

**MINUTES OF A HEALTH AND MISCELLANEOUS MEETING OF THE
COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD IN THE
COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON THE 2nd
DAY OF APRIL, 2024.**

The Health and Miscellaneous meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Ms. Davis. Those in attendance were Patsy Davis, Ryan Weeks, Mark Menn, Stephen Finney, Mark Harrison, Steve Lucie and Harry Douglas. Ms. Wilde-Tillman was in attendance to take the minutes. Ms. Davis welcomed the visitors.

Ms. Hall spoke to the committee. She provided the biographies for the appointments for the Health Department board. Ms. Finney spoke about the collaboration with Memorial Hospital. This will give a good snapshot of community health needs. She provided board members with paper copies and QR code and asked them to participate and ask others. Mr. Lucie asked Ms. Hall if she had looked into the data provided to her about COVID vaccines. She stated they are still providing the vaccines to adults but not children. Dr. Reed has signed off on standing orders. Mr. Lucie feels for liability the Health department should not promote these vaccines. Mr. Lucie has concerns appointing individuals to the board knowing they make decisions that later could be illegal or harmful in the future. Ms. Davis stated she is a member of the board from the County board. Ms. Hall stated they follow what IDPH deems necessary by law and if the Health department does not comply then IDPH could come in and run the department. Mr. Harrison stated he was disappointed with the Health department website not providing homeopathic options promoting health. Ms. Hall took notes and will look into this. She did point out a few things on the website that promote healthy lifestyle. Mr. Douglas asked how programs are chosen and Ms. Hall gave a few programs that are offered and recommended by IDPH. Mr. Lucie and Mr. Harrison will attend the Health department meeting on April 25, 2024 at 5:30.

Mr. Curfman updated the committee for Mr. Totten who is out of the state. Meeting times have been changed for ESDA which has helped with turnout. The Warsaw tower will not be an option so they are looking at the Dallas Rural Water tower in Harmony township. Mr. Totten is working on farm rescue training and is also collaborating with Red Cross for more shelters and smoke detectors. Gary Rehahn is the communications officer and Doug Campbell is the ESDA chaplain. He is also working on critical counselling for extreme situation. The storm spotter training went very well. Ms. Merritt asked about the number of shelters in Hancock County and Mr. Curfman stated their were 4, 2 in schools and 2 in churches.

Mr. Feagain updated the committee on EMS and is pleased how things are going. With the exception they are down 3 employees. Five are interested in paramedic training but it will be 2025 before we can see benefits. Contract negotiations are occurring with Memorial but they are leaving as is and collecting more information before they proceed.

Mr. Menn reported that he had spoke with the Department of Agriculture and they had been at the dog pound. Hancock County will receive a letter from the Department of Agriculture to keep the pound open. Hancock County can make the decision but this covers the department. Ms. James stated we can contract the pound through Dr. Harrell but they may want to keep the pound open. There was discussion that paying a nominal fee and keeping the pound open might benefit the county. It was stated the pound has issues and there is always costs to keep it operable. Mr. Lucie is concerned with the decision to close the pound and now receiving a letter. Mr. Douglas believes we should stick with how the board voted to close the pound. Mr. Weeks has not heard a lot regarding the closing and if there is concern maybe it should be put to a vote for the taxpayer to decide. Mr. Menn just wants to make sure the board is informed because the permit has to be renewed by the end of May.

Ms. Davis suggested proceeding with taking down fences at the pound or whether dozing the building was necessary. Mr. Lucie stated that the board should wait to see where we end up with all this. Ms. Davis did report things have gone missing at the pound.

A long discussion ensued between the committee and Mr. Duffy regarding who should be contacted when dispatch receives a call regarding animals. Mr. Duffy shared his concerns with what has been mailed to the municipalities and what has been put out to the public. He feels the Sheriff's department has been put in a tough spot and needs direction who should be contacted when the need arises. Mr. Douglas stated that what was put out should be as guidance and that the Sheriff has the authority to decide how it is handled. He added that the 2008 resolution gave the Sheriff the discretion to decide. Mr. Lucie voted for this but did not read the entire document and believes we have no right to say what a municipality does or does not do. He believes we should rescind the addendum. Mr. Harrison was under the impression that Mr. Hopp was taking this on and the Sheriff would not be involved. More discussion ensued regarding animal control, a warden, Dr. Harrell, dispatch and transporting. Discussion was had about a part-time animal control officer. Mr. Menn brought the committee back to task as to what a resolution will be. Ms. James gave her opinion on the resolutions and where the county stands. It was decided to have Mr. Weeks and Mr. Lucie meet with Dr. Harrell and see what she would be willing to take on. It was decided to have a special meeting on April 11, 2024, at 8 a.m. to update the committee with new information.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman asked to recognize the Student Election judges at the full board meeting. The committee was in favor of this.

Mr. Menn asked that the board members and office holders work together to build this county.

Claims were gone over, and Mr. Finney made a motion to approve them, Ms. Merritt seconded it. All members present voted "aye." Motion carried.