



Effingham County Board  
101 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 301, Effingham, IL  
217.342.4990

## EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD REGULAR MEETING September 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, September 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, Christopher Keller, Mike Buzzard, Doug McCain, Sandra Rich, Jeremy Deters. Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman J. Douthit talked briefly about the incident with Charlie Kirk. A moment of reflection was held.

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

None

#### 3. PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

Chairman J. Douthit read the proclamation for National 4-H week which will take place on October 5-11, 2025. A few 4-H members were present at the meeting. Member D. McCain motion to approve to Proclamation for National 4-H week. Member N. Soltwedel seconded. Unanimous.

***Motion carried.***

#### 4. PROCLAMATION – NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Chairman J. Douthit read the proclamation for October to be National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Several Community Support System employees were present at the meeting. Member S. Rich motion to approve the Proclamation for National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

## 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

- Approve Mutual of Omaha Renewal for Employee Voluntary Vision, Life, Accident, and Critical Illness Insurance Coverage
- Approve Delta Dental Renewal for Employee Dental Insurance Coverage
- Approve HopeTrust Renewal for Employee Health Insurance Coverage

#### Legislative/Personnel Committee

- Approve Proclamation for 4-H Week
- Approve Proclamation for National Disability Employment Awareness Month
- Approve Appointments
  - Economic Development Advisory Board – Larry Taylor (10/1/2025-9/30/2029)
  - St. Francis Township Drainage District – Jim Westendorf (9/15/2025-9/5/2028)

#### Road and Bridge Committee

- Approve Ordinance - Amended Speed Limit for Summit Township's 1600th (Nazarene Short-Cut)

#### Building and Grounds Committee

- Approve Acceptance of Donation from Veteran's Affairs and Purchase of 30ft. Flag Pole for Government Center

#### Transportation Committee

- Approve FY24 Effingham County Public Transportation Audit

#### Tax and Finance Committee

- Approve \$15,000.00 Distribution from Economic Growth and Development Funding to Effingham Regional Growth Alliance
- Approve \$1,000.00 Distribution from Hotel/Motel Funding to Ham City Fall Fest
- Approve Guideline of 85% of Funding Available as of October 1st as the Annual Budgeted Amount for Hotel/Motel Fund

#### Ambulance Oversight Committee

- None

#### Public Safety Committee

- None

#### Reports Committee

- None

### CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS

- Member M. Buzzard pulled agenda item "Approve Guideline of 85% of Funding Available as of October 1st as the Annual Budgeted Amount for Hotel/Motel Fund". Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #6A
- Member N. Soltwedel informed the board they are awaiting confirmation from the Department of Veteran's Affairs office on the flagpole. He is confident they follow thru with the donation for the purchase.

### CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

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

**6. EXTRACTED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**APPROVE GUIDELINE OF 85% OF FUNDING AVAILABLE AS OF OCTOBER 1ST AS THE ANNUAL BUDGETED AMOUNT FOR HOTEL/MOTEL FUND**

Member M. Buzzard pulled this agenda item for further discussion. He had concerns on spending 85% on an unknown amount of money that will be in the budget. He doesn't want to be put in the position of possibly depleting the fund especially if the revenue may decrease. M. Buzzard suggested to table this agenda item until the October meeting. Member S. Rich, who made the original motion, was in agreement to table until next meeting. Also, member M. Buzzard wanted to set some criteria and guidelines when applying for these funds and a deadline for applicants to apply for the funds. Deb Ruholl, Treasurer, stated revenues with this fund varies and is seasonal. Chairman J. Douthit will consult with the States Attorney on these suggestions. Member M. Buzzard motion to refer the Guideline of 85% of funding available as of October 1 as the annual budgeted amount for the hotel/motel fund back to Tax & Finance committee. Member S. Rich seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion Carried.***

**7. ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORT**

- Deb Ruholl, Treasurer, stated that a little over 44 million dollars have been collected from the property taxes. The first tax distribution will take place on October 5<sup>th</sup>. She informed the board of how the postmark date has affected some of the tax payments. There have been many payments submitted thru the mail that were postmarked after the due date which causes additional fees.
- Angie Thompson, County Board Administrator, stated the county just completed a communication/media audit with SpyGlass. The audit results found a savings of a little over \$6,000.00 from unnecessary spending.

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Dave Campbell stated the repairs and painting of the 911 tower is complete. The tower has passed inspection. He thanked to the maintenance dept for their assistance with this project.
- Norbert Soltwedel informed the board of a survey being conducted by ROSC. They would like to get over one thousand responses. He encouraged the public the complete the online survey.
- Jeremy Deters stated the FY25 public transportation audit with CEFS was completed and there were no issues.
- Sandy Rich read a message in regards to the Charlie Kirk assassination.
- Josh Douthit stated the St. Anthony Jr. High golf team were state champions.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- None

**10. CLOSED SESSION**

- None

**11. ADJOURN**

- Member C. Keller motioned to adjourn this meeting. Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***