

BUDGET MEETING

OCTOBER 5, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by chairman Wayne Bollin. Members in attendance included Mark Menn, Harry Douglas, Dennis Castlebury, Tom Bergmeier, Janet Fleming, and Wayne Bollin. Visitors included Judge Rodney Clark, Rachel Mast, and Kris Pilkington.

First on the agenda was Ms. Mast and Judge Clark. Ms. Mast informed us of the FOIA lawsuit settlement agreement that was prepared. This concerned the sheriff's website. The website has been changed and updated and those involved were educated on the proper process going forward. The settlement amount was \$3510.84.

Next on the agenda with Ms. Mast and Judge Clark was discussion on the public defender. Kurt Dittmer is asking for \$130,000 for his services for the next year and Lucie, Bougher, and Associates are asking for \$96,000 for the year 2023. Ms. Mast believed the best step going forward was to create an Office of the Public Defender. A resolution would be drawn up which would include a future effective date of initiation. Circuit judges would appoint and vote on the public defender to take that position. Ms. Mast said this would allow someone to be at the courthouse 5 days per week so scheduling would be easier. Judge Clark also commented that it would make the flow of the system easier to have someone full-time. The public defender that would be appointed would be paid 80% of the states' attorney salary, and the county would then be reimbursed 66-2/3% by the state of Illinois. The cost to the county for the public defender would be around \$72,000 along with the office staff cost of \$48,000 which would total \$120,000. Some office equipment would also be needed within that cost range. A conflict attorney would still be needed. They can charge up to \$125/hour. Ms. Mast said that office space would be needed for this new office. She would hopefully try to find this office space on the first floor so inmates would not be traveling throughout the courthouse. They would still need to do something about the conflict public defender. Safety act concerns were voiced, and the outcomes of that are still unknown. Mr. Hanson arrived at 7:27 p.m. A motion was made by

Mr. Menn to prepare a resolution for the Office of Public Defender for Hancock County and seconded by Mr. Castlebury. All members present voted "aye".

After a lot of discussion on a conflict attorney, a motion was made by Mr. Douglas to advertise the position of conflict attorney for Hancock County. This position does not have to be bid on. Motion was seconded by Mr. Menn. All members present voted "aye".

Andrew Asbury entered at 7:45 p.m. Judge Clark also talked about the possibility of budgeting for GPS or scam monitors. He was uneasy about letting certain criminals loose without bail and not having a way to track their locations and actions. The cost range for these would run between \$10,000-\$20,000 and would come out of the sheriff's budget. He was asked if defendants would be responsible for the cost of these devices. Judge Clark said they could share the cost but it was not definite. A new line item will be created called GPS/scram device monitor, \$15,000 was entered into that line item for 2023. Other judicial lines were discussed with the judge and everything okayed.

Ms. Pilkington talked about Devnet work stations for next year's budget. She would add \$10,000 to the data processing line. Four stations would be for the treasurer and 4 for the supervisor of assessments. She also gave the committee a rundown of the ARPA expenditures to date. Bellwether was paid 2 installments of \$10,000, Access Systems was paid \$10,568.08, election systems \$8275, ESDA flood pump of \$3029.29, CIC for courthouse software of \$20,510, Fidar contract for the county clerk of \$25,000, EMS LUCAS Devices of \$30,012.88 leaving a current balance of \$3,339,092.45. Interest accrued from ARPA for June was \$1550, \$2600 for July, \$4000 in August, and \$4800 in September. The committee decided that interest would be returned to the general fund.

Social security funds, Medicare funds, special funds could be left the same numbers as 2022 according to Ms. Pilkington. She also stated that the circuit clerk has 2 funds that we needed to ask about to see if she had any changes. The committee talked about the Connable Road and how to transfer funds from ARPA to the highway. This would be a question for Bellwether. Ms. Pilkington also talked about the amounts of money that she puts back into her repo funds.

Mr. Asbury was next on the agenda to talk about EMS and its shortfalls with employees and service. There was a long discussion on options and solutions for the EMS service.

Mr. Hanson motioned to recess until October 11 at 7:30, Mr. Castlebury seconded. All members present voted "aye". They are hoping to have Brianna from Ramsey's and Mr. Duffy on the agenda. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bollin, Chairman