

BUDGET MEETING
September 7, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Wayne Bollin at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance included Andrew Asbury, Alex Blythe, Tom Bergmeier, Harry Douglas, Dennis Castlebury, and Mark Menn. Visitors included John Meixner, ROE Director.

Mr. Meixner was first on the agenda. His total budget was 0.5% for him last year. Hancock County's share would be 2.1% from last year. Enrollment in area schools remains fairly steady. He has 3 alternative schools where students can achieve a GED or diploma status. Topics of concern in schools are school resource officers, staff nurses, social workers, teacher shortages and bus driver shortages. Mr. Meixner exited the meeting.

Members discussed budgetary items. Mr. Bollin gave everyone the opportunity to voice their opinion on where we should be going forward. Some concerns that were on top were cost of living increases on salaries or a stipend. The building commission increased their levy for the new EMS building and is putting money away for a courthouse roof. It was discussed how to fund the IT department with line items so Mr. Dedey could take care of office technology was discussed. GIS fund can pay for part of the supervisor of assessment's salaries for deputies. The ambulance would get their full levy referendum increase of 25 cents per 100 dollars next year.

In asking members what the concerns were for this year, holding expenses down, having a flatter levy rather than increase the levy very much, pay increases to encourage employee retention to tenured employees, efficiently running the IT department.

New things coming up are body cams which are a concern with extra fees. Discussion regarding an animal control department and whether this is statutorily required in Illinois. Truth in taxation was also discussed. If we added 5% or more to our levy, which is not a concern, a hearing would need to take place.

Members set budget discussion times for September 14 at the finance committee meeting, September 19 after the full board meeting, and September 26 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Blythe moved to recess until September 14 at 9 a.m. Mr. Bergmeier seconded. All members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bollin, Chairman