

AMENDED
SPECIAL MARION COUNTY FULL BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

Monday, January 5, 2026

6:00 P.M.

Marion County Courthouse, Courtroom 301

Meeting convened at 6:00 P.M. with Steve Whritenour, Marion County Board Chairman, leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call taken by Lori Linder, Marion County Board Secretary. Present were Tracy Murray, Brock Waggoner, Sharon Woodward, Dr. Mike Douglas, Jack Riley, Deb Reed, Tim McCance, Josh Dunahee, Steven Whritenour, Cody Rose, Judith meeks-Hakim, Chris Krupp, Adam Smith, Debbie Smith, and David lossi.

Invocation presented by Marion County Coroner Claude Howell.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST: See attached list.

THOSE WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Greg Ritter, owner of Ritter's Auto Repair in Kinmundy addressed the Board and distributed a handout (see attachment). He voiced his concerns with the yearly appraisals and the amounts since expanding his business. In conclusion, he requested for the Board to render a decision and "vote to remove Mark Miller as Supervisor of Assessments."

Matt Huelskoetter, Marion County citizen and member of the Marion County Concerned Tax Payers Group conveyed his issues with Mark Miller as the Marion County Supervisor of Assessments. One matter that he felt was a major concern was that Mr. Miller has never taken the responsibility for the Marion County tax assessment issues and/or how to rectify them. Mr. Huelskoetter reiterated that the Board approved to complete the Property Evaluation and Tax Auditors, LLC Tax Assessment Study and the monies for further options to correct the issues found. In addition, he presented a copy of a previous Facebook post and picture (see attachment) from Mark Miller indicating the support of a couple of Board Members after him being elected as Marion County Supervisor of Assessments. He stated that in his opinion this would be a conflict of interest when a vote is taken regarding Mr. Miller's position in office. He communicated that the Board represents the Public and that the Public requests that the Board vote to dismiss Mr. Miller from his current position.

Christopher Duncan, Centralia, Illinois resident voiced his concerns with respect to residents and businesses leaving the County due to the issues with their Property Taxes. Additionally, he stated that the repetition of the same people being reassessed and the excessive amounts of the taxes is unfair. He recommended that they Board immediately remove Mark Miller as the Marion County Supervisor of Assessments.

Roy Landers, owner of Landers Collision Centers of Salem and the Iron Saddle Ranch in Salem had previously addressed the Board. He reiterated that he did not follow through with his proposed projects in Marion County due to the unreasonable amounts of his business' property taxes. He requested that

the Board consider, in his opinion, the improper performance of Mr. Miller as Marion County Assessor and the effects to the citizens of the County.

Neal Smith, owner of Little Egypt Golf Cars distributed an information sheet (see attachment) regarding Marion County businesses and their 2025 Tax Rates. He thoroughly discussed the data and relayed his concerns. Lastly, he asked the Board for immediate removal of Mr. Miller from his position.

Patty Brough, former Marion County Supervisor of Assessments provided details of the accomplishments that were made while she was in office. She voiced her concerns with Mr. Miller not following through with them after he was elected into that position. Lastly, she communicated that her "suggestion to the Board is to place the question on the 2026 ballot to change the Supervisor of Assessment's position to be appointed." In addition, she expressed the benefits of this proposal.

Valerie Williams, Marion County citizen stated that she and other residents understand that "Mr. Miller is bound by Illinois State Laws and Codes of Office." She quoted a couple of the State Statutes and the penalties for not abiding by them. Next, she inferred the correlation of these and the information in the Assessment Study. She voiced Interest with Mr. Miller announcing his retirement at the end of the year and also the benefits that he will receive at that time. She supported the requests and the urgency of the Board to remove him from office.

Following, Mark Miller, Marion County Supervisor of Assessments began by stating that any questions or concerns relating to him are to be directed to the Marion County Board Secretary, Lori Linder, and he will respond after they are received. He distributed a copy of his written response to the Marion County Assessment Study and a copy of the Supervisor of Assessments Responsibilities (see attachments) to each of the Board Members. Mr. Miller contested the statements that were made by Patty Brough regarding the assessments being up to date when she left office. Next, he presented detailed information and responses with respect to the issues found in the study. For instance, he addressed the topic of him not asking for assistance, and he also reiterated that there is a lack of Township Assessors in Marion County, and that he has no control over them.

Next, he communicated that he would like the Board to take into consideration his proposed solution for correcting the County's Assessment matters and to start with residential properties. A through recommendation is outlined in his written response and was discussed in depth.

In conclusion, Mr. Miller stated that the proposition to remove him as the Marion County Supervisor of Assessments was not included in the Marion County Assessment Study conducted by Gary Twist, Property Evaluations and Tax Auditors, LLC.

A Question & Answer Session between the Board Members and Mark Miller transpired. All inquiries and concerns were addressed.

Prior to continuing with the Full Board Meeting, Gary Twist (appearing remotely) replied to Mr. Miller's presentation. He reiterated that conducting re-assessments will help the County resolve many of their property tax issues.

MARION COUNTY FULL BOARD MEETING - CHAIRMAN STEVE WHRITENOUR

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour continued with the items on the Full Board Meeting Agenda.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

COUNTY & COMMUNITY – CHAIRMAN TRACY MURRAY

Marion County & Community Chairman Tracy Murray began by addressing the purpose for Resolution 2026-01: Confirming the Construction and Operation of USS Wright Solar LLC as a Prior Non-Conforming Use in Marion County. Next, he entertained a Motion to approve Resolution 2026-01. Debbie Smith made the Motion and was seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Roll Call Vote: 13 ayes – 2 nays (Sharon Woodward and Josh Dunahee). Motion passed.

Following, Board Member Josh Dunahee was allowed to make an Impact Statement regarding the Marion County Assessment Study. He emphasized the importance of the Board and its representation of the Marion County residents. He asked for the Members to be mindful of the Public's shared information and requests.

In continuation, Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour entertained a Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss Personnel and Legal Matters. Chris Krupp made the Motion and was seconded by David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

All Board Members assembled in Courtroom 302 to proceed with the Closed Session.

Roll Call taken by Lori Linder, Marion County Board Secretary. Present were Tracy Murray, Brock Waggoner, Sharon Woodward, Dr. Mike Douglas, Jack Riley, Deb Reed, Tim McCance, Josh Dunahee, Steven Whritenour, Cody Rose, Judith Meeks-Hakim, Chris Krupp, Adam Smith, Debbie Smith, and David Iossi.

Closed Session began at 7:48 P.M.

Came out of Closed Session at 8:56 P.M.

A 5-minute break occurred.

Roll Call taken by Lori Linder, Marion County Board Secretary. Present were Tracy Murray, Brock Waggoner, Sharon Woodward, Dr. Mike Douglas, Jack Riley, Deb Reed, Tim McCance, Josh Dunahee, Steven Whritenour, Cody Rose, Judith Meeks-Hakim, Chris Krupp, Adam Smith, Debbie Smith, and David Iossi.

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour continued with the Open Portion of the meeting.

The first action briefly discussed was the new Marion County Animal Control Administrator position. Steve Whritenour made a "Motion to appoint Whitney Purcell to fill that role" and was seconded by Tracy Murray. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next, Mark Miller and his position as the Marion County Supervisor of Assessments was addressed. Steve Whritenour made a "Motion to remove Mr. Miller from office based on the Illinois State Statute 35 ILCS 200/3-10 for his/her term for misfeasance, malfeasance or nonfeasance in his performance of duties of the office" and was seconded by Josh Dunahee. Roll Call Vote: 7 ayes – 8 nays (Sharon Woodward, Deb Reed, Tim McCance, Judith Meeks-Hakim, Chris Krupp, Adam Smith, Debbie Smith, and David Iossi). Motion Failed to Pass.

Immediately after, Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour entertained a Motion to adjourn with mileage and per diem. Chris Krupp made the Motion and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Prior to Roll Call Vote, members of the audience voiced their dissatisfaction with the prior Motion's results regarding the removal of Mr. Miller. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next Full Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 6:30 P.M.

Time: 9:05 P.M.

Approved: _____ ✓

Date: 3/24/26



Steve Fox, Marion County Clerk and
Clerk of Marion County Board

Dee De Gynyon

Paul Shuck

Tommy Elroy

Wally Furrill

John Van Houten

Whita Fewcomb

Lenny Newcomb

Andrew Light

Ralph Clark

John Gentry

Willie Cindry

Cheryl Tall

Harold J. Polato

Wally Perkins

Theresa Hines

Susan Jamison

CHRIS (& Pam) HARRINGTON

Rich CRASE

~~Bill~~

Dustin Collier

Lynn Neilson

RANDY KLING

JEFF QUANTT

DOM TILLOW

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Melissa Cripps
Kris Pugh
Mick Lee
9524

~~Handwritten mark~~
Steven Brunel
John Miller

Rebecca Blier
Andrea Wade
Jerry Wade -
Kend Bayles

Charles Casner Jr.
Matt Gura

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Patti Gura
Ellen R. Keller
Matt Bushur
John Blum

Donnie Cripps
Kenneth Cripps
Ally Brough
Dila Williams
Tina Addison
~~Archie~~
Jill Kind
Janet Giese
Kristie BLACKMAN
Carson Smith
Hannah Shufeldt.
Nick Welsh
Joe Shobe✓