



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

October 22, 2025
Public Safety Committee

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Chair; Dave Campbell, Sandi Rich, Jeremy Deters

Committee Members Absent:

Other Board Members Present:

Others Present: Sheriff Kuhns, Pam Jacobs, Kevin Bullard, Greg Koester, Bo Cravens, Kim Rhodes, Chief Overbeck

Minutes

- S. Rich motioned to approve the July 23, 2025 committee minutes. D. Campbell seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

Sheriff's Office/Sheriff Kuhns

- Sheriff Kuhns reported more arrestees last month with it being the highest in the year with the jail population steady in the mid to high 30's.
- Sheriff Kuhns reported still investigating a lot of sex crimes and the serving of civil processed papers are statistically up.
- Sheriff Kuhns stated remodel is completed and working well for the Sheriff's Office.
- S. Rich inquired on correctional officers. Sheriff Kuhns confirmed correctional officers are still short staffed even with two currently in academy which takes 8 weeks. T. Buhnerkempe reported 5-6 correctional officers have been sent this year for training.

EMA/Pam Jacobs

- P. Jacobs reported with the grant received for hazard mitigation plan, she has received the go ahead for working on plan and has a committee developed with first meeting to be tentatively scheduled January 29, 2026.
- P. Jacobs reported other grant reimbursements are currently paused.
- P. Jacobs reported she is actively working on shelter location requirements for the state, updating standard operating guidelines and checklists, and updating the integrative public alert warning system policy MOU with FEMA.
- P. Jacobs reported the next EOC Liaison exercise is scheduled for early December.
- P. Jacobs reported on behalf of Chief McMahon from Teutopolis Fire Department stating they are currently enrolled in a drone class for their purchased drone, however may be a while before the drone is in use. P. Jacobs reported no other updates from fire chiefs.
- Chief Overbeck reported updating storm warning siren and making progress with all new sirens up in T-town. Chief Overbeck stated siren will be able to integrate in rapid warn, so all is falling into place. Chief Overbeck stated the system should be functional in another month confirming that monthly testing of the system will continue the first Tuesday every month.
- D. Campbell inquired on winterization of generators. P. Jacobs reported state has not yet completed, however should be scheduled soon. P. Jacobs thanked the board for building generator repairs stating it has been working well.

Coroner/Kim Rhodes

- K. Rhodes reported morgue is almost complete, just waiting for replacement door for cooler because previous door wasn't large enough. K. Rhodes stated new cooler will hold 14 bodies.
- K. Rhodes also commended all who were working at the wreck in Dieterich on Sunday stating all did a good job.
- K. Rhodes reported still working on MOU for use of morgue for other counties.

911/Tina Daniels

- T. Daniels absent. No report.

Animal Control/Michelle Shoot

- M. Shoot absent. No report.

Emergency Preparedness/Health Department

- B. Cravens reported vector surveillance completed, no positive West Nile found in Effingham County, however many surrounding tested positive. B. Cravens reported only a couple more tick drags to be completed.
- B. Cravens shared on October 16th, the Health Department participated in an earthquake drill initiative, and they are currently working on an administrative emergency preparedness exercise with Effingham and Clay counties to take place in December.
- S. Rich inquired on Back-to-School Shot Clinics. B. Cravens confirmed clinic will continue through October, and reported lower participation this year than last.

Dive Rescue Team/Terry Trueblood

- T. Trueblood absent. No report.

K-9 Search and Rescue/Kevin Bullard

- K. Bullard reported fall seminar last month was a success with 35 canine teams and 70 people. K. Bullard stated he did a public service announcement on the radio and found it to be helpful, so plans to continue for future seminars.
- K. Bullard stated instructors will be able to certify dogs at end of the month.

Highway Dept/Greg Koester

- G. Koester reported a hazard survey at shop for CIRMA to be completed tomorrow.
- G. Koester shared arrival of two new tandem trucks this fall with a spare going to the airport for use on an hourly basis.
- G. Koester reported recently having had a couple of flooding signs stolen.
- G. Koester stated Highway Department will be geared up and ready for winter this year having purchased salt through the state salt purchasing program.
- G. Koester reported will be installing a 4-way flashing stop sign for intersection north of Altamont with Moccasin Road. G. Koester stated department has received many compliments on flashing light on Moccasin by lake. J. Deters inquired on repairs for flashing lights. G. Koester replied he may have a guy who can work on it, but thinks the state may have a resolution. G. Koester to follow up with state on repairs.

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

- J. Deters motioned/S. Rich seconded to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

Minutes submitted by Angie Thompson, County Board Administrator