

**MINUTES OF A FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD
AT THE COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE
ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by chairman Wayne Bollin at 9:00 a.m. Members in attendance included Harry Douglas, Dennis Castlebury, Alex Blythe, Andrew Asbury, and Mark Menn. Absent was Tom Bergmeier and Mark Hanson. Visitors included Keith Krohe, Kris Pilkington, Holly Wilde-Tillman, Amy Hall, Aaron Feagain, Keara Weber, Kasey Mehaffy, and Nick Irmeger from Bliss McKnight.

Mr. Irmeger introduced himself. He informed the committee of all of the training and programs that his company provides free of charge. He would like to have meetings with the office heads and make sure that with training bad things do not happen to employees. He offers safety training, ergonomics, emergency vehicle operating courses to name a few. He can do this remotely or on site.

Mr. Krohe gave the health insurance quarterly report. There is a \$74,000 decrease in plan costs from last year at this time. Ms. Wilde-Tillman stated that Mr. Dedey has been working on a cyber questionnaire for the new proposal of insurance bid process. Mr. Krohe stated that we have been denied since we do not use multifactorial authentication for signing in. This needs to be looked into.

Ms. Hall passed around her budget. Total expenses are up \$55,000 from last year.

Ms. Mehaffy is waiting on a bid from Digital Copy Systems for a new copy machine. It was discussed that this could come out of the GIS fund. Mr. Menn asked if she would be willing to take on the flood plain since Jack Curfman is retiring. This had previously been overseen by Dale Bolton before his retirement. She stated she would be in touch with Mr. Curfman to see what this entails.

Mr. Feagain went over his budget sheets. He is requesting \$1,325,000. A new medic is coming in October or November and this will decrease overtime. There is also a parttime medic who would like to pick up more hours. A question was asked of whether the employees are liking the new schedule. The employees are not having to use a lot of vacation time and are liking it. He asked for an increase in fuel as they now have 2 diesels and this is more expensive. The rent in Hamilton went up so he budgeted this increase. He is asking for an asset tracker for inventory tracking. Mr. Douglas stated he commends Mr. Feagain as being one of several county department heads that the county is fortunate enough to have that put the time and energy into their budgets.

Ms. Pilkington went over the finance report. There is \$816,453 in the general fund. The ambulance is in the black \$267,382.03. IT has been adding a lot of programs to the Devnet server and her backup tapes are not big enough to hold all the information. She would like to buy bigger quantity tapes. These run around \$3000. There may be a new law coming out for anyone buying taxes. If these companies make a profit they may need to pay this profit to the property owner who failed to pay their taxes. Hold harmless addendums may be put onto tax sale registration application.

Lengthy discussion regarding wages ensued. How can we tenure? How do we base longevity on a salary? Some new employees are making considerably higher wages compared to ones who have worked here for 30 years.

Resolution to establish compensation for election judges was discussed. This is only an increase of \$20 per election judge which will be paid back by the state. This was moved by Mr. Asbury and seconded by Mr. Castlebury. Voice vote was taken with Mr. Douglas recusing, and Castlebury, Blythe, Asbury, and Bollin voting aye.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman has 13 voting cases left to deliver to polling places. There will be training on the new machines on October 21. The beginning of November she would like to have an open house for election judges if they would like to get trained on the new machines.

The IPRF grant that she was to receive has been retracted since we sent them a notice that we are bidding out the insurance. She was voted vice president for our zone which puts her on the legislative committee and hopefully this will give us some say for elections. She is also on the election advisory board.

There was discussion regarding how many holidays the county would like to pay for. It was agreed on 13 paid holidays. Motion to approve the resolution to establish a holiday schedule for fiscal year 2024 was made by Mr. Douglas. Mr. Castlebury seconded the motion. Voice vote was taken with all members present voting aye.

Ms. Weber presented to see if there were any questions regarding her budget. A 3% salary increase is on the table. Whether this would include a tenure is up for discussion. She would like to purchase logo wear for her staff to be worn in the office and in the court room. She was looking to make this a new line item. Mr. Castlebury asked if this could be added to the supplies line. This raises the supplies to \$8500.

Trent Loos will be having a meeting regarding the pipeline at Lake Hill Winery on September 28.

Claims were gone over. Motion to approve claims was made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Blythe. All members present voted aye.

Motion to recess until September 19 at around 7:30 was made by Mr. Blythe. This was seconded by Mr. Asbury. All members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bollin, Chairman