# MINUTES OF A SPECIAL FINANCE MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Wayne Bollin at 7:14 p.m. Members in attendance include Joe Boyles, Steve Lucie, Alex Blythe, Lee Ann Lambert, Harry Douglas, Dennis Castlebury, and Mark Menn. Visitors included Justin Greeley and Madison Bell.

Ms. Bell discussed the grant idea for Hancock County Economic Development. She stated that there will be 4 winners who will be provided a grant for $7500 to use for property development. The cities, companies, and individuals can apply for this grant for fixing of properties, developing apartments, etc.

Mr. Greeley discussed the budget. At the start of the day the county was $180,000 in the hole. At the end of this day it is only $13,000 in the hole. The general fund can be maxed out at 0.27 of the EAV, last year the county only took 0.21. There was discussion regarding information technology, the cost of having somebody full time inhouse versus DEVNET. Mr. Douglas wants to ensure that the county has integrity for elections, Ms. Wilde-Tillman has done a wonderful job so far and does not want to jeopardize that.

Mr. Lucie stated he would like to see the budget under last year or staying stagnant. He believes the levies should be lowered.

Discussion regarding salaries and increasing the cost of health insurance to employees and liability fund. The bailiff salary can be paid out of the court security fund. Bellwether will see if he can recoup some of this.

The public defender will be a position like the states' attorney in 2027. The salary may be prorated. Will the state take over the conflict public defender? There are unknowns about this.

There was discussion regarding the county board per diem pay. This needs to be set 180 days prior to taking office. This can be changed in May 2026.

Discussion regarding the levies was had. The next meetings for the budget were scheduled for September 24 and September 30 at 7 p.m.

Mr. Menn was very impressed with Ms. Wilde-Tillman's budget. She only had a 1% increase from last year. Motion to recess was made by Ms. Lambert, seconded by Mr. Douglas. All members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bollin