

MARION COUNTY FULL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

6:30 P.M.

Basement of Sheriff's Office

Meeting convened at 6:30 P.M. with Debbie Smith, County Board Chairwoman, leading 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, Sharon Woodward, Creighton Engel, Jack Riley, Deborah Reed, Bill Henson, Tyson McHenry, Steven Whritenour, Steven Bradley, Judith Meeks-Hakim, Christopher Krupp, Adam Smith, Debbie Smith, and David Iossi.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST

Guest: Bill Smith, Dennis Rosenberger, Salem Times Commoner Editor, Bruce Kropp, WJBD, Mark Miller, Marion County Supervisor of Assessments, Tiffany Schicker, Marion County Circuit Clerk, Gary Purcell, Marion County Treasurer, Cody Rose, and Tim Hudspeth, Marion County State's Attorney.

THOSE WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve Full Board Meeting Minutes dated April 9, 2024 was made by David Iossi and seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

COUNTY CLERK STEVE FOX CORRESPONDENCE

Marion County Clerk Steve Fox was absent, therefore State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth addressed the letter from Patoka Fire Protection District Secretary, Zeb Jolliff. Motion to reappoint Lane Briscoe as a Trustee for the Patoka Fire Protection District for a term from May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2027 was made by Tracy Murray and seconded by Bill Henson. Prior to Voice Vote, Brock Waggoner had questions with regard to taxes in that district. Chairwoman Debbie Smith stated that this is not a Marion County Board issue. Voice Vote: 14 ayes – 1 Nays (Brock Waggoner). Motion passed.

Next, Attorney Tim Hudspeth addressed the same letter requesting confirmation of Jeremy Landreth as a Trustee of said Board from May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2025 and Zeb Jolliff as a Trustee of said Board from May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2026. This information was confirmed by Lori Linder, Marion County Board Secretary after she had previously reviewed the prior reappointments for these men.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE & INSURANCE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER KRUPP

Committee Chairman Christopher Krupp began by making a motion to approve the Finance & Insurance Committee Meeting Minutes dated April 3, 2024 and seconded by Steven Bradley. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next, Committee Chairman Christopher Krupp made a motion to approve the Finance & Insurance Committee Meeting Minutes dated April 10, 2024 and seconded by Sharon Woodward. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Mr. Krupp continued with a discussion with respect to the Finance & Insurance Meeting conducted Monday, April 22, 2024. He explained that the main topic of the meeting was the salaries for the Marion County Supervisor of Assessment, the Marion County Circuit Clerk, and the Marion County Coroner. He relayed that after a detailed debate, the Committee agreed on the amounts for the FY 2025 \$71,200.00, FY 2026 \$75,200.00, FY 2027 \$80,200.00, and FY 2028 \$85,200.00 for the Supervisor of Assessments and Circuit Clerk to present to the Full Board Members for their approval. The Coroner's salary agreement was for FY 2025 \$30,000.00, FY 2026 \$30,000.00, FY 2027 \$31,000.00, and FY 2028 \$32,000.00 pending Board approval. In addition, the salaries for the Marion County Clerk and the Marion County Treasurer will be the same as the Supervisor of Assessments and the Circuit Clerk for the years listed. Contributions from each Office Holder to the County were considered in making the final decision. Mr. Krupp described how the Supervisor of Assessment has agreed to pay his raises out of the GIS Fund which will cover the total amount of \$18,000.00 for the next 4 years. He explained that the GIS Funds are not from real estate taxes and that the State reimburses the County 50% of his salary. In addition, Mr. Miller donated his time and labor for the remodel of the Marion County Conference Room in the Courthouse, and saving the County \$92,000.00. Mrs. Schicker has also donated her time with requesting and receiving grants to help with providing the County with up to date equipment and other benefits. Various questions were addressed prior to a motion being made. County Board Member Brock Waggoner commented on the percentage of the increase in pay and concerns of the outstanding Audit. Committee Member Bill Henson questioned if there would be any repercussions with the emergency siren projects. All were attended to. Motion to approve Resolution 2024-15: Determining the Compensation of Various Marion County Elected Officials was made by Bill Henson and seconded by Christopher Krupp. Prior to Roll Call Vote, Committee Member Tracy Murray questioned if this was in the Budget for this year, but this item is to begin in FY 2025 and will be addressed at that time. Mr. Waggoner inquired how the determination in the Coroner's salary was made. His main concern was the difference between the percentage increase in the salaries. Committee Members relayed that it is a part time position with 4 Deputies and a Secretary. Additionally, Mr. Krupp relayed that no one showed interest in lobbying for an amount. Roll Call Vote: 12 ayes – 3 nays (Brock Waggoner, Deborah Reed, and Tyson McHenry). Motion passed.

A conversation regarding hiring a Financial Person for Marion County transpired. Committee Member Creighton Engel suggested collecting detailed information in regards to this person's responsibilities. The position is not full time, but will be contracted. Brock Waggoner voiced his opinion with regards to hiring this person. Mr. Krupp conveyed that this matter is still under consideration and will be addressed at a future meeting.

Finance & Insurance Committee – Continued:

In conclusion, the FY 2021 Draft Audit should be completed by the end of this week. The next WIPFLI phone update is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24, 2024. Once received, a copy of the FY 2021 Audit will be emailed to each Full Board Member by Lori Linder, Marion County Board Secretary.

BUILDING & HISTORICAL COMMITTEE: CREIGHTON ENGEL

Committee Chairman Creighton Engel began by addressing the bids for the tree removal on the Courthouse lawn. Two closed bids were obtained after reaching out to additional businesses. The bid from Burr's Tree Service in Sandoval was revealed with a proposal of \$5,250.00. Next the bid from Top Notch Tree Service in Salem was shared in the amount of \$3,380.00. Each offer included tree and stump removal with clean up. Creighton Engel made a motion to accept the bid from Top Notch Tree Service for the amount of \$3,380.00 and was seconded by David Iossi. Prior to Roll Call Vote, Board Member Steven Whritenour asked if the tree is being replaced. Dr. Engel continued by explaining the future plans for the Courthouse lawn. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next, Committee Chairman Creighton Engel made a motion to approve the Building & Historical Committee Meeting Minutes dated April 10, 2024 and seconded by David Iossi. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Continuing with the subject of the window replacement in the Courthouse and the Public Service Building, Dr. Engel allowed Board Chairwoman Debbie Smith to address this matter. Mrs. Smith conveyed that Dave Daniels, Marion County Maintenance, is collecting bids. This will also be published for proposals in the future. The possibility of financing this restoration project may be considered, but it may also be tabled until next fiscal year.

Lastly, the bid from Shores Builders Construction to upgrade the Main Courtroom to meet ADA Standards was thoroughly discussed. The priority of the re-work of the witness stand/jury box and wheel chair access was relayed by Circuit Clerk Tiffany Schicker. Several Full Board Members concurred. The \$6,145.00 proposal was intensely debated with questions from Board Members Brock Waggoner and Tyson McHenry addressed. Motion to approve the \$6,145.00 bid for the re-work of the witness stand/jury box and wheel chair access in the Main Courtroom, with ½ of the payment being made from the Building & Historical Funds and the remaining ½ from the CURES Fund was made by Creighton Engel and seconded by David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: 13 ayes – 2 nays (Brock Waggoner and Tyson McHenry). Motion passed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN STEVEN WHRITENOUR

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

COUNTY & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN BILL HENSON

Committee Chairman Bill Henson stated that there was nothing new to report.

Sub-Committee Codification: Chairman Brock Waggoner

Sub-Committee Chairman Brock Waggoner stated that there was nothing new to report.

ROAD & BRIDGE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN STEVEN BRADLEY

Committee Chairman Steven Bradley stated that there was nothing new to report. Full Board Member Jack Riley revealed that after a presentation from a previous guest that the Marion County Highway Department placed signs at each end of the Skillet Fork Bridge on Extension Route 161.

911/ESDA COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN STEVEN WHRITENOUR

Committee Chairman Steven Whritenour made a motion to approve the 911/ESDA Committee Meeting Minutes dated March 26, 2024 and was seconded by Brock Waggoner. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Mr. Whritenour continued by stating that the Site Visit of the Emergency Sirens Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 2, 2024 did not have a quorum. Committee Member Brock Waggoner questioned State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth with reference to the requirements for meeting minutes when a quorum is not met. State's Attorney Mr. Hudspeth will follow up on a response to this question. Chairman Mr. Whritenour presented an explanation of what transpired on that date at the Dispatch Center of the Salem Police Department. The activation process of the sirens in Salem was demonstrated. The issue with not having the ability to activate all of Marion County sirens from one location was discussed. The sirens within the city of Centralia are on VHF frequency, while the remaining in Marion County are on UHF. Mr. Whritenour conveyed that a short term goal would be to place all of the alarm systems on the same frequency, and allowing one command center to activate all of the Marion County sirens. The cost would be \$3,800.00 per siren. The long term objective would be to determine who is in charge of the sirens countywide and replacement all of the tornado sirens in the future is being considered. In view of this, deliberation of a referendum was suggested at the Committee Meeting. Apprehension as a citizen were debated. It was emphasized that these are outdoor emergency alarms. Board Member Bill Henson questioned who gives the authorization for the dispatch center to prompt the alarms. Mr. Whritenour described that they receive a State LEADS message from the National Weather Service.

Marion County Circuit Clerk Tiffany Schicker disclosed that financial supplements may be available. For instance, FEMA and the Illinois Department of Emergency Management may have Congressional Directed Spending which may be obtainable. She was asked to provide more information at the next 911/ESDA Committee Meeting scheduled Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.

In conclusion, Committee Member Brock Waggoner suggested that the number and the location of the sirens in Marion County be taken into consideration in the future also.

PERSONNEL/LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN ADAM SMITH

Committee Chairman Adam Smith made a motion to approve the Personnel/Labor Relations Committee Meeting Minutes dated April 3, 2024 and was seconded by David Iossi. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Committee Chairman Adam Smith made a motion to approve the Personnel/Labor Relations Committee Meeting Minutes dated April 10, 2024 and was seconded by David Iossi. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Mr. Smith stated that Rick Stewart, The Stewart Law Firm, was hired as Legal Counsel for Marion County at the Personnel/Labor Relations Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

Lastly, he relayed that the Laborer's Union Contract for the Marion County Highway Department has been finalized.

BROADBAND COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN DEBORAH REED

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

DECENNIAL COMMITTEE

Nothing new to report.

LIQUOR COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN DEBBIE SMITH

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

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES

911

Marion County Board Representative Steven Whritenour acknowledged the passing of Greg Earle Current Centralia Fire Protection District Administrator and retired Fire Chief.

708 MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Marion County Board Representative Bill Henson stated that there was nothing new to report.

MARION COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Marion County Board Representative Creighton Engel stated that the next meeting will be conducted in June, 2024.

SCIRPD

Marion County Treasurer Gary Purcell stated that a meeting is scheduled Tuesday, April 30, 2024. Marion County Board Representative Debbie Smith announced that she will be attending this meeting.

MARION COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

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

WIB (WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD)

Marion County Board Representative Deborah Reed stated that there is nothing new to report.

ENTERPRISE ZONE

Marion County Board Representatives Christopher Krupp and Adam Smith stated that there was nothing new to report.

BCMw

Marion County Board Representative Adam Smith stated that BCMw is having issues with their Audit that WIPFLI is conducting, but is nearing its completion. A new Executive Director, Jessica Backs has been hired and monthly meetings are being considered.

