

**MINUTES OF A BOARD MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK,
STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE
CITY OF CARTHAGE ON JUNE 20, 2023**

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 6:32 p.m. The invocation was given by Andrew Asbury and the clerk led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present were: Mark Menn, Chairman
 Holly Wilde-Tillman, County Clerk

Harry Douglas	Dennis Castlebury
Patsy Davis	Mark Hanson
Alex Blythe	Tom Bergmeier
Tom Rodgers	Andrew Asbury
Wayne Bollin	Mark Harrison
Ryan Weeks	Michelle Merritt

Absent was Steve Finney and Steve Lucie.

Visitors included Sheriff Travis Duffy, multiple members of the sheriff's department, several members of the community.

Mr. Weeks moved the June minutes and May special board meeting be approved, Ms. Merritt seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Brian Stevens of the Hancock County Farm Bureau presented the County Board with a plaque of recognition as a token of their appreciation for the board's support for the agricultural community.

Officer Josh Smith announced Colton Johnson as Officer of the Year for 2022. He is a lifetime resident of Hancock County and graduate of Western Illinois University. He has performed 1112 calls, 489 traffic stops, 100 citations, 5 DUIs, and has taken 44 people to jail in 2022. He is a positive influence and role model for all. He visits scout troops, is a coach for West Hancock school district, and you can see him at numerous ball games in the community.

2022 was a year to be remembered. There were 7000 calls, 240 people taken to jail, DUIs, meth cases, sex cases, and domestics. One February 12, 2022, a domestic violence dispute ensued in

Adams County. The suspect fled the scene, stole a truck at gunpoint, and made his way to Hancock County. Officer Kost found the vehicle and got other deputies into position. The suspect wrecked and Officer Johnson took off on foot after him. Schweizer, Johnson, and Kost took him into custody. On February 13 the suspect attacked the jail staff while they were attempting to serve food. Michelle Gold remained calm and kept the security of the jail. Officer Landis and K-9 Zaire showed up and an altercation ensued. Carrie Bishop from the Carthage PD and Brendan Glenn from Hamilton PD arrived on the scene. Zaire had the suspect by the arm while the suspect bit him on the ear, in a choke hold, and was punching him, but Zaire never gave up. The suspect was transported to Adams County and is still residing there. Sheriff Duffy gave recognition to Michelle Gold, Brock Landis, and Zaire for their efforts.

On July 13, 2022, the lives of 2 deputies were in danger. Deputy Finch responded to the scene and was ambushed. The suspect asked Finch to sit in the squad car while holding him at gunpoint. He was able to dial the number for dispatch without the suspect noticing. Officer Smith was on the way to help. Dispatchers Gold and Flynn were on the radio giving information to Smith while Finch was on the line. Smith and Finch met on the road. Finch escaped the vehicle. The suspect took off in the car. Smith and Finch gave pursuit. The suspect opened the driver's door and fired at the officers. Quivey, Bishop, and Himan arrived on the scene and converged on the vehicle and found the suspect with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. They rendered aid until EMS arrived. Sheriff Duffy recognized Gold, Flynn, Smith, and Finch for their brave service.

Sheriff Duffy recognized all the officers for their accomplishments and hard work and dedication. He commended his jail staff, dispatch, and deputies for their commitment to each other and the citizens of Hancock County and thanked them for their service. Mr. Menn stated we are fortunate to have such a law enforcement as we have and what you have to put up with day in and day out.

Lainey Sullivan of the 4-H Federation came to say thank you for all of the board's support. They added 50 new members this year. They were able to start new groups in 4-H. The Hancock County Fair is July 10-13, 2023. Mr. Menn thanked her for coming and sharing with us.

All committee minutes were presented. Mr. Castlebury moved the reports be approved, recommendations 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.

Mr. Douglas made a motion to approve the consent agenda with Mr. Bergmeier seconding.

- A. Appointment of Rex Johnson as Trustee of the Dallas Rural Water District
- B. Brad Hopping Appointment to Tri-County Fire Protection District
- C. Declare T-27, 2002 International Tandem-Axle Dump Truck, and Q-03, a 12' Snowplow as Surplus And Selling At Auction
- D. Resolution as Trustee for Taxing Districts #03-07-200-024, #15-10-993-000, #15-09-515-000, #15-09-864-000

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

Mr. Asbury made a motion for EMS to purchase 3 laptops to be used on the ambulances only. Ms. Merritt seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Asbury moved to purchase two 2013 government ambulances from California, Mr. Douglas seconded. It was asked if we wanted them inspected first. They have been inspected and passed by California DOT. Mr. Feagain has seen pictures of them internally and externally and does not see any issues. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Weeks made a motion for the IGA for road improvements in the Village of Basco, Ms. Davis seconded. Mr. Menn thanked Ms. Davis, Mr. Berry, and everyone involved.

Motion to accept the proposed agreement between Memorial Hospital and Hancock County EMS was made by Mr. Asbury and seconded by Mr. Harrison. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried. This agreement will run through November 30, 2023. Mr. Menn thanked Mr. Feagain, Mr. Bollin, and Mr. Hanson for their hard work in getting this accomplished. He appreciates the efforts that Memorial Hospital put forth in negotiations and hope this is a long-term relationship between Hancock County and Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Rodgers motioned to approve the resolution to establish the salary of the sheriff. Mr. Weeks seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Harrison asked how the CO2 Pipeline opposition is going. The lawyer is still making motions and sending evidence to ICC. The deadline was June 15. The motion was filed and Heartland has an opportunity to respond by August 15. There are 6 more deadlines after that. Navigator has developed emergency response preparedness.

The federal holiday Juneteenth was discussed. The county calendar has 14 holidays. We could exchange Juneteenth for Christmas Eve. The judicial calendar is different and at the discretion of the circuit judge. Some employees were here and some were not for work on Juneteenth. How can we make this fair to all employees. Ms. James stated they can take a holiday or personal day. The Powers of the County regulate holiday for courthouse treasurer, clerk, assessor, highway, EMS, and sheriff. The Judge is over circuit clerk. Ms. James needs to look at legal holidays. This needs to be figured to see how this plays out in future calendars. Mr. Douglas stated judicial could pay those employees that are off. Ms. Asbury was concerned with offices that did not follow the calendar. Mr. Menn wants to know if a memo can be sent giving options for employees to take a personal day or vacation day since this was not on the calendar. Ms. James stated she should be able to find out these answers and it would be better to have something done before the next pay period.

Ms. Davis asked if we could have Gray Hunter and Stenn come and speak with anyone who would like to go over their W4's. Mr. Menn will speak with them.

Ms. James has hired an assistant. He will start the middle of July. He will be parttime as he is working on a criminal case. He will be here Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. He has prosecution, defense, and some civil background. She had 1 staff member resign and there are interviews for that position currently ongoing.

Mr. Castlebury motioned to enter into executive session at 8:00 p.m. under 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (11). Mr. Asbury seconded. All members present voted aye. Mr. Douglas motioned to come out of executive session at 8:11 p.m. with Blythe seconding. All members present voted aye.

Mr. Weeks motioned to recess until July 18, Ms. Merritt seconded. All members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A. Wilde-Tillman, County Clerk