

**MINUTES OF A BUDGET MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE
OF ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, IN THE CITY OF
CARTHAGE, ON OCTOBER 13, 2026**

The meeting was called to order by Wayne Bollin at 8:00 p.m. Members in attendance included Harry Douglas, Dennis Castlebury, John Mason, Joe Boyles, Steve Lucie, Lee Ann Lambert, and Mark Menn. Elgin Berry was a visitor.

Mr. Berry feels that wages for the highway department are getting worse every year and falling farther and farther behind. He would like to give a 5% raise. Mr. Menn showed him a book of state-wide wages and Hancock County is comparable to Adams County and others. Mr. Mason made a motion to give a 3% raise for fiscal year 2027 and look at a scale set at budget time next year. Mr. Lucie seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Douglas, Mr. Castlebury, and Mr. Boyles voting no and all other members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

There was discussion regarding the Economic Development housing grants. Some of the projects have not been started. Motion to give \$10,000 to 4-H for building upgrades was made by Mr. Lucie, seconded by Mr. Douglas. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Boyles motioned to grant Hancock County Soil and Water \$1500. Mr. Mason seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Lucie asked why the Veteran's levy was raised back to \$105,400 from the \$100,000 they had discussed at the last meeting. This was discussed. The health department is asking for a 2% increase in their levy. Mr. Douglas motioned to approve the 2% raise, Mr. Boyles seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Lucie and Ms. Lambert voting no and all other members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

An individual was offered \$85,000 for the IT position. They countered at \$95,000/yearly. Mr. Menn discussed this Bellwether stated the max should be \$80,000-\$90,000 and to not offer Cobra. Mr. Boyles made a motion of offering \$90,000 with benefits and no Cobra. Mr. Mason seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried. The individual was given the offer of \$90,000 and countered at \$92,000. This was discussed at length. Mr. Castlebury motioned to not take the offer of \$92,000. Mr. Lucie

seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Douglas, Mr. Mason, and Mr. Bollin voting no and all other members present voting "yes". Motion carried. The individual was notified that the county is staying at \$90,000 and he stated there are no hard feelings. Justin Greeley will be asked to provide the county with an advertisement for the position to put in the paper.

The next budget meeting will be held on October 20, 2026, after the full board meeting. Insurance, courthouse phones and IT will be discussed.

Mr. Feagain was interested in making Don Haage an assistant administrator. There could be problems with this if he gets overtime. Motion to decline making him an assistant administrator and keeping him hourly was made by Mr. Boyles, seconded by Mr. Castlebury. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Motion to recess until October 20 was made by Mr. Castlebury, seconded by Mr. Douglas. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bollin