**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 29, 2024**

The October 29, 2024, Budget meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Hancock County Boardroom by Mr. Bollin. Those in attendance were Wayne Bollin, Harry Douglas, Tom Bergmeier, Mark Menn, Steve Lucie, and Dennis Castlebury. Absent were Alex Blythe, Mark Hanson and Mark Menn.

Mr. Bollin updated the committee that the budget is balanced with a 4% increase for salaries. This could change with negotiations on Sheriff’s contract.

The Committee discussed with Mr. Totten and the changes to his funds, he was good with the budget.

Mark Menn entered at 7:09 p.m.

Ms. James entered the meeting and Mr. Bollin stated where the committee has her budget. They questioned her on the benefits of having an assistant. She stated it would not be feasible and that his workload is 1/3 of cases compared to her caseload. In custodies can come at any point and she cannot be there 24/7. The assistant fields calls with officers and processes search warrants when necessary. Weekends are just a call but that could change. It she did not have an assistant her office staff would have to take on more responsibilities. Having an assistant at part-time would be tricky because of court times and pre-trials. Mr. Whitman has done many geo-filings and has done a home search warrant. Workload remains the same in SA office. He is part of investigations. Ms. James was asked to investigate a part-time assistant. Mr. Castlebury state if workload increases then we can look at increasing hours in future. Ms. James left.

Discussion continued on the Assistant State’s Attorney and possible options. The board is looking at a reduction of $20,000 to $30,000.

Ms. Weber entered the meeting. She has hired a new employee at $17.00. The board stated her budget in salaries has been reduced to $145,135. Current wages in her office range from $17.00 to $19.22. Ms. Weber left, and more discussion was had on salaries.

The Sheriff brought more information on body and car cams. Mr. Duffy believes we will receive a grant for this. He is currently over in holiday pay and 2 other funds but will be under in food, medical and extra hire and could be around $100,000. The board stated if we receive the grant we can get another car but as of now we will only purchase one. The quote from Motorola for body cams is $34,185 of year one and years 2-5 $13,030 per year. The upfront cost for car cams is $37,780. So on December 1, we will need $63,718 for both. Buying them both is a better way to go.

Mr. Duffy stated that a Durango with decals is $55,000. There is $63,000 in vehicle replacement.

Motion to take $34,185 out of vehicle replacement and transfer $5245 to equipment and to pay for 15 body cams was made by Castlebury and seconded by Mr. Bergmeier. Mr. Lucie is concerned about getting off car rotation if we do not receive the grant. All member present voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Discussion was had on 911 dispatchers and salary reimbursement. Salaries cannot be finalized until negotiations are final.

More discussion was had on the Circuit Clerk’s salary line item. Disparity amongst offices will need to be addressed in future. Fund 001-140-5005 will be set at $145,135. Mr. Douglas is wondering why the focus on the Circuit Clerk salaries. Mr. Lucie stated this is only 2.2% from last year of overall budget so maybe we could take $5,000 and allocate it towards her budget. Mr. Menn stated a higher number just causes issues for next year.

There was more discussion on the Assistant State’s Attorney salary. There is concern by Mr. Bergmeier that cutting his salary or the position will hurt Ms. James or about Constitutional rights to a speedy trial. A few suggestions were made as to amounts and Mr. Menn suggested leaving the budget as is and talk with her.

Numbers were gone over on each line item. They will add $25,476 to 001-250-5755 for an amount of $142,017. Elections salary was increased to 4% so $557 was subtracted from contingency for a new figure of $141460 in 001-250-5755.

Mr. Lucie made a motion to pass the budget, and it was seconded by Mr. Douglas, all those present voted in favor.

Motion was made by Mr. Douglas to pass the Ambulance budget and seconded by Mr. Castlebury. All present voted “aye.” Motion carried.

Mr. Bergmeier moved to pass the levy at a 5% increase at an amount of $5,978,658, it was seconded by Mr. Douglas. All present voted “aye.” Motion carried. The budget and levies will go full board for approval.

Mr. Lucie moved to recess at 10:16 p.m. and it was seconded by Mr. Douglas. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bollin