

**MINUTES OF A HEALTH AND MISC COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD IN THE COUNTY
COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON THE 11TH DAY OF
JANUARY 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Janet Fleming. Those in attendance were Delbert Kreps, Dennis Castlebury, Pat Cramer, Tom Rodgers, Andrew Asbury, and Janet Fleming. Katherine Phillips and Stephen Finney were absent. Ms. Wilde-Tillman and Ms. Swisegood were present to take a record of the meeting, and Ms. Meeks was in attendance.

Ms. Meeks stated the 31-day CD was renewed for \$40,000. It has a maturity date of 1/14/2022. Checking account balance is \$41,343.48. Total cash available on 1/7/22 is \$81,343.48. Contractual write offs for December 2021 totaled \$25,618.63. Bad debts have not been sent for over 2 months. The total amount to send to collections is \$33,547.63. This includes 13 refusals at \$250, 14 lift assists at \$125, and 10 runs over \$1000 owed. This is a total of 50 different patients over 76 runs.

Ms. Meeks stated that the Commerce Grant she was filling out is secure. She just needs to send in the paperwork. The culvert was fixed through IDOT. She is getting bids to get the parking overlaid. Ms. Meeks will talk to Ms. Mast about this, and advertise this in the paper as it will be over \$30,000.

Discussion ensued about retention raises. The retention raises submitted to payroll were revoked by the chair of the Board and the States' Attorney. Mr. Rodgers stated that Ms. Meeks had made pay raises without asking the board. Cramer stated this is against the Union. Mr. Kreps talked to the Union representative and they were ok with raises. Mr. Cramer does not want to give into demands. Mr. Asbury stated individuals making \$12 is a problem across the board, not just for paramedics. When they signed the Union contract they were locked into that deal for that period of time which was agreed upon. If we continue to change things in a union contract what is the point of a contract. It is to protect all parties. Ms. Meeks was using a retiring employee's salary to give raises. Mr. Rodgers asked if we were comparable on the wage scale. Ms. Meeks said no. She said we are off by \$5 compared to Pike County, a comparable county. Mr. Kreps stated we need to go to voters to get tax referendum. Meeks asked if the board was willing to support this. Mr. Asbury stated that fire districts can levy for more.

Ms. Meeks was asking about putting a sales tax on the ballot. Mr. Rodgers asked if we can raise property tax. Mr. Castlebury asked if we can charge more for runs and Ms. Meeks said no. The Medicare and public aide mix is 80%, so increasing charges would just increase our contractual write offs

and would not generate much additional cash. Mr. Castlebury made a motion to direct Ms. Meeks to take this proposal of raising sales tax to the finance committee next month to support the ambulance, Rodgers seconded. Ayes – 5.

Lucas devices were received and training on these devices is scheduled for January 20. Surrounding police departments, fire departments, first responders, and the hospital were invited to attend the training. There will be an article in the newspaper.

They have an overhead door bid from Southeast Iowa Overhead Door Specialists which was accepted, and the door has been ordered. A 50% down payment will be submitted with the February claims with the final payment being due at installation. Ms. Meeks has been duct taping the current one. Mr. Cramer suggested getting some sheet metal and attach it by pop riveting it.

There was discussion regarding the condition of the ambulances and the continuous repairs being done to them. Ms. Fleming stated she was hearing that the committee is in support of Ms. Meeks exploring how to gain revenue to purchase equipment, etc. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to buy a new ambulance to replace what we have with finance. He feels it is endangering people's lives. There was no second.

Ms. Meeks has talked with Ada and Theresa regarding transfers. They will be getting numbers together and give them to the committee.

The Siren grant is due on February 14 and could be up to \$200,000.

The animal control building is done. It came in under budget. Ms. Fleming would like Mr. Wright to come to some meetings, and Mr. Cramer stated if he could come every 3 or 4 months that would be great.

There are 119 cases of COVID in Hancock County. They will be having COVID-19 tests starting January 18 on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. Tests are free. They do not have to be just Hancock County residents. They have a 24-48-hour turnaround time. There will be an email coming out regarding an upcoming NARCAN training.

There was discussion regarding COVID and the new OSHA guidelines if it passes in the Supreme court. The board decided to wait and see what the Supreme Court decision is. They decided to use the COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Emergency Temporary Standard guidelines per OSHA. The plan needs to be implemented by February 9.

With claim 1 there was an issue with laptops and TV. Mr. Asbury wanted to know what this was for. Ms. Meeks stated they are replacements as they are outdated laptops. The TV is for the

conference room for educational purposes as she was using her person TV. This was in the budget.

Claim 16 issue with ADT. It was for Carthage only and was explained.

Claim 23 the bill was higher because it was a new installation. This is only for the internet and phone. Ms. Meeks will be adding cable later.

Mr. Castlebury motioned that these 44 claims be sent for approval to full board. Mr. Rodgers seconded it. Ayes – 5.

A motion was made at 8:21 p.m. for recess until February 15, 2022, by Mr. Asbury. Mr. Cramer seconded it. Ayes – 5.

Respectfully submitted by,

Holly A. Wilde-Tillman
Hancock County Clerk and Recorder