



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

EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD REGULAR MEETING

November 17, 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, November 17, 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, Christopher Keller, Mike Buzzard, Doug McCain, Sandra Rich, Jeremy Deters. Pledge of Allegiance was said. Chairman J. Douthit gave the prayer.

2. PRESENTATION OF SHERIFF'S AWARD TO LANDON HUBER, SGT. ROB BROWN, AND TELECOMMUNICATOR CHRISTAL CARLEN

Sheriff Paul Kuhns presented the Distinguished Act Award to Landon Huber. He gave the details of the event in which Landon provided lifesaving actions to his father, Randy. Landon and Randy were present for the presentation. Sheriff Kuhns also presented the Distinguished Lifesaving Award to Telecommunicator Christal Carlen and Sargent Brown who both assisted in this event.

3. RECOGNIZE PERSONS WHO WISH TO SPEAK ON AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Member D. Campbell, Economic Development Advisory board, stated they are still waiting on the approval of the grant for the Revolving Loan Fund. He also stated they may have to reapply for the grant. The government shut down caused a delay.
- Member D. McCain stated the CEFS Meals on Wheels program will now operate from the Lake Land Effingham Technology Center.
- Member J. Deters, Transportation committee, stated approval for the Engineering Agreement for the new transportation facility is awaiting approval from IDOT.

- Member T. Ellis, Health and Insurance, stated the CIRMA liability insurance renewal increased around 6%. The increase was in amount of \$37,356.00.

5. 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 Ballot Question – Congressional Compensation Suspension During Government Shut-Down Pending State's Attorney Approval
 - Approve Hotel/Motel Fund Request Approval Resolution
 - Approve 2026 NACo Legislative Conference Attendance for County Board Chairman
 - Approve Appointments
 - 911 Board – Brant Yochum (12/1/2025-11/30/2028)
 - Economic Development Advisory Board – Norma Lansing (12/1/2025-11/30/2027)
 - Economic Development Advisory Board – Ed Hoopingarner (12/1/2025-11/30/2027)
- Road and Bridge Committee
 - Approve Resolution Appropriating MFT Funds for Maintenance, IDOT BLR 14220
 - Approve Resolution Appropriating MFT Funds for Payment of County Engineer Salary, IDOT BLR 09221
- Building and Grounds Committee
 - Approve Use of Historic Courtyard Pavilion for The Nice List Christmas Show on December 14, 2025
- Transportation Committee
 - Approve Farnsworth Engineering Agreement Pending IDOT Approval
- Tax and Finance Committee
 - Approve FY25 Tax Levy Increase for 708 Board of \$20,000.00
 - Approve FY26 CIRMA Liability Coverage Renewal Proposal
 - Approve \$13,400.00 Disbursement of Capital Improvement Funding to F&C Concrete for Health Department Updates
 - Approve \$36,163.46 Disbursement of Capital Improvement Funding to Wright's Furniture & Flooring for County Building Updates
 - Approve Trade-In of Dive Rescue Side-by-Side for Purchase of New Side-by-Side
- Ambulance Oversight Committee
 - None
- Public Safety Committee
 - None
- Reports Committee
 - None
- Economic Development Advisory Board
 - Approve Disbursement of \$28,000.00 in Revolving Loan Funding to Siegfried's

CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS

- Member N. Soltwedel pulled agenda item “Approve FY25 Tax Levy Increase for 708 Board of \$20,000.00”. Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #6A.
- Member J. Deters pulled agenda item “Approve Ballot Question – Congressional Compensation Suspension During Government Shut-Down Pending State's Attorney Approval”. Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #6B.

- Member D. Campbell pulled agenda item “Approve Disbursement of \$28,000.00 in Revolving Loan Funding to Siegfried’s”. Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #6C.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Member J. Deters motion to approve the consent agenda except items pulled from the consent agenda considerations. Member S. Rich seconded. ***Motion carried*** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain

6. EXTRACTED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

#6A - APPROVE FY25 TAX LEVY INCREASE FOR 708 BOARD OF \$20,000.00

Member N. Soltwedel pulled this agenda item concerned that the Truth in Taxation will remain under the 4.99% threshold. He wanted to confirm the \$20,000.00 increase to the 708 Mental Health fund will cause the Corporate Fund to decrease by the same amount. He also voiced concern about the amount allotted for contingencies. Norbert proposed to accept the \$20,000.00 increase for the 708 Board contingent upon approval of the final FY26 budget and the tax levy to remain under the 5% increase. Member N. Soltwedel made a motion for the approval of the proposed FY25 tax levy increase of \$20,000.00 to the 708 Mental Health fund pending approval of the FY26 final budget at the Special Board meeting. Member T. Ellis seconded. ***Motion carried*** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain

#6B - APPROVE BALLOT QUESTION – CONGRESSIONAL COMPENSATION SUSPENSION DURING GOVERNMENT SHUT-DOWN PENDING STATE’S ATTORNEY APPROVAL

Member J. Deters pulled this agenda item to informed the board that Aaron Jones, States Attorney, reviewed the verbiage for the ballot question. Jeremy stated the States Attorney did amend some of the wording for the non-binding public question. The ballot questions states “Shall it be the policy of Effingham County to support suspending pay for members of the United States Congress during periods when the federal government is shut down because of a legislative funding deadlock.” Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the amended ballot question of Congressional Compensation Suspension During Government Shut-Down with updated verbiage. Member S. Rich seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried***.

#6C- APPROVE DISBURSEMENT OF \$28,000.00 IN REVOLVING LOAN FUNDING TO SIEGFRIED’S

Member D. Campbell pulled this agenda item to introduce owners Ryan and Mary Spenser with Siegfried’s. The new owners gave information on the new restaurant located in Teutopolis. It will be considered fine dining with a fun social atmosphere. A meeting room will be available for use. Member D. Campbell made a motion to approve the disbursement of \$28,000.00 from the Revolving Loan Fund to Siegfried’s. Member J. Deters seconded. ***Motion carried*** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain

7. APPROVE COMMITTEE RESTRUCTURING AND BY-LAWS UPDATE REFLECTING COMMITTEE CHANGES WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Chairman J. Douthit presented the final proposal which included the changes that was discussed at the committee meeting. This restructuring will save the county some money. There would be a total number of five standing committees. The Health and Insurance committee will be under the Administrative Committee. The Legislative & Personnel and the Tax & Finance committees of the whole will combine and be included with the Administrative Committee. The Administrative Committee of the Whole will consist of all nine board members and meet on the Monday before the Regular Board meeting. The Building and Grounds Committee and the Transportation Committee will combine and be named the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. This committee will consist of three members. The changes will take effect January 1, 2026. There was board discussion on the restructuring. Member N. Soltwedel requested an updated description be completed for the new committees. He also requested the Chairman to appoint a board member to be a the CIRMA or UCCI representative and this discussion

will continue at the December meeting. The update to the By-Laws included the committee restructuring and a verbiage change for item #19 for teleconference which includes military members. It was noted changes to the by-laws must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote. Member C. Keller made motion to approve the committee restructuring as presented effective January 1, 2026. Member N. Soltwedel seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.*** Member J. Deters made a motion to approve the By-Laws of the Effingham County Board. Member S. Rich seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

8. ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS

- Deb Ruholl, Treasurer, updated the board on the tax process. She recently completed the second tax distribution in the amount of a little over 23 million dollars. Certified letters will be mailed out to for about 600 parcels and then publication will take place. The annual tax sale will take place on December 18, 2026.
- Pam Braun, Assessor, noted changes to the Senior tax exemptions could take place. This is awaiting the Governor's signature. She will update the board at the next meeting.
- Angie Thompson, County Board Administrator, stated she will send out information to all departments about the new committees.
- Josh Douthit, Chairman, gave a reminder the Special Board Meeting will take place on Monday, November 24, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Courtney Yockey thanked the board for support to local businesses thru the Revolving Loan Fund. He gave a brief update on the Effingham County Regional Manufacturing Collaborative.
- Paul Kuhns, Sheriff, informed the board his department is in need of another vehicle. There are available funds in his overall budget. However, this purchase will put the vehicle line items over for FY25.

10. CLOSED SESSION

- **CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO ILLINOIS STATUTES SECTION 5 ILCS 120/2 (C)(1) IN ORDER TO DISCUSS APPOINTMENT FOR AIRPORT COMMISSION**

Member C. Keller made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to Illinois State Statute Section 5 ILCS 120/2 (C) (1) in order to discuss Appointment for Airport Commission. Member M. Buzzard seconded. ***Motion carried*** on a roll call vote of 9 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

Paul Kuhns, Sheriff, requested closed session for the topic of Collective Negotiating Matters. It was noted that no action could be taken.

Member N. Soltwedel made a motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to Illinois Statutes Section 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2) in Order to Discuss Matters related to Collective Negotiating Matters. Member D. McCain seconded. ***Motion carried*** on a roll call vote of 9 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

The regular meeting of the Effingham County Board reconvened. Chairman J. Douthit stated the board acted in closed session on the matters of the appointment for the Airport Commission. The appointment is effective on November 17, 2026. Member T. Ellis made a motion to appoint Doug McDevitt to the Airport Commission. Member D. McCain second. Motion carried on a roll call vote of 7 ayes; 2 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain. Doug McDevitt thanked the board for the appointment.

11. ADJOURN

- Member C. Keller motioned to adjourn this meeting. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***