MINUTES OF A BOARD MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON JUNE 16, 2026

COUNTY OF HANCOCK)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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The meeting was called to order by the chairman Mark Menn. The invocation was given by Mr. Menn. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Holly Wilde-Tillman. Roll call was taken.

Those in attendance included: Mark Menn, Chairman
Holly A. Wilde-Tillman, County Clerk

Tom Rodgers	Lee Ann Lambert
Michelle Merritt	Harry Douglas
Steve Lucie	Wayne Bollin
Steve Finney	Mark Hanson
Dennis Castlebury	Jason Jacquot

Visitors included members from the 4-H Federation, Cora Hanks, Special Olympics members, Amy Graham, Michael McVey, Bobi James, Justin Greeley, Alex Keyt via Zoom.

Ms. Merritt motioned to approve the May minutes, special finance meeting and executive session minutes. Mr. Lucie seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Menn welcomed the visitors. Madeline Davis addressed the committee regarding the 4H program. There are 220 active members in Hancock County. There will be a ribeye dinner cookout on July 7 and part of the proceeds will be donated to a charity. Mr. Menn stated he appreciated the good work they do for the county.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman introduced Cora Hanks who was a coop student who worked in her office from August to May. She will be attending Loyola and pursuing a law degree. She scanned documents for back indexing and was a great asset.

Ms. Graham stated that the Abe Lincoln Statue is ready for wax. They are aiming to have it here by July 4.

Mr. Menn acknowledged the Special Olympic attendees. There was a gold medalist and 2nd, 3rd and 4th place winners.

Mr. Castlebury moved to move into the public hearing regarding the amendment to the wind ordinance. Mr. Douglas seconded. All members present voted aye. Mr. Greeley stated this was written as strictly as possible. It will probably need to be changed again. Mr. Lucie motioned to end the public hearing, Ms. Merritt seconded. All members present voted aye.

The Special Use Permit for Hwy-61 Sun LLC and Hwy-61 Sun 2, LLC, has been postponed to July to allow the committee to look over the application.

The energy attorney Alex Keyt was in the meeting via Zoom. Board members questioned him regarding further understanding of solar, wind, and data centers. Ordinances will be sent to him for review.

Motion to approve the monthly committee reports was made by Mr. Finney, seconded by Ms. Merritt. A roll call vote was taken with Tom Rodgers voting no and all other members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Lucie moved to approve the consent agenda which included accepting the resignation of Ryan Weeks from the county board and trustee for taxing district deeds. Mr. Finney seconded. Ms. Merritt pointed out that a new noxious weed superintendent will need to be appointed. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Ms. Merritt moved to increase the Wex card to $12,000 limit with the increase in the price of gas. Mr. Hanson seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Finney moved to approve the wind ordinance amendment. Ms. Merritt seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Steve Lucie voting no and all other all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Finney motioned to approve the second payment for the Abraham Lincoln Statue. Mr. Bollin seconded. Mr. Finney moved to amend the motion to authorize the county clerk to pay the final payment when the statue is completed, Mr. Castlebury seconded. All members present voted aye to the amendment to the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Approval of the EMS tier intercept fee schedule and IGA agreement with LaHarpe ambulance was made by Mr. Douglas, seconded by Mr. Castlebury. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Hanson moved to appoint Tom Dale as the solar site assessment officer at $300 a trip on an at least biannually basis. Mr. Greeley has drafted a checklist. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Ms. Merritt made a motion to approve the ordinance establishing a temporary moratorium on the issuance of permits for data centers in Hancock County with the amendment of changing 12 months to 24 months. Mr. Lucie seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Lucie moved to pay Richard's Electric overtime out of the court services in the amount of $3600. Mr. Bollin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. McVey spoke to the board regarding switching the GIS provider from Schneider, formerly Bruce Harris, to Sidwell. He talked of the cost savings to the county by switching.

The sheriff credit card claims were discussed at great length. A FOIA was discussed but not voted upon as it was not on the agenda.

The republican central committee recommended Jason Jacquot to replace Ryan Weeks on the county board until the November 30, 2026. Mr. Bollin moved to approve the appointment. Mr. Finney seconded. All members present voted aye.

Mr. Bollin moved to approve the appointment of Gary Akers to the Dallas Rural Water District for 5 years. Mr. Lucie seconded. All members present voted aye.

Ms. Merritt moved to recess at 8:40 p.m. Mr. Hanson seconded. All members present voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A. Wilde-Tillman, County Clerk