



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

## EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD REGULAR MEETING July 21, 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, July 21, 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. RECOGNIZE PERSONS WHO WISH TO SPEAK ON AGENDA/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Taylor Feldkamp and Kathy Schroeder was present at the meeting and talked about the annual MillRoad Thersherman show. The show will take place in mid-August. They handout out program books for the board members.

#### 3. PRESENTATION OF LIFESAVING AWARD TO DEPUTY TYLER KOESTER AND DEPUTY BRANDON KUHLM

Paul Kuhns, Sheriff, presented the Lifesaving Award to Deputy Tyler Koester and Deputy Brandon Kuhl. Sheriff Kuhns talked about the details of the incident that took place on May 22, 2025. He complimented the officers on their actions and presented each deputy with the award and the Life Saving pin.

#### 4. RESOLUTION – HONORING KURT SCHMIDT ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 5 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Chairman J. Douthit read the resolution honoring Kurt Schmidt. Kurt was not present at the meeting but a clock will be given to Kurt at a later date. Member J. Deters motion to approve the resolution honoring Kurt Schmidt on his retirement with the Effingham County Health Dept. Member D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried**

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

### **APPROVE MINUTES**

### **ACCEPT OFFICER'S MONTHLY REPORTS**

### **APPROVE BILLS – COUNTY BOARD PER DIEM & EXPENSES**

### **COMMITTEE AGENDA CONSIDERATION**

#### **Health and Insurance Committee**

- Approve Addition of all Full-Time County Employees with Exception of County Board Members in Eligibility for the Employee Assistance Program

#### **Legislative/Personnel Committee**

- Approve Edgewood Bi-County Fire Protection District Decennial Report
- Approve Loitering Ordinance
- Approve Appointment – 911 Board – Kurt Davis (7/21/2025-11/30/2026)
- Approve Participation in Nine (9) Defendant Opioid Settlement
- Approve Purdue Pharma L.P. Bankruptcy Plan and GESA Release Agreement

#### **Road and Bridge Committee**

- Approve Resolution to Award Lowest Responsible Bidder for Construction of New Bridge along 225th Avenue in Union Township, Section 20-13113-00-BR
- Approve Minor Subdivisions
  - Imburgia Subdivision
  - R&J Worman Subdivision

#### **Building and Grounds Committee**

- None

#### **Transportation Committee**

- None

#### **Tax and Finance Committee**

- Approve FY2024 Audit
- Decline Partnership Agreement for TextMyGov Services
- Approve Joint Ordinance with City of Effingham for Proposed Enterprise Zone Annexation
- Approve Disbursement of \$43,042.28 in Opioid Funding to CEAD Council, dba Hour House
- Approve Disbursement of ARPA Funding to Purchase Four (4) Benches for Pavilion
- Approve Disbursement of ARPA Funding to Purchase Two (2) Pet Waste Stations for Historic Courtyard
- Approve Disbursement up to \$1200.00 in ARPA Funding for Landscaping Rock Surrounding Historic Courthouse
- Approve Request for Quote for Audit
- Approve Resolution – Sheriff Salary
- Approve Resolution – Public Defender Salary

#### **Ambulance Oversight Committee**

- None

#### **Public Safety Committee**

- None

#### **Reports Committee**

- Approve Release of Closed Session Minutes

### **CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS**

- Member S. Rich pulled agenda item “Approve Purdue Pharma L.P. Bankruptcy Plan and GESA Release Agreement”. Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #6A.

## **CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL**

- Member C. Keller made a 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**

- **#6-A - APPROVE PURDUE PHARMA L.P. BANKRUPTCY PLAN AND GESA RELEASE AGREEMENT**

Member S. Rich pulled this agenda item for a formality to separate into two different agenda actions so the items could be voted on separately. Member S. Rich made a motion to approve the Pharma L.P Bankruptcy Plan. Member J. Deters seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.*** Member S. Rich made a motion to approve the GESA Release Agreement. Member T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

## **7. ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS**

- Aaron Jones, States Attorney, informed the board about the recent federal court appeal on the assault weapons ban. Aaron was involved with a briefing with other States Attorneys about this issue.
- Greg Koester, County Engineer, updated the board on the Altamont Blacktop resurfacing project. This project should be completed by July 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Dave Campbell stated the approval for the second revolving loan fund is expected by August.
- Tim Ellis plans to attend the annual Hope Trust Conference on July 24-25, 2025. If anyone has any concerns or questions about the health insurance, let him know.
- Josh Douthit stated Luke Eastin with SCIRPDC notified him of the opening of the OSLAD Grant. This will be a 50/50 matching grant and is open to all entities.

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- None

## **10. CLOSED SESSION**

- None

## **11. ADJOURN**

- Member C. Keller motioned to adjourn this meeting. Member S. Rich seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***