

SPECIAL MARION COUNTY FULL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025

5:00 P.M.

MARION COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM 302

Meeting convened at 5:00 P.M. with Steve Whritenour, Marion County Board Chairman, leading the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Invocation presented by 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, Tim McCance, Josh Dunahee, Steven Whritenour, Cody Rose, Christopher Krupp, Adam Smith, Debbie Smith, and David Iossi. Absent was Judith Meeks-Hakim.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST

See attached list.

SPECIAL FULL BOARD MEETING

Marion County Board Chairman Steve Whritenour began by addressing Ordinance 2025-05: Solar and Wind Ordinance for Marion County, Illinois. Mr. Whritenour stated that Marion County does not have any zoning requirements in the Non-Incorporated Areas. Additionally, he relayed that he and Marion County State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth have had several conversations regarding the Ordinance prior to submitting it to the Full Board for approval. Mr. Whritenour provided a brief explanation of his ideas regarding the Ordinance and its association to the benefits for the County. The objective to capture revenue via a \$5,000.00 permit fee and omit the building section from the Ordinance was communicated. In addition, the section regarding the height of the wind turbine and how it would be regulated by the FAA was discussed. Chairman Mr. Whritenour commended Attorney Hudspeth for his diligent work on developing Ordinance 2025-05 for Marion County.

An extensive discussion continued. During this time, Marion County Supervisor of Assessments Mark Miller conveyed information regarding the assessments and property taxes of the land used for the Solar or Wind Farms. Continuing, questions and concerns were voiced by Full Board Members with respect to the farm projects, and responses were made. Pete Yannakakis, Solar Generation and Tim Vought, Cordello Power (wind farm) were also allowed to respond to some of the questions and provide pertinent information regarding their services.

After hearing the previous data, Board Chairman Steve Whritenour recommended an Application Fee of \$5,000.00 per megawatt. There would not be a permit and/or building fee. A brief discussion transpired. Following, Tracy Murray made a Motion to approve Ordinance 2025-05: Solar and Wind Ordinance for Marion County, Illinois with an Application fee of \$5,000.00 per megawatt with a \$250,000.00 cap and follow FAA regulations regarding the height of the wind tower and was seconded

by Josh Dunahee. Roll Call Vote: 6 ayes – 8 nays (Brock Waggoner, Sharon Woodward, Dr. Mike Douglas, Jack Riley, Tim McCance, Adam Smith, Debbie Smith, and David Iossi). Motion failed.

An additional in depth discussion occurred with respect to the Ordinance including the maximum amount of the Application Fee and the revenue for the County. Board Members Tim McCance and Dr. Mike Douglas voiced their opinions concerning the Board becoming involved with these projects. Afterward, Chris Krupp made a Motion to approve Ordinance 2025-05: Solar and Wind Ordinance for Marion County, Illinois with an Application fee of \$5,000.00 per megawatt with a \$100,000.00 cap, striking the Building Fee, and follow FAA regulations regarding the height of the wind tower and was seconded by Debbie Smith. Prior to Roll Call Vote, a resident from Marion County was allowed to address the Board with her concerns of the Board approving the Ordinance without doing any further research. Board Member Adam Smith concurred. Continuing, Roll Call Vote: 10 ayes – 4 nays (Sharon Woodward, Dr. Mike Douglas, Tim McCance, and Adam Smith). Motion passed. Pete Yannakakis, Solar Generation and Tim Vought, Cordello Power were commended for their input with reference to the Ordinance.

Next, Chairman Steve Whritenour proceeded to the topic of the Use of Contingency Funds for Animal Control Salaries. Budget Committee Chairman and Board Member Brock Waggoner shared the importance of transferring the funds. Debbie Smith made the Motion to approve Ordinance 2025-07: Budget Appropriation for Animal Control and was seconded by David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: 12 ayes – 2 nays (Dr. Mike Douglas and Cody Rose). Motion passed.

Prior to the Motion to Go into Closed Session, a 5-minute break took place.

Brock Waggoner made a Motion to go into Closed Session for purposes of discussion of real estate and personnel and was seconded by David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Closed Session began at 6:43 P.M.

Tracy Murray made a Motion to come out of Closed Session and was seconded by David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Came out of Closed Session at 7:42 P.M.

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, Tim McCance, Josh Dunahee, Steven Whritenour, Cody Rose, Christopher Krupp, Adam Smith, Debbie Smith, and David Iossi.

No action was taken regarding the items discussed in Closed Session.

Board Chairman Steve Whritenour continued with the open portion of the Special Full Board Meeting.

Mr. Whritenour stated that the topic regarding the Marion County Administrator was brought to the attention of the Board from the Elected Officials in the past. He conveyed that since he was voted as the Chairman of the Board in December, 2024, he has reconsidered hiring a person for this position. He relayed the benefits of this person and how they would be able to help with the disconnection between the Board and the County Officials. His desire is to further discuss this matter for the FY 2026 Budget. A few Board Members voiced their opinions. Debbie Smith expressed her reluctance, Josh Dunahee communicated his positive thoughts, and Deb Reed suggested that a job description be drawn up for this person. In addition, Brock Waggoner announced that he felt that "the Board has not done things appropriately over the years" while dealing with major issues regarding purchases and/or repairs, and that he feels that this person may help eliminate issues from occurring in the future. Adam Smith revealed important information with respect to one significant subject that Mr. Waggoner brought to attention. Mr. Smith conveyed that the Board was not entirely at fault for the circumstances surrounding the purchase and replacement of the air conditioning unit for the Marion County Courthouse. In addition, the title of this person that may be hired was debated. A brief discussion continued. This matter will be turned over to the Personnel/Labor Relations Committee for further consideration.

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

Next Full Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.

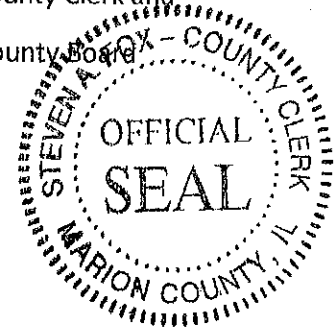
Time: 8:40 P.M.

Approved: _____ ✓

Date: 7/22/25

Steve Fox, Marion County Clerk and

Clerk of Marion County Board



6-16-25

Special Full Board Meeting

Guests

Tim Vought

Sarah Gutman

Kevin Cripps

Ken Ferguson

Donna Ferguson

Mark Miller

MARK MILLER

Steve Buel