

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
REGULAR SESSION  
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM  
107 W. Locust Street  
Boonville, Indiana  
September 5, 2024  
6:00 PM

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

Attorney Matthew Koressel and Administrator Krystal Powless were in attendance.

Auditor Michael Dietsch 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/UCOK8y7IXcLpK9le8WV4pr9w?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOK8y7IXcLpK9le8WV4pr9w?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 Whetstine. Ron Bacon was not present for this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
AUGUST 8, 2024 REGULAR SESSION & PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the August 8, 2024 Regular Session and Public Hearing Meeting were presented. Councilman Richmond made a correction on Pages 4 and 5 of the minutes asking to strike the second set of motions. The motion was made by Councilman Richmond and seconded by Councilman Bacon to approve Resolution 2024-10. The second set of motions had them switched. Councilman Greg Richmond made the motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

SUPERIOR COURT BUSINESS  
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

President Overton read the following into the record:

Superior Court	1000.18320.000.0201	Per Diem Petit Jury	\$15,000.00
	1000.39500.000.0201	Meals and Lodging Jury	\$1,000.00

Ellen Sprinkle was present to speak to the request for Superior Court I. She said that Judge Weiberg was unavailable. This is their second request. The cost has doubled and they are trying to get ahead of it. There are still seven jury trials to go on the calendar. If all seven are held, this won't be enough to get them through the year. Councilman Greg Richmond made the motion to approve. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

COMMISSIONER BUSINESS  
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION - ARPA

President Overton read the following into the record:

ARPA	8590.44000.000.0000	Equipment	\$2,500.00
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County Administrator Heather Soberg was present to speak to the request. This request is from the ARPA funds for an AED for Tri-Cap. Councilman Greg Richmond made the motion to approve. Councilman Chris Whetstine seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION  
COURTHOUSE - COMMISSIONERS

President Overton read the following into the record:

3B. Additional Appropriation Courthouse	1000.36100.000.0162	Grounds and Parking	\$500.00
	1000.36200.000.0162	Buildings	\$8,000.00
3C. Additional Appropriation Commissioners	1000.21100.000.0068	General Supplies	\$3,300.00
	1000.22100.000.0068	Gas, Oil & Lube	\$1,250.00
	1000.22400.000.0068	Supplies-Janitorial	\$2,000.00
	1000.30200.000.0068	Other Services & Charges	\$23,000.00



1000.31501.000.0068	Juvenile Detention	\$75,900.00
1000.32400.000.0068	Communication	\$26,900.00
1000.32410.000.0068	Cell Phones	\$15,300.00

Ms. Soberg also spoke to these requests. They have had to make purchases and need to get through to the end of the year. President Overton asked about the Buildings line in 3B and what it is. Ms. Soberg said it was for repair and parts for the buildings. It is most often used by maintenance. President Overton then asked about General Supplies and Supplies-Janitorial in 3C. Ms. Soberg said it was more of the repairs to the buildings and what they buy to repair. Vendors are also paid from that. He asked if this could be better named Building Repair as Buildings is very vague.

Councilman Dimmett then asked to discuss 3B and 3C and a combination of some of them. Ms. Soberg asked if they wanted to go down into 3C to discuss those. He wished to skip 3B for now and have 3C explained. President Overton asked if any of the Councilmen had an issue with discussing 3B and 3C together. There were no objections.

Ms. Soberg reviewed General Supplies and Janitorial Supplies and what they covered in the Commissioner's budget. Some is used for their office, but a lot of this is going to Animal Control. The Supplies – Janitorial would be for the cleaning supplies they use at Animal Control. A new line was created and transferred into for the Animal Control to keep track of it for next year.

Councilman Reid asked about the \$23,000.00 for Other Services & Charges. Ms. Soberg said, because they don't have a line for it, all of the care that is for the animals is in this right now like cat and dog food, vaccines, spay and neuter clinics. The goal for 2025 is to have this broken out in a line.

Councilman Dimmett wanted to clarify that General Supplies, Supplies-Janitorial, and Other Services and Charges are pretty much for Animal Control. Ms. Soberg said that it was more than anything else and she touched on some of the items outside of Animal Control. Next year, most of these will hopefully have their own line items in 2025 so there won't be these discussions.

President Overton asked about transferring in from somewhere else. Ms. Soberg said that it would just be robbing Peter to pay Paul. They will still need the money. Taking on an entire department had been taxing on the Commissioner's budget.

Councilman Dimmett asked about the Communications. Ms. Soberg went over what phones that included. This also includes the telematic devices in the vehicles, hotspots, and tablets. Councilman Reid asked which company they went through for that. She said the cell phones were with AT&T FirstNet as well as the telematic devices. President Overton asked about the savings we were supposed to see with the upgrades to the phones. Ms. Soberg said the Communications are the landlines they still have which they are just stuck with like Dispatch, Scales Lake, and a phone in 4-H. The rest is the internet providers. They are running about \$3,000.00 a month for the two buildings. They are still working to get Mainstream installed. President Overton asked what the time frame was. She said she didn't have the answer to that. President Overton then asked about the cell phones and if this was an increase in services or an increase in costs. She said there are more people with cell phones and the cost of pulling in the devices with the new department. They haven't necessarily seen an increase in cost per plan, but rather a larger number of items and maybe poor math on her part at budget time last year.

President Brad Overton made a motion to approve Juvenile Detention in 3C for \$75,900.00. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

President Brad Overton made a motion to approve Supplies – Janitorial in 3C for \$2,000.00. Councilman Ted Metzger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Rob Dimmett made a motion to approve General Supplies in 3C for \$3,300.00. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Metzger said, in the list of Other Services and Charges, it looked like the cleaning and food are included in the amount. Ms. Soberg said that it was right now. They are trying to break things out a little bit more. He then asked if they could reduce the amount by the two they just approved. Ms. Soberg said Council could do whatever they wanted. He just didn't want to put them in any kind of hardship, but the list is just a menagerie of everything. She agreed. He mentioned some of the items listed. President Overton asked if he was interested in lowering the amount. Councilman Metzger said it was his first thought. Councilman Dimmett asked where the list was. He reviewed a copy.

Councilman Rob Dimmett made a motion to approve Other Services and Charges in 3C at \$18,000.00. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded the motion. The motion failed 3-3 with Ted Metzger, Brad Overton, and Rick Reid opposing.

Councilman Metzger verified that this was to get them through the rest of the year and what was listed had already been purchased. Ms. Soberg confirmed this and said it was to give them an idea of what they had spent from there. She also said that this report for Other Services and Charges was roughly \$14,000.00 for three months. Some of it is stuff that should have been paid elsewhere, but they don't have those funds either.

Councilman Richmond asked if they also paid for the Sheriff's cell phone. Ms. Soberg said they did not.

Councilman Rob Dimmett made a motion to approve Other Services and Charges in 3C at \$11,500.00. He said that was half of what was requested and that she's hoping it can get them through the rest of the year. This will get them started. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.



Councilman Dimmett asked about what Buildings and Grounds and Parking covered. There was a brief discussion. Councilman Reid asked if this line was paying for the repairs to the restrooms. She said it was.

Councilman Rob Dimmett started to make a motion on the Grounds and Parking and Buildings at \$4,000.00 which was a little less than half of the requested amount. Councilman Richmond asked if that included Buildings. Councilman Dimmett said for both line items. It was clarified that because they are two different line items, they couldn't be combined. Councilman Dimmett asked that the motion be rescinded.

Councilman Rob Dimmett then made a motion to approve in 3B, Grounds and Parking at \$500.00 and Buildings at \$3,500.00. Councilman Ted Metzger seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Chris Whetstine made a motion to approve Gas, Oil, and Lube in 3C at \$1,250.00. It was stated that this is solely for Animal Control. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-1 with Rick Reid opposing.

Councilman Rick Reid made a motion to deny Communications and Cell Phone in 3C. Councilman Ted Metzger seconded the motion. The motion to deny carried 4-2 with Brad Overton and Greg Richmond opposed to the denial.

Councilman Dimmett said that he would like to get a little more info on the Communications and Cell Phones for the next meeting.

PSLIT

EMS STATION RENTAL

President Overton read the following into the record:

PSLIT	1170.37200.000.0000	Rent	\$9,500.00
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Ms. Soberg said that this was for the rent for the EMS Station. It will pay the contract for the rest of the year. There are two in Ohio Township and one in Newburgh. President Overton thought it was ironic paying rent to store our EMS vehicles. He didn't feel the appreciation with it. Councilman Greg Richmond made the motion to approve. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-1 with Brad Overton opposing.

HEALTH BUSINESS

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT TRUST ACCOUNT

President Overton read the following into the record:

Local Health Dept Trust Acc. 1206.31400.000.0000	Contractual Services	\$80,822.00
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Interim Health Administrator Marlin Weisheit was present to speak to the request. He stated that the Grants Development Director Debbie Bennett-Stearsman was not able to be present. This money would get them through the rest of the year. The Council received an email with all the paperwork and information on the request. He said that 1168 and 1206 Funds were going to go away and they wanted to transfer the money. But, they can come back at a later date to do that if they can get the \$28,000.00 for tonight to handle Dr. Heinrich's salary for the rest of the year.

Councilman Reid asked if the Council ever approved his contract. Mr. Weisheit thought as far as he knew everything had been approved. Administrator Krystal Powless stated that Council does not approve contracts. Mr. Weisheit said that the Commissioners approved it. President Overton said that the item was not brought to the Council before the contract was signed. He wanted to clarify this.

Councilman Ted Metzger made a motion to approve \$28,000.00 and they could come back before the Council for more. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-2 with Brad Overton and Rick Reid opposing.

President Overton wished to expound on his opposing vote by saying that he thought there should have been some collaboration.

CUMULATIVE DRAIN BUSINESS

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

President Overton read the following into the record:

Cumulative Drain	1141.31400.000.0000	Contractual Services	\$30,000.00
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Chief Deputy Surveyor Jason Baxter was present to speak to the request. He said it was for extra clean-up of drains. Councilman Rob Dimmett made the motion to approve the appropriation. Councilman Chris Whetstine seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.



SHERIFF BUSINESS  
JAIL – UTILITIES

President Overton read the following into the record:

Jail	1000.33000.000.0380	Utilities	\$26,000.00
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Sheriff Mike Wilder was present to speak to the request. He said they are running over 130 inmates and are busting at the seams. Everything is up and he will probably be back for more money for other things. Councilman Rob Dimmett made the motion to approve. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

NEWBURGH/CHANDLER LIBRARY  
RENOVATION PROJECT DISCUSSION

Library Director Trista Smith wanted to come before the Council to give them information on a project they would like to do. They are coming off a bond and they are looking to keep the tax rate stable and do some work at their main branch. Tonight is just informational and to answer any questions. The Council received information on the project.

President Overton asked if the majority of the upgrades or changes were at the branch over behind Hardees. She said that they were. The building is about twenty years old and very few upgrades have been done. The HVAC System and the roof are starting to fail. They have seen increased maintenance costs. They paid over \$50,000.00 in HVAC repairs last year.

Jack Faber with Hafer Associates then spoke about the project and how it is really two projects: the Bell Road Library and the Newburgh Library. Upkeep is important. The furniture has not been updated since it was built and some improvements have been made to lighting. The big items are the roof and the HVAC system at the Bell Road Branch. For the Newburgh location, there is a recess in the floor that they want to make more handicap accessible. The Council members are welcome to tour both places at any time.

Councilman Reid asked about the solar panels no longer working. Mr. Dempsen Haney, who is the architect on the project, spoke to the solar energy system and the repairs made to that to be able to get their credits back for the system. It still has some issues and they would like to upgrade. He also spoke to the needs of the archives room in the Newburgh Downtown Library. It has no heating, cooling, or humidity control. He also touched on some of the other projects that have been completed. Mr. Faber then spoke to the small renovation to the Bell Road and minor roof repairs that were done because of leaks. He also reviewed some of the damages done from the leaks. There was discussion on the leaks and damage.

Councilman Richmond asked about the bond amount. Mr. Jeff Hammond with Baker Tilly spoke to the bond including payments and amounts. They are all estimates right now. The Council did receive information on the preliminary financing. He reviewed the current bond and that it will be fully paid in 2025. He also went over different scenarios with the proposed bond stressing that they are very early in the process right now. They will build in conservative interest rates with the proposed borrow amount to fund the proposed projects at \$5,650,000.00. That would generate about \$5,400,000.00 to go towards the heart of the soft construction costs of the project. Mr. Hammond went over the differences between that amount and the proceeds available. He also reviewed repayment schedules, the tax rate, interest rates, and the growth quotient.

President Overton asked for any questions. There were none from the other Council members. He asked how much of the \$5,600,000.00 were actual needs and what were peripheral as it was a huge jump from the \$2,600,000.00. Ms. Smith said that the HVAC alone is about \$1,500,000.00 to \$2,000,000.00. She said there is very little in there that is optional. Mr. Faber said that the document before them detailed all the items listed in the project and that many of the side items are replacement for damaged items. He also stated that he hadn't mentioned that they didn't include optional items that, in some cases, reduce costs if the funds were available. President Overton just wanted to get that out there to make sure it wasn't more of a wish than a need type of thing, but it sounded like it was pretty close on the need side which he appreciated.

Councilman Whetstine asked if they wanted to come take a tour, how they would go about that. Mr. Faber said that the best thing would be to contact Ms. Smith and she would make them aware of it so they could be present. He thought it would be very helpful if they walked through with them to give explanations and answer questions Ms. Smith may not be able to answer.

Ms. Smith said that she had sent an email out when the packets were sent with all of their numbers and offering to meet. They should have all the information. But, if they didn't, they can call the library to set up a walk-through. She also touched on things they do try to keep up with to maintain the libraries. The proposed projects are just larger than what their operating budget can handle.

The Council thanked them for their presentation.



HANDBOOK POLICY, REIMBURSEMENTS, TRANSFERS OR CORRECTIONS

President Overton read the following into the minutes:

8A. Transfer – Area Plan Commission			
Transfer From:	1000.31400.000.0079	Contractual Services	\$500.00
Transfer From:	1000.36400.000.0079	Equipment Maintenance	\$1,000.00
Transfer To:	1000.41100.000.0079	Furniture	\$1,500.00
8B. Transfer – Health			
Transfer From:	1159.32300.000.0000	Travel	\$242.00
Transfer To:	1159.57000.000.0000	Refunds	\$242.00
8C. Transfer – Commissioners			
Transfer From:	1138.39201.000.0000	Other Contractual Services	\$7,235.00
Transfer To:	1159.57000.000.0000	HVAC System County Owned Buildings	\$7,235.00

President Overton asked about the HVAC. He thought that it was covered last month. Ms. Soberg stated that they had another repair and she is trying to transfer rather than ask for the additional appropriations.

Councilman Reid asked about the furniture for Area Plan. Ms. Powless said that it was for a filing cabinet and that bids were taken. Councilman Greg Richmond made a motion to approve. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

(September Appropriations are located on Page 6 of these Official Minutes)

AUDITOR BUSINESS  
OUTSTANDING TRANSACTION LIST

A list was presented by the Auditor’s Office for outstanding transactions. This is something the Auditor is obligated to do and make sure that the Council has a copy of the list. There was no action needed by the Council.

(Outstanding Transaction List is located on File in the Auditor’s Office)

COUNCIL BUSINESS  
RECORDER PERPETUATION ORDINANCE CORRECTION

President Overton stated that there was a correction to the Recorder’s Perpetuation Ordinance that was presented at the last meeting. Ms. Powless said it should have been Ordinance 2024-01 not 2025-01. It needed to be clarified for the record. This is for the Recorder’s Perpetuation for the 2025 Budget and was stated as such. President Overton made a motion to approve the corrections. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT  
BRAD BINGHAM

A Conflict-of-Interest Statement was presented to the Council from Bradley J. Bingham. He is with Baker Tilly who will be floating the bond for the Newburgh Public Library. He also sits on the Newburgh Public Library Board. Councilman Greg Richmond made the motion to approve. Councilman Chris Whetstine seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-2 with Ted Metzger and Rick Reid opposing.

OTHER BUSINESS  
PUBLIC COMMENT  
DEBBIE STEVENS – HEALTH BUSINESS

Debbie Stevens asked to make a public comment on the Health Department Business. She said that, as a former Auditor, she saw the Commissioners keep entering contracts that they did not come to the Council for funding. She doesn’t understand how the behavior continues. She asked for the Council to stop funding their contractual obligations and work for the taxpayers and not to fund the Commissioners activities. Ms. Stevens could remember when people had to come to the Council with their contracts and have discussion about it. It was the proper checks and balances of local government that protects the taxpayers. They should vet in advance what the money is going to be spent on, then the appropriation is given, and they can enter into their contract with the money to back it up. If they disagree with the contracts, she asked that they please quit funding and let the Commissioners be personally responsible for paying them. She wanted to plead with the Board to work for her and work for the taxpayers in Warrick County and stand up to this stuff that has been going on for quite a while. There were two items she said were presented in the meeting tonight that were examples. The Contractual Services with the Health Board. She didn’t understand a contract for the Medical Director when they paid the former person \$12,000.00 a year. Now, they can write contracts until the end of the year to obligate the taxpayers to all kinds of insanity. She then spoke to the other Independent Contractor Agreement that is for \$3,000.00 a month on top of what she says they already make as an Independent Contractor for the County. Ms. Stevens said if they’re going to vote for something and fund it, at least tell the taxpayers what it is for, as that Independent Contractor will now be making over a \$100,000.00 a year from the County. But, she said no one seemed to be moved by that. Ms. Stevens also said that what is in that contract is the Auditor’s job. There is already an Elected Official who, by the State of Indiana Constitution, has statutory duties to do



those things and Commissioners are coming in and hijacking the duties of the County Auditor with an Independent Contractor.

President Overton said that he appreciated her comments and input.

Ms. Stevens said there were taxpayers who will encourage them and be on their side and thanked them for their time.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Warrick County Council meeting will be held on October 3, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners' meeting room. Councilman Rick Reid made the motion to adjourn. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL

Brad Overton  
Brad Overton, President  
Ron Bacon  
Ron Bacon  
Richard Reid  
Richard Reid  
Chris Whetstine  
Chris Whetstine

Ted Metzger  
Ted Metzger, Vice President  
Robert Dimmett  
Robert Dimmett  
Greg Richmond  
Greg Richmond

ATTEST:

Michael J. Dietsch  
Michael J. Dietsch, Auditor  
Warrick County, IN

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Kristine Georges, Official Recording Secretary

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
ARPA	8590.44000.000.0000	Equipment	\$2,500.00	<u>2,500</u>
Local Health Dept Trust Account	1206.31400.000.0000	Contractual Services	\$80,822.00	<u>28,000</u>
Superior Court	1000.18320.000.0201	Per Diem Petit Jury	\$15,000.00	<u>15,000</u>
	1000.39500.000.0201	Meals and Lodging Jury	\$1,000.00	<u>1,000</u>
Jail	1000.33000.000.0380	Utilities	\$26,000.00	<u>26,000</u>
Cumulative Drain	1141.31400.000.0000	Contractual Services	\$30,000.00	<u>30,000</u>
Courthouse	1000.36100.000.0162	Grounds and Parking	\$500.00	<u>500</u>
	1000.36200.000.0162	Buildings	\$8,000.00	<u>3,500</u>
Commissioners	1000.21100.000.0068	General Supplies	\$3,300.00	<u>3,300</u>
	1000.22100.000.0068	Gas, Oil & Lube	\$1,250.00	<u>1,250</u>
	1000.22400.000.0068	Supplies- Janitorial	\$2,000.00	<u>2,000</u>
	1000.30200.000.0068	Other Services & Chrg.	\$23,000.00	<u>11,500</u>
	1000.31501.000.0068	Juvenile Detention	\$75,900.00	<u>75,900</u>
	1000.32400.000.0068	Communication	\$26,900.00	<u>0</u>
	1000.32410.000.0068	Cell Phones	\$15,300.00	<u>0</u>
PSLIT	1170.37200.000.0000	Rent	\$9,500.00	<u>9,500</u>

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 5 day of Sept. 2024.

AYE  
Rob Dimmett  
Greg Richmond  
Chris Whetstine  
Ron Bacon  
Ted Metzger  
Brad Overton  
ATTEST: Mike Dietsch

NAY  
Paul Ray - Deny 1,250  
Rent

Mike Dietsch - Auditor Warrick County