MINUTES
MARSHALL COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

BE REMEMBERED: That on Monday, September 14, 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, Will Patterson, Brandon Schadek, and Greg Compton; Council Attorney Marcel Lebbin; and County Auditor, Angela C. Birchmeier.

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

President Harman invited members of the public to address the board on any agenda item. 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 brief update stating the General Fund balance was down $115,000 from last month and the LIT Special Purpose Fund was up $150,000 from last month. All other fund cash balances look solid with the MVH cash balance down a little.

Highway: A subcommittee report was not provided. Superintendent Jason Peters will be discussing a funding request for additional paving projects and Community Crossings 2027 later in the meeting.

Job Classification & Compensation: Vice President Cox presented the following subcommittee recommendations for consideration:

- The Sheriff requested the addition of a part-time Patrol Officer; an interim Administrative Services Assistant; a full-time IT Helpdesk/PC Technician; the removal of the Civil Process Server and increase the full-time Turnkey/Dispatcher positions from 23 to 24.

Brandon Schadek moved, second by Greg Compton, to amend the 2026 salary ordinance to add part-time Patrol Officer to be paid $38 per hour for 40 hours per week.
Motion carried 7-0.

Nicole Cox moved, second by Deborah Johnson, to add one IT Helpdesk/PC Technician to the 2027 salary ordinance. Motion carried 7-0.

Nicole Cox moved, second by Will Patterson, to remove one Civil Process Server and increase the number of Turnkey/Dispatch to twenty-four in the 2027 salary ordinance. Motion carried 7-0.

Auditor Birchmeier requested guidance on the remaining outstanding requests, as follows:

- Extension Office requested to update the Secretary/Office Manager job description and rename as Office Manager/Administrative Assistant; remove the Secretary Staff position and add Technology and Communications Coordinator/Administrative Assistant.
- Health Department to discontinue the School Liaison position, remove the Public Health Nurse and add a Medical Assistant to the Local Public Health Services fund.
- Superior Court 3 requested an update to the Clerk position.
- Highway Department to add a non-CDL position.

James Masterson moved, second by Nicole Cox, to approve the requests for the Extension Office, Health Department, and Superior Court 3, as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

CENDER DALTON

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 as follows: 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 this is not a tax increase. It will not be distributed to other units of government, and it will be used to fund the Jail and 911 Dispatch. Ordinance 2026-14: Ordinance Modifying Local Income Tax Rates is being presented for public hearing.

Brandon Schadek moved, second by Deborah Johnson, to open the public hearing on Ordinance 2026-14: Ordinance Modifying Local Income Tax Rates. Motion carried 7-0.

The attendees did not have any public input.
Brandon Schadek moved, second by Nicole Cox, to close the public hearing on on Ordinance 2026-14: Ordinance Modifying Local Income Tax Rates. Motion carried 7-0.

Nicole Cox moved, second by Deborah Johnson, to approve Ordinance 2026-14: Ordinance Modifying Local Income Tax Rates on second reading. Motion carried 7-0.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

County Building Elevators: Board of Commissioners President Klotz explained that for the purpose of transparency, at the previous Council meeting it was discussed that the control boards would need to be repaired and an additional appropriation was approved in the amount of $32,000. Following further inspection and discussions with Otis Repair & Service, they are recommending replacing the elevator door locks and rollers. An additional appropriation will not be necessary and he wanted the Council to be aware this is how the funding will be utilized.
Brandon Schadek moved, second by Will Patterson, to approve utilizing the $32,000 appropriated for the circuit board to be used for other elevator repairs. Motion carried 7-0.

COUNCIL ITEMS

Ordinance 2026-(9) Additional Appropriations**:** The Auditor posted the Notice of Proposed Additional Appropriations on Gateway, the county website, and bulletin boards on August 20, 2026.

General / Election Board (1000-0062): The request for $1,500 into Computer Equipment was withdrawn by Clerk Jenny Bennitt.

MVH Restricted (1173-0531): **Nicole Cox moved, second by Will Patterson, to approve the additional appropriation request of $500,000 into Bituminous. Motion carried 7-0. Motion carried 7-0.**

Opioid Unrestricted Fund (1238): **Deborah Johnson moved, second by James Masterson, to approve the additional appropriation request of $17,543.69 into Body Armor. Motion carried 7-0.**

DTF (4010): **Deborah Johnson moved, second by Brandon Schadek, to approve the additional appropriation request of $9,456.31 into Body Armor. Motion carried 7-0.**

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (8118): **James Masterson moved, second by Brandon Schadek, to approve the additional appropriation request of $23,000 into Wages-Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and $2,000 into Employer Social Security. Motion carried 7-0.**

IGIO Seed Grant (9020): **Nicole Cox moved, second by Deborah Johnson, to approve the additional appropriation request of $30,000 into Contractual Services. Motion carried 7-0.**

Ordinance 2026-2(8): Transfer of Appropriations**:**
General / Election Board (1000-0062): **Greg Compton moved, second by Brandon Schadek, to approve the transfer of $1,500 from Office Supplies into Computer Equipment. Motion carried 7-0.**

Community Corrections Project Income (1122): **Brandon Schadek moved, second by Nicole Cox, to approve the transfer of $2,180 from Monitoring Fees-Adult into Computer Equipment and the transfer of $1,000 from Field Supplies into Computer Equipment. Motion carried 7-0.**

Ordinance 2026-5(6) Establish New County Funds: **Deborah Johnson moved, second by Will Patterson, to approve Ordinance 2026-5(6): An Ordinance Authorizing Marshall County Council to Establish New County Funds: 1240 Building and Construction Related Fees. Motion carried 7-0.**

Minutes of August 10, 2026: **James Masterson moved, second by Nicole Cox, to approve the meeting minutes of August 10, 2026, as presented. Motion carried 6-0-1, with Will Patterson abstaining.**

Lebbin Law Invoice: **Nicole Cox moved, second by Brandon Schadek, to approve the submission of Lebbin Law Invoice 2103 in the amount of $2,040. Motion carried 7-0.**

Cender Dalton Municipal Advisors Invoice: **Will Patterson moved, second by James Masterson, to approve the submission of Cender Dalton Municipal Advisors Invoice 12953 in the amount of $2,380.47. Motion carried 7-0.**

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Board of Commissioners President Stan Klotz and Highway Supervisor Jason Peters presented a request for the funding of additional paving projects: 7th Road, Fir Road to State Road 331 and 12B Road, US 30 to County Line Road in the amount of $532,591.80. Council members discussed the pros and cons of completing the projects in-house or by contractor.
James Masterson moved, second by Will Patterson, for a roll call vote to support an additional appropriation of $532,591.80 for the additional paving projects, as presented.

Following additional discussion, **Auditor Birchmeier called for a vote: Compton-Aye; Schadek-Nay; Patterson-Aye; Harman-Nay; Cox-Aye; Johnson-Aye; Masterson-Aye. Motion carried 5-2, with Brandon Schadek and Tim Harman voting no.**

Superintendent Peters presented a financial commitment letter for the 2027 Community Crossings match, indicating the $250,000 match would be paid by appropriation from the General Fund. The projects being submitted for consideration are 3rd Road, S.R. 331 to Elm Road; Oak Blvd., S.R. 331 to Yellowwood Court; Sycamore Lane, Oak Blvd. to Maple Court; Maple Court, Sycamore Court to cul-de-sac; Oak Blvd., City limits to 6A Road; Linden Road, S.R. 10 to 16th Road; 16th Road, Linden Road to U.S. 31; Yellowwood Court, Oak Blvd. to cul-de-sac; Redwood Court, Oak Blvd. to cul-de-sac; and Dogwood Court, Oak Blvd. to cul-de-sac. **Greg Compton moved, second by Will Patterson, to approve the financial commitment letter and $250,000 match, as presented. Motion carried 6-1, with Tim Harman voting no due to the roads being in his neighborhood.**

PUBLIC INPUT

President Harman invited members of the public to address the board on any item. The attendees did not have public input.

A recess was taken from 10:11 am until 10:20 am.

2027 BUDGET HEARING

Marshall County Tourism Commission: President Harman stated that Tourism Commission President Matt Hovermale submitted a copy of the 2027 estimated budget. The annual budget aligns with the total estimated revenue from 2026. In total, the estimated revenue is anticipated to be $608,230. The budget includes $304,115 (50%) allocated to Marshall County Tourism Commission to be utilized for destination development, research, infrastructure needs of tourism related businesses, event sponsorships, grant opportunities, and other operational expenses. The remaining 50% is allocated to Visit Marshall County for day-to-day marketing activities, digital marketing campaigns, print and media advertising, community outreach and engagement, event sponsorships, staff and other operational expenses. **Brandon Schadek moved, second by Deborah Johnson, to accept the Marshall County Tourism Commission budget, as presented. Motion carried 7-0.**

Marshall County Solid Waste: President Harman that the Marshall County Solid Waste 2027 budget hearing will be held on Monday, September 21st at 11:00 a.m. or immediately following the Board of Commissioners meeting.

Marshall County: The total budget request is $46,243,859. The General Fund budget total is $19,444,749 and the Special Fund budgets total $26,799,110. The Estimated Civil Max Levy is $14,603,619 and the estimated Property Tax Cap is $979,300.

Commissioners: The total budget submitted is $7,146,924. Employer Social Security was reduced by $27,000; Group Health Insurance was reduced by $600,000; Employer PERF was reduced by $32,000; Dental Insurance was reduced by $10,000; Long Term Disability Insurance was reduced by $12,000; Professional Services was reduced by $5,000; Utilities was reduced by $60,000; Trash Hauling & Recycling was reduced by $4,000; Repair Furniture & Equipment was reduced by $1,000; Community Crossings Match was reduced by $83,334; Park Maintenance was reduced by $400; Legal Services was reduced by $25,000; and Telephone was reduced by $2,000. Member Compton suggested an increase of $5,000 to the Professional Services account line for ONE Marshall County to apply for grants on behalf of the County.

Greg Compton moved, second by James Masterson, to increase Professional Services by $5,000 for ONE Marshall County, as requested. Motion carried 5-2, with Tim Harman and Brandon Schadek voting no.

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. Auxiant Weekly was reduced by $600,000 and Signos was reduced by $50,000.
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. Overtime was reduced by $1,000; Wages-Custodian PT was reduced by $5,000; Repair & Maintenance Supplies was reduced by $10,000; Janitorial Supplies was reduced by $5,000; Repair Buildings & Structures was reduced by $165,000; and Equipment Maintenance Contracts was reduced by $5,000.
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. Office Equipment was reduced by $500, and Garage Equipment was reduced by $5,500 in MVH.
Cum Bridge: The total budget submitted is $1,423,880.
Local Roads and Streets: The total budget submitted is $859,650. Utilities was reduced by $21,000; Trash Hauling & Recycling was reduced by $4,000; Repair Buildings & Structures was reduced by $2,000; Roadside Mowing was reduced by $25,000; Dues & Subscriptions was reduced by $100; and Telephone was reduced by $4,000.
General - Sheriff: The total budget submitted is $3,469,674. Wages-Department Head was reduced by $3,540; Wages-Merit Board was reduced by $2,400; and Legal Services was reduced by $1,000.
Following wage discussions, **Brandon Schadek moved, second by Nicole Cox, to approve a per hour increase of $2.40 for Merit Officers and $1.06 for Security Officers in the 2027 salary ordinance. Motion carried 7-0.**

Brandon Schadek moved, second by Will Patterson, to increase the number of Patrol Officers from 12 to 13 in the 2027 salary ordinance. Motion carried 7-0.

Tim Harman moved to provide a $1.06 per hour wage increase. Following discussion, motion was withdrawn. **Nicole Cox moved, second by Deborah Johnson, to approve a per hour increase of $0.87 for all full-time employees, except Merit Officers, in the 2027 salary ordinance. Motion carried 7-0.**

LIT Special Purpose: The total budget submitted is $7,156,931. Group Health Insurance was reduced by $218,698; Group Life Insurance was reduced by $970; Janitorial Supplies was reduced by $5,000; Prisoner Supplies was reduced by $4,000; Prisoner Care was reduced by $15,200; Telephone was reduced by $3,000; Jail Lease Rental Bond Payments was reduced by $562,500; Office Furniture & Fixtures was reduced by $2,000; Office Equipment was reduced by $10,000; Computer Equipment was reduced by $2,000; Computer Software was reduced by $5,000; Jail Equipment was reduced by $5,000; and Machinery & Equipment was reduced by $600,000.
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. 911 Equipment Lease was reduced by $5,000.
Central Dispatch: The total budget submitted is $400,339. Overtime was reduced by $1,000; Employer Social Security was reduced by $2,000; Group Health Insurance was reduced by $15,000; Group Life Insurance was reduced by $364; and Employer PERF was reduced by $4,000.
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 12:13 p.m. until 1:20 p.m.

Clerk: The total budget submitted is $444,900. Office Furniture & Fixtures was reduced by $5,000.
Voter Registration: The total budget submitted is $64,300. Office Supplies was reduced by $500, and Dues & Subscriptions was reduced by $300.
Election Board: The total budget submitted is $99,500. Computer Equipment was reduced by $2,500.
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. Wages-Deputy Coroner was reduced by $2,000 and Autopsy Expense was reduced by $2,000.
Assessor: The total budget submitted is $206,150. Overtime was reduced by $1,500.
Sales Disclosure-County Share: The total budget submitted is $16,150.
Reassessment: The total budget submitted is $615,850. Overtime was reduced by $1,500 and Group Health Insurance was reduced by $27,000.
Prosecutor: The total budget submitted is $860,987. Wages-Pretrial Diversion Officer was reduced by $51,706; Repair Furniture & Equipment was reduced by $250; Transcripts was reduced by $500; Training was reduced by $500; and Dues & Subscriptions was reduced by $500.
Pre-Trial Diversion: The total budget submitted is $240,350. Professional Services was reduced by $5,000; Other Current Expense was reduced by $13,000; Computer Maintenance was reduced by $500; Travel/Mileage was reduced by $2,500; and Office Equipment was reduced by $2,000.
Following discussion with Prosecuting Attorney Nelson Chipman, **Nicole Cox moved, second by Will Patterson, to reduce Professional Services by $20,000 to remove funding for Flock Cameras and any other similar Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) device through any county fund, whether tax dollars, user fees, grants, donations, or any other public money; and to remove funding for other surveillance technologies like signal trace (Leonardo), mobile or stationary ALPR's (Flock & Axon), gunshot detectors (Axon), cell site simulators (Stingray) without specific Council review and approval. A roll call vote was taken Compton-Nay; Schadek-Nay; Patterson-Aye; Harman-Aye; Cox-Aye; Johnson-Aye; Masterson-Nay. Motion carried 4-3, with Greg Compton, Brandon Schadek, and James Masterson voting no.**
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. Computer Maintenance was reduced by $200.
Veterans Service Officer: The total budget submitted is $84,050.
Plan Commission: The total budget submitted is $298,938. Professional Services was reduced by $5,000 and Property Cleanup/Unsafe Building Expense was reduced by $30,000.
Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA): The total budget submitted is $46,800. Legal Services was reduced by $10,000.
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. Pauper Counsel was reduced by $5,000.
Superior Court # 2: The total budget submitted is $356,371.
Superior Court # 3: The total budget submitted is $262,562. Equipment Maintenance Contract was reduced by $2,300.
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.
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. Interpreter-Court (Non-Reimb) was reduced by $2,000.
Probation: The total budget submitted is $1,094,495. Wages-Clerical was reduced by $2,000; Care-Patients Inmates was reduced by $132,000; and Computer Equipment was reduced by $500.
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. Supplies was reduced by $500, and West Twp Log Cabin was reduced by $2,000.
Health: The total budget submitted is $710,175. Printing & Advertising was reduced by $500.
Health First: The total budget submitted is $272,521.
Human Resources: The total budget submitted is $99,135. Safety Committee was reduced by $500.
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 $538,836. Professional Services was reduced by $3,000; Public Safety Grant Program was reduced by $200,000; and Legal Services was reduced by $5,000.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business coming before the Council, **the meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m. upon motion by Will Patterson, second by Nicole Cox. Motion carried 7-0.**

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