**MINUTES OF A HIGHWAY, ROAD, AND BRIDGE MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON FEBRUARY 27, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by committee chair Dennis Castlebury at 8:30 a.m. Members in attendance included Wayne Bollin, Mark Menn, Ryan Weeks, Alex Blythe, and Mark Harrison. Absent was Mark Hanson and Tom Rodgers. Visitors included Elgin Berry, Steve White of County Contractors, and 2 representatives from Klingner and Associates.

There was extensive discussion about the overage of dirt for the Connable Road. Klingner was trying to save the county money by recommending Lidar be used. This is not typically used for earth work but was used on the Connable Road with truth checks every 1000 yards. County Contractors knew there was not going to be enough dirt after they filled in the deeper areas. Mr. Berry was notified and decided not to shut the project down so as to not run out of time to get the project done before winter. County Contractors took $150,000 off of their price. Mr. Berry stated being 3% over or under the bid price is not out of line but since it is over 3% it is getting everybody’s attention. Mr. Bollin stated he would like to be at the price that was bid to us.

Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network is moving to an intergovernmental agency rather than a non-profit organization. This helps agencies move quickly to aid other agencies in case of emergencies. Hancock County helped out the City of Nauvoo after the derecho. There is a $250/year fee. Mr. Weeks made a motion to accept the Resolution, Agreement, and By-laws of IPWMAN pending Bobi James review. Mr. Bollin seconded. All members present voted aye.

The county and township bituminous material and culvert bid letting will be done on March 12 at 11 a.m. Mr. Berry was hoping to have a special meeting or have an open-ended acceptance to the lowest bids so this can be moved on at full board. Motion to accept the county and township and bituminous material and culverts lowest bid pending full board approval was made by Mr. Blythe, seconded by Mr. Weeks. All members present voted aye.

The Pontoosuc bridge work will be starting in March. There will be 1 acre of trees that need to be down by April 1.

There was lengthy discussion regarding the Warsaw Bluff Road and how it is deteriorating after only 3 months. The oil and chip budget is already blown for this year according to Mr. Berry.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman informed the committee that there had been an error on a township’s ballots made by the township clerk. The ballots will need to be reprinted, all the machines will need to be retested, and the sticks will need to be sent to Omaha. Ballots have already been sent out for early voting.

Claims were gone over. Mr. Blythe made a motion to approve the claims, Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. All members present voted aye.

There was further Connable Road discussion regarding the overage of dirt. The committee would like something compensatory done to right this wrong. One route is to start litigation or never use Klingner again for future jobs. Motion to have a letter drafted by the states attorney to Klingner stating the error they made and what they can do to resolve the issue, to be approved by full board was made by Mr. Blythe, seconded by Mr. Weeks. All members present voted aye.

Mr. Harrison would like Mr. Berry to draw up different cost scenarios for the Warsaw Bluff Road. Motion to recess was made by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Blythe. All members present voted aye. Meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Castlebury, Committee Chair