

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD IN THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON THE 20<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2021.**

STATE OF ILLINOIS)  
COUNTY OF ILLINOIS)

The meeting was called to Order at 6:32 P.M. by Chairman Delbert Kreps.

The invocation was given by Mark Hanson. The "Pledge of Allegiance" was led by the Clerk.

Those present in person were:

Delbert Kreps, Chairman  
Holly A. Wilde-Tillman, County Clerk

Mark Menn  
Tom Rodgers  
Jan Fleming  
Tom Bergmeier  
Wayne Bollin  
Andrew Asbury  
Katherine Phillips

Dennis Castlebury  
Mark Hanson  
Pat Cramer  
Stephen Finney  
Patsy Davis  
Gary Stansbury  
Harry Douglas

Visitors present were We Stand for Our Students group led by Steve Lucie with approximately 50 guests, Kathy Sparrow, Kim Weaver, Jennifer Meeks, Scott Bentzinger, Travis Duffy, Elgin Berry, Micah Stewart with Journal Pilot and Bob Gound. Mr. Jeb Harness was on the phone.

Mr. Menn made the motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion. Roll Call was taken with all members voting "Yes," motion carried.

Mr. Kreps introduced Steve Lucie, We Stand for Our Students. He offered them 30 minutes to present. Mr. Lucie introduced his brother Adam Lucie and gave him the floor.

Mr. Adam Lucie explained our children are missing being a child and have negative effect felt by this pandemic. This is a very real issue.

Mr. Steve Lucie stated he has been a board member for over 17 years. He is driven because his children had different opportunities that children are not getting now. We can be leaders in this County. Our superintendents are strapped without support. He challenges the leaders in Hancock County to be leaders. They are going to all boards to see change. Will it do anything? Time will tell! Counties come forth then we will get support at the state level. They want traction to be able to do more. They want

masks to be an option in the Fall. By not standing up sooner we are putting our children on the front line. They want the resolution passed to give a voice. Mr. Lucie wants to come together and be a leader to unite.

Mr. Jeff Ferguson, Niota, father of 4. Wishes he would have done something sooner. Feels for grandson who is 4 and goes to daycare and is depressed because he must wear a mask. His 19-year-old graduated and missed days of his life, did not play favorite sport, missed FFA. Does not want 17-year-old to suffer anymore. Their group needs traction to take on State. They are watching borders play sports. Asking community to help. What is liability? We never know when we will be hit with liability issues. His daughter passed out wearing a mask is that not a liability? We need to keep pushing for youth.

Ms. Trish Markley appreciates what the board has done. This group wants to show of support and for board to know that their children are suffering. They are not asking you to make a law, but they want support like you did when you opened the County. We have lost ability to speak because people are afraid to speak. The squeaky wheel gets oiled. When did our public servants become masters? New Illinois is coming, and we do not have to take this. We do not have to live by Pritzker rules. We need to stand up and lead. It is about "We the people." Lincoln stood here and spoke; we are on hallowed ground. Ms. Markley is leaving in 4 years because she cannot stand Illinois. Stand up for our rights under the constitution. What is being done to kids and us is illegal. A house divided will not stand and we are divided. She has had it with mandates. Instead of leaving we need to lead.

Ms. Brianna Skien was born and raised here. She stated these are local people and that should make you proud. These are your people here coming to you. She and her family lead a healthy lifestyle and she does not want to be told what is going to what happen to her and family's bodies. Maybe we cannot do anything but putting your names on this resolution gives this group support. We can be proud we stood up! Be a change for future.

Ms. Kathy Sparrow has met with Randy Frese and Jil Tracy and they are trying to get it voted on but it is not being allowed by governor. We need it voted on and with your support we have leverage.

Mr. Steve Lucie wants to make a difference. This group came forward after talking for a couple months got a resolution passed in March at the Warsaw board meeting.

Ms. Heather Barnett was raised in Hancock county. Watching your children wearing a mask playing sports is torture. She has heard from students and what they feel wearing masks while playing sports. Are we following science when wearing masks? She is imploring you to listen and find it in your heart to back us up.

Ms. Aria Markley has been out of a school and is not with her friends and feels isolated. She has asthma. She is not able to go out as she did because of wearing a mask. She just returned to school in February. Cannot breathe with a mask. It is terrible.

Mr. Scott Hall daughter graduated and missed what you go to school for 12 years for. His daughter still brings it up. What we shorted ourselves because of what science is saying. Stanford says masks can cause early death and CDC agrees, just got this info yesterday. Twitter censors it that new information, what we receive today. We want to know facts and facts are there. What we know that is crystal clear it is tearing us apart, it is our children. You are elected to protect us. Guidelines are not laws. No authority to tell us. Media telling us what we can believe. 10 years where will be? Critical things with

paradigm shift. What are we going to tell future? We did not do anything because we did not know outcome. We have to say enough is enough. It must stand!

Tom Bergmeier respects your rights, he has spent time in service. He has had shots, wears his mask. Who is being coerced to get shot? Who is coercing you?

Mr. Adam Lucie responded that we are not being coerced at this time, but this group wants the opportunity here for choosing rights.

Tom says not happening here. Adam says it is happening in Chicago and and Mr. Bergmeier said it is not here.

Mr. Steve says there is social pressure to have a vaccine. It disturbs him that they are being coerced. Because of passports there is pressure. Mr. Lucie said it is our document and we can edit it how we would like.

Jeff Ferguson knows multiple seniors are feeling pressure to receive the shots so they can attend events. The pressure of missing the best days their life if they do not get the shot.

Ms. Fleming made a motion to move the resolution up on the agenda to vote on it and it was seconded by Ms. Davis. All those present voted "aye."

Mr. Bollin made a motion to approve the Resolution for Hancock County Health Committee and Hancock County Board, it was seconded by Ms. Davis. Roll Call was taken with Menn, Castlebury, Douglas, Hanson, Fleming, Cramer, Bergmeier, Finney, Bollin, Davis, Asbury, and Kreps voting "Yes." Rodgers, Stansbery and Phillips voting "No." Motion carried 12 to 3.

Mr. Finney left the meeting.

Ms. Davis presented the report of the meeting held by the Highway Committee on March 30th, 2021. Ms. Davis moved the report 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".

Mr. Douglas made a motion to approve of the bid for the Massey-Ferguson 5711-D tractor with the Erskine rotary broom and woods backhoe in the amount of \$99,753, it was seconded by Ms. Davis. Roll call was taken with all members present voting "Yes." (with Mr. Finney leaving we have 14 voting members)

Ms. Davis made a motion to the low bids submitted by W.L. Miller Company for furnishing oil and chip products to the county and townships for 2021 described as:

a. Section 21-00000-00-GM (County):

i. Group 1: Bituminous Materials, FOB Distributor Truck @ Hancock County

1. Low Bid: \$493,696.00 by WL Miller Company of Hamilton IL
2. (There were no other bids for Group 1 materials)

b. Section 21-xx000-00-GM (Townships):

i. Group 1: Seal Coat Aggregate & Bituminous Materials, Spread on Road

1. Low Bid: \$873,428.00 by WL Miller Company of Hamilton, IL

2. (There were no other bids for Group 1 materials)
- ii. Group 2: Bituminous Materials, FOB Distributor Truck @ Hancock County
  1. Low Bid: \$576,984.00 by WL Miller Company of Hamilton, IL
  2. (There were no other bids for Group 2 materials)
- iii. Group 3: Bituminous Materials, FOB Terminal
  1. (There were no bids for Group 3 materials)

It was seconded by Mr. Bollin, roll call was taken with all members present voting "Yes." Motion carried.

Mr. Bollin presented the report of the meeting held by the Finance Committee on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Mr. Bergmeier seconded the motion and roll call was taken, all members participating voted "Yes". Motion carried.

Claim #38 was a bill for the Veterans phone which included a case. The claim was made for both the phone and the case but it was discovered that checks need to be paid to two different entities. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to allow the Clerk to split the payment into two checks and pay the claim, it was seconded by Mr. Bollin. Roll call was taken with all members present voting "Yes."

Ms. Fleming made a motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the County Clerk to pay monthly reoccurring bills, it was seconded by Mr. Asbury. Roll call was taken with all members present voting "Yes."

Mr. Castlebury presented the report of the meeting held by the Building, Grounds, and Insurance on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Mr. Castlebury asked Mr. Bentzinger for clarification on costs associated with DOC inmates that the County is holding. Mr. Bentzinger said the DOC may be reaching out to negotiate paying for costs associated with inmates. Mr. Castlebury stated that he regrets Scott's decision to retire because he feels things have been going well under his leadership. It was reported that the department is short two deputies. Mr. Menn wanted to clarify the minutes regarding liability. It is the liability for the health department providing off-site services. The building commission would only take on liability of the building if they owned it. Mr. Castlebury 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 Ms. Fleming. On roll call, all members participating voted "Yes".

Mr. Menn moved that the Public Transportation business be moved from the Finance committee to the Building and Grounds committee. It was seconded by Mr. Cramer, all those participating voted "aye."

Ms. Fleming presented the report of the meeting held by the County Health and Miscellaneous on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021. There was much discussion on the We Stand for our Students resolution that already was passed earlier in the meeting. Ms. Fleming made a comment Ms. Hall doing her job, maybe, too well. Ms. Phillips stated she appreciated employees doing their job and following the guidelines and laws. Ms. Wilde-Tillman stated, as an office holder, that she is required to follow the law and it is an uneasy feeling to not have support when you are doing your job. Ms. Davis said she had reached out to Ms. Hall regarding residents not being able to get their shots. Ms. Hall said she was required to do contact tracing to stay in line with the grant. Mr. Menn said it is all about following the money and when that is gone this will be gone. Mr. Rodgers stated Ms. Hall must do the contact tracing. Mr. Kim Weaver talked about the Dallas Fire Protection District and the call that were being answered by Lomax. He knows a payment was made to the Lomax Fire District and that Lomax was cited by the State regarding supplies

and training needed. This problem needs fixed. Ms. Meeks is working on the Dallas Fire Protection situation. Lomax is contracted for the that area and a mutual aid agreement is in place with Nauvoo to cover if Lomax is not in service. She is in discussions, but it is in Dallas Fire Protections hand and she thinks a decision will be made in the next couple months. Menn says thinks it should be put on ballot to make it official to get back in system. Ms. Meeks said the County can force Nauvoo and Dallas to be under Hancock County ambulance. Menn believes it should be more than an agreement. Ms. Meeks said their money will come with them if an agreement is agreed upon. Mr. Gound Superintendent of Warsaw asked to speak. He had two board members approach him as to his thoughts on him being represented at the committee meeting. He is not a scientist and cannot determine what is right for students. He listens to frustrations and feels it is important for him to know those frustrations. He takes all concerns seriously. He will encourage his board to follow the guidelines to protect their school board and the liability that they face. He is concerned about the loss of activities for students if they cannot participate because they are not following guidelines. 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 Ms. Castlebury. On roll call, all members participating voted "Yes".

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve the Resolution for Contractual Write-off as of March 2021 in amount of \$57,437.95 and the additional collection efforts amount of \$4,870.03, it was seconded by Ms. Fleming. Roll call was taken with all members present voting "Yes." Motion carried.

Mr. Menn asked what we are spending on transfer calls versus EMS calls? Ms. Meeks will have to look; she says there are many transfer calls because of Memorial hospital being a critical access hospital. She is looking at the transfer protocol and this may change how transfers occur if Dallas comes on. We are providing Memorial Hospital with a service, she is checking if providing this service is causing write off. We may have trouble breaking a relationship even with transfer and is looking into it. Emergency calls may get nothing, may make a lot, on average we make \$500 and transfers \$1000. Ms. Meeks is constantly looking at figures to make sure we are not making bad decisions. They are working on new protocols, so they are not out of service by transfers. The calls are 60-70% Medicare, so we take a hit.

The Clerk explained a resolution regarding zoning that may need addressed soon as to Hancock County retaining those rights.

Mr. Castlebury made a motion to appoint Lee Ward as Trustee to the Blandinsville Hire Fire Protection District and to confirm the terms of Steven Haney and Mike Moore. It seconded by Mr. Menn and a voice vote was taken with all members voting "aye."

A motion was made by Mr. Douglas to adjourn the meeting until May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:30. It was seconded by Mr. Cramer and it carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,



Holly A. Wilde-Tillman  
Hancock County Clerk and Recorder