

**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 JUNE 9, 2022**

Meeting was called to order by chairman Wayne Bollin at 8:59 a.m. Committee members present included Mark Menn, Dennis Castlebury, Harry Douglas, Tom Bergmeier, Wayne Bollin, Mark Hanson, and Delbert Kreps. Janet Fleming was absent. Visitors included Holly Wilde-Tillman, Kris Pilkington, Sam Harnack, and Stephanie Swisegood was present to take notes of the meeting.

Ms. Harnack made a formal request for ARPA funds for the industrial park in Hamilton for the sewer. She got signatures to show support from several businesses at the park. She is asking for \$50,000 for the sewer to get to the industry park. She believes this is a county issue because it affects the manufacturing of Hancock County. Mr. Douglas asked if she had looked into other solutions. Ms. Harnack stated they had looked into making it an enterprise zone but that would take a longer period of time and this is a time sensitive issue, but we will work towards this. TIF money and loans are still on the table. Mr. Menn asked if the county does move on this when will the project start? Ms. Harnack answered as soon as we get notification of the grants. If we do not hear from them tomorrow I am going to ask for an exemption to move forward since they have half of their ARPA money sitting there. Mr. Menn asked if they got their estimate, yes \$700,000. He asked if this will be done no matter if the board helps out or not. Ms. Harnack stated yes there is a commitment from the city to move on. Mr. Menn asked how many jobs are in the park, 125 jobs now but could potentially double that with the projects the companies have on the horizon. Mr. Menn stated there is the possibility of expansion, yes, they have purchased another 26 acres. Dadants is talking about an expansion but cannot move forward until the sewer system is done. Mr. Bollin stated they are \$50,000 short, why don't they get a loan and be done with it? If they do not get any financial help they will move forward with this. Mr. Bollin's feeling is if we set this precedent then all the other cities will come in and ask where their money is. Ms. Harnack stated that she is just knocking on every door she can to help the industry park out. She thinks this is about jobs. These jobs are county jobs, not Hamilton jobs. She believes only about 20% of the jobs at the park is Hamilton residents. Mr. Menn stated back in 1974-75 we invested in Methode bringing them into town. He thinks it was one of the wisest choices we did, it benefitted the county, but also where do we draw the line on the requests. Ms. Harnack's fear is that we lose what we have and how do we replace that. Mr. Bergmeier asked if there is any agreement with the city and the businesses. Mr. Menn stated Dadants is already investigating into the Siemann's plant. Their thinking is they can move over there with no problems. He just does not want to see that loss. Ms. Harnack left at 9:15 a.m.

Discussion took place regarding this. Mr. Douglas liked the idea that they will be generating revenue. He thinks the solution if we could match \$25,000 and they could borrow \$25,000 it

shows a commitment from us and a commitment from them. He wondered if we would know in advance if we have any money leftover to help. Mr. Menn stated we used to give \$20,000-25,000 to economic development, Mr. Bollin stated it was \$15,000. He thinks as a county board we should try to support this but did not know if \$50,000 was logical. Ms. Wilde-Tillman believes the city of Hamilton is abating taxes for 20 years from the businesses in the industrial park. This was part of the agreement of the TIF district. They are just abating city and library taxes. Mr. Bollin asked if Mr. Hanson had any thoughts. He has mixed feelings. He agrees that if you give them money then someone else could come forward and want money. If we had some guidelines set up that would be ideal. Mr. Menn stated he would not want to hand the money over until the project was completed. Mr. Douglas stated maybe if it would create 50 jobs. Mr. Bergmeier stated he thinks it is wise to keep the jobs here but he would hate to give the money and then see them go to Siemens. Mr. Castlebury agrees with the matching of \$25,000 and put a criteria on it of 50 jobs. Mr. Menn stated he would not tie it to the jobs more than tie it to the project. Mr. Douglas stated we could look at it case by case and explain to people why our criteria existed. Ms. Wilde-Tillman asked how long the project would take, Mr. Menn thought by the end of the year it would be finished. More discussion ensued regarding this.

Mr. Menn asked if we could build it in the budget for economic development instead of ARPA. He did not believe the project would be done by November 30, how about leaving ARPA out of it. Ms. Pilkington suggested we take it out of economic development and if we have money leftover we could pay it back from ARPA. Mr. Bollin asked if we could approve this for next year's budget? Mr. Menn stated that we would put contingencies on this that it will be paid at the end of the completion of the project and will receive this no sooner than December 1. Mr. Douglas asked if this project falls through we will get our \$25,000 back? Mr. Bollin was worried that if we make a decision now what if we are not be able to follow through in December. We have to be legally binding. Mr. Menn stated we approve the budget before the new board comes in. Mr. Bollin asked about amending the budget. Mr. Hanson asked if the new board can rescind what the previous board has done? Mr. Bollin asked where we are at in this year's budget. Could we amend the budget for \$25,000 this year and where are we compared to previous years at this point? Ms. Pilkington stated that we are already over budget at this point and would not want to personally amend the budget this year. Mr. Bollin stated if we make a commitment we need to commit. Mr. Douglas made a motion to invest \$25,000 with a contingency of it being in next year's budget to be paid to the economic development of Hancock County at the completion of the sewer project. Mr. Castlebury seconded the motion. All members present voted "aye".

Ms. Pilkington went over the financial reports. The ambulance has \$31,176.47 which should cover payroll. We have \$42,750 remaining from tax anticipation warrants. The loan needs to be paid back in the fall. She thinks when they get the money back that they need to pay this loan back right away. She asked if she could start emailing the financial reports to save on paper, everyone stated yes. She was wondering what the next step would be for the

ambulance if we ran out of money. Mr. Menn asked if they would be interested in seeing if the building commission wants to purchase the building and then the ambulance could lease it. Short term it would give them some money.

Mr. Hanson wanted to bring to the attention of the committee that he has been approached by Farmhouse Meats if they could lease the land at the ambulance garage. They are interested in putting up a solar unit to run their facility and the powers that be did not want them to use the ground that was set aside south. Mr. Menn stated maybe we could sell it to them. Mr. Hanson stated if you lease it and that company ever sold out then you are stuck with solar panels. Mr. Bollin told Mr. Hanson to figure it out at the Building and Grounds committee meeting and get back to us. Ms. Pilkington left at 10:05 a.m.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman explained the Bastion proposal with Fidar. She stated she is not asking for a dime. She is using this out of record preservation. This would provide us with the security we would need if we ever had a cyber attack. This way all of our records would stay intact and we would lose nothing. Her office could go across the street with a new computer and keep recording all day. Dekalb County was out for a month. She would hate to lose all of the work that has gone into records which are dated back to 1968. If we were attacked we would only have the images and would have to enter the data from scratch. We already pay a replication fee on our images and by doing this we would pay \$2200/quarterly. Mr. Menn made a motion to give the county clerk permission to enter into a proposal with Fidar for the Bastion with an expense of \$2200???/quarterly. She is currently making \$1850 a month from subscriptions from people viewing these records on line. The more records she adds the more money she could get. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. All members present voted "aye".

Joseph Meyer who does surplus properties causes Ms. Wilde-Tillman's office a lot work. There are many benefits but they have a lot of work involved. They are wanting a free subscription to Laredo which is \$75/month. They make money off of the county and this totals \$900/year. Mr. Bollin and Mr. Douglas both stated no.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman is struggling to get election judges. There is no one in Durham.

Mr. Bollin stated we have talked about having the veterans turn in receipts but Mr. Deshong states he cannot give me those receipts because it has their social security number on it. Mr. Menn asked if he could just black out the social security number? Mr. Bollin stated he would go speak with Mr. Deshong again. Ms. Wilde-Tillman told him to let Mr. Deshong know that probation does it this way.

Mr. Bollin stated a certain department has someone out on medical leave, how does this office go about hiring somebody to fill this position, and could that person do a different job when they come off worker's comp? Mr. Douglas asked how long this process takes. Mr. Bollin stated they are waiting on an insurance auditor to make a decision. Ms. Wilde-Tillman stated that Ms. Mast is looking into this at this time. Mr. Bollin stated it did not need to be discussed any further as Ms. Mast is involved.

Mr. Douglas made a motion to approve the resolution for tax deed #15-09-156-000. Mr. Bergmeier seconded. All members present voted "aye".

Mr. Menn stated he does think as a finance committee that we need to discuss in the next 3045 days what we are going to do with the ambulance. Ms. Wilde-Tillman had asked Mr. Simon if we are benefitting from Professional Billing Services and she has gotten a straight answer. Mr. Menn stated the prior administrator was correct in stating that no one wants to work for the amount of money they are getting paid. Mr. Bollin stated the contract could be amended. Mr. Menn stated this will be one of the things the county will face in the next 12-24 months is the payroll, \$15-\$16/hour is not going to cut it. Industry can pay more and thins the county is going to lose more employees. Ms. Wilde-Tillman, Mr. Bollin, and Mr. Bergmeier left at 10:30 a.m.

Claims were gone over. Motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. Douglas with Mr. Hanson seconding. All members present voted "aye".

Motion to recess until July 14 was made by Mr. Douglas. Mr. Hanson seconded. All members present voted "aye". Meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bollin, Chairman