MINUTES
MARSHALL COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2026

BE REMEMBERED: That on Monday, August 10, 2026, the Marshall County Council met at a public meeting at the Marshall County Building, Room 203, 112 W. Jefferson Street, Plymouth, Indiana, at 9:00 a.m. pursuant to the call of President Tim Harman. The board members present were President Tim Harman, Vice President Nicole Cox, James Masterson, Deborah Johnson, Brandon Schadek, and Greg Compton; Council Attorney Marcel Lebbin; and County Auditor, Angela C. Birchmeier. Member Will Patterson was excused.

The meeting streamed live at http://www.youtube.com/@MarshallCountyIN, Brandon Schadek gave the Invocation, the Pledge of Allegiance was said, and President Harman noted a quorum was present, the business at hand was heard.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS

The attendees did not have public input on agenda items.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Lebbin did not have any business to report.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance: A subcommittee meeting was not held. President Harman provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled *General Fund Outlook and Jail Tax Implications for 2027,* for Council members to consider as they prepare for the budget season. He indicated the numbers were hypothetical without the sewer bond payoff or Jail LIT and in a worst case scenario the deficit will be $7,077,419.

Ordinance 2026-14: Ordinance Modifying Local Income Tax Rates. Cender Dalton Municipal Advisors Managing Partner Steve Dalton explained the Proposed Local Income Tax Restructuring. He outlined the current breakdown of LIT for Marshall County, the proposed 2027 local income tax rate (consideration of 1.00% to Certified Shares, 0.20% to Jail Operations, and 0.05% to Public Safety for a total rate of 1.25%.). Advisor Dalton explained that the State is still working on the local income tax structure legislation, the new proposed local income tax will not cover all expenses and cash reserves in LIT Special Purpose Fund 1114 will be utilized.
Deborah Johnson moved, second by Brandon Schadek, to approve Ordinance 2026-14: Ordinance Modifying Local Income Tax Rates on first reading, as presented.
Motion carried 6-0.

James Masterson moved, second by Nicole Cox, to schedule a public hearing on September 14th to consider Ordinance 2026-14: Ordinance Modifying Local Income Tax Rates for second reading. Motion carried 6-0.

Highway: Member Compton reported that a meeting will be held next Thursday, August 13, 2026.

Job Classification & Compensation: Vice President Cox stated that they are still waiting. One of the positions in question is to create a Highway non-CDL (Commercial Driver's License) entry level position.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

County Building Elevators: Building & Grounds Supervisor Billy Schoff and Board of Commissioners President Stan Klotz explained that the County Building elevators are outdated, and they are unable to obtain new parts. Otis Service and Repair provided two options. The first is to replace the control board, which will take 4-6 weeks for the repair, and provide an additional 2-6 years of service at a cost of $31,280 per elevator. The second option is to provide a hydraulic microprocessor-based control system, which will take 9-12 months for the repair, at a cost of $130,000 per elevator. They are seeking support for $260,000 from the Council, which will be considered under the additional appropriation requests later in the meeting.

County Building HVAC Controls: Supervisor Schoff and Board of Commissioners President Klotz received three proposals for upgrading the HVAC Controls. They are seeking support of $170,000 to upgrade the system, which will be considered under the additional appropriation requests later in the meeting.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Health Department Administrator Jackie Franks requested permission to apply for the Safety Pin – FIMR Grant offered by the Indiana Department of Health. The purpose of the grant funding is to establish a Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) committee. FIMR brings together a multi-disciplinary community team together to review de-identified infant and fetal deaths. FIMR is led by a coordinator who will collect information regarding deaths, create case summaries, establish community partnerships, and lead case review meetings. FIMR is an action-oriented community process that assesses, monitors, and works to improve service systems and community resources for women, infants, and families. The goals of this program are to reduce infant mortality rates and improve birth outcomes. The coordinator and committee will review fetal and infant deaths from both Starke and Marshall Counties. The grant will provide funding for a part-time coordinator position and an estimated award of $48,000. **Deborah Johnson moved, second by Nicole Cox, to allow Administrator Franks to apply for the Safety Pin – FIMR Grant, as requested. Motion carried 6-0.**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board of Commissioners President Stan Klotz requested support of an additional appropriation of $17,543.69 from the Unrestricted Opioid Fund and $9,456.31 from the DTF Fund for drug task force supplies. **Nicole Cox moved, second by Greg Compton, to support the additional appropriation requests, as presented. Motion carried 6-0.**

COUNCIL ITEMS

Ordinance 2026-(8) Additional Appropriations**:** The Auditor posted the Notice of Proposed Additional Appropriations on Gateway, the county website, and bulletin boards on July 22, 2026.

General / Prosecutor (1000-0009): **James Masterson moved, second by Nicole Cox, to approve the additional appropriation request of $25,000 into Toxicology and $5,225 into Training. Motion carried 6-0.**

General / Buildings & Grounds (1000-0172): **James Masterson moved, second by Deborah Johnson, to reduce and approve the additional appropriation request from $170,000 to $140,000 into Repair Buildings & Structures for HVAC Controls. Motion carried 6-0.**

General / Buildings & Grounds (1000-0172): **Brandon Schadek moved, second by Deborah Johnson, to reduce and approve the additional appropriation request from $130,000 to $32,000 into Repair Buildings & Structures for the elevator repair. Motion carried 6-0.**

General / Superior Court 3 (1000-0203): **Nicole Cox moved, second by Brandon Schadek, to approve the additional appropriation request of $4,500 into Court Appointed Doctors. Motion carried 6-0.**

LIT Special Purpose (1114): **Deborah Johnson moved, second by Brandon Schadek, to approve the additional appropriation request of $75,000 into Machinery & Equipment. Motion carried 6-0.**

Community Corrections Project Income (1122): **Greg Compton moved, second by Nicole Cox, to approve the additional appropriation request of $11,486 into Professional Services, the reduction of appropriation request of $4,500 from MCDAP Training Materials, and the additional appropriation request of $4,500 into Drug Testing Supplies. Motion carried 6-0.**

MVH (1176): **Nicole Cox moved, second by Deborah Johnson, to approve the reduction of appropriation request of $4,200 from Other Operating Supplies and the additional appropriation request of $4,200 into Telephone; the reduction of appropriation request of $4,900 from Professional Services and the additional appropriation request of $4,900 into Trash Hauling. Motion carried 6-0.**

Prosecutor Pretrial Diversion (2511): **Nicole Cox moved, second by James Masterson, to approve the additional appropriation request of $8,000 into Office Equipment. Motion carried 6-0.**

AARP Community Challenge Grant (9021): **Deborah Johnson moved, second by Nicole Cox, to approve the additional appropriation request of $4,037 into Office Equipment. Motion carried 6-0.**

Ordinance 2026-2(7): Transfer of Appropriations**:**
General / Veterans Service Officer (1000-0012): **James Masterson moved, second by Deborah Johnson, to approve the transfer of $100 from Dues & Subscriptions into Office Furniture & Fixtures. Motion carried 6-0.**

LIT Special Purpose (1114): **Nicole Cox moved, second by Brandon Schadek, to approve the transfer of $5,000 from Equipment Maintenance Repair into Telephone and the transfer of $50,000 from Wages-Turnkey/Dispatcher into Wages-Turnkey/Dispatcher PT. Motion carried 6-0.**

MVH / MVH Restricted (1176 / 1173): **Greg Compton moved, second by Deborah Johnson, to approve the transfer of $40,000 from MVH Paint into MVH Restricted Paint and the transfer of $12,000 from MVH Restricted Employer Social Security into MVH Employer Social Security. Motion carried 6-0.**

Ordinance 2026-5(5) Establish New County Funds: **Brandon Schadek moved, second by Nicole Cox, to approve Ordinance 2026-5(5): An Ordinance Authorizing Marshall County Council to Establish New County Funds: 8121 Bridge Insp/Inv Program 2026-2029 and 8122 Bridge 2540 Michigan Road. Motion carried 6-0.**

Minutes of July 13, 2026: **Brandon Schadek moved, second by James Masterson, to approve the meeting minutes of July 13, 2026, as presented. Motion carried 6-0.**

Lebbin Law Invoice: **Deborah Johnson moved, second by Nicole Cox, to approve the submission of Lebbin Law Invoice 2076 in the amount of $630. Motion carried 6-0.**

Cender Dalton Municipal Advisors Invoice: **James Masterson moved, second by Brandon Schadek, to approve the submission of Cender Dalton Municipal Advisors Invoice 12874 in the amount of $3,757.76. Motion carried 6-0.**

County Sheriff's Reports of Receipts and Distribution of the Commissary Fund:
Brandon Schadek moved, second by Deborah Johnson, to accept the County Sheriff's Reports of Receipts and Distributions of the Commissary Fund for the Period of April 1, 2026 through June 26, 2026, as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC INPUT

Jessica O'Blenis, 18738 5th Road, Plymouth, expressed appreciation for the discussion concerning the elevator repair previously addressed in the meeting. She then questioned the Council if they intended to provide input concerning the elevator contract upon renewal, whether the Council plans to remove the property taxes because of Senate Bill 1, and the local income tax. Attorney Lebbin stated that the property tax is regulated under State statute and that the Council is looking at local income tax to supplement any lost revenue. He further explained that meetings will be held at the local level with the municipalities to determine the allocation to cover services and report back to the State. The State will then refine the bill based on the reports received. Ms. O'Blenis expressed concern over income tax, the effects it has on small businesses, and whether the County has a 5-year financial plan. President Harman explained the MUST Committee and indicated that he can present a case to maintain the current tax rate or reduce the rate, depending on how the City of Plymouth and Town of Bremen wish to proceed. He discussed the revenues and cash balances. She questioned whether the County had a plan if the State eliminates the property tax. Members discussed property tax, Association of Indiana Counties training, revenues, balance surpluses, and the condition of Marshall County roads. After stating there is a three-minute time limit for public comment, **Nicole Cox moved, second by Deborah Johnson to recess.** The motion was not recognized.

Sheriff Matt Hassel and Lieutenant Les McFarland discussed the need for additional patrol officers on a part-time basis and another full-time patrol officer next calendar year. He indicated a job description would need to be created, and the line item funded. Discussion was held concerning the use of reserve officers. Vice President Cox stated that the Council has Ordinance 2025-29A: Adopting Job Classification and Compensation Maintenance Plan Procedures, which allows for new positions and reclassification for existing positions and office reorganization requests to be submitted by the department to the subcommittee between February 1st and April 30th each calendar year and to be effective the following calendar year.
Nicole Cox moved, second by Deborah Johnson, to make an exception and allow the Personnel Subcommittee to work with the Sheriff to create a part-time Patrol Officer position and establish a wage rate. Motion carried 6-0.

A recess was taken from 10:51 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

President Harman explained that a time will need to be scheduled to hold the MUST Committee meeting. **Nicole Cox moved, second by Deborah Johnson, to give the President the authority to set two meeting dates for MUST Committee meetings.** Following discussion, **motion carried 6-0.**

2027 BUDGET – FIRST READING

Commissioners: The total budget submitted is $7,146,924.
Drainage Board: The total budget submitted is $8,800.
Cumulative Capital Development (CCD): The total budget submitted is $1,394,503.
Medical Benefits Self Insurance: The total budget submitted is $5,120,200.
Dental Benefits Self Insurance: The total budget submitted is $175,500.
County IV-D Incentive: The total budget submitted is $5,500.
Building Maintenance: The total budget submitted is $941,963.
Highway: The MVH budget submitted is $3,176,870 and the MVH Restricted budget submitted is $2,455,006. The total budget submitted is $5,631,876.
Cum Bridge: The total budget submitted is $1,423,880.
Local Roads and Streets: The total budget submitted is $859,650.
General - Sheriff: The total budget submitted is $3,469,674.
LIT Special Purpose: The total budget submitted is $7,156,931.
Drug Free Community: The total budget submitted is $70,000.
Extradition/Sheriff Assistance: The total budget submitted is $10,000.
Firearms Training: The total budget submitted is $35,000.
Misdemeanant County Corrections: The total budget submitted is $65,000.
Sex/Violent Offender Administration: The total budget submitted is $7,700.
Statewide 911: The total budget submitted is $728,555.
Central Dispatch: The total budget submitted is $400,339.
K9 Program: The total budget submitted is $2,000.
DARE: The total budget submitted is $10,000.
DEA Forfeiture: The total budget submitted is $26,000.
Lake Enforcement DNR Grant: The total budget submitted is $65,000.

A recess was taken from 1:30 p.m. until 1:39 p.m.

Clerk: The total budget submitted is $444,900.
Voter Registration: The total budget submitted is $64,300.
Election Board: The total budget submitted is $99,500.
Clerks Records Perpetuation: The total budget submitted is $81,700.
Clerk IV-D: The total budget submitted is $32,200.
Treasurer: The total budget submitted is $239,542.
Recorder: The total budget submitted is $134,474.
ID Security Program: The total budget submitted is $8,000.
Recorders Perpetuation: The total budget submitted is $45,536.
Surveyor: The total budget submitted is $251,511.
Surveyor Corner Perpetuation: The total budget submitted is $53,500.
Coroner: The total budget submitted is $196,833.
Assessor: The total budget submitted is $206,150.
Sales Disclosure-County Share: The total budget submitted is $16,150.
Reassessment: The total budget submitted is $615,850.
Prosecutor: The total budget submitted is $860,987.

Pre-Trial Diversion: The total budget submitted is $188,644. Council requested the budget be increased by $51,706 for Wages-Pretrial Diversion Officer. The total revised submitted budget is $240,350.
Drug Task Force: The total budget submitted is $23,000.
Prosecutor IV-D: The total budget submitted is $58,855.
Extension: The total budget submitted is $254,616.
Veterans Service Officer: The total budget submitted is $84,050.
Plan Commission: The total budget submitted is $298,938.
Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA): The total budget submitted is $46,800.
Building Commission: The total budget submitted is $104,197.
Unsafe Building: The total budget submitted is $85,000.
Information Systems: The total budget submitted is $213,902.
Museum: The total budget submitted is $172,553.
Historical Society: The total budget submitted is $99,840.
Superior Court #1: The total budget submitted is $215,602.
Superior Court # 2: The total budget submitted is $356,371.
Superior Court # 3: The total budget submitted is $262,562.
PSC Drug Court: The total budget submitted is $5,000.
Community Corrections: The total budget submitted is $362,802.
Community Corrections-Problem Solving Court: The total budget submitted is $15,110.
Community Corrections Project Income: The total budget submitted is $723,800. Due to increased expenditure and decreasing cash balances, Director Holcomb requested employee benefits be paid from the General Fund.
Circuit Court: The total budget submitted is $200,700.
CASA: The total budget submitted is $53,690.
GAL/CASA: The total budget submitted is $13,000.
CASA Donations: The total budget submitted is $1,000.
Public Defender Board: The total budget submitted is $740,327.
Probation: The total budget submitted is $894,495. Council requested the budget be increased by $200,000 for Care-Patients & Inmates. The total revised submitted budget is $1,094,495.
Supplemental Adult Probation: The total budget submitted is $51,149.
Weights & Measures: The total budget submitted is $30,653.
EMA: The total budget submitted is $84,565.
LEPC: The total budget submitted is $22,988.
Soil & Water: The total budget submitted is $50,104.
Park & Recreation Board: The total budget submitted is $38,000.
Health: The total budget submitted is $710,175.
Health First: The total budget submitted is $272,521.
Human Resources: The total budget submitted is $99,135.
Auditor: The total budget submitted is $439,095.
Plat Mapping: The total budget submitted is $31,950.
Auditor Ineligible: The total budget submitted is $27,000.
County Officials Training Fund: Total budget submitted is $15,000.
Council: The total budget submitted is $138,836. Following discussion concerning the Public Safety Grant, Council requested the budget be increased by $400,000. The total revised submitted budget is $538,836.

President Harman stated the total combined budget for the General Fund is $19,444,749; Special Funds total $26,799,110 for a total budget submission for calendar year 2027 of $46,243,859. President Harman explained that $2-$3 million in expenditures from the General Fund would need to be cut or $3-$4 million cut for a surplus to be forecasted.

Board of Commissioners President Stan Klotz explained Highway Superintendent Jason Peters will be requesting $500,000 in additional appropriations for road work. President Harman does not agree with paving 12th Road and 7th Road due to the number of houses and limited traffic. He believes roads with higher traffic counts and more homes should benefit from additional funding, such as 3rd Road. He questioned if Superintendent Peters could provide an estimate to cold patch both roads. President Klotz indicated that he could but questioned how the Council will justify that to taxpayers when their responsibility is roads and other County business when money is being given to other units that are not our statutory responsibility. The Highway Subcommittee members will discuss this further at their upcoming meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business coming before the Council, **the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. upon motion by Nicole Cox, second by Greg Compton. Motion carried 6-0.**

Tim Harman, President	Will Patterson
Nicole Cox, Vice President	Brandon Schadek
James Masterson	Greg Compton
Deborah Johnson	Attest:
	Angela C. Birchmeier, Auditor