

MARION COUNTY AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

MEETING

MINUTES

APRIL 11, 2023

5:30 P.M.

Basement of Sheriff's Office

Meeting convened at 5:30 P.M. with Jack Riley, Marion County and Community Committee member leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll call taken by Lori Linder, County Board Secretary. Present were Tracy Murray, Brock Waggoner, Jack Riley, Bill Henson, and Debbie Smith. Absent was Judith Meeks-Hakim.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST: Guest: Bill Smith

COUNTY AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN BILL HENSON

Chairman Bill Henson began with discussion of the flagpoles. He stated that he has e-mailed Wilson and Wilson for an estimate on two thirty foot flagpoles and is waiting for their response. He will relay the information as soon as he hears back from them. Brock Waggoner questioned if any other suppliers have been contacted. Mr. Henson responded that Landers submitted their costs and estimates previously and that they were extremely high. Therefore, Wilson and Wilson was contacted. He also stated that he welcomes any other information on suppliers. The flag's dimensions need to be considered when determining the height of the pole. In addition, Mr. Waggoner pointed out the illumination also needs to be taken into consideration.

Discussion of Broadband. Information in regards to Broadband was issued to each Committee member via e-mail and was addressed. Brock Waggoner verified that he has spoken with ClearWave and Wabash Communications. He stated that Wabash is the preferred partner in this region.

Bill Henson, Committee Chairman, commented on the issue of forming a Broadband Sub-Committee. His opinion is that the County and Community Committee itself should be able to handle any issues with selecting a Broadband provider. Brock Waggoner disagreed, and he stated his reasons for that. During his conversation with Connect Illinois, he was told that it would be best to have a Sub-Committee to show that Broadband is a main focal point on identifying and work through connecting to our area. Secondly, he added that there are specific members that would be "a better fit" for selecting a provider because of their knowledge, abilities, and experience with Broadband. Lastly, that this will be a long term relationship with the provider of Broadband. Mr. Henson asked for a contact person from Connect Illinois to provide more specific information in regards to forming a Committee. Matt Schmidt for the Office of Illinois Broadband name was given and Mr. Henson recommended that a meeting be conducted with him in the near future. He also stated that any future communication be held with all of the Committee members present.

County and Community Committee – Continued

Mr. Waggoner added that the counties are working with the local Farm Bureau. He stated the reasoning behind this is that the grants are primarily for rural areas, therefore could benefit agriculture. He added that Marion County Farm Bureau is willing to work with the Marion County Board.

Lastly, he reiterated that the money from these grants is currently available for Broadband services and may not be in the future. He would like to see that the issues with a Sub-Committee be resolved as soon as possible. Committee Chairman, Bill Henson will be arranging a meeting with Matt Schmidt as soon as he receives the contact information for him to determine if forming a Sub-Committee is necessary. County Board Chairwoman, Debbie Smith is in agreement with Mr. Henson.

Mr. Waggoner questioned what the County and Community Committee involves. Bill Henson responded that the Committee has handled animal control and burning issues within the county. In his opinion, Broadband internet would be a county service issue also.

The timeline for application for the grant and the response is questioned. Mr. Waggoner stated that this would be a question for the provider.

In conclusion, Mr. Henson will be in contact with President George Evans with Kaskaskia College and Matt Schmidt for the Office of Illinois Broadband. He stated that he will coordinate a date with everyone for the next meeting. The County and Community Committee members were in agreement that 5:30 P.M. is the best time to conduct a Committee meeting.

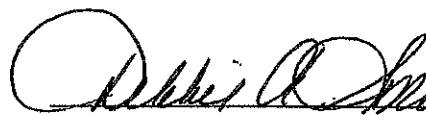
Nothing further to come before the Committee, Tracy Murray made a motion to adjourn with mileage and per diem and second by Jack Riley. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Time: 6:15 P.M.

Approved: _____

Date: _____

4-25-23
4-25-23


Debbie Smith, Marion County Board Chairwoman

