

**MARION COUNTY BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 22, 2022
MINUTES**

**Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Debbie Smith
Invocation by Marion County Clerk Steven A. Fox
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Chairwoman Debbie Smith
Roll Call By Mrs. Deb Reed, Board Member**

Members Present: Angela Hiestand, Sharon Woodward, Creighton Engel, Wes Gozia, Deb Reed, Judith Shafer, Steven Bradley, Christopher Krupp, Adam Smith, Debbie Smith and David Iossi.
Absent: James Purcell, Bill Henson, Steven Whritenour and Judith Meeks-Hakim.

Others Present: Sheriff Elect Kevin Cripps, Sheriff Andy Garden, Marion County Clerk Steven A. Fox, Treasurer Gary Purcell, Supervisor of Assessments Mark Miller, WJBD Bruce Kropp, Salem Times Commoner, Dennis Rosenberger, Jon Christian Minor and daughter, Bill Smith, Dimond Brothers Insurance Representative, Dan Luttrell (Illinois Risk Management) and Chaney and Karch Insurance Owner Todd Dobbs.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:

Mr. Jon Minor, President of Manasseh NFP, not-for-profit., 501C3, State Registered Christian Charity, spoke on behalf of his goal to purchase acreage to start a Christ centered, self-sufficient farm for homeless and addicted people in Southern Illinois. He is planning on operating in country setting that is away from municipalities. At this time, he wanted to make the Board aware of his goal; however, at this time he has only raised \$20,000 to date. He is looking in a 30 County area to start this project.

Dimond Brothers

Mr. Tom Simpson, Dimond Brothers Insurance, addressed the Board on the current coverage of the County's auto/liability (true fleet policy on 60 vehicles) insurance and ICRMT insurance we currently have. In addition, Mr. Simpson, brought Mr. Dan Luttrell, Risk Management, to speak at the meeting. Mr. Luttrell stated his agency provides training in safety, sexual harassment, law enforcement, etc. They also inspect our buildings every three years, conduct appraisal evaluations of all buildings on a regular basis, and also do grants. Sheriff Andy Garden indicated they use them on a regular basis for on-line training.

Mr. Simpson took the floor and wanted the Board to know that we only have a \$1,000,000 policy on sexual harassment which he thinks is somewhat low. Wes Gozia agreed and thought it should be more like \$3,000,000. Mr. Simpson indicated adding that extra \$2,000,000 would increase the premium by \$2,946.00 a year and could be added any time and pro-rated. No Action was taken at this time.

Chaney and Karch Insurance

Mr. Todd Dobbs reviewed the County's Self-Insured Health Care Plan – Effective January 1, 2023. The County was facing a 31% increase for year 2021 and in the middle of December of last year the Board decided to become Self-Insured which would be a significant savings. He presented an overview of the past 10 months and the County only had \$142,000.00 in claims of which included \$12, 263.00 in prescriptions. Sixty-four employees are on the plan.

At this date we are approximately at 34% decrease per employee. The line item for this expense is approximately in the black \$200,000, and Mr. Dobbs stated, "On our way on building health reserve". Dr. Engel asked an estimate of how much would be left of money allocated for FY 22 and Treasurer Gary Purcell indicated we placed \$418,000.00 in fund and at this time there is approximately \$230,000.00 balance. The health insurance premium for FY '23 is increasing 5.66% per employee. Further discussion was that the County absorb the 5.66% increase and not pass on to the employees. Mr. Adam Smith made motion and second by David Iossi for the County to pay the 5.66% increase during 2023. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes – No Nays - Motion Passed. Dr. Engel stated this is showing good will to the employees.

BUILDING AND HISTORICAL – CHAIRMAN CREIGHTON ENGEL

Little to report – State's Attorney's office remodeling has not started, bathrooms on the third floor are completed, and XT is dealing with getting the cable project completed

LAW ENFORCEMENT – CHAIRMAN STEVEN WHRITENOUR

Chairman Steven Whritenour was absent and nothing was to be addressed.

Sheriff Andy Garden spoke to the Board at his final meeting before retiring. He showed such respect and thanks to the County Board. He indicated many times that this is the first board that was willing to listen and talk. He indicated that he has enjoyed his time with the Marion County Sheriff's Department and it is hard to leave.

COUNTY AND COMMUNITY – CHAIRMAN BILL HENSON

Chairman Bill Henson was absent and Mr. Wes Gozia filled the position of Acting Chairman.

Christmas Gift Cards (from IGA) for Marion County Employees (Part-Time \$25.00 and Full Time \$50.00). Last Year cost was \$6425.00. It may be a little more or less based on number of employees this year. Sharon Woodward made the motion to provide monies for gift cards to employees and Steven Bradley seconded. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes – No Nays. Motion Passed.

Mr. Gozia asked for any update on the flag poles. Adam Smith has been looking into this, and has found two 50 ft poles and at approximate cost of \$2500.00, welding would be approximately \$1,000, powder coat at least \$1200.00 and is not sure if Landers would set up which would be an additional expense. The flag poles were removed since they were rusted and not safe.

ROAD AND BRIDGE – CHAIRMAN STEVEN BRADLEY

Nothing to report at this time

MARION COUNTY BICENTENNIAL – CHAIRMAN WES GOZIA

Nothing to report at this time

PERSONNEL/LABOR RELATIONS – CHAIRMAN ADAM SMITH

The final proposed Laborers' Contract was presented to the Board for discussion and or approval. Subsequent to discussion, Steve Bradley made motion to approve contract as written and Judy Shafer made second. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes – No Nays. Motion Passed.

LIQUOR COMMISSION: DEBBIE SMITH, LIQUOR COMMISSIONER

Liquor License Application submitted by Mrs. Gina Smith – Schwartz Orchards. It was noted that Schwartz Orchards had been issued a license under a previous owner. This is not going to be used for gaming, but making hard cider in the future. Mr. David Iossi made motion to approve said Liquor License and second was made by Angela Hiestand. Roll Call Vote: 10 Ayes and 1 Nay (Wes Gozia). Motion Passed.


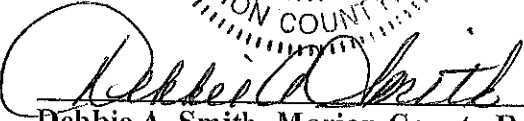
REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES

No reports submitted.

Nothing further to come before the board, Steven Bradley made motion to adjourn with mileage and per diem and second by Wes Gozia. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes. No Nays. Motion Passed.

Time Adjourned: 8:40 P.M.

Approved: 12-13-2022



Debbie A. Smith, Marion County Board Chairwoman