

MARION COUNTY SPECIAL FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024

5:00 P.M.

MARION COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM 302

Meeting convened at 5:00 P.M. with Steven Whritenour, County Board Chairman, leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Invocation presented by Marion County Board Member Brock Waggoner.

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

RECOGNITION OF GUEST

See attached list.

THOSE WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Marion County Lead Public Defender Craig Griffin voiced his concerns regarding the Board's decision to cut the FY 2025 Budget by 10%. He explained that contracts for his office have previously been signed and expenditures have already taken place. In addition, he presented information with respect to how he has already decreased several items and that he has always been very respectful while working with the Board on his Budget. Attorney Griffin was extremely disappointed that the only way he found out about the cut was through a Facebook post. He stated that it was also demoralizing that the Office Holders were emailed a copy of the Budget with the 10% cut only a few hours prior to this evening's meeting.

Marion County Circuit Clerk Tiffany Schicker communicated her apprehension and other issues regarding the 10% cut to the FY 2025 Budget. She shared that the Circuit Clerk's office is responsible for meeting legal Mandates of the Illinois Compiled Statutes and specific requirements under the Supreme Court Rules. She asserted that her office entails adequate funding for these matters, and for the Board to reconsider the Budget's reduction.

Next, Lieutenant Anthony Decker, representative for Marion County Sheriff Kevin Cripps addressed the Board. He conveyed that a conversation with Board Chairman Steven Whritenour, Sheriff Cripps, and himself had taken place earlier in the day. He emphasized that some cuts in the Sheriff's Budget were made to funds that are already apportioned. Lieutenant Decker relayed that this is a major concern for Sheriff Cripps.

Marion County Board Chairman Steven Whritenour continued with the Special Full Board Meeting and contacted Justin Greeley from Bellwether, LLC. via telephone. Mr. Greeley presented a description of his concerns regarding the proposed 10% cut to the FY 2025 Budget. He stated that there may be legal issues from the cut to some of the line items in the future. He continued and explained his reasoning for submitting a second option with the 10% cut per fund. In addition, a third option was submitted with a

2.28% cut to balance the Budget. A thorough discussion transpired. Mr. Greeley was available to respond to all questions and concerns from the Board Members.

Budget Committee Chairman Brock Waggoner declared that the Budget with the 10% cut will be reevaluated in 3 months to monitor the County Elected Officials' expenses and make adjustments if needed. Another concern he had was with the FY 2022 and FY 2023 audits not being completed and Marion County being on the Stop Pay List again.

County Board Member Tim McCance voiced his regret for voting for the 10% cut during the previous Meeting. He expressed his disapproval of how it was addressed and presented. He felt that the Elected Officials should have had more time to examine their portions of the Budget.

Chairman Steve Whritenour directed Finance Committee Chairman Christopher Krupp to explain the entire Budget process for the FY 2025 Budget. Justin Greeley provided additional information, and a further conversation occurred.

Christopher Krupp made a Motion to approve the 2.28% balance cut for the Provisional FY 2025 Budget and was seconded by Deborah Reed. Prior to the Roll Call Vote, Marion County State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth stated that the County's Code does not allow reopening of the Budget after it has been passed as Mr. Waggoner implied. Attorney Hudspeth and Brock Waggoner debated this matter. Afterwards, questions regarding the motion were clarified to Judith Meeks-Hakim. Following, Adam Smith communicated his disapproval of lack of notice to the Elected Officials regarding the cuts and encouraged the Board to respectfully work with them. Steven Whritenour conveyed that during the 15-day time that the approved Provisional Budget lays, the Elected Officials will then have time to review their Budget and make changes if necessary. Debbie Smith provided a brief description of how the Contingency Fund was used previously to help balance the past years' Budgets. An additional discussion regarding the current amount of monies in the Contingency Fund and during the previous years occurred amongst the Board Members, State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth, and Justin Greeley. Steven Whritenour stated that an All Day Budget Committee Meeting will be conducted on Monday, December 23, 2024 with the Elected Officials to discuss the Provisional FY 2025 Budget. Board Members Sharon Woodward and Adam Smith conveyed that this process of wanting the Elected Officials to reevaluate and adjust their Budgets during the Christmas Season is unwarranted. Chairman Steven Whritenour scheduled an All Day Budget Committee Meeting with the Elected Officials for Monday, December 23, 2024 prior to the Full Board Meeting to discuss the Provisional FY 2025 Budget at their allotted time. Next, Roll Call Vote: 11 ayes – 4 nays (Sharon Woodward, Tim McCance, Adam Smith, and Debbie Smith). Motion passed.

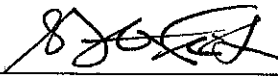
A Special Full Board Meeting will be conducted on Monday, December 30, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. to pass the FY 2025 Budget.

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

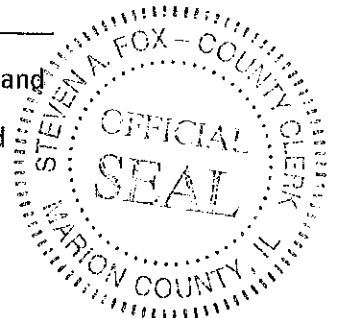
Time: 8:43 P.M.

Approved: _____ ✓

Date: 1/28/25



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



12-13-24

Special Full Board Meeting

Guests

Craig W Griffin

Rebeca Prude

Debbie Smith

Bill Smith

Shawn Woodward

Deb Reed

Ray Reed

Taylor Guern

MARK MILLER -

Jim Pelt

Michelle Phelps

Randy Schultz

Blond Schultz

Jeffery Ginn

Jim Smith

SHERRY WALSH

David Iossi