

MARION COUNTY FULL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

6:30 P.M.

Marion County Courthouse, Room 302

Meeting convened at 6:30 P.M. with Steven Whritenour, Marion County Board Chairman, leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Invocation presented by Marion County Coroner Claude Howell.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST

See attached list.

Roll Call taken by Lori Linder, Marion County Board Secretary. Present were Tracy Murray, Sharon Woodward, Michael Douglas, Jack Riley, Deborah Reed, Timothy McCance, Tyson McHenry, Steven Whritenour, Cody Rose, Judith Meeks-Hakim, Christopher Krupp, Adam Smith, Debbie Smith, and David Iossi. Absent was Brock Waggoner.

REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Marion County State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth verified that the four Board Members missing from the December 23, 2024 Meeting needed to publicly voice their previous vote for the Marion County Board Chairman/Chairwoman and Vice Chairman/Chairwoman. Those Board Members were asked to verbally state who they voted for at the Monday, December 2, 2024 Meeting.

Jack Riley – Steve Whritenour Chairman and Tyson McHenry Vice Chairman

Adam Smith – Steve Whritenour Chairman and Debbie Smith Vice Chairman

Sharon Woodward – Debbie Smith Chairman and Debbie Smith Vice Chairman

Judith Meeks-Hakim – Debbie Smith Chairwoman and Debbie Smith Vice Chairwoman

THOSE WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Prior to the Guests addressing the Board, County Board Chairman Steven Whritenour reiterated the regulations of the procedure of this portion of the Agenda.

Angie Diss, Mayor of Kinmundy addressed the Board and introduced City Council Member Emily Hassebrock. Ms. Diss voiced her concerns regarding the ESDA invoice for the Kinmundy Emergency Siren. The Board had previously discussed paying half of the total amount due, but that was rejected by Roll Call Vote on Tuesday, December 10, 2024. She conveyed that the City of Kinmundy has paid their half, but was recently informed that they still owe the remaining balance. She requests that the County Board members reconsider paying the remainder and accept their payment previously paid. In addition, the City of Kinmundy would like an agreement with respect to the maintenance and repairs of their siren. Board Chairman Steve Whritenour stated that he will be referring this issue to the Law

Enforcement Committee and that EDSA and the Board are in the process of revamping the siren policy. He and/or Committee Chairman Tyson McHenry will follow up with Ms. Diss and the City of Kinmundy.

Next, Liam Mongovan, Superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission Program in Franklin County, Illinois presented information regarding their services. Newly Elected Marion Board Members were given an update of the previous discussions. In conclusion, Mr. Mongovan requested funding for the Marion County, Illinois VAC Program.

Guest Bob Wright questioned the timeframe for the public having access to the Marion County Financial Report. Mr. Whritenour stated that it will be available soon. Lastly, Mr. Wright that Marion County support the Veterans and the VAC.

VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Next, Finance Committee Chairman and Board member Christopher Krupp presented a brief description of Ordinance 2025-01: Recognition of the Veteran Assistance Commission of Marion County and an additional discussion with respect to the Program transpired. Consideration regarding the funding for the Marion County Program will occur at future Finance and Budget Committee Meetings. Christopher Krupp made a Motion to approve Ordinance 2025-01 and was seconded by Tyson McHenry. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Deborah Reed made a Motion to approve the Organizational Meeting Minutes dated December 2, 2025 and was seconded by Sharon Woodward. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

David Iossi made a Motion to approve the Full Board Meeting Minutes dated December 10, 2025 and was seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Tyson McHenry made a Motion to approve the Special Full Board Meeting Minutes dated December 13, 2025 and was seconded by Christopher Krupp. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Debbie Smith made a Motion to approve the Full Board Meeting Minutes dated December 23, 2025 and was seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Sharon Woodward made a Motion to approve the Special Full Board Meeting Minutes dated December 30, 2025 and was seconded by Christopher Krupp. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

MARION COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN STEVEN WHRITENOUR

Marion County Board Chairman Steven Whritenour stated that he had a meeting with the Marion County Elected Officials on Friday, January 24, 2025. He emphasized that he felt that it was a very productive meeting and would like to see the communication and interactions continue.

Additionally, Mr. Whritenour expressed that concerns regarding the monthly bills were brought to his attention. He asked Marion County State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth to speak with respect to this matter. Attorney Hudspeth provided a brief explanation of the regulations imposed by the Attorney General. Building & Historical Committee Chairwoman and Marion County Board Member Deborah Reed had questions which were answered. The bills will now only be reviewed during the monthly Committee Meetings and if there are any questions the Committee Chairman/Chairwoman will address the matter. Marion County Clerk Steve Fox will continue with his payment process.

COUNTY CLERK STEVE FOX CORRESPONDENCE

Marion County Clerk Steve Fox presented the Illinois Department of Revenue figures.

Illinois Department of Revenue:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
¼%	\$89,775.30	\$82,784.34
1%	\$36,904.98	\$50,389.56

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER KRUPP:

Finance Committee Chairman Christopher Krupp began by addressing the Bill approval and payment process item under New Business. He conveyed that he had spoken with Steve Fox, Marion County Clerk, and he will be presenting a billing process presentation at the Finance Committee Meeting scheduled for Monday, March 10, 2025 at 5:30 P.M.

Approval of Bills:

General: \$160,418.19 Christopher Krupp made a Motion to approve the bills and seconded by Debbie Smith. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Judicial: \$745,256.93 Christopher Krupp made a Motion to approve the bills and was seconded by Sharon Woodward. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next, Chairman Christopher Krupp expressed his interest in attending Grant Writing Training workshop in Wellston, Missouri on February 19-20, 2025. He continued to explain the benefits of having a person on the Board with the education of applying for Grants. He volunteered to attend this training event and is requesting payment of the registration invoice (\$445.00) from the Board. David Iossi made a Motion to approve to pay the invoice and Deborah Reed made the second. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Mr. Krupp then addressed the Resolutions on the Agenda. He stated that the amount of money that Marion County will receive from the Resolutions is \$1,500.00. Omnibus Motion to approve Resolutions 2025-01 through 2025-05 was made by Christopher Krupp and seconded by David Iossi. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

In conclusion, Chairman Christopher Krupp conveyed that he received an email from Josh Faivre, CPA and WIPFLI Senior Manager, Audit regarding the FY 2022 Audit. Mr. Faivre requested an employee list from the Department Heads during the year 2022. Mr. Krupp is in the process of forwarding that information to him. The competition date of the FY 2022 Audit is anticipated to be very soon.

BUDGET COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN BROCK WAGGONER:

Budget Committee Chairman Brock Waggoner was absent; therefore, Committee Member Tracy Murray presented the Committee's report. Mr. Waggoner had sent an email to Mr. Murray regarding the information to convey to the Board.

Mr. Murray conveyed that Mr. Waggoner addressed the topic of reducing the County Board Budget. He stated "by statute we cannot reduce the pay for the current County Board Members as that was not passed prior to the seating of the current Board."

Next, Mr. Waggoner had prepared a list and assigned Committees to each Marion County Office Holder to allow them to work together for Budgeting purposes and answering any questions or concerns. The list will be distributed in the near future.

Mr. Murray relayed that an invitation was sent to Marion County Clerk Steve Fox and Marion County Treasurer Gary Purcell to attend an upcoming Finance and Budget Committees Meeting to discuss billing and payment process. This presentation will be conducted on March 10, 2025.

Prior to the Insurance Committee's report, Board Chairman Steve Whritenour shared that he had a discussion with Marion County Sheriff Kevin Cripps regarding corrections that need to be made to his portion of the FY 2025 Budget. This information will be directed to Mr. Waggoner. In addition, Mr. Whritenour has contacted Bellwether to rectify a couple of additional matters.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN DAVID IOSSI:

Approval of Bills:

Insurance: \$62,875.40 David Iossi made a Motion to approve the bills and was seconded by Adam Smith. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Insurance Committee Chairman David Iossi announced that Todd Dobbs, Chaney and Karch Insurance owner and agent, will attending the Committee Meeting scheduled for Monday, February 10, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.

BUILDING & HISTORICAL COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN DEBORAH REED:

Approval of Bills: \$25,298.18 Deborah Reed made a Motion to approve bills and was seconded by David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next, Building & Historical Committee Chairman Deborah Reed addressed the TOP Electric & Lighting Bid (\$365,200.00) for the Emergency Backup Generator and UPS Electrical Project and the Server Room Specifications. She allowed Marion County Circuit Clerk Tiffany Schicker to share information regarding her approval of a technology grant in which a portion will help cover the costs. She continued to explain what additional projects will be covered with this grant. Mrs. Schicker was commended. She verified that a requirement of receiving the grant is to provide proof of payment for the project by May, 2025.

Building & Historical Committee – Continued:

An additional discussion transpired regarding the project and its expense. Tom Paulson TOP Electric & Lighting President/Project Manager was present and answered questions from the Board Members. Deborah Reed made a Motion to proceed with the entire project and take the maximum of \$89,200 from the loan and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Roll Call Vote: 13 ayes – 1 nay (Tyson McHenry). Motion passed. Tom Paulson was commended by several Board Members.

Following, Marion County Sheriff Kevin Cripps provided information regarding the projects that he intends to initiate at the Sheriff's Department. His plan of action includes various areas in the facility and will be funded through the Safety Tax Fund and his approved Budgeted monies. He encouraged everyone to come tour the areas to be renovated.

Prior to continuing with the Building & Historical Committee's report, Sheriff Cripps was allowed to present his monthly report. The Jail is currently housing 84 inmates with 38 being Federal. He is hopeful that Marion County will continue to exceed the minimum amount of 25 Federal inmates housed in the jail, which will produce additional revenue for the County. He conveyed that the Jail was found to be non-compliant during its inspection due to the Commissary Audit not being completed. He requested that it be separated from the County Audit. In conclusion, he stated that the Jail inspector reviewed a 3-day period of cell checks in which the Correctional Officers exceeded the required amount of 144 with a total of 218 during that time period. He expressed gratitude to his Officers and Staff.

Lastly, Committee Chairman Deborah Reed conveyed that replacement of the deteriorating gutters at the Moose Building will begin next week. The cost of this project is \$1,000.00.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN TYSON MCHENRY:

Approval of Bills: \$91,859.41 Tyson McHenry made a motion to approve the bills and was seconded by Sharon Woodward. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nay. Motion passed.

Next, Marion County Coroner Claude Howell presented his report. Mr. Howell announced that there were 415 deaths during the year of 2024, including 100 Cancer related, 5 suicides, and 13 accidental deaths. The 2025 total deaths recorded as of this date is 52 which are mostly due to natural causes. He conveyed that he and a couple of his deputies are currently attending training classes.

Following, Sheri Barter, Marion County ESDA Coordinator announced that this is the Agency's down time and has had very few calls. She stated that she has been working with the Regional Officer on the updates to the Emergency Operational Plan. One new item is the requirement for new volunteers to attend on line classes. A request was made by Committee Chairman Tyson McHenry for Mrs. Barter to provide an ESDA Vehicle Inventory Report to Marion County Board Secretary, Lori Linder. Lastly, she is anticipating a response from Braiff Communications regarding an Emergency Siren Maintenance and Inspection schedule.

Board Chairman Steve Whritenour stated that the Emergency Siren Maintenance and Repair Policy is still being developed.

Dr. Michael Douglas voiced his concerns regarding the siren located by Taco Bell in Salem.

In conclusion, a brief discussion regarding the Alma siren occurred. Tom Paulson from TOP Electric & Lighting confirmed that the electrical work had been completed and should now be functional.

COUNTY & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN Tracy Murray:

Approval of Bills: \$3,692.86 Tracy Murray made a motion to approve the bills and was seconded by Tyson McHenry. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Ken Ferguson, Marion County Animal Control Administrator was absent; therefore, Committee Chairman Tracy Murray presented his report. Mr. Murray stated that 4 dogs remain housed at Paws Here Veterinary Services with one being rehomed Friday of this week. Mr. Ferguson was commended for finding the other animals' owners and/or adopting them to new homes. A large amount of written reports from December, 2024 to the current date was shown to the Board Members. Chairman Mr. Murray conveyed that the addition of the Marion County Animal Control Facebook page has been an asset for the County.

Next, the invoices for housing the animals at Paws Here Veterinary Services were discussed and it was relayed that a \$500.00 donation was applied.

Committee Chairman Mr. Murray had been in communication with the City of Salem again, and they still do not want to work with Marion County Animal Control at this time. Additionally, he and Board Chairman Steve Whritenour met with the City of Centralia which Mr. Whritenour felt was a productive meeting. They are to follow up with a visit prior to the February 11, 2025 County & Community Committee Meeting.

A copy of the Dog Housing Agreement with the Doggie Den in Centralia was included in the Full Board Meeting Packet and was discussed. Tyson McHenry made a Motion to approve the Contract Agreement and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Continuing with Old Business, Committee Chairman Tracy Murray recited the Committee Meeting Schedule for 2025. Board Member Debbie Smith suggested interchanging the times of the Insurance and Budget Committee Meetings. Tracy Murray made a Motion to approve the Amended Notice of Marion County Committee Meetings and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed. Marion County Board Secretary Lori Linder will make the changes and distribute the amended copy.

Lastly, Mr. Murray announced that the County does have a website available providing Marion County's general information.

Sub-Committee Codification: Brock Waggoner

Sub-Committee Codification Chairman Brock Waggoner was absent; therefore, County & Community Committee Chairman Tracy Murray conveyed that documents remain in the process of being prepared and forwarded to American Legal Publishing.

Sub-Committee Broadband:

County & Community Chairman Tracy Murray stated that there was nothing new to report.

ROAD & BRIDGE COMMITTEE: CO CHAIRMEN: ADAM SMITH & TIMOTHY MCCANCE

Approval of Bills: \$444,185.50 David Iossi made a motion to approve bills and was seconded by Tracy Murray. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Road & Bridge Committee – Continued:

Co-Chairman Adam Smith conveyed that new information regarding the Resolutions on the Agenda was received. He reiterated that Marilea Snow resigned from the position of Acting County Engineer. After speaking with former Marion County Engineer Mike McCormick and the IDOT Engineer Josh Hensley consideration of appointing Board Secretary Lori Linder as the Acting County Engineer was suggested. State’s Attorney questioned if there would be a conflict with Mrs. Linder’s husband being an employee of the Marion County Highway Department. After a brief discussion, a decision to obtain proper clarification was made. In addition, a conversation regarding compensation for the Acting County Engineer occurred. A Special Personnel/Labor Relations and Road & Bridge Committees Meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 31, 2025 at 4:00 P.M. The Resolution 2025-08: Addendum to Resolution 2024-115 – Road Use Agreement (Marion County) and an Ameren Resolution will be addressed at that time also.

Lastly, Mr. Smith recognized Marilea Snow for her additional work at the Highway Department during this period of not employing a Highway Engineer. His suggestion of an additional \$1,000.00 per month will also be discussed at the Meeting on Friday.

PERSONNEL/LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN: ADAM SMITH

Personnel/Labor Relations Committee Chairman Adam Smith stated that the Committee has been conducting combined meetings with Road & Bridge; therefore, there was nothing new to report.

DECENNIAL COMMITTEE:

Full Board Committee Chairman Steven Whritenour stated that there was nothing new to report.

LIQUOR COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN STEVEN WHRITENOUR:

Chairman Steven Whritenour stated that Iron Saddle Ranch renewed their liquor license.

Nothing further to come before the Board, Tyson McHenry made a motion to adjourn with mileage and per diem and second by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

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

Time: 8:58 P.M.

Approved: _____

Date: _____

 _____

Steve Fox, Marion County Clerk and

Clerk of Marion County Board

1-20-25

Full Board Meeting

Guests

William L. Skell	Bill Hunt
Harv Hunt	Ron Wood
Tommy Foutch	RICHARD JONES
Ron Pyles	EMILY HASSEBERCK
Kenneth Hopkins	ANGUS DISS
Chad Fyfe	Cheryl (Fisher)
Robert Hill	Ellen Bourger
Diana Hiltbrad	Mammy Burt
Yvonne Muehlstein	Spice Lynn - Wabe/Wala
Jay W	Cheri Canley
Archie	Walt C.
Landy Hemper	Stephen & Gretel
Jeanne Dumahue	Tony Angelone
Shirley Barber	Marion Crandy ESDA
Maria Dumahue	
Harlow	
Web Reed	
Clark Hill	
Sheila Jeanne Criss	
Karna Dunham	
Karl Dunham	
Matt & Sue Fjelskatter	
Teen Cree	
Louis L. Fogleman	