

**MINUTES OF A BOARD MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF  
ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, IN THE CITY OF  
CARTHAGE ON MAY 19, 2026**

COUNTY OF HANCOCK    )  
  )  
STATE OF ILLINOIS    )  
  )

The meeting was called to order by the chairman Mark Menn at 6:30 p.m. The invocation was given by Wayne Bollin. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Clerk. Roll call was taken.

Those present were:           Mark Menn, Chairman  
  Holly A. Wilde-Tillman, County Clerk

Mark Hanson	Alex Blythe
Harry Douglas	Michelle Merritt
Josh Turner	Mark Harrison
Joe Boyles	Tom Rodgers
Lee Ann Lambert	Dennis Castlebury
Steve Lucie	Steve Finney
Wayne Bollin	

Ryan Weeks was absent. The owner of Prairie Winds Motel was also in attendance to discuss a liquor license.

Ms. Merritt moved to approve the April minutes and executive session minutes. Mr. Harrison seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Motion to enter the public hearing regarding the amended solar ordinance was made by Mr. Bollin at 6:38 p.m. Ms. Merritt seconded the motion.

The state passed new laws for wind and solar in January 2026. Local standards cannot be more restrictive than the state standards. The county has no zoning and as such the state has taken it upon themselves to let us know what we can do regarding solar. There was

discussion regarding an energy attorney. Ms. James stated if the community wants to pay for that then she will move forward. The board would like to know what they can do. Motion to adjourn the solar ordinance hearing was made at 6:44 by Mr. Blythe. Mr. Lucie seconded the motion.

The owner of Prairie Winds Motel was wanting to add gaming in her establishment to help with her mortgage. In order to do that she would need a liquor license. Mr. Menn asked her to come to the Buildings and Grounds committee meeting on June 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Douglas motioned to approve the minutes of the Highway, Building and Grounds, Finance, and Health and Miscellaneous committees. Mr. Boyles seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

The budget amendments will be done at a later time. Mr. Boyles moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Merritt seconded the motion. Ms. Wilde-Tillman has gotten in touch with GFL and got the sheriff/courthouse and EMS accounts down. She has yet to talk to anybody about the highway account. The sheriff/courthouse was \$286 and she got it down to \$120. EMS she got \$48 off that account. She will speak to someone tomorrow regarding the highway bill. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried. Consent agenda included:

- 1) Tax Deed 15-10-954-000
- 2) Acceptance of Banner Bids
- 3) Putting Garbage Collection up for Bid

Mr. Hanson made a motion to approve the solar ordinance. Mr. Harrison seconded. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding this. A motion was made by Mr. Bollin to add to the ordinance that if an “act of God” happens that the solar company is responsible for the cleanup. Mr. Castlebury seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried. A roll call vote was taken on the solar ordinance with Blythe, Lambert, and Lucie voting “no” and all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Rodgers moved to approve the Hamilton Sun, LLC, building permit. Ms. Merritt seconded. Roll call vote was taken with Blythe, Turner, Harrison, Boyles, Lambert, and Lucie voting no, and Hanson, Douglas, Merritt, Rodgers, Castlebury, Menn, Finney, and Bollin voting yes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Blythe to approve WL Miller as the lowest bidder for the Walker Township Road work. Mr. Rodgers seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Boyles moved to approve a monetary gift to the Hancock County Special Recreation for for the Special Olympics in the amount of \$8000, Mr. Lucie seconded this motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Motion was made to approve \$75,000 to be used out of the County Court Fund towards cabling of the courtroom by Mr. Boyles. Mr. Castlebury seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Ms. Merritt made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2014 Ford F550 Ambulance from the City of Lucas for \$65,000. Mr. Boyles seconded. There was discussion at the health committee to purchase 2 ambulances. The other company with an ambulance would not take a trade so we are only purchasing 1 ambulance. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Rodgers would like a committee to study the harmful effects of a battery backup station. Mr. Menn stated this would be taken to committee to be discussed.

Motion was made by Ms. Merritt for the appointment of George Salrin and Rod Bruns to the Dallas Rural Water District and Holly Wilde-Tillman as the local registrar. Seconded by Mr. Boyles. All members present voted aye.

Motion to move in to executive session was made by Mr. Douglas at 7:26 p.m. regarding personnel, seconded by Mr. Castlebury. All members present voted aye. Motion to come out of executive session was made by Ms. Merritt at 8:05 p.m., Mr. Boyles seconded the motion.

Ms. Merritt made a motion to recess, Mr. Boyles seconded. All members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A. Wilde-Tillman, County Clerk