

**MINUTES OF A HEALTH AND MISCELLANEOUS MEETING OF THE COUNTY
OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD IN THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN
THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON
FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 6:28 p.m. by Ms. Fleming. Board members present were Andrew Asbury, Gary Stansbery, Pat Cramer, Tom Rodgers, Katherine Phillips, Janet Fleming, Delbert Kreps, and Steve Finney who arrived at 6:33 p.m. Visitors included Amy Hall, Jennifer Meeks, Jack Curfman, Michael Wright, Maggie Harrell, Teresa Smith of Memorial Hospital, Blake Austin, Levi Walters, Aubrey Friday, and Doug DiPrima.

Mr. Wright gave his report on animal control. He has a budget of \$25,000-\$30,000/year. Mr. Wright stated he could come to the meeting anytime to give a report. Ms. Fleming introduced Ms. Harrell. She is our administrator of animal control. She makes sure we are doing what we need to do. Ms. Harrell stated she does not think anything is being done wrong. She supplies quarantines for bites and rabies testing. She does vaccination administrations for the county and works with vet clinics in the County to stay in guidelines. The county pays Ms. Harrell \$2000 a year for her service. Mr. Rodgers asked how long she has been doing this. Ms. Harrell stated it is going on 10 years. Ms. Fleming stated we will discontinue to use metal tags. Mr. Wright stated next year we will come up with another plan. He will be speaking with other counties to see possible options. This will help making paperwork easier. Mr. Finney arrived at 6:33 p.m. Mr. Wright stated he will have 2 unusual payments in his claims. He ordered a net for catching animals. It could be used for cats. It would have come in handy a few weeks ago when he had to get a squirrel out of a chimney. He also had to buy 3 packages of tranquilizers for darts. Mr. Cramer asked if the building was in good shape. Mr. Wright stated he just has panels to put on yet but the weather has not been good for that. He stated the outside pens are inoperable and can only work on them when the weather cooperates. Mr. Wright and Ms. Harrell left at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Hall gave her annual report FY2021. There will be a COVID booster clinic on March 2 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. and then 1:00-2:30 p.m. at the Hancock County Health Department. They have 100 doses available. We have Moderna and Memorial Hospital has Pfizer and Moderna. We are doing regional hazardous waste with other counties for residents only. When this gets lined out we will advertise it. This is for households paints, unused motoroil, fluorescent lightbulbs, etc. The Hancock County Health Department will be reopening the Fitness Center on March 1. They are moving offices and putting in flooring. Mr. Rodgers asked what is in the Fitness Center. Ms. Hall said there were exercise bikes, treadmills, strength training machines, and they also offer some chair exercises. Mr. Rodgers asked if this is by appointment only. Ms. Hall stated it will be open Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is by doctor referral

only. After you get the doctor referral, you will get an orientation, and they will show you how to use the equipment. Mr. Rodgers asked what shape the building was in. Ms. Hall stated it needs a new roof. During the last snowstorm Ms. Hall came into the office and one of the ceiling tiles was sagging. They had someone get on the roof and knock off the ice and snow off. Ms. Hall stated they do go to the school and give presentations on nutrition, tobacco, etc. Ms. Finney gave a presentation on emotions to fourth graders. We are still helping the schools with contact tracing. Ms. Phillips asked if the COVID19 numbers are going down. Ms. Hall stated the numbers keep going up and down and the confirmed cases in 2021 was 2447. Ms. Finney did a post on Monday to the website stating in the week of February 5 through 12 there were 76 cases and 1 related death. Ms. Hall explained what a COVID-related death means. It could have been a death from cancer but if they had COVID in the last couple of months they have to wait for the autopsy, and it is considered a COVID-related death. Mr. Cramer stated so if you died of lung cancer and had COVID months before it is still considered a COVID death. Ms. Hall left at 6:45 p.m.

Mr. Curfman gave his report. MABAS tents can only be up for 30 days. The one at Memorial Hospital can stay up until April 1 due to the weather. The sheriff's office called on February 6 and asked if they could use the MABAS equipment, the light tower generator to use for an investigation for a death outside of town. They had an IEMA meeting on February 15. They have more suggested training they are wanting done. NWS had a webinar and the flood outlook is minor but April can change a lot of things. On March 1 there will be a webinar meeting with IEMA for flood preparedness. We will be doing an inventory of all supplies. If the claim goes through tonight, on March 14 we will have National Weather Service training. Mr. Finney asked what time this will be held. Mr. Curfman stated 6:30 p.m. on March 14. Mr. Curfman had a late fee on his telephone because of the timing of the bills and board meetings. He was wondering if some routine bills could be made ahead of time. He had emailed the fire chief in Niota and asked about burning brush to get it cleaned up. He believes that people have stopped dumping trash on it. He has a question about the flood plain ordinance. He would like it reviewed next month and make copies of updates. He wonders if it is the whole county, and will need to talk to Ms. Mast. Ms. Fleming asked if Ms. Wilde-Tillman could email the board tonight so they can review the ordinance on March 15. He was questioning about RVs sitting over 180 days in 1 spot in the flood plain. Is it worth dealing with? Ms. Fleming stated let sleepig dogs lie. If it is going to flood they normally pull their campers out.

Ms. Meeks gave the EMS overview. A 31-day CD was renewed for \$10,000 with a maturity date of February 14, 2022. Check account balance is \$49,008.27. Cash flow is lower this month again. Expenses are in line with the budget but revenue is lower. They are having fewer runs and transfers. Most of the calls coming in are Medicaid patients whic means less cash in the door. There is \$225,145.32 in accounts receivable. The contractual write offs reflect that we did get over \$80,000 in payments in January.

Bad debts total \$17,312.75. There were 26 runs, 15 were self pays, 12 of which were lift assists or refusals which you cannot bill, and 6 calls were over \$1000 each totaling \$9961. Contractual write offs are already out of accounts receivable. Once this gets passed at full board, the billing company is informed, and then notices go out. Mr. Asbury asked how long she has been with this collection company. Ms. Meeks states it has been 6 years. Mr. Asbury wondered about the status of the current agreement. Ms. Meeks stated the rate was not bad. They get 4% of the cash collected. They provide software and updates according to Ms. Fleming. Mr. Asbury would like to look at the contract to make sure they are keeping their end of the bargain. ESO is the software. Ms. Meeks likes this software and recommended we stay with that. Motion to approve contractual allowance of \$62,491.21 plus additional collection efforts of \$17,312.75 was made by Mr. Finney. Mr. Cramer seconded this. All members present voted "aye".

Ms. Meeks gave an update on grants. There is a Department of Commerce Grant which will be used for the parking lot. She has not put an ad in the paper because she needs to talk to Ms. Mast. She has been working on the Siren Grant. The deadline for the application was due February 15. She got this submitted and it was accepted. We should know by July 31 if we have been given this grant. It is a grant for mental health and substance abuse programs because of the dire need. When she wrote the grant she stipulated that she would be willing to do her part of the substance abuse training in order to get the equipment for my employees to help save lives. She will take the suicide prevention course and offer free seminars and assemblies. Assemblies cost \$2000 per visit to the school but she would like to do these for free.

EMS staffing is still a problem and she lost another paramedic yesterday morning. She has 1 out on FMLA that will not be returning. I have been in touch with insurance, the treasurer's office, and Ms. Mast with emails. One paramedic resigned because of lack of support by county board. Mr. Asbury asked if that was the new one. Ms. Meeks stated yes. Mr. Asbury asked if that was the one she was talking about last week and she said yes. Discussion was had about EMS salary. Mr. Cramer made a motion to take 1% sales tax increase to the board. Mr. Rodgers seconded. Mr. Cramer and Mr. Rodgers took this motion back. Mr. Finney gave Ms. Meeks the authority to look into the sales tax proposal with Ms. Fleming seconding this. Discussion continued regarding how to get the paramedics pay raises. Ms. Phillips stated we may need to be creative to come up with pay raises. Ms. Phillips made a motion to give a pay raise if it goes through Ms. Mast, through the union, and Ms. Meeks find the money in the budget. Mr. Rodgers seconded this. Ms. Wilde-Tillman read the motion 3 times. Mr. Kreps asked for a roll call vote. Ms. Fleming, Ms. Phillips, Mr. Asbury, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Cramer, Mr. Stansbery, and Mr. Finney voting "yes".

The ambulances condition was discussed. Ambulance 3a14 is back in service, 3a30 is back in service. The cost of ambulance maintenance is through the roof. Ms. Meeks

would like to use ARPA funding for 2 new ambulances. There is an ambulance for sale right now that she is interested in. Ms. Meeks is getting her EMT license because she wants to do CPR instructing and she can do community outreach. It is the expectation for the Director to have this certification. She wanted to assure the board that she will not be taking any jobs.

Ms. Fleming asked what the next step is if we run out of money. She sees this coming. Will we be shutting down a rig? Mr. Rodgers stated we should worry about money when we run out. Ms. Flemings feels we should hold back on spending. Ms. Meeks had to pay for Lucas devices and had to put half down on a garage door. She is now just down to regular expenses. Runs and transfers are down. Mr. Asbury is meeting with Ms. Bair next week. Ms. Meeks brought the Mutual Aid agreement with LaHarpe but it is not accurate. She will present this next month.

Mr. Kreps made a motion to pay bills. Ms. Swisegood left at 8:27. Mr. Finney left at 8:29. There were 2 claims that were inaccurate. The municipal Emergency Services should be \$100 even. The Peters' claim should be \$121.56. Ms. Phillips made a motion to approve the claims and send them on to finance. Mr. Asbury seconded.

A motion for adjournment until March 15, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. was made by Mr. Rodgers. Mr. Asbury seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Fleming, Chairperson