**Budget and Appropriations Ordinance Hearing**

The hearing was held November 24th, 2020 at 6:15 pm in the Board Room of the Hancock County Courthouse, Carthage, Illinois. Roll Call was taken with Jan Fleming, Mark Menn, Tom Scheetz, Bryan Stevens, Steve Finney, Wayne Bollin, Harry Douglas, Patsy Davis, Steve Bolton, Pat Cramer and Delbert Kreps. Tom Rodgers entered the hearing at 6:21pm. Gary Dittmer, Dennis Castlebury and Mark Hanson were not present. Wayne Bollin, Chairman of Finance Committee, presided over the meeting. Wayne explained this was a 1.2% increase from last years budget. Wayne congratulates the office holders and county employees for being financially responsible. The only loans the county has is on the ambulance building and police cars. He believes our county to be in good financial shape. Mr. Scheetz asked about IMRF and the amounts that were budgeted and levied. The hearing was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD IN THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON THE 24th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2020.**

STATE OF ILLINOIS)

COUNTY OF ILLINOIS)

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.

Those present were: Delbert Kreps, Chairman

Holly A. Wilde-Tillman, County Clerk

Janet Fleming Mark Menn

Gary Dittmer Tom Scheetz

Dennis Castlebury Bryan Stevens

Steve Finney Wayne Bollin Harry Douglas Patsy Davis Mark Hanson Steve Bolton Pat Cramer Tom Rodgers

Kathy Sparrow, Ryan Ramsey with Ramsey Financial, Elgin Berry, Rachel Mast, Scott Bentzinger, Andrew Asbury, Rich Stokluska with CIRMA, Thomas Bergmeier, Mike McCaughey with Cason, Huff and Schlueter were present.

Kathy Sparrow, Republican Precinct Chairwomen recognized and thanked Mr. Scheetz and Mr. Bolton for their years of service to Hancock County.

Delbert Kreps read a letter from Bob Baxter, Hancock County Sheriff’s office and Court Security, asked the Hancock County Board to acknowledge Holly A. Wilde-Tillman for the outstanding job she has done in the past two months as Hancock County Clerk.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman spoke regarding the Rules of Order for the County Board that has surfaced. In light of this information the Reorganizational meeting needs to be held December 7th at 6:30. Rachel would like all the board members to take a copy and review before the meeting as there may need to be updates and changes in procedure.

Mr. Cramer made the Motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Scheetz seconded the motion, and it carried.

Steve Bolton presented the report of the meeting held by the Highway Committee on October 29th, 2020. Mr. Bolton moved the report be approved, recommendations of the Committee be concurred in, and the reports be place on file with the Minutes of this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scheetz. On roll call, all members participating voted “Yes”.

A motion was made by Mr. Bollin to approve the Hancock County Highway Department Employee Policy Manual. It was seconded by Mr. Cramer. Roll call was taken with all members present voting “Yes.”

Mr. Kreps presented the recommendation of an increase 2.5% increase for employees of the Hancock County Highway Department. Mr. Stevens asked why highway gets 2.5% increase salary and courthouse is only getting 2%. Tom said the Highway Department was down employee, but Elgin does not agree because the Highway Department is doing well with the staff they have. Patsy stated the Highway Department is specialized and must maintain certain licenses that courthouse does not require. The Highway Departments Labor budget is less than the last few years but is increasing, still not where they were 12 years ago. Mark added that we will have to play catchup with minimum wage requirements coming for Courthouse employees. Mr. Castlebury made the motion to approve the increase and it was seconded by Ms. Davis. Roll Call was taken with Fleming, Menn, Dittmer, Scheetz, Castlebury, Stevens, Finney, Bollin, Douglas, Davis, Hanson, Bolton, Cramer and Rodgers voting “Yes.” Kreps voting “No” motion carried.

Mr. Bollin presented the report of the meeting held by the Finance Committee on November 19th, 2020. Mr. Bollin moved the reports be approved, recommendations of the Committee be concurred in, and the reports be placed on file with the Minutes of this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Douglas. On roll call, all members participating voted “Yes”.

A motion was made by Mr. Scheetz to continue the John Hancock 457B plan with the employees paying all fees associated with the plan. It was seconded by Mr. Rodgers. . Roll Call was taken with Fleming, Menn, Dittmer, Scheetz, Castlebury, Stevens, Finney, Bollin, Douglas, Davis, Hanson, Bolton, Cramer and Rodgers voting “Yes.” Kreps voting “No” motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Bollin to appoint Dale Bolton for the remainder of his 4 year term at a salary of $76,200 annually for the 2 years remaining with at start date of this employment at May 22, 2018. It was seconded by Ms. Fleming. Roll Call was taken with Fleming, Menn, Dittmer, Scheetz, Castlebury, Stevens, Finney, Bollin, Douglas, Davis, Hanson, Bolton, Cramer and Rodgers voting “Yes.” Kreps voting “No” motion carried.

The Public Transportation contract with addendums was tabled until we receive approved contracts from IDOT.

A motion was made by Steve Bolton to approve the Holiday Schedule for 2021. It was seconded by Mr. Scheetz. Roll call was taken with all members present voting “Yes,” totaling 15-0 motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Menn to approve the Annual Budget and Appropriations for 2020-2021 and seconded by Mr. Douglas. Roll call was taken with all members present voting “Yes.”

A motion was made by Mr. Bollin to approve the Tax Levy Ordinance for the tax year 2020 payable in 2021 and was seconded by Mr. Scheetz. Roll call was taken with all members present voting “Yes.”

Mr. Bolton moved to approve tax deed for parcel 20-36-327-003 and it was seconded by Mr. Castlebury. Roll call was taken with all members present voting “Yes.”

Ms. Davis presented the report of the meeting held by the Building, Grounds, and Insurance on November 16th, 2020. Ms. Davis moved the reports be approved, recommendations of the Committee be concurred in, and the reports be placed on file with the Minutes of this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Castlebury. On roll call, all members participating voted “Yes”. Roll Call was taken, and all present voted “Yes.”

Mr. Cramer asked about the gun sale where the confiscated guns were sold and a possible way to avoid sharing FOID card information. Mr. Scheetz asked about the commission on the sale and Mr. Bentzinger shared that Sullivan Auctions have been very fair.

Mr. Kreps asked for the three insurance committees to share about their proposals for 10 minutes each with questions at the end.

Ryan Ramsey was first to speak. He introduced the individuals he brought to help him present. He has all his numbers in his proposals which the board members have had time to review. He stated his company came in second this time and was second 2 years ago. He reminded the board members he is local and has 15 employees from Hancock County and pay county taxes. His roots are deep here in Hancock County. He talked about liability and that they are right next door to help with claims. He is providing a 1-year contract. His company offers payment options on the different plans. They are not assessible company. They require 60 days’ notice to cancel. Medical malpractice is included. Workers comp. is 3 million across the board. Prior acts coverage goes back to 2015. Cyber-liability coverage is for $100,000. No exclusions on cyber-liability. Scott Bentzinger asked about policy and guidance on what was asked of office holders regarding claims, they do provide help with that. All reserve deputies will be covered. Interns will also be covered by this policy.

Rich Stokluska from CIRMA spoke next on the phone. CIRMA was started in 2006, Hancock was with them from 2007 until 2011. They have built a company that was stable and controlled who comes in and how it is run. Donna helps with handbooks and manuals. She makes 2 visits a year. There is a hotline to get direction. Members can use law firm of their choice to get guidance. Never been over a 3% increase in premium except in 2010. In 2010, they found things to be insured under value one being the courthouse. Rich discussed that the 2018 premium going up because they did not have the correct property values. Liability is 10 million across board. Paid out 1.3 million in the 11 years. County owned program. Tom asked Rich what limit was on Workers Comp and he said 10 million. Mark asked term we were required to stay with CIRMA, and Rich said we were in for 3 years. The premium is not guaranteed over the 3 years. Mark asked if they were assessable and Rich said there is a provision in bylaw for such. They have been releasing dividends. Mark asked why we did not get any dividends. Rich said we did not get a dividend because we left. He said we were not a good standing member. Had we stayed we would have got around $12,000. Tom mentioned why we did not get dividends in 15,16,17 and Rich said they had open claims. They are only closing out claims in 2010.

We have had this insurance with ICRMT for 2 years. Mike Mc Caughey went over numbers in his policy. He believes his company is the only one to have the violent event response coverage. His company covered the loss when a sheriff’s car was taken and wrecked. His company covers public officials’ liability and goes back to 6-2-1999. They also cover FOIA/Open meetings act. If you leave this company, you lose this coverage back to 6-2-1999 if you go with another company and you cannot go back. ICRMT goes 10 million over each coverage. If you tower their coverage it is 40 million. Cyber-liability covers a million. They did a certified appraisal for the county and found 7 properties not covered on several buildings. The Sheriff’s office was underinsured. They provide bonds for public officials. Volunteers are covered. Their policy is not assessible so premium will remain the same for the year. They gave COVID credit of $5,583.00. Our insurance premium went up because of increased coverage, auto losses, work comp claim, and payroll increase. He provided the general counsel services that was absorbed by insurance with no cost to county. This is a final premium for the year. One-year commitment. The extra value with this company is $65,000. Wayne asked the losses for the last two years. This last year was around $150,000. They need cancellation at 90 days.

Mr. Menn asked how early we could get premium costs from each company. Ramsey said 60 days, ICRMT was 90 Days and CIRMA can give firm numbers in October.

Scott has had good services from ICRMT and is appreciative of all they have offered his office.

Rachel prepared a statement about ICRMT and her work with them on a daily basis. She knows the County board has a difficult decision and want them to know all the hours of research and time ICRMT has offered. She believes they have upheld all guarantees they offered. Whoever the board chooses they have a high bar to meet.

Mr. Castlebury thought the other companies should be allowed to speak after those comments.

Mr. Ramsey spoke again about being from Hancock County and protecting this area. He also spoke of what he has done for the County helping with remote learning throughout the county in the schools and sponsoring a tree for around the square.

Tom spoke about the papers he handed about regarding premiums in Hancock County. Tom talked about claim coverage we have had in past. He said they have never had a complaint. Tom said CIRMAS premium increases were due to buying more properties. Tom pointed out the members of Henderson and Adams used CIRMA and they have 22 counties. Tom believes we were the 11th in the pool. Tom says we own it and a board member from each county can come to meeting. You are not asked you are chosen. We may get money back at some point from dividend.

Mr. Castlebury made the motion to go with Ramsey Financial for our Insurance coverage and it was seconded by Mr. Menn. Roll call was taken with Fleming, Menn, Castlebury, Finney, Bollin, Douglas, Davis, Bolton, Cramer and Rodgers voting “Yes.” Dittmer, Scheetz, Stevens, and Kreps voting “No.” Hanson did not vote. Motion carried 10 to 4.

Mr. Menn spoke regarding the Borrowing agreement and it was his recommendation to go ahead and pay for the squad car then take a loan on the future car. Mr. Bentzinger agreed.

Ms. Fleming presented the report of the meeting held by the County Health and Miscellaneous on November 17th, 2020. Ms. Fleming moved the reports be approved, recommendations of the Committee be concurred in, and the reports be placed on file with the Minutes of this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Castlebury. On roll call, all members participating voted “Yes”.

A motion was made by Mr. Scheetz to appoint Mr. Mike Wright as Animal Control Warden and seconded by Ms. Fleming. All participating members voted by voice “Yes.”

Ms. Fleming moved to approve a Resolution Writing off $33,277.82 in Contractual Adjustments for Medicare, Medicaid in October. It was seconded by Ms Davis. On roll call, all members participating voted “Yes”.

Ms. Fleming moved to approve a Resolution writing off unpaid ambulance charges in the amount of $8,025.55. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion. On roll call, Fleming, Dittmer, Scheetz, Castlebury, Stevens, Finney, Douglas, Davis, Hanson, Rodgers and Kreps voted “Yes”. Menn, Bollin, Douglas, Bolton, and Cramer voted “No”. Motion carried 10-5.

Ms. Davis made a motion to accept the Dog Pound bid proposal with Gideon General Contracting for $11,900.00. Roll call was taken with all members present voting “Yes.”

Ms. Wilde-Tillman presented a bill from the Ambulance for Stryker for $4,089.00. Ms. Wilde-Tillman explained that Ms. Meeks would like this paid in the same fiscal year as the grant was paid. Mr. Rodger made the motion to pay the bill and it was seconded by Mr. Cramer. Roll call was taken with all members voting “Yes.”

Mr. Douglas moved to appoint Randy Smith to fill the term of Tommy Thompson on the Tri-County Fire and it was seconded by Mr. Cramer. All members present voted by voice “Yes.”

A motion was made by Mr. Douglas to adjourn until the reorganizational meeting on December 7th, 2020 at 6:30. It was seconded by Mr. Cramer and it carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Holly A. Wilde-Tillman

Hancock County Clerk and Recorder