

**MINUTES OF A BUDGET MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE  
OF ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, IN THE CITY OF  
CARTHAGE ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Wayne Bollin at 7:00 p.m. Members in attendance included Harry Douglas, Dennis Castlebury, Joe Boyles, Lee Ann Lambert, Alex Blythe, Steve Lucie, and Mark Menn. Visitors included Holly Wilde-Tillman, Bobi James and John Meixner of the ROE.

Mr. Meixner from the Regional Office of Education discussed his budget for Hancock County. The county is at 23.46% contribution to the ROE. There are about 90 employees in the ROE. Mr. Lucie asked how Illinois schools rate nationally, does he support the new standards and implementing mental health evaluations? Mr. Lucie asked if the ROE could help schools implement a policy to opt in or out? Mr. Meixner stated he cannot tell schools what to do, they check for compliance, and they make sure schools are following statutes and the buildings are up to code. There was discussion regarding consolidation.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman brought it to the attention of the committee that after the payroll proposals were approved, a substantial bonus was given to 2 employees. Other offices are being held at a standard with no COLA and then the insurance premium is being raised.

Ms. James spoke about the conflict public defender's job. She is not sure how she would fill that spot if it were not renewed or reduced and have to find somebody else to fill that spot. The committee stated they would like to have a lawyer rotation. If Ms. James cannot get somebody here within the 48-hour time period she will not be able to proceed with a case if there is no conflict public defender. In 2027 the state will tell us who our conflict public defender and will be subsidized.

Ms. James stated that a couple of weeks ago she was here at 6 a.m. and there was no internet. She called Mr. Dedey and he was here by 6:40 to fix it. If you go with somebody out of the area she would have concerns regarding their availability.

Mr. Greeley sat down with Mr. Dedey. Mr. Dedey is willing to remain parttime for another year for the county at \$40,000/year. The board needs to give Mr. Dedey direction on what is expected of him in the next year. Mr. Dedey will be at the next budget meeting.

The levy is at a 3.3% increase from last year. Mr. Lucie asked what would happen if the Regional Office of Education was not given any money? Justin Greeley was called on the phone at 8:10 p.m. and asked if we can set the amount given to the ROE where we would like, and what would happen if no money was given?

The treasurer's budget was gone over, and deductions were made. Mr. Greeley called back and stated that by state statute the county has to pay their portion to the ROE or the ROE could take the county to court.

The coroner's storage line item will stay at \$4000 but he will need to have this hired out. The capital improvement fund could be dropped to \$0 or this could be added and next year given to the Building Commission for the courthouse roof.

Motion to recess until October 2 at 7:00 p.m. was made by Mr. Castlebury, seconded by Mr. Douglas. All members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bollin