MINUTES OF A FINANCE, FEES, AND SALARIES MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON NOVEMBER 13, 2025

The meeting was called to order by committee chair Wayne Bollin at 9:07 a.m. Members in attendance included Joe Boyles, Harry Douglas, Dennis Castlebury, Lee Ann Lambert, Alex Blythe, and Mark Menn. Steve Lucie was absent. Visitors included Elgin Berry, Kris Pilkington, Bobi James, Michael McVey, and Josh Smith.

Mr. Berry was in attendance to discuss the highway department getting a 2% or 4% raise with no overtime. He has spoken with his employees and they opted for the 4%. There was further discussion regarding the overtime and how lunches will be paid. The highway employees also get $960 per year for a clothing allowance. Instead of them receiving this upfront they will need to turn in receipts receipts and they will be reimbursed. Motion to give the highway department a 2% raise was made by Mr. Blythe, seconded by Mr. Boyles. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Douglas voting no and all other members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. McVey states his office is running well. They are finishing 2025 work. They may need to pay back the taxes that were paid for the old nursing home in Hamilton if the appeal goes through.

There was a discussion with Mr. Smith regarding the retention grants for the sheriff's department. He is now in compliance. $20,000 will go towards recruitment. The last of the grant needs to be used by June 2026.

Keara Weber sent in her financial report. The office brought in $38,000 for last month.

Ms. Pilkington states Mr. Dedey will go over his salary line item but this was because there was a transition between hourly and salary wages last December. The ambulance is in the green and will need a budget amendment. The coroner will need to have a line item transfer.

Mr. Boyles motioned to approve the retention grant payment of $5000 to the list of deputies provided. Mr. Douglas seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Motion to authorize Mr. Menn to sign the grant for body cameras was made by Mr. Blythe. Ms. Lambert seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

The letter of agreement with Bellwether needs to be extended. They get $5000 a month plus $134 per trip. Motion to approve the agreement was made by Mr. Blythe. They would like Mr. Greeley with Bellwether to discuss what his role is for the county at the next county board meeting. Mr. Douglas seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Building Commission lease for $700,000 was made by Mr. Castlebury. Mr. Blythe seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

The appellate prosecutor resolution is in the amount of $10,000. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Boyles, seconded by Ms. Lambert. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Dedey presented the proposal from Watts for a lease of 4 copiers for $206. Motion to proceed was made by Mr. Boyles. Mr. Blythe seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Ms. James stated that she has hired a new assistant. They will work 4 days per week at a salary of $67,000/year. They will be handling all juvenile cases, drug court, traffic calls.

The Hancock County Economic Development membership was discussed. The committee feels that since they give them money for projects that this should take care of their membership. Ms. Lambert volunteered to be on the housing grant committee.

Mr. Blythe motioned to approve the full board meeting schedule for 2026. Mr. Boyles seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

All department heads will be sent the per diem rates and if they have questions or concerns they can come to the finance meeting in December.

Ms. James stated that she has not come up with a different conflict public defender plan. Motion to retain Mr. Dittmer with the understanding that they can get out of the contract with a 30-day notice was made by Mr. Boyles. Mr. Douglas seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Motion to move into executive session was made by Mr. Castlebury, seconded by Mr. Douglas at 10:53. All members present voted aye. Motion to move out of executive was made by Mr. Boyles, seconded by Mr. Castlebury at 11:05. All members present voted aye.

Claims were gone over. Mr. Blythe made a motion to approve the claims. Mr. Castlebury seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Motion to recess until December 11 at 9 a.m. was made by Ms. Lambert. Mr. Douglas seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 11:19.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bollin