

MARION COUNTY FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

6:30 P.M.

Marion County Courthouse, Room 301

Meeting convened at 6:32 P.M. with Debbie Smith, County Board Chairwoman, leading Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Invocation presented by Claude Howell.

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

RECOGNITION OF GUEST

See attached list.

THOSE WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Guest Josh Dunahee addressed the Board with his concerns regarding the Tax Levy and the Generator for the Marion County Courthouse. He referenced the article that was posted on the WJBD Radio website. Marion County Board Chairwoman conveyed that these items will be discussed during the Finance & Insurance portion of this Meeting.

Continuing with items on the Agenda, Kaskaskia College President George Evans distributed informational materials prior to his presentation regarding the college's economic impact to Marion County and the additional counties it serves. He began with a brief introduction of himself. He followed up with a discussion regarding the college and its added income of \$132.7 million for the college district for the fiscal year 2023. He welcomed everyone to visit the college campus and/or attend the College's Board Meetings that are held on the third Monday of the month. Additional information can be found on the website www.kaskasia.edu.

Next, Butch Mathus, Mayor of Wamac, Illinois was asked to speak regarding a letter addressed to the Marion County Board (see attachment) concerning Animal Control in incorporated areas. An additional 10 mayors were in attendance. He expressed that Marion County as a whole, not just the municipalities, is responsible for finding a solution, and he had concerns with respect to the public's safety. In conclusion, he commended the County & Community Committee Members for their continuation of finding a resolution for this serious matter.

Lastly, Marion County resident Elisa Hourigan voiced her concerns regarding financial matters with the County. The first item that she addressed was the delay and incompleteness of the FY 2022 and FY 2023 Audits. A brief narrative transpired. Next, she spoke about an Ameresco presentation in 2021 and the usage of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds. She conveyed her disappointment in that the window repairs and replacement were not considered a priority at that time when funds were available. Chairwoman Debbie Smith politely intercepted her presentation by stating that there is a 5-minute time limit for each guest. Board Member Brock Waggoner stated "Point of Order," and the reason for it.

Mrs. Smith responded "Point Noted," and allowed Ms. Hourigan to continue for 2 additional minutes. During this time, she reiterated that the ARPA funds should have been used for the window project instead of currently relying on the County's citizens to pay for it.

A brief interaction occurred between Chairwoman Debbie Smith and Board Member Brock Waggoner regarding the time limit for a guest.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

David Iossi made a Motion to approve the Full Board Meeting Minutes dated November 12, 2024 and was seconded by Christopher Krupp. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

COUNTY CLERK STEVE FOX CORRESPONDENCE

Marion County Clerk Steve Fox conveyed that a letter was received from Darlene Chapman, President/Finance Director of The ILLINOISSouth Tourism dba Discover Downstate Illinois regarding the appointment/reappointment of Members of their Administrative Board. Confirmation was previously received from Ben Stratemeyer and Tabitha Meador regarding their reappointments. Steve Whitenour made a motion to reappoint Ben Stratemeyer and Tabitha Meador to The ILLINOISSouth Tourism Administrative Board and was seconded by David Iossi. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Mr. Fox continued with an email request from Melissa Mallow, the Marion County Health Department Administrator, regarding the appointment of a Marion County Board Representative for the Board of Health replacing Dr. Creighton Engel whose term expires on 11/30/24. Dr. Michael Douglas has confirmed his interest in this position. As a request for a Motion was being made by Board Chairwoman Debbie Smith, Board Member Brock Waggoner stated "Point of Order" and continued to give his reasoning for it. Mrs. Smith responded "So noted" and this matter was tabled until Dr. Douglas is sworn in as a Marion County Board Member on December 2, 2024.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE & INSURANCE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER KRUPP

Finance & Insurance Committee Chairman Christopher Krupp began by stating that a Combined Closed Personnel/Labor Relations and Finance & Insurance Committees Meeting was conducted on Thursday, November 21, 2024.

Next, Committee Chairman Christopher Krupp stated that the FY 2025 Budget is still in the process of being completed. He conveyed that at this time there is a deficit of \$264,860.00, but that additional line items are being evaluated. The County has already missed the deadline for the FY 2025 Budget. The goal is to have it completed and presented to the Board Members on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 Full Board Meeting and allow it to lay for 15 days prior to its final approval. A thorough discussion transpired after questioning from Board Member Tyson McHenry regarding the draft Budgets that were previously distributed. Board Member Steven Whritenour suggested scheduling a workshop with the

Finance & Insurance Committee – Continued:

Board Members and Elected Officials to allow everyone to review the Budget prior to approval. Following an in-depth discussion, a decision was made to invite a Representative from Bellwether to a Finance & Insurance Committee Meeting to be tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 5:00 P.M. to answer any questions with respect to the Budget. Chairwoman Debbie Smith commended Christopher Krupp for his work on this vital project.

Next, an update on the FY 2022 Audit was presented. Mr. Krupp conveyed that WIPFLI has lost 2 of their representatives that were addressing this matter. In addition, he had been notified on Thursday, November 21, 2024 that the Agency's goal is to have the FY 2022 Audit "substantially completed" by the Holidays in December, 2024, and the process of completing the FY 2023 Audit will follow immediately.

Lastly, Committee Chairman Christopher Krupp provided information regarding the FY 2025 Levy, and that there will not be a change with the 3.4% Levy that was previously approved.

BUILDING & HISTORICAL COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN CREIGHTON ENGEL:

Building & Historical Committee Chairman Creighton Engel made a Motion to approve the Building & Historical Committee Meeting Minutes dated November 18, 2024 and was seconded by Deborah Reed. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next, Dr. Engel made a Motion to approve Ordinance 2024-05: Sale of Marion County Surplus Property and was seconded by David Iossi. Prior to Roll call Vote, Board Member Tyson McHenry had questions which were answered regarding the excess items to be sold. He continued to inquire if a different Agency could be considered for the Audits. An apology for not responding earlier was given by Chairwoman Debbie Smith. She stated that this is not an option and that other Agencies denied Marion County their services due to Marion County having Fund Accounts. Dr. Engel continued with the Motion on the floor. Roll Call Vote: 12 ayes – 2 nays (Brock Waggoner and Tyson McHenry). Motion passed.

A brief discussion occurred regarding the TOP Electric & Lighting Bid for the Emergency Backup Generator and UPS Electrical Project (\$326,500.00). Creighton Engel made a Motion to table this Bid and was seconded by Steven Whritenour. Prior to Voice Vote, Board Chairwoman Debbie Smith reiterated that a \$900,000.00 loan was previously approved to cover the costs for this project and the window project. Committee Chairman Dr. Engel addressed the comments mentioned earlier regarding not having the windows replaced when ARPA Funds were available. In addition, Marion County Supervisor of Assessments Mark Miller clarified that the windows' project cost is not \$900,000.00, but is \$403,000.00 which includes windows for the Marion County Courthouse and the Public Service Building. January, 2025 was given as an estimated time of when the replacement is to begin. Guest Josh Dunahee voiced his concerns regarding the Public not having adequate knowledge of the generator and backup project. Chairman Dr. Engel and Board Member Tracy Murray provided clarification. Continuing, Board Chairwoman Mrs. Smith conveyed that she had contacted other County Courthouses and reported that several have an emergency backup generator at their judicial facility. She reiterated that Tiffany Shicker Marion County Circuit Clerk had originally brought this before the Board for their consideration. Mr. Dunahee continued to speak and was gavelled down by Chairwoman Mrs. Smith. Board Member Sharon Woodward indicated that Judge Mark Stedelin was present. Board Member Brock Waggoner raised a Point of Order and prompted the Board to address the Motion to table the bid from TOP Electric. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN STEVE WHRITENOUR

Law Enforcement Committee Chairman Steven Whritenour stated that Sheri Barter, Marion County ESDA Coordinator was absent.

Mr. Whritenour allowed Sheriff Kevin Cripps to present the Marion County Sheriff's Office Report. Sheriff Cripps announced that his Department has currently responded to 631 service calls during the month. The Jail is presently housing 63 inmates; 36 Federal and 1 Juvenile. He reported that they have had 85 inmates booked into their facility this month. Lastly, he conveyed that he has obtained a grant to assist with in house training to help lower expenses.

COUNTY & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN BILL HENSON

County & Community Committee Chairman Bill Henson requested a Motion to approve the County & Community Committee Meeting Minutes dated November 12, 2024. Committee Member Tracy Murray made a Motion and was seconded by Committee Member Brock Waggoner. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays.

Next, Mr. Henson addressed the Christmas Gift Cards (from Farm Fresh Market) for the Marion County Employees. He stated that the part time employees could receive \$25.00 gift cards and the full time employees \$50.00 gift cards from the Marion County Board. The total this year's total is \$7,900.00 (LY \$7,575.00). Christopher Krupp made a Motion to approve the purchase of the gift cards and was seconded by Sharon Woodward. Prior to Roll call Vote, Board member Deborah Reed questioned if funds were available for this. A brief discussion transpired. Roll Call Vote: 11 ayes – 3 nays (Brock Waggoner, Deborah Reed, and Tyson McHenry). Motion passed.

Committee Chairman Bill Henson presented Ken Ferguson, Marion County Animal Control Administrator's report. Mr. Henson recited that 2 dogs were picked up and 13 dogs were returned to their owners after they were located during the month.

Lastly, Mr. Henson conveyed that a County & Community Committee Meeting was conducted prior to this evening's Full Board Meeting. He stated that the main topic was Marion County Animal Control. He indicated that several mayors were in attendance. He communicated that he was pleased with the meeting and expressed that several options for moving forward were discussed. In addition, no action was taken on increasing taxes in the Marion County Municipalities.

Sub-Committee Codification: Brock Waggoner

Sub-Committee Codification Chairman Brock Waggoner stated that there is nothing new to report. He did follow up with the comment that after the new Committees assigned that he would like to meet and discuss future plans for this project.

ROAD & BRIDGE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN: STEVEN BRADLEY

Road & Bridge Committee Chairman Steven Bradley stated that there was nothing new to report.

911/ESDA COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN STEVEN WHRITENOUR

911/ESDA Committee Chairman Steven Whritenour made a Motion to approve the 911/ESDA Committee Meeting Minutes dated November 12, 2024 and was seconded by Bill Henson. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

In conclusion, Mr. Whritenour conveyed that at the next Full Board Meeting he will be addressing an invoice that was issued to the City of Kinmundy. It was inadvertently omitted from this Agenda.

PERSONNEL/LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN: ADAM SMITH

Personnel/Labor Relations Committee Chairman Adam Smith stated that there was nothing new to report.

BROADBAND COMMITTEE: CHAIRWOMAN: DEBORAH REED

Broadband Chairman Deborah Reed stated that there was nothing new to report.

DECENNIAL COMMITTEE:

Full Board Committee Chairwoman Debbie Smith stated that there was nothing new to report.

LIQUOR COMMITTEE: CHAIRWOMAN DEBBIE SMITH:

Chairwoman Debbie Smith stated that there were not any renewals of liquor license during the month.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

911

Marion County Board Representative Steven Whritenour stated that there was nothing new to report.

708 MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Marion County Board Representative Bill Henson stated that a meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2024 at 5:30 P.M. at the Alternative Learning Academy in Centralia. They will be celebrating Christmas at that time. He welcomed everyone to attend.

MARION COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Marion County Board Representative Creighton Engel stated that he was unable to attend the last meeting in September. His term will be expiring on November 30, 2024. He conveyed his appreciation for serving on this Board and commended Melissa Mallow, Marion County Health Department Administrator. In addition, he expressed his gratitude to Marion County and its Board Members for allowing him to serve on the Board during the past 12 years.

Reports from Special Committees – Continued:

SCIRPD

Marion County Board Chairwoman Debbie Smith stated that there was nothing new to report.

MARION COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Marion County Board Representatives Steven Whritenour attended the meeting on November 21, 2024. He conveyed that the organization was recently evaluated through a Federal Audit and received the highest score recorded for the Marion County Housing Authority.

WIB (WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD)

Marion County Board Representative Deb Reed stated that there will be a meeting in December, but she has not received notification of when it will be conducted.

ENTERPRISE ZONE

Marion County Board Representatives Christopher Krupp and Adam Smith stated that they appeared for a Meeting but, one was not conducted because of the attendance.

BCMw

Marion County Board Representative Adam Smith stated that there will be a meeting conducted in December, 2024. Board Member Brock Waggoner questioned the status of the Project Bread. Mr. Smith conveyed that he is not aware of any additional information other than the media's posts.

Prior to the adjournment of the Meeting, Chairwoman Debbie Smith announced that the Salem Tourism Board purchased Christmas decorations for the County Courthouse lawn. She invited everyone to attend the initial lighting of the display scheduled for Friday, November 9, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.

In conclusion, Mrs. Smith presented plaques to the departing Board Members following the November elections: Dr. Creighton Engel – 12 years of service, Bill Henson – 8 years of service, and Steven Bradley – 6 years of service.

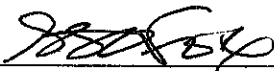
Nothing further to come before the Board, Steven Bradley made a motion to adjourn with mileage and per diem and second by Bill Henson. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next Full Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.

Time: 8:02 P.M.

Approved: _____ ✓

Date: 12-10-24



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

