



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, November 13, 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, 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 S. Rich seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

**2. Unfinished Business**

• **Proposed FY26 Budget**

The FY26 proposed budget was presented to the board for review. Any changes to the proposed budget from the layover budget were noted. There was board discussion on the minor changes. The final FY26 budget will be approved at the Special Board meeting on November 24, 2025.

• **Proposed FY25 Tax Levy**

○ **708 Board**

The 708 Board submitted a FY25 Statistic sheet. The sheet stated each agency's funding requests, amounts and included the number of clients served. Betsy Scott with the 708 Board requested a tax levy increase of an additional \$20,000.00 to the Mental Health Fund. The current levy amount is \$180,000.00. It was noted the Corporate Fund will decrease by \$20,000.00 for the possible

708 Mental Health tax levy increase. Betsy stated there is a need for additional funding because more agencies have requested funds. The 708 Board has turned away agencies because of lack of funding. The board requested verification or process in place to confirm the funds only support Effingham County residents. Member D. Campbell made a motion to recommend to the full board to increase the FY25 tax levy by \$20,000.00 for the 708 Mental Health Fund. Member J. Douthit seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

### 3. New Business

- FY26 Salary Schedule

The non-union FY26 Salary Ordinance was presented to the board. Currently the Sheriff's office is in union negotiations so the ordinance will not include any non-union staff with the Sheriff's Dept. However, the salary schedule did include the Sheriff's Administrative Aide position. The approval of the salary ordinance will be sent to the full board without committee recommendation. The final approval of the ordinance with the Sheriff's dept payroll amounts is to take place at the Special Board meeting.

- FY26 County Liability Coverage

Vanessa Smith, Bushue HR, discussed the County's liability coverage renewal with the board members. The coverage will be renewed with the Insurance carrier, CIRMA. Member J. Deters made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the FY26 County Liability coverage with CIRMA. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

- F&C Concrete Invoice – Health Department Updates (Capital Improvement Fund)

The F&C Concrete invoice is from the Health Department for construction of the west entrance. The amount due is \$13,400.00 and the project is completed. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the disbursement of \$13,400.00 from the Capital Improvement fund to F&C Concrete. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

- Wright's Invoice – County Building Updates (Capital Improvement Fund)

This is the final invoice from Wright's for the updates to the County Building for new flooring, stair treads, labor and etc. The amount due is \$36,163.46. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the disbursement of \$36,163.46 from Capital Improvement fund to Wright's. Member M. Buzzard seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

- Dive Rescue – Side by Side Upgrade

Member D. Campbell stated Dive Rescue has an opportunity to upgrade to larger Side by Side. The total cost for the new Side by Side is \$20,000.00. The Dive Rescue will use the trade-in amount, Assessment team reimbursement from the City of Effingham and funds from their budget to purchase the new vehicle. Dive Rescue has requested the County release the title for the current Side by Side. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board for the Dive Rescue to trade in the current Side by Side and purchase a new Side by Side. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

### 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 Matters Related to Collective Negotiating Matters.

Member J. Douthit made a motion to go into Closed Session Pursuant to Illinois State Statute Section 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (2) to discuss Matters Related to Collective Negotiating Matters. Member J. Deters seconded. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 8 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent; 0 abstain

The Tax and Finance meeting reconvened. Chairman N. Soltwedel stated there was no action taken in the matters of Collective Negotiating Matters.

**7. Adjourn**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle M. Kollmann, Effingham County Clerk