

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD IN THE COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON MARCH 16, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Delbert Kreps at 6:30 p.m. Members present at the meeting were Pat Cramer, Mark Hanson, Delbert Kreps, Tom Rodgers, Gary Stansbery, Tom Bergmeier, Patsy Davis, Andrew Asbury, Katherine Phillips, Steve Finney, Wayne Bollin, Mark Menn, Jan Fleming. Absent were Dennis Castlebury and Harry Douglas. Visitors included Ryan Weeks, Lisa Weeks, Doug Diprima, Rachel Barnes, Chad Stewart, Deborah Whitaker, Kris Pilkington, Adam Doellman, Rachel Mast, Joy Swearingen, and several other members of the community. Holly Wilde-Tillman and Stephanie Swisegood were present to take notes of the meeting.

Mr. Hanson gave the invocation and the County clerk led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with 13 present and 2 absences.

Deborah Whitaker let us know that the first Saturday in May has been designated by Governor Pritzker as Veteran's Garden Day. At the Hamilton Community Center they will have over 5000 packs of garden seeds, fertilizer, and plants. Everyone is welcome.

Chad Stewart spoke about the intergovernmental agreement between Hancock County and Adams County. He stated this should have been done in the eye of the public, and should have been done in the health and miscellaneous committee. He feels Adams County are foreigners who are going to take over Hancock County. He states the public feels that this board's relationship towards the EMS is hostile, they have failed the EMS and that the situation will only get worse.

Ms. Davis stated that the IGA is to assist our EMS, not take over. The Hancock County EMS will continue to be the Hancock County EMS. The County board has been addressing staffing and financial issues for months. She introduced John Simon from the Adams County EMS. He stated it was the unanimous action of the Adams County Board to offer relief to the citizens of Hancock County. He respects the comments about the process and public concerns. He takes those concerns seriously. He stated we have his commitment that this is not a foreign government takeover, but a neighbor helping a neighbor. Adams County had been in the exact same spot with being \$2.5 million in the hole. Through the collaboration of his team they have built it back up for the better. Their service can provide assistance to our ambulance. The Hancock County Ambulance will continue to be the Hancock County Ambulance. They will abide by the Hancock County Union contractual agreement. Lisa Weeks asked him what would occur at the end of 6 months. He stated no one can say with any certainty what will happen at the end of the 6 months, it can be terminated or extended. It is up to this board on how they

want to proceed within the interest of Hancock County. Their approach is not to leave us high and dry but provide a moment of opportunity to stabilize the circumstances and get going in the right direction. Ms. Weeks asked if they would be making any recommendations as far as to the board to take over administration. He stated they just want to make sure they bring some stabilization, the future would require some public level attention and this board. Anything we entertain beyond November 30 would have to have a discussion and comment period of not only the residents of Hancock County but also Adams County because they do not want to detract from either service.

Ms. Fleming stated this sounds enticing but at the end of November would there be an escalation of contract and how is the \$75/hour determined. He stated if we want expertise in hiring a new director, that would be outside the normal scope, union negotiation expertise would be outside the normal scope. If the county desires a more in-depth analysis of what changes can be made or a fee structure, etc, this would be \$12,500. This would be no different than a consulting fee. Ms. Fleming stated \$5000 over a 12-month period is \$60,000, that is more than we were paying the director. Mr. Simon stated that this fee brings you a team of resources from administrative expertise for running a modern-day EMS that succeeds. Mr. Stewart asked if the board passed this today will the county continue to pay somebody in executive position while your assistance is going on. Mr. Simon stated this has nothing to do with Hancock County and Mr. Doellman.

Mr. Bergmeier asked about the long-range communication equipment and what it entails and costs? Mr. Simon stated that in order to make sure that we can communicate with crews effectively we want to make sure that there is something in there for communication. It was unclear at first what communication they were on but they have assessed the equipment in place so there should be no expense incurred. Kevin Broemmer asked what Mr. Simon was hired to do here. This agreement is to provide a management agreement to operate Hancock County EMS from providing data guidance, support so bills are paid, issues can be addressed, ambulances are maintained, rules are followed, all of the general expectations that administration or management would provide. Kevin Broemmer asked who would be handling any grievances EMS would have. Mr. Simon explained it would go to the supervisor. It would follow the normal steps that are already set up. Kevin Broemmer said so if an Adams County employee came to Hancock County to get a fresh start and has a grievance then it would go to Mr. Simon? Mr. Kreps asked why this would matter. Mr. Cramer stated if you had problems in Adams County you would think you would stay out of trouble in Hancock County. Mr. Simon stated he would have to defer to whatever the union contract states.

Mr. Bergmeier stated it was great that they got Adams County out of the hole of \$2.5 million, but we are still going to do the billing. Mr. Simon stated it was his understanding that the board has a contract with a billing service and he does not know what this contract ensues. He stated it would not make sense to the citizens of Hancock County to pay 2 people to take care