

March 27, 2023

David Abbott	P
Don Adkins, Jr.	P
Donald Blansett	P
Joey Blevins, Jr.	A
Ruric Brandt	P
Logan Campbell	P
Jimmy Cantrell	P
Steve Franklin	P
Gene Hargis	P
Linda Mason	P
Chris Morrison	P
Jim Nunley	P
Dennis Rollins	P
Paul Schafer	P
Peggy Thompson	P

The Marion County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on March 27, 2023. Chairman David Abbott called the meeting to order. (Time: 02) Invocation was given by Commissioner Hargis. (Time 0:27) Pledge led by Marion County Clerk, Joanie Spangler. (Time 1:39) Roll call was taken by Jaime Quick, Chief Deputy Clerk. (Time 2:04) Fourteen commissioners were present. Absent this month Commissioner Blevins.

- 1) (Time 0:02:22) At this time Chairman Abbott announced the resignation of Commissioner Joey Blevins. Chairman Abbott also presented and read the resignation letter to the commission. (Attachment) A motion was made by Commissioner Schafer to accept his resignation seconded by Commissioner Brandt 13 voting aye Commissioner Blansett voting no. Commissioner Blevins also served as Vice Chairman. Chairman Abbott opened the floor for nominations to replace the now vacant Vice Chairman position. Commissioner Franklin made a motion to nominate Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Commissioner Hargis made a motion to cease nominations, seconded by Commissioner Schafer. 14 voting aye Commissioner Mason is now Vice Chairman.
- 2) A motion made by Commissioner Campbell to approve the February 27, 2023, Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Cantrell 14 coting aye.
- 3) Approval of Ambulance Contract with Puckett EMS- (Time 0:05:57) (Attachment) Commissioner Mason questioned whether there is any policy in this contract that would not allow a customer to be transported to the facility of their choice. A representative from Puckett EMS addressed the question stating he did not see that there was any type of policy preventing that and if he could be given some examples of questionable incidents then he would further check in on it. After further discussion Commissioner Franklin made a motion to accept the proposed Ambulance

Agreement with Puckett EMS with the 10 percent annual increase. Commissioner Rollins seconded. 14 voting ayes

- 4) Discussion and approval of grant application for funding of Health Department improvements- (Time 0:12:15) (Attachment) a letter request from Mayor Jackson to the Southeast Regional Office of the Tennessee department of Health for ARP funding of the following improvements: reconfigure, expand and restripe the parking lot, replace old HVAC units and renovate the front office of the Health department. Commissioner Campbell made a motion to accept the contract, seconded by Commissioner Cantrell 14 voting aye.
- 5) Approval of Allen & Hoshall as engineers of Record for the Marion County Airport- (Time 0:14:00) Chairman Abbott read per text message from Mayor Jackson. Allen & Hoshall was the only engineering company to send RFP back a response to the RFP. Commissioner Schafer made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Brandt. 14 voting aye
- 6) Appointment of new Planning Commissioner member- (Time 0:14:44) (Attachment) Chairman Abbott read letter from Mayor Jackson recommending Jimmy Sneed be appointed to the Planning Commission to replace Matt Stone whose term has expired. The appointment will be for a full four (4) year term. Commissioner Hargis made a motion to accept the recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Mason. 14 voting aye
- 7) Approval of Resolution- Application for a \$1.5 million-dollar Appalachian Regional Commissioner (ARC) POWER Grant for Chattanooga State build-out – (Time 0:15:07) (Attachment) a motion was made by Commissioner Rollins to approve, seconded by Commissioner Schafer 14 voting aye.
- 8) Approval of Resolution – Opioid Settlement (Time 0:16:11) (Attachment) Commissioner Hargis attended a zoom meeting from an email link that was sent to all county commissioners email addresses. Commissioner Hargis also stated this is a settlement in which payment to the county would be spread out over the next 15-18 years. Counselor Gouger explained with detail of the resolution, which is for acceptance of the second wave of opioid settlements, and the critical need for the money to be used in the county under the guidelines of the payout, with an acceptance deadline of April 18th. Commissioner Schafer made a motion to accept this resolution, seconded by Commissioner Rollins. 14 voting aye.
- 9) Approval of Resolution- Subdivision Regulations- (Time 0:21:18) Commissioner Hargis made a motion to approve the Planning Commission Resolution adopting certain amendments to the County's Subdivision Regulations (Attachment), seconded by Commissioner Adkins 14 voting aye
- 10) Linda Hooper- Discussion regarding North end of Marion County (Time 0:23:10) (Attachment) Mrs. Hooper presented the commission with a list of TDOT contacts and ask that everyone call and email these people until Highway 27 from Powell's Crossroads to Signal Mountain is completely repaved. In addition to improving the horrible condition of Highway 108 that also contains an extremely dangerous "dip". Commissioner Morrison stressed the amount of contact he and others have attempted to make with TDOT with still no response from any TDOT members. Commissioner Blansett recommended inviting TDOT to a county commission meeting.

- 11) Approval to buy vehicle for Mental Health Transport using funds from the Sheriff's Mental Health Transport Grant- (Time 0:33:14) Sheriff Bo Burnette was present and addressed the need and use this vehicle, which will be purchased as a surplus vehicle from the State of Missouri. Commissioner Mason made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Morrison. 14 voting aye

- 12) Discussion- Purchase of a new fingerprinting system for Marion County Sheriff's Office- (Time 0:34:12) Sheriff Bo Burnette stated the fingerprinting system is 12 years old and has quit working and would like to request the commission's approval to purchase a new system. The system is available through State contract, and he has the funds available in his current budget. Commissioner Blansett made a motion to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Schafer. 14 voting aye

- 13) Cory Pickett, Superintendent- Marion County Highway Department- (Time 0:35:00) (Attachments) Mr. Pickett asked to postpone the presentation of the 2023 County Road List book until April Commission meeting due to errors and omissions that were discovered after he was recently appointed to his position. Mr. Pickett requested permission to assist adjoining county highway departments and to permit adjoining county highway departments to work with his department, during times of emergency or hardship, such as storm and flood recovery and other natural disasters. Commissioner Adkins made a motion to approve request seconded by Commissioner Campbell 14 voting aye. Mr. Pickett also requested that he be allowed to continue to acquire verbal quotes for diesel and gas purchases in lieu of an annual bidding process. Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Schafer. (Attachment)

- 14) Tom Kinningham and Jack Champion- Early Warning system in the Jumpoff area- (Time 0:40:05) Mr. Kinningham stated the need for an early warning system in this area for severe weather and expressed the need with examples of potentially dangerous weather earlier this month. Mr. Champion stated that he met with Iris Rudder who stated that he would need to request a grant through the commission. Commissioner Blansett advised that these funds would most likely come from TEMA and to contact EMA Director Steve Lamb and/or Mayor Jackson for guidance.

- 15) Approval- Sale of Delinquent Tax Property A. Map 151, Parcel 999.00 B. Map 050A, Group A, Parcel 022.00 C. Map 050A, Group A, Parcel 023.00 (Time 0:44:07) (Attachments) Map 151, Parcel 999.00 Bid submitted by Ernest Gary Clouse \$740.00. Map 050A, Group A, Parcel 022.00 bid submitted by Billy Joe Rankin \$980.00. Map 050A, Group A, Parcel 023.00 bid submitted by Billy Joe Rankin \$950.00. On item A, Commissioner Schafer stated the Delinquent Tax Property Committee met prior to this meeting and made a motion to recommend that the Property Assessor delete Map 151, Parcel 999.00. Counselor Gouger explained that this parcel could not be physically located without conflicting with established parcels of land and that it likely did not exist. Commissioner Campbell seconded the Committee's motion to delete. 14 voting aye. On Item B, a second of the Committee's standing motion to approve the sale to Billy Joe Rankin for \$980.00 was made by Commissioner Adkins. 14 voting aye. On Item C, a second the Committee's standing motion to approve the sale to Billy Joe Rankin for \$950.00 seconded to the Committee's was made by Commissioner Adkins. 14 voting aye.

- 16) Budget Amendments- Marion County Local Government- (Time 0:47:13) (Attachment) Chairman Abbott read the budget amendment request from Mayor

Jackson. A motion was made by Commissioner Adkins and seconded by Commissioner Campbell to approve the Fund 101 budget amendments totaling \$78,906 (see attachment) 14 voting aye.

- 17) Budget Amendments- Marion County Board of Education (Time 0:48:56) None requested. (Attachment) Monthly Financial report and Cash Flow Analysis for February 2023 was presented.
- 18) Budget Amendments- Marion County Highway Department (Time 0:49:16) None requested. (Attachment). February report of receipts and disbursements was presented.
- 19) Mayor's Report- (Time 0:50:00) Chairman Abbott read the report from Mayor Jackson. (Attachment) This month's RFI's from Project Black Nickle, Project Leopard, Project Recover, Project Silicon Anode, Project Goose and Project Ensign. SETHRA is taking over the drug court program at the request of the circuit court judges. There will be a drug court in each county in the 12th district. Joe Allen will be the next Veteran Service Officer to replace Mr. Johnny Carson. Three gentlemen did apply that would have all done a great job. Mayor Jackson met with Glen Heath the engineer for the airport and Michael Stultz with the State Aeronautics Division to review the drawings for the rehab of the runway and taxiway. Plans are to close the airport for the months of June, July, and August so this project can be completed. A pre-bid meeting will be on April 11th and bids are to be turned into Mayor Jackson's office by April 25th at 2:00pm. In 2012, the county loaned the town of Jasper some funds to assist in running sewer to Loves. The loan has been paid back in full. The next County Commission meeting will be on April 24th.
- 20) Approval of Notaries- (Time 0:53:07) Marion County Clerk Joanie Spangler read the following names for approval: Rebekah Westmoreland, Richard Wozniak. Commissioner Morrison made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mason. 14 voting aye.
- 21) General Business- (Time 0:54:05) Commissioner Mason asked to revisit the cleaning contract that was not approved in the November Commission meeting due to the unclean condition and dissatisfaction of their work, using the current condition of the Justice Center building. The Justice Center is cleaned under a separate contract. Counselor Gouger recommended having the Building Use Committee address this concern. Commissioner Brandt had questions for how the funds of the water allocations were determined. Counselor Gouger responded that it was his understanding that the projected funding numbers for the various projects came from engineering estimates, although he was not involved in that process and had no firsthand knowledge of the projects or their estimated costs.
- 22) Adjournment- (Time 1:07:00) Commissioner Hargis made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Schafer. 14 voting aye.



Respectfully Submitted,
David Abbott, Chairman
Joanie Spangler, County Clerk