MARION COUNTY FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

6:30 P.M.

Marion County Courthouse, Room 302

Meeting convened at 6:30 P.M. with Steve Whritenour, Marion County Board Chairman, leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Invocation presented by Marion County Coroner Claude Howell.

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

4

RECOGNITION OF GUEST: See attached list.

THOSE WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour introduced Jared Rowcliffe, Region 9 ESDA Staff Development Specialist. He was in attendance with Adam Croy, Region 9 ESDA Regional Coordinator, Chris Dodd, IEMA Chief of Operations, and Victor Zepeda, ESDA Legislative Liaison. Mr. Rowcliffe distributed a handout to each of the Board Members (see attachment). He presented an explanation of the objectives of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act (20 ILCS 3305/1) was reviewed with the Board. In addition, the specific requirements for ESDA was illustrated in the Emergency Services, Disaster & Civil Defense (29 Illinois Administrative Code 301) section of the handout and discussed. Mr. Rowcliffe further explained that edibility is available for an Emergency Management Performance Grant for a jurisdiction that has chosen to become accredited. Marion County currently has the accreditation.

Following the briefing, Chairman Steve Whritenour questioned what are their local expectations or requirements of ESDA. He conveyed that a written County ESDA Policy is in progress, and he would like to include any particulars that need to be included and how to maintain accreditation. Mr. Rowcliffe and Mr. Dodd explained the State makes the decisions with respect to the requirements, and the jurisdiction is responsible for its own expectations. Next, Board Member Adam Smith inquired if the Coordinator's position is to be full-time or part-time, and the response was that the only mandated requirement is that the County has a person in that position. After a brief conversation with Board Member Dr. Mike Douglas, it was determined that Sheri Barter, Marion County ESDA Coordinator is responsible for developing and managing the disaster plan for the County. Mrs. Barter expressed that she is losing monies for her agency due to the County being on the Stop Pay List due to the audit Issues.

Lastly, Board Member Brock Waggoner (via telephone) queried if any Counties the size of Marion County have 3 accredited agencies. The response was that Marion County is the only one with 3, but others in the area do have 2. Next, Board Member Cody Rose questioned if there were any consolidation of Counties in Illinois. He was told that was attempted by a few counties, but it did fail; therefore, there is none at the present time.

Continuing with the guest speakers, Neal Smith from Little Egypt Golf Cars addressed the Board with his concerns regarding the excessive amount of the commercial property taxes for his company. He expressed that other businesses within the County have the same issues with the excessive valuation. In addition, he conveyed the difficulties that he has experienced with his property being within an Enterprise Zone and the ten-year property tax abatement. Mr. Smith stated that a meeting with himself, Marion County Assessor Mark Miller, Roy Landers, businesses owner, and Leah Dellicarpini, Economic Development Director-City of Salem had taken place to discuss these matters. He continued to convey his disappointment with the procedures being conducted by Mr. Miller. Lastly, he asked for a vote of no confidence on the Marion County Supervisor of Assessments and requested for the Board to ask for his resignation if he fails. Mr. Smith relayed that he would like to see fairness and consistency regarding property taxes for businesses and individuals within the County.

Next, Roy Landers who owns various businesses concurred with Neal Smith. Additionally, he conveyed that due to his issues with respect to the property taxes he is buying places outside of the Marion County area and "moving out."

Following, Paul Jones of Big R reinforced the issues that Mr. Smith and Mr. Landers previously stated and the effects they have on his business. He emphasized the importance of having fair taxation within the Community.

Dr. Ted Vanacker and Mr. Michael Leuty were not present.

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour allowed Leah Dellicarpini, City of Salem to address the Board. She distributed "documents that kind of go through Neal's issue" to each of the Board Members. An in-depth presentation of this information transpired.

Prior to continuing with the Meeting, Board member Josh Dunahee commended the speakers for their messages to the Board. Chairman Steve Whritenour relayed that representatives from Property Evaluation and Tax Advisors, LLC. will be attending the Budget Committee Meeting scheduled for Monday, August 11, 2025 at 5:30 P.M. to help find a solution for the County's tax issues.

In addition, Marion County Supervisor of Assessments Mark Miller was granted permission to speak. He provided information regarding the program that he uses and how the assessments are determined, the effects of not receiving all of the paperwork for the Enterprise Zone for Neal Smith and the resolutions with respect to this matter. In his opinion, he criticizes the large property tax multipliers on homes selling significantly higher than their actual value. He provided examples of Marion County home sales within the last 60 days. The Public attempted to interject, but their comments were halted by Chairman Mr. Whritenour. Board Member Adam Smith voiced that the appraiser's increased amounts are to blame. Mr. Miller agreed and feels that it is also caused by the shortage of home sales.

MARION COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN STEVE WHRITENOUR

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour presented the Illinois Department of Revenue figures.

	2025	2024
1/4%	\$98,595.09	\$84,919.08
1%	\$47,888.01	\$42,384.98

Before proceeding further with the Meeting, Board Member Brock Waggoner (via telephone) stated that the Board needs to recognize that an application was received, but there was a lack of communication from Mr. Miller and the City of Salem. Mr. Waggoner's comments were limited due to the difficulty of hearing them over the phone.

VETERANS ASSITANCE COMMISSION

Finance Committee Chairman Chris Krupp stated that he will have more information available at the next Finance Committee Meeting scheduled for Monday, August 11, 2025 at 5:30 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Debbie Smith made a Motion to approve the Full Board Meeting Minutes dated June 16, 2025 (Open Session) and was seconded by David Iossi. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Judith Meeks Hakim made a Motion to approve the Full Board Meeting Minutes dated June 24, 2025 and was seconded by Sharon Woodward. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

Due to SKS Engineers, LLC appearing for the County & Community Committee portion of the Meeting, Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour allowed the presentation to be addressed first.

COUNTY & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN TRACY MURRAY:

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour introduced Stephen Jacobs, SKS Engineers, LLC, and proceeded with an explanation with respect to the need of his company's services. Chairman Mr. Whritenour stated that written within the Wind & Solar Ordinance for Marion County, the County is to hire an engineering firm to review and approve all applications for these projects. Mr. Jacobs continued with his presentation with a thorough description of his organization and the services it provides. A bid proposal from SKS Engineers for the Community Beach Road Solar Farm Project (Solar Generation) was provided to each Board Member in this evening's Agenda's Packet. A brief discussion transpired regarding the issues with the roads to and from the projects. Board Member Brock Waggoner questioned if there were any current relationships between SKS Engineers and Solar Generation. Mr. Jacobs conveyed that they had only assisted with the farmland drainage plan for Solar Generation and expressed that he did not feel that it would be a conflict of interest. Mr. Waggoner voiced his concerns. Next, Mr. Jacobs relayed that after they have received the application for a project that it would be approximately 10 business days for the completion of the process. Mr. Whritenour entertained a Motion to approve the SKS Engineers' quote of \$6,550.00 plus the site visits and travel expenses at an hourly rate of \$250.00 and out of pocket expenses costs + 15%. Motion was made by Debbie Smith and seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Prior to Roll Call Vote, Board Member Deb Reed had a question regarding if other firms will be submitting their quote. Mr. Whritenour stated that the other companies

that he had spoken with require a long term contract, and SKS Engineers may be hired as a single project company. Roll Call Vote: 8 ayes – 7 nays (Brock Waggoner, Dr. Mike Douglas, Tim McCance, Josh Dunahee, Cody Rose, Adam Smith, and David Iossi). Motion passed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER KRUPP:

Finance Committee Chairman Christopher Krupp addressed the Resolution on the Agenda. He stated that the amount of money that Marion County will receive from the Resolution is \$300.00. Motion to approve Resolutions 2025-43: Permanent Parcel Number 14-006-500-11 was made by Chris Krupp and seconded by Debbie Smith. Voice Vote: 12 ayes – 3 nays (Brock Waggoner, Josh Dunahee, and Cody Rose). Motion passed. Board Member Brock Waggoner explained that his objection is due to the "Trustee that handles our Tax Sales has admitted that they are using a process that does not involve the Supreme Court's decision."

Regarding the Items under Old Business, Committee Chairman Chris Krupp reported that the FY 2023 Audit has been completed. At the present time, Marion County has been removed from the Stop Pay List. Pending the Board's approval of the Letter of Engagement, WIPFLI will begin working on the FY 2024 Audit.

Next, Mr. Krupp addressed the Letter of Engagement from WIPFLI for the FY 2024-FY2026 Audits. Chris Krupp made a Motion to approve the WIPFLI Letter of Agreement and was seconded by Deb Reed. Prior to Roll Call Vote, Board Member Brock Waggoner voiced his concerns with respect to continuing with their services for 3 additional years. Board Chairman Steve Whritenour and Board member Debbie Smith expressed their support for continuing with them. Roll Call Vote: 14 ayes – 1 Nay (Brock Waggoner). Motion passed.

Following, Chairman Mr. Krupp briefly provided information with respect to Resolution 2025-36: Resolution Regarding Procurement of Goods and Supplies. This was a recommendation from WIPFLI after the completion of the FY 2023 Audit. Chris Krupp made a Motion to approve Resolution 2025-36 and was seconded by Deb Reed. Voice Vote: 14 ayes – 1 nay (Brock Waggoner). Motion passed.

BUDGET COMMITTEE - CHAIRMAN BROCK WAGGONER:

Budget Committee Chairman Brock Waggoner appeared via telephone for his Committee's report.

Mr. Waggoner shared that he had verified with Bellwether that the date for the all day Budget Meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 22, 2025 beginning at 8:00 A.M. Board Chairman Steve Whritenour then conveyed that he had spoken with Marion County Circuit Clerk Tiffany Schicker and verified that WIPFLI has distributed Budget packets to the Office Holders.

Lastly, Chairman Mr. Whritenour stated that representatives from Property Evaluation and Tax Advisors, LLC will be attending the Budget Committee Meeting on Monday, August 11, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE - CHAIRMAN DAVID IOSSI:

Insurance Committee Chairman David lossi announced that there is nothing new to report. He commended Alex Kreke, Marion County Highway Engineer on repairing the damaged fence at the Marion County Highway Department.

Marion County Board Chairman relayed that he had spoken with Tom Simpson, Dimond Brothers Insurance Agent, with regards to the Cyber Insurance policy. The renewal for this coverage is now due, and the costs have not changed since last year. Marion County Board Secretary Lori Linder will follow through with the invoice and payment.

BUILDING & HISTORICAL COMMITTEE - CHAIRWOMAN DEBORAH REED:

Building & Historical Committee Chairwoman Deb Reed began by addressing the Project List for Marion County. A copy of the old list was included in the Full Board Meeting Packet. Mrs. Reed will be providing an updated version in the near future showing that many of the projects have already been completed.

Next, the items under Old Business were discussed. Committee Chairwoman Deb Reed conveyed the stripping and resurfacing of the Courthouse floors was an item on the Project List. A brief conversation occurred. Mrs. Reed suggested doing the initial project for \$9,990 and postponing the yearly maintenance (\$6,000.00). Deb Reed made a Motion to approve the stripping and resurfacing of the Courthouse floors for \$9,990.00 and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Prior to the Roll Call Vote, Board Member Josh Dunahee reiterated his disapproval of utilizing funds from this year's Budget when a deficient is being anticipated. He continued by stating that, in his opinion, the Board would not have the public tax payer's support for the project. Board Member Debbie Smith emphasized that this is on the project list and was previously budgeted and was brought before the Board as a courtesy. Questions and concerns regarding the reasoning for the Board's approval were discussed. In conclusion, a decision was made to vote on the project. Roll Call Vote: 7 ayes – 8 nays (Tracy Murray, Brock Waggoner, Jack Riley, Josh Dunahee, Steve Whritenour, Cody Rose, Chris Krupp, and David Iossi). Motion failed. An additional conversation transpired regarding the Sheriff's Budget and his Safety Tax Fund.

In continuation with the Old Business, Chairwoman Deb Reed conveyed that the entire Generator and UPS System project was paid through a grant received by Marion County Circuit Clerk Tiffany Schicker. Board Chairman Steve Whritenour then stated that Mrs. Schicker was also able to get an additional \$3,600. She was commended verbally by several Board Members and by applause from the Public in attendance.

Lastly, the procedures to bring a resolution to the Marion County Employee Parking Lot were asked to be reconsidered. Mrs. Reed stated that she will be contacting the consultant and request to have him attend a future Building & Historical Committee Meeting to discuss the remaining factors. Marion County Highway Engineer Alex Kreke voiced that he has the quotes for the surfacing of the property and will share the information at the next Building & Historical Committee Meeting. Board Member Josh Dunahee commended Mr. Kreke for his work. An additional brief discussion regarding the area transpired.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: CHAIRWOMAN SHARON WOODWARD:

Law Enforcement Committee Chairwoman Sharon Woodward began by stating that Marion County Sheriff Kevin Cripps was absent, but he provided a report that was included in the Full Board Meeting Packet.

Next, Marion County Coroner Claude Howell presented his June, 2025 report. He stated that there were a total of 30 deaths; 27 natural (including 6 cancer related) and 3 suicides. In addition, the month of July has currently had 26 deaths. He proceeded by sharing that his deputies and himself have attended several hours of training since December, 2024. He expressed gratitude to the Board for their support for his office and in return was commended for his work for the County.

Following, Marion County ESDA Coordinator Sherri Barter conveyed that her agency is preparing for the Marion County Fair, which begins on Saturday, July 26, 2025. They have also assisted the Marion County Sheriff's Department with a few accidents and with water over the roadway issues. Mrs. Barter stated that after the fair, ESDA will be involved with several events that will continue until after Halloween.

COUNTY & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN TRACY MURRAY:

County & Community Chairman Tracy Murray began by asking Ken Ferguson, Marion County Animal Control Administrator if he had anything to discuss with the Board. He announced that there are currently 6 dogs at The Barking Lot, 2 dogs have been adopted, none have been returned home, and there has been 3 dog bite cases and 1 raccoon bite case. He relayed that there are 4 mixed breed puppies that are available for adoption. Committee Chairman Mr. Murray emphasized the importance of spaying and neutering animals. In conclusion, Board Member Josh Dunahee commended Board Chairman Steve Whritenour for his diligent work with an abused animal case within the County.

Under New Business, Committee Chairman Tracy Murray reiterated that the SKS Engineering's presentation occurred at the beginning of this Full Board Meeting and stated that the Closed session regarding Marion County Animal Control Housing will take place after the conclusion of the remaining items on the Agenda.

Sub-Committee Codification: Brock Waggoner

Sub Committee Chairman Brock Waggoner was present via telephone and stated that there was nothing new to report.

Sub-Committee Broadband:

Nothing new to report.

ROAD & BRIDGE COMMITTEE: CO-CHAIRMEN: ADAM SMITH & TIMOTHY MCCANCE

Road & Bridge Committee Co-Chairman Adam Smith began by allowing Marion County Highway Engineer Alex Kreke to present his report. Mr. Kreke had previously provided a written report and this was included in the Full Board Meeting packet (see attachment). He briefly reviewed each item listed on the report. He emphasized that emergency concrete patching will be occurring in the near future on Kinoka Road 4 miles East of Route 37. The public will be notified in advance of the 3-day road closure with signage put in place for any detours. Prior to the conclusion of his report, Co-Chairman Mr. Smith had questions regarding Walnut Hill Road repairs. Engineer Mr. Kreke stated he has applied for funding opportunities for the resurfacing of Walnut Hill and Green Street Roads and patching for Kinoka and Quail Run Roads. He is anticipating a response from the State of Illinois. Additionally, Co-Chairman Tim McCance questioned if Mr. Kreke had received the estimate for the roof repairs/replacement at his facility. He conveyed that he has been in touch with the company and should be receiving the quote in the near future.

PERSONNEL/LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN: ADAM SMITH

Personnel/Labor Relations Committee Chairman Adam Smith stated that there is nothing new to report.

LIQUOR LICENSE COMMITTEE - STEVE WHRITENOUR

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour stated that there were three renewals for Liquor License in the County. The establishments were Omega General Store, Rambo's Lucky Day Slots, and Biggies Café and General Store.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

<u>911</u>

Marion County Board Representative Steven Whritenour stated that there was nothing new to report.

708 MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Marion County Board Representative Judith Meeks-Hakim stated that the next Meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2025 at 5:30 P.M. at the Community Resource Center in Centralia.

MARION COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Marion County Board Representative Dr. Mike Douglas stated that there was nothing new to report.

SCIRPD

Marion County Board Representative Debbie Smith stated that there was no meeting today.

MARION COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Marion County Board Representatives Judith Meeks-Hakim stated that the last meeting was July 15, 2025 at 12:00 P.M. at the Chamber of Commerce in Centralia with nothing new to report. The next meeting is scheduled for the 3rd Tuesday in August.

WIB (WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD)

Marion County Board Representative Deb Reed stated that there was nothing new to report.

ENTERPRISE ZONE

Marion County Board Representative Chris Krupp acknowledged that the last meeting was cancelled.

BCMW

Marion County Board Representative Adam Smith stated that the next meeting is scheduled for next month.

Prior to the Closed Session, a very brief discussion transpired between Pete Yannakakis, Solar Generation and Board Chairman Steve Whritenour.

Tracy Murray made a Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss Real Estate and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

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

Closed Session began at 9:01 P.M.

Sharon Woodward made a Motion to come out of Closed Session and was seconded by David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Came out of Closed Session at 9:11 P.M.

No action was taken after the Closed Session.

Nothing further to come before the Board, Brock Waggoner made a motion to adjourn with mileage and per diem and seconded by Josh Dunahee. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next Full Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

Time: 9:12 P.M.

Steve Fox, Marion County Clerk

Clerk of Marion County Body

7/22/25 Full Board Meeting Carl Dunham Dunham Sellen Hannol Sufeldt) unahul

Road and Bridge Committee

7/8/2025

Discussion items

- Road items
 - Business as usual
 - Road Grader patching
 - Pothole filing
 - Road bleeds covered
 - County Mowing
 - > Oiling roads July 9th
 - Marshall Creek
 - FerryDale
 - > Upcoming projects
 - Items dependent on Funding Application (NOFO)
 - Resurfacing Walnut Hill
 - Quail Run Bridge
 - Patching on Kinoka Rd
 - Emergency Concrete patching Kinoka Rd
 - 4miles form Rt 37
- Equipment
 - > Purple Wave Auction
 - Will be on August auction. Auction window is 4 weeks, will hopefully have times paid and picked up by September
- Misc
 - > Fence has been Fixed
 - > Looking into cost of removal of the damaged/unused shed
 - Building
 - Have not received the estimate for the new roof