

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM
107 W. Locust Street
Boonville, Indiana
October 7, 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 Greg Meyer and Administrator Krystal Powless were in attendance.

Chief Deputy Auditor 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 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, Rob Dimmett, Brad Overton, Richard Reid, Greg Richmond, and Chris Whetstine. Councilwoman Patricia Brooks was not present at this meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the September 2, 2025 Regular Session Meeting were presented. Corrections were sent out to the Council before the meeting. Councilman Greg Richmond made the motion to approve the amended minutes. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

2. LIT BUSINESS
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

President Bacon introduced the following:

LIT	1112.31560.000.0000	Warrick Bucks	\$100,000.00
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Economic Development Director Steve Roelle was present. He went over the history of the Warrick Bucks Program to help support local businesses. It has been very successful. They want to get this rolling again for the 2025 holiday season into 2026. Councilman Greg Richmond made the motion to approve. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

3. CORONER BUSINESS
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

President Bacon introduced the following:

Coroner	1000.35020.000.0007	Morgue Fees	\$4,000.00
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Coroner Alissa Enright was present. Vanderburgh has tripled their morgue fees. She now needs more in that line item. There was discussion whether it would cover the rest of the year which she hoped it will. There was also a brief discussion on the history of Vanderburgh's morgue. Councilman Rick Reid made a motion to approve. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded. The motion carried 6-0.

4. SUPERIOR COURT 1 BUSINESS
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

President Bacon read the following into the record:

Superior Court 1	1000.18320.000.0201	Per Diem-Petit Jury	\$10,000.00
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Ellen Sprinkle was present. They've had several juries and hope this will cover the upcoming scheduled juries. Councilman Rob Dimmett made a motion to approve. Councilman Chris Whetstine seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

5. CLERK BUSINESS
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

President Bacon read the following into the record:

Rainy Day	1186.44301.000.0000	Election Equipment	\$58,965.00
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Clerk Mike Wilson present. This is for new poll pads. The Council received all the information. No more updates can be made on the current pads. There was a brief discussion on the history and how long the pads will last. Clerk Wilson said that it is technology and will have to be updated every several years. Councilman Greg Richmond made a motion to approve. Councilman Chris Whetstine seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

VOTING MACHINES

Clerk Wilson asked if they were going to talk about the voting machines. Ms. Powless said that they are in the budget moving forward. He wanted to double check that he could go ahead and order since the money is in the budget.

6. SHERIFF BUSINESS
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

President Bacon introduced the following:

Jail	1000.33000.000.0380	Utilities	\$50,000.00
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Sheriff Mike Wilder was present. This is to cover utilities as rates are up. They will also be making some transfers to cover as well. Councilman Rick Reid made the motion to approve. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

COMMISSARY REPORT

The Commissary report was sent to the Council. It is now being sent monthly. Sheriff Wilder said he could answer any questions they may have.

7. SUPERIOR COURT 2 BUSINESS
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

President Bacon introduced the following:

Superior Court 2	1000.18320.000.0202	Per Diem-petit jury	\$5,000.00
	1000.31870.000.0202	Pauper Counsel	\$10,000.00

Judge Brett Roy was present. They've had five jury trials. They have also had competency evaluations and interpreter fees. They are needing what has been used up to finish the year. They have at least two more jury trials coming up. Councilman Greg Richmond made a motion to approve. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

8. PARK AND RECREATION BUSINESS
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

President Bacon introduced the following:

Park and Recreation	1219.30200.000.0000	Other Services	\$14,600.00
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Parks Superintendent Ben Labhart was present. This is to take down twelve trees. The Council received the estimate. These are trees that are too large for the Parks Maintenance to take down. The company coming in will just drop the trees and Parks Maintenance will clean up from there. Councilman Rob Dimmett made a motion to approve. Councilman Chris Whetstone seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

9A. COMMISSIONER BUSINESS
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION
OPIOID UNRESTRICTED

President Bacon introduced the following:

Opioid Unrestricted	1238.31400.000.0000	Contractual Services	\$100,000.00
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County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearnsman was present to discuss all the Commissioners' Office requests. The Contractual Services request out of Opioid Unrestricted is to put towards the Opioid Grant Program. She went over the amount currently in the unrestricted funds and the amounts requested in the program including those who have asked for money. There is a vetting process. Councilman Greg Richmond made a motion to approve. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

9B. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

Commissioner	1000.31400.000.0068	Contractual Services	\$55,000.00
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Ms. Bennett-Stearnsman reviewed the balance and what contracts they need to pay and what each are for. Council received all the information. Councilman Overton asked if Baker Tilly could have been paid out of GO bonds. He was told it could not. Mr. Maltby with Animal Control would also be paid from this and she reviewed what that entailed. None of the contracts presented have been paid as there was no money to pay for them. There was a brief discussion.

Councilman Rob Dimmett felt that the Keller Schroeder and Dr. Maltby were priorities. Ms. Bennett-Stearnsman asked about the Meristem as it was for environmental work. He was okay with that.

Councilman Rob Dimmett made a motion for \$30,000.00 to pay the contracts for Keller Schroeder, Dr. Maltby, and Meristem excluding Baker Tilly. Councilman Brad Overton seconded the motion. Councilman Whetstine asked how that would affect the contract not approved for payment. Ms. Bennett-Stearnsman said that all the contracts she presented had been approved contingent on funding. The motion carried 6-0.

LEGAL NOTICES

Commissioner	1000.31300.000.0068	Legal Notices	\$1,000.00
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Ms. Bennett-Stearnsman reviewed the current balance and that they have Legal Notices going out quite often. Councilman Brad Overton made a motion to approve. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

POSTAGE

Commissioner	1000.32200.000.0068	Postages	\$400.00
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Ms. Bennett-Stearnsman went over what they had and the money they have transferred in. They are shipping overnight for Animal Control. She gave a brief review of it. Councilman Brad Overton made a motion to approve. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

COMMUNICATION

Commissioner	1000.32400.000.0068	Communication	\$10,000.00
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Ms. Bennett-Stearnsman said they have a negative balance in this line of -\$2,204.00. This is for landlines and broadband, not for cell phones. She had a list of what all was included that the Council could review. Councilman Brad Overton made a motion to approve. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

9C. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION
COURTHOUSE - UTILITIES

Courthouse	1000.33000.000.0162	Utilities	\$10,000.00
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Currently, they are averaging \$22,000.00 a month in utilities. This doesn't include Animal Control. The cost is a lot right now. The Judicial Center was \$13,000.00 this last month. Councilman Overton asked about controlling the temperature settings. Commissioner Philippe spoke saying it is centrally controlled with a little leeway. There was a brief discussion. Councilman Brad Overton made a motion to approve. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

BUILDINGS

Courthouse	1000.36200.000.0162	Buildings	\$5,000.00
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Ms. Bennett-Stearnsman went over some of the costs such as weather stripping, paint, breakers, tape and spackling. This is basically for building maintenance. Councilman Rob Dimmett made the motion to approve. Councilman Brad Overton seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

GROUND & PARKING

Courthouse	1000.36100.000.0162	Grounds & Parking	\$1,000.00
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This fund is currently low. This covers the outside grounds and parking area. Councilman Richmond asked about the wall that came down in the parking lot from a residential home. He asked if they had thought about putting up a rail. Commissioner Philippe reviewed the issue and said that the homeowner asked that a concrete wall be put back. They did price it. He couldn't remember the cost, but it was expensive. The cones are up right now, but it needs to be fixed. There was a brief discussion. Councilman Greg Richmond made a motion to approve. Councilman Chris Whetstine seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

10. EMA BUSINESS
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

PSLIT	1170.32450.000.0000	Communication Repair	\$17,678.00
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EMA Director Matt Goebel was on the phone to speak with the Council on this item. With the recent chemical fire, they have seen the need for a mass alert system for Warrick County. He went over what they are doing to ensure this mass notifications system countywide. This will include a collaboration with Sheriff Wilder and his department and the use of their current Sheriff's App. Mr. Goebel would like \$1,995.00 annually for the IPAWS alert system which will be integrated into the Sheriff's App. Both he and the Sheriff went over how the integrated app would work. They also reviewed training and SOP's that would be implemented.

Councilman Whetstine said he did speak with Sheriff on this. It was stated that this will only call cell phones and would only be for certain events. It could also alert specified areas.

Councilman Brad Overton made the motion to approve \$1,995.00 annually. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

HANDBOOK POLICY, REIMBURSEMENTS, TRANSFERS OR CORRECTIONS

President Bacon read the following into the minutes:

11A. Additional Appropriation -Surveyor missed appropriation	Equipment	\$18,980.00
Rainy Day		
1186.44000.000.0000		
11B. Additional Appropriation Sheriff reimbursement	Motorized Equipment	\$7,725.00
*Sheriff		
1000.44300.000.0005		
11C. Additional Appropriation/Salary Ordinance Health/Handbook Policy	Data Manager	\$1,940.00
Appropriation- Health	2-week vacation sell back	\$1,936.77
1159.11280.000.0000		
Salary Ordinance- Health Data Manager		
11D. Additional Appropriation Reimbursement of emergency transfer	Benefits	\$3,000.00
Adult Probation Circuit	Substitute court person	\$5,000.00
2001.11203.000.0000	PERF	\$1,200.00
2001.18920.000.0000	Drug Screen Supplies	\$3,000.00
2001.17200.000.0000	Travel Expenses	\$1,680.00
2001.21202.000.0000		
2001.32300.000.0000		
11E. Salary Ordinance Superior 1 Vacation sell back		
Salary Ordinance-Superior 1 Court Reporter	2-week vacation sell back	\$2,020.92
Salary Ordinance-Superior 1 Court Reporter	2-week vacation sell back	\$2,067.08
11G. Additional Appropriation Prosecutor Transfer		
Transfer From:	Copy Paper	\$1,670.00
1000.21150.000.0009	Printing	\$1,670.00
Transfer To:		
1000.33100.000.0009		

Council Administrator Krystal Powless said that they could remove, 11F, Reimbursement of Legal Services, for a separate discussion and approve 11A through 11E and 11G. Councilman Brad Overton made that motion to approve 11A through 11E and 11G. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

11F. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REIMBURSEMENT OF LEGAL SERVICES

President Bacon read the following into the minutes:

Rainy Day	1186.31200.000.0000	Legal Services	\$243,871.00
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Attorney Meyer began discussion. He stated that there were four applications for claims due to lawsuits that have been settled. They were the following: Commissioner Terry Phillippe for \$73,096.85, former Commissioner Dan Saylor for \$40,499.10, former Commissioner Robert Johnson, Jr., for \$40,000.00, and former contracted Health Administrator Marlin Weisheit for \$82,959.85, all for defense charges. He also listed the charges for each individual and that all charges have been either dismissed or found not guilty. Payment of the requests for reimbursement are based on Indiana Code 36-1-17-3 which provides for this reimbursement by the fiscal body when charges are filed on employees/office holders while performing their official duties and they are dismissed or found not guilty. Mr. Meyer did read and review the code. He also went over a question he received about the four gentlemen receiving reimbursement if the bills have not yet been paid. Mr. Meyer said that he did receive sufficient paperwork stating that they did already pay the amounts billed by their attorneys.

Councilman Overton asked for a distinction between civil and criminal which was given. Attorney Meyer said that the statute does not refer to any civil claims.

Councilman Reid asked about this being from their official duties. Mr. Meyers went over what the State filed and that the charges were against their official duties. The charges were dismissed or found not guilty allowing for the reimbursement.

Councilman Overton asked whether they could be charged again. Mr. Meyer said that a case dismissed without prejudice could be, but he could not find the case that he thought may have stated this. Councilman Reid didn't feel the Council should be responsible for this. There was a brief discussion on political retaliation.

Councilman Whetstine asked if it would be a violation of code not to pay them. Mr. Meyer said that it would and the individuals could bring a civil suit against the County. There was also a discussion on appeals and when payment would have to be made. Mr. Meyer said that the appeal he did know of was denied. He didn't know if any other appeals were filed.

Councilman Dimmett asked if all paid invoices were received and the paperwork covered everything they needed. Mr. Meyer said that they did.

Councilman Overton asked about any of our county insurance covering this. President Bacon received information from the County Administrator that, Rita McConnell, with the county's insurance, said that criminal suits are not included in coverage. There was a brief discussion.

Councilman Dimmett said that he has talked with several attorneys. They have the invoices and he doesn't see where they have a way around this.

Councilman Rob Dimmett made a motion to pay the reimbursement of \$243,871.00. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded the motion. It was asked by a member of the public if the public could speak. President Bacon said that

this is a matter of state statute that has to be done. It is also a matter of the fiscal body not affecting anyone else, so he didn't think that public speaking was necessary. The public was told they could speak during Public Comment at the end of the meeting. There was also a brief discussion on itemized bills.

The motion to pay the reimbursement carried 4-2 with Brad Overton and Rick Reid opposing. Councilman Overton wanted to see a detailed breakdown from the attorneys' bills. Mr. Meyer said they could do that.

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

COUNCIL BUSINESS
PIGEON TOWNSHIP LETTER OF SUPPORT OF EMERGENCY ACCESS POINT

Ms. Powless said that they asked for this to be removed. It has already been taken care of.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ SIGN IN SHEET

Debbie Stevens – Ms. Stevens views Item 11F should be considered personal and that everything should be itemized. She also stated that campaign funds can also be used for this and gave current amounts for the former Commissioners.

Attorney April Edwards – Ms. Edwards spoke and said that she disagreed with Mr. Meyer and his assessment of statute. She went over cases and the code and the wrongs that were done in this process. She also questioned a reimbursement like this even being done before.

Ed Anderson – Mr. Anderson said he was shocked at the amount of the reimbursement. He thought that the invoices were high. The County doesn't have this kind of money and they have been following bad advice.

Councilman Richmond commented that they are concerned about taxpayer money, but avoiding another lawsuit will save them money.

ADJOURNMENT

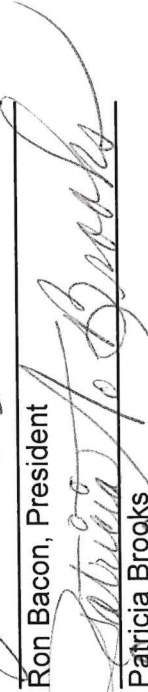
The next Warrick County Council regular session meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners' meeting room. Councilman Greg Richmond made the motion to adjourn. Councilman Rob Dimmett seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.

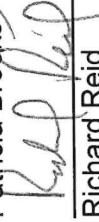
WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL



Ron Bacon, President



Patricia Brooks



Richard Reid



Chris Whetstone



Robert Dimmett, Vice President



Brad Overton



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	\$18,980.00	18,980.00
	1186.31200.000.0000	Legal Services	\$240,000.00	240,000
	1186.44301.000.0000	Election Equipment	\$58,965.00	58,965.00
	1159.11280.000.0000	Data Manager	\$1,940.00	1,940
Health				7,725
*Sheriff	1000.44300.000.0005	Motorized Equipment	\$7,725.00	
Jail	1000.33000.000.0380	Utilities	\$50,000.00	50,000.00
Adult Probation Circuit	2001.11203.000.0000	Benefits	\$3,000.00	3,000
	2001.18920.000.0000	Substitute court person	\$5,000.00	5,000
	2001.17200.000.0000	PERF	\$1,200.00	1,200
	2001.21202.000.0000	Drug Screen Supplies	\$3,000.00	3,000
	2001.32300.000.0000	Travel Expenses	\$1,680.00	1,680
	1000.35020.000.0007	Morgue Fees	\$4,000.00	4,000.00
Coroner				
Superior Court 2	1000.18320.000.0202	Per Diem-petit jury	\$5,000.00	5,000.00
	1000.31870.000.0202	Pauper Counsel	\$10,000.00	10,000.00
Park and Recreation	1219.30200.000.0000	Other Services	\$14,600.00	14,600.00
	1112.31560.000.0000	Warrick Bucks	\$100,000.00	100,000.00
LIT				
Superior Court 1	1000.18320.000.0201	Per Diem-Petit Jury	\$10,000.00	10,000.00
Opioid Unrestricted	1238.31400.000.0000	Opioid Grant Program	\$100,000.00	100,000.00
Commissioner	1000.31400.000.0068	Contractual Services	\$55,000.00	30,000.00
	1000.31300.000.0068	Legal Notices	\$1,000.00	1,000.00
	1000.32200.000.0068	Postages	\$400.00	400.00
	1000.32400.000.0068	Communication	\$10,000.00	10,000
Courthouse	1000.33000.000.0162	Utilities	\$10,000.00	10,000
	1000.36200.000.0162	Buildings	\$5,000.00	5,000
	1000.36100.000.0162	Grounds & Parking	\$1,000.00	1,000
PSLIT	1170.32450.000.0000	Communication	\$17,678.00	1,995

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.

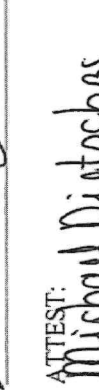
Adopted this 7 day of Oct, 2025.

AYE

NAY








ATTEST: Michael Dietsch Mike Dietsch - Auditor Warrick County