

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM
107 W. Locust Street
Boonville, Indiana
March 4, 2025
6:00 PM

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

Council Attorney Brett Gonterman 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/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: Ron Bacon, Patricia Brooks, Rob Dimmett, Brad Overton, Richard Reid, Greg Richmond, and Chris Whetstine.

TABLED ITEMS
HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUSINESS
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES-CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

President Overton said that this was tabled at the last meeting and it needed to be tabled again.

Public Health Services	1161.31400.000.0000	Contractual Services	\$449,238.64
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Councilman Greg Richmond made a motion to table. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2025 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the February 4, 2025 Regular Session Meeting were presented. President Overton stated that he had spoken with Recording Secretary Kristine Georges about a clarification on a statement made by Rob Dimmett to add County to Vanderburgh County. Councilman Greg Richmond made the motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS
CORONER BUSINESS
UNIFORMS

President Overton read the following into the minutes:

Coroner	1000.32001.000.0007	Uniforms	\$1,277.00
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Coroner Alissa Enright and former Coroner and current Commissioner Sarah Seaton were present to discuss the request. The additional appropriation was being asked for to cover a bill that was incurred last year. Currently in that line item she doesn't have enough to cover it and have money for uniforms for any incoming Deputies. Commissioner Seaton said, as Coroner, it was an end of year purchase she made and invoiced on December 30th. It was submitted, but a correction had to be made. The correction was made, but it was not received by Accounts Payable until January 1st. Even though she had encumbered the claim, it can't be paid because it was after the deadline. Now, it falls into 2025 to be paid out of the new Coroner's budget. Commissioner Greg Richmond made the motion to approve. Commissioner Rick Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

HANDBOOK POLICY, REIMBURSEMENTS, TRANSFERS OR CORRECTIONS

President Overton read the following into the minutes:

4A. Additional Appropriation Highway missed encumbrance Cumulative Capital Development	1138.31515.000.0000	Bridge 148	\$650,000.00
4B. Salary Ordinance – Handbook Policy Jail Jail- Jailer	Resignation		\$7,566.18
4C. Additional Appropriation -corrections Property Reassessment	1224.11212.000.0000	2 nd Deputy	\$1,500.00
Assessor	1000.11212.000.0008	2 nd Deputy	\$1,000.00
	1000.11210.000.0008	Deputy	\$500.00

4D. Additional Appropriation -correction			
Circuit Court	1000.11265.000.0000	Education & Military Premium	\$500.00
4E. Reduction Appropriation -correction reduction			
Auditor	1000.32200.000.0002	Postage	-\$3,000.00
4F. Salary Ordinance & Additional Appropriation – Handbook Policy Highway			
Highway	Heavy Equipment -Retiring		\$12,463.00
Highway	1176.12500.000.0531	Heavy Equipment	\$12,463.00

There was no discussion. Councilman Ron Bacon made a motion to approve. Councilwoman Patricia Brooks seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

(March Appropriations is located on Page 3 of these Official Minutes)

COUNCIL BUSINESS
DISCUSSION
SENATE BILL 1

Councilman Ron Bacon gave an update on Senate Bill 1. It has passed the Senate. It is now in the House with the hearing being March 5th. It has changed drastically from what it started as and is a lot less than what it was. It will change again. He also knows that Speaker Huston and the Governor have had a meeting and that Governor Braun is not happy with the bill. He wants major changes or he won't sign it. It will be the last thing the House does in April. They are continuing to watch it and see what changes are made. The way it came out of the Senate was not nearly as bad as it was going to be for the Counties. That was one of the things that was brought up at the Senate and why they did do the changes. They didn't want it affecting the Counties as harshly as it was written. What's in it now is basically just a reduction in property tax and a hold on the percentage growth rate. They will have to see how it proceeds. Speaker Huston has already stated that he intends to have several meetings with the Governor over it.

Councilman Richmond asked about how the reductions would happen. Councilman Bacon said they would just reduce the percentages of the growth rate. It was 4% last year. Councilman Bacon thinks they are looking to reduce it to something like 2% as it is the number he's been hearing. That would cut it in half in some areas. But, it's still being stated that they will give the Counties other means of raising funds. It will fall to the Counties if they fall short on funds. Taxes would have to be raised or cut departments or possibly an increase to the income tax.

OTHER BUSINESS
COMMISSIONERS UPDATE

Commissioner Sarah Seaton and County Attorney Cliff Whitehead were present and gave an update to the Council on what all is going on in the County. Commissioner Seaton said that the Jail Project is moving along. It is on time and on budget. She had the opportunity to tour and it has also gotten some media exposure. The Highway Garage Project is still moving forward in the planning process. With the Jail moving with a projected date of June 2026, it will open up a lot of space. There are several departments looking to use space in the Old Jail such as EMA and the Coroner. She thinks both could fit well in there. But that planning process needs to be started now so that budgets can be planned for any renovations. Commissioner staff members will meet with members of Juvenile Detention to have their first discussions on a Juvenile Detention Facility in Warrick County. It is something that is very much needed in this area. Animal Control is also an ongoing project. They are trying to get things up to code and provide for the animals. They may be back for additional funding. The Health Department is still trying to get stuff on track. They have also been working hard to implement new procedures and policies with the help of County Attorney Cliff Whitehead to help protect the County.

Attorney Whitehead said that they would like to provide a quarterly updates on different items affecting the County from a legal perspective. Not only because they have a right to know, but because not everything is anticipated and they will sometimes be coming back for funds. He also briefly touched on legal fees and policies and how they protect the County. He said that the Council had received a letter on thirteen things he was working on right now. Most are not new, but they are all things that need to be done. Attorney Whitehead wants to be very transparent with the Council and they can reach out to him at any time with any questions.

Commissioner Seaton said they are also doing quarterly meetings with Department Heads and Elected Officials and it has been very beneficial. The Council is invited to come. They are reviewing the policies and procedures and changes that need to be made to make sure everyone is on the same page. Their next meeting will be in April 1st at 1:00 PM in the Commissioners' meeting room.

Councilman Richmond asked about the GO Bond for Animal Control and where they were with that. Commissioner Seaton said she had not been updated on it. County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Steersman reviewed where the project was. She said they had a progress meeting about two weeks ago with Project Partnership. They have a design but it is a little over the one million budgeted, so they're going back to Animal Control to see what can be eliminated or alternatives. But, they are close to having it put out to bid. Hopefully, that will happen soon.


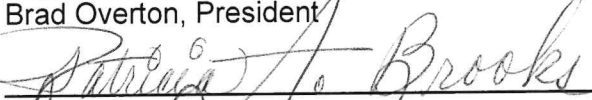
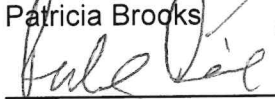

Councilman Bacon asked about Dispatch and its location. Commissioner Seaton said she had spoken with Sheriff Wilder last week and they are going to stay inhouse. Councilman Bacon said if they were staying at the current location, if the updates were where they needed to be as far as oversight. Commissioner Seaton said in her discussions with the Sheriff said that the decision had not been made completely, but he would leave that up to the next Sheriff to decide how everything would separate out.


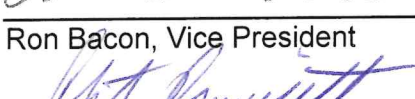
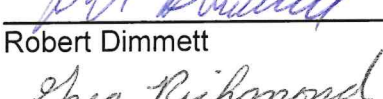
ADJOURNMENT

The next Warrick County Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners' meeting room. Councilman Rick Reid made the motion to adjourn. Councilman Brad Overton seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 PM.

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL


Brad Overton, President

Patricia Brooks

Richard Reid

Chris Whetstine


Ron Bacon, Vice President

Robert Dimmett

Greg Richmond

ATTEST:


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
Cumulative Cap.	1138.31515.000.0000	Bridge 148	\$650,000.00	650,000
Property Reassess	1224.11212.000.0000	2 nd Deputy	\$1,500.00	1,500
Assessor	1000.11212.000.0008	2 nd Deputy	\$1,000.00	1,000
	1000.11210.000.0008	Deputy	\$500.00	500
Circuit Court	1000.11265.000.0000	Education & Military Premium	\$500.00	500
Reduction Auditor	1000.32200.000.0002	Postage	- \$3,000.00	-3,000
Public Health Services	1161.31400.000.0000	Contractual Services	\$449,238.64	Table
Highway	1176.12500.000.0531	Heavy Equipment	\$12,463.00	12,463.00
Coroner	1000.32001.000.0007	Uniforms	\$1,277.00	1,277.00

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 4 day of March, 2025.

AYE








NAY

ATTEST:  Mike Dietsch - Auditor Warrick County