



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

Tax & Finance
Committee of the Whole of the Effingham County Board
3rd Floor Board Room, Effingham County Building
Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 3:30 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 (left early), D. McCain, J. Deters, T. Ellis, M. Buzzard.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Norbert Soltwedel

1. Approve Minutes

Member S. Rich made a motion to approve the minutes. Member M. Buzzard seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

2. Unfinished Business

None

3. New Business

• **Mill Road Thresherman Association Funding Request**

Taylor Feldkamp, representative with Mill Road Thresherman Association, was present at the meeting and gave a brief update on the annual show which takes place in August. Taylor talked about how the show increases tourism in the area. She requested \$10,000.00 for various expenses, insurance and rental of fairgrounds for the show. Last year the contribution was \$7,500.00. There are funds in the budget for this contribution. Member S. Rich made a motion to recommend to the full board a disbursement of \$9,000.00 from hotel/motel funds for the Mill Road Thresherman Association. Member J. Douthit seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

• **Effingham County Fair Funding Request**

Doug McCain on behalf of the Effingham County Fair request funds for the annual county fair. It was stated last year the board decided to a \$5,000.00 sponsorship level and these funds were applied towards police security. Travis Buhnerkempe, Chief Deputy Sheriff Dept, spoke on the

security cost from the previous year which was an estimate of \$6,420.00 and the expected costs for this year could be \$8,800.00. Doug requested a contribution of \$9,000.00 for this year's security cost. It was suggested to continue with the \$5,000.00 sponsorship level with part of these funds be used towards security expenses. Member D. McCain made a motion to recommend to the full board a disbursement of \$9,000.00 from hotel/motel funds to Effingham County Fair for the \$5,000.00 sponsorship level and security expenses. Member J. Douthit seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

- **FISH Funding Request**

Effingham County FISH submitted a request for a donation towards fundraising efforts for the services provided by FISH. There was discussion on the request and there are no funds the budget for this request. Member S. Rich made a motion to the full board to decline the request for a donation. Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

- **ARPA – Childcare Research Gap Scholarship**

There are currently two remaining applicants for the Childcare Research Gap Scholarship. The childcare research committee noted these two individuals are now ineligible for the scholarship. The amount that was allocated for the two scholarship was \$11,400.00. This amount will need to be returned back to the ARPA fund and the county can reallocate these funds. Member D. Campbell made a motion to recommend to the full board to return \$11,400.00 from the Childcare Research Gap Scholarship back to the ARPA fund. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

- **Historic Courtyard – Damage to North Approach Sidewalk**

During inspection of the courtyard grounds, it was noticed the sidewalk on the north side of the courthouse was damaged. Two squares of concrete were damaged during the replacement of the new roof when the lift was moved. ProVantage took ownership of the damage and F&C Concrete will repair the two damaged squares. There is shortfall of the remaining squares that will need to be replaced. The total expense from F&C Concrete to replace this sidewalk would be \$5,040.00. The cost to replace the two squares will be \$2,000.00 so the shortfall expense would be \$3,040.00. Member D. Campbell made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the allocation of \$3,040.00 from ARPA funds to repair the north approach sidewalk at the courthouse. Member J. Douthit seconded. Member S. Rich opposed. ***Motion carried.***

- **ARPA – Allocation of Funds**

A total amount of \$11,400.00 was returned back to the ARPA fund. Out of those returned funds \$3,040.00 was allocated for the repair of the north approach sidewalk on the historic courtyard. This leaves a remaining amount of \$8,360.00 of ARPA funds that needs to be allocated towards a project. There was discussion of the invoices for the county building flooring project on the Capital Improvement list with the reallocation of ARPA funds. After those invoices were paid the remaining amount would be applied to the security camera project. There was no action needed for the agenda item. It was for discussion only.

- **Capital Improvement Project Update**

This agenda item was discussed in the above agenda item. No action needed.

- **Health Department Infrastructure Improvements – Effingham County Highway Department Invoice.**

The Effingham County Highway Department staff completed some landscaping work for the Health Dept. An invoice was submitted for labor and equipment in the amount of \$566.32. Member J. Deters made a motion to recommend to the full board the disbursement of \$566.32 from Capital Improvement funding for Health Dept. Infrastructure Improvements to Effingham County Highway. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

- **Caulking of County Building 1st Floor Windows - Dan's Glass Invoice**

An invoice was submitted by Dan's Glass in the amount of \$3,750.00 for the caulking of the first-floor windows at the County Building. Member T. Ellis made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the disbursement of \$3,750.00 from Capital Improvement funding for caulking of first floor windows to Dan's Glass. Member M. Buzzard seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

4. **Appointments**

None

5. **General Information/Public Comments**

- **2025 Fiscal Year Financials Review**

Deb Ruholl, Treasurer, and Pam Braun, Assessor, gave an update on the current financial situation with Effingham County. Deb reported on the revenue side and the county is right on target and in good financial shape. Pam reported on her figures are considered estimates. She did note in 2023 out of 102 counties Effingham County is ranked 31st for total EAV. Pam talked about exemptions and the taxable rate setting EAV and educated the board on several aspects of the tax cycle.

- **U of I Extension**

Kasey Kemme was introduced as the recent new U of I Extension Director. She informed the board of her goals in her new role, a brief update on the extension and the 4-H program and provided the board with the 2024 Impact Report.

6. **Closed Session**

- **Convene in Closed Session Pursuant to Illinois Statutes Section 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5) in Order to Discuss Real Estate Matters Related to Purchase of Real Property**

Member D. Campbell made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to Illinois Statutes Section 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(5) in order to discuss real estate matters related to the purchase of Real Property. Member D. McCain seconded. ***Motion carried*** on a roll call vote 7 ayes; 0 nays; 2 absent; 0 abstain.

- The Tax and Finance meeting reconvened. Chairman N. Soltwedel stated that action was taken in closed session. Member T. Ellis made a motion to approve the disbursement of \$300,000.00 from Capital Improvement funding - Coroner Morgue for the purchase of property for a county morgue. Member S. Rich seconded. ***Motion carried*** on a roll call vote 7 ayes; 0 nays; 2 absent; 0 abstain.

7. **Adjourn**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle M. Kollmann, Effingham County Clerk