

**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 24, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Wayne Bollin at 7:01 p.m. Members in attendance included Harry Douglas, Joe Boyles, Steve Lucie, Lee Ann Lambert, Alex Blythe, and Mark Menn. Dennis Castlebury was absent. Michelle Berry, Tim Murphy, and Shelby Crow were visitors.

Mr. Murphy and Ms. Berry from Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation explained to the committee what their business does for the county. They provide technical and financial support, education on conserving soil and related natural resources. They pass out trees to third graders on Arbor Day and plant oak trees with 4H. They have tree sales and fish sales, equipment rentals, and ag fabric available.

Ms. Crow from the Hancock County Extension Center discussed their impact with the community. They have a very active 4H program which is growing. They had 200 kids for the forestry contest. They provide Ag in the Classroom and Welcome to the Real World for children in the county. Mr. Lucie asked how much money the state provides to them. They match whatever money the county board provides. Mr. Lucie asked how much control the state has over the Extension Center. Ms. Crow stated the only caveat is that they need to have a 4H program.

The sheriff's department credit card bill was gone over. There was discussion regarding increasing the hotel per diem rate. This will be investigated.

The HCSW will get \$1500, Extension Center levy will be \$118,000. The audit will be \$37,800 plus transportation costs. The audit levy is set at \$26,000.

The conflict public defender contract was discussed. There is a 10% increase in cost. Mr. Bollin will approach Mr. Dittmer to see if he would do 5%.

Discussion regarding court security and court operation funds and what these can be used for ensued.

Motion to move the health insurance premium for employees to \$80/month was made by Mr. Blythe, seconded by Mr. Lucie. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Boyles voting no and all other members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

The levy was gone over. Elgin Berry will be told that his department will be given a 2% raise.

A meeting was set for October 2 at 7 p.m. Motion to recess until September 30 at 7:00 p.m. was made by Mr. Douglas, seconded by Mr. Boyles. All members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bollin