MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE, ON JULY 21, 2026

COUNTY OF HANCOCK)
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STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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Roll call was taken.

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

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

Alex Blythe and Joe Boyles were absent. Visitors included Alex Farkes and his attorney, cameraman and court reporter, Bobi James, Justin Greeley, Tommy Buckert, Brandon Wilson, Kamryn Schrepfer, Jessica Croy, and Tasha Speer.

Ms. Merritt motioned to approve the June minutes. Mr. Jacquot seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Ms. Schrepfer with Gray Hunter Stenn presented the audit. Each board member had an audit along with letters. Single audits were done at the highway department, health department, and public transportation.

Ms. Croy from the health department stated that they have an audit done yearly which they pay for. They were asked to pay 1/3 for the single audit. Mr. Bollin stated this will be discussed at the finance meeting.

Mr. Buckert from Hamilton was asking about the electronic cleanup they do in Hamilton. He had difficulties with Tri-County collecting the electronics. He had been talking to Aaron Allen who resigned and it is now Natalie. He was informed to call WIRC and discuss this with them.

Mr. Wilson from Hamilton was asking for clarification regarding animal control. He asked if the county had notified each municipality. He was informed that all mayors were notified by letters. Any bill accrued by the animal should be paid for by the owner. He was told to bring it to the health committee the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

At 7:01 p.m. Mr. Douglas moved to enter the public hearing for Highway 61 and 61-2 Solar project, Mr. Jacquot seconded. All members present voted aye. Everybody was instructed to state their name for the court reporter. Mr. Farkes stated he had submitted the application in April 2026 but since the state passed a law that caused a lot of counties to update their ordinances he amended it on June 2. Bellwether has reviewed it and stated it was perfect and complete. Ameren has fully approved this project. The electricity will go throughout the county and whatever is not used will go to Macomb. This will be on 50 acres which is a small portion of this parcel. There were several questions and comments from the community and board members. Ms. James stated that she has spoken with Mr. Keyt the energy attorney. He would like to make sure that anyone who is present has a chance to enter evidence. Mr. Greeley notified the board that they have 3 options which are approval, denial or table. Mr. Menn stated if anybody has a problem with the scheduling of the public hearings to speak to him and not the county clerk. The idea of a green energy committee was raised. Motion to exit the public hearing at 7:45 p.m. was made by Mr. Castlebury, seconded by Mr. Finney. All members present voted aye.

The highway, finance, health and building committee reports were gone over. Mr. Finney wanted it noted that no changes were made to the public hearing at the building and grounds committee meeting. Ms. Merritt moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Rodgers seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Hanson moved to approve the action consent agenda, Ms. Merritt seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried. This included:

1) Deeming EMS Equipment as Surplus and Putting up for Bid
2) Acceptance of Bid for 2 Bicentennial Banners
3) Approval of 5-year Waste Management Plan

Mr. Douglas motioned to approve the purchase of 2 Stryker cots and 2 power load systems, Ms. Merritt seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Bollin moved to approve the transferring of GIS to Sidwell. Mr. Douglas seconded. Mr. Harrison voted no with all others present voting yes. Motion carried.

There was further discussion regarding Highway 61 and 61-2 solar project. Motion to send the Highway 61 and 61-2 Sun solar project back to committee for more discussion was made by Ms. Merritt seconded by Mr. Harrison. Roll call vote was taken with Rodgers, Castlebury and Menn voting no and all other members present voting yes. Motion carried.

The IEMA will be taken off the agenda as this was not brought to Ms. James for approval.

Mr. Bollin moved to approve the resolution authorizing approving election judges of the county of Hancock, Mr. Rodgers seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Hanson moved to approve the resolution for taxing districts 23-14-000-538, Mr. Finney seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Motion to approve the holiday schedule for 2027 was made by Ms. Merritt, Mr. Lucie seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Douglas motioned to approve hiring a forensic auditor, Mr. Finney seconded the motion. Mr. Ramsey stated that there might be some coverage in regards to insurance. Harris, Jacquot, and Lucie voted no. Lambert and Merritt abstained. All other members present voted yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Merrit motioned to approve hiring an energy attorney. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion. Wind power is coming and they would like some solid legal advice. This will be paid out of the fees that were paid for by projects. A roll call vote was taken with Jacquot voting no and all other members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Greeley stated that green energy committees are being done across the state. He would recommend creating this committee with motivated members who will read the ordinances, state statutes, and take charge.

Mr. Rodgers motioned to move into executive session, Mr. Jacquot seconded. All members present voted aye. Mr. Rodgers moved to leave executive session. Mr. Castlebury seconded the motion. All members present voted aye.

Mr. Castlebury approved the appointment of Mr. Jacquot as the noxious weed superintendent. Mr. Finney seconded. All members present voted aye.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Merritt, Mr. Finney seconded. All members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A. Wilde-Tillman