

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD
OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS,
HELD IN THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE
ON THE 22ND DAY OF DECEMBER, 2015.**

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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COUNTY OF HANCOCK)

The meeting was called to Order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman Cary Gray.

Those present were: Cary Gray, Chairman
 Kerry Asbridge, County Clerk

Wayne Bollin	Don Little
Steven Bolton	Thomas Scheetz
Dennis Castlebury	Jeanne Schell
Stephen Finney	Jerry Smith
Janet Fleming	Bryan Stevens
Pat Cramer	Harold Stuckwisch
David Walker	

Sheriff Scott Bentzinger, Economic Developer Dustin Berg, County Engineer Elgin Berry, ambulance administrative assistant Terri Griffin, Dallas Neff, and reporter Joy Swearingen of the Hancock County Journal-Pilot were present.

Mr. Bollin moved to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2015. Mr. Finney seconded the motion, and it carried.

Mr. Walker moved to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2015 Special Meeting, and it carried.

There was considerable discussion concerning an amendment to a motion offered by Mr. Stuckwisch. The amendment passed. A question had arisen, "What is the county going to pay for employee premiums, and spousal or family premiums?" There was doubt among some employees and some board members.

An important issue is that, if the employees pay more than 9.5% for their "employee only" health insurance coverage, Hancock County could face a penalty (fine) according to the Affordable Care Act. Also important, is the cost for spousal or family premiums, and any cost share between Hancock County and the employees.

Mr. Bollin said Ramsey Financial Service informed him they received all information from employees today to submit to insurance underwriters.

Consequently, the following was inserted into the minutes to clarify the matter:

The legislative intent of the amendment was to establish a health insurance program for 2016 whereby Hancock County, as employer, will pay 75% of the employee's individual premiums, and 50% of any family or spousal coverage.

Mr. Walker moved to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2015 regular meeting. Mr. Castlebury seconded the motion, and it carried.

Mr. Scheetz moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel and pending litigation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bolton. All present voted "Yes". The county board entered into Executive Session at 6:44 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

OPEN SESSION

At 7:12 P.M. the doors were reopened for the audience to return. Mr. Bolton moved to return to Open Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cramer. All present voted "Yes". The county board returned to open session.

Mr. Bolton presented the report of a meeting held by the County Highway Committee on November 25, 2015, and moved the report be approved, recommendations of the Committee be concurred in, and the report be placed on file with the Minutes of this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Castlebury, and on roll call, all members present voted "Yes".

Mr. Little moved to approve the "CONSENT AGENDA". The motion was seconded by Mr. Scheetz, and on roll call, all members present voted "Yes".

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution appropriating \$600,000 in Motor Fuel Tax Funds for County Highway maintenance.

Resolution appropriating \$92,000 in Motor Fuel Tax Funds for salary of County Engineer.

Resolution appropriating \$10,000 in County Highway Funds to match Federal Surface Transportation and Illinois State Matching Assistance Funds to thin bituminous overlay and chip the following:

1. 7.66 miles of the Colusa Road
2. 3.97 miles of the Burnside Road North
3. 2.04 miles of the Durham Road

Resolution appropriating \$10,000 in County Highway Funds to match Federal Surface Transportation and Illinois State Matching Assistance Funds to Microsurface and improve the following:

- 3.79 miles of the Basco Road east to Illinois 94.

Mr. Bollin presented the report of the meetings held by the Finance Committee on December 10, 2015. Mr. Bollin moved the report be approved, recommendations of the Committee be concurred in, and the report be placed on file with the Minutes of this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Finney. On roll call voting "Yes", were Bollin, Bolton, Castlebury, Cramer, Finney, Little, Scheetz, Schell, Smith, Stevens, Stuckwisch, Walker, and Gray, totalling thirteen. Voting "No", was Fleming, totalling one. The motion carried.

Chairman Gray presented a proposal to acquire Real Property immediately West of the Hancock County Sheriff's Office and County Jail. The acquisition is to relocate the ambulance service. The existing ambulance building will be retained - but potentially be sold in the future. An additional structure will be built to supplement the garage on the new site.

Mr. Walker moved the purchase be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith. On roll call voting "Yes", were Bollin, Bolton, Castlebury, Cramer, Finney, Little, Scheetz, Schell, Smith, Stevens, Stuckwisch, Walker, and Gray, totalling thirteen. Voting "No", was Fleming, totalling one. The motion to purchase Real Property carried.

Mr. Scheetz presented the report of a meeting held by the Building, Grounds, and Insurance Committee held on December 14, 2015, and moved the report be approved, recommendations of the Committee be concurred in, and the report placed on file with the Minutes of this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stuckwisch, and on roll call all members present voted "Yes".

Ms. Schell presented the report of a meeting held by the County Health and Miscellaneous Committee on December 15, 2015, and moved the report be approved, recommendations of the Committee be concurred in, and the report be placed on file with the Minutes of this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stuckwisch, and on roll call, all members present voted "Yes".

Mr. Gray presented a letter from the Illinois Department of Public Health, stating "No deficiencies were identified." No violation of compliance with the federal certification requirements for nursing homes participating in Medicare/Medicaid were identified.

Mr. Gray announced the appointment of Kelly Joiner as Supervisor of Assessments is for four years.

Mr. Cramer asked, "When might Tyler Wilson become Ambulance Coordinator?"

It was explained to him that Mr. Wilson was doing many ambulance runs as an EMT/Paramedic. The pay was much more than the Ambulance Coordinator salary. An estimate that between \$4,000 and \$5,000 in additional pay in recent weeks would have been surrendered by Mr. Wilson.

It was explained by Ms. Schell that it is hoped that will soon change, and additional employees are hired, and sick employees return to work. Then it may be financially beneficial to Mr. Wilson for him to accept the appointment at that time.

Mr. Cramer asked about the over \$600,000 listed as "fees of others" on the County Clerk and Recorder's collections summary for the month.

The deposit has been secured with Marine Bank and Trust pledging U.S. Government securities as collateral.

The clerk explained the money was being held in escrow for taxbuyers. Nauvoo Investments, owner of the Nauvoo Inn and Suites, and adjacent properties, did not pay its real estate taxes in 2012. Taxbuyers bought certificates (paid the taxes) to earn interest with the real estate being collateral.

Nauvoo Investments subsequently challenged its assessments with the Board of Review, and lost. Nauvoo Investments then appealed to the State Property Tax Appeals Board. Dale Bolton, Supervisor of Assessments, negotiated compromise assessments with Nauvoo Investments.

However, on the last day to intervene, the City of Nauvoo filed to intervene on the assessment appeal, quashing the negotiated compromise. The State Property Tax Appeals Board heard the case, and its rulings resulted in assessments less than the negotiated compromise.

In the meantime, to insure the property was not lost to a tax deed, Nauvoo Investments redeemed the parcels under protest (paid principal, interest, and fees for the taxes). This means a Circuit Judge will rule how much tax is due, and how any money will be distributed. The over \$600,000 is held in escrow until the court decides.

Mr. Stuckwisch moved to confirm the appointment of Linda Asher to succeed Ed Short as Warsaw Fire Protection District Trustee to a term expiring in May, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bolton, and it carried.

Mr. Walker moved to confirm the appointment of Rebecca Bankston to Hancock County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners for a five year term. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith, and it carried. Ms. Bankston is a resident of the Hancock County Housing Authority. At least one commissioner must be a resident according to law.

Mr. Stuckwisch moved to confirm the appointment of Sam Zumwalt to Hunt-Lima Drainage District Board of Commissioners to a term expiring in Sept., 2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scheetz, and it carried.

Mr. Little moved to confirm the appointment of Jeanne Schell to Western Illinois Regional Council Board of Directors to succeed Marc Huston. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stuckwisch, and it carried.

Mr. Bollin moved to adjourn. Mr. Smith seconded the motion, and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,


Kerry Asbridge
County Clerk