

MINUTES OF A FINANCE MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS,
HELD AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON MAY 9, 2024

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Wayne Bollin at 8:59 a.m. Members in attendance included Mark Hanson, Tom Bergmeier, Dennis Castlebury, Harry Douglas, Steve Lucie, Alex Blythe, and Mark Menn. Visitors included Kasey Mehaffy and Holly Wilde-Tillman.

Ms. Mehaffy stated that she is overbudget with her mail service. She would like to make sure she has this budgeted correctly this year. She gave a timeline for taxes. There was a hotel in Nauvoo that filed an appeal. She had to send a notice of this appeal to all the taxing districts. There is a 14-day timeframe for intervening in which the school district did intervene. Then the hotel has a 10-day period to respond. The hotel is having an appraisal done. The Board of Review will meet on May 20. There was mention of having tax bills with 1 installment instead of 2. It is the consensus of the committee that this be done in 2 installments. A notification can be put in the paper educating the community that the taxes will be late and that they could prepay if they would like.

Keith Krohe could not make the meeting. There are 2 pending large ACP issues. Everything else is fine.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman stated the new website is not yet complete but a lot of it is ready to go. She found out that the county owns 20+ pieces of property in the county. One piece in particular in Hamilton needed to be mowed. Mr. Menn found somebody to do this but where will the money come from to pay them? Ms. James feels that since this was done through the trustee that we need to follow their rules. Could we lower the price? If it is not sold at the sealed bid could we ask the abutting neighbors if they would like to purchase it?

Anthony Hopp, animal control, would prefer not to have a county phone. He already has 2 phones. Mr. Menn stated to have Sheriff Duffy turn the phone off. She also has a couple of keys to the pound if anybody would need them.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman got an estimate to recover the cushions which is between \$2900-3100. Mr. Bergmeier made a motion to table this, Mr. Castlebury seconded. All members present voted aye.

She discussed using ARPA money for the newer handicapped machines. She would need \$76,930 to purchase 30 machines. The maintenance for a year would be \$6900 a year instead of the \$11,000 we pay now. Motion to purchase 30 machines with ARPA funds was made by Mr. Lucie. Mr. Douglas seconded the motion. All members present voted aye.

The remaining ARPA funds will be for the EMS building. This should lower the levy for the Building Commission.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman has an insurance check from Ramsey's for one of the sheriff's cars. This will be deposited into the vehicle allowance fund 001-190-5245. Mr. Lucie asked about changing the heading of that line item which will be discussed at budget time.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman asked who the contact person is for the new Hyperreach texting. Mr. Dedey will be the contact person. This has already been approved through full board.

The Bicentennial celebration was discussed. There will be a ceremony on January 13, 2025. They would like to have a proclamation and also open the courthouse and have tours. Sheriff Duffy offered to give tours of the jail. Hancock County is the only county that still has 3 jails standing. The Historical Society would like monetary help with advertising and marketing. All communities would be in charge of their own events. There was talk of having collector coins and t-shirts made. This could also be put on the website. Ms. Wilde-Tillman has 2 people who are not paying their bills. She has contacted the States' Attorney for help with this.

A new travel expense resolution was discussed. It was decided to have:

Breakfast - \$17.50, Lunch - \$17.50, Supper - \$25, per diem per day – up to \$60 including tip. This is for meals only, no alcohol or snacks.

Train – The rate of an Amtrak economy class. All other travel options may only be approved by roll call vote at full board.

Lodging – up to \$130

Mileage – 57.5

Motion to change and approve the new travel expense resolution was made by Mr. Lucie and seconded by Mr. Blythe. All members present voted aye.

Keara Weber talked with Mr. Bollin and Mr. Menn before the meeting and stated she has 1 employee out due to an accident. They are going through old records for old bond issues for auditing issues. She would like to have an outside party come in and collect fines and fees. The judge is against this idea.

Mr. Hanson stated that Jeff Totten has been in touch with him regarding getting paid for the work he has been doing for wind and solar permits. Mr. Menn will be in touch with Ms. James and Mr. Totten to get a plan together. He will be paid per permit. Motion to pay Mr. Totten with an agreed upon rate with back pay was made by Mr. Bergmeier and seconded by Mr. Douglas. All members present voted aye.

On page 14 of the finance statement the fund #001-240-5100 is overbudget by 202%. Is this an error? Bills were gone over. Motion to pay the claims was made by Mr. Bergmeier. Mr. Castlebury seconded. All members present voted aye.

Motion to recess until June 13 was made by Mr. Bergmeier and seconded by Mr. Douglas. All members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 10:27.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bollin, Committee Chair