

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF
HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD IN THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY
OF CARTHAGE ON DECEMBER 20, 2022**

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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COUNTY OF HANCOCK)
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The meeting was called to order by chairman Mark Menn at 6:30 p.m.
The invocation was given by Michelle Merritt. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Clerk.
Roll call was taken.

Members present included: Mark Menn, Chairman
 Holly A. Wilde-Tillman, County Clerk

Mark Hanson	Tom Bergmeier
Tom Rodgers	Steve Lucie
Steve Finney	Mark Hanson
Dennis Castlebury	Andrew Asbury
Patsy Davis	Harry Douglas
Wayne Bollin	Alex Blythe
Michelle Merritt	

Absent was: Mark Harrison

Visitors included Bobi James, Mike Heisler, and several members of the community. Stephanie Swisegood was in attendance to take minutes of the meeting. Mr. Bergmeier made a motion to approve the December minutes, executive session minutes, and health special meeting minutes. Ms. Merritt seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Judge Clark sent correspondence to the board thanking them for the opioid money. He would like the board to know that he is putting it to good use and will report to us quarterly how it is being used. Ameren Illinois notified us of the upcoming vegetation removal in Carthage and LaHarpe.

Ms. Davis gave the report of the meeting held by the highway, road, and bridge from November 29, 2022. She 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. Bergmeier

seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Ms. Davis made a motion to approve the petition from Harmony Township Road District for one-half local share of costs to replace the bridge at 1140N/1900E, Mr. Weeks seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Merritt to approve the engineering agreement with Klingner and Associates for engineering work for the bridge at 1140N/1900E. Mr. Weeks seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Lucie made a motion to approve the engineering agreement with Klingner and Associates for engineering work to be done on the bridge on County Highway 3, Mr. Asbury seconding the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

There was discussion regarding jurisdiction on the weight limits of township and county roads. Motion to pass the resolution for temporary weight restrictions on county and township roads was made by Mr. Douglas. Mr. Castlebury seconded the motion. All members present voting "aye". Motion carried.

Motion to move on bid letting was made by Mr. Bergmeier and seconded by Ms. Davis. All members present voting "aye". Motion carried.

Mr. Castlebury made a motion to replace the rural reference signs with Mr. Douglas seconding the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Bollin presented the report of a meeting held by the finance committee on December 8, 2022. 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. Mr. Asbury seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Motion to accept the conflict public defender contract for 3 years was made by Mr. Bollin and seconded by Mr. Asbury. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Douglas to accept the public defender resolution with 1 change in section 7 to have the 60-day notice removed. Mr. Finney seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Finney made a motion to accept the states attorney appellate prosecutor annual fee with Ms. Merritt seconding. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes".

Motion carried. A motion to put a tax referendum for EMS for up to 25 cents on the April 2023 ballot was made by Mr. Asbury and seconded by Mr. Weeks. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

There was discussion about selling the EMS building and the different processes of selling the building. Mike Heisler discussed the building commission's interest in the EMS building. If the building commission obtains the EMS building he stated that they would probably handle it how they handle the sheriff's building. They pick up maintenance, utilities, and then they lease it back to the county. Discussion of why the EMS building is being sold was had. This will help pay down the EMS debt and leave some cash flow to keep it operating until we can get through the levy process. Mr. Bollin asked if any of the rooms can be leased back to the public and Mr. Heisler stated yes. Mr. Menn stated he would like to refer this back to the finance committee and bring it back to full board.

The pipeline is deep in discovery. We paid our first bill in the upwards of \$7,000.

Mr. Lucie made a motion to run IT through payroll at \$35/hour consulting fee and \$50/hour working fee at the office holder's approval, seconded by Ms. Davis. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Bellwether contract was made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Hanson. Roll call vote was taken with Merritt, Blythe, Douglas, Bergmeier, Davis, Rodgers, Hanson, Bollin, Finney, Asbury, Castlebury, Weeks, Menn voting yes, 1 absent, and Mr. Lucie voting no.

Mr. Hanson presented the report of the Building and Grounds committee held on December 13, 2022. 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. Mr. Bergmeier seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried. Ms. James let the board know that the sheriff's FOIA settlement had started at \$5,000 and they settled at \$3,510.84. Mr. Merritt made a motion to agree to the FOIA settlement at \$3,510.84 and Mr. Hanson seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Asbury presented the reports of the special meeting of November 22, 2022, and regular committee meeting of December 12, 2022. 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. Mr. Blythe seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Motion to move into executive session was made by Mr. Asbury and seconded by Mr. Weeks at 7:33 p.m. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Douglas made a motion to move out of executive session at 8:14 p.m., with Ms. Merritt seconding the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture sent a letter regarding the noxious weed law within the county. It indicates we are to compile data of a noxious weeds in the county. Ms. Wilde-Tillman stated we have always had a weed commissioner who has always been the chairman of the board.

Motion to approve Aaron Feagain as the new EMS director was made by Ms. Merritt. Mr. Bollin seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Motion to recess until January 17, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. was made by Mr. Weeks and seconded by Mr. Bergmeier. All members present voted "aye". Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A. Wilde-Tillman, County Clerk