



Effingham County Board

101 N. 4th Street, Suite 301, Effingham, IL

217.342.4990

EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD REGULAR MEETING February 21, 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, Jeremy Kyle-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 Tuesday, February 21, 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. Member J. Douthit gave the prayer.

Roll call was taken with the following Board Members present: Joshua, Douthit, Norbert Soltwedel, Jeremy Kyle, Christopher Keller, Doug McCain, Sandra Gillet, Jeremy Deters.

2. AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS

- Member J. Kyle requested the "\$81, 200 APRA funds for the Effingham City/County SRT team" be removed from the Consent Agenda. Chairman J. Douthit placed this item as 4A.
- Member J. Kyle requested the "708 Board Appointment for Shannon Griffith" be removed from the Consent Agenda. Chairman J. Douthit placed this item as 4B.
- Member N. Soltwedel asked the "Presentation of Pacific Life to County Employees Within the Guidelines of County Policies and Procedures and Departmental Guidelines" be removed from the Consent Agenda. Chairman J. Douthit placed this item as 4C.
- Member E. Huston asked the "Applicant for EMA Assistant Coordinator" be removed from the Consent Agenda. Chairman J. Douthit placed this item as 4D.
- Member S. Gillet asked the "\$9,400 in ARPA funds for Effingham County Website" be removed from the Consent Agenda. Chairman J. Douthit placed this item as 4E
- Member J. Kyle asked the "911 Appointment for Effingham County Sheriff Paul Kuhns or his designee" be removed from the Consent Agenda. Chairman J. Douthit placed this item as 4F.

3. RECOGNIZE PERSONS WHO WISH TO SPEAK ON AGEND/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- Kelly Roepke, board member of the Effingham Regional Career Academy and President of the Y-Yard was available to discuss the reduction in the amount of APRA funds from \$330,000 and if this will be reconsidered. Kelly stated there is a need for trade skills/education and the need to invest in the work force. Member J. Deters commented the earmark amount was for tuition not equipment. Member J. Kyle stated he supports the ERCA and hopes a proposal comes back for equipment. Chairman J. Douthit agrees with the other board members and welcomes a full circle proposal to include other entities that will support the funding. This request will be on the agenda for the March Tax and Finance Meeting.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- The consent agenda was approved as presented except for “\$81, 200 APRA funds for the Effingham City/County SRT team”, “708 Board Appointment for Shannon Griffith”, “Presentation of Pacific Life to County Employees Within the Guidelines of County Policies and Procedures and Departmental Guidelines”, “Applicant for EMA Assistant Coordinator”, “\$9,400 in ARPA funds for Effingham County Website”, “911 Appointment for Effingham County Sheriff Paul Kuhns or his designee” There was on a roll call vote of 7 ayes, 0 nays.
- **4A APPROVE \$81,200 ARPA FUNDS FOR THE EFFINGHAM CITY/COUNTY SRT TEAM**
Member J. Kyle and Member S. Gillet requested to abstain from this vote. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays. Member J. Kyle and Member S. Gillet abstained from the vote.
- **4B 708 BOARD APPOINTMENT OF SHANNON GRIFFITH**
Member J. Kyle requested to abstain from the vote. Motion carried on a voice vote.
- **4C PRESENTATION OF PACIFIC LIFE TO COUNTY EMPLOYEES WITHIN THE GUIDELINES OF COUNTY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES**
Member D. Soltwedel discussed the county board’s endorsement of this product. This will only a presentation and the employees have the option to select the deferred comp plan. Chairman J. Douthit reinforced Pacific Life is only allowed to present to county employees. Motion carried on a voice vote.
- **4D APPLICANT FOR EMA ASSISTANT COORDINATOR**
Member E. Huston stated she was contacted by her constituents in her district on the EMA Assistant Coordinator job posting. Chairman J. Douthit stated it was posted in the lobby, county website and internally with department heads for two weeks. The funds for the EMA Assistant position will be paid thru EMA budget. Motion carried on a voice vote with one nay.
- **4E APPROVE \$9,400 IN ARPA FUNDS FOR THE FFINGHAM COUNTY WEBSITE**
Member S. Gillet would like to explore other website options and companies. Chairman J. Douthit sent out a brief survey asking feedback on the current website. The current vendor which is a local company is Imaginethis. Member S. Gillet is in favor of the update however would like to consider other local companies and other website ideas to make it user friendly. Member J. Kyle motion to table this line item to approve \$9,400 in ARPA funds for Effingham County website. Member S. Gillet second. **Motion carried** on roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nays
- **4F 911 APPOINTMENT OF EFFINGHAM COUNTY SHERIFF, PAUL KUHNS OR HIS DESIGNEE**
Aaron Jones, States Attorney, stated to table the appointment in hopes to have more information with a more concrete opinion. There are two components in this decision which are to advise the county board what their obligation is and to the Sheriff. These are separate issues and advice to each party. Aaron wants to talk to the Sheriff’s association. Member J. Deters motion to table the 911 Appointment of Effingham County Sheriff, Paul Kuhns back to Legislative/Personnel. Member C. Keller seconded. **Motion carried** on voice vote.

5. PRESENTATION OF CHAIRMAN’S COMMENDATION AWARD

Chairman J. Douthit issued the Chairman’s Commendation Award to Tony Hille, Jeff Baker and Chad Walls. They are employed thru the Sheriff’s office in the maintenance dept. They were recognized for their actions during the Christmas break in regard to a water break that could have caused severe

damage to the Effingham County Government Center. Member C. Keller motioned to approve the Chairman's Commendation Award to Tony Hille, Jeff Baker and Chad Walls. Member N. Soltwedel seconded. ***Motion carried***

6. APPROVE AMENDED E-ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The amended E-Environmental Solutions agreement was drafted by Aaron Jones, State Attorney, to include the information about any possible grant. In an event of a hazmat situation, this agreement states the responsibilities between the two parties of E-Environmental Solutions and Effingham County. Member E. Huston motioned to approve the amended E-Environmental Solutions Memorandum of Understanding. Member C. Keller seconded. Member J. Kyle abstained from voting. ***Motion carried.***

7. APPROVE ORDINANCE FOR COUNTY BUDGET AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Deb Ruholl, County Treasurer, gave a quick overview of the new Opioid Settlement fund. Member J. Deters motioned to approve the ordinance for the county budget amendment to include the Opioid Settlement Fund. Member C. Keller seconded. ***Motion carried*** on a roll call vote. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

8. APPROVE ORDINANCE FOR COUNTY BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR ARI FUND WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Cheryl Meyers, Chief Probation Officer, spoke about the Adult Redeploy Initiative. An amendment was needed to include the position of a data entry clerk and all salary and benefits are reimbursed thru the grant. This is an annual grant. Member J. Kyle motioned to approve the budget amendment for the ARI fund. Member S. Gillet seconded. ***Motion carried*** on a roll call vote. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

9. APPROVE ORDINANCE FOR COUNTY BUDGET AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE VEHICLE, VEHICLE MAINTENANCE, AND GAS AND OIL LINE ITEMS FOR SUPERVISOR OF ASSESSMENTS WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This amendment to the budget will include the expenses for the vehicle for the Supervisor of Assessment. Member J. Deters motioned to approve the budget amendment to include vehicle, vehicle maintenance and gas and oil line items for the Supervisor of Assessments office. Member C. Keller seconded. ***Motion carried*** on a roll call vote. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

10. APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF EFFINGHAM FOR MULT-AGENCY RESPONSE TEAM WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Member N. Soltwedel voiced concerns on equipment of the SRT team between the County and the City. Paul Kuhns, County Sheriff, stated that the equipment purchased from ARPA will be owned, property of and controlled by the county and stated in the resolution. The resolution is approving the agreement on how the SRT will be governed, team commanders' position and how the SRT will function. Member N. Soltwedel and Member E. Huston requested Aaron Jones to review the resolution. Member E. Huston motion to table this resolution for review by the States Attorney. Member D. Soltwedel seconded. Member J. Kyle and Member S. Gillet abstained from voting. ***Motion carried.***

11. APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF EFFINGHAM FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTOMATIC MUTUAL AID WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.

This resolution is already executed, adopted and in effect. This is an administrative action for approval. Member N. Soltwedel motion to approve the resolution for Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Effingham for mutual aid. Member C. Keller seconded. Member J. Kyle and Member S. Gillet abstained. ***Motion carried.***

12. APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH VILLAGE OF TEUTOPOLIS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTOMATIC MUTUAL AID WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This resolution is already executed, adopted and in effect. This is an administrative action for approval. Member J. Deters motion to approve the resolution for Intergovernmental Agreement with Village of Teutopolis for mutual aid. Member J. Kyle seconded. ***Motion carried***

13. APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF ALTAMONT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTOMATIC MUTUAL AID WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This resolution is already executed, adopted and in effect. This is an administrative action for approval. Member E. Huston motioned to approve the resolution for Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Altamont for mutual aid. Member C. Keller seconded. ***Motion carried***

14. ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS

- Michelle Kollmann, County Clerk, stated Early Voting will start on February 23 and the last day is Monday April 3. This will take place in the Benwood Conference room 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Election judge training will take place on Thursday, March 16 at the public library.
- Deb Ruholl, County Treasurer, stated February 10 will be the final distribution of the real estate taxes of 2021 payable in 2022. The final distribution will be \$1,909,144.68.
- Pam Braun, Assessor, thank the board for the approval the new vehicle for her office.
- Greg Koester, Engineer, replaced culver in Union twp. with ARPA funds and a project in Liberty twp. with ARPA funds.

15. COMMITTEE REPORTS - NONE

16. PUBLIC COMMENTS - NONE

17. CLOSED SESSION

Member D. McCain motioned to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel. Member C. Keller seconded. ***Motion carried*** on a roll call vote of 7ayes, 0 nays

- The regular meeting of the Effingham County board reconvened. In closed session the board discussed to action on a resolution executing an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Southeastern Illinois Drug Task Force. Member D. McCain motion to execute this agreement. Member J. Kyle seconded. ***Motion carried.***
- Side notes: Pam Jacobs with EMA was elected as vice president in Region 9 which is over 17 counties. Chairman J. Douthit was elected Ex officio board member to the Alliance. Effingham County flood map open house will be coming up at the City of Effingham on March 9.

18. ADJOURN

- Member C. Keller motioned to adjourn this meeting to Monday March 20, 2023. Member D. McCain seconded. ***Motion carried.***