

**SPECIAL MINUTES OF A BUDGET MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF
HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, IN
THE CITY OF CARTHAGE, ON AUGUST 28, 2026**

The meeting was called to order by Wayne Bollin at 10:00 a.m. Members in attendance included Lee Ann Lambert, Joe Boyles, Harry Douglas, Steve Lucie, and Dennis Castlebury. Tom Rodgers sat in as a guest.

Mr. Bollin asked where everyone wanted to land with the new budget without knowing all the details yet. Mr. Douglas thought the cost of living should be based on 4% increases in salaries. Mr. Castlebury and Mr. Boyles concurred. Mr. Boyles felt the county needed to maintain wages to retain employees. The sheriff's outlook is positive this coming year. Ms. Lambert felt the COLA somewhere in the range of 2-4% would be ideal. Mr. Lucie thought 4% was too high and that 2-3% would be more in reason. He said we need to keep the insurance level well within our budget reach, the county needed to be more diligent on road rebuilding, and also to keep levy stable at 2% or less. Mr. Lucie was not in favor of increasing the health dept levy. Mr. Boyles stated we needed to keep basic county services intact.

Mr. Douglas had 3 points: 1) The health dept seems to be frugal in their spending and sometimes had employee retention problems because of this. 2) IT needs to be full time for the courthouse. 3) There are a lot of new people in different offices and we need to hold them accountable for all of the moneys and salary increases.

Mr. Bollin felt we need lower increases. He stated interest on our investments is helping the county immensely. Health insurance is working very well. He appreciated conservative thoughts of the members. Mr. Boyles said we need to retain all IT money within the IT budget and work towards that goal.

Mr. Douglas voted to recess at 10:29 a.m., Ms. Lambert seconded. All members present voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bollin