**MINUTES OF A BOARD MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON NOVEMBER 19, 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 Wayne Bollin. The Pledge of Allegiance by led by the county clerk.

Those present were: Mark Menn, Chairman

Holly A Wilde-Tillman, County Clerk

Michelle Merritt Thomas Rodgers

Steve Finney Thomas Bergmeier

Josh Turner Harry Douglas

Steve Lucie Wayne Bollin

Mark Hanson Ryan Weeks

Mark Harrison Dennis Castlebury

Alex Blythe

Visitors included Jake Johnson, Justin Greeley, Bobi James, Alex Farkas, and members of the community.

Ms. Merritt made a motion to approve the October minutes, Mr. Weeks seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Menn read over correspondence which included a resignation letter from board member Patsy Davis.

A motion to enter into a public hearing for 22c Highway 94 Sun, LLC, up to a 5-megawatt Solar Energy Facility was made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Castlebury at 6:32 p.m. All members present voted aye. Mr. Farkas stated the project is located off of highway 94. The project will be 45 acres out of a 90-acre plot of land. This will go to the substation east of town. The power lines will be upgraded. Ameren will be working on this soon. There is no possibility of overloading as the miso regulates the energy. The city uses 2 mw during the day and 3 mw will go to Hamilton, Colchester, and Macomb. The panels are American made. He currently has over 10 solar facilities that are under construction. Hancock County is on the medium to higher amount of projects compared to other counties. Products in the solar panels are recyclable. There is a solar recycling plant in Indiana. All financials are taken care of and they are in compliance with guidelines. Motion to close the hearing was made by Mr. Bergmeier, seconded by Mr. Finney at 6:45. All members present voted aye.

Ms. Merritt motioned to move into a public hearing at 6:46 p.m. for 22c CR-900 Sun, LLC, up to a 3-megawatt Solar Energy Facility. Mr. Bergmeier seconded the motion. All members present voted aye. This facility will be 17-18 acres. Ameren has started a lot of work on it. There was no public comment. Bellwether stated they have met their obligations. Motion to move out of the public hearing was made by Mr. Bergmeier and seconded by Ms. Merritt at 6:48 p.m. All members present voted aye.

The committee reports were gone over. Mr. Finney moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Lucie seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Castlebury made a motion to accept the consent action agenda. Ms. Merritt seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried. This included:

1. Resolution to Establish a Temporary Weight Restriction
2. Declaration of Ambulance as Surplus Property
3. Approval of Sara Leffler for Viewing Rights on Circuit Clerk Bank Accounts

Mr. Turner made a motion to approve the Local Bridge Formula Program, Mr. Blythe seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Lucie made a motion to approve the purchase of body cams for the sheriff’s office. Mr. Finney seconded. This is for the purchase of 15 body cams. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Lucie and seconded by Mr. Bergmeier to approve the Hancock County Budget. This is balanced, 3.6% over last year. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Turner moved to accept the ambulance budget, Ms. Merritt seconded. The hospital contract is still being worked out. The next meeting is on November 25. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Burgmeier made a motion to approve the Hancock County levy, Mr. Blythe seconded. The finance committee and Mr. Bollin were commended on the budget and levy process. Over the years we have come close to a 5% levy, but the committee has done very well with the levy for the taxpayers. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Finney to accept the insurance quote of $360,853. This was seconded by Ms. Merritt. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Finney motioned to accept the Public Building Commission Lease. Mr. Lucie seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Douglas moved to accept the salary of the Hancock County Public Transportation PCOM salary of $2500/year. Ms. Merritt seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

A motion was made to accept the Bellwether administrative agreement by Mr. Hanson, seconded by Mr. Bollin. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Ms. Merritt moved to pay the outstanding bills. Mr. Turner seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Menn stated Mr. Twist will be prorating his November fee as the interim assessor. This will be $2500 for November and then drop to $1000 for December 2024. Ms. James will send an addendum to Mr. Twist. Mr. Bollin made a motion to approve this, Mr. Blythe seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Finney made a motion to approve the states’ attorneys appellate prosecutor resolution. Ms. Merritt seconded. This has increased to $10,000/year. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the 22c Highway 94 Sun Solar Facility was made by Mr. Bergmeier. Ms. Merritt seconded. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Lucie and Mr. Blythe voting “no” and all other members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Bergmeier made a motion to approve the 22c CR-900 Sun Solar Facility, Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Lucie and Mr. Blythe voting “no”, and all other members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Castlebury moved to accept the resolution appointing the Supervisor of Assessments. Mr. Lucie seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Motion to accept the resignation of Patsy Davis was made by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Merritt. Mr. Menn stated we owe Ms. Davis a lot of gratitude for her service. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Letter from the republican committee was read nominating Lee Ann Lambert as the county board member for District 5. Motion to approve the nomination was made by Mr. Blythe, seconded by Ms. Merritt. All members present voted aye.

Mr. Lucie motioned to accept the resignation of Amy Hall of the Health Department, seconded by Mr. Harrison. Mr. Menn thanked Ms. Hall for her time and service to the county, and best wishes on her new endeavors. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the appointment of Kenneth Royer to the West Point Fire Department as Trustee for a 3-year term was made by Mr. Finney. This was seconded by Mr. Turner. All members present voted aye.

Mr. Douglas made a motion to approve the appointment of Mark Menn to the Public Building Commission for a 5-year term. This was seconded by Mr. Hanson. All members present voted aye.

Motion to move into executive session was made by Mr. Blythe at 7:25 p.m. Mr. Lucie seconded. All members present voted aye. Mr. Douglas made a motion to move out of executive session at 7:49. Ms. Merritt seconded the motion. All members present voted aye.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman administered the oath to Ms. Lambert.

Mr. Bergmeier stated this would be his last meeting as he will be out of town at the reorganization meeting, he has learned a lot and we have great leadership. He thanked everybody. Mr. Menn stated Mr. Bergmeier has been an excellent board member, leader, and he appreciates everything he has done.

Mr. Lucie made a motion to recess until December 2 at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Rodgers seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Wilde-Tillman, County Clerk