**MINUTES OF A BOARD MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON DECEMBER 17, 2024**

STATE OF ILLINOIS )

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COUNTY OF HANCOCK )

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The meeting was called to order by chairman Mark Menn at 6:30 p.m. The invocation was given by Mark Hanson. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the county clerk.

Those present were: Mark Menn, Hancock County Chairman

Holly Wilde-Tillman, Hancock County Clerk

Michelle Merritt Thomas Rodgers

Lee Ann Lambert Joe Boyles

Alex Blythe Steve Lucie

Harry Douglas Mark Hanson

Wayne Bollin Steve Finney

Josh Turner Dennis Castlebury

Absent was Ryan Weeks and Mark Harrison. Visitors included Justin Greeley, Bobi James, Ada Bair, Miranda Lambert, and CallaBria Putrino.

Motion was made by Mr. Douglas to approve the November minutes, Ms. Lambert seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Blythe made a motion to approve the special board meeting on December 27, 2024. Ms. Merritt seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Committee reports were gone over. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Lucie, seconded by Ms. Lambert. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Motion to go into executive session was made by Mr. Castlebury and seconded by Mr. Boyles at 6:37 p.m. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried. Motion to come out of executive session was made by Ms. Merritt at 7:20 p.m. Ms. Lambert seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Mr. Boyles, seconded by Mr. Turner. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried. This includes:

1. Approval of Surplus Property
2. Link Media Billboard Lease Renewal in the amount of $500/year. Ms. James reported that we own the ground that the billboard is on. The billboard can have any advertisement on it that they choose.

Mr. Blythe motioned to approve the engineering agreement with Klingner and Associates for the Wythe Township bridge. Mr. Lucie seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Ms. Merritt made a motion to Approve the public transportation agreement between Hancock County Public Transportation and Mental Health Centers of Western Illinois through December 31, 2025. Mr. Finney seconded the motion. There is a 5% increase based on inflation, cost of gas, personnel, etc. They put this in a lot of their contracts. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

A motion to move $50,000 in revenue from the sheriff’s retention grant to the general fund was made by Mr. Lambert and seconded by Mr. Castlebury. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried. Mr. Lucie made a motion to pay the stipend to 10 sheriff’s deputies for retention for a total amount of $50,000, Mr. Turner seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Finney moved to allow the states’ attorney to retain a labor attorney for the sheriff’s contract, Ms. Merritt seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Blythe motioned to approve the claims for the month of December. Ms. Merritt seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve a credit card for the supervisor of assessments in the amount of $5000 by Mr. Boyles, seconded by Mr. Turner. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Ms. Lambert stated she had a community member asking her about the best way to get a resource officer in Southeastern. She informed them to come to a county board meeting.

Mr. Lucie stated thank you to whoever puts the candles in the windows and others in the community have noticed.

Mr. Blythe motioned to approve the appointment of Ms. Merritt, Mr. Lucie, and Ms. Lambert to Western Illinois Regional Council. Mr. Bollin seconded the motion. All members present voted aye.

Mr. Lucie made a motion to appoint Ms. Merritt to the Western Illinois Workforce Innovation Board. Mr. Castlebury seconded. Mr. Menn appreciates Ms. Merritt stepping up to do this. It is something that gets overlooked but is important for the county. All members present voted aye.

Mr. Menn wished each and every board member a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year, he appreciates the time they take for the county, and it is an honor to be their chairman.

Mr. Finney moved to recess at 7:34 p.m. Mr. Hanson seconded the motion. All Members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A. Wilde-Tillman, County Clerk