

MINUTES OF A FINANCE MEETING OF THE COUNTY OF HANCOCK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, HELD AT THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN THE CITY OF CARTHAGE ON JUNE 13, 2024

The meeting was called to order by chairman Wayne Bollin at 9:02 a.m. Members in attendance included Harry Douglas, Dennis Castlebury, Steve Lucie, Mark Hanson, Tom Bergmeier, and Mark Menn. Absent was Alex Blythe. Members included Dustin Harmon from Bellwether, Jeff Totten, Jeff Dedey, Kasey Mehaffy, Keara Weber, Kris Pilkington, and Bobi James.

There was a claim submitted by the circuit clerk's office. Ms. Weber was told to pay the credit card and get reimbursements for her accounts.

Mr. Bollin stated he had spoken with Keith Krohe who had no information for us. Everything is running smoothly medical wise.

Ms. Mehaffy stated all the township assessors have their books. Connie Smith's books are already back in. There is a Farmland Review Meeting today. She believes taxes will go out in July with August and September due dates.

Mr. Harmon discussed Bellwether's administration contract. They work for the board and all department heads. They do research for legislation from the state and can help navigate those. They write policies for counties. They work closely with the states' attorney. They grow with the needs of the county. They are not a legal advisor but instead an information provider and description provider for certain paths. Bellwether is called regularly throughout the month for advice from Ms. Wilde-Tillman, Mr. Bollin, and Mr. Menn. They put bid packets together, review proposals for insurance, take minutes, work through resolutions, work through the agendas, and provide board packets. As far as elections they can research new laws for elections and can do homework on the new laws. They can communicate with auditors but are not CPAs. They do not do union negotiations but can run numbers for them. They work as human resources. They can work on the wind and solar permits and fee schedules. Some of the permitting money can be used towards this. Mr. Lucie felt that this was not something his constituents would like their money to go towards. Mr. Harmon stated this would take a load off of someone who has too much on their plate. Right now with the budget there is a questionnaire department heads fill out. If the administrative contract is signed they will have weekly discussions and will actually know what is going on. They have certified grant writers that could support the county.

The fee schedule for solar and wind was discussed. It was asked if Mr. Harmon could give us any advice on where we can spend the fees. Mr. Totten asked if he could buy equipment with the permit money. Mr. Harmon was asked what would it cost if Bellwether could help out with the solar/wind process. He stated it would be \$6000. It was discussed that we already owe Bellwether \$6000 for budget work, and if we spend \$6000 on solar/wind and \$6000, that we could just go ahead and spend another \$7000 and do the administrative contract at \$5000/month for the next 5 months. It can be discussed at that time if a yearly contract would like to be signed. Mr. Lucie motioned to

sign a 5-month administration contract with Bellwether. Mr. Douglas seconded it. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Any questions regarding the administration contract can be directed to the finance committee.

Ms. Pilkington gave the financial report. The general fund is in the red but there have been no tax payouts.

Ms. Weber stated on the 26th her, Ms. James, and Judge Clark will be meeting with a representative for collections. Her office started using texting to notify people and have noticed more fines being paid. On Juneteeth the office is closed. Some are taking a vacation day and some are working but not answering phone calls, etc. Last month she stated she needed more storage. She went to a zone meeting and they had a presentation on destruction of documents. She put in a request for destruction and so her office will be cleared out shortly. Her office is back to full staff. There are over \$2 million dollars in fines to be collected.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman has hired a college student to scan in documents. The online searching has picked up. The farther the documents go back online then the more subscriptions she can sell. The pay is coming out of record preservation. She is working on taxes right now. She should be handing it over to Ms. Pilkington in the next couple of weeks. She stated that Mr. Duffy would like a second credit card for his office in case the office needs it when he is not there. Motion to give the sheriff's office a second card was made by Mr. Castlebury and seconded by Mr. Bergmeier. This will be the same limit \$7500 and same account. All members present voted aye.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman attended a bicentennial foundation meeting. They had asked for a monetary donation from the county for support. They will be using this money towards banners, pamphlets, signs. They will submit their claims to the county and whatever is leftover will go back into the budget. Motion to give up to \$5000 to the bicentennial foundation was made by Mr. Lucie, Mr. Douglas seconded. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Mr. Totten stated that Alex Farkas of 22C stated that he had no problem waiving the funds of the solar permit. Mr. Farkas will be at the full board meeting on June 18. He asked about his salary for solar and wind. There was an agreed upon 10% per permit plus Ms. Wilde-Tillman stated there needs to be a resolution stating what Mr. Totten's pay is for the auditors. Another 5% will be discussed at another time. Motion to pay Mr. Totten 10% of the permit fees was made by Mr. Castlebury, seconded by Mr. Hanson. A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “yes”. Motion carried.

Ms. James spoke about the collective bargaining agreement for the sheriff's office. The \$150,000 grant will be divided into 3 and then dispersed between how many employees are on the roster.

Mr. Douglas asked Ms. James of the cases pending against the county where does that money come from if there is a finding against the county. Insurance covers this. If we reach that limit it may come out of tort.

Ms. Wilde-Tillman and Mr. Bollin went over Hancock County's tax computation report.

Claims were gone over. Mr. Bergmeier motioned to pay the claims with Mr. Hanson seconding the motion. All members present voted yes.

Motion to recess until July 11 at 9 a.m. was made by Mr. Castlebury and seconded by Mr. Hanson. All members present voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Bollin, Committee Chair