



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

January 22, 2025
Public Safety Committee

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Chair; Dave Campbell, Sandi Rich

Committee Members Absent: Jeremy Deters

Other Board Members Present:

Others Present: Sheriff Kuhns, Chief Buhnerkempe, Pam Jacobs, Kim Rhodes, Amber Wille, Greg Koester

Minutes

- S. Rich motioned to approve the October 23, 2024 committee minutes. D. Campbell seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

Sheriff's Office/Sheriff Kuhns

- Sheriff Kuhns reported crime, bookings and arrests have all increased, however true statistics are difficult to determine with Safety Act. Sheriff Kuhns reported jail population is currently standing at 30 inmates which has been increasing slightly since implementation of Safety Act.
- Sheriff Kuhns reported biggest problem is staffing all across the board.
- Sheriff Kuhns reported 911 control room door has been completed.
- T. Buhnerkempe reported total bookings in 2023 and 2025 down 51% across the board by all county agencies.
- T. Buhnerkempe reported inmate meals served were 38,000 meals in 2023 and just over 24,000 meals in 2024.

EMA/Pam Jacobs

- P. Jacobs reported HMEP grant application is open and currently working on submission.
- P. Jacobs reported out past trainings/exercises being HAZMAT exercise on Oct 28; EOC liaison exercise assisting with preparation for winter storm on January 5th for shelter locations. P. Jacobs reported next EOC exercise is Feb 19th and then will be quarterly.
- P. Jacobs reported generator is under repairs with radiator to be removed to send out for repair.

Coroner/Kim Rhodes

- K. Rhodes reported 361 deaths in 2024 of which 11 were drug related, 11 autopsies, 0 murders, 4 suicides, 7 motor vehicle fatalities. Fentanyl death only 1. Meth is fairly prevalent. 350-400 is average across the board.

911/Tina Daniels

- T. Daniels reported receiving concerns with size of street signs. T. Daniels stated funding can't be used to replace, but believes when old blanks are gone, they can be replaced with larger blanks. G. Koester stated original signs were placed 25-26 years ago with Highway Dept inspecting annually and tracking replacement and cost for maintenance of signs. G. Koester confirmed a budget line item in general fund was created and still active for payment of maintenance costs. G. Koester confirmed signs will be replaced with bigger signs when marked for replacement.

Animal Control/Michelle Shoot

- M. Shoot absent. No report.

Emergency Preparedness/Health Department

- A. Wille reported Emergency Preparedness Coordinator position was filled in November. A. Wille shared currently identifying people for roles within health department for emergency preparedness plan.
- A. Wille reported 67 confirmed human cases of bird flu in US and 1 death. A. Wille reported 3 unknown cases of origin and 1 case of exposure from backyard flock poultry. A. Wille stated public health risk is low. A. Wille reported no confirmed cases in Effingham County and no confirmed cases in state of Illinois.

Dive Rescue Team/Terry Trueblood

- T. Trueblood absent. No report

K-9 Search and Rescue/Kevin Bullard

- K. Bullard absent. No report.

Highway Dept/Greg Koester

- G. Koester reported no safety issues or concerns with storms. G. Koester stated Highway Dept is being proactive on snow removal and closely monitoring weather. G. Koester reported no reports of serious accidents on county highways due to snow/ice. G. Koester stated Highway Dept will work around clock until issue is resolved and continues to work regularly with Sheriff's office. G. Koester stated 2300 tons of salt has been used.
- G. Koester stated signs at Moccasin Road intersection have been improved with flashing lights warning of stop ahead, and is planning for additional attention-grabbing signs for intersection.

General**Closed Session****Adjournment**

- S. Rich motioned/D. Campbell seconded to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous. *Motion carried.*

Minutes submitted by Angie Thompson, County Board Administrator