

MARION COUNTY FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 25, 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, Judith Meeks-Hakim, Christopher Krupp, Debbie Smith, and David Iossi. Absent were Brock Waggoner, Steven Whritenour, Steven Bradley, and Adam Smith (arrived late).

RECOGNITION OF GUEST

Guests: Bill Smith, Brad Hester, Marion County Farm Bureau Vice President, Steve Brummel, Marion County Farm Bureau President, Brad Conant, Marion and Clinton County Farm Bureau Certified Manager, Kevin Cripps, Marion County Sheriff, Gary Purcell, Marion County Treasurer, Dennis Rosenberger, Wayne S. Walker, Tim Hudspeth, Marion County State's Attorney, Mark Miller, Marion County Supervisor of Assessments, Troy Reed, Marion County Jail Administrator, and Bruce Kropp (arrived late).

Debbie Smith, Marion County Board Chairwoman, requested to begin the meeting with the County & Community Committee's report. She explained that the Committee will be asking for approval of Resolution 2023-38: Support of Marion County Agriculture. She proceeded by introducing the Marion County Farm Bureau Members, Steve Brummel, President, Brad Hester, Vice President, and Brad Conant, Certified Manager for Marion and Clinton Counties. County and Community Committee Chairman, Bill Henson turned the discussion over to Steve Brummel. Mr. Brummel began by relaying information in regards to the Marion County Farm Bureau and agriculture in Marion County. Mr. Conant continued with reference to the purpose of presenting the Resolution to the Marion County Board. He also explained that this will allow the Farm Bureau to get more involved with the community and its projects.

Committee Chairman, Bill Henson, made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-38: Support of Marion County Agriculture and was seconded by David Iossi. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

The Farm Bureau Members stayed for the remainder of the Full Board Meeting.

Mr. Henson continued with the report from the County and Community Committee. The next topic of discussion was the Animal Control Act that was tabled from the July 11, 2023 Full Board Meeting. He reiterated that a statute states that the distribution of monies only pertains to individuals that are eligible for the Food Stamp Program and the Social Security and Disability Program. The funds are limited to helping pay for spaying, neutering, and vaccinations for their pets. State's Attorney,

Tim Hudspeth advised the Board to not alter the requirements due to the wording of the statute. The statutes that are involved with the Animal Control Act are 510 ILCS 5/3.5 and 510 ILCS 92/25. The applications for this program can be obtained through the individual's veterinarian. Lastly, the finances for this program come from the Marion County Pet Population Control Fund.

The next subject of discussion was the Courthouse Flagpoles. Mr. Henson relayed that Dave Daniels, from maintenance, proposed placing paver bricks around the poles. They may be purchased and engraved at the individual's expense and the funds will go to the business in which they are obtained. More information is needed and will be conveyed to the Board in the near future. Sheriff Kevin Cripps communicated that the light for the flags has been put in place. He added that the lights around the Courthouse are also working and the Courthouse is very attractive at night. One final note was made in regards to banners being placed around the flagpole area. Sheriff Cripps will advise placing the banners in the area beside and away from the poles to avoid any distractions.

THOSE WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Gary Purcell, Marion County Treasurer, stated that the First Installment of Property taxes are due Thursday, July 27, 2023.

Tim Hudspeth, Marion County State's Attorney, relayed that he is currently seeking to employ two Assistant State's Attorneys.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the Full Board Meeting Minutes held on July 11, 2023 was made by David Iossi and seconded by Tyson McHenry. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

COUNTY CLERK STEVE FOX CORRESPONDENCE

Motion request from Marion County Board of Health to appoint Dr. Seth Hahs to fill the vacancy of Dr. Aziz Rahman, who resigned and term expires November 30, 2023, was made by Creighton Engel and seconded by Sharon Woodward. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCIAL & INSURANCE: CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER KRUPP

Chairman Christopher Krupp began with discussion of the Fifteen-year bond secured 5 years ago for the new broiler and air conditioning system at the Courthouse. The payment can be made at a 5-year rate or a 10-year rate. He expressed that this topic was discussed at the Combined Finance & Insurance and Building & Historical Committees' Meeting on Thursday, July 13, 2023. A decision was made to request approval of the 5-year payment option with payments of \$53, 415.34 per year with final payment of \$11,256.21. This will save the County approximately \$30-35,000.00 in interest. The payments were previously made with the 5-year payment plan. Motion to accept the 5-year payment plan was made by Christopher Krupp and seconded by Sharon Woodward. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Combined Finance & Insurance and Building & Historical Committees' Meeting Minutes was made by Christopher Krupp and seconded by Deborah Reed. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

BUILDING & HISTORICAL: CHAIRMAN CREIGHTON ENGEL

Chairman Creighton Engel began with stating that there was no new information in regards to the security cameras at the Marion County Public Service Building.

Next, the \$6,000.00 bid from Tate's Plumbing for the re-pipe/re-route sump pump discharge line from the Marion County Public Service Building stands. The situation has been an issue for several years. Motion to approve Tate's Plumbing bid of \$6,000.00 was made by Creighton Engel and seconded by David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Furthermore, the finishing touches of the remodeling of the Old Boardroom at the Courthouse were discussed. Bids for new flooring and painting of the room will be addressed in the near future.

Dr. Engel continued with details of resurfacing of the employee parking lot. Mark Miller, Marion County Supervisor of Assessments, relayed that there are four potential bidders. The contractors were asked for estimates for the front lot only and also for the front and back lots combined. Three bids were under \$500,00.00. Two bids were for asphalt and the other two for concrete. After consideration, Mr. Miller suggests to follow through with Marion County Highway Engineer, Michael McCormick's recommendations of involving IDOT and IEPA to avoid any issues which may arise. More information on the property is needed prior to accepting any bids. Dr. Engel is hopeful that the basic data will be available by the next Combined Financial & Insurance and Building & Historical Committees' Meeting on August 3, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.

In addition, Sheriff Kevin Cripps continued with a report on the resurfacing and repainting of the Marion County Sheriff's Department's parking lots. This project will be accomplished during a weekend in the near future. The resurfacing and repainting will include 10-foot parking spaces and will exclude one handicap parking area in each lot. David Iossi raised questions with reference to availability of parking spaces for individuals conducting Courthouse tasks. Sheriff Cripps clarified that the Office Holders have their own parking place in the Marion County Sheriff Department's lot and a number of Marion County employees are utilizing the Church's parking areas. Communication between the Church and the Sheriff in regards to the use of their areas does occur.

An update on the Sally Port was also given. Sheriff Cripps is very pleased with the work that has taken place and should be completed in a couple of weeks. It is more accommodating for all of the officers, including himself. The addition of the window assists with the Sergeants', the Dispatch Officer's and the Booking Officer's view of the arrival of cars in to the Sally Port. The Booking Officer can also observe any activity in the body scanning area also. A walk in door, that was to be discarded, will be put in place of a window in this area to eliminate the frequent use of the large garage doors. After discussion with Ameresco, they are willing to donate their time and placement of the walk in door. Painting of the Sally Port will also include the holding cells and the doors inside the Booking Area.

Chairman Creighton Engel continued with reports on additional projects. He addressed the Handicap Entrance Doors' assignment. The glass for the doors is on backorder with no estimated time for delivery. A handout was distributed to reveal that the restroom doors on the first floor of the Courthouse have been installed and are very attractive. The restroom sinks, the trim around the men's room, and the floors of the third floor restrooms remain in the process of being repaired. Christopher Krupp reported that the odor at the Public Service Building is still an issue. Tate's Plumbing has been contacted and will analyze the problem within the next week.

Building & Historical Committee Continued

In conclusion, Sharon Woodward commended Steven Bradley for removing the metal objects from the employee parking lot after the last meeting. Chairwoman Debbie Smith also expressed gratitude to Mark Miller for his involvement with gathering information in regards to repairing the lot.

LAW ENFORCEMENT: CHAIRMAN STEVE WHRITENOUR

Due to the absence of Chairman Steven Whritenour, Sharon Woodward conducted the Law Enforcement Committee's presentation.

Sheriff Kevin Cripps was allowed to address the Board. He began with the Marion County Jail report: 70 inmates of which 17 Federal and 2 Juveniles.

In reference to the Axon Enterprise proposal, three bids for the equipment have been presented to the Full Board. Sheriff Cripps stated that a presentation from Axon Enterprises had taken place at a Law Enforcement Committee Meeting on July 11, 2023. In addition, he reiterated that by law his department will be mandated to have body cameras in place by January 1, 2025. Centralia and Salem Police Departments are currently utilizing three Axon items. The three articles include Body Cameras, In Car Cameras, and Tasers. A very positive aspect for these products is the software. It is up to date and will lessen the time an officer has to work on his reports.

He continued with information pertaining to funding. A five-year payment option is available. The total price for all of the equipment is \$444,170.98. This can be divided into installments. The first year's amount is \$135,531.00 and the following four years' payments are \$77,159.09. This will include replacement of the new body cameras every 2 ½ years and new In Car Cameras and Tasers every 5 years. The Tasers can also be replaced anytime that they are damaged in the line of duty. He feels that this purchase is for officer safety and would suggest using the funds from the Safety Tax. Axon Enterprises would be an additional line item beginning on the YR2024 Budget and each year thereafter in the amount of \$100,000.00.

In conclusion to this investment, Sheriff Cripps relayed even though this is a large expense for Marion County, that there are several benefitting factors. For example, if it saves one officer's life it will pay for itself. This equipment will also be the most advanced available. The Dispatcher's for Marion County will have access to the officer's location through the cameras and GPS. This option is included in the Rapid Response Plus for the Body Cameras and In Car Cameras. The consolidation of the Centralia and Salem Police Departments and include the Marion County Sheriff's Department will be very beneficial to the Marion County State's Attorney's office also.

Motion to approve the Axon Enterprise's proposal for the total amount of \$444,170.98 was made by Sharon Woodward and seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed. Sheriff Cripps expressed his appreciation to the Full Board.

The next item reviewed was the School Resource Officers for the schools interested. Sheriff Cripps disclosed that Marion County passed a Safety Tax through the schools a few years ago that distributes the monies to the schools within the County and may be utilized for this service. He requested that the Region Superintendent of the Schools, Matt Renauld and himself hold a meeting with all of the Superintendents in Marion County. After meeting with all of them, four schools are currently interested. The schools include South Central, Patoka, Selmaville, and Raccoon. One officer will be

Law Enforcement Committee Continued

Craig
~~Greg~~ Viera, was nominated last school year as the most influential person by the student body. The Resource Officer is not only present for safety, but to build a rapport with the students. The cost was given for each officer which is to be divided between two schools. The first year the cost will be \$142,600.00. The reason for the increased amount is due to the expense of a new vehicle, equipment, and uniforms. An adjustment can be made if a used car is purchased instead of a new one. The following years' total will be \$71,300.00 for this service. Dr. Engel and Sheriff Cripps explained how the Officers could be utilized during the summer and Christmas breaks. Further details and negotiations will be conveyed to the Marion County Board in the near future.

Motion to allow Marion County Sheriff Kevin Cripps to follow through with the study of addition of two School Resource Officers was made by Sharon Woodward and seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Motion to approve the Law Enforcement Committee Meeting Minutes dated July 11, 2023 was made by Tyson McHenry and seconded by Sharon Woodward. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

ROAD & BRIDGE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN STEVEN BRADLEY

No report due to Chairman Steven Bradley being absent.

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN ADAM SMITH

Chairman Adam Smith began with discussion of the Marion County Bicentennial Coins suggested by Mark Decker. Coins for the County have previously been made and distributed. The expense will be covered by donations only with no monies from Marion County. The breakdown of the expenses was given by Deborah Reed and was as followed: 50 -\$8.48 each, 100 - \$5.02 each, 290 - \$3.72 each with an addition of \$150 for the 3d Mold charge, shipping and possibly sales tax if applicable. Mark Decker will be managing of this project and is asking for support from the Marion County Board.

Motion to acknowledge Mark Decker and authorize him to strike the Marion County Bicentennial Coins was made by Adam Smith and seconded by Sharon Woodward. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Mr. Smith continued by stating that he and Chairwoman Debbie Smith attended the Marion County Genealogical & Historical Society meeting the previous evening. Mark Decker conducted a very informative presentation in regards to formation of Marion County.

In conclusion, information and arrangements for speakers at the exhibit at the Marion County Fairgrounds during Fair Week are still being discussed. Congressman Mike Bost may possibly be present one day to present the Bicentennial Proclamation.

911/ESDA COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN STEVEN WHRITENOUR

Due to the absence of Chairman Steven Whritenour no reports were addressed.

Chairwoman Debbie Smith proceeded with a request for a Motion to approve minutes. Motion to approve 911/ESDA Committee Meeting Minutes dated July 11, 2023 was made by Creighton Engel and seconded by Bill Henson. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

PERSONNEL/LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN ADAM SMITH

Chairman Adam Smith reiterated that the Settlement Agreement between the Central Laborer's Pension Fund and Marion County State's Attorney Office has been completed.

BROADBAND COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER KRUPP

Chairman Christopher Krupp conveyed that a Broadband Committee Meeting was conducted prior to the Full Board Meeting this evening. He relayed that during the meeting a decision was made to present the original Broadband Resolution with an exception of omitting "to ensure" from the "**NOW THEREFORE**" paragraph. A revised version will be prepared by State's Attorney Hudspeth.

Motion to approve Resolution 2023-35: Supporting Broadband Internet Access for All Residents and Areas of Marion County, Illinois with newly proposed language was made by Christopher Krupp and seconded by Tracy Murray. Voice Vote: All Ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Lastly, Chairman Mr. Krupp had communicated with the City of Salem in regards to passing a similar Resolution and they have approved one. He will also be in contact with the City of Centralia. A decision was made to present the topic for the Support Resolution to Township Supervisors for the rural areas.

DECENNIAL COMMITTEE

No report.

LIQUOR COMMITTEE: CHAIRWOMAN DEBBIE SMITH

No report.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

708 MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Marion County Board Representative Bill Henson relayed that the next meeting will be September 7, 2023 at the Sandoval High School.

MARION COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Marion County Board Representative Creighton Engel relayed that the next meeting will be in August, 2023.

SCIRPD

Marion County Board Representative Debbie Smith stated that a meeting was scheduled for this evening.

MARION COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Marion County Board Representative Judith Meeks-Hakim relayed that Commissioner Training will be in October, 2023. She also stated that a Property Manager position is available due to a resignation that took place yesterday.

Prior to the conclusion of the Full Board Meeting, Marion County Treasurer, Gary Purcell conveyed that the Budget Meetings for all Marion County Elected Officials, Department Heads, and Special Committees are scheduled on August 17, 2023 beginning at 8:00 A.M and will continue throughout the day.

Nothing else to come before the Board, David lossi made a motion to adjourn with mileage and per diem and seconded by Creighton Engel. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Time: 8:27 P.M.

Approved: ✓

Date: 8-8-23



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

