

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD IN THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON MAY 17, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Delbert Kreps at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Kreps gave the invocation, and the clerk lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present in person were: Delbert Kreps, Chairman
 Holly Wilde-Tillman, County Clerk

Mark Menn	Patsy Davis
Tom Rodgers	Tom Bergmeier
Harry Douglas	Jan Fleming
Dennis Castlebury	Pat Cramer
Wayne Bollin	

Absent was Andrew Asbury, Katherine Phillips, Mark Hanson, Stephen Finney, and Gary Stansbery.

Mr. Bergmeier made a motion to approve the April minutes and April highway executive session. Mr. Cramer seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Kreps welcomed the visitors which included Rachel Barnes, Doug DiPrima, Joy Swearingen, Kris Pilkington, Keara Weber, Elgin Berry, Brianna Schneider, Travis Duffy, Sam Harnack, Bobi James, John Simon, and several people from the community. Ms. Schneider from Ramsey Financial stopped in to give us an update and to check in. Things are moving along this year and she has touched base with many of the board. There have been equipment and building updates. A few claims have been turned in this year. There is a \$11,000 credit from the worker's compensation audit. She has recently heard about a new loss control contact with the company that they partner with for the county's insurance. The insurance company has training, services, and extra items that we might want to use for training that is available.

The individuals from Max-A-Millions arrived at 6:34.

Ms. Fleming asked Ms. Schneider about cyber insurance since Adams County had a cyber attack. She was wondering about our cyber coverage. Ms. Schneider informed the board that the board has a vendor who helps with technology and they have a layer of protection and then Ramsey Financial has a small layer of cyber liability. Hancock County does not have the risk that Adams County does since they do not handle the amount of credit card and payment transactions that Adams County does.

Ms. Harnack informed the board of the Hamilton Industrial Park. They have been trying to get water and sewer in the park. Hamilton City Council has 2 grants that they are waiting on but should be coming in any time. They voted at last night's meeting to start bidding as soon as the grants come through. If they bid before they come in they may not be eligible for these grants. They have \$2000 bond fund grant, \$99,000 from the USDA, \$360,000 from ARPA which equals about \$650,000. The most recent estimate is \$700,000. They have talked about possible TIF funding or a loan. Kathy Sparrow arrived at 6:38. Ms. Schneider left at 6:41.

Ms. Davis presented the report of the meeting held by the Highway, Road, and Bridge from April 28, 2022. Ms. Davis moved the report be approved, recommendations of the committee be concurred in, and the reports be placed on file with the minutes of this meeting. Mr. Cramer seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Ms. Davis made a motion to vote to pass the Resolution to expend federal surface transportation program funds for the Burnside-Durham Road and the Burnside-LaCrosse Road, McCann Products for the Hancock County Culverts, and McCann Products for the Hancock County Townships. Mr. Bollin seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Bollin presented the Finance, Fees, and Salary committee minutes from May 12, 2022. He wanted to clear up that he had spoken with Bellwether and that the salary of the sheriff will be deducted from personal property taxes. He wanted to make a correction that we have \$3.44 million coming in from ARPA. Ms. Pilkington stated that the sheriff's new salary will start on December 1 and that we will be reimbursed starting from July 2022. Mr. Bollin moved that the report be approved, recommendations of the committee be concurred in, and the reports be placed on file with the minutes of this meeting. Mr. Castlebury seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Cramer made a motion to pass the resolution to allow the county clerk to pay the VISA bill ahead of time. Mr. Bollin seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

A motion to pass the resolution for the sheriff's salary was made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Cramer. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

A motion to reimburse \$25,000 to record preservation which paid the Fidar bill, reimburse data processing \$20,510 which paid Devnet, Ballot-On-Demand for \$8275, Access for \$10,686.06, and Northern Tool and Equipment for \$3029.29 by Mr. Castlebury. This was seconded by Mr. Bergmeier. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Cramer gave the Health and Miscellaneous committee minutes report. He moved the report be approved, recommendations of the committee be concurred in, and the reports be placed on file with the minutes of this meeting. Ms. Davis seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Simon from EMS stated that the largest area of liability is our staff and the access to narcotics, we need accountability. In the last several years, Hancock County had a litany of narcotic violations. Every single vial of narcotic has to be accounted for from cradle to grave and puts a validated process in place. If Hancock County was to go out and buy a narcotic tracking software on our own it would be several thousand dollars annually. Adams County can add Hancock County to their software that they use for a flat fee of \$50/month. Mr. Douglas made a motion to approve Hancock County EMS paying Adams County EMS \$50/month for a narcotic safe. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Motion to accept the resignation of John Neally was made by Mr. Menn with Mr. Cramer seconding. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Ms. Sparrow made a recommendation for Keara Weber to be appointed as the Circuit Clerk on May 18, 2022, until the November 30, 2022. Mr. Douglas made a motion to pass the resolution to appoint Keara Weber to the position of Circuit Clerk on May 18, 2022, at 12:01 a.m. Mr. Bergmeier seconded. A roll call vote was taken with 9 members present voting "yes", Patsy Davis abstaining, 5 absent. Motion carried.

Ms. Sparrow also wanted to announce that the Republican committee has elected to put Ms. Weber on the November ballot as the Republican nominee for circuit clerk. Ms. Sparrow left at 7:09. Mr. Bollin made a motion for a transitional audit of the circuit clerk's office. Mr. Menn seconded this. Ms. Fleming asked if there was a charge for this. Ms. Wilde-Tillman stated yes. Ms. Weber stated that this is something that was recommended by the administrative office of Illinois courts so we can see where the office stands currently. She assumes that the county will have to pay for this but will get more information. Ms. Fleming asked if we did this after the ambulance. Ms. Pilkington stated that we had talked about it. Mr. Menn stated he would think we should do this after any officer leaves. Mr. Bollin stated that Grey Hunter Stenn are quite capable. He does not think this would be too extravagant of a price, and does not think that we would go with anybody else, and they have done very well by us. Grey Hunter Stenn did do some research on the ambulance service but they did not have time for a full audit. He stated that we need to audit the supervisor of assessments office also. It was asked if there was an audit when Mr. Asbridge left, yes there was. A roll call vote was taken with 9 members present voting "yes", Patsy Davis abstaining, 5 absent. Motion carried.

Ms. James stated we have had an application submitted for an additional liquor license but we are tapped out. The resolution from 1971 stated we offered 5 class A liquor licenses. These are all taken. If a business wants to come in to Hancock County and open a business who needs a liquor license they are unable to. To make this a possibility the board would need to increase the amount of available liquor licenses. She spent time looking up other districts and their liquor license ordinances. They range anywhere from 18 to 110 licenses. She called liquor control who said there is no cap as far as population goes. This is an option that is available and we can draft any changes that the board wants. In the last 50 years there have been some modifications made such as sale of liquor on Sundays, extending the hours, etc. Mr. Castlebury asked what the difference is in the classes. Class A allows to sell at retail, class B is for golf courses that have at least 9 holes, and class C is special events, etc. Class A is your typical bar. Ms. Fleming asked if you need to be a resident of Hancock County to get a liquor license for the county? Ms. James stated on page 5 number 10 it states that a corporation can hold a liquor license and cannot be disqualified based on residency. Mr. Cramer stated he did not understand why we would need any other liquor licenses and that we have enough problems in the county with this kind of stuff. Mr. Rodgers asked where this was located. Ms. James stated it was in Niota. Brenda Young stated that John and Grant Rea bought the Wood Inn and in the process confided in their insurance company that they were going to purchase the Wye-Knot in Niota and within a few days the building next door was purchased in the prospects of opening a gaming building. This is within 10-20 feet of the Wye-Knot. She is not against business promotion in the county but it is the general opinion of the people who signed this petition that there should be some distance between. She explained it would be nice if we had additional liquor license in the county but maybe not being permitted less than 5 miles of an existing one.

Ms. Harnack stated the choice is ours. She is not against having new ones added but she does not think that Niota could support 2 establishments in their town let alone right next to each other. She is for supporting new business. The Rea's had bought the Wood Inn and recently purchased the Wye-Knot. These are people who are from here and are supporting tax dollars to go to Hancock County. Ms. James stated that on her research of liquor license resolutions there was only 1 that she found a restriction on the distance between liquor license holders and it was 400 feet and this was in Chicago. She does not know what the restriction is on the number of gambling establishments you can have. She will do some checking before the next board meeting. Mr. Bollin referred to leave this up to a committee, not Finance, and bring it back to the board. Tanner from Max-A-Millions stated they purchased Country Company's building in Niota. Prior to purchasing the building they had called the clerk's office and advised about a liquor license. They were told that there were some available. They operate 11 stores. They are small and quiet and have very little liquor sales. He stated a different type of clientele frequent their establishment. Their customers are not going to go to a place like the Wye-Knot. The tax dollars this will generate for the county will be significant. If one business is full the other business will have gaming machines open. Mr. Kreps stated that we will work on this

between now and next month's board meeting. Mr. Bollin made a motion to have a committee work on the liquor license with Mr. Menn seconding. All members present voted "aye".

Mr. Bergmeier made a motion to confirm the appointments of Elgin Berry as Trustee to the Niota Fire Protection District for 3 years, Ricky Johnson for a 2-year term on Farmland Review, and Troy Pierce for a 2-year term on the Board of Review. Mr. Douglas seconded. All members present voted "aye".

Motion to recess until June 21, 2022, was made at 7:32 p.m. by Ms. Davis and seconded by Mr. Castlebury. All members present voted "aye".

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A Wilde-Tillman
Hancock County Clerk