

SPECIAL MARION COUNTY FULL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

6:00 P.M.

Marion County Courthouse, Courtroom 302

Meeting convened at 6:03 P.M. with Steve Whritenour, Marion County Board Chairman, leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Invocation presented by Marion County Board Vice Chairman Tracy Murray.

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

RECOGNITION OF GUEST: See attached list.

THOSE WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Marion County ESDA Coordinator Sheri Barter shared that her Department is currently tending to an oil spill on the corner of Lazy Acre and Selmaville Roads. The oil spillage amount is approximately 5,200 gallons. She continued by conveying that she had received an email stating that Marion County is temporarily back on the Stop Pay List. Board Member and Finance Committee Chairman Chris Krupp stated that he was aware and is in the process of getting this matter resolved. Next, Mrs. Barter relayed that she had communicated with Adam Croy, Region 9 ESDA Coordinator and Jared Rowcliff, Region 9 Staff Development Specialist with respect to a couple of issues that she was having. The first matter was the Marion County EOP that ESDA Liaison Cody Rose is working on. She was told that it did not need to be updated until 2027 because she has not received the Rules and Regulations and that any changes could cause Marion County to not be in compliance. Mr. Rose responded that he appreciated her concern. The next item was with the pending Meeting minutes to be approved that stated Marion County EMA. She advised the Board Members that the State recognizes the Department as Marion County ESDA and city agencies are considered EMA. Lastly, a brief discussion occurred between Mrs. Barter and Board Chairman Steve Whritenour regarding the meetings that were conducted with the City of Salem EMA Director Andrew Strong and City of Centralia ESDA Coordinator. Mr. Whritenour commended Mrs. Barter for her time.

MARION COUNTY FULL BOARD MEETING - CHAIRMAN STEVE WHRITENOUR

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour began by entertaining a Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss Marion County Animal Control Facility and the Reconstruction of Marion County ESDA. Debbie Smith made the Motion and was seconded by Chris Krupp. Roll Call Vote began, but was suspended as Marion County Sheriff Kevin Cripps asked to address the Board as a guest. He was allowed to proceed.

Sheriff Cripps acknowledged that he is appearing as the Sheriff, but also as a concerned Marion County Tax payer. He voiced his concerns with reference to the utilization of the ¼% Sales Tax funds after he had researched the information written in a Referendum from 1997. Next, he stated that Marion County State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth was asked to review the tax referendum in 2021 by the Board Chairman at the time and provide his understanding since the new jail had been paid in full. Sheriff Cripps shared Attorney Hudspeth's interpretation of the use of the funds. Following, he communicated his concerns as a Marion County tax payer after observing that \$1 million had been moved from the Safety Tax fund to a Digital Radio Programming System line item on the provisional FY 2026 Budget. He demonstrated his disapproval of this purchase.

Following, Debbie Smith repeated her Motion and was again seconded by Chris Krupp. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Closed Session began at 6:22 P.M.

Chris Krupp 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 7:43 P.M.

A 5-minute break occurred.

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

No action was taken regarding the topics discussed during the Closed Session.

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

A thorough discussion with respect to the items listed in the Provisional FY 2026 Budget transpired. During the conversations, Chairman Mr. Whritenour shared that an expense portion for the Marion County Treasurer had been lowered after questions were raised at the Budget Meeting conducted on Monday, November 10, 2025. In addition, an in depth debate was conducted after Board Member Adam Smith stated that he opposed the addition of the line item for the Radio Equipment System from the Safety Tax Fund, while Chairman Mr. Whritenour conveyed his opinion regarding its benefits. Sheriff Cripps also voiced his concerns as a Marion County tax payer and as the Sheriff for this expenditure. This resulted in remarks from Board Member Josh Dunahee and others concerning the proposed 2.9% FY 2026 Levy, including the funding for the Marion County VAC from the Levy.

In continuation, after questioning from Board Member Sharon Woodward, the addition of County Executive Assistant line item was reviewed. Board Chairman Mr. Whritenour explained the benefits of having this set in place and shared that Bellwether is able to provide this service for the County. Questions and comments were taken into consideration with further discussions planned in the future. Debbie Smith made a Motion to approve "the FY 2026 Budget with the extraction of the \$1-million-line item and putting it back into the Safety Tax" and was seconded by Sharon Woodward. Board Member

Cody Rose had additional questions regarding the FY 2026 Levy and its effects to the FY 2026 Budget. Marion County Treasurer Gary Purcell provided information with respect to this matter. An additional thorough discussion transpired. Roll Call Vote: 10 ayes – 3 nays (Dr. Mike Douglas, Josh Dunahee, and Cody Rose). Motion passed.

The FY 2026 Budget will now lay for 15 days. An explanation of how changes to the FY 2026 Budget was provided by Board Chairman Steve Whritenour.

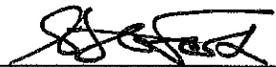
Nothing further to come before the Board, Sharon Woodward made a motion to adjourn with mileage and per diem and seconded by Deb Reed. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next Full Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

Time: 9:03 P.M.

Approved: ✓

Date: 2-10-26



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