financial commitment. This will not be a conflict with the City of Effingham tourism bureau since they represent tourism in the city. A letter is needed from Effingham County to certify as a bureau. Member C. Keller motion to approve the membership with Discover Downstate Illinois. Member S. Gillet seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

 - **#4P - APPROVE FY24 AMBULANCE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE**
Member E. Huston pulled this agenda item to abstain from the vote. Member J. Deters made motion to approve the FY24 Ambulance Oversight Committee meeting schedule. Member T. Ellis seconded. Member E. Huston abstained from the vote. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

 - **#4Q – APPROVE MINUTES**
Member J. Deters pulled this agenda item to note a correction to the November Regular board meeting minutes. The correction needs to be made to the motion and the second of the adjournment of the meeting. The correction was verified and made. Member J. Deters made the motion to approve the correction. Member C. Keller second. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***
5. **APPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.**
Member D. Campbell made a motion to approve the Public Safety Committee 2024 meeting schedule. Member S. Gillet seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

 6. **APPROVE REPORTS COMMITTEE 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.**
Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the Reports Committee 2024 meeting schedule. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

 7. **APPROVE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.**
Member D. Campbell made a motion to approve the Capital Improvement Advisory Committee 2024 meeting schedule. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

8. APPROVE CHILDCARE RESEARCH COMMITTEE 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.

Member T. Ellis made a motion to approve the Childcare Research Committee 2024 meeting schedule. Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous. *Motion carried.*

9. APPROVE COUNTY BOARD 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.

Member C. Keller made a motion to approve the County Board 2024 meeting schedule. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. *Motion carried.*

There was discussion on the agenda presented at the meeting. There were two agenda items for IRS mileage reimbursement and the Centrica presentation that were not on the agenda which was posted to the public. These two items will be considered for discussion later.

10. APPROVE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY/PUBLIC PROPERTY ORDINANCE WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.

Aaron Jones, States Attorney, noted he made changes to the Enforcement and Penalty Section and added Section 8 Miscellaneous Provision. Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the Right of Way/Public Property ordinance as presented. Member S. Gillet seconded. Unanimous. *Motion carried.*

11. ELECTION OFFICIALS REPORTS

- Paul Kuhns, Sheriff, informed the board his dept. will be holding Sheriff Deputy testing on February 1, 2024. An application will be on the county webpage and he wants to inform the public of this testing. Paul talked about Deputy Dale who is a therapy emotional support dog. The program has been beneficial to the department and the dog and training was donated.
- Aaron Jones, States Attorney, noted he and the Assistant States Attorney attended the Winter States Attorney training conference. They learned a lot of valuable information.
- Deb Ruholl, Treasurer, noted her office did a second tax distribution of over 19 million dollars. The publication of delinquent taxes will be done soon.
- Kim Rhodes, Coroner, gave an update on a couple of the victims from the Teutopolis Anhydrous incident.
- Angie Thompson, board administrator, informed the board that the County's u-tube channel for streaming the meetings will be live soon.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Dave Campbell noted the balance of the Revolving Loan Fund is \$23,950.59
- Doug McCain thanked Josh for his work on the Employee Christmas Luncheon.
- Josh Douthit talked about the possibility of using tablets to go paperless at the meetings. He gave reminder about using the microphones during the meetings.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Chairman J. Douthit noted for the IRS mileage rate increase to .67 cents which will be addressed at the next meeting.
- Chairman J. Douthit discussed the Centrica window/solar project. He noted some upcoming deadlines and opened the floor for options and discussion. Each board member gave their opinions, concerns and feedback on the project. There was discussion on the different costs of the project, the need for an inspection of the current windows, maintenance of the solar project and possible masonry work. Sheriff Paul Kuhns talked about the price difference to replace the windows with the solar project, the need to have hinged windows on each floor for venting

purposes and hidden cost of painting and drywall. States Attorney Aaron Jones noted the scope of the work has changed.

14. CLOSED SESSION

None

15. ADJOURN

Member C. Keller made a motion to adjourn this meeting. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***