



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

**Legislative/Personnel Committee
of the Whole of the Effingham County Board
3rd Floor Board Room, Effingham County Building
Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.**

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE: David Campbell; Chairman, Jeremy Deters; Vice Chair, Josh Douthit, Tim Ellis, Chris Keller, Sandi Rich, Norbert Soltwedel, Doug McCain, Mike Buzzard

Committee Members Present: D. Campbell, J. Deters, J. Douthit, T. Ellis, S. Rich, N. Soltwedel, D. McCain, M. Buzzard

This meeting was called to order by Chair David Campbell.

1. Approve Minutes

- Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the minutes. Member M. Buzzard seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

2. Unfinished Business

- None

3. New Business

- Proclamation – Support Your Local Chamber of Commerce Day
Member J. Douthit noted this is an annual proclamation to support your local Chamber of Commerce. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the proclamation to Support Your Local Chamber of Commerce Day. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***
- Resolution – Advisory Referendum to Voters Regarding Federal Scholarship Tax Credit
Member J. Douthit stated the board was approached by a lobbying entity to place this non-binding advisory referendum on the ballot for the General Primary Election which will take place on March 17, 2026. The referendum is in regards to a federal scholarship tax credit and will allow individuals to make donations to public or private schools for expenses. The state would need to opt into this federal program. It was noted Aaron Jones, States Attorney, has not reviewed the resolution. However, the resolution has standardized wording for all Illinois counties. The question on the ballot would read as “Should Illinois opt into a federal program that would provide Public K-12, private school, and homeschool students with privately

donated funds for academic needs, such as tutoring and test preparation, educational therapies for students with disabilities, tuition, books, exam fees or for other specified academic needs? Yes No". Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the resolution for the Advisory Referendum to Voters Regarding Federal Scholarship Tax Credit pending legal approval from the States Attorney. Member N. Soltwedel seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

- Resolution – State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor
Aaron Jones, States Attorney, stated this annual resolution is required to be approved for the State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor. This is to provide services to the State’s Attorney’s office and the annual fee is \$18,000.00. It was noted the Appellate Prosecutor office handles all appeals, conflicts of interest, major case review and provides free educational seminars. Member S. Rich made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the Resolution for the State’s Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor. Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**
- Human Resources Practices
Member J. Douthit informed the board the County doesn’t have a human resources director. The board will be working with Bushue Human Resources to make sure departments are following the best practices and the correct processes to be more compliant. This is to help prevent any possible liability. In the next few months Josh will be working with each department to review best practices.

4. **Appointments**

- Island Grove Drainage District – Open Appointment (10/20/2025-09/05/2028)
This is considered an open appointment and attempts are being made to find an appointment.

5. **General Information/Public Comments**

- Member M. Buzzard informed the board of an inquiry with property taxes on timberland. He stated the property taxes on the timberland have increased significantly and he did speak with Pam Braun, Assessor. There was discussion with the county to contact the State of Illinois on this issue. There was additional discussion on forestry management program, the assessed value, class codes on the property and statutory changes on assessments. However, it was noted the landowner should contact the Assessor’s office.

6. **Closed Session**

- None

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