

MARION COUNTY BOARD  
FULL BOARD MEETING  
DECEMBER 27, 2022  
7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Meeting convened at 7:00 P.M. With Chairman Debbie Smith leading in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, followed by Guest Mark Decker leading in prayer.

Roll Call Vote taken by County Board Member Deb Reed. Present: Tracy Murray, Dr. Creighton Engel, Jack Riley, Deb Reed, Steve Whritenour, Tyson McHenry, Steve Bradley, Judith Meeks-Hakim, Christopher Krupp, Adam Smith, Debbie Smith and David Iossi. Attending via Zoom: Brock Waggoner and Bill Henson. Absent: Sharon Woodward.

Others Present: State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth, Circuit Clerk Tiffany Schicker, Treasurer Gary Purcell, Supervisor of Assessments Mark Miller and Sheriff Kevin Cripps. In addition, please find sign-in sheet for others that were in attendance.

Recognition of Guests, Media and Elected Officials. Supervisor of Assessments Mark Miller stated period for filing complaints to the Board of Review ended the first week of December and Hearings will be held January 5 and 6, 2022. He further stated they only received 31 complaints of which some were same individuals from previous years. Treasurer Gary Purcell, stated he had monthly payment information for payment of property taxes if anyone was interested. It is a nine month payment plan.

---

Marion County Liquor Commission – Chairwoman Debbie Smith

This was a continuance of the Liquor License Application for Ms. Cheryl Koch DBA Lucky Barn, LLC. Chairwoman Debbie Smith advised all attending that the newly seated board members were provided with a recording from the previous meeting on November 27, 2022 where both opposition and applicants provided information. Mrs. Karma Dunham had previously requested to speak on behalf of the residents near the proposed business site. She had provided reasons for not wanting to have this business at the corner of Bannister Road and Route 50 due to the traffic, farming and safety. This has been a concern for many residents in that area. Gary McConnaughy also spoke on behalf of his community and stated there is no benefit to the community and children to have a gaming parlor in this area. He highlighted a six-point reason for not issuing a liquor license to that area in Stevenson Township; Mr. Kenny Cripps spoke indicating it "just wasn't right" to have this business in that area; Sandra Banning spoke stating what joy or productivity would come from having a gaming parlor; Mike Donley also spoke in opposition of the Liquor Application; and, Mr. Steve McConnaughy also spoke on behalf of the residents. No other residents wished to address the Board.

Jeremy Koch spoke on behalf of his wife Cheryl Koch, DBA as Lucky Barn, LLC. He indicated intent is to sell package liquor from the gaming parlor. He further stated that he has felt like he has been on trial for the past three meeting. The "what if's" have no facts to base their assumptions.

Chairwoman Smith asked if there were any questions from the Board. Judith Meeks-Hakim stated that Karma Dunham's statement about no one from Centralia voted no at the last meeting on this Liquor License and wanted to be heard that she did vote no. Also, David Iossi spoke up regarding the Board representing Salem and he wanted to let the attendees know we were elected to serve all of the communities in Marion County.

Tim Hudspeth addressed the Board and advised that a Board family member has a Liquor License and under the Liquor Control Act the Board Member Adam Smith should abstain from voting on this Liquor License and any other liquor license application that comes before the Board during his term. *Mr. Smith wanted clarification his family had a liquor license & needs to abstain*

*Overruled  
11/01/22  
meeting*

Mr. Jeremy Koch made a comment as to whether Mr. Brock Waggoner should be allowed to vote since his family lives in that area. State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth indicated there is no statute or legal issue from abstaining to vote. Mr. Waggoner wanted to make a motion to take the past Board Meeting regarding the Liquor License vote as 7 to 7 tie which would deny the License. There was no Second.

Mr. Chris Krupp made motion to approve Liquor License Application and was seconded by Bill Henson. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – 3 (Tracy Murray, Bill Henson and Steve Whritenour). Nays – 10 (Brock Waggoner, Jack Riley, Deb Reed, Craig Engel, Tyson McHenry, Steve Bradley, Judith Meeks-Hakim, Chris Krupp, Debbie Smith, and David Iossi). Absent Sharon Woodward. Adam Smith had to abstain as per his legal counsel opinion prior. Liquor Application was denied. Chairwoman Debbie Smith stated the Liquor Application could not be denied based on individuals not wanting a gaming parlor, but stated it was being denied to being a safety issue at that particular location.

Approval of Minutes – December 13, 2022

Mr. David Iossi made motion to approve subject minutes with second by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes – 0 Nays. Motion passed.

County Clerk Steve Fox Correspondence

In the absence of County Clerk Steve Fox, State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth presented a request from Mark Miller, Supervisor of Assessments, to re-appoint Wayne Walker to serve on the Board of Review for a two-year term. Motion to approve by Steve Bradley and second by David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes – 0 Nays. Motion passed.

County Clerk Steve Fox Correspondence Continued

Email received from Stacey Bradford, 911 Coordinator, requesting replacement of John Lynch, former Centralia Fire Chief from the 911 board with Jeff Day. Steve Whritenour made motion to approve and seconded by Adam Smith. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes – 0 Nays. Motion passed.

---

Finance and Insurance Committee Chairman Chris Krupp

Treasurer Gary Purcell requested to invest the \$700,000 in Contingency Funds in the Convenience Fund offered by (IMET) Illinois Metropolitan Investment Fund. Interest rate is 3.85% and County can access anytime with no penalty. Motion made by Chris Krupp to approve placing monies in the IMET and was seconded by David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes – 0 Nays. Motion passed.

---

Building and Historical Committee Chairman Creighton Engel

December 29, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. There will be a meeting with the committee and Elected Officials with AMERESCO Gene Mackey providing an overview of existing remodeling and other remodeling to be considered in the future. Chairwoman Debbie Smith stated all Board Members could attend to be brought up-to-date on the remodeling of the Court House, Jail and Public Service Building.

Adam Smith indicated that he had received a call from Jim Purcell regarding the courthouse not being lit up at night. The issue is being addressed by Sheriff Kevin Cripps.

David Iossi also brought up the status of county parking lot. Nothing at this time. Later discussion that evening it was determined to contact Howell Asphalt to see if they would provide a bid to either asphalt or concrete.

---

Law Enforcement Committee Chairman Steven Whritenour

Bid was received from Security Automation in the amount of \$33,600.00 to move the intake area of the Marion County LEC back to where it had been prior to Sheriff's Stevenson's term. This would be a great savings since a Deputy would not be needed at the current location 24/7 and would reduce the Safety issue. Steve Whritenour made motion to approve above bid and was seconded by Tyson McHenry. Brock Waggoner stated we did not explain what fund it was coming out of; therefore, motion was re-worded to include this expense would come out of the Sheriff's Safety Tax Fund. Roll call Vote: <sup>14</sup>13 Ayes – 1 Nay (Brock Waggoner). Absent: Sharon Woodward. Mr. Waggoner voted no due to not being given copy of contract to review.

*amended  
1/10/23*

Sheriff Cripps introduced two new Officers Kevin Berry and Mike Smith. Mr. Smith was promoted to sergeant.

County and Community Committee Chairman Bill Henson

Mr. Brock Waggoner had brought up a concern at the last full board meeting concerning board members claiming mileage from City to City and not from residence to Board Room. Item was on agenda this board meeting to address. Mr. Henson asked County Chairwoman to address the Board concerning this issue. She stated that she spoke to Tim Hudspeth regarding mileage and concern addressed by Brock Waggoner. There was nothing to settle either way; therefore, Chairman Henson said it was set in place and there was no need to change or bring to vote before the board. Brock Waggoner addressed his concerns regarding following IRS policy and wanting to avoid running foul and actual mileage could be used by looking at google. Mileage is currently 58.5% cents/mile. Mr. Henson stated no action to be taken – just leave as is.

Flag Poles – Adam Smith received a quote of \$2776.00 for poles which included \$200.00. Can get an updated price to bring to Bill Henson at the next Board Meeting.

---

Road and Bridge Committee Chairman Steve Bradley

No report at this time.

---

Marion County Bicentennial Committee Chairman Adam Smith

A meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at the 6:00 P.M., Board Room

Mr. Mark Decker, Legislative Liaison and Salem Resident, came to the board some time ago to see if the County itself wanted to be involved in Marion County Bicentennial in 2023. He spoke this evening stating that January 24, 2023 is the actual birth date of the creation of Marion County. A program is being scheduled inside the court house by the cannon on January 24, 2023 from 5:30 – 6:30. At that time Representative Blaine Wilbur will be attending to present a resolution from legislature. Another event planned is a bean and cornbread dinner at the church across from the courthouse on March 11, 2023, with Mike Bost in attendance providing a Federal Resolution. Other various activities during the year are in the planning stage.

---

911/ESDA Committee Meeting Chairman Steve Whritenour

Mr. Whritenour reached out to Rob Jackson, City Councilman and Mr. Corey Smith, Centralia City Manager. for being in attendance at the meeting.

Bid from Nixle (three year bid) at \$11,740.00/year was brought to the Board for approval after coming out of committee. He stated monies pledged from Centralia and Salem would be \$3250.00 each, City of Wamac \$500.00 and Odin \$300.00, resulting in \$7300.00/year towards project.

Mr. Brock Waggoner had commented he had not received a copy of the proposal. Please note no one had a copy other than Steve Whritenour and the 911/ESDA Board that met in November. He had not yet provided proposal to the County Board Chairman to include in packet and the County Board Chairman was not at that meeting due to attending an SCIRPD Meeting in Effingham same night.

After discussion Mr. Whritenour made a motion to approve current proposal with the understanding the County's portion would not exceed \$4,840.00. Chris Krupp made a second and roll call vote: 13 Ayes – 1 Nay (Brock Waggoner) – Sharon Woodward Absent. A mutual agreement among those providing funds (Centralia, Salem, Odin and Wamac) will be drafted with the assistance of the State's Attorney and provided to the entities for signature. In addition, there may be other villages, cities, etc. who may provide additional assistance to this program.

Personnel/Labor Relations Committee Chairman Adam Smith

In need of Side Letter for Cook – Sheriff Kevin Cripps will look into issue. Once resolved the County will received the Laborers' Contract that was prior approved for signature and filing.

NOTE FROM THE COUNTY BOARD CHAIRWOMAN

Question regarding Listing of County Board Committees – see attached newsletter last page regarding County Chairman appointing committees.

Question regarding FOIA County Board Officer – pending

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

911	Meeting 1/11	Steve Whritenour, Bd. Rep.
708 Mental Health Dept	Meeting 3/2	Bill Henson, Bd. Rep.
Marion County Health	Meeting 12/20	Dr. Craig Engel, Bd. Rep.
SCIRPD		Gary Purcell and Debbie Smith
Liquor Committee		Debbie Smith
*Marion County Housing	Meeting Last Wk	Judith Meeks-Hakim/Steve Whritenour - Bd. Reps.
WIB(Workforce Investment) Budget Approved		Deb Reed, Bd. Rep/Debbie Smith, CEO
UCCI		Debbie Smith, CEO

\*Marion County Housing and HUD have changed their rules where an ex-offender on parole can apply for housing. No waiting period.

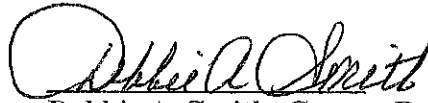
Brock Waggoner indicated that the opening for Board Secretary should be posted on website and a job description approved by the Board. He was advised there was a job description previously approved by prior board. Deb Reed said other elected officials should be responsible for posting on the website their own openings. Mark Miller indicated the elected officials use neo.gov for open positions. State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth indicated it is not a legal requirement to report on website.

Motion to adjourn with Mileage and Per Diem. Adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

Reminder: Bicentennial Birthday Celebration at courthouse at 5:30 – 6:30 P.M. prior to full board meeting. **JANUARY 24, 2023**

*1-10-23*  
Approved



Debbie A. Smith, County Board Chairman