

**MINUTES OF A FINANCE, FEES, AND SALARIES COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF
HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD IN THE COUNTY
COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON FEBRUARY 10, 2022.**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Bollin at 9:05 a.m. Board members present were Wayne Bollin, Janet Fleming, Tom Bergmeier, Mark Hanson, and Delbert Kreps. Absent were Mark Menn, Harry Douglas, Dennis Castlebury. Visitors present were Jennifer Meeks, Kris Pilkington, Keith Krohe, and Patsy Davis. Holly Wilde-Tillman and Stephanie Swisegood were present to take the notes from the meeting.

Ms. Meeks proposed an increase in sales tax to help with ambulance expenses. Ms. Meeks had brought numbers for a sales tax proposal. She would like to make a resolution to increase the sales tax for public safety. She would then go through Ms. Wilde-Tillman to get the proper info on the ballot for the public to vote on. The current sales tax rate is 6.25% with 1.25% coming back to the county. This amount over 3 years equals around \$525,445. Ms. Meeks states we can start this tax increase twice a year, either July 1 or January 1. Realistically she thinks putting it on the November 2022 ballot would be best rather than June 2022. This way it could start on January 1, 2023. She would propose a 1% increase the first year and then 0.25% for 2 years equaling 1.50% by 2025. She proposes that 80% stay within the Hancock County EMS with 10% going to LaHarpe EMS, and 10% going to Nauvoo EMS. Ms. Meeks states this is becoming more of a medicaid district. Revenue is down this year, their runs are down. A lot of hospitals are packed so nobody is being transferred. This money could be used for the aging ambulances, cover payroll, etc. Union contracts are going to be negotiated again in 2023. Mr. Bollin asked if there are only to be 0.25% increases, can we even do a 1% increase? Ms. Pilkington states there is a formula and that she would need to talk to Ms. Mast or someone from the state to see what we can do as far as the percentages. Ms. Pilkington suggested Ms. Meeks speak with Adams County and see what their rate is on safety. She states we had tried to raise the sales tax before to supplement the sheriff's office and it failed on the ballot. Mr. Bollin advised Ms. Meeks to find out more details and get as much information as you can. Ms. Meeks asked if we can shoot for November. Ms. Wilde-Tillman suggested she try to get this on the spring 2023 ballot. Ms. Pilkington states that Ms. Meeks needs to be prepared to go door to door and educate people and try to convince residents to get this passed. Ms. Fleming stated it is obvious that the EMS needs to be funded and is this the way we want to go? Ms. Meeks states the ambulance is having difficulty with keeping employees. She is down 2 paramedics and 3 EMTs. She cannot get anybody hired. They are working overtime to get all of the shifts filled. Ms. Fleming asked at what point do you go to 1 ALS ambulance? Mr. Bollin told Ms. Meeks to find out more information and we will go from there.

Mr. Krohe stated after our meeting last month he talked with Ron on the group Air Evac contract. If we eliminate air ambulance from our plan, Air Evac group may not pay. This could

make the contract null and void. Mr. Krohe states we need to go the individual route rather than a group contract. This way the employee comes in and signs a contract for Air Med Care, they pay for it, and will get reimbursed. Ms. Roberts can come and help get people enrolled. She can take all of the receipts to Ms. McDowell and she will send these receipts to Medical Mutual, and the employee would get their reimbursement right away. Ms. Pilkington asked do they decide if they do 1 or 3 year contracts? Ms. Fleming asked if our plan would pay first. Mr. Krohe stated air ambulance will not be covered once we change the plan. Ms. Wilde-Tillman asked if we are just taking the air evac coverage out of our health care plan? Mr. Krohe stated we need to change the wording of the contract. There is no problem in changing the plan, its your plan. There will just not be a group contract with Air Evac. Mr. Krohe states if an employee is on this health plan then they do not have to buy this if they have it on another plan. Mr. Bergmeier was concerned about this, what if an employee gets flown out of Burlington and it is not in Air Med Care. Mr. Krohe asked if this happens could the money come out of the reserve? If an employee chooses not to get the Air Med plan and then uses Air Evac they will need to pay for that Air Evac flight. Insurance will not pay.

Ms. Pilkington asked if this would be for the MRP plan also. Mr. Krohe stated we would not discriminate against either plan. Mr. Bollin stated if we have the treasurer's office set this up then we need to have a checklist for people to understand what it will do for them. MRP will be covered, all the family will be covered, and they will be reimbursed. The board feels that Ms. Pilkington needs to explain employees the benefits of signing up for Air Evac and the liability of not obtaining this. Mr. Krohe stated this is the employee's choice. Tell them here is the plan, highlight that air med is not covered, and when they sign this they get reimbursed up to \$100 per year. Let them decide if they would like a 1-year or 3-year contract. Mr. Krohe stated if you take 1 ambulance ride in 5 years that it would pay for itself. This is putting a leverage in the plan for if it would happen. Ms. Wilde-Tillman stated it is an insurance policy to protect your insurance policy. Mr. Bollin asked if this wording suits the insurance company. Mr. Krohe stated that McDonough County has this wording, and there are over 15 different groups that are using this language. Mr. Bollin asked if an individual who does not sign the contract needs to sign a waiver? All employees must see the Hancock County Treasurer's office. Ms. Pilkington asked if an individual could have 2 different air ambulance coverages? A motion was made by Ms. Fleming that Hancock County agrees to provide Air Evac to individual membership for 1 or 3 years and will reimburse all employees up to \$100/year. Mr. Hanson seconded this. All members present voted "aye".

A motion to amend the Hancock County health plan effective April 1, 2022, to exclude air ambulance coverage was made by Ms. Fleming with Mr. Hanson seconding. All members present voted "aye". Mr. Krohe left at 10:05 a.m.

Ms. Pilkington gave a budgetary status report. Ms. Pilkington was asking about the Bellwether

installments. We paid them in April and December 2020, then again April and December 2021. Now we paid another installment in January 2022. The fiscal years are off. Mr. Bollin asked if this was a problem? Ms. Pilkington explained that she was just telling the committee what was happening. Mr. Bollin stated we are still paying \$12,000 yearly, do you want us to get it back in the correct fiscal year? It was expressed that it was being paid out of the audit but should it be out of the budget preparation. Ms. Pilkington stated she needs to get it changed over and we will need to do a line item transfer. Mr. Bollin asked if we had \$12,000 in budget preparation for this. Ms. Pilkington stated it had just been coded wrong. Mr. Bollin explained this could come out of the ARPA fund.

Ms. Pilkington stated that a few weeks ago their server crashed momentarily. The warranty on this server is up at the end of this year. She has a claim for a new server which is \$20,510. She needs to pay this now to lock in the price. She explained we are changing software for accounts payable. Ms. Pilkington stated it was not budgeted but it is something we need. Mr. Bollin asked what we are paying DEVNET for. Ms. Pilkington stated we are paying for software support, tax software, and financial software. She would like to get the new server the end of March or beginning of April after the new CIC transfer has been done. Mr. Bollin stated there may not be a change in price. He stated when ARPA comes in it will be \$3 million. After we have this money we can submit this claim and see if it qualifies for coverage. Bellwether will review this and see if it is eligible. Mr. Bergmeier made a motion to sign a contract for server hardware and software support for 5 years with DEVNET. Mr. Hanson seconded this. All members present voted "aye".

Ms. Pilkington stated we had an agreement with CIC but not included in the agreement was getting our computers updated with Microsoft Access. We needed 6 licenses. This cost \$3000. Then we had \$1750 to Computer Masters for labor. These were not in the budget. Ms. Pilkington stated there is a bill from Ricoh for \$20.50 that they would like paid immediately. Mr. Bollin gave Ms. Wilde-Tillman permission to pay this. Ms. Pilkington informing the board about senate bill 508 regarding lost revenue and tax payer revenue and how to recoup that. We were recommended by the treasurer's association to go ahead and do it so that we were in compliance. It goes into levies for next year to get money back. Ms. Pilkington stated they have been informed that it is the opinion that we will not do it since we are not PTELL. Ms. Wilde-Tillman stated she sent her information to Ms. Bobi James to look it over.

Mr. Krohe called Mr. Bollin at 10:25 a.m. and stated up to \$20,000 could be paid for that service when it is not covered by the plan. If they get flown out of Burlington that can be paid out of the plan. Then that employee would negotiate their bill.

This would be a language change in the plan to possibly pay non covered expenses, not solely Air transport Board's discretion.

Ms. Davis went to Marine Bank and Trust and spoke with Ina Schwartz about department credit cards. Hancock County Board would be the corporate person and underneath that each office

could have their own card with their own card number. Ms. Davis stated the office holder could have a card and then the chief deputy could have a card also, both with separate numbers just in case something happens to the office holder. Every month statements would come out for each department, we would audit those and make sure that all the charges are legitimate. The tax numbers would be encoded in each card so that when you use it it would show it as a government entity and no taxes will be charged. The limits on the cards can be picked and you could also pick the due date. Any points that are accrued would be put in the general fund. Mr. Bollin asked if there were any annual fees. The answer was no. Mr. Bollin stated we would need a resolution. Ms. Wilde-Tillman will talk to Ms. Mast about a resolution. We need an overall corporate name, a limit of 1 card per office with a limit of \$5000, and it needs to be a budgeted item. Any non-budgeted item needs to have preapproval by the board, not just a committee. The payment date has to accommodate the treasurer's payment schedule. We need cards for the treasurer, county clerk, circuit clerk, states attorney, highway department, EMS, assessor's office, and the coroner. Ms. Davis stated she can bring the paperwork to each office for them to sign along with the resolution so the office's do not need to all go to the bank to get the paperwork signed. She can then take the paperwork to the office and it will be about 2 weeks before the cards will be received. The board suggested calling ESDA and animal control to see if they could benefit from a card. Ms. Davis left the meeting at 10:49.

This motion was brought to full board by Highway committee.

Mr. Bollin asked if the economic interest sheets are going to change. Ms. Wilde-Tillman is not optimistic that it will change. Anything that is not public debt needs to be put on the form. You do not need to be specific about amounts. Just put down that you have a loan on a tractor, for instance. Ms. Wilde-Tillman suggested people to be vague on what you put down but you also need to know it is punishable by fine and imprisonment if not filled out correctly.

Mr. Bollin stated that the sheriff's contract is done and has been accepted. It has to be passed here and then sent to full board. They had a ratification vote to improve the changes to the contract to 3/3/2.5% each year. All these changes are as of December 1, 2021. Mr. Bergmeier made a motion to approve the sheriff's union contract pending full board with 3/3/2.5% raises. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. All members present voted "aye".

w/ some language changes

Mr. Bollin asked if we need to give the rest of the employees a 1% raise since they only got 3% and everyone else had a 3% raise. We have modeled behind the sheriff's department for at least the last 10 years. Mr. Bollin asked what we need to do. According to Mr. Bollin, Mr. Douglas says maybe give the raise, Mr. Menn says do not open it up because it will add on their budgets. Mr. Bollin says the cost of living has gone up. Ms. Pilkington stated it is up to the office holder what to pay their employees. Mr. Bollin asked do you think it has already been given? Ms. Wilde-Tillman stated she would be interested in giving a 1% raise because she appreciates her help and wants to keep them. Mr. Bollin stated we will leave it alone this year but will make a 3% next year.

Mr. Bollin informed the committee about the ARPA standard allowance. Each department submits a detailed request. The list needs to be given to Mr. Bollin as soon as possible. We need to send this to Bellwether to make sure they are not disqualified expenses. Ms. Pilkington asked if it should be in a formal template. Mr. Bollin states put in the product, amount of money, when it will be incurred or when it has already been incurred, and send it to Mr. Bollin.

The subject of county clerk, treasurer, assessor, and sheriff's salaries was discussed. It was tabled since 3 board members were missing.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman told the committee that their website person Tim Walker sold it to Jeremiah Sherrill. She has a meeting on February 11 at 2 p.m. with Vervocity who was recommended by MTC and Computer Masters. She does not know if we can buy the website or if we will need to have it rebuilt. Ms. Wilde-Tillman has been having problems with her email. She may not receive an email for 2 days, etc. Jeremiah is looking to sell us to someone else. Mr. Bollin gave Ms. Wilde-Tillman permission to get something done.

Mr. Bollin stated claim #12 should equal \$718.50, #13 should equal \$903.60. Ms. Fleming stated there was tax on 2 claims from the coroner. A motion to approve these claims was made by Mr. Bergmeier and seconded by Ms. Fleming. All members present voted "aye".

Let's expenditures total.

Motion to adjourn until March 10, 2022, at 11:43 a.m. was made by Mr. Hanson and seconded by Ms. Fleming. All members present voted "aye".

Respectfully signed,



Wayne Bollin, Chairman