

MINUTES OF A FINANCE AND FEES MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, HELD AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, CITY OF CARTHAGE ON MAY 12, 2022

The meeting was called to order by chairman Wayne Bollin at 8:56 a.m. Those in attendance included Tom Bergmeier, Dennis Castlebury, Mark Menn, Wayne Bollin, Harry Douglas, Janet Fleming, Delbert Kreps. Visitors included Sam Harnack, Doug DiPrima, Travis Duffy, Keara Weber, Dale Bolton, Kacey Livingston, Holly Wilde-Tillman, and Stephanie Swisegood who took minutes of the meeting. Absent from the meeting was Mark Hanson.

Ms. Weber introduced herself. She met with AOIC who recommended to do a transitional audit. She has 3 people hired to fill the vacant positions. One employee is on worker's compensation through May 13, but may be longer. She left at 9:01.

Mr. Bolton let the committee members know that he will be leaving at the end of the month. He has turned everything over to Ms. Livingston on May 2. Ms. Livingston stated that Rex Johnson is up for a 2-year reappointment for Farmland Review and Troy Pierce for a 2-year term for the Board of Review. A new deputy was hired for the assessor's office, Sara Underwood. Mr. Bollin asked when taxes were being mailed out. Mr. Bolton said they were mailed on Monday. Mr. Menn asked when taxes would be due. They are due June and September. Motion was made by Ms. Fleming for Ricky Johnson for a 2-year term for Farmland Review and Troy Pierce for a 2-year term on the Board of Review. This was seconded by Mr. Castlebury. All members present voted "aye". Ms. Livingston and Mr. Bolton left at 9:06 a.m.

Ms. Harnack made the committee aware of a situation that has been going on for a while in Hamilton. The industrial park has been annexed in. They have been trying to get sewer and water at the industrial park. They have 2 grants and all of their ARPA money that they are going to spend on this. They had a bid 4 years ago but since COVID prices have risen. They believe they will be somewhere around \$180,000-\$300,000 shy of what they need to complete this project. There are 125 jobs that this brings to the area and they are wanting to expand but if the water and sewer does not get finished they are thinking of pulling out their businesses. Mr. Menn stated that there is a lot of room for development in the industrial park. They have been waiting for over 4 years to have the water and sewer finished. Timewise this is an urgent situation. Mr. Wilde-Tillman asked if Hamilton's TIF money could be used. Mr. Menn wondered how much funding Hamilton might be asking the county for. Ms. Harnack thinks it might be \$50,000-\$100,000. They will be getting an estimate today or tomorrow. Mr. Bollin stated our second trench should be here soon. The Connable Road has \$3 million dollars set aside for it. There are several items being paid today. There has been a request from the EMS for a new rig. We do not know how much money will be left. The danger in giving Hamilton money for the industrial park is who is to say that another town will not come and ask for

money to build a community center. Mr. Menn stated that we should be open to anything that is economically beneficial. Ms. Harnack left at 9:33 a.m.

Mr. DiPrima was in attendance and asked if any of the ARPA money could be spent on a new ambulance. Mr. Bollin said that the board talked about paying for the LUCAS devices, but this is just a short-term fix. Mr. Simon wants a new rig but does not know how that will come about. Mr. DiPrima stated that they have been able to fix some of the ambulance's problems themselves. Mr. Menn asked about the ambulance with the exhaust issue and if it had been fixed, yes it has been fixed. This is the ambulance they use in Hamilton. The motor mount is broke which causes the catalytic converter to go out so they are running the ambulance without a catalytic converter. It has a starting issue but it is better now since they have been running it.

There was discussion about the circuit clerk's salary. A resolution will need to be made for the salary of the circuit clerk from May 18 to November 30, 2022. Mr. Menn asked if we divide that up to what Mr. Neally's salary was, Ms. Wilde-Tillman said yes. Mr. Menn asked is the county board chair has the authority to appoint the circuit clerk. Mr. Douglas stated the feeling is they want us to think they are going to have someone walk in off the street. It is a power play. We have to have faith in our courthouse people. Ms. Fleming asked what party Ms. Weber was, she is republican. Mr. Bergmeier stated that it will be voted on at the Republican party meeting on Tuesday, May 17, at 5:30 and brought to full board at 6:30. Mr. Menn made a motion that the salary of the circuit clerk appointee remain the same as what the current circuit clerk is making. Mr. Bergmeier seconded. Ms. Fleming asked if we could lower the salary. Mr. Bollin stated that we could but we are filling the same responsibilities. He asked if this position will be voted for in the November election, yes since there was over 28 months left before the term was over. All members present voted "aye".

Ms. Wilde-Tillman asked for a resolution to be able to pay the credit card bill when it came due. They still have some complications to sort out with the bills. Mr. Castlebury made a motion to allow the county clerk to pay the visa credit card bill ahead of time. Mr. Douglas seconded. It was stated that if the problems are not sorted out in 3 cycles then we may need to get rid of the cards. Mr. Menn asked if Ms. Wilde-Tillman will pay the bills without receipts, she stated no. Mr. Bollin stated we do not want a finance charge. All members present voted "aye".

Ms. Wilde-Tillman only has 7 certified economic interest letters she needed to mail out. Last week we had 168. She guesses that her office has over 80 hours working on getting these in on time. She has a letter that Mr. Kreps and Mr. Bollin signed allowing her and Ms. Pilkington to have their names put on CDs at Marine Bank in place of Mr. Neally.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman is working with Jared Massey about handling the web site. He is willing to support us. We have 80 emails and are getting a huge deal. It should be \$6/email/month. He is anxious to help us out. The county clerk's office internet was out on Friday. They could not print, look on line, record, do marriage licenses, etc. This is another reason she would like to have IT here. She is waiting for Computer Masters to give her an estimate. Ms. Fleming stated that Quincy had a cyberattack. Ms. Wilde-Tillman stated this is a big concern for her. She does not know who to call when she has IT issues. There is nobody that is devoted to just her office. She called Computer Masters at 9 a.m., he got here at 12, and was here the rest of the day.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman stated we need a resolution for the sheriff's salary. We had passed this before but now the state has passed a law that states the sheriff is to make 80% of what the states attorney makes for the next 4 years. There is no dollar amount since we do not know how much the states attorney makes until July. Mr. Menn asked when the county would be reimbursed for this, Ms. Wilde-Tillman stated she does not know. This is a concern amongst the clerks in her district. It was in a bill that did not pass but then it was put in the budget and then it passed. Mr. Me stated if the State of Illinois is not going to fund that then why would we pass that. Ms. Wilde-Tillman stated she did not think we could not pass it. Mr. Bollin stated we do not have a choice in the matter. He asked when this needed to be approved. Ms. Wilde-Tillman stated June. Mr. Menn thought we should call Bellwether and see what their insight on this is. Ms. Wilde-Tillman stated that all of the counties in her area are passing it. The committee will leave it on the full board, talk to Bellwether and go from there.

According to Bellwether The money to pay sheriff will come from Pers. Prop Rep. Tax

Ms. Wilde-Tillman wanted to make sure that it was okay to send thank you cards to the circuit clerks that have come to help us out. They have went above and beyond, and we would like to show our appreciation. Mr. Menn stated he totally agreed. Mr. Douglas stated yes. Ms. Wilde-Tillman will get a list of names and addresses from Ms. Weber and get them sent out on the board's behalf.

May 19 is when Ms. Wilde-Tillman is to have ballots in house for early voting. There are 2 objections that are going to hearing today for the democratic governor and republican governor on their petitions. There is an emergency meeting today at 3. She cannot sign off on ballots until this is resolved. There is a big possibility that she may not have ballots here on May 19 for early voting. She has 1 military ballot that is due tomorrow, her office will have it in the mail. She is concerned about being in compliance for early voting.

Mr. Bollin stated since we have taken the standard allowance from ARPA that every general government expense is eligible upon receipt. Any claim dating back to March 3, 2021, can be paid. The total on the list to be paid is \$77,198. We have ~~\$490,000~~ of which we are paying *3.44 million* \$77,000 today. Mr. Douglas made a motion to reimburse record preservation out of ARPA. Mr. Bergmeier seconded it. Ms. Wilde-Tillman stated that we need to ask the office holders if they want to go ahead with purchases if ARPA is not going to pay for it. Mr. Douglas stated the

list with early submissions need to be paid. Mr. Menn asked what do we do if the Connable comes in very high and we leave 1 or 2 offices out. Mr. Bergmeier stated he thinks we may need to readjust the mileage of the Connable. We should stick to our \$2.95 million and if it goes above that then cut down the mileage that will get done. Mr. Bollin stated this is a county expense for infrastructure. It benefits the ambulance and the sheriff's department to have safe roads to travel on. Mr. Menn asked if we put a speculative number on the Connable and have the remaining amount left to take care of other offices. He did not have a problem approving the bills today but wants to make sure there is funding. Mr. Douglas stated he thought the list had already been approved. Mr. Bergmeier asked do we put a dollar figure of what we are going to cap the Connable expense. Mr. Castlebury stated it brings it back to if we cannot do 4 miles then we do 3 miles. He stated that the Hamilton Industrial Park project could also benefit the county. All members present voted "aye".

Ms. Fleming made a motion to pay DEVNET \$20,510 out of the ARPA funds. Mr. Douglas seconded. All members present voted "aye".

Ms. Wilde-Tillman presented the CIC and Computer Master claims which amount to \$7964. This benefits the payroll, treasurer, clerk, and assessor. If these will be paid for by ARPA then she will refund the appropriate funds. Mr. DiPrima stated there are 2 people on the EMS that still do not receive an email of their check stubs. Mr. Wilde-Tillman asked if they spoke with Ms. Molly McDowell about this, yes they have. Two is better than the last system in which nobody got an email of their check stubs. These bills have been paid and brought them to attention because these were unexpected expenses. Mr. Castlebury made a motion to table paying these bills with Mr. Douglas seconding. All members present voted "aye".

Mr. Douglas made a motion to pay Access in the amount of \$10,686.08 for a copier out of the ARPA funds. This was seconded by Mr. Bergmeier. All members present voted "aye".

Color Printer for State's Atty.)

A motion was made to pay Northern Tool and Equipment \$3029.29 out of the ARPA funds by Ms. Fleming, and seconded by Mr. Bollin. All members present voted "aye".

The bill for the Ballot-On-Demand was discussed. Mr. Bergmeier asked if the state pays anything for elections. Ms. Wilde-Tillman stated no. Mr. Douglas made a motion to pay \$8275 out of the ARPA funds for the Ballot-On-Demand. This was seconded by Mr. Bergmeier. All members present voted "aye".

Ms. Wilde-Tillman brought up the Tri-County first responders. Tri-County is taking more runs because Augusta is not running. There are hard feelings. They would like the county to do something. Mr. Douglas stated the fire chief in Plymouth just resigned. Mr. Menn thought this might need to go through EMS. Ms. Wilde-Tillman told Tri-County to talk with Mr. Simon. Mr. Castlebury stated they are getting a lot of runs that they are not getting reimbursed for.

Ms. Pilkington was not present so Mr. Bollin gave the treasurer's report. The auditors were here last week. They will be back soon. The ambulance is low on funds. Mr. Menn stated the building commission pays liability insurance which is now \$54,357. There is a call to Brianna who is figuring it out. The levies were set for \$55,000. The commission needs to figure out the 2022-2023 year. Mr. Menn would like to see a submission of an invoice from the county for the amount in January or February for the auditor. Ms. Pilkington can send Connie a bill in January. The total liability is \$153,000. This leaves about \$100,000 for the ambulance, sheriff vehicles, highway, and cell towers. If the commission has the numbers in the next 60 days they can build the budget. Ms. Fleming asked if the building commission could put their minutes online. Mr. Menn will tell Mr. Heisler that legally it has to be online. The building commissions big projects is the air conditioner at the courthouse in June/July, the jail is going to slip-proof flooring in the showers.

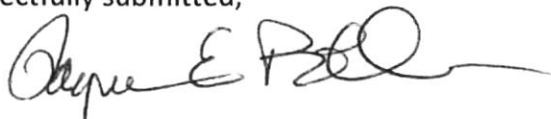
Discussion was had about the state of the ambulance and the sheriff's department phones.

Claims were gone through. Mr. DiPrima left at 11:17 a.m.

Motion to approve the claims be sent to full board was made by Mr. Castlebury with Mr. Douglas seconding. All members present voted "aye". *Finance + Bldg. + Grand Claims*

Mr. Bergmeier made a motion to recess until June 9 at 9 a.m. Mr. Douglas seconded. All members present voted "aye".

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne E. Bollin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wayne Bollin, Chairman