



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

## EFFINGHAM COUNTY BOARD REGULAR MEETING

October 20, 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, October 20, 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. A moment of silence was held for Tony Siemer who was the Airport Commission chairman and served on the board for over 50 years.

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

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

- Approve \$18,000.00 Disbursement in Opioid Funding to the Health Department Family Resource Center

##### Legislative/Personnel Committee

- Approve Proclamation – Support Your Local Chamber of Commerce Day
- Approve Resolution – Advisory Referendum to Voters Regarding Federal Scholarship Tax Credit Pending Legal Review
- Approve Resolution – State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor

##### Road and Bridge Committee

- Approve Bridge Aid Petition for West Township

- Approve Intergovernmental Agreement Between the County of Effingham and Village of Teutopolis Regarding Maintenance of Green Street, a Portion of County Highway 19
- Building and Grounds Committee

- Approve Use of Historic Courtyard for City of Effingham's Light Up the Lawn
- Approve \$13,100.00 Disbursement in Contingency Funds for Emergency Roof Repairs on Historic Courthouse

Transportation Committee

- Approve Access Restriction of Transportation Schedule for Shelby County PCOM to only Shelby County Related Data

Tax and Finance Committee

- Approve Stipend of up to \$1,000.00 Monthly for Premium of County Employees Enrolled in County Group Health Coverage Programs along with Stipend of \$1,700.00 to Health Savings Accounts of Enrolled Employees
- Approve Christmas Luncheon along with \$25.00 Gift Certificates for County Employees
- Approve Proposed FY26 Budget for Layover

Ambulance Oversight Committee

- Approve Twelve (12) Month Ambulance Provider Contract Extension

Public Safety Committee

- None

Reports Committee

- None

**CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERATIONS**

- Chairman J. Douthit stated he did not receive any feedback from the States Attorney about the legal review for the Advisory Referendum to Voters Regarding Federal Scholarship Tax Credit. This agenda item will be considered ready for approval.
- Member S. Rich pulled agenda item "Approve Christmas Luncheon along with \$25.00 Gift Certificates for County Employees". Chairman J. Douthit placed item as #4A.

**CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

**4. EXTRACTED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**#4A - APPROVE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON ALONG WITH \$25.00 GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES**

Member S. Rich pulled this agenda item to modify the wording of this action. The amendment would include to exclude the county board members from receiving the \$25.00 gift certificate. She also wanted to confirm all full-time and part-time employees would receive the gift certificate. It was stated the department heads and elected officials must submit a list of eligible employees by December 1<sup>st</sup> to the board office. Member S. Rich made a motion to approve the Employee Christmas Luncheon along with \$25.00 gift certificates for all full-time and part-time county employees per department head recommendation with excluding the County Board members and a list of eligible employees submitted to the County Board office by December 1, 2025. Member J. Deters seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain.

**5. APPROVE ELEAVTOR(S) REPAIR WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

Paul Kuhns, Sheriff, stated two quotes were received from Otis Elevator Company for the elevator repair work at the Government Center. The first quote was for the repair work on the glide door operator at a total cost of \$30,996.00. The second quote was to replace all five glide door operators

at a total cost of \$122,996.00. Sheriff Kuhns recommended to replace the single door glide operator since the other glides are currently operational. Member N. Soltwedel motion to approve the disbursement of \$30,996.00 from contingencies for the elevator repair with Otis Elevator Company. Member D. McCain seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain

**6. APPROVE \$2,530.00 DISTRIBUTION IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDING TO EAHC STRUCTURES FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATES WITHOUT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

Member D. McCain made a motion to approve the disbursement of \$2,530.00 from Capital Improvement funding to EAHC Structures for the Health Department updates. Member J. Deters seconded. **Motion carried** on a roll call vote 8 ayes; 0 nays; 0 absent; 0 abstain

**7. ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORTS**

- Michelle Kollmann, County, Clerk, noted Monday, October 27 is the first day for candidates of established political parties to file original nomination papers for the General Primary Election on March 17, 2026. The last day of filing is November 3. The clerk's office will be accepting filings for the offices of County Clerk, Sheriff, Treasurer, Assessor, County Board Districts A – B – E – H and precinct committeeperson.
- Deb Ruholl, Treasurer, stated the first tax distribution in the amount of approximately 48 million dollars was sent to the taxing bodies on October 1, 2025. The second tax distribution is expected to be sent out by November 17.
- Pam Braun, Assessor, stated tax year 2024 is closing up soon and their office has been busy with several tax appeals.
- Kim Rhodes, Coroner, gave an update on the new morgue. The cooler is installed and set up.
- Greg Koester, Engineer, stated he recently expended the final ARPA drainage project expenses. He stated this was an excellent project.

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Dave Campbell noted the government shutdown has delayed the completion of the Revolving Loan Fund grant.
- Norbert Soltwedel stated the FY26 budget is considered on 30-day layover and will be available on the website for public inspection.
- Jeremy Deters from transportation stated the final engineering paperwork has been sent to the State of Illinois for approval for the new facility.
- Josh Douthit thanked Deb, Angie, Pam and everyone for their work with the budget process.
- Josh Douthit noted several state championships or state qualifiers with the local schools. Those include the Teutopolis Jr. High baseball team as state qualifier, Teutopolis High School boys golf as State Champions, St. Anthony and Dieterich Jr. High Cross-Country teams had state qualifier runners and St. Anthony High School golf placed at the state level.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- None

**10. CLOSED SESSION**

- None

**11. ADJOURN**

- Member C. Keller motioned to adjourn this meeting. Member M. Buzzard seconded. Unanimous. **Motion carried.**