

**MINUTES OF A FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE  
OF ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON  
MARCH 14, 2024**

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, Mark Hanson, Steve Lucie, Tom Bergmeier, and Mark Menn. Visitors included Brian Frericks, Keith Krohe, Rick Geier, Travis Duffy, Josh Smith, Ryan Dykstra, Brock Landis, Keara Weber, Kris Pilkington, and Holly Wilde-Tillman.

Mr. Frericks of QFB Energy informed the committee that their 3-year contract is up in April. He believed we should lock in everything but the capacity. The electric bill is picked up by the Building Commission. Motion to sign a 3-year contract through Homefield Energy was made by Mr. Castlebury and seconded by Mr. Blythe. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Krohe presented the final 2023 health plan numbers. The total fixed cost for medical increased from 2022 by around \$18,000, and the total plan cost increased \$13,000.

Mr. Geier with Linea spoke with the committee about wind energy. Linea is working towards getting a 300-mw wind farm in Hancock County. They have about 10,000 acres so far and need 25,000 to build. They will essentially cover about 1% of the leased land with concrete, wind turbines, etc. The energy stored from these wind turbines usually gets bought by a private company, not municipalities. He would like to put up temporary test towers that measure wind power and wind strength.

Ms. Weber stated that the air conditioning in her vault is not working. The server is in the vault. Mr. Hempen is working to see if he can get the current a.c. working. Mr. Menn will let the Building Commission be aware. She discussed maybe purchasing a portable air conditioner.

The sheriff's office applied for a grant, Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board, which they were given for \$150,000. This is to be used for retention and recruitment. Mr. Douglas asked Mr. Duffy several questions regarding how else this could be used, were other things considered, how does everybody else in the sheriff's office feel? Mr. Duffy stated life is tough and this is a grant for certified police officers only. This was discussed in great length. Motion was made by Mr. Douglas, seconded by Alex Blythe to approve the sheriff's grant pending an approval letter from the union, Josh Smith will do the reporting, and Mr. Pilkington will have this set up in the sheriff's grant fund and pay the bonuses out of this fund including payroll costs. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Ms. Pilkington gave the finance report. Property taxes will be late this year. The Board of Review has not met yet.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman has received an email from Jared Massey regarding the new website. He has completely built out what will be on the backend. All the levies are in and most have confirmed that they are correct. All railroads and pollution control is done except for 1. She is ready as soon as she gets the multiplier. It has been very difficult to get election judges this election. She bought an ad in the plat books coming out and put the elected officials on the ad.

On March 20 there will be bid letting at 11 a.m. at the highway department for the Connable Road.

Mr. Menn stated all contracts and grants need to go through the full board for approval. All county employees need to be treated equally.

Mr. Douglas felt there needed to be oversight for accidents in the county. Mr. Hanson stated he met with Ramsey Financial and a form will be sent out regarding each incident and then come to building and grounds and finance to discuss each incident.

Claims were gone over. Motion was made by Mr. Douglas to approve the claims. Mr. Castlebury seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Motion to recess until April 11 at 9 a.m. was made by Mr. Lucie. Mr. Douglas seconded. all members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,]

Wayne Bollin, Chairman