

**MARION COUNTY BOARD  
MINUTES – OCTOBER 25, 2022**

**Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M. By Chairwoman Debbie Smith  
Invocation by Board Member Judith Meeks-Hakim  
Pledge of Allegiance to Flag by Chairwoman Debbie Smith  
Roll Call by Ms. Deb Reed, Board Member**

**Members Present:** Chairwoman Debbie Smith, Dr. Creighton Engel, Ms. Sharon Woodward, Ms. Judith Meeks-Hakim, Mr. David Iossi, Mr. Jim Purcell, Ms. Deb Reed, Ms. Judith Shafer, Mr. Steven Whritenour, Mr. Bill Henson, Wes Gozia, Mr. Steven Bradley and Mr. Chris Krupp. Members Absent: Ms. Angela Hiestand and Mr. Steven Whritenour.

**Others Present:** Sheriff Elect Kevin Cripps, Sheriff Andy Garden, Marion County Supervisor of assessments Mark Miller, Marion County Treasurer Gary Purcell, Marion County Circuit Clerk Tiffany Schicker, Marion County ESDA Coordinator Sheri Brooks Barter, Salem Times Commoner Dennis Rosenberger, WJBD Bruce Kropp and citizen Bill Smith. (See Attached Attendance Sheet).

**Other Guests:**

Mrs. Cheryl Koch and Jeremy Koch, Liquor License Applicants.  
Representative from Excel Gaming  
Ms. Dana Waggoner, Marion County Resident opposing Liquor License  
Mrs. Lisa Babbs and Kevin Babbs

At the discretion of Chairwoman Smith and approval of Board Members, the Liquor Commission Committee was moved to first item on the Agenda.

**LIQUOR COMMISSION COMMITTEE-DEBBIE SMITH LIQUOR COMMISSIONER**

Mr. Jeremy Koch addressed the board concerning pending application for a county liquor license for his prospective business Lucky Barn located at the corner of Highway 50 and Bannister Road (4205 Bannister Road, Salem). The business is being remodeled in a rustic barn atmosphere for a Gaming Parlor. They will be serving free snacks and soft beverages, in addition to selling hot dogs, pizza and pretzels. The Class A Liquor License they are seeking will enable to serve alcohol and package liquor. Ms. Deb Reed asked business hours and it was determined it would be open seven days a week from 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 A.M. Ms. Sharon Woodward asked about parking and was advised that currently there is parking for 8 to 10 cars which can be increased. Chairwoman Smith stated that she and Ms. Sharon Woodward traveled to site the day before to get a visual and visited Double D Western Wear for input. We were told that the grandmother was opposed to the gaming parlor due to her religion.

Ms. Dana Waggoner, resident in that area, voiced her opposition, and stated it was not personal and did not know the liquor license applicants, and was a nearby farming resident in that area. She stated that her family travels that area multiple times a day and is part of the farming community. She previously prepared a letter of opposition which was forwarded to the board members and she read her letter. She further encouraged the board to give great thought in not issuing the license.

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Babbs, residents of 3605 Bannister Road attended the meeting and expressed their opposition. They indicated they are not against a business, but liquor license. They are concerned about trash on their property and individuals getting stuck in their area on the cross roads. They live in a farming community and would like to keep it that way.

Mr. Jeremy Koch spoke and said it was not going to be a bar but a gaming parlor. He further stated that he had talked to a few people in that area and they did not oppose. Ms. Waggoner wanted who he talked to and he named one or two and would not give her any other names.

Ms. Waggoner further addressed the board and asked if we could have residents in the farming area to come before the board either in support or opposition. She further stated we all have moral codes and in her opinion she doesn't think we need it and Board Member Deb Reed agreed. Board Member Chris Krupp asked how many liquor licenses does the county have. Liquor Commissioner Debbie Smith stated we have ten with eight licenses already in use.

Representative from Excel Gaming stated the gaming parlors are heavily regulated and liquor consumption is less than a restaurant or bar. She further stated that IGB performs regular visits to ensure compliance. In addition, consumption of hard liquor is less in Gaming Parlors.

Ms. Dana Waggoner expressed deep concern for safety in the neighborhood. Mrs. Babbs also commented their church was located one mile east and is not in favor of the gaming establishment.

Board Member Creighton Engel stated there is a lot of traffic on Bannister Road which is not using Highway 50. There are many small roads leading to a lot of homes off of Bannister Road. He believes residents should have an opportunity to voice their opinions.

Chairwoman Debbie Smith stated she would leave decision up to the full board. Mr. Bill Henson indicated there is no facts of what could happen – no major accidents in that area, etc. Ms. Deb Reed stated three years ago there was a traffic fatality. Mr. Henson further added that accident was not based on any facts that alcohol was involved. Mr. Bill Henson stated he didn't want to turn down a liquor license since we never have before during our term on the board. Mr. David Iossi indicated if liquor license is turned down we would kill prospective businesses.

Chairwoman Debbie Smith stated the Board needed more time and asked Media to ensure residents received information on pending liquor license for that area. In addition, requested to table until next meeting, Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. Mr. David Iossi made motion and Ms. Judith Meeks-Hakim second. Voice Vote: 12 Ayes – 1 Nay 9 (Bill Henson). Motion passed to place on November 10, 2022 meeting. It was further stated the Board has a website and Board Members can be reached concerning opposition or in favor.

### **APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES OCTOBER 11, 2022**

Mr. Jim Purcell made motion to approve Board Minutes of October 11, 2022 as presented with second by Mr. David Iossi. Voice Vote: All Ayes – Motion Passed.

**COUNTY CLERK STEVE FOX CORRESPONDENCE**

**APPOINTMENTS:**

Mr. Fox was not in attendance; therefore, Marion County Treasurer Gary Purcell presented appointments.

Correspondence dated October 18, 2022 from Stacey Bradford, 911 Coordinator, requesting additional appointee be added to the ETSB – Ms. Susan Miller, Deputy Chief of Salem PD. Ms. Sharon Woodward made motion to approve appointment with second by Ms. Judy Shafer. Voice Vote: All Ayes – Motion Passed. Mr. Wes Gozia asked if By-Laws allowed an addition to subject board and Chairwoman Smith she confirmed this with Mr. Greg Earl, ETSB Board.

Correspondence received from Josh Dice, Chairman of Salem's Leckrone Field Board, requested reappointment of Geff Purcell to the Board. His term expires December 31, 2022. Mr. Wes Gozia made motion to approve appointment with second by Mr. Jim Purcell. Voice Vote: All Aye – Motion Passed.

**FINANCE AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN CREIGHTON ENGEL**

**Information/Discussion/Action**

**Ordinance 2022-06: Capital Expenditure Ordinance – AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT**

\$936,565.19 \$1,139,470.62 = \$2,076.035.81

Motion to approve Ordinance 2022-06 made by Dr. Creighton Engel and second by Mr. Adam Smith. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes – Motion Passed.

**Ordinance 2022-07: Tax Levy and FY 2023 Budget – Levy Increase of 3.9%**

Dr. Engel did ask Dustin from Bellwether how much Levy was going to increase if passed. Dustin figured in 3.9 percent increase for FY 2023. Mark Miller stated that this will be a very minimal increase per household per year. Home assessed at \$120,000 would pay approximately an extra \$14.00 a year. Mr. Bill Henson made motion to approve 3.9% Levy increase and second was made by Mr. Jim Purcell. Roll Call Vote: 7 Ayes and 6 Nays. Motion passed. Voting Yes: Bill Henson, Judith Meeks-Hakim, Adam Smith, Creighton Engel, Debbie Smith, Jim Purcell and Mr. Steve Bradley. Voting No: Sharon Woodward, Wes Gozia, Deborah Reed, Judy Shafer, Chris Krupp and David Iossi.

Motion to approve Provisional FY 2023 Budget made by Mr. Bill Henson with second by Mr. David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: Ayes 12 Nays 1 Wes Gozia. Much discussion was made concerning the pending laborers' contract with figures included in budget to have more realistic budget figures. Estimated figures for consideration of contract were put in the Contingency Line of the Budget. It is understood the budget will lay for 15 days and considered for full approval at the next full board meeting to be held on November 10, 2022. Chairwoman Smith contacted Labor Attorney Andy Martone during meeting and confirmed a Labor Relations Committee Meeting would be held the following week.

## **BUILDING AND HISTORICAL COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN CREIGHTON**

### **Information/Action/Discussion:**

Restrooms completed on Third Floor of Courthouse. Dry wall going up on unfinished part of Public Service Building. The State's Attorney's Office will be next in remodel. However, old Board Room will be remodeled to accommodate the staff temporarily placed there and remainder of staff will be working out of Law Library. After this project has been completed, work will begin on the first floor restrooms.

Mr. Mark Miller stated heating has not been working as AMERESCO reports different.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE – ACTING CHAIRMAN WES GOZIA**

### **Information/Action/Discussion:**

Sheriff Andy Garden indicated the roof has been completed, heating and cooling needs to be computerized. He further stated that he has been at the jail a very long time and “where we came from and what we have now isn't all that bad”. AMERESCO has done a pretty good job and wants to commend the County Board. He realizes all of the renovations have been frustrating.

Sheri Brooks-Barter, Marion County ESDA Coordinator, gave her report on ESDA activity for September and October (see copy attached). She also stated her Heating and A/C had to be computerized and is waiting for electrical work to be completed.

## **COUNTY AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE-CHAIRMAN BILL HENSON**

### **Information/Action/Discussion**

Nothing to report at this time. Mr. Henson circulated a Thank You card to give to Lander's Towing for removal of the Court yard flag poles.

Discussion on flag poles: Sheriff Andy Garden stated that new 60 foot poles would cost about \$12,000. Sheriff Elect Kevin Cripps also stated that 40 foot poles would cost \$4,500 to \$7,000 each – Adam Smith will see if he can secure two “40” foot line pipes for poles. Adam Smith will be working with Chairman Bill Henson on this project. In addition, this agenda topic will remain under this committee. Brackets must be replaced as well.

## **ROAD AND BRIDGE – CHAIRMAN STEVEN BRADLEY**

### **Information/Action/Discussion**

Nothing to Report

**MARION COUNTY BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN WES GOZIA**

Nothing at this time.

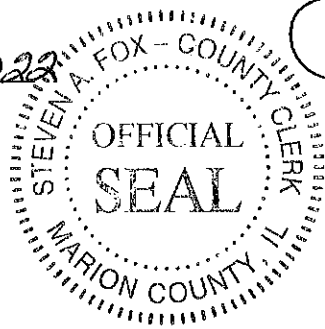
**PERSONNEL/LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN ADAM SMITH**

Meeting within the next few days with Labor Attorney Andy Martone concerning County's counter proposal.

Next full Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 2022. Nothing further to come before the board, Mr. Wes Gozia made motion to adjourn and second by Mr. Steve Bradley. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes – Motion Passed.

Adjourned: 8:30 P.M.

Approved: 11/10/2022



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debbie Smith", written over a horizontal line.

Debbie Smith, Marion County Board Chair