

**WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM  
107 W. Locust Street  
Boonville, Indiana  
February 1, 2024  
6:00 PM

The Warrick County Council met in regular session in the Warrick County Courthouse, 107 W. Locust Street, Boonville, Indiana.

Attorney Matt Koressel and Administrator Krystal Powless were in attendance.

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

The public could view the meeting via Warrick County Government YouTube channel at: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOK8y7IXclpK9le8VV4pr9w?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOK8y7IXclpK9le8VV4pr9w?view_as=subscriber)

Council President, Brad Overton, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call showed the following Councilmen present in person: Rob Dimmett, Ted Metzger, Brad Overton, Richard Reid, Greg Richmond, and Chris Whetstone. Present via Facetime was Ron Bacon.

*All actions on motions throughout the meeting were made by a roll call vote.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**JANUARY 4, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 4, 2024 EXECUTIVE SESSION MEMORANDUM**

The minutes from the January 4, 2024 Regular Session Meeting and Memorandum from the January 4, 2024 Executive Session were presented. Councilman Greg Richmond made the motion to approve both the Minutes and the Memorandum. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

*(01-04-2024 Executive Session Memorandum is located on Page 8 of these Official Minutes)*

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS**  
**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – WARRICK BUCKS**

President Overton read the following into the record:

Department of Economic Dev.	1112.31560.000.0000	Warrick Bucks	\$100,000.00
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Economic Development Director Steve Roelle was present. This is for the Warrick Bucks Program. The Appropriation comes out of EDIT as a way of supporting small businesses. He went over the background of the program and all the great feedback they have received. The Council received information from him on the program to date. He said the funds are available for the appropriation.

President Overton asked if it was just for brick-and-mortar businesses and if there was a threshold. Mr. Roelle went over all the qualifications for the businesses to participate in the program. Currently, there are eighty merchants participating and room for more. There was a continued discussion about the program and its effects between Mr. Roelle and President Overton.

Councilman Reid asked when this round would start and how many rounds it would be good for. Mr. Roelle said that it would start immediately and would cover a couple of rounds. He also stated that they plan times that will be most effective for use and make a difference.

President Overton asked about promotion and reaching those who are not online. Mr. Roelle said that it is tough. But they have created laminated printouts about the program that are found at participating businesses that helps get the word out.

Councilman Reid asked if it also included alcohol. Mr. Roelle said that if you are a restaurant, it includes whatever the restaurant is serving. But there are no liquor stores participating.

Councilman Rob Dimmett made the motion to approve. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-1 with Ted Metzger opposing.



**NEXT LEVEL BROADBAND LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Next, Mr. Roelle presented a letter of support to be signed by supporting Council members for the next round of Next Level Broadband funding for Warrick County. These are State dollars used to keep connecting addresses in Warrick County to broadband. They have been successful in the third round. They weren't successful in the first couple of rounds. There are providers going after funding in the current round four. A lot of the addresses are around the eastern border of Warrick County which is the most rural. This letter of support goes to the Department of Broadband in Indiana so that the County can get awarded some of those funds. It is not an official motion. This can be signed after the meeting by Council members showing support.

*(Letter of Support is located on Page 6 of these Official Minutes)*

**ASSESSOR BUSINESS  
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – PROPERTY REASSESSMENT  
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES**

President Overton read the following into the record:

Property Reassessment      1224.31400.000.0000      Contractual Services      \$15,000.00

Assessor Sarah Redman was present and had a handout for the Council members. It discusses the tax dollars that were collected since the case they had went to the Indiana Tax Court. They will be addressing it again this year. She is asking for the \$15,000.00, but she will be back. Ms. Redman spoke to the attorneys that are out of Fort Wayne, Indiana that are litigators specializing in property tax that are being used. Their fees are at a reduced rate, but it is still expensive. They will be addressing the value of the facility in question. She also gave a few other specifics on the case. Warrick County did win the case several years ago. Between \$200,000.00 and \$250,000.00 was spent on litigation at that time and the ruling did set a precedence in the state. There shouldn't be all the expense that they encountered the first time. Councilman Rob Dimmett made the motion to approve. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

**SUPERIOR COURT I BUSINESS  
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION - INTERPRETER**

President Overton read the following into the record:

Superior Court I      1000.11225.0201      Interpreter      \$3,000.00

Ms. Ellen Sprinkle was present for Superior Court I for Judge Weiberg who could not be present. She said they are asking for money that they used to get through grants, however, the grants have become more difficult to get. Also, interpreters are very limited. President Overton asked if there was a line item for this and if anything was budgeted for it. Administrator Powless said there was a line item that exists. Ms. Sprinkle said they still had grant funds last year, but they have been expended. President Overton said that it may be something that they need to think about budgeting. There was a brief discussion on this. President Overton thanked her for the explanations.

Councilman Rick Reid made the motion to approve. Councilman Ted Metzger seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion. Councilman Whetstone asked about using a call-in interpreter like hospitals use. Ms. Sprinkle stated that it could be done initially and is provided by the State. But, they have to have them in person for the trials and testimony. The motion carried 7-0.

**COMMISSIONER BUSINESS  
ANIMAL CONTROL REDUCTION**

Health	1159.11250.000.0000	Pound keeper	-\$10,000.00
	1159.11420.000.0000	Part Time Animal Control	-\$5,000.00
	1159.11700.000.0000	Animal Control Officer	-\$51,334.00
	1159.11701.000.0000	2 Assistant Animal Control Officer	-\$80,168.00
	1159.18220.000.0000	Overtime Animal Control	-\$5,000.00
	1159.22100.000.0000	Gas, oil and lube	-\$6,000.00
	1159.22500.000.0000	Animal Control Expense	-\$5,000.00
	1159.24500.000.0000	Uniforms Animal Control	-\$628.00
	1159.32100.000.0000	Freight & Express	-\$1,100.00
	1159.32401.000.0000	Communication Animal Control	-\$3,622.00
	1159.33000.000.0000	Utilities	-\$4,000.00
	1159.36250.000.0000	Animal Control Building Maintenance	-\$600.00
	1159.36300.000.0000	Repairs Animal Control	-\$2,917.00
		Total	-\$175,369.00

County Administrator Heather Soberg presented. She said all this was reviewed at last month's meeting and what is going on with the movement of the Animal Control from the Health Department to the Commissioners. Ms. Powless stated that these were not just salaries, but some of the line items also. President Overton read the reductions into



the record. Councilman Greg Richmond made the motion to approve. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

**COMMISSIONER BUDGET APPROPRIATION**

Administrator Powless wanted to make a correction to the two Assistant Animal Control Officers listed on the agenda. The amount should be \$80,168.00. The amount listed on the agenda, the six and the eight were transposed.

Ms. Soberg also had a correction as well. The Animal Control Officer listed in the agenda as \$51,534.00 was with longevity. That is no longer needed. So, it's closer to \$49,700.00.

President Overton read the following appropriations with corrections into the record:

Commissioner	1000.11250.000.0068	Pound keeper	\$10,000.00
	1000.11420.000.0068	Part Time Animal Control	\$5,000.00
	1000.11700.000.0068	Animal Control Officer	\$49,700.00
	1000.11701.000.0068	2 Assistant Animal Control Officer	\$80,168.00
	1000.18220.000.0068	Overtime Animal Control	\$5,000.00
	1000.22100.000.0068	Gas, oil and lube	\$6,000.00
	1000.22500.000.0068	Animal Control Expense	\$5,000.00
	1000.23500.000.0068	Animal Food	\$5,000.00
	1000.24500.000.0068	Uniforms Animal Control	\$628.00
	1000.32100.000.0068	Freight & Express	\$1,100.00
	1000.32401.000.0068	Communication	
		Animal Control	\$3,622.00
	1000.33000.000.0068	Utilities	\$4,000.00
	1000.34400.000.0068	AC Health Testing	\$250.00
	1000.36250.000.0068	Animal Control	
		Building Maintenance	\$600.00
	1000.36300.000.0068	Repairs Animal Control	\$2,917.00
		Total	\$180,637.00

Ms. Soberg said that the Pound Keeper and the Part Time Animal Control to her is the same thing and they could be combined into one. The Pound Keeper is a part-time person. Ms. Powless combined the Pound Keeper into the Part-Time Animal Control with the total amount to be \$15,000.00.

Councilman Reid asked what the AC Health Testing was. Ms. Powless said it was for animal testing for bites and such.

Councilman Richmond asked if there were salary ordinances. Ms. Powless said they would be next.

Councilman Ted Metzger made a motion to deny the appropriation. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion. There was a discussion about what this would mean. President Overton said that if this was not approved that the Commissioners would have to fund Animal Control out of their budget with no additional money. They would have to operate withing their existing dollar amounts that they have. The Council would not give them anything additional.

Councilman Metzger asked if the employees would still get paid. Ms. Powless said they would by doing transfers. Ms. Soberg asked the Council to remember that last month, when the salary ordinances were done, that they had transferred money out of health insurance to cover the salaries. So, at the very least, she requested that they consider funding the salaries for the employees so they can put the money back in health insurance.

Councilman Whetstine was concerned about the salaries. Councilman Metzger said that they would get paid and that the Council could add money later in the year for the health insurance, if necessary. It can be put back later and everyone will still get paid. Councilman Whetstine asked if a hybrid could be done so that salaries are paid. Ms. Powless said they could after the vote on the current motion.

President Overton said that he did not like to make adjustments to personnel outside of budget sessions. This was an obvious adjustment to personnel and other items as well outside of budget and outside of any personnel discussion. That is one of his biggest concerns he has with it. This was done after everything had been completed and approved in relationship to the budget.

Councilman Whetstine asked if there had been any discussion about the salaries being paid and spoke briefly to it. Ms. Soberg said that honestly, they didn't know what it's going to take to run Animal Control. They don't have numbers. This year will be a learning year for them. They can hopefully manage shifting by transfer for this year and then replenish. She can visit every month if needed.

Councilman Dimmett asked, if this was approved, would it be coming from the General Fund. Ms. Powless said it would. He then asked how much money was in the General Fund. Ms. Powless said that the reduction would stay in the Health Department's cash. The Additional Appropriation would come from the County General Fund which there are several departments that are paid out of County General. It also has to be managed closer that other funds.

Councilman Overton verified that there was money that could be transferred available. Ms. Soberg stated that there was and they can see what their needs are as the year progresses. Ms. Powless suggested that they put together a really good budget going forward.



Councilman Metzger said that this pushes it down the road and doesn't take money out of County General right away. Everyone will still get paid. President Overton called for the vote. The motion to deny passed 5-2 with Greg Richmond and Chris Whetstine opposing.

There was a brief discussion on whether another motion on the appropriation could be made. Attorney Koressel said that a modified motion could be made.

Councilman Chris Whetstine made the motion to approve the first five items of 5B involving salaries. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion failed 2-4-1 with Rob Dimmett, Ted Metzger, Brad Overton and Rick Reid opposing and Ron Bacon abstaining.

**SALARY ORDINANCE – AMENDMENT**

President Overton read the following into the record:

Health Pound keeper	\$0.00
Part Time Animal Control	\$0.00
Commissioner Pound keeper	\$10,000.00
Part Time Animal Control	\$5,000.00

Administrator Powless stated that these needed to be approved so they could be paid out of the Commissioner budget. Councilman Ted Metzger made the motion to approve. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

**HANDBOOK POLICY, REIMBURSEMENTS, TRANSFERS OR CORRECTIONS**

President Overton read the following into the record:

6A. Reduction -Correction Public Health Fund	1161.31400.000.0000	Contractual Services	-\$100,000.00
6B. Additional Appropriation -Handbook Highway	1176.11522.000.0530	Fleet Manager	\$4,625.00
6C. Salary Ordinance -Handbook Highway	Retiree pay out	Fleet Manager	\$4,624.08
6D. Salary Ordinance -Handbook Parks & Recreation	Pay out	Assistant Superintendent	\$2,069.92
6E. Additional Appropriation -Correction Health Maintenance	1168.31400.000.0000	Contractual Services	\$100,000.00
6F. Additional Appropriation -Handbook Clerk	1000.11210.000.0001	Deputy Clerk	\$1,582.00
6G. Salary Ordinance -Handbook Clerk		Deputy Clerk	\$3,479.70
6H. Additional Appropriation -Reimbursement *Health	1159.12375.000.0000	Vaxcare	\$10,453.00

There was no discussion. Councilman Rick Reid made the motion to approve (6A through 6H). Councilman Ted Metzger seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

*(February Appropriations are located on Page 7 of these Official Minutes)*

**SHERIFF BUSINESS  
COMMISSARY REPORT - JAIL REPORT**

Sheriff Mike Wilder was present to review both reports that were given to the Council members. He said there wasn't really a lot to discuss. The Commissary helps to take care of stuff that was not budgeted for. Councilman Whetstine said that he found it very helpful to read the Jail Report. He was also amazed at the healthcare costs. There was a brief discussion on this. No approval was needed for either report.

**COUNCIL BUSINESS  
ENCUMBRANCE RESOLUTION  
RESOLUTION 2024-02**

Administrator Krystal Powless read the following Resolution title into the record:

*Resolution 2024-02, a Resolution of the County Council of Warrick County, Indiana, Approving Encumbrances from the 2023 Fiscal Year.*

She said that this is money from the 2023 budgets to be rolled over for some of the 2023 claims. This carries that money forward. Councilman Rick Reid made a motion to approve. Councilman Ted Metzger seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

*(Resolution 2024-02 is located on Page 6 of these Official Minutes)*



**OTHER BUSINESS  
TRANSFER REQUEST  
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES TO EQUIPMENT**

Administrator Powless stated that she had Other Business that needed to be addressed. The first was a transfer request. She asked County Administrator Heather Soberg to speak to the transfer. Ms. Soberg said that it was for the State-wide E-911 Fund to transfer from Contractual Services to Equipment. It's an out-of-line transfer. An invoice that needs to be paid out of that fund is for equipment. There is no contract for it.

Ms. Powless stated the transfer amount for the record:

Transfer from	Contractual Services	\$37,178.40
Transfer to	Equipment	\$37,178.40

Councilman Dimmett asked what the equipment was. Ms. Soberg said it was for radios that were ordered in 2023 that they were finally able to get picked up.

Councilman Greg Richmond made the motion to approve. Councilman Chris Whetstine seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion carried 7-0.

**SALARY ORDINANCE**

Next, Ms. Powless presented a salary ordinance for \$248.46 for a retiree. The request came in late and was not able to be put under Handbook items. President Overton called for a motion. Councilman Rick Reid made a motion to approve. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried 7-0.


**SCHEDULING OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**


Administrator Powless said that an Executive Session needed to be scheduled. This was discussed with the Council Attorney. She suggested Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 4:00 PM if it would work for everyone. Councilman Bacon said he would not be back in town by then to attend. The rest of the Council members were good with the date and time. She said that she would get it posted.


**ADJOURNMENT**


The next Warrick County Council regular session meeting will be held on March 7, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners' meeting room. Councilman Rick Reid made the motion to adjourn. Councilman Ted Metzger seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.

**WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL**

  
 Brad Overton, President

  
 Ron Bacon

  
 Richard Reid

  
 Chris Whetstine

  
 Ted Metzger, Vice President

  
 Robert Dimmett  
 (Not present in person) #4.

  
 Greg Richmond

ATTEST:

  
 Michael J. Bletsch, Auditor  
 Warrick County, IN

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 - 02

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF WARRICK COUNTY, INDIANA APPROVING ENCUMBRANCES FROM THE 2023 FISCAL YEAR

WHEREAS, the Warrick County Council (the "Council") has the authority and duty to maintain and oversee the fiscal operations of Warrick County (the "County") and to reconcile the County's financial and budgetary records; and

WHEREAS, the County has outstanding encumbrances in various funds for which the services or products have not yet been paid in full as provided for in Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, in order to complete these projects, programs, or purchases using funding set aside in the 2023 fiscal year and in order to be consistent with Indiana law and Indiana Department of Local Government Finance ("DLGF") procedures, this action must be taken pursuant to a resolution adopted and approved by the Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council as follows:

Section 1. That those certain County funds, purchase orders, and invoices, as identified on Exhibit A and attached hereto and made a part hereof, are hereby encumbered.

Section 2. The County Auditor is hereby directed to encumber the said for same accounts.

Section 3. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon passage

Adopted this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February 2024

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL

Greg Richmond,
Chris Whetstone,
Richard Reid

Ted Metzger, Vice President,
Robert Dimmett,
Brad Overton, PRESIDENT

Ron Bacon

ATTEST: this 1 day of February 2024

Mike Dietsch, Auditor



January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
One North Capitol, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2027

Warrick County Council

Subject: PSC Fiber – Next Level Connections Application for Warrick County

To Whom It May Concern:

The Warrick County Council has chosen to invest in broadband infrastructure due to its increasingly important role in nearly every aspect of life. These projects, both fiber optic and wireless, have offered greatly improved internet access for many of our residents. Despite these efforts over the past few years, some areas of Warrick County remain difficult to connect and could benefit from expansion of broadband availability from other providers.

Our rural communities can especially benefit from improved access to broadband that allows them to retain population and better access the many services and resources that are now available online.

PSC's proposed expansion of broadband service in Warrick County through the Next Level Connections grant program will help support our previous investment and help our community remain competitive in a rapidly changing world. Please accept this letter as a statement of our support for this project that we feel would have a significant and lasting impact on the quality of life for our residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brad Overton, President
Chris Whetstone
Ron Bacon
Richard Reid

Ted Metzger, Vice President
Robert Dimmett
Greg Richmond



Sec. 1 Be it ordained (resolved) by the Warrick County Council, Warrick County, Indiana, that for the expenses of the taxing unit the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the proposed specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

FUND	APPROPRIATION NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED
Reduction Health	1159.11250.000.0000	Pound keeper	-\$10,000.00	-10,000
	1159.11280.000.0000	Client Relations Manager	-\$41,124.00	-41,124
	1159.11420.000.0000	Part Time Animal Control	-\$5,000.00	-5,000
	1159.11700.000.0000	Animal Control Officer	-\$51,334.00	-51,334
	1159.11701.000.0000	2 Assistant Animal Control Officer	-\$80,168.00	-80,168
	1159.18220.000.0000	Overtime Animal Control	-\$5,000.00	-5,000
	1159.22100.000.0000	Gas, oil and lube	-\$6,000.00	-6,000
	1159.22500.000.0000	Animal Control Expense	-\$5,000.00	-5,000
	1159.24500.000.0000	Uniforms Animal Control	-\$628.00	-628
	1159.32100.000.0000	Freight & Express	-\$1100.00	-110
	1159.32401.000.0000	Communication Animal Control	-\$3,622.00	-3,622
	1159.33000.000.0000	Utilities	-\$4,000.00	-4,000
	1159.36250.000.0000	Animal Control Building Maintenance	-\$600.00	-600
	1159.36300.000.0000	Repairs Animal Control	-\$2,917.00	-2,917
	1161.31400.000.0000	Contractual Services	-\$100,000.00	-100,000
	1000.11250.000.0068	Pound keeper	\$10,000.00	0
	1000.11280.000.0068	Client Relations Manager	\$41,124.00	0
	1000.11420.000.0068	Part Time Animal Control	\$5,000.00	0
	1000.11700.000.0068	Animal Control Officer	\$51,334.00	0
	1000.11701.000.0068	2 Assistant Animal Control Officer	\$80,168.00	0
	1000.18220.000.0068	Overtime Animal Control	\$5,000.00	0
	1000.22100.000.0068	Gas, oil and lube	\$6,000.00	0
	1000.22500.000.0068	Animal Control Expense	\$5,000.00	0
1000.23500.000.0068	Animal Food	\$5,000.00	0	
1000.24500.000.0068	Uniforms Animal Control	\$628.00	0	
1000.32100.000.0068	Freight & Express	\$1100.00	0	
1000.32401.000.0068	Communication Animal Control	\$3,622.00	0	
1000.33000.000.0068	Utilities	\$4,000.00	0	
1000.34400.000.0068	AC Health Testing	\$250.00	0	
1000.36250.000.0068	Animal Control Building Maintenance	\$600.00	0	
1000.36300.000.0068	Repairs Animal Control	\$2,917.00	0	
Highway	1176.11522.000.0530	Fleet Manager	\$4,625.00	4,625
Clerk	1000.11210.000.0001	Deputy Clerk	\$1,582.00	1,582
Health Maintenance	1168.31400.000.0000	Contractual Services	\$100,000.00	3,000
Superior Court I	1000.11225.000.0201	Interpreter	\$3,000.00	10,453
Health	1159.21375.000.0000	Vaccine	\$10,453.00	100,000
Dep. of Economic Dev	1112.31560.000.0000	Warrick Bucks	100,000.00	15,000
Property Reassessment	1224.31400.000.0000	Contractual Services	\$15,000.00	15,000

Taxpayers appearing in the meeting shall have a right to be heard. The additional appropriations as finally made will be referred to the State Board of Tax Commissioners. The Board will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action.

Adopted this 1 day of February, 2024.

Paul Carl AYE

Paul Carl

Chris Whitte

NAY

Shelley Richmond Commissioners 5B

Chris Whitte 5B

ATTEST: Mike Dietsch Auditor Warrick County

Mike Dietsch

MEMORANDUM OF EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL

The Warrick County Council of the Warrick County, Indiana, met in executive session on Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners meeting room in the Warrick County Courthouse located at 107 W Locust St # 301 Boonville, IN 47601. The executive session was conducted pursuant to Indiana's Open Meetings Law (I.C. § 5-14-1.5-6.1). No final

action was taken.

Present:

Greg Richmond

Brad Overton

Ted Metzger

Robert Dimmett

Ron Bacon

Christopher Whetstone

Richard Reid

Cliff Whitehead


Mark Phillips

Charlie Wyatt

Krystal Powless

There was no subject matter discussed in the executive session other than the subject matter specified in the public notice.

Approved by the Warrick County Council



Brad Overton, President of the Council

February 1, 2024

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