



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

October 15, 2024 8:30 AM
Building and Grounds Committee Meeting

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Doug McCain, Tim Ellis, Norbert Soltwedel

Other Board Members Present: Josh Douthit

Committee Member Absent: None

Others Present: Sheriff Kuhns, Travis Buhnerkempe

Minutes

- Minutes from September 10, 2024 meeting were approved. T. Ellis motioned/D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

Unfinished Business

- Effingham County Museum – Delaine Donaldson shared work order received for roof replacement stating roof is 45+ years old. Discussion on numbers projected in estimate. J. Douthit inquired on requirements from Historical Society. D. Donaldson replied he believes as long as not major change to overall construction of structure, no approvals from Historic Society are necessary. J. Douthit stated he will be inquiring with gazebo construction project manager to ensure gazebo and historic courthouse are the same or similar in roofing material. J. Douthit shared roof replacement is something that will need to be completed so funding needs to be determined. T. Ellis inquired on grants. J. Douthit stated none found at this time. D. Donaldson shared his belief Landmarks Illinois may have grant funding available or could be a resource for funding. J. Douthit recommended using a type of poly material to ensure it will last. Sheriff Kuhns inquired on maintenance agreement for building from previous board. D. Donaldson shared original agreement was museum would ensure routine maintenance of building such as painting, plumbing, porch repair, electrical, etc. J. Douthit stated county owns building and feels it should be maintained by county as necessary. J. Douthit inquired if museum would be able to assist in funding. D. Donaldson confirmed. N. Soltwedel expressed concern with funding sourcing and urged the committee to enlist additional research. Sheriff Kuhns agreed with Soltwedel in concerns with funding, however agreed if county owns the building, it must be repaired accordingly. T. Ellis motioned authorization for Chairman to move forward with drafting RFP for roof replacement and investigation of funding opportunities. D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***
- Historic Courtyard and Gazebo Project – J. Douthit shared final action of City of Effingham approving up to \$50,000.00 contribution towards project. J. Douthit added with city contribution, a gap in funding remains so he plans to bring this concern to Tax and Finance Committee for ARPA funding. J. Douthit stated once approved, project is set to begin the next day. J. Douthit added the city will be upgrading electrical on grounds to 200 amps as well as some 50 amps at no cost to county. This upgrade will benefit Farmer’s Market as well as other events on grounds. J. Douthit to speak with contractor on shake for gazebo matching museum roof replacement. J. Douthit thanked City, Mayor, and City Administrator for finding value and contributing to project.
- Historic Courtyard – Tree on SE Corner – Sheriff Kuhns stated he has no update on tree status other than tree is soft maple and hollow. J. Douthit expressed continued concerned with branches falling. N. Soltwedel shared concern with removing another tree when gazebo project includes removal of other trees, however recognized arborist’s diagnosis of tree being diseased with it dying in the near future as well as sharing disease to other trees. J. Buhnerkempe shared quotes received from KTS and Buff’s Tree Service for removal of tree and grinding of stump. D. McCain motioned to remove tree and replace with new tree through Building and Grounds funds. T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

New Business

General Information/Public Comments

- County Building Windows Replacement Update –Sheriff Kuhns stated project went well. Sheriff shared that while installing windows, brick work concerns were raised as window installer felt windows wouldn't seal appropriately if not repaired causing an emergency masonry repair to be necessary. Sheriff Kuhns confirmed emergency masonry repairs were paid from Building and Grounds funds. Sheriff Kuhns recognized Chad Wells in his efforts to ensure a smooth, easy process in working with window company. Sheriff Kuhns stated has only positive things to say about windows project.
- County Building Carpet Replacement – T. Buhnerkempe stated October 28 is the start date for removing carpet with November 5 as anticipated date for lobby and elevators areas.
- J. Douthit shared gazebo project manager has recommended a branch possibly being removed from tree by Santa House for gazebo project.
- T. Buhnerkempe shared maintenance staff has reported jail roof is starting to get bubbles and will need to looked at in the next year or two for possible replacement.

Closed Session

Adjournment

- T. Ellis motioned and D. McCain seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. *Motion carried.*

Minutes submitted by Angie Thompson, County Board Administrator