

MARION COUNTY FULL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

6:30 P.M.

Marion County Courthouse, Room 302

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

Invocation presented by Marion County Coroner Claude Howell.

Roll Call taken by Lori Linder, Marion County Board Secretary. Present were Tracy Murray, Jack Riley, Deb Reed, Tim McCance, Josh Dunahee, Steven Whritenour, Cody Rose, Judith Meeks-Hakim, Chris Krupp, Adam Smith, and David Iossi. Absent was Brock Waggoner (arrived late), Sharon Woodward, Dr. Mike Douglas (arrived late), and Debbie Smith.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST: See attached list.

THOSE WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Wyett Colclasure, President of the Marion County Genealogical and Historical Society presented a presentation regarding the recognition of the United States 250th Birthday. Mark Decker, Bryan-Bennett Library Trustee and Luke Purcell, representative of the Salem Historical Commission were also present. Mr. Colclasure distributed 2 handouts (see attachments) to each Board Member. He encouraged the Members of the Board and Marion County to become involved with events during the year. Adam Smith and Deb Reed will follow through with the Marion County Board's involvement.

Next, Guest Neal Smith, owner of Little Egypt Golf Cars commended the Board for ensuring that the issues in the Marion County Assessment Study will be addressed. He continued by stating that "nothing has changed in Mark Miller's office." Mr. Smith provided information with respect to a new business being built and having the same issues with the taxes on that building.

Following, Board Chairman Mr. Whritenour introduced Rob Jackson, City of Centralia Economic Development Director. Mr. Jackson previously provided information regarding Resolution 2025-115: Marion County Board Supporting the City of Centralia's Request for a 12-Year Extension to Their Tax Increment Financing District #3 to the Board in this Meeting's Packet. A brief explanation was given, and questions were responded to by himself and Luke Eastin, SCIRPDC Executive Director. Board Chairman Steve Whritenour entertained a Motion to approve Resolution 2025-115: Marion County Board Supporting the City of Centralia's Request for a 12-Year Extension to Their Tax Increment Financing District #3. Adam Smith made the Motion and was seconded by Chris Krupp. Roll Call Vote: 10 ayes – 1 nay (Josh Dunahee). Motion passed.

MARION COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN STEVE WHRITENOUR

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour began by entertaining a Motion to approve the Ordinance 2025-14: Countywide Appointments. He stated that the time frames for receiving the notices

had been added to the Ordinance. A brief discussion transpired. Adam Smith made the Motion and was seconded by Chris Krupp. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed. A copy will be distributed to the Marion County entities.

Prior to Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour announcing the Illinois Department of Revenue figures, he relayed that a Special Full Board Meeting will be scheduled for January 5, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. with a Closed Personnel portion. Mark Miller, Marion County Supervisor of Assessments will be presenting his response to the Marion County Assessment Study.

Illinois Department of Revenue:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
¼%	\$110,500.15	\$81,951.15
1%	\$71,056.44	\$37,393.50

Appointments:

None at this time.

VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Marion County Board Member Chris Krupp stated that the Commission is preparing to hire an individual and encouraged anyone interested to apply.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None at this time.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER KRUPP:

Finance Committee Chairman Christopher Krupp began by opening the floor to Marion County State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth and Marion County Treasurer Gary Purcell. Both gentlemen provided detailed information regarding the Delinquent Tax Sale Resolutions presented to the Board for approval. Attorney Hudspeth voiced that this procedure can be done. All questions were responded to.

Next, Chris Krupp made an Omnibus Motion to approve Resolutions 2025-63 thru 2025-107 and was seconded by Tracy Murray. Voice Vote: 6 Ayes – 5 nays (Tim McCance, Josh Dunahee, Cody Rose, Judith Meeks-Hakim, and Adam Smith). Motion passed.

Finance Committee -- Continued:

Following, Chris Krupp made an Omnibus Motion to approve Resolutions 2025-112 thru 2025-114 and was seconded by Deb Reed. Voice Vote: 6 Ayes -- 5 nays (Tim McCance, Josh Dunahee, Cody Rose, Judith Meeks-Hakim, and Adam Smith). Motion passed.

Lastly, Committee Chairman Mr. Krupp conveyed that the FY 2024 Audit draft has been completed with the same findings as last year. When the FY 2024 Audit is completed, WIPFLI will begin working on the FY 2025 Audit.

BUDGET COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN BROCK WAGGONER:

Budget Committee Chairman Brock Waggoner was absent; therefore, a report was not given.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN DAVID IOSSI:

Insurance Committee Chairman David Iossi stated that there was nothing new to report.

BUILDING & HISTORICAL COMMITTEE – CHAIRWOMAN DEBORAH REED:

Building & Historical Committee Chairwoman Deb Reed began by announcing that the Committee is beginning to explore the options for a new phone system for the County. The current contract with CTS Solutions Technology, LLC will expire in October, 2026. A considerable amount of issues has been occurring recently, especially at the Marion County Sheriff's Department. Committee Chairwoman Mrs. Reed stated that she and Lieutenant Anthony Decker had met with CTS representatives to discuss these matters. Lieutenant Decker presented an explanation of the current issues and what the intentions are to rectify them. At this time, CTS is willing to provide a temporary solution for no charge. Sheriff Cripps provided additional information. This subject will continue to be addressed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: CHAIRWOMAN SHARON WOODWARD:

Law Enforcement Committee Chairwoman Sharon Woodward was absent; therefore, County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour oversaw the Committee's portion of the Meeting. He began by allowing Marion County Sheriff Kevin Cripps to present his monthly report. Sheriff Cripps stated that the Department handled 669 calls for Service (average 30.4 calls per day), has had 39 Prisoner transports, 55 Inmates have been booked into the jail, and 7,028 meals were prepared and served (average cost of \$1.31 each). As of 12/16/25, there were 72 inmates with 36 Federal inmates along with 2 Juveniles in custody. He had also been notified that the Commissary Audit FY 2024 had been completed and the Jail was found to be in compliance with all sectors of the Audit.

Next, Marion County Coroner Claude Howell presented his November, 2025 monthly report. He communicated that had been 41 deaths (38 Coroner cases and 3 Medical); 12 related to Cancer and 1 autopsy was performed.

Following, Sub-Committee Marion County 911/ESDA Liaison Cody Rose conveyed that interviews for an ESDA Coordinator and the Assistant Coordinators were conducted prior to this Meeting. Current Coordinator Sherri Barter had nothing new to report.

COUNTY & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN TRACY MURRAY:

County & Community Committee Chairman Tracy Murray allowed Ken Ferguson, Marion County Animal Control Administrator to present his report. Mr. Ferguson began by conveying that 4 dogs were homed this week, a few were returned to their owners, and there were 2 dog bite cases. He continued to express that there are several "great" dogs available for adoption.

Committee Chairman Mr. Murray emphasized the importance to having people's pets spayed or neutered. Mr. Ferguson then relayed that a prior donation of \$5,000.00 was received and is to be used strictly for spays/neuters.

Lastly, Committee Chairman Murray stated that the County's purchase of a new facility is nearing finalization. In addition, he communicated that there is a need for volunteers and for anyone interested to contact Mr. Ferguson. Mr. Murray expressed that the Marion County Illinois Animal Control Face Book page has significantly helped the County and especially with animals finding their "fur ever" homes.

Sub-Committee Codification: Brock Waggoner

Sub Committee Chairman Brock Waggoner was absent; therefore, there was nothing new to report.

Sub-Committee Broadband:

Nothing new to report.

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

Road & Bridge Committee Co-Chairman Tim McCance began by addressing a response letter from Marion County Highway Department Engineer Alex Kreke to the Centralia Township regarding the removal of a tree from Walnut Hill Road. Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour stated that this item was not listed on the Agenda, but will be placed on the Full Board Meeting Agenda in January, 2026 for further discussion.

Next, Highway Engineer Alex Kreke had provided a written report (see attachment) prior to the Full Board Meeting and was included in the Packet. He reviewed the items included in the report.

Following, Committee Co-Chairman Adam Smith shared information with respect to Resolution 2025-110: 2026 County Engineer Salary (\$141,200.00). He then made a Motion to approve Resolution: 2025-110 and was seconded by Jack Riley. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

In continuation, Engineer Kreke communicated details regarding Resolution 2025-109: County Federal-Aid Matching Tax Fund. Adam Smith made a Motion to approve Resolution: 2025-111 and was seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Lastly, Engineer Kreke provided an update on the roof repairs/renovation at his facility. The office area is 99% completed and is only lacking the guttering. The contractors are progressing with the barrel portion of the building and it is anticipated to be finished very soon. The weather has been a factor in the delay.

PERSONNEL/LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN: ADAM SMITH

Personnel/Labor Relations Committee Chairman Adam Smith conveyed that a Combined Personnel/Labor Relations and Law Enforcement Committees Meeting and a Combined Personnel/Labor Relations and County & Community Committees Meeting had been previously taken place. During each Meeting, interviews were conducted.

LIQUOR LICENSE COMMITTEE – STEVE WHRITENOUR

No Liquor Licenses were renewed.

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 Judith Meeks-Hakim stated that a Meeting was held on December 4, 2025 and the Board has new Member. She shared that the Alternative Learning Center had sold \$3.00/bag of clothing and generated a little over \$2,000.00. An additional sale will be taking place in the Spring, 2026.

MARION COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Marion County Board Representative Dr. Mike Douglas was absent; therefore, no report was given.

SCIRPD

Marion County Board Representative Cody Rose stated that he has received the Orientation packet and the Meeting schedules from the SCIRPD Commission.

MARION COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Marion County Board Representative Judith Meeks-Hakim stated that a meeting was not conducted in November. The next Meeting is scheduled for December 30, 2025 at 12:00 P.M. at the Centralia Chamber of Commerce.

WIB (WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD)

Marion County Board Representative Debbie Smith Was absent; therefore, no report was given.

ENTERPRISE ZONE

Marion County Board Representatives Adam Smith and Chris Krupp stated that a meeting may have been conducted, but had not received notification.

BCMw

Marion County Board Representative Adam Smith stated that their Christmas party was held the night before and was catered by Cracker Barrel. The next meeting is scheduled for February, 2026.

SIEDA

Marion County Board Representative Dr. Mike Douglas was absent; therefore, no report was given.

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour entertained a Motion to go into Closed Session. Chris Krupp made the Motion and was seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Marion County Board Members Dr. Mike Douglas and Brock Waggoner entered the room.

A 5-minute break took place.

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour entertained a Motion to open into Closed Session. David Iossi made the Motion and was seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Closed Session began at 7:57 P.M.

Judith Meeks-Hakim made a Motion to come out of Closed Session and was seconded by Cody Rose. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Came out of Closed Session at 8:43 P.M.

No action was taken after the Closed Session.

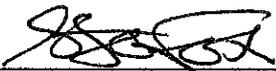
Nothing further to come before the Board, Chairman Mr. Whritenour entertained a Motion to adjourn with mileage and per diem. Chris Krupp made the Motion and was seconded by Brock Waggoner. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

The next Full Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 6:30 P.M.

Time: 8:44 P.M.

Approved: _____ ✓

Date: 2-10-26



Steve Fox, Marion County Clerk and

12-16-25

Full Board Meeting

Guests

Agent Barty - Marion County ESOA
Wesley Cole Larum
Z - Co - Sheriff
Anthony Decker
Ivan Reed
Charles How
John King

+40

“America 250” – Marion County Celebrates!

The U.S. Semiquincentennial

1776-2026



America250.org



IL250.org

Mark Decker, Bryan-Bennett Library Trustee

Myron Lloyd, Chairman, Salem Historical Commission

Luke Purcell, Salem Historical Commission

Wyett Colclasure, President, Marion County Genealogical & Historical Society

History of our area: Native Tribes, French, British, America (NW Territory, Virginia, Indiana)



General Francis Marion (“The Swamp Fox”) – Revolutionary War – County Namesake - Zadok Casey named (His dad, Randolph Casey, served with Gen. Marion and was highly regarded.)

George Rogers Clark (“Conqueror of the Old Northwest”) – Captured Fort Kaskaskia & Vincennes
Old U.S. Route 50 follows the path he took across Illinois. (Sign outside of Flora heading west.)



Heritage Day Event - Signers of the Declaration of Independence

Two Dollar Bill - back side portrait ([Descendants of the Declaration of Independence](#)) Genealogy Project to identify residents who are descended from the Signers. On June 11, 1776, the Continental Congress appointed the Committee of Five – Thomas Jefferson from Virginia, Benjamin Franklin from Pennsylvania, John Adams from Massachusetts, Roger Sherman from Connecticut, and Robert Livingston from New York—to draft a declaration of independence from British colonial rule.

Commemorative Coin

Marion County 2023 example (Farm Bureau)



front



back

Possible Activities:

- Special Tours of the Museum & Bryan Home; Centralia Museum; (Trains, Farm Equipment, Household Items, etc. from 1776)
- Community Dinner with Speakers (Food & Desserts served from the 1776 era, Music performed by the schools from the 1776 era); DAR, SAR, Civic Organizations (Shriners, Elks, Odd Fellows, Ministerial Alliance, etc.)
- Partner with other established activities (Salem 4th of July, Centralia 4th of July, Antique Power Days, Kinmundy Log Cabin Days, Little Egypt Festival & Parade, etc.)
- Essay contest for Students (Winners from each School in the County)
- Art Contest for Students (Winners from each School – Display at Courthouse)
- Photo Contest (Students, Adults – Winners from every town – Display at Courthouse)
- Sponsor a Time Capsule to be buried on the County Lawn with a stone marker (i.e., Bicentennial Marker next to the Johnny Appleseed Tree)
- Christmas Ornament, Key Chain, Commemorative Coin (i.e., Farm Bureau Coin for Bicentennial)

*****Suggest funding for activities come from grants, private donors, and ticket sales to cover costs by the people who want to participate. (This is how we did it for the Illinois Bicentennial activities. (i.e., the Lincoln Portrait in the Courthouse paid for by several donors; the Johnny Appleseed tree donated by the Salem Odd Fellows Lodge; Collectors Day Event at the Library; Bicentennial "Birthday Cake" Ceremony/Reception at the Courthouse)***

Communities

Illinois America 250 Communities share information and involve their communities in 250th Anniversary events and celebrations. The Illinois 250 communities are organized by region, to correspond with the upcoming Illinois America 250 Passport.

Want to become a 250 Community? Fill out the form below. After review and approval, your organization will receive the Community Toolkit, which includes a blank Resolution for community leadership to fill out, and examples of how to get involved.

Become a 250 Community

Illinois America 250 invites you to take part in the journey to 250 and pledge to become an Illinois America 250 Community. IL250 Communities will be featured on the website, invited to monthly partner calls, and receive planning and educational resources. **Submissions are processed once per week.**

After pledging, leadership can issue a resolution using this form IL250 Community Resolution.

The Illinois America 250 Commission has selected **three themes** for the 250th commemoration:

- **Power of Place**
- **We the People**
- **Doing History**

The **priorities** for the Illinois America 250 Commission are:

- **Promoting local commemorations**
- **Uplifting local stories and places**
- **Recognizing service**
- **Youth engagement**

Selected Basics of Illinois 250

Illinois America 250 invites businesses, nonprofits, educational, cultural, and civic organizations to get involved and commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

<https://www.il250.org/partners#partnerform>

Organization Partner Form

Organization Partners are based in Illinois and agree to a non-commercial partnership with IL250. After completing the **Illinois America 250 Promotional Partner Form**, upload your organization's logo [here](#) or email it directly to us at IL250@ILhumanities.org. Submissions are processed weekly.

Thank you for your commitment to making this commemoration a meaningful, inclusive, and inspiring celebration of Illinois' role in our nation's story!

Commitments(required)

As a partner, our organization commits to supporting the Illinois America 250th Commission through one or more of the following (please check all that apply):

- Sharing Commission announcements and program opportunities with our community
- Create commemorative (free) public programs or events
- Creating commemorative (paid/ticketed) public programs or events
- Providing financial support to support Illinois America 250th Commission programs
- Participation in Illinois: United in Service

Road and Bridge Committee

12/09/2025

Discussion items

- ❖ County Highway Department Internal
 - 2026 County Engineer Salary
 - Resolution 2025-110
 - General Maintenance 2026 Programs
 - Resolution 2025-111
- ❖ Operations
 - Day to Day
 - Mowing completed for the year
 - Snow removal
 - Equipment maintenance
 - Patching
 - Equipment
 - 2026 Budget passed
 - Plow truck
 - Patch hopper
 - Trailer
 - Auction items
 - No discussion
- ❖ Misc.
 - Renting out Ground near RP lumber