

MARION COUNTY FULL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, June 11, 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 Claude Howell.

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, Judith Meeks-Hakim, Christopher Krupp, Adam Smith, Debbie Smith, and David Iossi. Absent was Steven Bradley.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST

See attached list.

THOSE WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Butch Mathis, City of Wamac Mayor, addressed the Board with Marion County Animal Control concerns. He conveyed that the city had experienced an issue with a loose dog. He stated that in the past animals could be taken to the City of Centralia Animal Shelter, but had been turned away this time. Mr. Mathis dealt with this matter himself due to the shelter only taking in animals from Marion County's unincorporated areas. He emphasized that a resolution to any future situations with incorporated areas is essential. Board Chairwoman Debbie Smith relayed that the County & Community Committee had a meeting prior to the Full Board Meeting this evening and is diligently striving to find a solution to this matter in question.

Subsequently, Betty Brumfield, City of Patoka Mayor, stated that an issue with a dog bite incident had recently occurred in her city. She voiced that the Animal Control Officer did not appropriately address the situation. Ken Ferguson, Marion County Animal Control Officer conveyed that the animal was being home quarantined.

Chairwoman Mrs. Smith reiterated that the County & Community Committee is currently addressing these concerns. The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 5:30 P.M.

Next, Attorney Jennifer Price addressed the Full Board with her concerns relating to the proposed signage at the Marion County Courthouse. She conveyed in her opinion that the distraction from the historical building, the costs of the sign, and its purpose are serious issues and need to be taken into consideration. With the permission of the Board, she read an email from Former Judge David Sauer that expressed his dissatisfaction with regards to the signage. Ms. Price also stated that Attorney Curt Lackey

had intended on attending the Full Board Meeting and got his dates confused, so he gave her authority to voice his concerns and opinions which are the same as hers.

Proceeding with topic of the sign, Attorney Eric Terlizzi and Judge Mark Stedelin voiced their displeasures.

Board Chairwoman Mrs. Smith thanked them all for coming before the Board and making their objections known. Board Member Creighton Engel concurred. In addition, Board Member Sharon Woodward shared her unfavorable thoughts. Mrs. Smith verified that this subject matter will be discussed and decided upon later during this meeting.

Lastly, Josh Dunahee spoke with regards to a Marion County Concerned Tax Payers Facebook post that was issued via email to the Full Board Members and Elected Officials on June 7, 2024. County Board Chairwoman Debbie Smith presented an explanation of where the email derived from and that she authorized the item to be shared. Mr. Dunahee expressed that he felt Government equipment was used to obtain the information. Mrs. Smith verified that it was placed on the Marion County Board Secretary's desk in her office sometime during that morning, and the County's computer was only used to forward the email to the County Board and the County Elected Officials. It was inadvertently attached to the County & Community Committee Agenda, but was intended to be attached to the Full Board Packet for informational purposes only. Mr. Dunahee questioned how the data from the email was going to be addressed. Mrs. Smith communicated that as of Saturday, June 8, 2024 the Meeting Minutes and the audio of the WIPFLI remote presentation from the Full Board Meeting conducted on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 along with the FY 2021 Audit and additional information from WIPFLI, the Auditor was shared on the County Website. She welcomed everyone to research this information and then if they have any questions bring them to a Full Board Meeting to be addressed. Additionally, she announced that the FY 2022 Audit is anticipated to be completed by the end of July, 2024 and the FY 2023 Audit soon after. Board member Brock Waggoner expressed remarks in regards to how the email was obtained and its intentions. Mrs. Smith allowed Lori Linder, Board Secretary to explain how it came into her hands. Mrs. Linder revealed that it was placed on her desk on the morning of Friday, June 7, 2024 when she was not present. Mr. Waggoner did not agree with Mrs. Smith regarding access to the Secretary's desk and how government property was utilized. Mrs. Smith stated that the meeting needed to proceed and Mr. Waggoner and guest Josh Dunahee continued to interject. Guest Matt Huelskoetter requested that an investigation be conducted and give a public report of how the Facebook post was obtained, what County resources were used, and the reason behind sending it out. He suggested 3 individuals to oversee the investigation; Marion County Board Members Tracy Murray, Brock Waggoner, and Steven Whritenour. Chairwoman Mrs. Smith was denied in selecting her own people. The investigation was authorized and a report will be released as soon as it is completed. Mr. Waggoner continued to voice his opinion as Mrs. Smith attempted to gavel the Meeting to order. She requested a Motion to Continue. Sharon Woodward made the motion to proceed with the meeting and was seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Voice Vote: 13 ayes - 1 nay (Brock Waggoner). Motion passed. Matt Huelskoetter provided his name and contact information to the County Board Secretary, Lori Linder. The investigation results will be forwarded to him as soon as they are completed.

The Full Board Meeting continued.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes from the Full Board Meeting held on May 28, 2024 made by David Iossi with second by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Prior to Voice Vote, Board Chairwoman Debbie Smith announced that Marion County Circuit Clerk had an amendment to her comments regarding the signage at the Courthouse. A copy of her email was provided in the Full Board Meeting Packet prior to tonight's meeting (see attachment). Mrs. Smith stated that will be added to the minutes. Voice Vote: All ayes – 0 nays. Motion passed.

COUNTY CLERK STEVE FOX CORRESPONDENCE

Illinois Department of Revenue:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
¼%	\$90,975.31	\$88,435.33
1%	\$34,490.92	\$45,466.36

Prior to continuing with the Standing Committee Reports, Board Member Brock Waggoner raised a point of order regarding the Facebook post discussed earlier in the meeting. Board Chairwoman Debbie Smith stated that the meeting had proceeded and requested that a Motion to continue with the meeting be made. Motion to continue made by Bill Henson and seconded by Sharon Woodward. Voice Vote: 13 ayes – 1 nay (Brock Waggoner). Motion passed. Mr. Waggoner intervened as Mrs. Smith attempted to continue on with the Full Board Meeting. She stated that he was Out of Order. Mr. Waggoner then stated that he "will be Out of Order and will be leaving this Meeting." He persisted to make comments as she spoke which included accusing her of attacking the Tax Payers. She stressed that she has not, and she voiced two additional Out of Orders. He eventually left the Board Room. Mrs. Smith apologized to the Board Members and Guests. Then she reiterated that their questions are being addressed and an investigation will take place with the results communicated.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE & INSURANCE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER KRUPP

Finance & Insurance Committee Chairman Christopher Krupp made a Motion to approve the Combined Finance & Insurance and Building & Historical Committees Meeting Minutes dated May 22, 2024 and seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Approval of Bills

General: \$153,465.02 Christopher Krupp made a motion to approve bills, but was not seconded. Marion County Board Member Adam Smith questioned if the amount included the signage for the Marion County Courthouse, and it did. Board Chairwoman Debbie Smith stated that it would be pulled

and should not have been issued until approval from the Board. David Iossi made a motion to approve the new total amount of \$109,018.70 and seconded by Sharon Woodward. Roll Call Vote: 13 ayes – 0 nays. Motion passed. Immediately after the Roll Call Vote, guest Josh Dunahee questioned the issue with the check for the signage. Board Chairwoman Debbie Smith attempted to shut down the questioning. She did reiterate that the check will not be issued at this time.

Insurance: \$35,848.97 Christopher Krupp made a motion to approve bills and was seconded by David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – 0 nay. Motion passed.

Judicial: \$966,206.17 The amount included the third pay period in the month of May. Christopher Krupp made a motion to approve bills and was seconded by Sharon Woodward. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Resolution 2024-21: Permanent Parcel Number: 14-009-003-00 – Delinquent Tax Sales of said property of which the County will receive \$679.57 with remaining monies distributed according to law was made by Christopher Krupp and seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed. Prior with continuing with the Finance & Insurance Committee Report, guest Josh Dunahee remarked that the Parcel Number is invalid. He stated that during the last meeting

#### Finance & Insurance Committee – Continued:

2 of the Parcel Numbers were invalid also. Board Chairwoman Debbie Smith suggested to table this matter until clarification is made. Christopher Krupp made a Motion to Amend the Motion and table Resolution 2024-21 for clarification of the Parcel Number and seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed. Resolution 2024-21 was tabled until the Full Board Meeting scheduled Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Next, Mr. Krupp conveyed that the subject of Chaney & Karch Insurance and the Replacement Costs for coverage for the Jail, Public Service Building, and Highway Department Building will be further discussed in the near future. A Finance & Insurance Committee Meeting will be scheduled in July, 2024 to address this matter and the Health Insurance for the County also.

In addition, the subject of the Federal Pacific Electrical Boxes was discussed. Mr. Krupp stated that the electrical panels in the Courthouse will be replaced by TOPS Electric on June 19, 2024, when the Courthouse is closed for the Juneteenth Holiday. A brief discussion with respect to the Insurance Audit and the findings transpired. A copy of an email from Gene Mackey, Ameresco Director, was distributed to the Board Members (see attachment) and considered. More information is needed in regards to the Electrical Panels in the Moose Building.

In conclusion, Committee Chairman Mr. Krupp presented an update on the FY 2022 Audit. WIPFLI is striving to have the process completed by the end of July, 2024. Additionally, he conveyed that they are pursuing results for the Marion County Circuit Clerk Audit and the Commissary Audit for the Marion County Sheriff's Office has been finalized. Sheri Barter, Marion County ESDA Coordinator questioned if after the completion of the FY 2022 Audit, if Marion County will be taken off of the No Pay List. Chairwoman Debbie Smith relayed that WIPFLI is working with the State with regards to this matter.

#### BUILDING & HISTORICAL COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN CREIGHTON ENGEL:

Approval of Bills: \$36,678.58 Creighton Engel made a motion to approve bills and was seconded by David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next, Creighton Engel made a motion to have TOPS Electric evaluate and propose a bid for the electrical box in the Moose Building during the time that they are replacing the Courthouse panels and was seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Roll Call Vote: 10 ayes – 3 nays (Tracy Murray, Tyson McHenry, and Steven Whritenour). Motion passed.

Committee Chairman Creighton Engel opened the only sealed bid received for the window replacement in the Courthouse and the Public Service Building. The bid was from Gardner/L & M Glass in Taylorville, Illinois and included 3 bids for 3 areas. Bid #1 was \$353,277.00 and included the removal and replacement of the existing windows. Bid #2 in the amount of \$9,600.00 was for the window in the stairwell. Bid #3 included the removal and replacement of the North, South, and West entrance window doors in the amount of \$40,875.00. Sheriff Kevin Cripps presented a background explanation of the urgency for the replacement of the windows in Courtroom 302. Due to high winds and heavy rain the temporary repairs that have been done is in need of permanent renovations. Videos are available for confirmation with this issue. Dr. Engel stated that research for funding from Energy Grants, State and Federal Resources will transpire.

#### Building & Historical Committee – Continued:

Motion to Table the bid from Gardner/L & M Glass was made by Creighton Engel and seconded by David Iossi. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

An update on the ADA renovation in the Courtroom was not available.

In conclusion, a Motion to Rescind the Signage and the Grant for the Signage was made by Creighton Engel and seconded by Tracy Murray. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Prior to the Law Enforcement Committee Report, Josh Dunahee attempted to ask a question. Board Chairwoman Debbie Smith reiterated that the Full Board Meeting is in session, and any questions will be addressed after its adjournment.

Additionally, Creighton Engel made a motion to approve the Building & Historical Committee Meeting Minutes dated June 3, 2024 and seconded by David Iossi. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN STEVE WHRITENOUR

Approval of Bills: \$128,015.22 Committee Chairman Steven Whritenour verified that a new squad car was purchased and this was the cause of the monthly increase. Steven Whritenour made a motion to approve the bills and was seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Prior to the Roll Call Vote, Sharon Woodward questioned an ESDA bill that was included in the packet. Sheri Barter, Marion County ESDA Coordinator provided clarification. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Marion County Sheriff Kevin Cripps introduced newly hired Deputy Tyler Donoho. Deputy Donoho and Deputy Hays are the replacements for the officer that recently began working with DCFS and the officer that will soon be a School Resource Officer. Sheriff Cripps reported that the DCFS officer had made an arrest and assisted with a suicide attempt today.

He continued to report that the Sheriff's Office is presently dealing with ID Network issues, but is able to work through them.

Sheriff Cripps commended Marion County Jail Administrator Troy Reed. Mr. Reed was named the 2023 Illinois Jail Administrator of the Year by the Illinois Risk Management Law Enforcement Practice. Marion County Clerk Steve Fox emphasized that this is a distinguished award from a national insurance company.

Next, Sheriff Cripps communicated that the Sheriff's Office handled 731 calls (approximately 24 calls per day). There are currently 54 inmates in jail; which 31 are Federal. This amount is above the targeted number of 25 Federal Inmates to make Sheriff Cripps' Budget. He reiterated that the Commissary Audit for FY 2021 has been completed and was found to be in compliance.

In conclusion, he welcomed any questions or concerns.

Sheri Barter, Marion County ESDA Coordinator stated that the ESDA Department assisted the Sheriff's Office with traffic control for a few wrecks during the month of May. She anticipates that business will increase during the summer months.

#### COUNTY & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN BILL HENSON

County & Community Committee Chairman Bill Henson stated that a Committee Meeting was conducted this evening prior to the Full Board Meeting. The main topic of discussion was Animal Control in Marion County. An additional County & Community Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 5:30 P.M. to discuss and clarify issues with this matter.

Approval of Bills: \$26,421.02 Bill Henson made a motion to approve bills and was seconded by Judith Meeks-Hakim. Prior to Roll Call Vote, Full Board Member Deborah Reed had questions regarding a bill for Companion Life Insurance in the amount of \$5,962.86. Marion County Clerk Steve Fox clarified that it should be under the Finance & Insurance Committee's bills, but still needed to be approved. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next, Committee Chairman Mr. Henson reiterated that the Animal Shelter Agreement and the email from State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth will be further addressed at the next Committee Meeting.

Ken Ferguson, Animal Control Officer presented his monthly report. He proceeded by stating that he picked up 9 dogs and 2 dog bites and 2 cat bites were reported during the month. The dog bites were located in small villages (incorporated areas) and he was unable to take the dogs. Therefore, his only resolution to this issue was to have the dogs home quarantined. The Centralia Animal Shelter is only allowed to take in animals from unincorporated areas per its contract with Marion County. This matter will also be addressed at the next Committee Meeting. Mr. Ferguson highly recommended adopting animals from the shelter if anyone is looking for a pet.

#### Sub-Committee Codification: Brock Waggoner

Sub-Committee Codification Chairman Brock Waggoner was not present. Therefore, no report was available.

ROAD & BRIDGE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN: STEVEN BRADLEY

Due to Committee Chairman Steven Bradley being absent, Committee Member Tracy Murray presented the Road & Bridge Committee Report.

Approval of Bills: ~~\$266,180.58~~ Tracy Murray made a motion to approve bills and was seconded by David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Michael McCormick, Marion County Highway Engineer requested approval of three Resolutions. An explanation of each was given and questions were answered.

Resolution 2024-22: Purchase of Equipment Fontaine Detach Trailer from Higgs Welding, \$27,500.00. Motion to approve Resolution 2024-22 was made by Tracy Murray and seconded by David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Resolution 2024-23: ROW Permit-Village of Iuka, 500 Main Street, Service Line. Motion to approve Resolution 2024-23 made by Tracy Murray and seconded by Bill Henson. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No Nays. Motion passed.

Resolution 2024-24: ROW Permit-Marathon Pipeline LLC, Vermundy Road, Pipeline Casting Work. Motion to approve Resolution 2024-24 made by Tracy Murray and seconded by Bill Henson. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No Nays. Motion passed.

Road & Bridge Committee – Continued

Mr. McCormick continued with an update with the Marion County Highway projects. The Green Street project has begun and will continue through October, 2024. Board member David Iossi inquired if there would be any road closures. Mr. McCormick relayed that Green Street is not anticipating any, but when the Odin Road Bridge improvement begins there will be. Kline Road Bridge is set to begin within the next couple of months along with the Range Road Bridge. With respect to the Route 161 Extension Bridge, an Engineering Grant is available to help pay for the design of the structure in addition to the Grant for the construction. Oiling of the roads has also begun.

Committee and Board Member Tracy Murray shared that he had been asked questions regarding the signage and the enforcement of violations at the Skillet Fork Bridge. Sheriff Cripps and Michael McCormick reiterated that scales from IDOT would be required to issue any citations for overweight vehicles. They were both aware that this continues to be an issue. Additionally, Sheriff Cripps stated that not having the knowledge if a box truck and semi crossing the bridge is full or empty is also challenge to issuing citations.

911/ESDA COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN STEVEN WHRITENOUR

911/ESDA Committee Chairman Steven Whritenour made a motion to approve the 911/ESDA Committee Meeting Minutes dated May 28, 2024 and seconded by David Iossi. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Mr. Whritenour proceeded with a brief discussion with respect to the 911/ESDA Committee Meeting held prior to this evening's Full Board Meeting. He conveyed that Braniff Communications was not available for their presentation. He will attempt to set up a ZOOM Meeting with them to discuss the CommanderOne Emergency Warning System Control in July, 2024.

The unification of all of the Emergency Sirens in Marion County is anticipated to be completed by GTSI at the end of the month.

Committee Chairman Mr. Whritenour emphasized the importance of the outdoor emergency sirens in addition to the Nixel Program.

Prior to the Personnel/Labor Relations Committee Report, a guest had questions regarding the siren at the Taco Bell location. Mr. Whritenour conveyed that each municipality is responsible for their own sirens. This has been the topic of many discussions.

PERSONNEL/LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE; CHAIRMAN: ADAM SMITH

Chairman Adam Smith stated that there is nothing new to report.

BROADBAND COMMITTEE: CHAIRWOMAN: DEBORAH REED

Chairman Deborah Reed stated that there was nothing new to report. Full Board Member Tracy Murray inquired with respect to the procedure of disbanding a Committee. Board Chairwoman Debbie Smith explained that the Committee Chairman will address the Board Chair when there is nothing more for the Committee to do and a decision will be made.

DECENNIAL COMMITTEE:

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

LIQUOR COMMITTEE: CHAIRWOMAN DEBBIE SMITH:

Chairwoman Debbie Smith stated that Omega General renewed their liquor license.

Nothing further to come before the Board, David Iossi made a motion to adjourn with mileage and per diem and second by Steven Whritenour. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Next Full Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.

Time: 8:09 P.M.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ ✓

Date: 6/25/24

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*Steve Fox*

Steve Fox, Marion County Clerk and

Clerk of Marion County Board

