

# New firefighter sworn in, board of works begins process of acquiring potential utility property

By Sean Douglas

At the latest Board of Works Meeting on Monday morning at Marion City Hall, a new firefighter was added to the ranks of the Marion Fire Department, and the seeds of a potential new utility property were sown.

After months of training, Hayden Oliver was sworn in in front of the Board of Works, officially joining the Marion Fire Department. Oliver graduated from Ball State with a criminal justice degree in 2017, and after originally planning to go to law school, he decided to follow the path of his father, who has served a volunteer fighter in Gas City for many years.

Now that he has completed his training, Oliver is



Hayden Oliver was sworn as Marion’s newest firefighter at the Board of Works Meeting on Monday morning.  
Photo by Sean Douglas

ready to get started. “It was always in the back of my head, and I decided I wanted that environment where it was different

every day,” Oliver said. “That’s why I came and applied here, and I am thankful for the opportunity.” The majority of the meet-

ing focused on a property located in the area of Home Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard, near the old Palmer’s Meat Market and due south of the railroad. The property, which breaks down into seven smaller parcels, has turned hands through many tax sales, but recently has sat in a state of disuse for a long period of time.

However, the Marion Utility Board is looking to acquire the property in the hopes of building more utility facilities in order to help Marion stay on track with what’s called the “long term control plan,” established by the EPA. Under this plan, the EPA requires that sanitary sewage and wastewater sewage will eventually be separated.

“This is part of that,” Marion Council member

and lawyer Michael D. Conner said at the meeting. “Putting some structures in there to support that.” Since there were no bids on the property in recent tax sales, the tax certificates were passed on to the commissioners. In a later meeting, the commissioners then passed a resolution to pass those tax certificates on to the city of Marion.

If accepted, Conner will send notices to all adjacent property owners, giving them a chance to step in, object, or redeem, and then, a petition will be filed in court to secure a tax deed that will transfer the title of the property to the city of Marion.

The overall goal is to get the tax deed and the title in the name of the City of Marion, and then have

Mayor Jess Alumbaugh sign the deed over to the utility board. After that, they will be free to build the structures required to complete the long-term control plan and ultimately fall within the EPA guidelines with a minimal cost to the city.

“It’s ideally suited in size and location for what they want to do,” Conner said. “It’s perfect, and it’s going to save the city a lot of money because the EPA is really forcing this on us. It’s costing millions and millions of dollars to separate these two sewers, and we are getting this, with your help, for nothing.”

The matter will continue to be discussed in the next Board of Works meeting in two weeks time.

# Giants’ season comes to close with loss to McCutcheon

By Sean Douglas

Having drawn NCC champion McCutcheon in their Sectional 7 opening contest on Thursday night at Bill Green Arena, Dara Richards and the Giants knew they would have their hands full with a talented and gifted Mavericks squad.

While McCutcheon ultimately won the match, the Giants showed heart, grit, and fight in a 3-0 loss (7-25, 10-25, 9-25).

“I told them from the beginning, ‘My goal for you is for us to be able to walk away from this match feeling good about how we played,’” Richards said. “I just want you to go out there and be proud of it. Do the best that you can and fight the entire time.”

The Mavericks rolled out a plethora of strong offensive options, including Chloe Chicoine, Sheridan

Phillips, and Ryley Brown, who attacked the gaps in Marion’s defense and used their superior size to their advantage.

The Giants held a brief lead early in the first set at 2-1, but the Mavericks quickly settled into their gameplan, outscoring Marion 24-5 the rest of the way to take the one set lead.

In the early stages of the second game, the Giants went toe-to-toe with the Mavericks, overcoming an early four-point surge to keep within five points. Sophomore Aniyah Rogers, who has shown tremendous growth in all facets of her game, recorded a kill and an ace in the second set, and Richards was pleased with her performances throughout the evening.

“I feel like Aniyah has come a long way,” Richards said. “She was only dressing varsity to start with, [and then] moved to a full-

time varsity role. She got thrown in there a couple of times, and she has really stepped up to that challenge.”

However, armed with a 15-10 lead, the Mavericks ended the second set on a 10-point run, grabbing a two-set advantage in the process.

McCutcheon kept the pedal down in the third set, scoring the first seven points and then 12 straight points to secure the three-set sweep and end the Giants’ season.

Rogers, Issy Leach, Alyssa Lockwood, Isabelle Bento, Aylivia Mellon, and Kamaria Bruton each finished with a single termination. Lucia Persinger dished out five assists, while Mellon and Sophia Phuong co-lead the defense with five digs apiece.

While the wins were scarce in Richards’ first year at the helm, the Giants’

record did not indicate how much they had developed as a group over the course of the season. The losses of Persinger, Bento, and Mellon will certainly be a blow for Marion, but a young, talented core, one loaded with potential, will elevate the

Giants’ program to new heights in the coming seasons.

“It might take a little bit of time, but I do think that there has been some growth. That’s what I told them in the locker room,” Richards said. “I said, ‘Despite the

outcome, you guys need to be proud of the growth that we’ve had as a team.’ It doesn’t necessarily show up on our record, but there are people that are noticing it in the community. That’s something to be proud of.”

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Lastly, Megan Musgrave-Miller will serve as the Board’s student representative, listening to their concerns, valuing their input, and most importantly, finding ways to continue to make their collegiate career at Ivy Tech one that is both valuable and enjoyable.

“Having a student advisor to our board really provides us the voice of the student involved in policy and decision making and how that impacts the students,” Huskey said.

The three will serve the general three-year term as is custom for Ivy Tech board members, and Huskey is looking forward to what all three will bring to the table going forward.

“For me, it’s a really exciting time because it allows us to connect with segments of

our community that are important,” Huskey said. “It allows us to align best with the strategic goals of the college, and really, it provides us with a strong board. These are thought leaders. These are people that see what’s happening in the world and, in their respective environments. They know what the trends are, and they can help us help students navigate that best.”

The three new members will join current Board chair Cindy Futrell and vice-chair Josh Peters, along with their fellow trustees: Randy Ballinger (at large), Dan Borgenheimer (manufacturing), Brett Carey (agriculture), Stephanie Hilton-Siebert (at large), Tye Leming (labor), and Chad Yencer (K-12 education).



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