

MARION COUNTY FULL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 25, 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 Wayne Walker.

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

RECOGNITION OF GUEST

See attached list.

THOSE WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Marion County State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth was scheduled to go into Closed Session to discuss Opioid Litigation, but accepted the postponement of his discussion.

Sidonie Shira, Apex Clean Energy Development Manager, presented a PowerPoint presentation. A thorough description of their equipment and services was explained. A proposed project location is off of Dickey Pond Road in Vernon, Illinois. Previous correspondence was issued verifying that Marion County does not have any codes, zoning or permitting requirements in the Non-Incorporated Areas. The Charlottesville, Virginia company's financial advisers are requesting an addition Resolution approved by Marion County. Questions from the Board Members were welcomed and answered. David Iossi made a Motion to approve Resolution 2025-23: Resolution Confirming the Construction and Operation of Swamp Fox Solar as a Prior Non-Conforming Use in Marion County and was seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Roll Call Vote: 12 ayes – 1 nay (Tyson McHenry). Motion passed.

Next, Robert White had questions regarding the solar farm projects in Marion County. Board Chairman Steve Whritenour clarified that any questions will not be answered during this time, but can be forwarded to him via email or written correspondence in which he will respond. He voiced an additional concern was the unavoidable bridge replacement on Penrod Road in Omega Township. He would like the County to consider taking back ownership of this road.

Lastly, Josh Dunahee commended the Marion County Board and the Elected Officials for their diligence during the last few months.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

David Iossi made a Motion to approve the Full Board Meeting Minutes dated February 25, 2025 and was seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

MARION COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN STEVEN WHRITENOUR

Marion County Board Chairman stated that there was nothing new to report.

COUNTY CLERK STEVE FOX CORRESPONDENCE

Marion County Clerk Steve Fox was absent.

Marion County State’s Attorney Tim Hudspeth conveyed that a letter was received from South Central Illinois Mass Transit District regarding the reappointment of Janet Carter-Sullens as Board of Director of South Central Illinois Mass Transit District for the next term. Her term is to expire April 10, 2025. Tyson McHenry made a Motion to reappoint Janet Carter-Sullens and was seconded by David Iossi. Prior to Voice Vote Board Members Brock Waggoner and Mike Douglas expressed their concerns regarding the procedure of how the Board addresses the appointments/reappointments from various agencies. Voice Vote: 11 ayes – 2 nays (Mike Douglas and Brock Waggoner). Motion passed.

Marion County State’s Attorney Tim Hudspeth conveyed that a letter was received from Salem Fire Protection District regarding the reappointment of Larry H. Clark to the Salem Fire Protection District Board of Trustees for the next term. His term is to expire May 1, 2025. Tracy Murray made a Motion to reappoint Larry H. Clark and was seconded by Tyson McHenry. Voice Vote: 11 ayes – 2 nays (Mike Douglas and Brock Waggoner). Motion passed.

Marion County State’s Attorney Tim Hudspeth conveyed that a letter was received from Letter from Odin Fire District regarding the reappointment of Rod Hawley to the Odin Fire Protection District Board of Trustees for an additional term. Tyson McHenry made a Motion to reappoint Rod Hawley and was seconded by Chris Krupp. Voice Vote: 11 ayes – 2 nays (Mike Douglas and Brock Waggoner). Motion passed.

Marion County State’s Attorney Tim Hudspeth conveyed that a letter was received from Kinmundy-Alma Fire Protection District regarding the reappointment of Roger W. Meyer to the Kinmundy-Alma Fire Protection District Board of Trustees for an additional 3-year term commencing on May 1, 2025. Adam Smith made a Motion to reappoint Roger W. Meyer and was seconded by Tyson McHenry. Voice Vote: 11 ayes – 2 nays (Mike Douglas and Brock Waggoner). Motion passed.

Board Chairman Steve Whritenour presented the Illinois Department of Revenue figures.  
Illinois Department of Revenue:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
¼%	\$95,144.09	\$93,785.29
1%	\$54,777.82	\$49,260.96

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## REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

### FINANCE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER KRUPP:

Finance Committee Chairman Christopher Krupp introduced Josh Faivre, WIPFLI Senior Manager, Audit who appeared via ZOOM. A copy of the Marion County, Illinois FY 2022 Audit Recap was distributed to all of the Board Members prior to this Meeting. Mr. Faivre thoroughly reviewed and discussed the FY 2022 Audit findings with the Board and answered their questions.

In addition, Board Member Brock Waggoner inquired what caused the delay in getting the results from the past Audits and what could be done to avoid this from happening in the future. Mr. Faivre reiterated information that was relayed at previous meetings. With respect to the FY 2021 Audit, he conveyed the effects of the County's new software and its issues and how after losing their auditor they had difficulty hiring a new one. Both of these problems caused its delay. WIPFLI also had issues with the software and reconciling accounts for the FY 2022 Audit. In addition, the company lost members of their Audit staff. He continued by stating that the FY 2023 Audit engagement letter was signed this afternoon and the plan of action for completing it has begun by notifying all of the Department Heads via email. He would like to see a completion date of the end of May, 2025. Immediately after, the FY 2024 Audit will be addressed and if needed a 2-month extension can be applied for. Board Member Mike Douglas also had questions regarding reconciling the accounts and if the issues are caused by the accounting system or low staffing. Mr. Faivre responded that he feels that it is not a system issue, but to communicate with the Treasurer's office to see if any additional help is needed. Board Member Deb Reed commented that implementing Automated Clearing House (ACH) is a possibility to be taken into consideration. In conclusion, Mr. Waggoner requested that a copy of the list of items that the Auditor has requested from the Elected Officials be sent to the Marion County Board Secretary, Lori Linder.

Finance Committee Chairman Chris Krupp commended Josh Faivre for actively rectifying the issues with the past due audits. The FY 2021 and 2022 Commissary Audits and the Circuit Clerk's Audits have also been completed. Mr. Faivre welcomed any questions or concerns.

The County Procurement Process Ordinance is anticipated to be ready for the Board's approval at the April 22, 2025 Full Board Meeting.

### BUDGET COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN BROCK WAGGONER:

Budget Committee Chairman Brock Waggoner began by conveying that a Joint Budget and Finance Committees Meeting was conducted on Monday, March 10, 2025. During that time a training session regarding the Marion County billing and payment process was presented by Marion County Clerk Steve Fox and an informative presentation by Whitney Strohmeier, Joseph E. Meyer, Inc., County Trustee Program (Delinquent Real Estate & Mobile Home Taxes) occurred.

Finance Committee Chairman Chris Krupp recommended discussing the Veteran's Assistance Commission funding at the next Budget Committee Meeting scheduled for Monday, April 7, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

### INSURANCE COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN DAVID IOSSI:

Insurance Committee Chairman David Iossi announced that the last Committee Meeting was conducted on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. with guest Todd Dobbs, Chaney & Karch Insurance Group addressing the County's coverage from his agency. An additional agent, Tom Simpson, Dimond Brothers Insurance, will be conducting a presentation with respect to his company's coverage for the County on Monday, April 7, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.

Prior to the Building & Historical Committee report, Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour expressed that the Board needs to accept the FY 2022 Audit and entertained a Motion. Jack Riley made the Motion to Accept the FY 2022 Audit and was seconded by Deb Reed. Roll Call Vote: 12 ayes – No nays. (Judith Meeks-Hakim had briefly stepped out of the room.) Motion passed.

### BUILDING & HISTORICAL COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN DEBORAH REED:

Building & Historical Committee Chairman Deb Reed addressed the Old Business items first.

Marion County Sheriff Kevin Cripps presented an update on the window project at the Courthouse and presented a power point which included bringing attention to the issues that employees are having with the sun shining through the windows in their offices. This affects their productivity due to glare on their computer scenes. Several offices have taken it upon themselves to place cardboard in the windows to reduce the exposure from the sun. Lastly, he commended Marion County Supervisor of Assessments Mark Miller and the Board for managing this project. He expressed that in his opinion the replacement of the windows will have a great benefit for energy conservation.

Next, Committee Chairwoman Deb Reed continued with the topics listed under New Business. Further discussion and consideration for the window blinds for the Courthouse offices transpired. An email that included an example of the ad and the details for the blinds was sent to the Board Members prior to this evening's Meeting. Deb Reed made a Motion to put out to bid for window blinds for the Marion County Courthouse and Public Service Building and was seconded by David Iossi. Prior to Voice Vote, Mike Douglas questioned which account the payment would be made from, and Mrs. Reed responded that it would be included in the window, generator, and UPS loan. The totals for the projects were also included in the email. An amended Motion to put out for bids and place the bid information on the Marion County website was made by Deb Reed and seconded by David Iossi. Voice Vote: 12 ayes – 1 nay (Tyson McHenry). Motion passed. A brief discussion regarding "a temporary fix" for the windows transpired.

The window warranty information was included in the Full Board Meeting packet and was discussed. There is a 2-year finish warranty on the storefront and a 10-year for seal failure on the insulating glass from the manufacturer. Gardner Glass has a 1-year warranty for the workmanship for leakage or installation error. Sheriff Cripps verified that the ruts caused by Gardner Glass' equipment on the Courthouse lawn will be taken care of when the entire lawn is leveled during a future project.

In conclusion, a brief discussion occurred with respect to the quote for the 4 missing windows in the Public Service Building. The cost of the omitted windows is \$4,560.00. Deb Reed made a Motion to

Building & Historical Committee – Continued:

purchase the 4 windows using the loan previously mentioned and was seconded by David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: 11 ayes – 2 nays (Brock Waggoner and Tyson McHenry). Motion passed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN TYSON MCHENRY:

Law Enforcement Committee Chairman Tyson McHenry began by allowing Marion County Sheriff Kevin Cripps to present his February, 2025 report. Sheriff Cripps stated that his Department responded to 1,277 calls (average of 39/day). There were 54 prisoner transports and they booked 104 people into the jail. A total of 6,316 meals were prepared by the Department's cooks with a cost of \$1.99 per meal. Currently, 65 inmates are being housed at the facility with 35 Federals and 1 juvenile in custody in Knox County, which is an extremely costly expense for the County. At the present time the rate is \$150 per day, and St Clair County is raising their cost to \$350 for the first day, then \$250 per day thereafter. He conveyed that finding a Juvenile Facility that has space available for these adolescents is becoming more difficult and as an alternative Marion County is utilizing Electronic Home Confinement Monitors. In conclusion, he conveyed that members of the Department will be participating in VR training and the FY 2022 Commissary Audit has been completed with no issues.

Prior to the Marion County Coroner's report, an additional conversation regarding Juveniles and the Juvenile Detention Centers took place.

Next, Marion County Coroner Claude Howell presented his report. Mr. Howell announced that he had just returned from a 40-hour training in Decatur, Illinois which was very informative. He communicated that his office has made a couple of changes to help save monies for the County and to become more efficient. One change that was made is with reference to the Toxicology Group that he utilizes. The new facility is NMS, which has a quicker turn around and a broader spectrum regarding results, and also is less expensive. This agency is commonly used by other Counties in the state of Illinois. In addition, the Illinois Medical Examiner's Association Mutual Aid Agreement was signed by Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour this evening for its completion. He reported for the month of February, 2025 that there were 51 death calls including 48 Coroner calls and 3 Medical cases. He continued by conveying there were 32 cremations, 50 natural deaths with 13 contributed to cancer, 32 other, and 1 accidental. The month of March has currently had 27 deaths. In conclusion, he commended his team and also the Board for their support.

Following, Sheri Barter, Marion County ESDA Coordinator reviewed her written report (see attachment). She mentioned that an updated maintenance policy for the emergency sirens is necessary due to the fact that the last one was written and approved in 1996. Board Chairman Mr. Whritenour provided a brief explanation of the CommanderOne Emergency System that is being installed by Braniff Communications. After questioning from Board Member Deb Reed, Mrs. Barter will explore if an Intergovernmental Agreement exists with Ramsey, Illinois with reference to Marion County ESDA helping with traffic control during their town wide auction. She continues to seek volunteers for her agency.

Under New Business, the Marion County ESDA Coordinator position discussion was moved to the Closed Meeting Session portion of this meeting. Mrs. Barter provided an explanation of Resolution 2025-15: Participation in State of Illinois Federal Surplus Property Program that was tabled on February 25, 2025

Law Enforcement Committee – Continued:

for further information. A debate amongst Board members referencing if this resolution only pertains to ESDA transpired. Mrs. Barter will be exploring the possibility of it including additional departments and report back to the Board. Brock Waggoner made a Motion to table the Resolution “pending further investigation about it being issued to the County versus to only County ESDA” and was seconded by Deb Reed. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

In conclusion, a brief discussion regarding the Kinmundy emergency siren invoice transpired, and it was determined that no further action from the County Board is necessary.

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour suspended the County & Community Committee Report and addressed the Road & Bridge Committee.

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

Co-Chairman Tim McCance conveyed that Alex Kreke, the candidate for the Marion County Highway Engineer, had taken the IDOT certification examination, and Board Chairman Steve Whritenour verified that he had passed the test. Pending the completion of the State of Illinois’ “paperwork,” Mr. Kreke’s start date is anticipated to be between April 15 and May 1, 2025.

Co-Chairman Adam Smith commended Marilea Snow, Marion County Highway Department Administrative Assistant, for providing MFT fund information at the Joint Personnel/Labor Relations and Road & Bridge Committees Meeting conducted on Tuesday, March 18, 2025. He communicated that the topic of possible relocation of the Highway Department was also discussed at this Meeting and will be addressed at future Road & Bridge Committee Meetings.

Next, a discussion with respect to Marion County drafting a Resolution against proposed Bills HB2515, SB2504, and SB2217 (Eliminate Township Government, and the Counties absorb the Road Districts and Assessments) occurred. State’s Attorney Tim Hudspeth voiced that nothing has to be done at this time from the County.

Mrs. Snow presented a brief monthly report. She stated that the senior technician at the Highway Department has completed 5 major projects since Labor Day, 2025, and they are just waiting for final approval from IDOT for payment. An additional project involving a railroad crossing will begin next month. She conveyed that the new Engineer should not have any issues coming into the Department.

Co-Chairman Adam Smith relayed that the utilization of the MFT funds will be address in a future Committee Meeting.

Next, Mr. Smith addressed the remaining Resolutions and he and Mrs. Snow presented a brief description of each.

Adam Smith made a Motion to approve Resolution 2025-19: County 2025 Aggregate Bid Approval 25-00000-00-GM and was seconded by Chris Krupp. Roll Call Vote: All ayes - No nays. Motion passed.

Road & Bridge Committee – Continued:

Adam Smith made a Motion to approve Resolution: 2025-20: Township 2025 Aggregate Bid Approval 25-(01-17)000-00-GM and was seconded by Deb Reed. Roll Call Vote: 12 ayes (Jack Riley briefly stepped out of the room) – No nays. Motion passed.

Adam Smith made a Motion to approve Resolution: 2025-21: ROW Permit Raccoon Water Company/Green Street Directional Boring and was seconded by Chris Krupp. Voice Vote: 12 ayes (Jack Riley briefly stepped out of the room) – No nays. Motion passed.

Adam Smith made a Motion to approve Resolution: 2025-22: ROW Permit Delta Communications, LLC dba Clearwave Fiber/East Green Street Installation of Fiber Optic Cable and was seconded by Chris Krupp. Voice Vote: 12 ayes (Jack Riley briefly stepped out of the room) – No nays. Motion passed.

Brock Waggoner made a Motion to approve Resolution 2025-17: Road Use Agreement (Marion County Highway System) Alberici and was seconded by David Iossi. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Brock Waggoner made a Motion to approve Resolution 2025-08: Addendum to Resolution 2024-115 – Road Use Agreement (Marion County Highway System, no second was made. Motion failed due to lack of second.

Brock Waggoner made a Motion to approve Resolution 2025-18: Addendum – Road Use Agreement (Marion County Highway System) Alberici, no second was made. Motion failed due to lack of second.

Prior to the conclusion of the Road & Bridge Committee's report, Mike Douglas had questions with regards to the Solar Fox project not having a road use agreement with Marion County. He was told that the project is in its early stages and that one may be coming before the County in the future.

PERSONNEL/LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN: ADAM SMITH

Personnel/Labor Relations Committee Chairman Adam Smith stated that he will be addressing the Committee's report during the Closed Session later this evening.

COUNTY & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN Tracy Murray:

Ken Ferguson, Marion County Animal Control Administrator was absent; therefore, no report was given.

County & Community Chairman Tracy Murray stated that the Marion County Animal Control Facebook page has been very beneficial. The Doggie Den in Centralia is still being utilized as a housing facility, and is also helping with rehoming the animals and/or getting them back to their original owners.

Next, Mr. Murray Board Chairman Steve Whritenour addressed the Big R Credit Application. Mr. Whritenour explained that this would only be used for Marion County Animal Control food and supplies. An Illinois Sales Tax Exemption Certificate will also be submitted for these purchases. Tracy Murray made a Motion to approve Submitting a Big R Credit Application and was seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

County & Community Committee - Continued

Sub-Committee Codification: Brock Waggoner

No report.

Sub-Committee Broadband:

No report.

LIQUOR LICENSE COMMITTEE – STEVE WHRITENOUR

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour communicated that H & J Golf Course (DBA Colonial) had renewed their Liquor License.

DECENNIAL COMMITTEE:

No report.

The Reports from the Special Committees were not addressed.

Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss Litigation, Real Estate, and Personnel was made by Tracy Murray and was seconded by Brock Waggoner. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

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

Closed Session began at 8:54 P.M.

Came out of Closed Session at 10:29 P.M.

Brock Waggoner made a Motion for Marion County to amend its pleadings to go against the Pharmacy Benefit Entities and was seconded by Chris Krupp. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.



Nothing further to come before the Board, Jack Riley made a motion to adjourn with mileage and per diem and was second by Cody Rose. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next Full Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

Time: 10:36 P.M.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ ✓

Date: 4/22/25

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

3-25-25

# Full Board Meeting

## Guests

Judith Macal-Haken

~~B. [unclear]~~

Wynne & [unclear]

Marilee Snow

John Henry -

MARK MILLER

Cady Merrick

Sidney J. [unclear]

Jeanne Munahel

Mark Baxter

Jim

Neal [unclear]

Kevin Cripps - [unclear]

Bruce Kropp, WJBT

Dennis Rosenberger, The Sentinel

Tiffany Schicker, Marion Co. Circuit Clerk

Jim Hudspeth, Marion Co. State's Atty

Claude Howell, Marion Co. Coroner

Lori

# Marion County ESDA March 2024 Monthly Report

March 1<sup>st</sup>

Antique Power Days held their Spring Consignment Auction at the fairgrounds. Though the weather was very cold, it did not slow down the people from coming out all day.

I reserved the ½ payment for the Kinmundy siren repair and maintenance in the amount of \$2,889.50, I gave this to Gary Purcell in the treasures office to put back on my account.

Braniff Communications came on the 10<sup>th</sup> of this month and installed the new siren in Alma, just in time for the storms that weekend. I have a copy to the bill for this and I will be turning it in so I can get a check cut.

The money for this has already been put into my account from the insurance company. The cost of installing the new siren was \$27,730.00 and the insurance covered all of it.

Jeff Reba will be back here to have a meeting with Chairman Steve on the 26<sup>th</sup>, which is Wednesday.

I had my EOC open due to the storms earlier this month and my team were out watching the weather on all sides of the county.

We assisted the sheriff department with 2 calls this month, one was with a tree blocking the road and power poll to be replaced. The other was a structure fire, road had to be closed to traffic. 2 units / 2 person for each call.

I also want to apologize to the sheriff's office, because I did not have enough guys to help, I have had a couple members down ill, one of those include Greg Masters who came down very ill and was hospitalized for 2 weeks then had to go to the rehab for a month at Doctors. He is still recovering but is home now with oxygen. So I would ask you to keep him and all my members in your prayers.

I have finished my IL-CATT (Illinois Capability Assessment and Tracking Tool and IPP (Integrated Preparedness Plan) reviewed and updates within a two year planning cycle. I will be working on my EOP (Emergency Operational Plan)

making changes per the states request and updating any information that may have changed, contacts, etc. Also I will be working on getting the LEPC reorganized. (Local Emergency Planning Committee)

When COVID hit, this planning committee just got lost, not just here but all over the state. Now my Director is working on getting this all back up and running again. I will have to find out who was on the committee in the past and work from there. This will be totally something new for me.

My quarterly report is due by March 31<sup>st</sup>, but do to the State funding being put on hold or stopped because of the Government. This will be on hold ~~be~~ now.

March 17-22

PKC Coon Hunters World Champion Hunt 2025

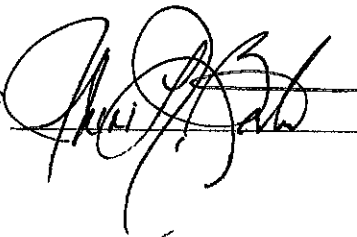
On the first cast night there were about 350-400, plus dogs.

For April, we will be assisting at Ramsey for traffic for their Town wide auction, which is on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

And the PKC Coon Hunters will be back for the Spring Super Stakes Champion, this is 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>

Date March 25, 2025

Signed off

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John A. Sab', written over a horizontal line.