

## MARION COUNTY FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 11, 2023

7:00 P.M.

Basement of Sheriff's Office

Meeting convened at 7:00 P.M. with Debbie Smith, County Board Chairwoman, leading Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Invocation presented by Wayne Walker.

Roll call taken by Lori Linder, County Board Secretary. Present were Tracy Murray, Sharon Woodward, Creighton Engel, Jack Riley, Deborah Reed, Bill Henson, Tyson McHenry, Steven Whritenour, Steven Bradley, Judith Meeks-Hakim, Christopher Krupp, Debbie Smith, and David Iossi. Absent were Brock Waggoner, and Adam Smith.

### RECOGNITION OF GUEST

Guests: Bill Smith, Ken Ferguson, Animal Control Officer, Kevin Cripps, Marion County Sheriff, Tiffany Schicker, Marion County Circuit Clerk, Gary Purcell, Marion County Treasurer, Dennis Rosenberger, Wayne S. Walker, Tim Hudspeth, Marion County State's Attorney, Mark Miller, Marion County Supervisor of Assessments, Sheri Barter, Marion County ESDA Coordinator, and Bruce Kropp (arrived late).

### THOSE WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Gary Purcell, Marion County Treasurer, stated that \$45 million taxes are to be collected. Payments are starting to be made in his office, or via phone calls, mail, on line, escrow payments, and e-checks.

Tim Hudspeth, Marion County State's Attorney, updated the Board on his office. He began his discussion in regards to the grant that Judge Ericka Sanders and Judge Mark Stedelin received last year for a Juvenile Abuse and Neglect Prosecutor. A couple of weeks ago Judge Sanders received an application for renewal of the grant. Unfortunately, one of the grant's caveats is that the attorney only work with Juvenile Abuse and Neglect cases. His office, at this time, only employs one other assistant, and he solely manages those cases. He is accepting applications for two other assistants, but at this time he is unable to apply for the grant renewal. Chairwoman Debbie Smith questioned if he would be able to reapply in the future. Attorney Hudspeth reiterated that it is an annual item, and he feels that he would be able to.

Mark Miller, Marion County Supervisor of Assessments, relayed that his office has received many complaints in regards to the assessments and the amount of the taxes from Marion County residents.

Tiffany Schicker, Marion County Circuit Clerk, was in agreement with Attorney Hudspeth that an additional attorney is needed in the State's Attorney's Office. She stated that mental health cases have severely increased in the past few years and the lack of an attorney in his office is causing issues with scheduling of the regular docket.

Those Who Wish to Address the Board – Continued

Chairwoman Debbie Smith had questions concerning the salary for the attorney to be hired. Attorney Hudspeth stated that the pay provided to a Traffic and Misdemeanor Assistant Attorney in Marion County is comparable with other counties. Private pay has increased significantly recently and is a major issue of concern.

Mrs. Smith acknowledged that the Marion County Board is thankful to hear that Marion County Sheriff Kevin Cripps' wife's health is improving. He expressed his appreciativeness for all of the calls, texts, and prayers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes from the Full Board Meeting held on June 27, 2023 made by Steven Bradley with second by David Iossi. Prior to Voice Vote, Gary Purcell clarified that in 2021 only \$16,362.99 was spent on training for his office. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

COUNTY CLERK STEVE FOX CORRESPONDENCE

Illinois Department of Revenue:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
¼%	\$91,321.48	\$88,728.34
1%	\$38,190.03	\$46,101.76

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE & INSURANCE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER KRUPP

Approval of Bills

General: \$152,231.09 Christopher Krupp made a motion to approve bills and was seconded by Sharon Woodward. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Insurance: \$40,144.88 Christopher Krupp made a motion to approve bills and was seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Judicial: \$912,928.14 Christopher Krupp made a motion to approve bills and was seconded by David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Resolution 2023-37: Permanent Parcel Number: 11-00-013-780 – Delinquent Tax Sales of said property of which the County will receive \$293.00 with remaining monies distributed according to law. Motion to approve Resolution 2023-37 made by Christopher Krupp and seconded by Tyson McHenry. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Lastly, Committee Chairman Christopher Krupp announced that a combined meeting with the Building & Historical Committee is scheduled Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. The items on the agenda include the priority lists from the Elected Officials on improvements and remodeling and a discussion of one of the County's bonds.

### Finance & Insurance Committee - Continued

Lastly, Committee Chairman Christopher Krupp announced that a combined meeting with the Building & Historical Committee is scheduled Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. The items on the agenda include the priority lists from the Elected Officials on improvements and remodeling and a discussion of one of the County's bonds.

### BUILDING & HISTORICAL COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN CREIGHTON ENGEL

Approval of Bills: \$25,348.52 Creighton Engel made a motion to approve bills and seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Dr. Engel continued with Old Business updates. Sheriff Cripps conveyed that the cameras at the Moose Building have been installed and all of the cameras in the building are now working properly. He also stated that the cost of the cameras was considerably less than previously anticipated. Next, Dr. Engel spoke in regards to the water leak in the Marion County Public Service Building. He has had discussions that it may be a spring located below the building and that the drainage may be causing the problems. This matter will be investigated further. Furthermore, the Sally Port at the Sheriff's Department is nearing completion. Installing the window and applying the epoxy to the floor will be the final steps. In reference to the employee parking lot, Dr. Engel shared that he had talked with Trish Lund, EDA Planner for SCiRPD. She informed him that more grants will be available in the future. Therefore, he recommends getting in touch with several contractors for their input on the resurfacing and repairs of the parking lot. This information will be utilized in applying for the grants. Lastly, Environmental Resources, Inc. completed the removal of the mold in the Moose Building. Additionally, the issues with the upstairs portion of the building have been disposed of and everything has been cleaned.

In conclusion, Committee Chairman Creighton Engel reiterated that a combined meeting with the Finance & Insurance Committee is scheduled Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.

Before proceeding to the next Committee's report, Steven Whritenour inquired if a temporary fix to the parking lot could be made by applying rock. Steven Bradley had previously consulted with Mike McCormick, Marion County Highway Department Engineer, and this process is not an option. Chairman Creighton Engel suggested closing off the front portion of the lot and make use of the back portion.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN STEVE WHRITENOUR

Approval of Bills: \$78,180.60 Steven Whritenour made a motion to approve bills and was seconded by Tyson McHenry. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Committee Chairman Mr. Whritenour asked Sheriff Kevin Cripps to discuss the bids for the Marion County Sheriff's Department parking lot. The last repairs to the lot were finished approximately 6-7 years ago. He stated that a second bid had come in, but was \$2,000.00 more than the first bid. He recommends following through with the bid from Tri-County Seal Coating. It includes sealing, restriping, and repairing the cracks on the lot. The company will stripe 10-foot parking spaces which will eliminate one handicap spot. Motion to approve the Tri-County Seal Coating proposal of \$4,800.00 for sealing, restriping, and repairing cracks of the Marion County Sheriff's Departments parking lot was made by Steve Whritenour and seconded by David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No Nays. Motion passed.

Sheriff Kevin Cripps presented the report on the jail: 91 Traffic Stops, 31 Citations – 72 Inmates of which are 18 Federal and 2 Juveniles. He commended his staff in regards to operating and conducting business during his absence.

In conclusion, Sheriff Cripps briefly discussed the presentation from Axon Enterprise. He addressed the requirement of having body cameras for his department in place by January 1, 2025. This is a very expensive project. He stated that he requested a bundle proposal from Axon Enterprise for body cameras, in car cameras, and Tasers. He relayed that Axon products are currently being used by Salem and Centralia Police Departments, therefore they will be relevant for the Marion County Sheriff's Department. They offer a 5-year contract which would provide safety equipment for all Marion County Officers and automobiles. The total cost would be \$417, 101.02, with an additional \$4,400.00 for the Respond Plus, that allows the GPS feature on the body cameras. The charges also include replacement of the body cameras every 2 ½ years and the replacement of the in car cameras every 5 years. This equipment will be fully up to date. A warranty for all equipment damaged in the line of duty is also included. He will present the full information and proposal to the Full Board Members at the next meeting for approval and request that payment be made from the Safety Tax Fund. Marion County State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth is in extreme agreement with the Axon Enterprise proposal. Steven Whritenour also discussed the benefit of the Axon Capture and getting information from the victim of a specific incident. The activation procedure of the cameras was also explained. For example, mobilizing the body camera can be done by taking the Taser out of its holster, turning on the lights in the vehicle, the speed of the vehicle, or manually. Chairman Steven Whritenour and Sheriff Kevin Cripps reiterated that if it saves one officer's life it will pay for itself.

#### COUNTY & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN BILL HENSON

Approval of Bills: \$31,580.20 Bill Henson made a motion to approve bills and was seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Chairman Bill Henson clarified that a portion of the total amount (\$31, 441.00) was for printing, processing, and postage of the Marion County voter registration cards. Roll Call Vote: All eyes – No nays. Motion passed.

Ken Ferguson, Animal Control Administrator, reported that sixteen dogs, one bat, one raccoon, and one deer were picked up during the month. He also reported that nails and screws were thrown in his personal driveway and a fire was set in his yard. Sheriff Kevin Cripps relayed that an investigation is being conducted. Chairman Bill Henson continued with a discussion of the Animal Control Act. Individuals receiving food stamps or Social Security disability benefits are eligible for the assistance. In addition, the County may also set up special programs for assistance to certain individuals. The monies may be used for vaccinations, spaying, and neutering, but does not include the purchase of food. Chairwoman Debbie Smith suggested tabling the matter for a later date. Judith Meeks-Hakim commended Mr. Ferguson for his services with a personal issue at her home.

Chairman Bill Henson continued with the next topic of discussion, which was the flagpoles at the Marion County Courthouse. He stated that the installation of the poles has been completed. Sheriff Kevin Cripps added that the lights will be installed by the end of this week. Chairwoman Debbie Smith praised Dave Daniels, Marion County Maintenance, for his involvement with this project and his performance with additional tasks for Marion County. Sheriff Cripps and Dr. Engel were in total agreement.

County & Community Committee - Continued

Sub-Committee Codification: Brock Waggoner

Chairman Brock Waggoner was absent, therefore nothing to report.

ROAD & BRIDGE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN: STEVEN BRADLEY

Approval of Bills: \$314,470.65 Steven Bradley made a motion to approve bills and was seconded by Steven Whritenour. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Chairman Steven Bradley gave advance warning that oil and chipping will begin causing a large increase in billing for the next month.

Resolution 2023-36: Raccoon Water Company – 3323 Odin Road. Motion to approve Resolution 2023-36: Raccoon Water Company – 3323 Odin Road was made by Steve Bradley and seconded by Jack Riley. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Steven Whritenour questioned which bridges are involved with the grants that were received for Marion County. This information can be found on the WJBD website.

MARION COUNTY BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN: ADAM SMITH

Chairman Adam Smith was absent, therefore nothing to report.

911/ESDA COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN: STEVE WHRITENHOUR

Chairman Steve Whritenour began with the discussion of the padlock bids for the tornado sirens in Marion County. Two proposals for fifty locks were presented by Sheri Barter, Marion County ESDA Coordinator, at the previous Full Board Meeting. Motion for approval of the purchase of fifty padlocks from Hodge Products, Inc. (Master Locks) in the amount of \$772.59 was made by Steven Whritenour and seconded by David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Mr. Whritenour relayed to the Board that a Committee Meeting was conducted prior to the Full Board Meeting this evening with a presentation from Jeff Ryba, Braniff Communications Representative which is a manufacturer for Federal Signal in Illinois. Two additional presentations from tornado siren manufacturers are scheduled for the Committee in the near future.

Motion to approve 911/ESDA Committee Meeting Minutes dated June 27, 2023 was made by Creighton Engel and seconded by Steven Whritenour. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

In conclusion, Sheri Barter stated that she has been in communications with GATA who transferred her to a GATU supervisor to discuss the issues with the grants. The supervisor is researching to see if an extended waiver until the end of the year is an option. A report in regards to this matter will be relayed prior to the next Full Board Meeting.

PERSONNEL/LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN: ADAM SMITH

Chairman Adam Smith was absent, therefore nothing to report.

BROADBAND COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN: CHRISTOPHER KRUPP

Chairman Christopher Krupp began with a discussion in regards to Resolution 2023-35: Supporting Broadband Internet Access for All Residents and Areas for Marion County, Illinois. Additional information was not provided to Marion County State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth. The Resolution will remain the same and be on the placed on the agenda for approval at the next Full Board Meeting scheduled Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

DECENNIAL COMMITTEE:

No report.

LIQUOR COMMITTEE: CHAIRWOMAN DEBBIE SMITH

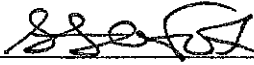
No report.

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

Time: 8:05 P.M.

Approved: SF

Date: 7/25/23

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

