

MARION COUNTY FULL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

6:30 P.M.

Marion County Courthouse, Court Room 302

Meeting convened at 6:32 P.M. with Steve Whritenour, Marion 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, Dr. Mike Douglas, Jack Riley, Deb Reed, Josh Dunahee, Steve Whritenour, Chris Krupp, Adam Smith, Debbie Smith, and David Iossi. Absent were Cody Rose and Judith Meeks-Hakim.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST: Marion County Highway Engineer Alex Kreke, Marion County Sheriff Kevin Cripps, Marion County Animal Control Administrator Whitney Purcell, Animal Control Warden Ken Ferguson, and Staff Members Travis Leckrone and Kylie Whitlock, Marion County Treasurer Gary Purcell, Marion County EMA Assistant Shane Mansker, Mark Decker, Luke Purcell, Steve Brummel, Bruce Kropp, WJBD, and Dennis Rosenberger, Centralia Sentinel.

THOSE WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Marion County Board Member Dr. Mike Douglas was allowed to recite an email that he received from a concerned Marion County Citizen, Dr. Abbey Deuel, DVM. She had given him permission to read this on her behalf. The information included concernment regarding Ordinance 2026-01: Marion County Animal Control Ordinance & Fee Schedule and the Rabies Vaccination Registration. A copy was given to Marion County Board Secretary, Lori Linder for the record.

In addition, Dr. A J Sprague, DVM, All Pets Animal Hospital, Centralia, Illinois voiced his concerns with Ordinance 2026-01: Marion County Animal Control Ordinance & Fee Schedule and the Rabies Vaccination Registration. He encouraged the Board not to mandate Veterinarians to collect the tag fee. He emphasized that other options are available to register the animal with Marion County.

Following, Mark Decker, Marion County America 250 Committee Co-Chairman distributed a pamphlet and shared information with respect to Marion County celebrating the signing of the Declaration of Independence 177-2026. Luke Purcell of the Salem Historical Commission was also present. In addition, a commemorative flag was donated to Marion County Sheriff Kevin Cripps for display on the Marion County flagpole on the Courthouse lawn. A 1776 Dinner is planned for Friday, July 3, 2026 at the Marion County Fairgrounds in Salem, Illinois. Tickets are available for purchase in advance or at the door. More information is provided on the Marion County Celebrates America 250 Face Book page.

The next scheduled guest speaker, Jim Baker was not able to attend this evening's Meeting due to illness. An email was received and presented to Board Chairman Steve Whritenour. After his review of the letter, Chairman Mr. Whritenour forwarded it to Marion County State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth on

the account of a threat for legal action against the County. Mr. Baker had a request for a response within 30 days, and that will be given at the next Full Board Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2026.

Immediately after, Marion County State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth requested a Closed Session to discuss Opioid Litigation.

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour entertained a Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss Opioid Litigation and Marion County EMA personnel. Debbie Smith made the Motion and was seconded by Chris Krupp. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Chris Krupp made a Motion to open the Closed Session and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Closed Session began at 6:57 P.M.

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour entertained a Motion to come out of Closed Session Chris Krupp made the Motion and was seconded by Sharon Woodward. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Came out of Closed Session at 7:09 P.M.

Motion to open the Open Session was made by Chris Krupp and seconded by Debbie Smith. Roll Call was taken by Lori Linder, Marion County Board Secretary. Present were Tracy Murray, Brock Waggoner, Sharon Woodward, Dr. Mike Douglas, Jack Riley, Deb Reed, Josh Dunahee, Steve Whritenour, Chris Krupp, Adam Smith, Debbie Smith, and David Iossi. Absent were Cody Rose and Judith Meeks-Hakim.

After coming out of Closed Session, action was taken regarding the Opioid Litigation and the Marion County EMA Personnel.

Debbie Smith made a Motion to approve Resolution 2026-28: Authorizing Participation in the Remnant Defendant Opioid Settlement Agreement was seconded by Sharon Woodward. Roll Call Vote: 10 ayes – 2 Nays (Brock Waggoner and Adam Smith). Motion passed.

Debbie Smith made a Motion to dissolve one of the EMA Assistant positions due to the person being unavailable and was seconded by Josh Dunahee. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

MARION COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN STEVE WHRITENOUR

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour addressed the Letter received from Chief Mick McDanel, Kell Fire Protection District regarding the re-appointment of Kim Hocking to the Kell Fire Board for a full 3-year term beginning May 1, 2026. Tracy Murray made to Motion to re-appointment Kim Hocking and was seconded by Sharon Woodward. Voice Vote: 11 ayes – No nays – 1 Abstain (Chris Krupp due to her being relation). Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

David Iossi made the Motion to approve the Full Board Meeting Minutes dated March 24, 2026, and was seconded by Dr. Mike Douglas. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: CHAIRWOMAN SHARON WOODWARD:

Law Enforcement Committee Chairwoman Sharon Woodward began by announcing that Marion County Sheriff Kevin Cripps is seeking approval to surplus 3 of his Department vehicles. Sheriff Cripps was previously present, but had left the Meeting to respond to a call. Chairwoman Mrs. Woodward conveyed that the titles of the vehicles are in the Board's possession. Board Member Brock Waggoner voiced his concerns with respect to the need of a Resolution for this request. Board Chairman Steve Whritenour provided additional information for the funding of 2 new vehicles and the Sheriff's Budget. A brief discussion transpired and further deliberation will be taking place at the May Committee Meeting.

There were no remaining questions regarding the surplus of the 3 vehicles; therefore, Debbie Smith made a Motion to approve the surplus of 3 Marion County Sheriff's Department vehicles and was seconded by Jack Riley. Voice Vote: 11 ayes – 1 nay (Brock Waggoner). Motion passed.

Continuing, Sub-Committee 911/EMA Liaison Cody Rose was absent. Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour addressed Resolution 2026-29: Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement for Participation in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System. (MABAS Master Agreement 2022). All questions and concerns were responded to. Chairman Mr. Whritenour entertained a Motion to approve Resolution 2026-29. Adam Smith made the Motion and was seconded by David Iossi. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER KRUPP:

Finance Committee Chairman Christopher Krupp began by conveying information regarding Resolution 2026-25: Determining the Compensation of Various Marion County Elected Officials. This item addresses the Marion County Treasurer and County Clerk's salaries. A brief discussion occurred. Debbie Smith made a Motion to approve Resolution 2026-25: Determining the Compensation of Various Marion County Elected Officials and was seconded by Sharon Woodward. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next, Committee Chairman Chris Krupp entertained an Omnibus Motion to approve Resolution 2026-26: Permanent Parcel Number: 14-00-070-826 – Delinquent Tax Sales of said property of which the County will receive \$300.00 with remaining monies distributed according to law and Resolution 2026-27:

Finance Committee – Continued:

Permanent Parcel Number: 14-00-073-950 – Delinquent Tax Sales of said property of which the County will receive \$300.00 with remaining monies distributed according to law. Debbie Smith made the Omnibus Motion and was seconded by David Iossi. Voice Vote: 9 ayes – 3 nays (Brock Waggoner, Josh Dunahee, and Adam Smith). Motion passed.

BUDGET COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN BROCK WAGGONER:

Budget Committee Chairman Brock Waggoner began by conveying information regarding Ordinance 2026-02: Budget Appropriation for Correctional Officers. A cursory review transpired. Committee Chairman Mr. Waggoner entertained a Motion to approve Ordinance 2026-02: Budget Appropriation for Correctional Officers. Tracy Murray made the Motion and was seconded by Josh Dunahee. Roll Call Vote: 11 ayes – No nays – 1 Abstain (Deb Reed). Motion passed. Questions and concerns with respect to this not previously in the FY 2026 Budget from Board Members Debbie Smith and Adam Smith were responded to by Committee Chairman Mr. Waggoner and Board Member Josh Dunahee. Additionally, a detailed examination of the motive for this Ordinance took place.

COUNTY & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN TRACY MURRAY:

County & Community Committee Chairman Tracy Murray began by addressing Ordinance 2026-01: Marion County Animal Control Ordinance & Fee Schedule. He conveyed that the Committee conducted a thorough debate during their Meeting earlier in the month, and the Members made the decision to submit it to the Board for approval. Chairman Mr. Murray made a Motion to approve Ordinance 2026-01 and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Prior to the Roll Call Vote, Board Member Jack Riley recommended to table this item for further discussion regarding the comments made earlier in the Meeting by the Veterinarians. Board Member Brock Waggoner concurred and voiced his concerns of not involving the Community Leaders. Committee Chairman Mr. Murray responded. The primary issue was with Section 5(b) of the Ordinance. Board Member Dr. Mike Douglas was granted permission to recite his written statement. Following, a copy was given to Marion County Board Secretary Lori Linder for the record. Marion County Animal Control Administrator Whitney Purcell rationalized the Rabies Vaccination Registration requirement in the Ordinance. Board Member Brock Waggoner expressed his opinion. Chairman Mr. Whritenour and multiple Board Members commended Ms. Purcell and the Animal Control staff. Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes – 6 nays (Brock Waggoner, Dr. Mike Douglas, Jack Riley, Deb Reed, Josh Dunahee, and Chris Krupp). Motion failed.

Additional discussion occurred. Brock Waggoner made a Motion to send Ordinance 2026-01: Marion County Animal Control Ordinance & Fee Schedule back to the County & Community Committee and was seconded by Jack Riley. Roll Call Vote: 4 ayes – 8 nays (Tracy Murray, Sharon Woodward, Dr. Mike Douglas, Josh Dunahee, Steve Whritenour, Adam Smith, Debbie Smith, and David Iossi). Motion failed.

Following, Committee Chairman Tracy Murray made an Amended Motion to approve Ordinance 2026-01: Marion County Animal Control Ordinance & Fee Schedule and strike the word “shall” in Section 5(b) 1 and 2 and replace it with the word “may” and was seconded by Chris Krupp. Board Member expressed her concern regarding a conflict of interest with a local veterinarian serving on the Marion

County & Community Committee – Continued:

County Board and voting on the Ordinance. Board Chairman Steve Whritenour stated he had the same concerns and that Marion State’s Attorney Tim Hudspeth had clarified that it is not a conflict of interest. Further discussion transpired. Dr. A.J. Sprague was allowed to address the registration issue. Afterward, an addition to the amendment was made to Section 5(b) with respect to remitting the payment for the registration fees to Marion County Animal Control. The change was 10 business days to 30. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Continuing with the next item on the Agenda, Committee Chairman Mr. Murray provided information regarding the current Animal Control portable building and the proposed purchase of a new one. A brief discussion took place with Budget Chairman and Board Member Brock Waggoner voicing his concerns with the funding for the new purchase. Board Chairman Mr. Whritenour spoke about the additional revenue coming into Animal Control from the City of Centralia. A subsequent debate occurred. Thereafter, Tracy Murray made a Motion to purchase the “kennel building” from Poor Boys in Central City for \$9,695.00 and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Prior to Roll Call Vote, Mr. Waggoner again expressed his reservations. Roll Call Vote: 10 ayes – 2 nays (Brock Waggoner and Dr. Mike Douglas). Motion passed.

Lastly, SKS Engineering has approved the SG Salem 1 PV, LLC, a new proposed Community Solar Project in Marion County. Board Chairman Steve Whritenour reiterated that “the County Board does not have the power over solar projects in the State of Illinois.” Tracy Murray made a Motion to approve the Special Use Permit for the SG Salem 1 PV, LLC solar project and was seconded by David Iossi. Voice Vote: 8 ayes – 4 nays (Sharon Woodward, Josh Dunahee, Debbie Smith, and Adam Smith). Motion passed.

ROAD & BRIDGE COMMITTEE: CO-CHAIRMAN: ADAM SMITH

Road & Bridge Committee Co-Chairman Adam Smith began by opening the floor to Highway Engineer Alex Kreke. Engineer Kreke conveyed the details of Resolution 2026-20: County 2026 MFT Bituminous Bid Approval 26-00001-00-RD and Resolution 2026-21: County 2026 MFT Bituminous Bid Approval 26-14000-00-GM.

Adam Smith made a Motion to approve Resolution 2026-20: County 2026 MFT Bituminous Bid Approval 26-00001-00-RD and was seconded by Tracy Murray. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Adam Smith made a Motion to approve Resolution 2026-21: County 2026 MFT Bituminous Bid Approval 26-14000-00-GM and was seconded by Josh Dunahee. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next, Engineer Mr. Kreke provided information regarding Resolution 2026-22: Purchase 2026 Behnke FB8X28TPT-40L Hydraulic Trailer (\$38,051.00). Adam Smith made a Motion to approve Resolution 2026-22 and was seconded by Tracy Murray. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Following, Committee Chairman Adam Smith provided information regarding Resolution 2026-23: Surplus 2016 MACK. Adam Smith made a Motion to approve Resolution 2026-23 and was seconded by Tracy Murray. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Lastly, Engineer Mr. Kreke provided information regarding Resolution 2026-24: Surplus 2007 Fontaine. Adam Smith made a Motion to approve Resolution 2026-24 and was seconded by Josh Dunahee. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

In addition, Engineer Mr. Kreke shared that the Marion County Highway personnel will begin 4/ 10 hour days on April 10, 2026.

Prior to adjournment, Board Member Debbie Smith requested to keep Board Member Judith Meeks-Hakim in thoughts and prayers. She has experienced residential displacement which was caused by the storms the previous night.


Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour made a Motion to adjourn with mileage and per diem and was seconded by Tracy Murray. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

The next Full Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 6:30 P.M.

Time: 8:37 P.M.

Approved: _____ ✓

Date: 5-26-26



Steve Fox, Marion County Clerk