

MARION COUNTY FULL BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

6:30 P.M.

Marion County Courthouse, Room 301

Meeting convened at 6:30 P.M. with Debbie Smith, County Board Chairwoman, conveying that the Meeting is being recorded. She proceeded by 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, Sharon Woodward, Creighton Engel, Jack Riley, Deborah Reed, Bill Henson, Tyson McHenry, Steven Whritenour, Steven Bradley, Adam Smith, Debbie Smith, and David Iossi. Absent was Judith Meeks-Hakim and Christopher Krupp (arrived late).

RECOGNITION OF GUEST

See attached list.

THOSE WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Prior to the guests addressing the Board, Chairwoman Debbie Smith communicated that there are protocols that need to be followed during a County Board Meeting. Resolution 2020-32: Procedures for Public Speaking at Regular County Board Meetings limits public comments "to no more than five (5) consecutive minutes per person and to no more than forty-five 45 minutes per meeting." Additionally, she expressed that after the guest's time to speak, the Full Board Meeting will be conducted and no other interaction between the Board Members and guests will take place. If a person becomes unruly they may be asked to leave or escorted from the room. She also directed everyone to silence their telephones during the Meeting.

Guest Matt Huelskoetter inquired if any information was available regarding the investigation of the email from the last meeting. Mrs. Smith stated that the subject matter will be addressed later during this Meeting or at the next Full Board Meeting contingent on Steve Whritenour's findings.

Next, Dr. Mike Douglas voiced his concerns regarding the Board and the Marion County Animal Control Officer's protocol. He stated that he understood that the Officer is now responding to issues in incorporated areas, but the obstacle of the City of Centralia Shelter not taking in their animals remains. Additionally, Dr. Douglas expressed that it was unjustifiable that the smaller municipalities are being charged a County registration fee for County services and are not able to utilize all of those services. He clarified that an animal involved in a dog bite incident that has not been vaccinated is required to be quarantined under the observation of a veterinarian, and that this is a portion of the Animal Control Act that must be followed. He urged looking at the surrounding Counties' formalities. Lastly, he proposed posting Animal Control on the County's website to which could be utilized for County registration and to aid with lost and found animals.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve Full Board Meeting Minutes dated June 11, 2024 with the amendment that the Chairwoman gavelled Brock Waggoner down and requested a Motion to Continue without taking a vote was made by Brock Waggoner and seconded by David Iossi. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Marion County Supervisor of Assessments and Chairman of the Farmland Assessment Review Committee Mark Miller recited his letter to appoint Steve Brummel to fill the vacancy of Edward Gersteneker, who is retiring, in the position of Trustee of the Farmland Assessment Review Committee for a 2-year term beginning June 1, 2024 and expiring May 31, 2026. Prior to the Motion being made Christopher Krupp inquired if this Committee was related to the Board of Review. Mr. Miller stated that it was not and gave a brief description of its purpose. Marion County Board Member Brock Waggoner and Mr. Miller had a short discussion regarding nominations for this position. Motion to appoint Steve Brummel to the position of Trustee of the Farmland Assessment Review Committee made by Christopher Krupp and seconded by Steven Bradley. Voice Vote: 13 ayes – 1 Nays (Brock Waggoner). Motion passed.

REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

FINANCE & INSURANCE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER KRUPP

Finance & Insurance Committee Chairman Christopher Krupp allowed State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth to give a brief explanation of Resolution 2024-25: Adopting Cost of Living Adjustment for Marion County State's Attorney, Public Defender, and Sheriff. The new salaries are set by the State of Illinois. Motion to approve Resolution 2024-25 was made by Christopher Krupp and seconded by David Iossi. Roll Call Vote: 13 Ayes – 1 Nay (Tyson McHenry). Motion passed.

Next, Mr. Krupp addressed 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. This Resolution was tabled from the Full Board Meeting conducted on June 11, 2024 when there were questions regarding the Parcel Number. Marion County Board Secretary Lori Linder researched this item. After she spoke with the Delinquent Tax Attorney from Edwardsville, it was determined that it was actually a mobile home. Motion to approve Resolution 2024-21 was made by Christopher Krupp and seconded by Sharon Woodward. Prior to the Roll Call Vote, Marion County Board Member Tyson McHenry had questions regarding the taxes for the property that it is located on and the mobile home taxes. State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth and Marion County Supervisor of Assessments Mark Miller each provided information to answer his questions. Board Member Brock Waggoner inquired if conformation existed with respect to anyone paying the property taxes versus them paying the mobile home taxes. State's Attorney Hudspeth and Mr. Miller responded to his questions as well. Voice Vote: 12 Ayes – 2 Nays (Brock Waggoner and Tyson McHenry). Motion passed. A quick debate of whether a Voice Vote or Roll Call Vote should be taken occurred.

In conclusion, Chairman Christopher Krupp stated that the last report was that the FY 2022 Audit is progressing and should be completed by the end of July, 2024.

BUILDING & HISTORICAL COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN CREIGHTON ENGEL

Building & Historical Committee Chairman Creighton Engel stated that a Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 5:45 P.M. The topics of discussion will be the Backup Power and Generator for the Marion County Courthouse.

Next, the renewal of the XT Solutions Contract for 3-year term beginning 7/1/24 and ending 6/30/27 was discussed. The monthly payment year 1 will be \$9,300.00 and years 2 and 3 will be \$9,500.00. Board Member Bill Henson voiced his concerns with the interactions with this company. Committee Chairman Dr. Engel suggested letting them know that a Board Member is attempting to reach them and sending a text explaining the issue that is occurring. Board Member Brock Waggoner agreed with Mr. Henson and described how other companies manage their customer support. Mr. Waggoner also conveyed his thoughts with Marion County employees using a personal email for conducting County business and in addition the lack of efficient use of informational technology. Dr. Engel reiterated that the Board previously addressed the issues with the County Elected Officials and employees using the governmental email for personal use. Following, Creighton Engel made a motion to approve the XT Solution Contract and was seconded by David Iossi. Prior to the Roll Call Vote, Board Member Steven Whritenour announced his perception of IT services and how Marion County could benefit by utilizing these ideas. Dr. Engel stated that they could be taken into consideration. Board Member Tracy Murray questioned who oversees this scenario. Dr. Engel verified that the Building & Historical Committee and Mr. Tomlianovich, XT Solutions, are in communication with one another. Mr. Waggoner attempted to table this item, but was disallowed. Roll Call Vote: 9 Ayes – 5 Nays (Tracy Murray, Brock Waggoner, Jack Riley, Bill Henson, and Tyson McHenry). Motion passed.

An update from Shores Builders Construction with regards to the ADA renovation of the Main Courtroom was not available according to Sheriff Kevin Cripps' report. Sheriff Cripps stated that the gumball tree that was on the Courthouse lawn has been completely removed from the Northwest side of the square.

In conclusion, Chairman Creighton Engel conveyed that the replacement of the Federal Pacific Electrical Boxes in the Marion County Courthouse was completed on Wednesday, June 19, 2024. Board Member David Iossi requested that each breaker in the boxes be identified. Dr. Engel will follow through with this suggestion. The Moose Building electrical panel was confirmed to be up to date.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN STEVEN WHRITENOUR

Law Enforcement Committee Chairman Steven Whritenour allowed Sheriff Kevin Cripps to address the Full Board Members. Sheriff Cripps stated that there was nothing new to report. He did acknowledge that having the Full Board Meeting in the Marion County Courthouse, Room 301, seems to be more appropriate for conducting the County's Meetings.

Sherri Barter, Marion County ESDA Coordinator was absent. Therefore, there was nothing new to report for her Department.

COUNTY & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN BILL HENSON

County & Community Committee Chairman Bill Henson requested a motion to approve the County & Community Meeting dated June 11, 2024. Committee Member Brock Waggoner made the motion and was seconded by Tracy Murray. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

Mr. Henson continued with a discussion of the County & Community Committee Meeting conducted prior to this evening's Full Board Meeting. In reference to the Animal Control Act (510 ILCS 5/), the Committee is instructing the Animal Control Administrator to respond to calls in the municipalities within Marion County. Unfortunately, the animals cannot be taken to the Centralia Animal Shelter per the contract between the City of Centralia and Marion County. The facility is only accepting animals from unincorporated areas at this time. A thorough discussion with the Heads of the municipalities and the Committee Members is scheduled for Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 5:30 P.M. Input from each of them will be taken into consideration. In addition, the Animal Control Officer's job description will be analyzed and detailed at that time. The information for the Agenda of that meeting will be forwarded to Lori Linder, Marion County Board Secretary from Mr. Henson.

Board Members Christopher Krupp and Tyson McHenry questioned where a dog involved in a biting situation from an incorporated area will be taken. Mr. Henson conveyed that there are options available depending on the situation. According to the Animal Control Act, the dog must be under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Further discussion with regards to this matter will be addressed at the next Committee Meeting also.

Sub-Committee Codification: Chairman Brock Waggoner

Sub-Committee Codification Chairman Brock Waggoner clarified that American Legal Publishing is accepting any records that have been completed, but will not start the codification process until all of them are received from Marion County. He conveyed that Resolutions and Ordinances from 1970 forward are being pulled by employees of Marion County Clerk Steve Fox, and Marion County Board Secretary Lori Linder has been gathering them from the present and to the past. A scanner will be purchased in the near future to begin the process of sending the data to American Legal Publishing.

ROAD & BRIDGE COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN STEVEN BRADLEY

Road & Bridge Committee Chairman Steven Bradley stated that there was nothing new to report.

911/ESDA COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN STEVEN WHRITENOUR

911/ESDA Committee Chairman Steven Whritenour requested that someone make a motion to approve the 911/ESDA Committee Meeting Minutes dated June 11, 2024. Deborah Reed made the motion and Brock Waggoner made the second. Voice Vote: All ayes – No nays. Motion passed.

A Committee Meeting including the Braniff Communications' Commander1 presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 5:30 P.M.

PERSONNEL/LABOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE: CHAIRMAN ADAM SMITH

Personnel/Labor Committee Chairman Adam Smith stated that there was nothing new to report.

BROADBAND COMMITTEE: CHAIRWOMAN DEBRA REED

Broadband Committee Chairwoman Debra Reed began by stating that a Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 5:30 P.M. for a status update.

In addition, Mrs. Reed conveyed that Wabash Communications "highly recommend" to not disband the Broadband Committee "due to their project being tied to this Committee." The Committee will not disband at this time. She continued relaying that as of June 17, 2024 the fourth round of funding began. Spectrum is interested in submitting information.

DECENNIAL COMMITTEE

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

LIQUOR COMMITTEE: CHAIRWOMAN DEBBIE SMITH

Liquor Committee Chairwoman Debbie Smith stated that Rambo's Lucky Day Slots renewed their Liquor License.

Prior to continuing with the Meeting, Chairwoman Debbie Smith stated that all Committee and Full Board Meetings will continue to be conducted in the Courthouse, Room 301 until further notice.

REPORTS FROM SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

911

Marion County Board Representative Steven Whritenour stated that Mission Critical Partners, a consulting firm, was hired to examine the Marion County 911 Dispatch Centers and the Sheriff's Office. The firm will provide recommendations in a report during the latter part of August or early September, 2024.

708 MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Marion County Board Representative Bill Henson stated that a meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2024 at 5:30 P.M. at the Alternative Learning Academy in Centralia.

In addition, Board Chairwoman Debbie Smith conveyed that if anyone is interested in serving on any of the special committees to get in contact with the Marion County Board Secretary, Lori Linder.

MARION COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Marion County Board Representative Creighton Engel stated that a meeting was conducted last week, and the facility is doing well. He stated that he had been contacted by several entities with regards to a drug intervention and treatment program that may be conducted through the Health Department. He will be in contact with Melissa Mallow regarding this service.

SCIRPD

Marion County Treasurer Gary Purcell is attending a meeting this evening.

MARION COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Marion County Board Representative Steven Whitenour stated that there is a meeting scheduled at noon, Thursday, June 27, 2024 at the Centralia Chamber of Commerce.

WIB (WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD)

Marion County Board Representative Deborah Reed stated that there was a meeting the previous week. Discussion of the passing of the Budget for the year. Extra monies are available to help people age 18-24 years that are out of work and are not registered or in school.

ENTERPRISE ZONE

Marion County Board Representatives Christopher Krupp and Adam Smith stated that a meeting has not occurred.

BCMw

Marion County Board Representative Adam Smith stated that a meeting was held the previous night. The Committee has hired WIPFLI for Forensic Accounting and Sikich as their Auditor. The new director, Jessica Back, drove to Springfield, Illinois and spoke with the Head of BCMw for guidance to resolve their previous issues.

In conclusion, Board Member Brock Waggoner requested information regarding the investigation of the email matter that was addressed during the Public Comment portion of this meeting. Fellow Board Member Steven Whitenour was allowed to present a brief summary by Board Chairwoman Debbie Smith. He began by explaining that the issue created apprehensiveness among several people during the last couple of weeks. He determined, in his opinion, that a crime had not been committed by someone leaving the copy of the email on the Board Secretary's desk, and the correspondence was a social media post that someone felt needed to be shared. During his investigation, he spoke with Board Members Brock Waggoner and Tracy Murray. Mr. Waggoner voiced his concern was "using County resources to create Hit Lists." Mr. Whitenour and Mr. Murray were in agreement that this was not a crime, but their question was why this email was disseminated. Mr. Whitenour consulted with State's Attorney Tim Hudspeth with regards to what the repercussions would be if he identified the person who left the email, but did not commit a crime. He petitioned for full immunity for himself, the 2 others involved in the investigation, and the County if that person or persons are identified. He offered to continue with the investigation if asked to, but questioned who would it benefit. Mr. Waggoner insisted to continue to research if County employees were involved or if County resources were used to obtain this email. Mr. Murray emphasized that the issue is being properly addressed. State's Attorney Hudspeth communicated that he agreed that a crime was not committed, and that there is no evidence to support the issue that Government property was or was not used to obtain the email.

County Board Chairwoman Debbie Smith addressed the matter. She stated that a thorough examination of the meeting packets will be conducted prior to releasing the information via email. She further revealed that this type of issue will not happen again. Board Member Sharon Woodward conveyed that she felt that nothing was wrong with this item being shared. Mrs. Smith affirmed that the sole reason for it being sent was for informational purposes only. She took sole responsibility.

Mr. Whritenour delivered a brief discussion regarding the openness of his email correspondence and it being available by a FOIA request. He proceeded to explain how Social Media is used as worldwide electronic communication and to be prepared to accept the consequences if a person utilizes this technology.

Next, State's Attorney Hudspeth clarified that if a County employee was involved with this matter, then the County's Elected Official will be responsible for any disciplinary actions. If a constituent is involved and something bad happens to them, then the person responsible for the misconduct will be held accountable.

A guest requested to speak, but was denied.

In conclusion, Mr. Waggoner insisted to proceed with the investigation since it has already been initiated. This topic will continue to be addressed at the next Full County Board Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.


Time Adjourned: 7:47 P.M.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 6:30 P.M.

Approved: _____ ✓

Date: 7/9/24

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



6/25/24

Full Board Meeting

Guests

Clad Hull

Todd Mann

Wayne S. Walker

Donna Jones

Paul C. Jones

Ray Sanders

Tom

Brendy Hemper

Sue Huelsketter

Matt Huelsketter

Neil + Betty Caron

Michael Doughs

Carol

Robert

Bruce Tate

Donna Dawson

MARK MILLER

Jim Hedges

Clifford Schickel

Bruce Kropp

Cory