

**WARRICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
REGULAR SESSION  
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM  
107 W. Locust Street, Suite 303  
Boonville, Indiana  
July 28, 2025  
4:00 P.M.

The Warrick County Commissioners met in regular session with Sarah Seaton, President; Stacey Franz, Vice President; and Terry Phillippe, Member.

Attorney Aaron Allen and Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman were in attendance.

Auditor Michael Dietsch, Chief Deputy Barbi Shelton, and Recording Secretary Kristine Georges attended and recorded the minutes.

Commissioner Meetings can be viewed via YouTube: Warrick County, Indiana Government

President Sarah Seaton called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**AREA PLAN COMMISSION**

There was no Area Plan Business for this meeting.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**  
**ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH BAKER TILLY ADVISORY GROUP**  
**NEW HIGHWAY GARAGE**

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman presented an Engagement Letter from Baker Tilly Advisory Group for the New Highway Garage. This is for them to look at funding options for the project. There is a not to exceed of \$25,000.00, but there were other things in the letter that could imply more charges. There was a brief discussion. County Engineer Bobby Howard said that he had not seen the letter or a scope of work. The Commissioners would also like some more clarification on cost and scope of work. Commissioner Stacey Franz made the motion to table. Commissioner Terry Phillippe seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**WARRICK COUNTY JUDGES**  
**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

Warrick County Judges, Krista Weiberg and Greg Granger, were present to discuss the offices of Community Corrections. Judge Brett Roy was out of town. They had heard talk about moving Community Corrections out of the Judicial Center and they wished to voice their concerns. They would also like to see Drug Court somehow come to the Judicial Center due to safety and other issues at their current building. Commissioner Seaton said there had not been any formal discussions on moving Community Corrections. There had been discussion on having the offices together and how that might happen. There was a brief discussion. They then talked about the possible uses of the area being cleared in the basement of the Judicial Center and other offices also needing additional space. They will continue to have discussions and the Courts will be involved in those talks.

**CITY OF BOONVILLE**  
**PERMISSION TO POST DORA SIGNAGE**

A DORA District has been established by the City of Boonville. Mr. Zac Southard with the City asked for a sign to be placed for the DORA District at the Old Jail at Fourth and Main Street.

Commissioner Franz asked him to explain a DORA District. He went over how it worked. Ms. Sievers also spoke to this and the packets presented to the Commissioners. They reviewed the mapped area and the cups being sold. The Commissioners reviewed the packet.

Commissioner Stacey Franz voiced her concerns and issues that they already have now. Commissioner Seaton does like the idea of people being outside. There was also a discussion on the safety plan listed in the City Ordinance. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to approve. Commissioner Sarah Seaton seconded the motion. The motion carried 2-1 with Commissioner Stacey Franz opposing.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT**

This was tabled from the last Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Franz said that she talked with the Boonville Mayor. They still haven't found someone to recommend. There was also an issue with the person suggested by Dr. Kahre because they didn't live in Warrick County. Commissioner Seaton said that she also has been looking but feels they need to table this for now. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made a motion to table. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**ASHBY-MCCLARY CEMETERY**  
**MARK HENDRICKSON**

Attorney Mark Hendrickson was present representing Ashby-McClary Cemetery. He had a handout for the Commissioners. The cemetery is located in Lane Township and is a registered cemetery. He went over the previous care, donations, and how it is an active cemetery with the earliest burial around 1850 and having about 50 to 60 gravesites. The most recent burial was in 2019. The Lane Township Trustee has stopped care of the cemetery that was previously provided. The grass is overgrowing. The fence has been knocked over by a tree. He

went over the legal history of the cemetery and that currently the trustees of the cemetery have ownership and care. What he is requesting a directive from the Board to request maintenance by the Township Trustee. He cited presidencies to this care. They would also be willing to deed the cemetery to the County or the Trustee for care. There was then discussion on the public access to McClary Cemetery Road which is maintained by the County. He would again like to see them request that it be taken care of by the Township Trustee. Lane Township Council member, Jarrod Skelton, sent a letter to be read to the Commissioners. Ms. Debbie Bennett-Stearsman read the following into the record:

*My name is Jarrod Skelton and I am one of the Board Members in Lane Township.*

*There has been an ongoing issue in our township concerning who is responsible for the upkeep of the Ashby-McClary Cemetery. This cemetery is fairly small but is included in an eighty-acre parcel that is completely privately owned. It is my understanding that there are only a few privately owned cemeteries within the entire state. Our Trustee, myself and the other two board members have talked many times about who is responsible for maintaining the lawn care of the cemetery. Each time we came to the same conclusion that it is privately owned and should be taken care of by the owner and not the taxpayers.. We have come to this conclusion based on the following:*

- 1. We inquired with longtime Ohio Township Trustee Bennett a couple of years ago and he said that we should not spend tax money on it since it is privately owned.*
- 2. Since it is privately owned, we run the risk of liability if the Township pays someone to maintain it.*
- 3. We have not found any state or local statute that requires the Township to bear the burden for the upkeep or a statute that even allows us to maintain private property with tax payers money*
- 4. The other cemeteries in the Township are maintained by other entities and not with taxpayer money and therefore we don't think that it would be right for us to pay someone to mow one and not the others.*
- 5. There is more that needs to be maintained other than just the lawn care for example the chain link fence has been damaged in multiple place from trees falling on it. Who is responsible for the fence?*
- 6. The rest of the 80 acres was recently logged by a logging company. Assuming that the property owner benefited financially from the logging, the owner should also be responsible for the upkeep.*
- 7. We believe that the remaining 80 acres is leased out as hunting property. If this is the case then once again if the owner is benefiting financially off of their property then they should also be responsible to maintaining the cemetery that is on the same parcel.*
- 8. If the owner benefited financially from selling the grave plots through the years, then they should be responsible for maintaining it.*
- 9. Although this has been an issue over the past couple of years, somebody has in fact did the lawncare and it wasn't through the Township or paid by the taxpayers.*
- 10. A few years back somebody put a nice black painted fence across the front of the cemetery. If the owner can put this nice fence up, then it is our belief that they should also be able to maintain it.*
- 11. Finally, like every Township has a budget that we work with and obviously maintaining this cemetery is not in our current budget*

*To be clear, we want the cemetery to be maintained for the respective families that have loved ones buried there but we don't think is the responsibility of the taxpayers or the township to take care of it.*

*I have spoken to Attorney Andrew Boykin a couple of times about this situation. He said that the county had hired him to look into it. I explained our position a couple of different times to Mr. Boykin and I offered to try to find a time where we could meet with the commissioners to find a fair and legal resolution to the issue. He told me that he would take the information back and would let me know if we needed to meet. He also said that he would let us know if the issue was going to be discussed at any of the Commissioner meetings. Unfortunately, I haven't heard anything else until reading that it is on the agenda for tomorrow night's (Monday the 28th of July) meeting. With such late notice, I can't get off work to be there.*

*Assuming that the agenda item is in reference to what I have described above, I respectively ask that you reach out to myself and the other members of the Lane board before making any decisions on this matter if it affects Lane Township.*

Mr. Hendrickson addressed some of the comments made in the letter such as it not being on private property and that all that has been done in the way of improvements was by donation.

County Attorney Allan said that this is a township issue and that the individuals need to go to them with it. Commissioner Phillippe said maybe they could facilitate a get together to discuss it.

Ms. Bennett-Stearsman asked about deeding to the County or Township. There was a brief discussion. Attorney Hendrickson would like to avoid litigation.

Commissioner Franz was asked to possibly facilitate with it being in her district. She will reach out to the parties to set something up.

**ACTION AGENDA  
APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
JULY 14, 2025**

Minutes for the July 14, 2025 Regular Session meeting were presented to the Commissioners for approval. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
CONSENT AGENDA**

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman presented four items for the Consent Agenda for approval. The Commissioners took them separately.

1. Payroll Voucher 15 in the amount of \$705,097.75 – Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to approve. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.
2. AP Voucher for July 28, 2025 in the amount of \$3,235,857.63 – Commissioner Franz asked about the per diem for the Health Board. Ms. Bennett-Stearsman said it was bringing everything up to date from 2024 and 2025. Commissioner Franz also asked about the payment to First Advantage for Workman's Comp. Ms. Bennett-Stearsman said it was from work done in 2024 and they just received a bill. She went to the Council for an appropriation to get it paid. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to approve. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.
3. Approval of Non-Certified Claims in the amount of \$19,966.47 – Ms. Debbie Bennett-Stearsman said this is due to a small portion of the credit card bill that couldn't be certified. One was for an address change that cost \$1.10 from the Post Office which they would not give a receipt. The second was for the Google Suite for about \$1,800.00. She still can't get access to the account and can't get a receipt for the charges. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to approve. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.
4. Approval of Clerk's Report dated June, 2025 - Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to approve. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

*(Payroll Voucher is located on Page 6 of these Official Minutes)*

*(AP Voucher is located on Pages 6 through 8 of these Official Minutes)*

*(Non-Certified Claims Voucher is located on Page 9 of these Official Minutes)*

*(Clerk's Report is located on Page 9 of these Official Minutes)*

**APPROVAL OF OPIOID GRANT CONTRACTS  
OHIO TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT – BOONVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Ms. Bennett-Stearsman presented two Opioid Grant Contracts for approval. Both were for the purchase of a Lucas Chest Compression device at \$27,400.00 each for each department that was approved at the last meeting. Commissioner Stacey Franz made a motion to approve the contracts. Commissioner Terry Phillippe seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

*(Opioid Grant Contracts are located on File in the Auditor's Office)*

**APPROVAL OF OPIOID GRANT APPLICATIONS  
JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF SOUTHWEST INDIANA – LAMPION CENTER THERAPIES  
YOUTH FIRST SCHOOL PARTNER FUNDING**

Ms. Bennett-Stearsman presented three applications for the Opioid Restricted Funds. She went over the details of each request. Lampion Center Therapies is requesting \$24,975.00 which she will probably round to \$25,000.00. Youth First is requesting \$25,000.00. Junior Achievement of Southwest Indiana is requesting \$15,000.00 and will be distinguishing Warrick County individuals for reporting purposes. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made a motion to approve the applications. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**ACQUISITIONS ADMINISTRATOR  
UPDATE OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE BIDS**

At the last Commissioner's meeting on July 14, 2025, the Commissioners received one bid for the traffic signal maintenance from Ragle. It was tabled for review by County Engineer Bobby Howard which was done. Ms. Sievers recommended that the Commissioners reject the bid received as it is too high and allow Mr. Howard to negotiate with Ragle on the open market. All IC codes were followed. Ragle is a state-recommended company. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to approve. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**BID OPENING FOR SCALES LAKE TRAIL**

Next, Ms. Sievers presented bid openings for the Scales Lake Trail Project. All IC codes were followed and all information was given to the Commissioners. Only one bid was received from Metzger Construction for a total amount of \$238,004.00. All forms appeared to be present. Jeremy Elrod with the Parks Board was present to discuss the project and would like to see approval of the bid so they can get the work started. There was a brief discussion on the project. The bid price is the work from start to finish including dirt and prep work. He also thanked the Commissioners for their contribution to the project. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to approve. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

*(Metzger Bid is located on File in the Auditor's Office)*

**PRESENTATION OF CLEANING AND POWER WASHING OF THE JUDICIAL CENTER**

Ms. Sievers gave a breakdown of how this bid came about and reviewed the process that would be used to clean the limestone. The total cost for the windows inside and out, cleaning the stone, sidewalks, etcetera is \$32,000.00. The last quote received was in 2023 for \$4,000.00 from a different company. After a brief discussion, the Commissioners did feel it was a bit high and there are other things that have to be done that are currently more important. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to reject due to money constraints. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**SURPLUS ITEMS  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
VEHICLES FOR SURPLUS AND AUCTION**

Ms. Sievers presented four vehicles from the Sheriff's Department for surplus:

1. 2016 Dodge Charger 2C3CDXAGXGH205132 -Recommend Send to Auction
2. 2020 Dodge Durango 1C4RDJFG5LC287196 - Recommend Send to Auction
3. 2017 Dodge Charger 2C3CDXAG7HH630101- Recommend Send to Auction
4. 2019 Dodge Charger 2C3CDXKT8KH622513 - Non-Operational-Recommend Scrapping

They will use Wolf's Auction. Commissioner Stacey Franz made the motion to approve. Commissioner Terry Phillippe seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**SURPLUS VEHICLES FOR DISPOSAL**

Next, Ms. Sievers presented two vehicles for disposal with a scrap metal company.

1. 2019 Dodge Charger 2C3CDXKT8KH622513 - Non-Operational - declared surplus above
2. 2016 Dodge Charger 2C3CDXAG1GH19717 -Non-Operational - declared surplus previously

She presented pricing from three vendors for disposal:

Vendor	Price	Pick Up Service	Process
Universal Salvage	\$500.00 Each	Yes	Provide Title- They will pick up and issue a check.
J Trockman & Sons	\$170.00 per Net Ton	No	We drain fluids, remove the battery, & deliver to them.
Henry Fligeltaub Company - Josh Martin	\$250.00 Each	Yes	Provide Titles-They will pick up and issue a check.

She recommended Universal Salvage which would pay \$500.00 for each vehicle and pick the vehicles up. All IC Codes were followed. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to approve. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**COUNTY HIGHWAY/ ENGINEER  
APPROVAL OF PAY APPLICATION 5  
RAGLE**

County Engineer Bobby Howard presented Pay Application 5 for Ragle for Bridge 148 on Stevenson Station Road in the amount of \$297,033.99. It is open but there is still the final walk-through. This is for work already completed and there will still be a final pay app coming. He recommended approval. Commissioner Stacey Franz made a motion to approve. Commissioner Terry Phillippe seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

*(Ragle Pay App 5 is located on File in the Auditor's Office)*

**UNOFFICIAL DETOUR LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING – INDOT**

Mr. Howard presented the Unofficial Detour Letter of Understanding with INDOT. They are closing Highway 68 east of Highway 61 in Lynnville for ninety days. He reviewed the unofficial detour through Lynnville. Dave Goldenberg from Town of Lynnville was present and the town requested extra Sheriff's patrols as the detour will be going by the Lynnville Grade School and onto the S-curve of Highway 61 and would like to see the presence to help slow down the traffic. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to approve the unofficial detour letter. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

*(INDOT Detour Letter is located on Page 10 of these Official Minutes)*

**COUNTY SHERIFF**

The Sheriff had no business to present.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

The Attorney had no business to present.

**COMMISSIONER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Phillippe directed everyone's attention to the TV. IT Director Guy Whelan got a camera hooked up to see the antique clock that makes the bell ring. He encouraged everyone to check it out.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC  
JAMES FRITTS**

Mr. James Fritts of Fritts Storage, 5340 Covert Court, Newburgh, came to speak to the Commissioners about flooding. There has been flooding issues at their storage facility. They are asking for cleaning of the legal drains to help relieve the issues for them and the Colonial Hill Subdivision. He will also be going to County Council. Commissioner Phillippe said that he has personally lobbied the Council. There was a brief discussion on responsibilities of the County and homeowners. They thanked him for his comments.

**MIKE CECIL**

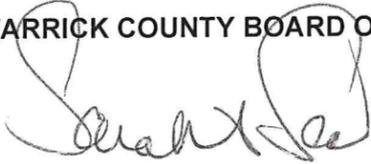
Mr. Mike Cecil of 10611 Montecello Drive, Newburgh, also spoke to the need of cleaning ditches.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next Warrick County Commissioners' meeting will be held on Monday, August 11, 2025 in the Commissioners' meeting room at 4:00 PM. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:12 P.M.

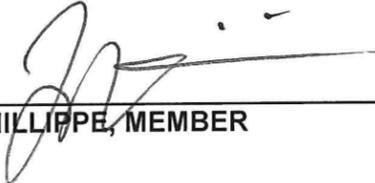
**WARRICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



SARAH SEATON, PRESIDENT



STACEY FRANZ, VICE PRESIDENT



TERRY PHILLIPPE, MEMBER

ATTEST:



MICHAEL J. DIETSCH, AUDITOR  
WARRICK COUNTY, INDIANA

*Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Kristine Georges, Official Recording Secretary*







Warrick County Claims for Payment  
Non-Certified Claims - Monday, July 28th, 2025

Old National Bank \$ 19,966.47 Does NOT follow County Purchase Policy  
\$ 19,966.47

*Sarah Seaton*  
Seaton, Sarah - President

*Stacey Franz*  
Franz, Stacey - Vice President

*Terly Phillippe*  
Phillippe, Terly

*Michael J. Diekel*  
Auditor

FILED

JUL 09 2025

APPROVED  
7/12/25

RECEIVED

JUL 09 2025

WARRICK CO. AUDITOR

COPY

MONTHLY REPORT OF CLERK OF WARRICK COUNTY CIRCUIT & SUPERIOR COURTS Form No. 46-CR

Month End: Jun 2025 Required by IC 33-17-2-8 Warrick County  
Warrick Odyssey Bank Account

CHARGES (Daily Balance Record and ISETS Daily Support Book)			
1	Fees payable to the State	\$	63,661.48
2	Fees payable to the County	\$	71,026.83
3	Fees payable to city or town	\$	0.00
4	Trust funds	\$	1,813,768.61
5	Support-ISETS	\$	2,102.00
6	Judgment Collections & Refunds	\$	142,270.06
7	Cash on Hand	\$	100.00
8	Converted Liabilities	\$	0.00
9	Other	\$	0.00
10	TOTAL CHARGES	\$	2,092,928.98
CHARGES (Daily Balance Record and ISETS Daily Support Book)			
11	Warrick Odyssey Bank Account	Bank \$	1,990,781.98
12		Bank \$	0.00
13		Bank \$	0.00
14		Bank \$	0.00
15		Bank \$	0.00
16	Subtotal: Daily Balance Record (46) (Lines 12 thru 15)	\$	1,990,781.98
17	ISETS Monthly Clerk's Support Record (246MCR)	\$	2,047.00
18	TOTAL DEPOSITORY BALANCES AS SHOWN BY RECORDS Lines 16 + 17	\$	1,992,828.98
19	Investments on hand at close of business last day of month	\$	100,000.00
20	Cash in office at close of business last day of month	\$	100.00
21	TOTAL	\$	2,092,928.98
22	Cash Long (Deduct) / Short (Add)	\$	0.00
23	PROOF (Line 10)	\$	2,092,928.98
DEPOSITORY RECONCILEMENT			
24	Balance per Statement(s)	\$	2,218,565.08
25	Subtotal Depository Balances	\$	2,218,565.08
26	Deduct outstanding checks (see list below)	\$	256,402.96
27	Net depository balance	\$	1,962,162.12
28	Deposits in transit (see list below)	\$	28,419.48
29	Bank fees	\$	38.00
30	INTEREST BEARING TRUST ACCOUNT	\$	0.00
31	MISC RECONCILING ITEMS (see list below)	\$	2,204.38
32	Participant recoupments (short)	\$	5.00
33	Agency recoupments	\$	0.00
34	Balance in all depositories (line 16)	\$	1,992,828.98
35	Proof	\$	1,992,828.98

State of Indiana, Warrick County: ss: I, the undersigned Clerk of Warrick County Circuit & Superior Courts in and for the aforesaid county and state, do hereby certify that the foregoing report is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and as appears of record now on file in this office.  
Date: 7/9/2025  
*Michael Wilson by Sarah Craft*  
Clerk of Warrick County Circuit & Superior Courts

- 1: Clerk: Retain WHITE copy, file 3 copies with Auditor.
- 2: Auditor: File CANARY copy with County Board of Finance  
File PINK copy with Board of County Commissioners  
Transmit GOLDENROD copy to State Board of Accounts.



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

100 North Senate Avenue  
Room N758  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

PHONE: (855) 463-6848

Mike Braun, Governor  
Lyndsay Quist, Commissioner

RE: Unofficial Detour Letter of Understanding

Dear Bobby Howard,

This is a follow-up letter to our recent discussion concerning the closure of the location listed above. Traffic restrictions are expected to begin 5/2027 with an estimated completion date of 8/2027. The total closure time for this project will be approximately 90 days.

The Official Detour, in accordance with IC 8-23-21 and shown on the attached map, will utilize SR 61 to Interstate 64 to SR 161. The Unofficial Detour, as shown on the attached map, is proposed to be Spurgeon Rd to 4th St. The Unofficial Detour will be in effect during the same time period as the Official Detour.

INDOT will set up and maintain the necessary signage and traffic control for the Official Detour route or arrange with others to furnish the necessary items. The Unofficial Detour route will not be signed as a detour. Your County Commissioners will be responsible for any necessary weight restriction signage on the Unofficial Detour.

INDOT agrees to reimburse your County for costs related to damage repair on the listed Unofficial Detour. Reimbursable work must be pre-approved by INDOT prior to the completion of any work. All expenses must be documented to be considered for reimbursement. Once the District has agreed to the documented expenses, INDOT and the County must execute an agreement concerning reimbursement for the repairs.

www.in.gov/indot/  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

If the terms of the Unofficial Detour detailed in this letter are acceptable, please check the "Detour Approved" option below, sign and return to within thirty (30) days. If the terms are not acceptable, please check the "Detour Rejected" option below, sign and provide an alternative detour within thirty (30) days for our consideration. If we do not hear from you within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter, We will take the position that the Unofficial Detour is not acceptable to you and you must provide an alternative detour for our consideration.

Respectfully,

*Rachel Lyle*

DETOUR APPROVED:

DETOUR REJECTED:

*Sarah Seaton*  
Sarah Seaton, Comm. President

Date

cc: File

