



Effingham County Board  
101 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 301, Effingham, IL  
217.342.4990

# EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD

## REGULAR MEETING

February 20, 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, 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, February 20, 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, Doug McCain, Sandra Gillet, 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**

**3. RESOLUTION – HONORING JULIE REEDY ON HER RETIREMENT AFTER 10 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY STATE’S ATTORNEY OFFICE**

Chairman J. Douthit read the resolution to honor Julie Reedy on her employment with the States Attorney’s office and her retirement. She was presented with a clock. Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the resolution honoring Julie Reedy on her retirement and employment. Member D. Campbell seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

**4. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**APPROVE MINUTES**

**ACCEPT OFFICER’S MONTHLY REPORTS**

**APPROVE BILLS – COUNTY BOARD PER DIEM & EXPENSES**

**COMMITTEE AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS**

- Approve Watson Township and Road and Bridge District Joint Decennial Committee Report
- Approve Dive Rescue Damage Assessment Agreement with Approval of Legal Counsel from Both City of Effingham and Effingham County State’s Attorney
- Housing Authority
  - Approve Resignation of Billy Genaust
  - Approve Downsize of Housing Authority Commission Members to Five (5) Members
- Approve Final Plat for Stoneridge Subdivision, Fourth Addition
- Approve Final Plat for Obert/Rentfrow Subdivision
- Approve Chairman to Respond on Behalf of County for Risk Control Report
- Approve Centrica Solar Project along with Fixed Windows for Replacement Windows on Floors 2-4 with Exception of Vented Windows if Required by Code per Fire Marshal
- Approve \$247,800.00 in Earmarked ARPA Funding to Global Technical Systems for Fire Department Radios
- Approve \$11,370.29 in Earmarked ARPA Funding to Effingham Highway Department for TREC Trail Maintenance
- Approve to Release Remaining \$8,953.00 in Earmarked Funding for Effingham Farm Bureau Back into ARPA
- Approve Reallocation of \$40,359.01 in Earmarked ARPA Funding from Childcare Research Increased Capacity Program to Assist CEFS in Buildout of Outdoor Playground
- Approve Earmarking \$3,000.00 in ARPA Funding for County Board Member Tablets
- Approve \$5,000.00 in Hotel/Motel Funding to Effingham County Fair
- Approve Effingham/Effingham County Enterprise Zone Boundary Amendment for Prairie Ace Estates, LLC
- Approve Resolution – Personal Property Tax Replacement Distribution

**CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS**

- Member S. Gillet pulled item “Approve Dive Rescue Damage Assessment Agreement with Approval of Legal Counsel from Both City of Effingham and Effingham County State’s Attorney.” Chairman placed item as # 4L
- Member N. Soltwedel pulled item “Approve Chairman to Respond on Behalf of County for Risk Control Report.” Chairman placed item as #4M
- Member T. Ellis pulled item “Approve Centrica Solar Project along with Fixed Windows for Replacement Windows on Floors 2-4 with Exception of Vented Windows if Required by Code per Fire Marshal.” Chairman placed item as # 4N
- Member N. Soltwedel pulled item “Approve Effingham/Effingham County Enterprise Zone Boundary Amendment for Prairie Ace Estates, LLC.” Chairman placed item as #4O

**CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL**

- Member D. McCain made a motion to approve the consent agenda except items pulled under the committee agenda considerations. Member S. Gillet seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 7 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent; 0 abstain.
- **#4L - APPROVE DIVE RESCUE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AGREEMENT WITH APPROVAL OF LEGAL COUNSEL FROM BOTH CITY OF EFFINGHAM AND EFFINGHAM COUNTY STATE’S ATTORNEY**  
Member S. Gillet pulled this agenda item to abstain from the vote. States Attorney Aaron Jones gave his approval for the agreement. Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the Dive

Rescue Damage Assessment Agreement. Member D. McCain seconded. Member S. Gillet abstained from the vote. **Motion carried.**

- **# 4M - APPROVE CHAIRMAN TO RESPOND ON BEHALF OF COUNTY FOR RISK CONTROL REPORT.**

Member N. Soltwedel pulled this agenda item to amend the action to state County Board Chairman. The amendment will be made. Member N. Soltwedel made a motion to approve the Risk Control Report and the action should state County Board Chairman. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

- **# 4N - APPROVE CENTRICA SOLAR PROJECT ALONG WITH FIXED WINDOWS FOR REPLACEMENT WINDOWS ON FLOORS 2-4 WITH EXCEPTION OF VENTED WINDOWS IF REQUIRED BY CODE PER FIRE MARSHAL**

Member T. Ellis wanted to address some outstanding questions. The first was in regards to the insurance and the solar panels. It was noted the insurance policy premium would increase by \$750-\$1000. The other was per fire code the fire marshal does not require vented windows. Member S. Gillet discussed the removal and disposal costs of the solar panels. Blaine Meadows with Centrica provided a financial summary sheet to the board. The quoted total gross cost of the project for solar system and fixed windows for floors 2-4 will be \$681,821.00. There are two options for the incentives. One is to have the incentives taken off from the gross cost. The other is to pay the full amount and the incentives be applied to the county. Blaine informed the board of payment options. Paul Kuhns recommended 4 vented windows on each floor for HVAC purposes. The cost would be \$1,400.00 per vented window with a total cost of \$16,800.00. There was discussion on the placement of the vented windows. Member N. Soltwedel made a motion to approve the Approve Centrica Solar Project along with Fixed Windows on Floors 2-4 with a cost up to \$681,821.00 and allowing four vented windows per floor with a cost of \$16,800. Member D. McCain seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 6 ayes; 1 nay; 1 absent; 0 abstain.

- **# 4O - APPROVE EFFINGHAM/EFFINGHAM COUNTY ENTERPRISE ZONE BOUNDARY AMENDMENT FOR PRAIRIE ACE ESTATES, LLC**

Member N. Soltwedel read a statement opposing the amendment to the enterprise zone for Prairie Ace Estates. The statement noted the impact on tax revenues and that Prairie Ace Estates is an existing subdivision. Member D. Campbell made a motion to approve the amendment to the Effingham/Effingham County Enterprise Zone Boundary for Prairie Ace Estates. Member S. Gillet seconded. There were two oppositions to the vote. **Motion carried.**

**5. APPROVE \$10,000.00 DISBURSEMENT TO EFFINGHAM COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROMOTING FREE RIDEES FOR SENIOR, DISABLED, AND VETERANS RESIDENTS OF EFFINGHAM COUNTY WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.**

- It was noted this amount is matched by the State of Illinois. Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the \$10,000.00 disbursement to Effingham County Public Transportation for free rides to Seniors, Disabled and Veterans residents. Member C. Keller seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 7 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent; 0 abstain

**6. ELECTION OFFICIALS REPORTS**

- Deb Ruholl, Treasurer, stated the third and final distribution of real estate taxes has been made. The distribution was around 3 million dollars.
- Greg Koester, County Engineer, noted on January 19, 2024 the state opened the bids for the airport runway and the bids were below estimate. The bids to this project will be awarded next month.

- Kelly Lockhart, PCOM, informed the board the 3 year audit with IDOT will begin in April.
- Angie Thompson, County Board Administrator, reminded everyone the Chairman's Corner with Mike Bost will take place on February 22, 2024.

**7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Dave Campbell noted the revolving loan fund has funds available.
- Norbert Soltwedel informed the board a covered bus stop is in the works.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Jessica Wells, the U of I Extension Director, updated the board on the programs offered thru the extension center.
- Courtney Yockey noted the monthly webinar for the States Small Business Incentive will take place on February 29, 2024.

**9. CLOSED SESSION**

- None

**10. ADJOURN**

- Member C. Keller motioned to adjourn this meeting. Member S. Gillet seconded. Unanimous.  
***Motion carried.***