



MINUTES Water Board

4:00 PM - Tuesday, July 8, 2025
Water Department, 3050 5th Avenue

The Water Board of the City of Marion, Linn County, Iowa met on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 4:00 PM, at Water Department, 3050 5th Avenue, with the following members present:

PRESENT: John Bender, Amy Olson, John McIntosh, William Kling, and Terry Chew

ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Todd Steigerwaldt, Andy Smith, and Curt Huhndorf

CALL TO ORDER

REGULAR AGENDA

Motion to approve the June 10, 2025 minutes and June 2025 payable invoices in the amount of \$2,177,881.27.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Chew, to approve the above referenced items. The board commented on the high expenses paid in June. Steigerwaldt stated the city's reimbursement for sewer/urban forest/storm water was higher than normal this month.

Approved unanimously

Motion to receive and file the June 2025 revenue, expense and financial reports.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Olson, to approve the reports above. Steigerwaldt shared with the board the fiscal year end results with the revenues coming in over budget at 113% and expenses under budget at 87% of the approved budget. Interest revenue was up again. Steigerwaldt stated the department took in \$563,022.04 of interest last fiscal year.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving Resolution 25-17 accepting improvements and extensions of water main for Sycamore Heights 1st Addition to the Municipal Waterworks plant and system of the city of Marion, Iowa.

Moved by Chew, seconded by Bender, to approve the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt shared the location of this new subdivision which is located north of 35th Avenue and east of the future extension of 44th Street. The developer is Josh Entler with Sycamore Development LLC from Iowa City. The contractor was Concise Earth Construction LLC. There are 32 single-family residential lots within this addition. This development will be on the higher water pressure zone fed from the 29th Avenue booster station. Steigerwaldt stated the developer is starting the next addition already.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Bender, Olson, McIntosh, Kling, and Chew

Motion approving water main application for the Lindale Commercial Park Addition to the city of Marion.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Kling, to approve the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt shared the location of this new subdivision which is located north of Blairs Ferry Road, east of Lindale Drive and south of the former railroad track (now a bike trail). The developer is Integrity Companies, LLC aka Kent Backen of Marion. There are 7 large open lots that are preliminary platted. The developer may final plat one or a couple lots at a time depending on what a buyer wants. There are no active buyers for any of the lots at this time so the two buildings shown on the attachment are for illustration purposes only. The developer will remove a very old fire hydrant along Lindale Drive and install three more fire hydrants. Only 366' of 8" and 60' of 6" public water main pipe are being proposed within the public access and utility easements.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving water main application for the Preserve at Lowe Farm 1st Addition to the city of Marion.

Moved by Kling, seconded by Chew, to approve the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt shared the location of this addition which is located at the northeast corner of Lowe Park and west off of North 10th Street. The developers are Tim Mooney, Dan Engle and Bryce Ricklefs which formed Mooney Engle Ricklefs LLC. Boomerang Corp will be the contractor. There are 20 single-family residential lots planned for this addition. A 12" water main will be extended north on the west side of North 10th Street with 8" water main stubs heading into the future development. The developers will be providing sanitary sewer and water services to the two existing that homes that will remain on the property.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving payment to Veenstra & Kimm Inc. for engineering service on the Lucore Road Elevated Storage Tank for \$594.00.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Bender, to approve the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt shared the invoice from V&K and an email for the contractor regarding tower project update. The contractor should have the engineering report for the foundation to our consultant by the end of July. They plan on starting the foundation this fall.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving payment to Northway Corporation for emergency maintenance work performed on Well #4 for \$151,990.83.

Moved by Bender, seconded by McIntosh, to approve above referenced item. Steigerwaldt made the board aware of this issue at the #4 well pump which failed this past spring. Northway was able to pull the pump, acidize and reset a new 175 hp submersible pump. The well is now back online. While this well was down for maintenance, staff also upgraded some SCADA equipment.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving final payment to Mueller Co. LLC for the purchase of the remaining 18 fire hydrants for \$72,580.31 and additional pipe and fittings for

\$16,307.16 for a total cost of \$88,887.47.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Kling, to approve the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt told the board that the remaining 18 fire hydrants arrived of our 60 fire hydrant order. Steigerwaldt also informed the board that on the payables invoice statement for June, there were also multiple corps and couplings purchased which added \$16,307.16 worth of additional inventory for the shop. The total paid to Mueller was \$88,887.47 which included the above items and remaining 18 fire hydrants.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving annual premium to ICAP for department's insurance needs for \$80,113.00.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Kling, to approve the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt told the board the increase is only 5.3% from last year's renewal (increase of \$4,028) and there has been a new shop, service truck, skid steer, Can-AM and a GPS unit added on the policy. There was only one claim last year and no reimbursement was received from ICAP at Well #7 for \$9,935.07 from a lightning strike. Bender asked what was all covered under each insurance category listed on the invoice. Steigerwaldt shared the insurance booklet with him to see the individual coverage break down.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving payment to Municipal Management Corp. for a leak detection survey for \$13,000.00.

Moved by Bender, seconded by Kling, to approve above referenced item. Steigerwaldt told the board that Steve Hiveley, from Madrid, Iowa, performed a leak detection survey on our cast iron and ductile iron water mains over the last several weeks. He found 7 leaks that our staff has begun addressing. Steigerwaldt stated we do this survey about every 5 years.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving payment to Rugger Underground Construction INC. for two separate bore jobs on Douglas Ct. and English Blvd. for \$14,042.00.

Moved by McIntosh, seconded by Chew, to approve the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt told the board that Huhndorf and staff relayed old water main along English Boulevard and Douglas Court. Staff prepped the bore pits for the contractor to bore the new water main. Staff anticipates completing all the water service tie overs and yard work soon.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving agreement for annual auditing services with Hogan Hansen.

Moved by Chew, seconded by Bender, to approve the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt share the standard agreement for auditing services for our annual audit for the department with the board. This year's audit will be \$19,500 for their services. We have a proposal from them for auditing service through 2029.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving update to the Marion Water Department Personnel Policy for Employee Assistance Program (EAP) section No. 2.10.

Moved by Olson, seconded by Kling, to approve the above referenced item. Steigerwaldt shared a copy of the existing EAP and proposed EAP policy. He stated the city selected

a new EAP provider called Covenant Workplace Solutions from Cedar Rapids. They will provide more options and benefits for our employees.

Approved unanimously

Motion approving annual Economic Development Investment pledge to MEDCO for \$5,000.00.

Moved by Chew, seconded by Olson, to approved above referenced item. Steigerwaldt told the board that Mark Seckman, President of MEDCO, presented to the board at the September 2024 board meeting regarding MEDCO's past, present and future goals and project initiatives. He also asked the board for a 5-year annual financial pledge at the \$5,000 giving level to support their future projects like expanding existing businesses, attracting new businesses and improving affordable housing stock for families in Marion. Steigerwaldt stated this is a \$1,975 annual increase over past annual contributions to MEDCO. At the November 12, 2024 board meeting the board approved the 5-year financial pledge to MEDCO at the \$5,000 giving level.

Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Bender, Olson, Kling, and Chew

Nays: McIntosh

Discussion regarding the Smithland Drive Reconstruction Project.

Steigerwaldt shared with the board a design memo from Greg Annis, project engineer for the city regarding design options for the former county subdivision lots along Smithland Drive. His recommendation is to install a concrete paved rural cross section due to the existing homes sitting well below existing street grade. The city will eventually be sending out a letter to the residents affected with this street improvement project. At that time we can ask the residents if they are interested in connecting onto city water immediately or in the future or if they want no water service at all. Upon the survey results, Steigerwaldt suggested the homeowners pay for the water service connection and service line with stop box to their property based on the contractor's bid price. It would be up to the homeowners if they want to hire a private contractor to install the new water service line into their house and abandon their well.

If the homeowner chooses not to pay for a water service line connection at the time of the street reconstruction then they could connect to the new main at a later date but Steigerwaldt suggested they pay an additional water main connection fee that the board can determine. Steigerwaldt was thinking a fee similar in cost to what is currently established along Echo Hill Road now. The board asked if a 6" water main would suffice instead of the proposed 8" water main. This would reduce the cost some. Steigerwaldt stated that is an option he would share with the engineer. The board was agreeable with the suggestions made by Steigerwaldt. He will keep the board informed as more information becomes available.

Discussion regarding the Field Operations Report.

Smith highlighted the projects and activities that staff has been working on last month. Steigerwaldt shared a list of all the active and future construction projects that will be completed yet this summer and fall. Bender noted that the pumpage volume was up which is normal for this time of year.

Discussion regarding the Secretary's Report.

Steigerwaldt shared the June 2025 building report that had 11 permits valued over

\$50,000. He also shared a couple pictures of the new inspector truck.

ADJOURNED at 5:23 PM

The next Marion Water Board meeting will be held on August 12, 2025 at 4:00 PM at 3050 5th Avenue, Marion and on ZOOM.



Terry Chew, Chairman



Todd Steigerwaldt, Secretary