



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

EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD REGULAR MEETING December 15, 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, December 15, 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, 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. 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 FY26 County Employee Handbook
- Approve 2026 Meeting Schedule for Administrative Committee
- Approve Appointments
- Island Grove Drainage District - Christopher A. Probst (12/15/2025-9/3/2028)
- Island Grove Drainage District – Timothy R. Jansen (12/15/2025-9/6/2026)
- Ambulance Oversight Committee – Deb Murbarger (1/1/2026-12/31/2028)

Road and Bridge Committee

- Approve Annual Compliance Review Audit Reports for Motor Fuel Tax Funds and Township Bridge Funds
- Approve Resolution to Award Lowest Responsible Bidder from MFT Material Letting
- Approve 2026 Meeting Schedule for Road and Bridge Committee

Building and Grounds Committee

- Approve Drafting Request for Proposal for Control Systems in Government Center
- Approve Highway Department/Airport Use of Coroner Office Vacancy in County Building
- Approve 2026 Meeting Schedule for Transportation/Infrastructure Committee

Transportation Committee

None

Tax and Finance Committee

Approve 2026 Capital Investor Catalyst Membership Renewal with Effingham County Chamber of Commerce

Approve \$15,000.00 Disbursement to Effingham County Senior Services

Approve Amended FY26 Salary Schedule Ordinance

Ambulance Oversight Committee

Approve 2026 Meeting Schedule for Ambulance Oversight Committee

Public Safety Committee

None

Reports Committee

None

Airport Commission

Approve 2026 Meeting Schedule for Airport Commission

CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS

There were no consent agenda items pulled for consideration.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Member D. McCain made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Member N. Soltwedel seconded. ***Motion carried*** on a roll call vote 7 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent; 0 abstain

4. EXTRACTED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

There were no extracted consent agenda items.

5. APPROVE DISTRIBUTION OF HOTEL/MOTEL FUNDING TO LAKE SARA FOREVER FOR BEACH EXPANSION PROJECT WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Christo Schultz with Lake Sara Forever, submitted an application to request Hotel/Motel funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the beach expansion project. This will be a one-time request for funds. The time line for completion of this project is expected to be in mid-April. Member S. Rich requested an amendment to the post project report form. She asked for the 60 day follow up requirement be extended to one year for this construction project. This extension would only be for this project. Member S. Rich made a motion to amend the 60-day post project follow up to one year for the Lake Sara Forever beach expansion project. Member D. Campbell seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.*** Member D. Campbell made a motion to approve a distribution of \$12,500.00 from the hotel/motel funding to Lake Sara Forever for the beach expansion project. Member M. Buzzard seconded. ***Motion carried*** on a roll call vote 7 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent; 0 abstain.

6. APPROVE CANCELLING INSURANCE FOR EFFINGHAM SENIOR SERVICES VEHICLE IN EFFINGHAM COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION POSSESSION WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Member J. Deters stated that public transportation is in possession of a vehicle that is no longer in use. There is no need to have insurance on this vehicle. He requested approval to cancel this coverage. Member J. Deters made a motion to cancel insurance for the Effingham Senior Services vehicle with Effingham County Public Transportation. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

7. APPROVE 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.

Member D. Campbell made a motion to approve the 2026 meeting schedule for the Economic Development Advisory board. Member S. Rich seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

8. APPROVE 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR REPORTS COMMITTEE WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION.

Member M. Buzzard made a motion to approve the 2026 meeting schedule for the Reports Committee. Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

9. APPROVE 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Member T. Ellis made a motion to approve the 2026 meeting schedule for Public Safety Committee. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

10. APPROVE 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Member T. Ellis made a motion to approve the 2026 meeting schedule for the Capital Improvement Committee. Member N. Soltwedel seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

11. APPROVE 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR COUNTY BOARD WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the 2026 meeting schedule for the County Board. Member S. Rich seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Member T. Ellis showed appreciation for the employee Christmas luncheon and thanked everyone who assisted with the plans.

13. ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS

- Paul Kuhns, Sheriff, stated he would not need to convene is closed session. He stated there is a tentative agreement with the same terms as discussed in the previous closed session.
- Deb Ruholl, Treasurer, stated the tax sale will take place on December 18, 2025.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

15. 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 NEGOTIATION

Member T. Ellis made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to Illinois State Statue Section 5 ILCS 120/2 (C) (2) to discuss matter related to Collective Negotiation. Member D. McCain seconded. ***Motion carried*** on a roll call vote of 7 ayes; 0 nays; 1 absent; 0 abstain.

The regular meeting of the Effingham County Board reconvened. Chairman J. Douthit stated the board acted in closed session on collective negotiating matters with the Circuit Clerk's office. The board approved the Circuit Clerks union contract with Fraternal Order of Police. The annual wage increase will

be 3%, 3.5% and 3.5% with the starting pay for employees to be \$17.00/hour. Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the contract between the Effingham County Circuit Clerk's office and FOP. Member S. Rich seconded. ***Motion carried*** on a roll call vote of 6 ayes; 1 nay; 1 absent; 0 abstain.

16. ADJOURN

Member T. Ellis motioned to adjourn this meeting. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***