



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

**Special Tax & Finance
Committee of the Whole of the Effingham County Board
3rd Floor Board Room, Effingham County Building
Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

TAX & FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: Norbert Soltwedel Chairman, Sandi Rich Vice Chair, Chris Keller, Dave Campbell, Josh Douthit, Doug McCain, Jeremy Deters, Tim Ellis, Mike Buzzard

Committee Members Present: Chair N. Soltwedel, Vice Chair S. Rich, D. Campbell, J. Douthit, D. McCain, J. Deters, T. Ellis, M. Buzzard.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Norbert Soltwedel

1. Unfinished Business

- None

2. New Business

- Chairman N. Soltwedel gave the individuals with a request for an increase in the tax levy fund to speak to the board.
- Michael Tate, Chairman of the 377 board, requested a \$20,000.00 increase to the Mentally Deficient fund in the tax levy. He stated they are short by this amount for full funding for the programs they offer to people with disabilities. Member D. Campbell noted the 708 board usually gets the same amount for the Mental Health fund.
- Jeff Workman, with the Effingham County Health Dept, presented information on their request to an increase to the County Health & TB fund. The Health Dept requested an increase of \$105,000.00. A packet of information was provided stating the increase would be used for operational costs and salary. There was discussion on grants that could offset some of these costs.
- **FY 25 County Stipend for Employee Group Health Coverage**
Member J. Douthit proposed an increase to the monthly employee insurance stipend to \$1,000.00. This would offset the cost for the group health insurance premium. He also proposed to have a one-time contribution to the employee's health savings account in the

amount of \$1,650.00. This contribution would be for employees who enroll into the Preferred Provider plan with Hope Trust. Currently there are 112 employees who would be eligible for this contribution but this would be budgeted for a possible 169 employees. Member Douthit suggested to eliminate the Health Insurance Incentive benefit and the 65+ Medicare Supplement payment. Those changes would be discussed at the October tax and finance meeting. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the one time contribution of \$1,650 to the employee's health saving account who enroll into the Preferred Provider plan and increase the employee monthly insurance stipend up to \$1,000.00 for those enrolled into the group health insurance. Member S. Rich seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

- **Proposed FY25 Budget and Tax Levy**

Chairman N. Soltwedel talked about the proposed FY25 budget and tax levy. Deb Ruholl, Treasurer, talked about the funding and the proposed increases to the tax levy must stay under \$302,000.00 to avoid the truth in taxation. There was discussion on costs from IMRF with the tax levy and how the ARPA funding affected the current budget. It was noted social security should be increased in the tax levy and contingencies was decreased to \$100,000.00 for the FY25 budget . There was discussion on the Veterans Assistance Commission budget and the possibility to honor the requests for the tax levy increases.

- 3. **Appointments**

- None

- 4. **General Information/Public Comments**

- None

- 5. **Closed Session**

- None

- 6. **Adjourn**

- Member J. Deters made a motion to adjourn this meeting. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle M. Kollmann
Effingham County Clerk