

**MINUTES OF A BUILDING, GROUNDS, INSURANCE, AND SAFETY MEETING OF
THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE COUNTY
COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by chairman Mark Hanson at 6:30 p.m. Members in attendance included Steve Finney, Ryan Weeks, Tom Rodgers, Steve Lucie, Michelle Merritt, and Mark Menn. Tom Bergmeier was absent. Visitors included Bobi James and Travis Duffy.

Ms. James had spoken with Alex Farkas of 22c Holdings about solar farms. He has 6 pieces of land in Hancock County with leases. There is room for 8 solar farms in the county. He has 2 more possible in Hamilton. The solar requires no concrete. The poles and wires are buried in the ground. All of this comes up when disassembled and recycled. He is looking to submit an application in May or June if the county is ready and have groundbreaking in April 2025. Solar Stone has one solar farm outside of Nauvoo. There was extensive discussion regarding application fees. Motion to approve the application for wind and solar power was made by Mr. Lucie with Mr. Rodgers seconding the motion. All members present voted aye.

Mr. Finney had spoken with the assessor about taxes regarding the solar farms. They are taxable. The company pays the property taxes on these.

Mr. Hanson discussed worker's compensation. We have 7 claims that are related to lifting. Education on property lifting is recommended. Ms. Wilde-Tillman will see if there are on-line classes for these or if it needs to be done in person. Once this is pinned down, the board will send letters to office heads who require this training.

Extensive discussion regarding relocation of illegal immigrants to Hancock County was discussed. The resolution has been approved for full board by health and miscellaneous committee but the title is questionable. Illinois is an asylum state. It was asked if we could use the wording Hancock County does not recognize the county as a sanctuary county, and would this give ICE the authority to come in to the county. Motion to have a special meeting on Tuesday, February 20, at 6:15 p.m. was made by Ms. Merritt, seconded by Mr. Weeks. All members present voted aye.

Mr. Menn stated the specs for a new EMS building came in at \$950,000. The Building Commission is going to readdress using the building that is currently at the sheriff's office to see what they can come up with. Audrey Hall has found a replacement for the empty spot on the board and will bring this to us at the full board meeting.

Sheriff Duffy gave the committee an update on the jail. There have been 7000 calls for the year, 750 papers have been served, 1500 traffic stops, 613 people were ran through the jail. There are currently 17 inmates, 4 are females. The deputies had a shooting class through the insurance company. They totaled a car in January due to slick roads. He discussed body cams. They have submitted one grant and are working on another grant for this.

Claims were gone over. Motion to approve the claims was made by Mr. Finney. Mr. Rodgers seconded. All members present voted aye. Motion to recess until February 20 at 6:15 p.m. was made by Ms. Merritt and seconded by Mr. Lucie. All members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Hanson, Chairman