

WARRICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM
107 W. Locust Street, Suite 303
Boonville, Indiana
August 11, 2025
4:00 PM

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

Attorney Cliff Whitehead 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
PUBLIC HEARING
PETITION FOR THE VACATION OF A PUBLIC UTILITY
EASEMENT IN WREN LAKE 2 SUBDIVISION

Commissioner Terry Phillippe made a motion to enter the Public Hearing. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Area Plan Director Molly Barnhill presented the Petition for the Vacation of a Thirty-Foot Public Utilities Easement on Lots 18 and 19 in Wren Lake 2 Subdivision. Scott Buedel was present to speak to the request. The owners wish to combine the two lots which has an easement between so they can build one house on the combined lots. Attorney Whitehead asked for public comment. There was none.

President Seaton asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to close the Public Hearing and enter the Regular Session meeting. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

ACTION ON ORDINANCE TO VACATE A THIRTY-FOOT PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENT
ON LOTS 18 AND 19 IN WREN LAKE 2 SUBDIVISION, CAMPBELL TOWNSHIP,
WARRICK COUNTY, INDIANA.
ORDINANCE 2025-10

Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to approve Ordinance 2025-10. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

(Ordinance 2025-10 is located on Pages 6 through 7 of these Official Minutes)

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF SURETY
C-23-079
10144 WARRICK TRAIL

Ms. Barnhill presented two requests to release the surety. The first was C-23-079, 10144 Warrick Trail, by Dover Development LLC, Nick Dwyer, Director of Development. The County is holding \$5,700.00 in escrow guaranteeing entrance construction. They have had two years. The surety expires on September 1, 2025. County Engineer Bobby Howard said it was constructed and he recommended release. Commissioner Stacey Franz made the motion to approve. Commissioner Terry Phillippe seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

C-24-006
9809 POINTE VIEW DRIVE

Next was C-24-006, 9809 Pointe View Drive, by Bradford Development Services, LLC. The County is holding \$2,706.00 in escrow guaranteeing entrance construction. They have had a year and a half. The six-month extension expires on September 10, 2025. Mr. Howard said it was constructed and recommended release. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to approve. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

STREET CONSTRUCTION PLANS
PP-25-07 MINTERS LAKES

Street Construction Plans for PP-25-07, Minters Lakes were presented for petitioner and owner American Land Holdings, Indiana, LLC, by Bryce West, Vice President. It's approximately 59.19 acres located on the north side of New Harmony Road approximately zero feet north of the intersection of New Harmony Road and Three Lakes Drive. Campbell Township 9-5-9 and 10-5-9. Complete legal is on file. They are requesting no improvement to New Harmony Road. Jim Morley, Jr. with Morley and Associates was present to discuss the project. He said this was in front of Drainage Board earlier. There are thirteen lots with drives going out to New Harmony Road. County

Engineer Bobby Howard recommended approval. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made a motion to approve. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

(APC Paperwork is located on File in the Auditor's Office)

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

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman presented the Items for Discussion. She said the engagement letter with Baker Tilly was tabled to see a scope of work. The not to exceed is \$25,000.00. Mr. Howard did have some questions out by email. Commissioner Phillippe asked if Project Partnership was apart of this. Byron Sanders was present for Project Partnership and went over their scope of work with the project. He also said in the last committee meeting, that a committee member had contacted Baker Tilly and went over some of the specifics. There was brief discussion. Attorney Whitehead also mentioned it was a build-per-hour and that it is a big project.

Commissioner Phillippe questioned not seeing the scope of work. Ms. Bennett-Stearsman reviewed the scope of work and the options. It was also stated that funding had not been cleared with the County Council. There was continued discussion. Attorney Whitehead said it could be approved subject to Council approval. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to approve subject to Council approval. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT

This was to be tabled again, but Commissioner Franz said they did have someone in mind and they have reached out. They are waiting to hear back.

911 COMMITTEE UPDATE

Sheriff Wilder was present and went over Dispatch how it may function and where it would be. They are leaning towards it being its own entity, and they hope to have a recommendation very soon. If they are their own entity, it would need to have funding and a director. There is money in the current budget for the director. A board will also have to be formed if it will be separate. He also reviewed some of the other things they would need to do. Financially, it will be close to the same, but they do need to get it all lined out. If there are any questions, reach out to him.

HEATH DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Dr. Kahre, Warrick County Health Officer, and Ms. April Hicks, the new Health Administrator, were present to give an update. They have two positions open, and they are being advertised externally. The nurse position has to be posted for thirty days.

They also received complaints on the McDonald's in Boonville. It has since been shut down. It will be shut down for several days for cleaning and exterminating.

PROPOSAL FROM KELLER SCHROEDER WCC SMS RENEWAL

Ms. Bennett-Stearsman said this is something that Commissioner Phillippe wanted on the agenda. This has been reviewed by the Attorney and the Service Agreement has been added to it. Ms. Bennett-Stearsman reviewed the costs. Total cost is \$15,330.24 for three years. It is a renewal. There was discussion on who and what it covered. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to table to make sure what they are approving as the information in front of them was not for the SMS Renewal. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion to table carried 3-0.

PROJECT PARTNERSHIP
SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR MERISTEM ENVIRONMENTAL

Byron Sanders with Project Partnership went over the history of the project and what this current agreement is for and what it will accomplish for this or future projects. It will cost \$5,300.00 and will definitely save money in the long run. Mr. Howard recommended the approval as well. Attorney Whitehead pointed out some corrections to the contract that need to be made. Ms. Bennett-Stearsman asked where the money could come from. There was discussion on different funds they could use. Commissioner Stacey Franz made a motion to approve pending Council approval and appropriating of funds. Commissioner Terry Phillippe seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

(Meristem Agreement is located on File in the Auditor's Office)

AMENDMENT TO RQAW CONTRACT – NEW SECURITY CENTER

Byron Sanders reviewed the amendment to the RQAW Contract. The contract expired this past March. There has been some discussion with RQAW on how it didn't match the duration of the project. They will extend the contract to the end of the project with no additional charge. The amendment will include the extension plus some additional design plan changes they found will need to be made. Mr. Sanders went over those changes. The total cost for the design changes will be \$150,000.00. There was \$250,000.00 budgeted for design changes. He would recommend approval of the contract amendments. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to approve. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

(RQAW Amendment is located on File in the Auditor's Office)

KELLER SCHROEDER SMS RENEWAL APPROVAL CONTINUED

The Commissioners all received the correct info on the Keller Schroeder Contract. Total cost is \$1,956.00 per month with a yearly total of \$23,472.00 for the SMS Renewal. The funding, they believe, is already there and has continued to be paid under Other Services. This will get it back under Contractual Services. There was a brief discussion on some of the charges listed that they were unsure of. It was decided to double check on cost and table again for now.

EMA

PERMISSION TO SUBMIT SHSP AND PORT SECURITY GRANTS

Emergency Management Director Matt Goebel presented. He went over what the SHSP Grant was and what it would cover. The second grant was for the Town of Newburgh using the County as a pass-through. Administrator Bennett-Stearsman went over them needing an interlocal to do that and felt it would be cleaner if the Town of Newburgh applied for it. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made a motion to approve the submission of the SHSP Grant. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

PROCLAMATION 2025-01

PROCLAIM AUGUST EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MONTH

President Seaton presented a Proclamation 2025-01 to Proclaim August Emergency Management Month to EMA Director Matt Goebel. Proclamation 2025-01 was read into the Record:

WARRICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

107 W. LOCUST ST., STE. 301, BOONVILLE, IN 47601
PHONE - (812) 897-6120 FAX - (812) 897-6189
e-mail: info@warrickcounty.gov

SARAH A. SEATON

STACEY FRANZ

TERRY PHILLIPPE

PROCLAMATION DECLARING AUGUST 2025 AS

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MONTH IN WARRICK COUNTY

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of Warrick County residents is of the highest importance, and being prepared for natural and man-made disasters is essential to protecting lives, property, and community resources; and;

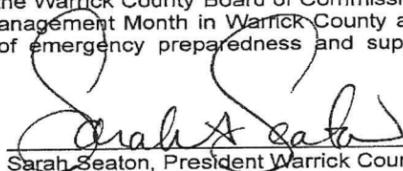
WHEREAS, emergency management plays a vital role in coordinating preparedness response recovery and mitigation efforts during times of crisis; and,

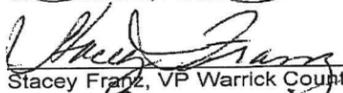
WHEREAS, Warrick County Emergency Management Agency and other first responders work tirelessly year-round to ensure the county is ready to respond to emergencies of all kinds; and,

WHEREAS, Emergency Management Month provides an opportunity to raise public awareness about the importance of emergency planning and encourage individuals, families, and businesses to take steps to be prepared; and;

WHEREAS, proactive emergency management not only saves lives but also strengthens the resilience and recovery of our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Warrick County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim August, 2025 as Emergency Management Month in Warrick County and encourages all residents to recognize the importance of emergency preparedness and support the efforts of emergency management professionals.


Sarah Seaton, President Warrick County Commissioners


Stacey Franz, VP Warrick County Commissioners


Terry Phillippe, Commissioner

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Goebel for all that he and his office does.

PEABODY – ROAD USE AGREEMENT

Commissioner Franz said they did meet with Peabody, but it needs to be tabled. Commissioner Stacey Franz made the motion to table. Commissioner Terry Phillippe seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

LUCINDA TAYLOR – ATV

Ms. Lucinda Taylor came before the Commissioners to petition for an Ordinance for ATV use in the County. Sheriff Mike Wilder was also present to discuss. They reviewed what areas and subdivisions this would cover to make it legal to have ATV's and golf carts on the road. Some of the qualifications for vehicles would include headlights and taillights with a time limit of dusk to dawn. Sheriff said that this is very common, and he doesn't anticipate any issues. Attorney Whitehead said that he will need to work with the Sheriff and Mr. Howard to put it in writing.

**PURDUE EXTENSION OFFICE REPORT
JO GILREATH**

Ms. Jo Gilreath was present from the Purdue Extension Office to give a report. A handout was given to the Commissioners for the last quarter. She touched on the various trainings and events they have had. She also briefly touched on the county fair which has been completed. There were no questions.

**ACTION AGENDA
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
JULY 28, 2025**

Minutes for the July 28, 2025 Regular Session meeting were presented to the Commissioners for approval. Commissioner Stacey Franz made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Terry Phillippe seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
CONSENT AGENDA**

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearsman presented the following items on the Consent Agenda for approval:

- Payroll Voucher 16 in the amount of \$693,026.07
- AP Voucher for August 11, 2025 in the amount of \$3,404,732.35
- Approval of Non-Certified Claim – Old National Bank in the amount of \$17,710.46. There were three charges that there were no receipts for.
- Approval of Ragle Pay Estimate 4 for Bridge 148 in the amount of \$241,079.19

President Seaton wanted to clarify that there was a small amount that was non-certified and it was not the total of \$17,710.46. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

(Payroll is located on Page 8 of these Official Minutes)

(AP Voucher is located on Pages 8 through 10 of these Official Minutes)

(Non-Certified Claim is located on Page 10 of these Official Minutes)

(Ragle Pay Estimate 4 is located on File in the Auditor's Office)

**REGULAR BUSINESS
APPROVAL OF OPIOID GRANT CONTRACTS**

The following were presented and were approved for funding at the last meeting:

- Lampion Center
- Youth First
- Junior Achievement of Southwest Indiana

Ms. Bennett Stearsman would like for President Seaton to sign the contracts as soon as all the paperwork is received. Commissioner Stacey Franz made a motion to approve the contracts and for President Seaton to sign them. Commissioner Terry Phillippe seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

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

**APPROVAL OF GIS LIMITED USE AGREEMENT
EVANSVILLE VANDERBURGH SCHOOL CORPORATION**

The Commissioners received a request for the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation to temporarily share the County GIS. She went over the layers they want temporary access to. All paperwork is ready. Commissioner Stacey Franz made a motion to approve. Commissioner Terry Phillippe seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

WARRICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE APPROVAL FOR GRANT SUBMISSION

The Sheriff's Office is needing approval for submission of grant funding from the Warrick County Drug Free Council in the amount of \$4,626.79. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made a motion to approve. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

ACQUISITIONS ADMINISTRATOR OPEN BIDS FOR CYCLICAL REASSESSMENT

Acquisitions Administrator Sherrie Sievers along with and Assessor Sarah Redmon was present to open bids for the Cyclical Reassessment. All IC codes for the bid process were followed. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made a motion to open the bids. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

There was only one bid received by Tyler Technologies in the amount of \$786,300.00 over four years. Assessor Redmon would like for this to be taken under advisement to allow her to go over all the information. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to take under advisement. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

UPDATE OF TRAFFIC CONTROL BIDS OPENED ON JULY 14, 2025

Ms. Sievers updated the Commissioners on the Traffic Control Contract. After bids were rejected on July 14, 2025, Mr. Howard negotiated with Ragle and an amount of \$37,800.00 was presented for the annual maintenance. Ragle has all the INDOT certifications needed. Mr. Howard also said that they are slightly higher than Mounts, but they will inspect all intersections at least once a year. Additional costs for working on lights in an emergency situation is outside of this proposed price. The funds for the contract come out of the Highway budget. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made the motion to approve. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

(Ragle Contract for Traffic Control is located on File in the Auditor's Office)

COUNTY HIGHWAY/ ENGINEER REQUEST FOR NO PARKING SIGNS – ORTHOPEDIC DRIVE

Mr. Howard has received a request for no parking signs on Orthopedic Drive in Newburgh. The owner is concerned because tractor trailers are parking on the roadway there by the gas station. Mr. Howard agrees that it needs to be done. A resolution will need to be drawn up. Commissioner Terry Phillippe made a motion to draft a resolution. Commissioner Stacey Franz seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

APPROVAL OF NEW DRAINAGE ORDINANCE ORDINANCE 2025-11

Mr. Howard reviewed the Ordinance and the updates that had been made. Counsel was good with the updates and Ordinance. Commissioner Stacey Franz made a motion to approve Drainage Ordinance 2025-11. Commissioner Terry Phillippe seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

(Ordinance 2025-11 is located on File in the Auditor's Office)

COUNTY SHERIFF

The Sheriff had nothing to report.

ATTORNEY

The County Attorney had nothing to report.

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

The Commissioners had nothing to report.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ANIMAL CONTROL

Marla Decker wanted to speak to the Commissioners about Animal Control. She had to give up her animal to Animal Control and she was very impressed with them. Because of this, she made a personal donation. She felt that donations should not be put in with tax money. Ms. Bennett-Stearsman said they will be setting up a separate fund for the donations and went over how it would work. She said the current amount is around \$3,500.00. They can then use it for what it was donated for.

President Seaton wanted to say that they agree as a board that Animal Control is doing wonderful things and are very much needed. They have the Commissioners full support.

Commissioner Phillippe said that while they definitely support Animal Control, they do not control the money. County Council also needs to be petitioned. It has not been funded properly and needs to be. Commissioner Seaton agreed that Council would need to be addressed and they have petitioned them for the support.

Debbie Neal also spoke saying that Animal Control is doing a great job. If there is something the public can do, they would be happy to do it.

Karen Barnhill also spoke. She wants to support Animal Control. It is a no-kill and needs to be funded. Ms. Barnhill also thought that Monica Freeman from Animal Control had different numbers on donations. She thinks it more like \$20,000.00. Ms. Bennett-Stearsman that she just gave a rough number since May until now and that they will do an audit.

Dr. Maltby spoke and is the contracted veterinarian for Animal Control. He asked why Council didn't fund the Animal Control. Commissioner Phillippe said that it was taken out from under the Health Department and put under the Commissioners. There was some money put in the budget, but it has caused some issues. Dr. Maltby said that they have received no-kill certification from the State and that is unheard of for a municipality. He also said they have to make sure everyone does their parts.

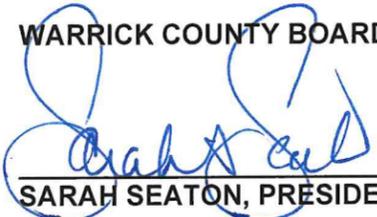
Ms. Bennett-Stearsman said they did turn in a separate budget to Council for 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Warrick County Commissioners' meeting will be held on Monday, August 25, 2025 in the Commissioners' meeting room at 4:00 PM. Commissioner Stacey Franz made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Terry Phillippe seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

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

Ord. 2025-10

Ordinance to Vacate a 30-foot Public Utility Easement on Lots 18 and 19 in Wren Lake No. 2 Subdivision, in Campbell Township, Warrick County, Indiana

Whereas, a sworn Petition was presented to the Board of Commissioners of Warrick County, Indiana requesting that a 30-foot Public Utility Easement located on the real estate commonly known as:

1211 and 1245 Stevenson Station Road, Chandler, Indiana, 47610

which is described on the attached Exhibit "A" and shown on the attached Exhibit "B", be vacated by the Board of Commissioners of Warrick County, Indiana;

Whereas, after proper notice a public hearing was held by the Board of Commissioners of Warrick County, Indiana where all interested persons were permitted to address the Board of Commissioners of Warrick County, Indiana concerning said vacation.

Section 1:
The Board of Commissioners of Warrick County, Indiana, after due consideration has determined that the 30-foot Public Utility Easement on the real estate commonly known as:

1211 and 1245 Stevenson Station Road, Chandler, Indiana, 47610

which is described on the attached Exhibit "A" and shown on the attached Exhibit "B", is no longer required for public use and the public interest will be served by its vacation.

Section 2:
The Board of Commissioners of Warrick County, Indiana, does hereby vacate the 30-foot Public Utility Easement located on the real estate commonly known as:

1211 and 1245 Stevenson Station Road, Chandler, Indiana, 47610

which is described on the attached Exhibit "A" and shown on the attached Exhibit "B",

Section 3:
The Easement being vacated was platted as a 15-foot wide Public Utility Easement being part of Lot 18 and also a 15-foot wide Public Utility Easement being part of Lot 19 in Wren Lake No. 2 Subdivision which is recorded as Document Number 2016R-005211 in the Office of the Recorder of Warrick County

Section 4:
This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Board of Commissioners of Warrick County, Indiana.

Final passage by the Board of Commissioners of Warrick County, Indiana this 11th day of August, 2025.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WARRICK COUNTY, INDIANA

[Signature]
Sarah A. Seaton, President

[Signature]
Stacey Fyfe, Vice President

[Signature]
Terry J. Philippe, Member

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Michael J. Dietsch
Warrick County Auditor

This instrument prepared by Scott Buedel, Cash Waggoner and Associates, PC, 414 Citadel Circle, Suite B, Evansville, IN 47715, Phone 812-401-5561

I affirm, under penalties of perjury, that I have taken reasonable care to redact each Social Security number in this document, unless required by law.

[Signature]
Scott D. Buedel

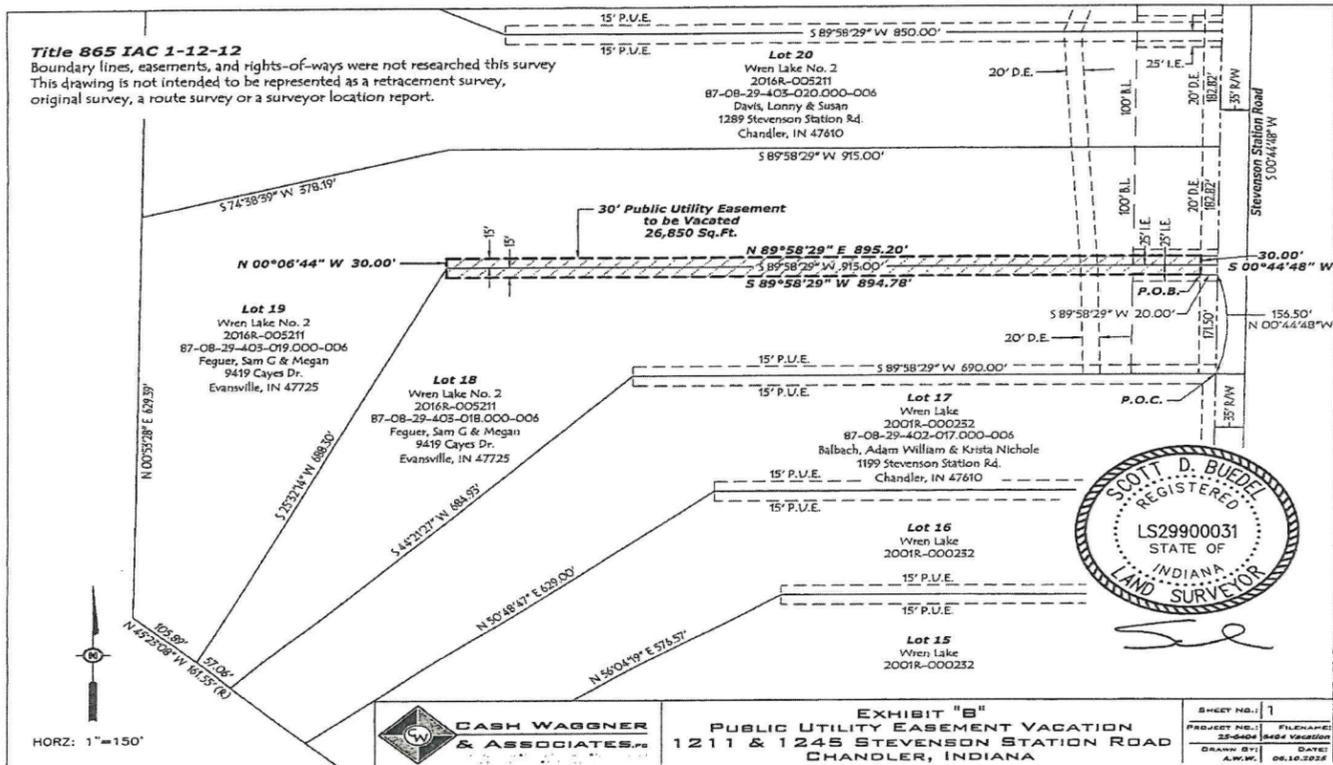


Exhibit "A"
Easement Vacation Description

Part of Lots 18 and 19 in Wren Lake No. 2, as per plat thereof, recorded in Document 2016R-005211 in the Office of the Recorder of Warrick County, Indiana and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the southeast corner of said Lot 18; thence along the east line of said lot, North 00 Degrees 44 Minutes 48 Seconds West 156.50 feet to the south line of a 15-foot Public Utility Easement; thence along the south line of said easement, South 89 Degrees 58 Minutes 29 Seconds West 20.00 to the point of beginning; thence continue South 89 Degrees 58 Minutes 29 Seconds West 894.78 feet to the southwest corner of said 15-foot public utility easement; thence along the west line of and the extended west line of said easement, North 00 Degrees 06 Minutes 44 Seconds West 30.00 feet to the northeast corner of a 15-foot easement on Lot 19; thence along the north line of said easement, North 89 Degrees 58 Minutes 29 Seconds East 895.20 feet to the west side of an existing 20-foot drainage easement; thence along said easement, South 00 Degrees 44 Minutes 48 Seconds West 30.00 feet to the point of beginning and containing 26,850 square feet, more or less.



[Signature]
6-10-25

