



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

**Legislative/Personnel Committee
of the Whole of the Effingham County Board
3rd Floor Board Room, Effingham County Building
Monday, January 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.**

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: David Campbell; Chairman, Jeremy Deters; Vice Chair, Josh Douthit, Tim Ellis, Chris Keller, Sandi Rich, Norbert Soltwedel, Doug McCain, Mike Buzzard

Committee Members Present: D. Campbell, J. Deters, J. Douthit, C. Keller, N. Soltwedel, D. McCain, M. Buzzard

This meeting was called to order by Chair David Campbell.

1. Approve Minutes

- Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the minutes. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous ***Motion carried.***

2. Unfinished Business

• Wind/Solar Farms

Member J. Douthit stated an updated ordinance was provided by Farm Bureau and Bill Bodine. This updated ordinance is in accordance with state statute. He noted Aaron Jones, States Attorney, has added verbiage to the drafted ordinance for Effingham County. This drafted ordinance is new from the last meeting. Aaron stated he included all the suggestions from Bill Bodine into the drafted ordinance. He stated there needs to be discussion on the details of application fee before a final ordinance can be prepared. Kathy Schroeder spoke to the board about the urgency of the ordinance. Also, she stated the need for a policy and guidelines to be in place to protect landowners and to monitor the companies with wind and solar. There was discussion on the regulations, land owners, tax revenue, the need for the county to have oversight and accountability. It was stated the application fee can be a flat fee or a rate per megawatt. Also, the ordinance would include what expenses the fee can be used for and the reimbursement of the unused fee. The committee was in favor of a flat rate and to continue with the wind and solar ordinance. Member J. Deters made a motion to table the Wind/Solar Farm Ordinance until next Legislative meeting for further discussion. Member C. Keller seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

3. New Business

- Resolution – Increasing Percentage of Operating Costs Paid from Downstate Operating Assistance Program
Member N. Soltwedel stated the resolution is to request an increase to the percentage of funds for the downstate operating assistance program. The funds cover eligible operating costs. The current percentage for funding is 65% and the resolution is requesting an increase to 75%. It was noted UCCI will lobby for this resolution to pass. Also, if passed in Effingham County, it is recommended to send the resolution to surrounding counties for support. Member N. Soltwedel made a motion to recommend to the full board to adopt the Resolution Increasing Percentage of Operating Costs Paid from Downstate Operating Assistance Program as proposed. Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**
- Decennial Committee Reports
 - Effingham Park District
Member J. Deters made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the Effingham Park District decennial report. Member C. Keller seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**
 - Stewardson Fire Protection District
Member C. Keller made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the Stewardson Fire Protection District decennial report. Member M. Buzzard seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

4. Appointments

- 377 Board – Natalie Bailey (02/01/2025-01/31/2028)
It was noted this is reappointment and it was confirmed that Natalie is willing to be on the board again. Member C. Keller made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the appointment of Natalie Bailey to the 377 Board. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

5. General Information/Public Comments

- Member D. McCain informed the committee that CEFS stated Meals on Wheels in financial trouble. There may be the possibility of no new clients and to reduce the service to four days a week.

6. Closed Session

- None

7. Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle M. Kollmann
Effingham County Clerk