

MARION COUNTY FULL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

6:30 P.M.

Marion County Courthouse, Court Room 302

Meeting convened at 6:50 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, 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 Sharon Woodward and Judith Meeks-Hakim.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST: See attached list.

THOSE WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Sue Huelskoetter, a concerned property tax payer of Marion County had questions for the Board Members that made the decision to have Mark Miller, Marion County Supervisor of Assessments continue in his position. She also voiced her concerns with the Marion County Board following up with the recommendations within the Assessment Tax Study conducted by Gary Twist, Property Evaluation & Tax Advisors LLC. In conclusion, Mrs. Huelskoeter requested that an additional vote for the removal of Mr. Miller be taken for "the People of Marion County."

Next, Neal Smith, owner of Little Egypt Golf Cars continued with remarks and concerns with the issues noted in the Marion County Assessment Study. He stated that several Marion County residents and business owners have provided evidence that Mr. Miller has not properly conducted assessments and followed property tax procedures. Mr. Smith reiterated that an additional vote for the removal of Mr. Miller needs to be taken.

Following, Tracie Fisk, Omega Township Supervisor, stated that she disagreed with the previous statements made by Mark Miller with reference to the Marion County Township Assessors causing part of the assessment issues and that their yearly wages are approximately \$3,000.00. She clarified that the Alma/Omega Township Tax Assessor's annual income is budgeted at \$10,000.00. In addition, she emphasized that the Assessors make additional evaluations when questions arise from the Supervisor of Assessments Office.

Succeeding, Donna Pearson recommended that the Marion County Board schedule an informational meeting to discuss the process of the assessments of properties. She voiced concerns for residential tax payers and the possibility of an increase in their taxes due to the suggestion of re-assessments.

Lastly, Paula Henry continued with questions regarding the reassessments and if they would include the properties of the personnel in the Supervisor of Assessment office. In addition, she communicated that

as a Marion County tax payer, she has concerns with the funding for Mark Miller’s retirement including any of the Board Members’ “that are also not doing their job.”

MARION COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN STEVE WHRITENOUR

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

Illinois Department of Revenue:

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
¾%	\$104,580.04	\$89,775.30
1%	\$65,928.15	\$36,904.98

Prior to addressing the appointments, Board Chairman Mr. Whritenour introduced Luke Eastin, SCIRPDC Executive Director. Mr. Eastin had previously provided information regarding the Marion County Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant (HMP) and Hazard Mitigation Services Agreement and was included in the Board Members’ Packet for this Meeting. He addressed the details of the Agreement and requested approval from the Marion County Board. A thorough discussion transpired and included the May, 2026 timeline for the usage of the funds for the study. The total cost of the study is \$42,525.00 with the Federal share of \$32,400.00 and the County being responsible for the remaining balance of \$10, 125.00. All questions and concerns from the Board Members were addressed and responded to. Tracy Murray made the Motion to approve the Marion County Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant (HMP) and Hazard Mitigation Services Agreement and the County fund \$10,125.00 taken out of the Safety Tax Fund and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Roll call Vote: 12 ayes – 1 nay (Josh Dunahee). Motion passed.

Appointments:

Chairman Mr. Whritenour addressed the correspondence from Old Covenanter Cemetery Association recommending the appointment of Johnie Graville to serve as a Trustee of the Old Covenanter Cemetery Association in Raccoon Township, effective immediately. Steve Whritenour made a Motion to appoint Johnie Graville to serve as a Trustee of the Old Covenanter Cemetery Association in Raccoon Township, effective immediately and was seconded by Chris Krupp. Voice Vote: 10 ayes – 3 nays (Brock Waggoner, Josh Dunahee, and Cody Rose). Motion passed.

Next, the correspondence from Old Covenanter Cemetery Association recommending the appointment of Sue Lynn Neeley to serve as a Trustee of the Old Covenanter Cemetery Association in Raccoon Township, effective immediately was reviewed. Chris Krupp made a Motion to appoint Sue Lynn Neeley to serve as a Trustee of the Old Covenanter Cemetery Association in Raccoon Township, effective immediately and was seconded by David Iossi. Voice Vote: 10 ayes – 3 nays (Brock Waggoner, Josh Dunahee, and Cody Rose). Motion passed.

VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Marion County Board Member Chris Krupp introduced Ron Peters, the Marion County Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) Superintendent. Mr. Peters stated that he will be attending training at the end of the month and will allow Marion County's VAC to become accredited. His office is located in the Marion County Health Department in Centralia, Illinois and can be reached at (618) 532-6518 Ext. 227. Further discussions regarding the VAC will occur in the near future.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Debbie Smith made a Motion to approve the Special Full Board Meeting Minutes dated November 12, 2025. (Open Session) and was seconded by Chris Krupp. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Chris Krupp made a Motion to approve the Special Full Board Meeting Minutes dated November 19, 2025 and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Chris Krupp made a Motion to approve the Full Board Meeting Minutes dated November 25, 2025 and was seconded by David Iossi. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Chris Krupp made a Motion to approve the Special Full Board Meeting Minutes dated November 28, 2025 and was seconded by Deb Reed. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

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

Chris Krupp made a Motion to approve the Special Full Board Meeting Minutes dated January 5, 2026 and was seconded by Brock Waggoner. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER KRUPP:

Finance Committee Chairman Christopher Krupp began by reviewing the Financial and Judicial Bills for January, 2026 and February, 2026. There were no questions or concerns from the Committee and Board Members.

Next, Committee Chairman Chris Krupp entertained a Motion to approve the Financial Committee Meeting Minutes dated December 8, 2025. Debbie Smith made the Motion and was seconded by Jack Riley. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Financial Committee – Continued:

Following, Chris Krupp made a Motion to approve Resolution 2026-02: Permanent Parcel Number: 14-00-064-865 – Delinquent Tax Sales of said property of which the County will receive \$368.00 with remaining monies distributed according to law and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Prior to Voice Vote, questions from Board Member Brock Waggoner were responded to by Marion County Treasurer, Gary Purcell. Voice Vote: 8 ayes – 5 nays (Brock Waggoner, Tim McCance, Josh Dunahee, Cody Rose, and Adam Smith). Motion passed.

After a short conversation regarding Resolution 2026-03: State’s Attorney Appellate Prosecutor Agreement, Chris Krupp made a Motion to approve Resolution 2026-03 and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Thereafter, an Omnibus Motion to approve Resolutions 2026-08 thru 2026-10 was made by Chris Krupp and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Voice Vote: 8 ayes – 5 nays (Brock Waggoner, Tim McCance, Josh Dunahee, Cody Rose, and Adam Smith). Motion passed.

Lastly, Committee Chairman Mr. Krupp conveyed that the FY 2024 Audit has been completed. A copy was provided to the Marion County Board Members. Board Chairman Steve Whritenour shared that WIPFLI has started the FY 2025 Audit.

Prior to the Budget Committee report, Chairman Chris Krupp conveyed that Marion County Sheriff Kevin Cripps will be presenting information referencing additional revenue for the County and his approval for a Grant at the next Full Board Meeting.

BUDGET COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN BROCK WAGGONER:

Budget Committee Chairman Brock Waggoner stated that he will requesting a monthly report from Bellwether.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN DAVID IOSSI:

Insurance Committee Chairman David Iossi began with a review of the January, 2026 and February, 2026 Bills. There were not any questions or concerns.

Next, Committee Chairman David Iossi entertained a Motion to approve the Insurance Committee Meeting Minutes dated December 8, 2025. Debbie Smith made the Motion and was seconded by Dr. Mike Douglas. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

BUILDING & HISTORICAL COMMITTEE – CHAIRWOMAN DEBORAH REED:

Building & Historical Committee Chairwoman Deb Reed began by addressing the Shores Building proposal of \$13,240.00 for the renovation of the Marion County Law Library. She communicated that a Building & Historical Committee Meeting was conducted earlier in the evening with a tour of its location. In addition, Judge Mark Stedelin and Marion County Circuit Clerk Tiffany Schicker shared their intentions of the remodel and the usage of the area during the Meeting. Chairwoman Mrs. Reed stated that Judge Stedelin has agreed to pay \$3,250.00 with the remaining balance of \$10,000.00 paid from the Marion

Building & Historical Committee – Continued:

County Building Maintenance and Repair Fund. Deb Reed made the Motion “to accept the Shores proposal and proceed with having the Law Library finished out.” Prior to the Roll Call Vote, Chairwoman Mrs. Reed verified that this is a project included on the Construction Priority List. Roll Call Vote: 12 ayes – 1 nay (Cody Rose). Motion passed.

Next, Chairwoman Mrs. Reed conveyed that Circuit Clerk Tiffany Schicker had received Tech and ADA Grant monies and had lighting installed in front of the elevator doors on the first floor of the Marion County Courthouse. After questioning from Board Member Brock Waggoner regarding the payment being taken from the Building Maintenance and Repair Fund, Mrs. Reed responded that this and an additional payment issue are being addressed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: CHAIRWOMAN SHARON WOODWARD:

Law Enforcement Committee Chairwoman Sharon Woodward was absent; therefore, County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour oversaw the Committee’s portion of the Meeting.

Marion County Sheriff Kevin Cripps was also absent and no monthly report was given.

Next, Marion County Coroner Claude Howell presented his report. He began by sharing that the Coroner’s FY 2026 Budget is in line with his expectations. He communicated that during the month of December, 2025, there were 32 deaths (29 Coroner cases and 3 Medical); 6 related to Cancer. He continued with information from the 2025 Yearly Report. He conveyed that there were a total of 442 deaths (410 Coroner cases and 32 Medical); 90 Cancer, 10 Accidental, 4 Overdoses, and 10 Suicides. A total of 261 Cremations and 7 Autopsies were performed. Additionally, he shared that approximately 200 of the total deaths were in Hospice Care.

Coroner Mr. Howell continued by communicating that at the Personnel/Labor Relations and Law Enforcement Committees Meeting conducted prior to this evening’s Meeting, he addressed a proposed purchase of a new vehicle for the Marion County Coroner’s Office. He stated that the monies are available in a portion of the Coroner’s Revenue that is generated from the Cremation Permits fund. He provided additional information during a brief discussion, and requested the approval of “Disposal of County Property” allowing a trade in of the current vehicle. Cody Rose made a Motion to label the current vehicle as pertinent disposal of the County’s surplus and was seconded by Josh Dunahee. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Prior to addressing the 911/ESDA Sub-Committee, Salem Service Center Manager and Marion County Board Member Josh Dunahee conveyed that XPO in Salem conducted a 3-million-mile celebration for their driver, Jerry Wade. Mr. Dunahee commended Sargent Phillips, Sheriff Cripps, and Chief Cerny from the Salem Fire Protection District for escorting Mr. Wade back to the terminal from the rest area South of Salem. This accomplishment was made over 29 ½ years of being accident free. Sixteen members of his family were present waiting for his return. Mr. Dunahee expressed gratitude to Bruce Kropp, WJBD, Dennis Rosenberger, Salem Times Commoner, Kevin Diss, Diss Truck and Repair LLC., Joe’s Pizza, and the rest of the Community for their involvement with this commemoration. In addition, XPO acknowledged this achievement and Mr. Wade being a Veteran with a camo wrapped truck cab.

Law Enforcement Committee – Continued:

Following, ESDA Coordinator Sherri Barter provided a written report prior to this evening's meeting and was included in the Board Member's Packet, but she did share an oral update. Mrs. Barter stated that her Agency has received a little over \$32,000.00 from the State for reimbursement. In addition, she requested that the Resolution Adopting IEMMAS Agreement be addressed and approved at the next Full Board Meeting. Lastly, she communicated that the National Weather Bureau has announced that Marion County is now included in Illinois' Tornado Alley.

Board Chairman Steve Whritenour continued with a brief discussion regarding the renewal of the Everbridge contract. Afterward, Chairman Mr. Whritenour entertained a Motion to table the approval of a contract with the intention of him contacting the Cities of Centralia and Salem with respect to their portion of payment for renewal. Debbie Smith made the Motion and was seconded by Deb Reed. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

In conclusion, Sub-Committee 911/ESDA Liaison Cody Rose conveyed that a FEMA Grant is available for churches and provided a brief summary.

COUNTY & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN TRACY MURRAY:

County & Community Committee Chairman Tracy Murray began by entertaining a Motion to approve the Combined Personnel/Labor Relations and County & Community Committees Meeting Minutes dated December 9, 2025. The year of the date on the Agenda was in error and will be changed to 2025. Debbie Smith made the Motion and was seconded by David Iossi. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Whitney Purcell, Marion County Animal Control Administrator was not present to present an oral report, but a written one was included in the Board Members' Packet.

County & Community Committee Member Brock Waggoner requested to relay a "major update." He stated that Ms. Purcell has initiated a new software program to help with recordkeeping and documentation of the animals and citation tracking.

Committee Chairman Mr. Murray verified that Whitney Purcell is the current Marion County Animal Control Administrator and Ken Ferguson is the Marion County Animal Control Warden. A Memorandum of Understanding for the use of the Centralia Animal Shelter facility for Marion County Animal Control has been established. Brenda Spencer is the Kennel Manager and additional personnel will be hired to assist at the facility. He reiterated that during the previous Committee Meeting, Ms. Purcell conveyed gratitude for the multitude of donations that the shelter has received and for the Community's support.

Following, the next items on the Agenda were addressed. Mr. Murray conveyed that the name change for the Memorial/Donation Fund has been completed. It is now the Animal Control Donation Fund. A brief discussion with respect to designate a signer and obtaining a debit card for the Animal Control account transpired. Brock Waggoner made a Motion to approve the Animal Control Administrator as a designated signer, who is currently Whitney Purcell, for the Animal Control Donation Fund Account and was seconded by Deb Reed. Prior to Roll Call Vote, Board member Debbie Smith questioned if the Memorandum of Understanding was approved at a Full Board Meeting. Board Chairman Steve

County & Community Committee – Continued:

Whritenour clarified that it will be discussed at the next Full Board Meeting. Immediately thereafter, Brock Waggoner amended his Motion to approve the Animal Control Administrator as a permanent designated signer, who is currently Whitney Purcell, for the Animal Control Donation Fund Account and authorize the issuance of a debit card for this account. The Motion failed due a second not being made. Continuing with the initial Motion and second, a Roll Call Vote was taken. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed. Further discussions will take place regarding the debit card and the verbiage in the expenditure Resolution. The request for an Animal Control credit card will be debated at the next Full Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

Next, Kiersten Sheets, Senior Project Development Manager, Trajectory Energy Partners presented information regarding the Cervine Solar Project. Folders containing updated details were provided to each Board Member and thoroughly reviewed. During her presentation, Board Member questioned if a conflict of interest exists with the project and/or the properties of Board Chairman Steve Whritenour and Debbie Smith. Both verified that it does not. In closing, the landowner, Bill Thurman was introduced and addressed the Board with a statement of support for the plan. Chairman Mr. Whritenour commended Ms. Sheets for her thorough work and transparency with the project. Tracy Murray made a Motion to approve the initiation of the Cervine Solar Project and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Roll Call Vote: 12 ayes – 1 nay (Josh Dunahee). Motion passed.

Alvaro Armaza, Summit Ridge Energy Project Development Associate was unable to attend the Meeting this evening. He will be asked to attend the next Full Board Meeting to address the approval of the Decommissioning Report for the Swamp Tail Solar Project.

In conclusion, Board Member Cody Rose made a Motion “that the Marion County Board, through its chairman, formally request an independent review by the Illinois Department of Revenue regarding concerns previously submitted through public complaints, including review of the statistical analysis prepared by Mr. Twist and any supporting tax documentation requested by the Department, with findings made public within a reasonable timeframe consistent with applicable law” and was seconded by Josh Dunahee. Prior to a Roll Call Vote, Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour voiced his concerns regarding the transition period for a new person when Marion County Supervisor of Assessments Mark Miller retires from his office. A thoroughly detailed discussion transpired with respect to the Motion made by Cody Rose and included Chairman Mr. Whritenour’s comments. Board Member Josh Dunahee inquired if Mr. Miller had provided a formal written letter regarding his resignation. There was no knowledge of one being submitted. Questions from various Board Members regarding Mr. Rose’s expectations from the IDOR independent review were addressed. Additionally, he was asked to define “review from a un bias subject matter experts with oversight authority.” A comprehensive discussion transpired and included the goal referencing assessment fairness. Mr. Rose repeated his Motion. A brief follow up discussion occurred. Roll Call Vote: 8 ayes – 4 nays (Tim McCance, Adam Smith, Debbie Smith, and David lossi) – 1 Abstain (Deb Reed). After a debate regarding Mrs. Reed’s vote of abstaining, she stated that if she had to vote it would be a no. Motion passed.

After questioning and discussion from Board Member Debbie Smith, Board Chairman Steve Whritenour stated that he will explore the options of a firm to assist the Board with a master plan on replacing Marion County Supervisor of Assessments Mark Miller after his retirement at the end of the year. Utilizing the services of Gary Twist, Property Evaluation & Tax Auditor, LLC will also be considered.

Sub-Committee Codification: Brock Waggoner

Sub Committee Chairman Brock Waggoner stated that the project is continuing.

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 Highway Engineer Alex Kreke to present his monthly report. A written report from January was reviewed. In addition, he shared an update. Board Member Brock Waggoner commended Engineer Mr. Kreke for his snow removal procedures during the latest storm. Mr. Kreke praised his personnel for doing the work. He emphasized that the winter weight limits are in effect.

Next, Engineer Kreke communicated the details regarding Resolution 2026-04: Letter of Understanding re: Section (28.29-2) RS-1 Marion County. Adam Smith made a Motion to approve Resolution: 2026-04 and was seconded by Chris Krupp. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Following, Engineer Kreke provided information with respect to Resolution 2026-05: Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement (Race Track Road). Adam Smith made a Motion to approve Resolution: 2026-05 and was seconded by Chris Krupp. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

In continuation, Engineer Kreke shared the data included in Resolution 2026-06: Local Public Agency Engineering Services Agreement (Gesell Road). Tracy Murray made a Motion to approve Resolution: 2026-06 and was seconded by Adam Smith. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Lastly, Engineer Kreke clarified the reason Resolution 2026-07: Appropriating Funds for the Payment of the County Engineer's Salary is being presented. Resolution 2025-110: 2026 County Engineer Salary (\$141,200.00) was previously approved, however corrections had to be made. Brock Waggoner made a Motion to approve Resolution: 2026-07 and was seconded by Adam Smith. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Resolutions 2026-11 thru 2026-13 will be addressed at the Full Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

An update on the roof repairs/renovation at the Highway Department facility was given. The roof has been completed. Engineer Mr. Kreke stated that he is pursuing bids for the guttering and will be presenting them to the Building & Historical Committee in March, 2026.

In conclusion, Road & Bridge Committee Co-Chairman Tim McCance addressed the correspondence from Centralia Township Road and Bridge regarding the removal of a tree from Walnut Hill Road. A brief discussion transpired. Tim McCance made a Motion to approve the \$250.00 payment to Centralia Township and was seconded by Davis Iossi. Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes – 6 nays (Tracy Murray, Brock Waggoner, Josh Dunahee, Chris Krupp, Debbie Smith, and Davis Iossi) – 1 abstain (Adam Smith). Motion failed.

PERSONNEL/LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN: ADAM SMITH

Personnel/Labor Relations Committee Chairman Adam Smith conveyed that the IMRF and Laborer's Pension issues have been forwarded to the Legislation.

LIQUOR LICENSE COMMITTEE – STEVE WHRITENOUR

Liquor Committee Chairman Steve Whritenour relayed that the Background information for the Rambo's Lucky Day Slots, LLC Liquor License has not been received.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

911

Marion County Board Representative Steven Whritenour stated that Marion County 911 Coordinator Stacey Arenas announced her resignation from her position. Applications are currently being accepted.

708 MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Marion County Board Representative David Iossi stated that the next Meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2026 at the Community Resource Center.

MARION COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Marion County Board Representative Dr. Mike Douglas stated that a Meeting was conducted in December, 2025. The next Meeting will be held in March, 2026.

SCIRPD

Marion County Board Representative Cody Rose stated that he had an Orientation Meeting and the next Meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2026.

MARION COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Marion County Board Representative Chris Krupp stated that there was no new information. The next Meeting is scheduled to be conducted in 2 weeks.

WIB (WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD)

Marion County Board Representative Debbie Smith had nothing new to report.

ENTERPRISE ZONE

Marion County Board Representatives Adam Smith and Chris Krupp stated that a meeting is to be conducted in 2 days.

BCMw

Marion County Board Representative Adam Smith stated that the next meeting is to be conducted in 2 weeks.

SIEDA

Marion County Board Representative Dr. Mike Douglas stated the January, 2026 Meeting was cancelled, but a Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

2-10-26

Full Board Meeting

Guests

- ~~Paul Lynn~~
- Bruce Spencer
- Steve
- James Dwyer
- Donna Koyden
- Jamill James
- Cheryl Pemberton
- Joe Pemberton
- Like Easton
- Brooke Frederick
- Chisay Patel
- Michael Weemer
- Shaunda Weemer
- Keeli Johnson
- Craig Johnson
- Hebecca Blum