

**MINUTES OF A HEALTH AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD IN THE  
COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY  
DECEMBER 2021**

The committee meeting was called to order at 6:29. Dennis Castlebury, Delbert Kreps, Pat Cramer, Tom Rodgers, Andrew Asbury, Stephen Finney, Katherine Phillips and Jan Fleming were present. Visiting were Jack Curfman, Konnor Bland and Sarabella from EMS.

Mr. Curfman brought the committee up to date on a few items. He has brought the Intergovernmental Agreement between Illinois Emergency Management Agency and County of Hancock for Mr. Kreps to sign. He has participated in the annual MABAS inspection on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 and it went well. He received a report from NWS and they are forecasting 80 mph winds in the next few days. He was updated on cyberattacks facing government agencies. Mr. Rodgers asked about the County having an IT department and Ms. Wilde-Tillman reported each office is on their own. Mr. Rodgers wanted it noted that each office holder should talk to their IT provider about these threats. It was also discussed about whether the Courthouse had a generator and Jack will investigate this. Mr. Curfman spent some time researching the flood plain and rating the properties in the Warsaw bottoms. He followed up on the building permit in Niota and the property is up to code. Mr. Curfman expressed his concern with the County signing a contract with a company to purchase their electric through a different supplier. He is worried how the cost will go up towards the end of the contract.

Ms. Meeks was a mandatory meeting in Quincy for our system. They are discussing the employee shortage. Konnor Bland is reporting on EMS and he has brought a new graduate of the EMT program to take notes.

Contractual write offs for the month of November 2021 were \$21, 762.69. There are no bad debts to report, as they are still being worked on by the billing agency and should be lessened in number before committing them to further collection attempts. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to move the contractual write-offs to the full board and it was seconded by Mr. Finney. All members present voted "aye."

The USDA grant reimbursed \$46,100 for the purchase of 3a22 and was posted to Novembers grant revenue. The Illinois Department of transportation fixed the culvert in front of the Carthage station and bids were being obtained for the commerce grant to repave of the parking lot.

In an effort to retain current EMS employees who are looking at other jobs Ms. Meeks authorized pay increases to six employees. The pay increases are covered within the current budget, as budgeted amount for one retiring paramedic will be utilized to cover these increases. The union stewards were consulted, and the pay increases are not in violation of the contract. Miss Meeks wanted to reiterate that the payroll budget will not be affected by these increases and will guarantee our ambulances operating.

Mr. Bland discussed the 2021 budget and why it was over by \$129,955.68. This was due to paying off the line of credit and purchasing ambulance instead of financing which was not budgeted. There was a credit for textbooks which was not received until December, so the budget actually came in under budget by \$9,530.25.

The Lead Instructor, Adam Doellman is taking a new position and miss Meeks is looking for a new lead instructor. They do have someone in mind and they are looking for a class so he can be licensed.

The EMS would like to purchase new LUCAS CPR devices. They want to buy 2 to put on the front line ALS rig in December 2021 and then purchase a third in December 2022 for the backup ALS rig. The concern among board members was if this was budgeted and it appears she is getting funds from two fund line items. Mr. Castlebury made a motion to approve the purchase of 2 LUCAS devices as long as it was budgeted, Ms. Phillips seconded. All members present voted "aye." Motion will go to full board.

Three estimates were received for the large overhead door on the ambulance barn. Southeast Iowa Garage Door was the lowest and it included a new motor where the others were using the existing motor. They are looking at 14-17 weeks for it to come in. The committee agreed she should proceed and submit a claim.

Mr. Bland gave a year in review of all the new things that were happening at the EMS department. They are providing lots of training in the community and being present at many community events. They have a new rig, provided more security measures for drugs, added equipment and technology and EMS1 academy. They are having collaboration meetings with Memorial to discuss treatment and procedures. Ms. Meeks is looking forward to 2022.

Ms. Fleming provided the EMS director job description and thinks they should evaluate at some point. Changes can be suggested but it would need to go before Finance. Mr. Cramer thought a command post should be designated and Mr. Curfman stated that was done in his plan. There was also discussion if living in Hancock County should be a requirement. Mr. Asbury did think much needed changed and if we did then Ms. Meeks might need to reapply. Ms. Fleming hears she may not be following this description and wanted to provide this for everyone to think about.

Ms. Phillips stated that Memorial is documenting patients records when a transfer was recommended and that it was denied by Hancock County.

Mr. Asbury reported there were 170 transfers from January to October 2021 and Hancock County transferred 104. This information was received from Ms. Meeks from Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Kreps asked if we moved on the overhead door, and it was stated she could proceed and submit a claim because it was in the budget.

Ms. Fleming asked Mr. Asbury to bring the committee up to date on Memorial Hospital transfers. The committee has met once with Adams County EMS. They may have interest in getting patients out of Memorial Hospital. They are on the verge of having a transfer crew. The committee met with John Simon and Jessica Frese and they have asked for a number of transfers to provide Hancock County with a proposal. Hancock County might be interested in offering a rig and off duty EMS employees to staff. There has also been conversations about an option to sell or lease a rig to Memorial Hospital but EMS and IDPH may restrict this. Mr. Castlebury asked if they have talked about Adams County absorbing and Mr. Asbury said it has been discussed but that the committee does not have the latitude for this. Mr. Castlebury said it should be looked into. Mr. Cramer said Mr. Simon was interested at one time because he could move EMT's around and alleviate shortage with a regional system. Mr. Asbury reiterated that the committee is staying in their scope. Mr. Asbury is hoping to have a proposal by next Tuesday. It was noted that in discussions it had come out that Mr. Simon had reached out to Memorial Hospital about 2

years ago and they never responded. Mr. Asbury stated there is no money allocated in the budget for transfers and if Hancock County did this on their own the costs would go through the roof. Mr. Asbury said the committee had entertained honest and open conversations and this is what they think is most viable. Mr. Rodgers commended the committee because taxpayers need this service.

Mr. Rodgers made a motion to approve the proposed meeting schedule of the Health and Miscellaneous to be the second Tuesday after the first Monday each month at 6:30 p.m. The meetings will be held at the Hancock County Courthouse, third floor, Board room. It was seconded by Mr. Castlebury.

Mr. Fleming updated the board that the Dog pound is almost finished and came in under budget. COVID cases are up in Hancock County.

Forty-three claims were presented and reviewed for payment. Mr. Cramer made a motion to send them to the full board for payment, it was seconded by Ms. Phillips. All members present voted "aye."

Mr. Cramer made a motion to recess until January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., it was seconded by Ms. Phillips. All members present voted "aye."



Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Holly A. Wilde-Tillman".

Holly A. Wilde-Tillman

Hancock County Clerk and Recorder