

**MINUTES OF A HEALTH AND MISCELLANEOUS MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF
HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY
OF CARTHAGE ON JANUARY 3, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by chairman Andrew Asbury at 6:30 p.m. Members in attendance included Patsy Davis, Harry Douglas, Ryan Weeks, Michelle Merritt, Mark Harrison, and Mark Menn. Steve Finney was absent. Visitors included Michelle Long, Amy Hall, Aaron Feagain, and Barb Drodz.

Ms. Hall went over her annual report for FY 2023. If anybody is interested in car seat checks they can come to the health department and Ms. Finney can instruct them on how to properly install them. Motion to approve the budget was made by Ms. Merritt and seconded by Mr. Douglas. All members present voted aye. She left at 6:40 p.m.

Mr. Feagan presented the EMS report. They had 143 calls, 125 were billable, 94 were transports. All of the ambulances are on the road and running well. The windshield was replaced on truck 22. Response time is around 19 minutes. Of the transfers 33 went to Blessing Hospital, 52 to Memorial Hospital, and 27 were transfers under the Memorial Hospital contract. There is a new full-time paramedic. There are no updates from Truck Site and no results of the fuel samples. There was discussion regarding the building commission and their role with the EMS building. Their meetings are the second Thursday of the month at 5:15 p.m. at the courthouse.

The emergency management performance grant was received. He was asked if he would be willing to oversee the wind and solar permits for the county. He will let the county know.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding if the county is mandated to have a dog catcher. The states attorney states that the county is only obligated to do rabies monitoring. We do not take surrendered dogs. Mr. Douglas went over some guidelines for Ms. Long to follow. Motion to eliminate the dog pound and establish an exit strategy that will not extend past June 30, 2024, was made by Mr. Weeks and seconded by Ms. Merritt. Davis, Douglas, Harrison, Weeks, Merritt voted yes. Asbury voted no.

Motion to amend the intake form from 360 miles to 40 miles was made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Weeks. All members present voted aye.

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

The current exit strategy is to have a press release and send a letter to the mayors of the tentative target closing date of March 31, 2024. Mr. Weeks is writing a letter to distribute. Ms. Long will be doing an inventory of the dog pound. Ms. Davis will be speaking with Dr. Maggie Harrell. Mr. Menn will speak with the states attorney about what can be done with the pound.

Motion to recess until February 5, 2024, was made by Ms. Merritt. Ms. Davis seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Asbury, Chairman