



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, December 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, C. Keller, D. Campbell, J. Douthit (late), 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 Chamber of Commerce – 2026 Renewal Membership Dues
Becky Brown, with the Effingham Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the membership benefits with the Chamber of Commerce. She stated Effingham County's renewal rate with the Capital Investor Catalyst membership is \$3,275.00. Member D. Campbell made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the Effingham Chamber of Commerce 2026 renewal membership in the amount of \$3,275.00. Member C. Keller seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***
- Effingham County Senior Services
Linda Hubbartt, with the Senior Services Senior Center, requested funding in the amount of \$15,000.00. She noted the Senior Center doesn't receive any state funding so they rely on local funding. She stated the funding assists with the services offered thru the Senior Center. She talked about some of the services. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve a disbursement of \$15,000.00 to the Effingham County Senior Services. Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

- Amended FY26 Salary Schedule
 - State's Attorney – Assistant State's Attorney (1)
The salary was adjusted and increased to \$130,000.00 to reflect the amount listed in the budget. Aaron Jones requested to update the salary schedule. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board to amend the FY26 Salary Schedule to reflect the change. Member C. Keller seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**
 - State's Attorney – Confidential Secretary
The hourly rate for the confidential secretary was changed to reflect the base amount. Member J. Douthit made a motion to recommend to the full board to amend the FY26 Salary Schedule to reflect the change. Member C. Keller seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**
 - Sheriff's Office – Part time Correctional Officer
There was clerical error with the hourly rates listed under the Sheriff's department and the new amounts are reflected in the budget. The hourly rates were amended on the salary schedule. Member D. Campbell made a motion to recommend to the full board to approve the amend the FY26 Salary Schedule to reflect the changes. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**

4. Appointments

- None

5. General Information/Public Comments

- Kasey Kemme, Director with the Extension office, updated the board. She noted the full-time office assistant was hired. She gave program and staff updates and informed the board of a possible Health Fair Day. She showed appreciation for Patty Logan who is the 4-H program director. There was discussion with the Extension office working with ROSC.
- Christo Schultz, with Lake Sara Forever, was present at the meeting to request Hotel/Motel funds. The group is responsible for the improvements at Lake Sara which are funded by lake residents. The current project is expansion and improvements to the beach area. Christo requested funds to use towards this project. This would be a one-time request. Member J. Douthit informed Christo of the process to apply for hotel/motel funds which included completing the application and board approval. He will complete the application to request funding.
- Josh Douthit informed board members and elected officials the upcoming Capital Improvement meeting will take place on January 26, 2026. At the meeting, the committee will want input of any projects needed for the upcoming fiscal year.
- Josh Douthit stated this would be the last Tax & Finance committee of the Whole meeting. This committee was moved under the Administrative Committee of the Whole.

6. Closed Session

None

7. Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle M. Kollmann, Effingham County Clerk