



Effingham County Board
101 N. 4th Street, Suite 301, Effingham, IL
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EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD REGULAR MEETING February 18, 2025 – 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, Mike Buzzard-District F, Doug McCain-District G, Sandra Rich-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 18, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the County Board Room, County Building, City of Effingham, and State of Illinois.

The 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, Mike Buzzard, Doug McCain, Sandra Rich, Jeremy Deters. Pledge of Allegiance was said. Chairman J. Douthit gave the prayer. A moment of silence was held for the passing of former County Board Member Billy Genaust.

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

- None

3. RESOLUTION – HONORING JEFF BAKER ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 6 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

- Jeff Baker was not present at the meeting. There was no approval of the resolution.

4. PRESENTATION OF QUARTERLY REPORT FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEMS

- Member S. Rich gave a brief quarterly update on the Community Support Systems and how the funds were utilized from the 377 Fund. She highlighted staff member Miles Drees.

5. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVE MINUTES

ACCEPT OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORTS

APPROVE BILLS – COUNTY BOARD PER DIEM & EXPENSES

COMMITTEE AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS

- **Health and Insurance Committee**
 - None
- **Legislative/Personnel Committee**
 - None
- **Road and Bridge Committee**
 - Approve Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Construction, BLR 05310C (South Altamont Blacktop Resurfacing)
- **Building and Grounds Committee**
 - Approve Use of Historic Courtyard for Farmer’s Market on Saturdays, May 24, 2025 – October 25, 2025
 - Approve Authorization of Two (2) Year Lease Renewal for Office of Statewide Pretrial Services (OSPS)
- **Transportation Committee**
 - None
- **Tax and Finance Committee**
 - Approve \$10,000.00 Disbursement to ECPT for Free Rides for Senior, Disabled, and Veteran County Residents
 - Approve \$146,715.00 Disbursement in ARPA Funding to F&C Concrete for Historic Courtyard and Gazebo Project
- **Public Safety Committee**
 - None
- **Ambulance Oversight Committee**
 - None
- **Economic Development Advisory Board**
 - Approve Disbursement of \$10,000.00 from Revolving Loan Fund for Divine Hair, Skin and Nails
- **Capital Improvement Advisory Committee**
 - Approve Transfer of \$130,000.00 from Contingency Fund to Capital Improvement Fund
 - Approve FY25 Finalized Capital Improvement List and Investment Schedule

CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS

- Member D. Campbell pulled agenda item “Approve Disbursement of \$10,000.00 from Revolving Loan Fund for Divine Hair, Skin and Nails.” Chairman placed item as # 6-A.
- Member D. McCain pulled agenda item “Approve Joint Funding Agreement for Federally Funded Construction, BLR 05310C (South Altamont Blacktop Resurfacing)” Chairman placed item as # 6-B.
- Member J. Douthit pulled agenda item “Approve Transfer of \$130,000.00 from Contingency Fund to Capital Improvement Fund” Chairman placed item as #6-C.
- Member J. Douthit pulled agenda item “Approve FY25 Finalized Capital Improvement List and Investment Schedule” Chairman placed item as #6-D.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

- Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the consent agenda except items pulled from consent agenda considerations. Member C. Keller seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

6. EXTRACTED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- **#6-A - APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF \$10,000.00 FROM REVOLVING LOAN FUND FOR DIVINE HAIR, SKIN AND NAILS.**

Member D. Campbell pulled this agenda item to abstain from the vote. Kara Kirby, business owner, was present at the meeting. Member C. Keller made a motion to approve the disbursement of \$10,000.00 from Revolving Loan Fund for Divine Hair, Skin and Nails. Member S. Rich seconded. Member D. Campbell abstained. Motion carried on a roll call vote 7 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 1 abstain.

- **#6-B - APPROVE JOINT FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR FEDERALLY FUNDED CONSTRUCTION, BLR 05310C (SOUTH ALTAMONT BLACKTOP RESURFACING**

Member D. McCain stated the Joint Funding Agreement is waiting approval from IDOT. This agenda item needed to be table until next month. Member D. McCain made a motion to table this agenda item until the March Regular board meeting. Member D. Campbell seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

- **#6-C - APPROVE TRANSFER OF \$130,000.00 FROM CONTINGENCY FUND TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND**

Chairman J. Douthit stated this agenda item was pulled for clarification on where the funds need to be transferred from. Deb Ruholl, Treasurer, stated in review of the FY24 expense and revenues the amount of \$130,000.00 needs transferred. Member T. Ellis made a motion to move \$130,000.00 from General Fund Reserves to the Capital Improvement Fund. Member J. Deters seconded. Motion carried on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

- **#6-D - APPROVE FY25 FINALIZED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT LIST AND INVESTMENT SCHEDULE & APPROVE CHANGE ORDER TO INCLUDE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE TOWER SHAKE REPLACEMENT**

Chairman J. Douthit requested this agenda item be combined with agenda item #9 Change Order to include Historic Courthouse Tower Shake Replacement. There were no objections from the other board members. The payment for the courthouse tower shake replacement would be contingent on the finalized Capital Improvement list. Chairman Douthit gave an update on the existing roof replacement project. However, the contractor stated the need to replace some shingles on the clock tower to prevent any future issues. To replace the clock tower shingles will cause a change order in the amount of \$96,450.00. The museum board is able to contribute \$40,000.00 towards this project. There will be a shortfall of \$56,450.00. Chairman Douthit suggested to contribute \$56,450.00 from the Capital Improvement Fund and recommended to modify the FY25 Capital Improvement list. The modification would be a reduction in the amount for the security cameras at the County Building and Government Center. The amount of \$125,000.00 for the security cameras would be reduced to \$68,550.00. The courthouse stake tower replacement would be added to the Capital Improvement list with an amount of \$56,450.00. Member C. Keller made a motion to modify the Capital Improvement list to reduce the item for security cameras from \$125,000.00 to \$68,550.00 and to add the clock tower shake replacement to the Capital Improvement list in the amount of \$56,450.00. Member N. Soltwedel seconded. ***Motion carried*** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

7. APPROVE ADJUSTMENT TO ARPA EXPENDITURE ON 4-WAY SIGNS WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

It was stated \$305.00 was left over from the museum roof project. Chairman Douthit recommended to apply this amount to the ARPA expense for the 4-way sign. Member J. Deters made a motion to apply the remaining ARPA funds in the amount of \$305.00 to the 4-way signs. Member C. Keller seconded. Motion carried on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

8. APPROVE KREKE MEADOW SUBDIVISION (MINOR SUBDIVISION) WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Greg Koester, Engineer, stated this agenda item was not approved at the road and bridge committee meeting. This is considered a minor subdivision that needs approval from the county. Member T. Ellis made a motion to approve the Kreke Meadow Subdivision. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. *Motion carried.*

9. APPROVE CHANGE ORDER TO INCLUDE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE TOWER SHAKE REPLACEMENT WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Aaron Jones, State Attorney, stated it is alright to do a change order since it is within the scope of the work. Member C. Keller made a motion to approve the change order for the Historic Courthouse tower shake replacement in the amount of \$96,450.00 with a distribution of \$56,450.00 from the Capital Improvement fund. Member M. Buzzard seconded. *Motion carried* on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

10. APPROVE TERMINATION OF CENTRICA MEASUREMENT AND VERIFICATION SERVICES WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Chairman Douthit stated the previous board entered into the Measurement and Verification Services agreement with Centrica. This is an annual service for 15 years in which the fee increases yearly. It was discussed the board would monitor this in the future. It was suggested to terminate this service and according to Centrica there should be on penalty. Member J. Deters made a motion to terminate the Centrica Measurement and Verification Services contingent upon written verification there is no penalty to the county. Member S. Rich seconded. If there is a penalty Chairman Douthit will inform the board. Unanimous. *Motion carried.*

11. ELECTION OFFICIALS REPORTS

- Michelle Kollmann, County Clerk, reported for the April 1st Consolidated Election the first day to early vote will be Thursday, February 20 on the first floor of the County Building.
- Paul Kuhns, Sheriff, updated the board on the second and third floor flooring project.
- Greg Koester, Engineer, stated the Highway Dept is ready for the upcoming snow storm.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Dave Campbell stated Kara Kirby with Divine Hair, Skin and Nails was present at the meeting for the for the signing of the RLF agreement. The application for the second Revolving Loan Fund in the amount of \$99,000.00 was submitted. The 911 tower was approved to be repainted and the cost was \$5,200.00.
- Jeremy Deters thanked the board for the \$10,000.00 disbursement to ECPT for free rides. He will be contacting other entities for additional funds.
- Tim Ellis thanked the museum board for their contribution to the clock tower shake replacement.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Josh Douthit recognized Becky Wilson a teacher with Effingham Unit on her personal phone call from Governor Pritzker.

14. CLOSED SESSION

- Convene in Closed Session Pursuant to Illinois Statutes Section 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) in Oder to Discuss Employment Matters
Member S. Rich made a motion to go into Closed Session. Member D. Campbell seconded. *Motion carried* on a roll call vote of 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

Member J. Deters made a motion to return to open session. Member D. McCain seconded.

Motion carried on a roll call vote of 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

The regular meeting of the Effingham County Board reconvened. Chairman J. Douthit stated there was no action taken in the matters of employment.

15. ADJOURN

- Member C. Keller motioned to adjourn this meeting. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous.
Motion carried.