



Effingham County Board  
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217.342.4990

## EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD REGULAR MEETING August 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 Monday, August 18, 2025 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. 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.

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

- None

#### 3. PRESENTATION OF SHERIFF'S OFFICE DISTINGUISHED ACT AWARD TO DUSTIN L. HARDER AND BRIDGET J. HARDER

- Paul Kuhns, Sheriff, presented the Distinguished Act Award to Dustin and Bridget Harder. They were present to receive the award. Paul gave details of the event which took place on July 20, 2025 which included the Harders' assisting a driver whose vehicle was submerged in water. The board showed gratitude to the couple.

#### 4. 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**

- Approve County Holidays 2026
- Approve Appointments
  - Ambulance Oversight Committee – Ron Will (9/1/2025-8/31/2027)
  - Lucas Township Drainage District – Larry Probst (9/2/2025-9/5/2028)
  - South Island Drainage District – Kevin Miller (9/2/2025-9/5/2028)
- **Road and Bridge Committee**
  - None
- **Building and Grounds Committee**
  - Approve Use of Historic Courtyard, Museum Parking Lot, and County Building Parking Lot for Downtown Cruise & Car Show
  - Approve “Effingham County Courtyard Pavilion” as Name for New Pavilion
- **Transportation Committee**
  - None
- **Tax and Finance Committee**
  - Approve Earmarking \$2,588.89 in ARPA Funding for Flag Pole for Government Center
  - Approve \$1,500.00 Disbursement in Hotel/Motel Funding for Corvette FunFest
  - Approve Awarding RFQ for Effingham County Audit Services to West & Company, LLC
- **Ambulance Oversight Committee**
  - None
- **Public Safety Committee**
  - None
- **Reports Committee**
  - None

### **CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS**

- None

### **CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL**

- Board Member N. Soltwedel wanted confirmation that Aaron Jones, States Attorney, did give approval of awarding the audit bid to West and Co for auditing services with Effingham County. Chairman J. Douthit verified the lowest responsible bidder was accepted.
- Member J. Deters motion to approve the consent agenda. Member C. Keller seconded. Motion carried on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

### **5. EXTRACTED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

- None

### **6. APPROVE DISTRIBUTION TO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR TRADES, SKILLS & MANUFACTURING DAY WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

- Katie Koester, CEO of the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce, was present at the meeting and gave details of the upcoming Trades, Skills and Manufacturing Day which will take place on October 2, 2025. She requested financial support to promote the event and stated the prior contribution was \$2,000.00. Member T. Ellis made a motion to approve the contribution of \$2,000.00 to Effingham County Chamber for the Trades, Skills and Manufacturing Day. Member M. Buzzard seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

### **7. ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS**

- Michelle Kollmann, County Clerk, informed the board the Primary Election petition packets are available in the clerk's office. These are for the offices of County Clerk, Sheriff, Treasurer and Assessor, plus county board districts, A – B – E and H and precinct committeeperson. The filing period for this paperwork will be October 27 thru November 3. General Primary election day is on Tuesday, March 17, 2026.
- Deb Ruholl, Treasurer, stated the Treasurer's office mailed approximately 26,000 tax bills. The first installment due date is September 5 and the second installment due date is October 17.

#### **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Dave Campbell noted they are still waiting approval of the second revolving loan fund. The federal funds have not been released.
- Jeremy Deters, transportation committee, stated new buses will be in the fleet soon. Jeremy will be attending the City of Effingham meeting for additional funding.
- Tim Ellis, health and insurance committee, attended the annual Hope Trust Conference. He highlighted details from the conference, statistics on the company and noted a refund back to the county in the amount approximately of \$2,700.00.
- Sandi Rich stated she attended the UCCI conference with Norbert and Doug. She talked about a presentation on wind/solar energy that was very interesting and informative.

#### **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Courtney Yockey talked about the grand opening for the Effingham Technology Center with Lake Land College. He talked about the CORE classes and expressed gratitude for the support to these programs.

#### **10. CLOSED SESSION**

- None

#### **11. ADJOURN**

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