

**MINUTES OF A BOARD MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF  
ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, IN THE CITY OF  
CARTHAGE ON DECEMBER 16, 2025**

COUNTY OF HANCOCK     )  
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STATE OF ILLINOIS     )  
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The meeting was called to order by chairman Mark Menn at 6:30 p.m. The invocation was given by Dennis Castlebury. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mark Menn. Roll call was taken.

Those in attendance included:	Mark Menn, Chairman Stephanie Swisegood, Secretary
Lee Ann Lambert	Joe Boyles
Alex Blythe	Harry Douglas
Mark Hanson	Mark Harrison
Wayne Bollin	Steve Finney
Josh Turner	Dennis Castlebury

Tom Rodgers, Michelle Merritt, Steve Lucie, and Ryan Weeks were absent. Visitors included Justin Greeley, Nautilus Solar via Teams, Zebrawood Solar Representative, and Elgin Berry.

Mr. Harrison moved to approve the November minutes and executive minutes. Mr. Boyles seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Menn welcomed the visitors. Heather Brown from Nautilus Solar introduced herself being with the Odyssey Solar project in Sonora. Ms. Lambert invited board members to the Republican Candidate forum.

Highway, finance, building, and health committee reports were gone over. Ms. Lambert motioned to approve the minutes, Mr. Finney seconded the motion. Mr. Bollin asked who

owned the property for the Odyssey Sonora project. It is the Wilson property. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

The consent agenda was moved to be approved, except for letter B regarding the tax deed, by Mr. Finney, seconded by Mr. Hanson. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Harrison moved to approve the Tri-County Collection of in-person collection from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Mr. Finney seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Blythe motioned to approve the resolution to approve the replacement of a bridge over Grove Creek in Pilot Grove Township, Mr. Turner seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

There was an amendment to the levy. The Health Department and Audit numbers were switched around. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Boyles. Mr. Blythe seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Bollin moved to approve the building permit for the Odyssey Sonora Solar project. This was seconded by Mr. Douglas. The original had been gone over at the building committee meeting on December 9. There were a couple of changes. The first page of the decommissioning bond is held up by Fedex in Quincy. They overnighted it last week. They did email a copy of it. Mr. Finney amended Mr. Bollin’s motion to say contingent on receiving the decommissioning bond by Friday, December 19, at 4 p.m. and the states’ attorney’s approval. Motion to approve the amendment was made by Mr. Finney, Mr. Boyles seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Blythe and Ms. Lambert voting “no” and all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried. Roll call vote on the building permit with the amendments made was taken with Mr. Blythe and Ms. Lambert voting “no” and all other members voting “yes”. Motion passed.

Motion to approve the building permit for Zebrawood Solar was made by Mr. Finney. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Blythe made a motion to approve the travel expense resolution adopting the per diem rates per GSA. Mr. Boyles seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the increase of mileage rate from 57.5 to 70 cents was made by Mr. Douglas. Mr. Castlebury seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Menn stated that the county board has worked hard and diligent to make sure that we come in with a very low levy and keep the county in good financial standings. Citizens are wanting their taxes to go down. They need to look at the other entities in the county. Other entities in the county need to start doing the same thing and follow in the steps of the county. If citizens want to complain about their taxes being high they need to go talk to the school districts because the county board does a good job at levying money and making it fair for all citizens in this county.

Mr. Boyles made a motion to approve the appointment of Rebecca Bankston and Judy Melton for a 5-year term to the Hancock County Housing Authority. Mr. Finney seconded. All members present voted aye.

Mr. Menn would like to thank the board a Merry Christmas to them and their families. He appreciates all the time they take to serve on the board.

Mr. Finney made a motion to recess until January 20, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Douglas seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A. Wilde-Tillman, County Clerk