



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

January 7, 2026 9:00 A.M.
Effingham County Airport Commission Meeting

MINUTES

Commission Members Present: (Roll Call Taken) Phil Toops, Josh Douthit, Ken Wohltman, Doug McDevitt, Tim Ellis

Absent:

Others Present: Jerry Tate, Greg Koester (County), Greg Koester (City)

Minutes

- J. Douthit moved to approve December 3, 2025 minutes/T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous, ***Motion carried.***

Review and Approve Bills

- J. Douthit moved to approve December bills in the amount of \$87,334.63/T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous, ***Motion carried.***

Correspondence

- None

Old Business -

- Project Updates
 - Runway Extension – G. Koester (county) stated project is currently in winter shut-down. With the fence removed on east end, new ‘No Trespassing’ signs have been placed.
 - Hangar Progress – K. Wohltman shared progress of delivery date of hangar building being the end of the month or first of February. K. Wohltman recommended working on hangar leases for June 1st along with target date of project completion. K. Wohltman recommended numbering hangars for identification and emergency purposes.
 - Program Letter for Phase II Apron Expansion – G. Koester shared program letter has been received and anticipates letting for apron expansion in April. G. Koester stated the contract for engineering with Hanson will be added to next month’s agenda.
 - TIPS Proposal Submission – G. Koester stated that TIPs were submitted last week with grading the Runway Safety Area (RSA) was top priority with hopes of receiving program letter by July 1st. G. Koester shared the next priority will be rehabilitation of the North-South runway.

New Business

- IPAA Membership – K. Wohltman shared membership rates stating Effingham is under category D. P. Toops stated with the airport growth, membership would be a benefit as past conferences were informative. T. Ellis motioned to approve IPAA Membership for 2026. D. McDevitt seconded. Unanimous, ***Motion carried.***
- Fuel System/Update – D. McDevitt shared current fuel storage capacity is at 10,000 and transport holds 7500 gallons causing tank needing to be drained down to accept transport. D. McDevitt stated the fuel system should ideally be able to hold two transports. J. Tate stated with the limited fuel storage, single point fueling becoming a requirement with 80% of jet traffic requiring single point or pressure refueling. D. McDevitt shared he has checked with a company in St. Louis who has determined the 30 year warranty on current system expired November 2023 and recommended pursuing some resolution. D. McDevitt stated he has set up a couple informational meeting dates with other companies. G. Koester recommended discussion with Hanson as project may be eligible for grant funding. J. Douthit inquired on above ground or underground storage. K. Wohltman stated need to review and discuss different options.
- Highway Department Assistance – Tree Removal – G. Koester shared Road and Bridge Committee gave approval for assistance for airport tree removal stating it will be perfect filler work for winter time. G. Koester stated eventually will have a long-term action plan for trees. G. Koester commented this will assist in maintaining minimal cost for the airport and keep highway employees stay busy in winter months.

General Information

- Hangar and Fuel Flow Report – J. Tate reported hangar rent at \$4370.00. Jet fuel at 4974.2 gallons; Avgas at 964.1 gallons respectively. December, January, February are typically slow months. Fuel sales were fairly good with being December and runway closure.
- City Comp plan – G. Koester (city) stated the city comprehensive plan draft is currently on the city website. G. Koester stated the City's goal is to have a public hearing in February with meetings up to and after public hearing. K. Wohltman inquired on airport property annexation into city limits and airport charter service. G. Koester stated if airport annexes into the city, it may save the airport in liability insurance costs as currently the airport is served by Watson Fire District, however Effingham Fire Department fire rating is a 2 and Watson is a 4 with the lower ISO number being a better rating. Currently, Effingham Fire Department will serve through automatic mutual aid, however Watson is lead. Discussion on emergency response preparedness exercise for airport. G. Koester (county) stated any annexation would require City accepting jurisdiction of any township roads, which could be managed via a maintenance agreement.

Adjourn/Next Meeting

- J. Douthit motioned/T. Ellis seconded to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

Minutes submitted by Angie Thompson, Administrative Aide to Airport Commission