

**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED 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 21ST DAY OF JANUARY, 2020.**

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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COUNTY OF HANCOCK)

The meeting was called to Order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman Delbert Kreps.

The Invocation was given by Mark Hanson.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Clerk.
Roll call was taken.

Those present were: Delbert Kreps, Chairman
 Kerry Asbridge, County Clerk

Wayne Bollin	Janet Fleming
Steven Bolton	Mark Hanson
Dennis Castlebury	Mark Menn
Pat Cramer	Tom Rogers
Patsy Davis	Tom Scheetz
Gary Dittmer	Bryan Stevens
Steven Finney	

County Engineer Elgin Berry, Sheriff Scott Bentzinger, Warsaw Mayor Mike Heisler, County Treasurer Kristine Pilkington, States Attorney Rachel Mast, and Journal-Pilot reporter Joy Swearingen were present. Henderson County County Economic Development Corporation Chairman Kevin Geary and three Henderson County Board members were also present. They were particularly interested in the new joint Emergency Telephone Systems 911 between Hancock County and Henderson County, and a proposed statistical port area along the Mississippi River.

Retired U.S. Army Col. Robert Sinkler was present. Col. Sinkler spent 30 years working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He is leading an effort as a volunteer to establish a fifteen county statistical port area along the Mississippi River from Keokuk to Dubuque.

Mr. Scheetz moved to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2019. Mr. Castlebury seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Bolton presented the report of a meeting held by the County Highway Committee on December 27, 2020 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. Menn, and on roll call all members present voted "Yes".

Mr. Bollin presented the reports of the meeting held by the Finance Committee on January 9, 2020 and moved the reports 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. Bolton, and on roll call all members present voted "Yes". Mr. Castlebury voted "Present", which the presiding officer counted with the prevailing side, "Yes".

Mr. Cramer moved to approve a **Resolution to Establish Polling Place in LaHarpe at LaHarpe Christian Church**. Mr. Finney seconded the motion, and it carried.

Ms. Davis moved to approve a **Resolution to Establish Mileage Rate for County Business at 57.5 Cents**. Mr. Bolling seconded the motion. On a roll call voting "Yes" were Bollin, Bolton, Castlebury, Cramer, Davis, Dittmer, Fleming, Finney, Hanson, Menn, Rogers, Scheetz, and Kreps, totalling thirteen. Voting "No" was Stevens, totalling one.

Mr. Finney moved to approve a **Resolution to issue deed as Trustee for Taxing Districts** in Village of Bowen, successful bid of \$2,500.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scheetz. On a roll call voting "Yes" were Bollin, Bolton, Cramer, Davis, Dittmer, Finney, Hanson, Menn, Rogers, Scheetz, Stevens, and Kreps, totalling twelve. Voting "No" were Castlebury and Fleming, totalling two.

Mr. Bolton moved to approve a **Supplemental Appropriations** for the year beginning Deember 1, 2018 and ending November 30, 2019. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stevens and it carried, and on roll call all members present voted "Yes".

Mr. Scheetz presented the report of a meeting held by the Building, Grounds, and Insurance Committee held on January 13, 2020, 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. Castlebury, and on roll call all members present voted "Yes".

The Hancock Public Building Commission report was distributed prior to the meeting.

The emerging Bi-State Port of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois

Retired U.S. Army Col. Robert Sinkler was present. Col. Sinkler spent 30 years working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He is leading an effort as a volunteer to establish a fifteen county statistical port area along the Mississippi River from Keokuk to Dubuque.

Colonel Sinkler explained, "The idea is simple: The boards of 15 counties along the Mississippi River from Keokuk to Dubuque pass resolutions to join a statistical port area, and an application is submitted for federal approval. If all 15 counties opt in, the 222-mile-long port would be the 68th largest in the United States, including coastal ports."

"The potential rewards are many: Sinkler and other port advocates say the designation would open up millions in federal funding, even for private companies; lead to more private investments by companies looking to ship goods on the river; and protect vital funding for the Rock Island District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. At the very least, designation of a Top 100 port would help in competing for federal funds for infrastructure projects, Sinkler said, and it would boost the area's profile as a shipping magnate."

"Under current federal designations, there are just two nearby ports along the Mississippi River, one in St. Louis and the other in Minneapolis-St. Paul. The efforts would designate a third port, with many "terminals," or areas where goods are loaded and unloaded, along the entire Iowa border with the Mississippi. A similar long port stretches along the Ohio River between Ohio and Kentucky."

"We are losing out," This area is 'less competitive' on funding requests "because they're not tied to a federally recognized port." That also puts Corps funding in jeopardy, because funds designated for the Rock Island District are often diverted to other districts aligned with major ports."

"The statistical designation would 'make sure federal investment is happening in this area,' The concept does not specifically call for any new construction on the river, nor does it give Bi-State or any other groups the authority to levy taxes or otherwise regulate commerce within the port. It merely designates on paper a federally recognized port where shippers are already doing business."

"There's no downside. It's just recognizing reality. The 15 counties, in both Iowa and Illinois, include 70 river terminals.

County board members questioned the impact of the **Bi-State Port of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois** on taxes and existing participation in the **Mid-America Port Commission**.

Colonel Sinkler said it would not impact Hancock County membership in the **Mid-America Port Commission**, and the **Bi-State Port of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois** would not have authority to tax. He said his experience leads him to believe the designation, and data from the new **Bi-State Port** would help the Upper Mississippi River receive funding for dredging, lock and dam repair and replacement, and river traffic volumes.

Sinkler's Background

Sinkler served as principal strategic advisor to the commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where he assisted in setting strategic direction for the Corps. He served as chief of Army Environmental Programs in the Pentagon, and commanded a Corps task force responsible for designing and constructing the \$14.4 billion Hurricane Storm Surge System for the greater New Orleans after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Sinkler commanded the Rock Island Engineer District and led the Corps' response to the devastating Midwest floods of 2008. Since retiring from the Corps in 2013, he has been active in many river organizations.

Sinkler said he personally saw how the money 'flowed' to designated ports on the Ohio River to the loss of the Upper Mississippi River.

Mr. Menn moved to approve a **Resolution of and by Hancock County, Illinois Supporting the Creation of the Statistical Boundaries of the Mississippi River Ports of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois**. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion, and on roll call all members present voted "Yes".

Ms. Fleming presented the report of a meeting held by the County Health and Miscellaneous Committee on January 14, 2020, 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. Hanson, and on roll call all members present voted "Yes".

Mr. Castlebury moved to approve a **Resolution Writing Off \$75,640.99 in Contractual Adjustments for Medicare, Medicaid in December, 2019**. Ms. Fleming seconded the motion. On roll call, all members present voted "Yes".

Mr. Finney moved to approve a **Resolution Writing Off \$13,464.33 in Uncollectable Ambulance Billing in December, 2019**. Mr. Cramer seconded the motion. On a roll call voting "Yes" were Bollin, Bolton, Castlebury, Cramer, Davis, Dittmer, Fleming, Finney, Hanson, Rogers, Scheetz, Stevens, and Kreps, totalling thirteen. Voting "No" was Menn, totalling one.

Ms. Davis asked whether the Hancock County EMS (ambulance) was still doing transfers for total out of county transfers. She said a FACEBOOK comment from a citizen in the north part of the county stated the Hancock County EMS was doing such transfers, and was often unavailable for service for in-county emergencies.

County Health and Miscellaneous Committee members said all EMS (ambulance) transfers now either commence or terminate in Hancock County.

Mr. Cramer moved to confirm the following appointments:

Oakland Cenetry Corporation Trustees

<u>Trustee</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
C. Craig Becker	December, 31, 2025
Joe Bartholomew	December, 31, 2025
Paul Figge	December, 31, 2025

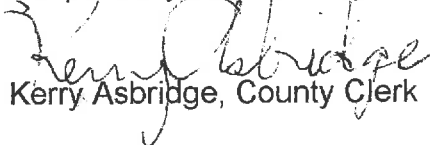
Emergency Telephone Systems 911 board members confirmed by Henderson County:

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Steven P. Haynes	January 14, 2021
Kim Gullberg	January 14, 2022
Roger Cook	January 14, 2023

Ms. Davis seconded the motion, and it carried. The Hancock County must confirm five board members for the joint Emergency Telephone Systems 911 Board. Initial terms will be one member for one year, two members for two years, and two members for three years. Terms will be for three years after the initial terms expire.

Mr. Finney moved to adjourn. Mr. Cramer seconded the motion, and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,


Kerry Asbridge, County Clerk