



Effingham County Board
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EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

November 18, 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, November 18, 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. RESOLUTION – HONORING PHIL HARDIEK ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 21 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

- Chairman J. Douthit read the resolution honoring Phil Hardiek on his retirement with the Sheriff's office. He was presented with a clock. Paul Kuhns, Sheriff, spoke on the employment of Phil Hardiek at the County. Member D. Campbell made a motion to approve the Resolution honoring Phil Hardiek on this retirement with the Effingham County Sheriff's Office. Member S. Rich seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

4. PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK; HONORING ANDREW HALL, INTERNATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP CHAMPION

- Chairman J. Douthit declared November 17 thru November 23, 2024 as National Apprenticeship Week in Effingham County. He read the proclamation and recognized Andrew Hall as the International Apprenticeship Champion. Andrew was out of state and unable to attend but his parents were present at the meeting. Kevin Sage with UA Local 149 spoke on the details of Andrew receiving this award.

5. 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 FY25 Meeting Schedule

Legislative/Personnel Committee

- Approve Proclamation – National Apprenticeship Week
- Approve Decennial Reports
 - Liberty Township
 - Summit Township
 - Montrose Fire Protection District
- Approve Effingham County Public Transportation – FTA Procurement Policy with Final Approval of State's Attorney
- Approve Effingham County Public Transportation – Financial Policies & Procedures Manual with Final Approval of State's Attorney
- Approve Illinois Emergency Management Mutual Aid Agreement
- Approve Coroner – Fire Fatality Investigation Conference
- Approve FY25 Meeting Schedule

Road and Bridge Committee

- Approve Resolution for Maintenance, BLR 14220, Appropriating MFT Funds for 2025 Maintenance
- Approve Resolution Reappointing County Engineer, BLR 02121
- Approve Agreement for County Engineer's Salary, BLR 09220
- Approve FY25 Meeting Schedule

Building and Grounds Committee

- Approve Effingham County Museum Roof Replacement RFP with State's Attorney Approval
- Approve FY25 Meeting Schedule

Transportation Committee

- Approve FY25 Meeting Schedule

Tax and Finance Committee

- Approve Allocation of \$604,791.00 in Earmarked ARPA Funding for Effingham County Airport
- Approve Return of \$295,209.00 from Earmarked ARPA Funding for Effingham County Airport to ARPA Fund
- Approve Return of \$512.33 from Earmarked ARPA Funding for Historic Courtyard Tree Removal to ARPA Fund
- Approve Allocation of up to \$17,692.74 in ARPA Funding to Village of Montrose for Village Hall Improvements
- Approve FY25 CIRMA Renewal for Liability Coverage in the amount of \$628,066.00
- Approve Disbursement of \$106,470.00 to F&C Concrete for Historic Courtyard and Gazebo Project
- Approve Disbursement of \$50,000.00 to F&C Concrete for Historic Courtyard and Gazebo Project
- Approve Disbursement of \$2,820.88 to Effingham County Highway Department for TREC Trail Maintenance
- Approve Intergovernmental Agreement – Effingham County & DCFS
- Approve Sarah Bush Employee Assistance Program for FY25
- Approve FY25 Salary Schedule
- Approve County Board Hosted Christmas Lunch and \$25.00 Gift Certificates to County Employees
- Approve FY25 Meeting Schedule

Public Safety Committee

- None

Reports Committee

- None

Economic Development Advisory Board

- Approve FY25 Meeting Schedule

Airport Commission

- Approve FY25 Meeting Schedule

Childcare Research Committee

- Approve FY25 Meeting Schedule

CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS

- Member C. Keller pulled agenda item “Approve Decennial Report - Summit Township” . Chairman placed item as #6A
- Member N. Soltwedel pulled agenda item “Approve Effingham County Public Transportation – FTA Procurement Policy with Final Approval of State’s Attorney”. Chairman placed item as #6B
- Member N. Soltwedel pulled agenda item “Approve Effingham County Public Transportation – Financial Policies & Procedures Manual with Final Approval of State’s Attorney”. Chairman placed item as #6C

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

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

6. EXTRACTED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

• #6A - APPROVE DECENNIAL REPORTS – SUMMIT TOWNSHIP

Member C. Keller pulled this agenda item to abstain from the vote. Member D. Campbell made a motion to approve the Decennial Report for Summit Township. Member T. Ellis seconded. Member C. Keller abstained from the vote. **Motion carried.**

• #6B - APPROVE EFFINGHAM COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION – FTA PROCUREMENT POLICY WITH FINAL APPROVAL OF STATE’S ATTORNEY

Member N. Soltwedel pulled this agenda item so it could be referred back to Legislative and Transportation committee for final review. He stated the policy needed to be more complete and he recommended Aaron Jones, States Attorney, review the FTA Procurement Policy. Member N. Soltwedel made a motion to refer the FTA Procurement Policy back to legislative committee for final review. Member D. McCain seconded. **Motion carried.**

• #6C - APPROVE EFFINGHAM COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION – FINANCIAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL WITH FINAL APPROVAL OF STATE’S ATTORNEY

Member N. Soltwedel pulled this agenda item so it could be referred back to legislative and transportation committee for final review. He recommends Aaron Jones, States Attorney, review the Financial Policies and Procedure Manual. Member N. Soltwedel made a motion to refer the FTA Procurement Policy back to legislative for final review. Member D. McCain seconded. **Motion carried.**

7. APPROVE FY25 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR AMBULANCE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Member S. Rich made a motion to approve the FY25 Ambulance Oversight committee meeting schedule. Member J. Deters seconded. **Motion carried.**

8. APPROVE FY25 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Member D. Campbell made a motion to approve the FY25 Public Safety committee meeting schedule. Member T. Ellis seconded. **Motion carried.**

9. APPROVE FY25 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR REPORTS COMMITTEE WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the FY25 Reports committee meeting schedule. Member S. Rich seconded. **Motion carried.**

10. APPROVE ALLOCATION OF \$130,000.00 IN EARMARKED ARPA FUNDING FOR HISTORIC GAZEBO AND COURTYARD PROJECT WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- This project has already been discussed but the \$130,000.00 was only earmarked. This agenda item is to allocate \$130,000.00 from the ARPA fund. Member T. Ellis made a motion to approve the allocation of \$130,000.00 from the ARPA fund for the Gazebo and Courtyard project. Member D. McCain seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

11. APPROVE \$15,056.67 DISBURSEMENT FOR REPLACEMENT OF VEHICLE FOR EFFINGHAM COUNTY CORONER WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- It was noted the Coroner's vehicle was totaled out from a car/deer accident. There will be a shortfall from the insurance payout and the difference needs be addressed. It is considered an unknown expense which is usually paid from contingencies. There was discussion if this used vehicle should be paid from ARPA. Member C. Keller made a motion to approve a disbursement of \$15,056.67 from contingencies for the Coroner vehicle replacement. Member D. McCain seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

12. APPROVE DISBURSEMENT FOR REMAINING COST OF VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FOR EFFINGHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.

- Travis Buhnerkempe, Chief Deputy Sheriff Dept, informed the board a squad car was involved in an accident. The vehicle is considered a total loss and full replacement would cost around \$70,000.00. The insurance company will payout \$31,340.09 plus 100% of labor to install equipment and 90% of the new equipment costs. There will be an additional cost for the graphics for the vehicle. The shortfall for the purchase of new vehicle after the insurance payout would around \$19,104.94. This would include the graphics. Member N. Soltwedel made a motion to cover up to \$19,104.94 from contingencies for a replacement squad car for the Sheriff's dept. Member C. Keller seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

13. APPROVE \$21,226.45 DISBURSEMENT OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TO WRIGHT'S FURNITURE AND FLOORING FOR CARPET REPLACEMENT WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- This amount has been budgeted. This agenda item is to make the disbursement from the Capital Improvement Fund. Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the \$21,226.45 disbursement from the Capital Improvement fund to Wright's Furniture. Member D. McCain seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

14. APPROVE RFP FOR CORONER MORGUE WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- The agenda item was stricken. No action or discussion was needed at this time.

15. APPROVE DESIGNATION OF REMAINING ARPA FUNDS WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- Chairman J. Douthit stated that all remaining ARPA funds must be designated and earmarked by December 31, 2024. An agreement or contract must be in place by the end of 2024. The project must be completed by 2026. The remaining ARPA funds available are \$394,092.04. There were several requests for the remaining ARPA funds.
- Lonnie Jansen, Mason Township board member, was present at the meeting to request ARPA funds for a storage building for Mason Township. He is requesting \$80,000.00 to assist with the expenses for the storage building. The township has some funds set aside for this project. The need for the building is to protect the equipment and provide an office/meeting area. The project is ready and contracts could be executed by the end of the year.
- Greg Koester, Airport Superintendent, requested ARPA funds for an air conditioning unit for the Effingham Regional Airport. A replacement unit would cost \$10,000.00 and to repair the unit would be \$5,000.00.
- Chairman Josh Douthit, informed the board RFP's have been sent out for the museum roof. It is anticipated the project to cost approximately \$200,000.00.
- Member Sandi Rich, spoke on behalf of the Village of Dieterich. They requested \$25,000.00 from the ARPA fund for a roof replacement project. This project is currently under contract.
- Member Dave Campbell spoke on behalf of Effingham Dive Rescue. They requested \$5,000.00 for a Towfish Sonar and a pressure washer. The Towfish Sonar would be beneficial for recovering bodies in water. There is also a need to have some trench work done.
- Member Norbert Soltwedel spoke on behalf of Banner Township. They requested \$15,000.00 for a smaller truck for road patching.
- Travis Buhnerkempe, Chief Deputy Sheriff Dept, requested ARPA funds for a padded isolation cell for the jail. They have received a quote in the amount of \$26,755.00. If they pay at the time of the contract, the cost will be discounted to \$24,281.00.
- There was discussion on the above requests, the remaining ARPA funds available and the priority of the above requests.
- The following designations of the ARPA funds were made.
 - Member J. Deters made a motion to earmark \$200,000.00 from the APRA fund for the Effingham County Museum roof replacement project. Member T. Ellis seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.
 - Member S. Rich made a motion to earmark \$25,000.00 from the ARPA fund for the Village of Dieterich for the Village Hall roof replacement project. Member J. Deters seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.
 - Member D. Campbell made a motion to earmark \$5,000.00 from the ARPA fund for the Effingham Dive Rescue for equipment and trenching. Member T. Ellis seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.
 - Member D. Campbell made a motion to earmark \$24,281.00 from the ARPA fund for the padded isolation cell in the Effingham County Jail. Member C. Keller seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.
 - Member T. Ellis made a motion to earmark \$10,000.00 from the ARPA fund for a new air conditioner unit at the Effingham County Regional Airport. Member S. Rich seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.
 - Member M. Buzzard made a motion to earmark \$63,000.00 from the ARPA fund for the Mason Township storage building. Member C. Keller seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.
 - Member N. Soltwedel made a motion to earmark \$12,811.04 from the ARPA fund for Banner Township to purchase a truck. Member J. Deters seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

- The remaining ARPA funds of \$394,092.04 were earmarked in the above motions.

16. ELECTION OFFICIALS REPORTS

- Michelle Kollmann, County, Clerk, informed the board they are finishing up the General Election. The Clerk's office will be finalizing the General Election and sending the results of the Effingham County's canvass to the State Board of Elections by the end of this week. The total voter turnout for Effingham County was just at 79%. Also, any final bills for the FY24 must be turned by Friday morning for payment.
- Paul Kuhns, Sheriff, stated his department is moving ahead with the MARS program. In the next 30 to 60 days there should be some movement.

17. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Norbert Soltwedel informed the board he attended the UCCI state meeting and noted Angie Thompson was a graduate of the Leadership Academy.
- Josh Douthit thanked the board members for their patience with the process to earmark the final ARPA funds. He also gave a brief update on the gazebo project.

18. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Lonnie Jansen thanked the board for the earmarked APRA funds for the Mason Township storage building.

19. CLOSED SESSION

- None

20. ADJOURN

- Member C. Keller motioned to adjourn this meeting. Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous.