



Effingham County Board  
101 N. 4<sup>th</sup> 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, September 11, 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, C. Keller, D. Campbell, J. Douthit, D. McCain, J. Deters, T. Ellis, M. Buzzard.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Norbert Soltwedel

**1. Approve Minutes**

Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the minutes. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

**2. Unfinished Business**

None

**3. New Business**

- Effingham Regional Growth Alliance  
Courtney Yockey was present at the meeting and requested dues in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the Effingham Regional Growth Alliance. He summarized the different programs and projects the Alliance is associated with. It was noted this is the same contribution level as the previous year. The contribution was from the from the Economic Growth and Development fund. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the distribution of \$15,000.00 to the Effingham Regional Growth Alliance. Member C. Keller seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***
- Ham City Fall Fest  
Riley Pruemer was present at the meeting to request funding for the annual Ham City Fall Fest which will take place on Saturday, October 4. He highlighted the activities that will take place

for the event and requested a contribution of \$1,000.00. There was board discussion if the Ham City Fall Fest would qualify for hotel/motel funds. There was additional discussion on the hotel/motel funds and setting guidelines to apply for these funds. Member C. Keller made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the distribution of \$1,000.00 from the hotel/motel fund for the Ham City Fall Fest. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

- **FY26 Hotel/Motel Budget**

It was stated the FY25 Hotel/Motel fund is currently overbudgeted. The hotel/motel revenue is from the unincorporated areas in the county. There was discussion on how to determine the FY26 Hotel/Motel budgeted amount. A couple of options was to set the budget amount based on a percentage of the fund balance or budget a specific amount each year. There was a suggestion to set an application deadline and guidelines to apply for these funds. There was concern to not deplete the fund. Member S. Rich made a motion to recommend to the full board to set guidelines of 85% of the hotel/motel funding available as of October 1 for the next fiscal year budgeted amount. Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

- **FY26 County Employee Health Insurance Stipend**

It was noted there was 4% increase to the County's health insurance premiums with Hope Trust. The current employee monthly insurance stipend is to cover up to \$1,000.00 for the employee's individual health plan and a one-time contribution of \$1,650.00 to the employees with the Health Savings Plan. The suggestion would be to continue to cover up to \$1,000.00 for the individual plan and to increase the one-time contribution for the Health Savings Plan Preferred to \$1,700.00. These amounts would be budgeted. This was for discussion only and no vote was taken.

4. **Appointments**

None

5. **General Information/Public Comments**

None

6. **Closed Session**

Convene in Closed Session Pursuant to Illinois Statutes Section 5 ILCS 120/2 (c ) (2) in Order to Discuss Collective Negotiating Matters.

Member C. Keller made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to Illinois State Statute Section 5 ILCS 120/2 (C) (2) to discuss Collective Negotiating Matters. Member J. Douthit seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote of 9 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain

Member C. Keller made a motion to return to open session. Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

The regular meeting of the Tax and Finance committee reconvened. No action taken.

7. **Adjourn**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle M. Kollmann  
Effingham County Clerk