

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM
107 W. Locust Street
Boonville, Indiana
September 2, 2025
6:00 PM

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

Council Attorney Rhett Gonterman and Administrator Krystal Powless were in attendance.

Auditor Michael Dietsch 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

Council President Ron Bacon called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Roll Call showed the following Council members present in person: Ron Bacon, Patricia Brooks, Rob Dimmett, Brad Overton, Richard Reid, Greg Richmond, and Chris Whetstine.

1. TABLED ITEMS
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION
E911

President Bacon read the following into the record:

E911	1222.44000.000.0000	Equipment	\$45,000.00
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This was for the Coroner’s radios. Commissioner Sarah Seaton, Coroner Alissa Enright, and Acquisitions Administrator Sherrie Sievers were present to discuss the request. Councilman Richmond asked about the difference in the claim amount of \$40,565.87 and the request amount of \$45,000.00. Coroner Enright reviewed the radios purchase and the total costs. Ms. Powless clarified that the claim included the radios and charges bringing the total to \$40,565.87. There was also discussion on possibly not having funds encumbered from last year causing some of the issues they had this year with a lack of funds in E911. Councilman Greg Richmond made a motion to approve \$40,600.00. There was discussion on the Commissioners asking for the \$45,000.00. Ms. Powless said that Ms. Bennett-Stearnsman had asked for the extra because of outstanding bills. There was a brief discussion. Councilman Whetstine seconded the motion made by Councilman Richmond. Councilman Reid asked where the money had gone that was previously appropriated. Ms. Sievers reviewed that the money not getting encumbered from an approval made last October for the Sheriff’s Offices, she felt, was the reason for the shortfall. This caused the negative balance. Councilman Richmond said that the funds then went back into the E911 when they weren’t encumbered. Councilman Overton asked about having ten radios. Ms. Enright said there were ten people, but they are sent out from their homes. She is following the standards set in most Counties in Indiana. President Bacon called for the vote. The motion carried 7-0.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
AUGUST 5, 2025 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the August 5, 2025 Regular Session Meeting were presented. Councilman Richmond said he had some questions, but would wait until the Recording Secretary was in attendance. President Bacon said there were some questions on the resolution number passed at the last meeting. There was a brief discussion. Ms. Powless said that the resolution number stated in the minutes, Resolution 2025-07, was correct. Councilman Dimmett added that ‘Moment of Silence’ was listed in the minutes and they didn’t have one. Councilman Rob Dimmett made the motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

3A. SURVEYOR BUSINESS
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION
RAINY DAY

Rainy Day	1186.44000.000.0000	Equipment	\$353,074.00
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County Surveyor Dennis Wilzbacher was present with Acquisitions Administrator Sherrie Sievers. Mr. Wilzbacher wanted to discuss with the Council the need to overhaul and reestablish the drainage system in Warrick County. There has been a lack of maintenance. He presented a plan to the Council on doing this overhaul. He went over some of the DNR rules and other issues that they have to work with. He also presented information on the equipment that he wants to purchase for the execution of this plan which includes a special trencher and tractor. This will allow them to do the work in house as contractors to do the work are getting harder to find. Mr. Wilzbacher also went over what they have been doing so far to keep houses and businesses from going under water due to flooding issues. He also went over the calculations that it will cost about \$2,100.00 a mile for cleaning the ditches.

Ms. Sievers covered more details about the equipment and the discounts they were given as well as services provided. Representatives of the proposed equipment were present for questions.

Councilman Dimmett discussed some of the numbers and research he had done on the tractors and service that will be provided. He also discussed the ditcher and how the ditches will be cleaned to basically clean themselves afterword. There was a brief discussion on building in flood plains which adds to flooding issues.

Councilman Rick Reid made the motion to approve. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded the motion. Council Administrator Krystal Powless wanted to point out that the \$353,074.00 was the most they could approve right now as she did not get the rest advertised. If they want to advertise for the rest, she can advertise it for next month. This will come out of the Rainy-Day Fund. Councilman Dimmett asked about fuel and how to get it out to the equipment. Mr. Wilzbacher reviewed how this would be handled. He also stressed that the machine was for use mainly in the fields and not in ditches beside the roads as there was too much trash in roadside ditches. The motion made by Councilman Reid and Councilman Richmond carried 7-0.

**3B. FLOODING & DRAINAGE ISSUE
JAMES FRITTS – FRITZ STORAGE**

Mr. Fritts wished to speak on the lack of drainage that Mr. Wilzbacher had discussed previously. He touched on how the recent flooding has affected his business and the customers he has understandably lost. Mr. Fritts was glad to see that they are taking steps to help this issue. He also thinks that the Surveyor's Office needs to continue to get funding moving forward to get all the ditches and waterways cleaned out. He did have a short presentation with pictures of flooding at different stages. There was a brief discussion. Mr. Fritts thanked them for their time.

**COMMISSIONER BUSINESS
4A. SALARY ORDINANCE/TRANSFER**

President Bacon read the following into the record:

Salary Ordinance	Commissioner Human Resource Executive	\$65,925.00
Salary Ordinance	Commissioner Administrative Clerk	\$40,307.00
<u>Transfer</u>		
Transfer From:	1000.11410.000.0068 Administrative Clerk	\$3,389.00
Transfer To:	1000.12000.000.0068 HR Administrator	\$3,389.00

Commissioner Sarah Seaton was present to answer any questions. President Bacon said it was his understanding they were taking duties from the Administrative Clerk and transferring it to the HR Administrator. It would end up being a wash. Councilman Richmond thought it was important and a great benefit to have someone qualified in the HR position. Councilwoman Pat Brooks made the motion to approve. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

4B. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

President Bacon read the following into the record:

Commissioners	1000.31400.000.0068 Contract Services	\$20,000.00
Commissioners	1000.30200.000.0068 Other Services	\$20,000.00
Commissioners	1000.33000.000.0068 AC Utilities	4,000.00
Commissioners	1000.22400.000.0068 AC Supplies	\$4,000.00

Commissioner Seaton elaborated on the Contract Services. The Council received a list of ongoing contracts. Commissioner Seaton said that Ms. Bennett-Stearnsman is continually pulling from Contractual Services to be able to pay for necessary things and it will now fall short. They are looking at needing about \$38,000.00. Councilman Greg Richmond made a motion to approve all four appropriations. Councilman Chris Whetstine seconded the motion. Councilman Whetstine said that they knew when the Animal Control was separated out that 2025 would be a learning year for the budget and he supported doing this. Commissioner Seaton thanked them for this and for understanding that they are really going month to month to help establish the Animal Control budget for 2026. There was a discussion on what the future may look like and it has been a learning curve establishing the Animal Control Budget. The motion made by Councilman Richmond and seconded by Councilman Whetstine carried 7-0.

4C. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

President Bacon read the following into the record:

E911	1222.31400.000.0000 Contract Services	\$15,000.00
	1222.30200.000.0000 Other Services	\$15,000.00

Commissioner Seaton said this is the anticipated amounts out of the E911 by the Sheriff's Department from existing contracts. Councilman Overton made the motion to approve. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

**5. PARK & RECREATION BUSINESS
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION**

Park & Recreation	1219.33000.000.0000 Electric	\$31,000.00
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Parks Superintendent Ben Labhart was present. He said that this was to get them through to the end of the year. The last bill they paid was \$12,000.00. Councilman Rob Dimmett made the motion to approve. Councilwoman Pat Brooks seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

HANDBOOK POLICY, REIMBURSEMENTS, TRANSFERS OR CORRECTIONS

President Bacon read the following into the minutes:

6A. Additional Appropriation Sheriff/Reimbursement *Inmate Medical	1174.32000.000.0000	Inmate Medical	\$8,000.00
6B. Additional Appropriation/Salary Ordinance Health/Handbook Policy Appropriation Public Health Salary Ordinance	1161.11530.000.0000	Nurse Supervisor Public Health Nurse Supervisor	\$2,459.00 \$2,458.64
6C. Additional Appropriation Landfill Post Closure requirement Landfill Post Closure	1166.31111.000.0000	Expense	\$7,500.00
6D. Salary Ordinance/Additional Appropriation Highway/Handbook Policy Salary Ordinance Salary Ordinance Additional Highway Cumulative Bridge	Highway Engineer Cumulative Bridge Foreman 1176.11340.000.9604 1135.11109.000.0000	2 week vacation sell back 2 week vacation sell back Engineer Dist. 2 Foreman	\$5,086.62 \$2,454.00 \$5,087.00 \$2,454.00
6E. Salary Ordinance/Transfer Council/Handbook Policy Salary Ordinance Transfer From: Transfer To:	Council Administrator 1000.30200.000.0061 1000.11202.000.0061	2 week vacation sell back Other Services Administrator	\$2,962.88 \$2,963.00 \$2,963.00
6F. Salary Ordinance/Additional Storm Water- Highway/Handbook Policy Salary Ordinance Salary Ordinance Additional Storm Water Additional Highway	Stormwater Storm Water Director Highway Assistant Engineer 1197.11105.000.0000 1176.11320.000.9604	2 week vacation sell back 2 week vacation sell back Director Assistant Engineer	\$1,956.73 \$1,956.73 \$1,957.00 \$1,957.00
6G. Transfer Cumulative Drain Transfer From: Transfer To:	1141.31400.000.0000 1141.21100.000.0000	Contractual Services General Supplies	\$2,500.00 \$2,500.00
6H. Salary Ordinance Economic Dev/Handbook Policy Salary Ordinance	Economic Dev. Termination pay out Groundskeeper 53.84 hours		\$1,031.31

Councilman Rick Reid made a motion to approve. Councilman Brad Overton seconded the motion. There were no questions. The motion carried 7-0.

(September Appropriations is located on Page 5 of these Official Minutes)

COUNCIL BUSINESS
PIGEON TOWNSHIP DISCUSSION

Councilman Dimmett said that he went up to the Pigeon Township Fire Department and looked at their equipment. He saw the need for a brush truck. He also went over with Ms. Powless on how they could come up with \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00 to help them out. He said the guys with the Fire Department do a lot of their own work and are doing a lot of good things. They aren't getting a lot of money as it is a smaller township making it more difficult to raise the amount needed.

Administrator Krystal Powless said that there is money set aside in the Council's budget to do such projects and went over what would need to be done. There was a discussion on it and the amount that could be used.

Mr. Luke Clark with the Pigeon Township Fire Department and Mike Moesner, Pigeon Township Trustee, spoke to the funds. Mr. Moesner also wanted to discuss better access to the Interstate as they make a lot of runs for accidents. There was discussion on sending a letter to the State. Councilman Bacon said that with the new State Administration that was something they could try for.

Council Brad Overton made a motion to approve up to \$50,000.00 for the Township out of the Council's budget. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion and also to write the letter to the State on Interstate access. The motion carried 7-0.

VACANT COUNTY POSITIONS DISCUSSION

President Bacon said this is a hold over from a previous meeting. They felt that this was no longer necessary to discuss.

CIRCUIT COURT BUSINESS
TRANSFER

Administrator Powless presented a last-minute transfer for the Circuit Court.

Transfer From:	Benefits	\$3,000.00
	Substitute Court Person	\$5,000.00
	PERF	\$1,200.00
	Drug Screen Supplies	\$3,000.00
	Travel	\$1,680.00
Transfer To:	Expense Line Item	\$13,880.00

Councilman Brad Overton made a motion to approve. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT
BILL CUNNANE

Bill Cunnane, 712 St Rd 261, Boonville was present. He thanked Councilman Richmond for his previous responses. One of the issues that he has had with Animal Control is that there is not a true picture of what is going and keeping the public informed. Getting third party information is causing issues. He did get a lot of information at this meeting that helped. He also gave suggestions on what they can do to help with the lines of communications. Mr. Cunnane also went over looking ahead for funding and expanding to be able to take care of the animals. Councilman Richmond reviewed how the county is being affected by cuts in funding and they have to be careful in spending. They still have to provide many other services. Mr. Cunnane also suggested ways for the public to support Animal Control.

DR. JOHN MALTBY

Dr. John Maltby is the veterinarian at Animal Control. He wanted to say that there does need to be some transparency in what is said. People are being asked to stay at home. There was a brief discussion. Councilwoman Brooks asked who instructed him at one point to stay home. Mr. Maltby said that he would talk privately with the Commissioners to resolve the issue.

MARILEN DECKER

Ms. Decker said that she was also present due to false information. It has since been rectified.

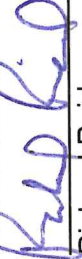
ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL


Brad Overton, President


Patricia Brooks

Richard Reid

Chris Whetstone


Ron Bacon, ~~Vice~~ President

Robert Dimmett

Greg Richmond

ATTEST:


Michael J. Dietsch, Auditor
Warrick County, IN

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
Rainy Day	1186.44000.000.0000	Equipment	\$353,074.00	353,074.00
Public Health	1161.11530.000.0000	Nurse Supervisor	\$2,459.00	2,459
E911	1222.44000.000.0000	Equipment	\$45,000.00	41,000
Inmate Medical	1174.32000.000.0000	Inmate Medical	\$8,000.00	8,000
Landfill Post Closure	1166.31111.000.0000	Expense	\$7,500.00	7,500
Highway	1176.11340.000.9604	Engineer	\$5,087.00	5,087
Cumulative Bridge	1135.11109.000.0000	Dist 2 Foreman	\$2,454.00	2,454
Park & Recreation	1219.33000.000.0000	Utilities	\$31,000.00	31,000
Storm Water	1197.11105.000.0000	Director	\$1,957.00	1,957
Highway	1176.11320.000.0000	Assistant Engineer	\$1,957.00	1,957
Commissioners	1000.31400.000.0068	Contract Services	\$20,000.00	20,000
Commissioners	1000.30200.000.0068	Other Services	\$20,000.00	20,000
Commissioners	1000.33000.000.0068	AC Utilities	\$4,000.00	4,000
Commissioners	1000.22400.000.0068	AC Supplies	\$4,000.00	4,000
E911	1222.31400.000.0000	Contract Services	\$15,000.00	15,000
	1222.30200.000.0000	Other 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 2 day of Sept, 2025.

AYE

NAY

Bad Overton

Dist 1 Council

Greg Richmond

Chris White

Patricia A. Brooks

Paul D. ...

ATTEST:  Mike Dietsch - Auditor Warrick County