



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

December 11, 2025 7:30 PM.  
**Road and Bridge Committee Meeting**  
**MINUTES**

Committee Members Present: Doug McCain, Tim Ellis, and Norbert Soltwedel

Committee Member Absent:

Others Present: Josh Douthit, Becky Hoopingarner, County Engineer Greg Koester, Foreman Dave Bushue, and Sheriff Kuhns.

**Minutes:** T. Ellis moved/ N. Soltwedel seconded to approve November 12, 2025 minutes. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

**Old Business.**

1. Status of Bridge Construction – The contractor has continued to make progress when weather permits. Koester presented recent photographs.
2. Delivery Status of New Tandem Truck and Pickup Trucks – Expect delivery of two half-ton trucks this month. The three-quarter ton truck and tandem truck should arrive next month.
3. Airport’s Use of Older Work Truck – Airport would like to use an old truck as a work truck for the airport. T. Ellis moved and N. Soltwedel seconded to give Airport best oldest truck instead of selling.
4. Project Programming – Koester presented a map showing locations of several township bridges to be replaced in the next few years. Roads projects include widening the unimproved section of Police Station Road and Phase 3 of the West Evergreen Avenue Extension.

**New Business**

1. Material Letting for 2026 Maintenance Program and Resolution to Award Lowest Responsible Bidders – County is conducting a material letting later today for county and townships. N. Soltwedel moved and T. Ellis seconded to prepare resolutions as needed to recommend board approval of the lowest responsible bidders for county board, unanimous.
2. St. Francis Township Bridge Aid Petition – A 26’ span bridge located on a rock road along the Jasper County line was closed in 2021. Given the low traffic volume and nobody resides along the road, bridge replacement is not a high priority compared to others in the county. Since the bridge is not a priority for TBP funds, St. Francis Township wishes to pursue a bridge aid petition to construct ‘vented’ low-water crossing. County will determine feasibility and estimated cost.
3. Assistant County Engineer Job Opening – Koester plans to post opening soon with hopes of filling the position by March.
4. Maintenance Work for Oil Distributor and Chip Box – Replaced worn augers on chip box. Manufacturer suggested we may want to consider replacing computer system for \$60,000. Koester and Bushue don’t think it’s warranted at this time.
5. Funding Breakroom Renovation – Committee discussed proposed layout and tabled the issue.
6. Snow Removal Operations and Policies – Dispatch has updated contact information if needed and Sheriff Kuhns was reminded that deputies on the night shift can call us if necessary.
7. 2024 State Compliance Review for County Motor Fuel, Township Motor Fuel, and Township Bridge Fund – The report did not have any significant findings but must be presented to the full board. T. Ellis moved and N. Soltwedel seconded to present to board, unanimous.
8. Status of Maintenance – Mowing done, pulled up shoulders and add material where needed, snow removal, equipment maintenance. Also, hauling rock for next year’s oiling program.
9. Assist Airport on Tree Removal – trees need to be removed and the highway department has helped the airport in the past, typically as filler work in winter time. Airport will reimburse for labor and equipment. T. Ellis moved and N. Soltwedel seconded for highway to help with the tree removal, unanimous.

**Adjournment** – T. Ellis moved/ N. Soltwedel seconded to adjourn, unanimous.

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**COUNTY ENGINEER**

**DATE**

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**CHAIRMAN OF ROAD & BRIDGE COMMITTEE**

**DATE**

Minutes submitted by Becky Hoopingarner,