

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

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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COUNTY OF HANCOCK)
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The invocation was given by Steve Lucie. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the county clerk. Roll call was taken.

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

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

Ryan Weeks, Tom Rodgers, and Mark Harrison were absent. Visitors included Shannon Kissinger, WGEM, Elgin Berry, and Bobi James and Justin Greeley were present via Teams.

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

Ms. Kissinger handed out paperwork regarding research she had done for the treasurer’s position for the last several years compared to the circuit clerk and county clerk along with comparisons to other counties. Since 2018 the treasurer, circuit clerk, and county clerk had been making the same amount. She asked why there was a decrease in salary of the treasurer. Mr. Bollin stated the new treasurer coming in is coming in with no experience and there was an opportunity to lower the salary so they did this to cut costs to the county.

The finance, highway and health reports were gone over. BNSF will be at the meeting in March regarding the Fort Madison bridge issues. The building committee meeting was canceled due to weather. Mr. Lucie moved to approve the reports for March, Ms. Merritt seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

On the consent agenda, Mr. Menn removed the Abraham Lincoln statue and it will be put on the finance agenda and full board agenda in April as it needs some clarification before approving. Mr. Douglas motioned to approve the consent agenda, Mr. Boyles seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

This included:

1. Resolution Appointing Ryan Weeks as the Noxious Weed Superintendent
2. Resolution Confirming Appointment of Public Defender
3. Resolution to Replace and Supersede Resolution 04-2024-12 to Clarify the Duties and Responsibilities, and Updated Fixed Compensation for the Animal Control Warden
4. Approval of FY2027 DOAP and 5311 Grants for Hancock County Public Transportation
5. Acceptance of Bids for Banners and Bookshelves

Mr. Blythe made a motion to accept the Klingner and Associates engineering agreement for phase II for the La Harpe Creek Bridge replacement. Mr. Lucie seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Menn voting “no” and all other members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Castlebury moved to provide the public defender with a credit card with a balance of up to \$5000. Mr. Bollin seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Finney voting “no” and all other members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Blythe motioned to approve the Resolution Setting the Salary of the County Treasurer. Mr. Bollin seconded. There was further discussion regarding the salary and why it is being lowered. Benefits are 30% on top of the salary. Pike County’s treasurer is making \$60,000. It is unknown how long they have been in this position. This county is comparable to Hancock. Roll call vote was taken with Finney and Turner voting “no” and all other members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Blythe motioned to approve the Resolution Setting the Salary of the County Clerk, Mr. Castlebury seconded. The county clerk has been recognized as outstanding by her peers

in the state and she gets questions and concerns regarding the courthouse inside and out of the office including FOIAs, solar, wind, etc. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Douglas moved to accept the Resolution Setting a Salary for the Circuit Clerk. Mr. Castlebury seconded the motion. This is usually done in a 1-year resolution. It is now being done every 4 years. Mr. Lucie stated these are difficult decisions to make and would like to give the finance committee credit for sticking to their guns and starting to hold down their spending. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Berry stated that Mary Miller’s office has a Community Development Grant that he applied for to finish the Connable Road. He had 28 letters of support to send with this grant.

Mr. Menn thanked the board for being respectful and supportive of each other.

Motion to move into executive session was made by Ms. Merritt, Mr. Boyles seconded. This is for reason of employment, dismissal, compensation, performance evaluation of an employee. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried. Motion to leave executive session was made by Mr. Douglas, Mr. Castlebury seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Finney moved to recess until April 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Merritt seconded. All members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly A. Wilde-Tillman, County Clerk