

**MINUTES OF A FINANCE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF
ILLINOIS, AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON
NOVEMBER 9, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by chairman Wayne Bollin at 9:00 a.m. Members in attendance included Dennis Castlebury, Harry Douglas, Alex Blythe, Tom Bergmeier, Andrew Asbury, and Mark Menn. Absent was Mark Hanson. Visitors included Keara Weber, Brad Guile, Travis Duffy, Kasey Mehaffy, Kris Pilkington, and Holly Wilde-Tillman.

Ms. Weber stated that Mr. Guile attended a cyber security conference and learned that there are a bunch of free services available for Illinois counties. There is a free antivirus, cyber security, and they can check web pages. They will send a group to any county facility and check the security, go through everything and advise what looks good and recommend any changes they see needs to be done. Ms. Tillman has a service that she used for Crowd Strike. She can provide this to any county office. She will use a texting app as a jury notification system. The grant will pay for the first year. Last month her delinquent funds were \$1.2 million. After going through their files she believes that it will be closer to \$2.5 or \$2.75 million. It was asked how the jury pool works. The jury pool comes through 4 sources. They have a new list. The old one was from 2012.

Ms. Mehaffy was asking about a reduction in the assessed valuation for a couple parcels in Nauvoo. This individual had taken this to PTAB which let them appeal years 2021 and 2022. He would like to settle this outside of PTAB. He threatened in a nice way that he could file a non-homestead tax exemption for these parcels. The Board of Review was worried that the appraisal that was done was compared to a busier community. They are leaning towards making an agreement. The consensus of the board was to let the Board of Review take care of this but to make sure they get something permanent in writing.

Ms. Pilkington states EMS still owes \$17,042.50 to the general fund from the loan they took out. Mr. Asbury made a motion to have the highway department pay back their loan for the federal aid matching fund to the general fund with no interest in the amount of \$12,275. There was discussion about if they should pay back the amount from 2022 that needed to be paid out. Mr. Asbury amended his motion to have the highway department repay their loan from 2022 and 2023 fiscal year for federal aid matching loan to go to the general fund in the amount of \$16,275. Mr. Castlebury seconded the amended motion. All members present voted aye.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman asked if bills could still be paid this budget year. Discussion regarding the Memorial Hospital bills for the sheriff. They are claiming there are unpaid bills back to 2021. Memorial Hospital and the sheriff's office will be getting together to try to figure this out. It was stated as long as these are legitimate claims we will pay them this fiscal year.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman stated that Mr. Feagain got a letter regarding the driveway grant. As soon as there is a plan for the new building the county has to make a declaration for the driveway. She had a FOIA request regarding money we received for the public defender grant. Did the county make any decisions regarding the money and this current budget? No. Ms. James is working on this FOIA. Mr. Menn will speak with Mr. Vancil.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman has been meeting with different groups in the county showing off the new voting machines. Election judges were here on November 7. Anybody turning in petitions for election needs to have them turned in between November 27 through December 4. There will be a truth in taxation hearing at 5:30 p.m. on November 21.

Mr. Duffy discussed the bills from Memorial Hospital. He wanted to pay this out of this years budget. The committee would like him to make sure this is sorted out correctly and that we are not paying for something we did not need to.

Motion was made by Mr. Bergmeier to approve the resolution for the appellate prosecutor in the amount of \$8000. This was seconded by Mr. Asbury. All members present voted aye.

Mr. Bergmeier informed the committee that he will not be running in the 2024 election. He stated Joe Boyles is taking papers out.

There will be interviews for the ESDA position tonight, Thursday, November 9, 2023, starting at 6:00 p.m. Animal control is being held off. They are trying to build this position back up and running by February 1, 2024.

Claims were gone over. Mr. Bergmeier moved to approve the bills, Mr. Douglas seconded. All members present voted aye.

Motion to recess until December 14, 2024, was made by Mr. Blythe and seconded by Mr. Asbury. All members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bollin, Chairman