

**MINUTES OF A HEALTH AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMITTEE MEETING OF
THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE COUNTY
COURTHOUSE, IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE, ON MAY 4, 2026**

The meeting was called to order by vice chair Steve Finney at 6:30 p.m. Members in attendance included Joe Boyles, Michelle Merritt, and Mark Menn. Visitors included Aaron Feagain, a representative from Stryker, and Laura Ranum and Carl Johnson from the Sotos Law Firm via Teams. Absent was Steve Lucie, Mark Harrison, Josh Turner, and Harry Douglas.

Motion to move into executive session regarding litigation and personnel was made by Ms. Merritt at 6:31 p.m., seconded by Mr. Boyles. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried. Ms. Merritt made a motion to move out of executive session at 7:06 p.m. Mr. Boyles seconded. All members present voted aye.

The Stryker rep showed the committee the motorized cot and lift system in the ambulance. EMS has two 2008 cots and two 2015 cots. Lengthy discussion regarding the cost of cots, power loader, and floor plate. On October 1 the prices go up.

Mr. Feagain talked about the national average of the ambulance fees. Hancock County is below the average. He would like to increase the mutual aid intercept he is requesting to increase to \$285. Motion to move this to full board was made by Ms. Merritt, seconded by Mr. Boyles. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

There was lengthy discussion regarding mutual aid with LaHarpe Ambulance Service. We have had this agreement since 2016. He would like to increase the tier and response fees. There were 73 calls for LaHarpe in 2025 with 43 of them being transported. So far this year there have been 27 calls for LaHarpe. Mr. Boyles motioned to move the tier and response fees to \$500 each and if this is not paid it will be turned over to the States' Attorney. Ms. Merritt seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Feagain has been very close to maxing the WEX card for fuel since the cost of diesel has risen. He would like to increase this to \$12,000. Mr. Menn asked if this could be paid via ACH. Ms. Merritt recommended to increase the WEX card limit to \$12,000. Mr. Boyles seconded. All members present voted aye.

Mr. Feagain passed around the EMS report. There were 152 calls, 143 billable, 14 transports. There were 34 transfers. He would like permission to buy an ambulance. GEV has an ambulance with 23,000 miles for \$110,000. It has a power load on it. He believes he should get 5-6 years out of it. Pierce Fire Truck has a 2014 with 67,000 miles for \$65,000. It has a power load and a cot with it. He believes the life expectancy is 4-5 years. He would like to go with the \$65,000 ambulance. Mr. Menn asked if GEV would take the 2019 ambulance in on trade towards the \$110,000 ambulance. Motion to buy the ambulance from Pierce Fire Truck was made by Mr. Boyles. Seconded by Ms. Merritt. Mr. Feagain suggests going with 2 upgrade kids for 2 of their cots and 1 refurbished cot. All members present voted aye.

Western Illinois University has an intern that would like to shadow Mr. Feagain for 360 hours. There is a possibility of adding her to the roster to use her licensure. Mr. Feagain will contact Ramsey Financial regarding worker's comp coverage for this. Mr. Boyles moved to approve the intern, Ms. Merritt seconded. All members present voted aye.

The dog bite report and ESDA reports were passed around.

The Starcom radios were installed in 3 of the 4 ambulances. The fourth one is being held off for the new ambulance.

Claims were gone over. Motion to approve the claims was made by Ms. Merritt, seconded by Mr. Boyles. All members present voted aye.

Ms. Merritt moved to recess until June 1, 2026, Mr. Boyles seconded. All members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Finney