

**WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
REGULAR SESSION  
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM  
107 W. Locust Street  
Boonville, Indiana  
February 3, 2026  
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, 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/@WarrickCountyMeetings>

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, Brad Overton, Richard Reid, Greg Richmond, and Chris Whetstine. Rob Dimmett was not present for this meeting.

**REGULAR MEETING  
TABLED ITEMS  
1. APPOINTMENTS**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION – REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Economic Development Director Steve Roelle was present. They are recommending Jared Voellinger for the appointment as he would be a good fit for the Board and is active in the community. Mr. Roelle went over some of Mr. Voellinger's background. Councilman Greg Richmond made the motion to approve. Councilman Rick Reid seconded the motion. President Bacon asked if this motion also included appointing Mr. Voellinger to the Redevelopment Commission as the request was for both. Both men amended their motions. The motion carried 6-0.

**2. PRELIMINARY RESOLUTION  
PROJECT FIREFLY**

There was a request to table this item. Councilman Greg Richmond made a motion to table. Councilman Chris Whetstine seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

**NEW BUSINESS  
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
JANUARY 6, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes from the January 6, 2026 Regular Session Meeting were presented. Councilman Greg Richmond made the motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Chris Whetstine seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

**4A. LIT BUSINESS  
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION**

LIT	1112.31744.000.0000	Flood Sensors	\$50,000.00
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Economic Development Director Steve Roelle said that Economic Development and EMA are working together for this project. One of the things they would like to implement would be flood sensors. He reviewed how these would be a benefit to Warrick County. They are requesting EDIT funds for this project. The EDAC board has unanimously voted for this.

EMA Director Matt Goebel was also present. With the flooding they saw in 2025, he said these would be a help to alert emergency services. He also thanked the Economic Development Board for approving this forward as well as Council for their help. Councilman Brad Overton made a motion to approve. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0

**4B. ECONOMIC BOND ORDINANCE  
ORDINANCE 2026-02  
FIRST READING**

The last item for Mr. Roelle was to go over the Economic Bond Ordinance for the bond that will be used for the Warrick-Epworth TIF District. This will involve the development of Warrick Gateway District and he reviewed the plans for Phase 1. There will be several phases. Mr. Roelle reviewed the structuring of the bonding. President Bacon read the following into the record:

*Ordinance 2026-02, An Ordinance of the Warrick County Council authorizing Warrick County to Issue Taxable Economic Development Revenue Bond, Series 2026, Warrick Gateway District Project, and authorizing and approving other actions in respect thereto.*

Rick Reid made a motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2026-02. Pat Brooks seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

**5. EMS BUSINESS UPDATE**

EMS Director Tony O'Neal was present. He gave Council a handout and reviewed the 2025 report. Mr. O'Neal discussed trainings with different groups in the areas, remounts on the ambulances, and EMS recertifications. He also went over updates to equipment and replacement of a command vehicle. Mr. O'Neal also reviewed the run statistics for the County. The Council thanked him for all the work EMS does.

**6. HIGHWAY BUSINESS ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

Local Road & Street	1169.36300.000.0000	Repairs	\$50,000.00
Highway Restricted	1173.23100.000.0000	Stone	\$1,200,000.00
	1173.22320.000.0000	Bituminous	\$1,000,000.00

County Engineer Bobby Howard was present. He reviewed the request. This will bring him back up to where they need to be. Administrator Powless also noted the change to the Restricted Funds. Councilman Rick Reid made a motion to approve. Councilman Chris Whetstone seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0. The Council thanked the Highway Department for their work during the recent storm.

**7. HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUSINESS ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION**

Workforce Dev. Grant	8345.31400.000.0000	Contractual Services	\$132,000.00
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This request was withdrawn.

**8. SURVEYOR BUSINESS INFORMATIONAL UPDATE**

Surveyor Steve Spinks was present. He sent the Council pictures of the beaver dams that were taken out of one of the County's legal waterways and wanted to make sure to be available for questions. Mr. Spinks also gave a brief review of different areas they are working on and work they will have out to bid. He also let the Council know he has a commitment from INDOT on work in the Newburgh area. He also reviewed the contract they just entered into for the beaver removal and he went over the process. There were no other questions.

**9. STORM WATER BUSINESS RATE INCREASE**

Storm Water Director Steve Sherwood was present. He presented a report on the rate increase for Storm Water for the Council to review. He reviewed the summary of projects that are needed and the increase to \$7.50 that they are requesting. He also went over a new Drainage Ordinance and how it will solve a lot of the current issues going forward. If approved, the rate increase will still take about two years to take effect. If they don't get an increase, they will have to look at cutting services.

Councilwoman Brooks was concerned with the rate increasing so much at one time. It would be over a 60% increase.

Councilman Bacon asked about setting it up in Districts, especially where most of the work is done, to increase in just those areas. Attorney Doll said that there would then be issues with work being done the same across the county if set up in Districts. He also reviewed some of the issues in the subdivisions and with the utility companies.

Mr. Sherwood said that he does most of the engineering in-house as well as a lot of the surveying. At the current increase, they will still be 38<sup>th</sup> for the Storm Water cost in the State.

Councilman Whetstone asked if they had figured the minimum amount needed. Mr. Sherwood reviewed the current list as well as future work. Projects will have to be prioritized by the Storm Water Board. There was discussion on doing a lesser amount, but even now the increase will not cover everything.

Both Councilman Bacon and Attorney Doll reviewed the processes and statutes with implementing the rate increase. Councilman Chris Whetstone made a motion to approve the increase to \$7.50. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-2 with Brad Overton and Rick Reid opposing. They will now take the proposal to the Commissioners.

**10. COMMISSIONER BUSINESS  
GO BOND ORDINANCE AMENDMENT  
ORDINANCE 2026-03**

County Administrator Debbie Bennett-Stearnsman was present. She reviewed the history and the current amounts for the bond. There have been adjustments as Animal Control needs some enlargement. Now, there is an issue with the Coroner's needs. Ms. Bennett-Stearnsman reviewed some of those issues and the studies and plans that have been completed. This would just be an adjustment the bond to be able to complete a feasibility study on building or not building a building. Coroner Allissa Enright was present. There was discussion on the changes to the Coroner's Office within the last year that have precipitated this need. There was a search on current properties but nothing that will work and meet the needs. There was also discussion on use of the Old Jail when vacated and what feasibility studies are being done on this.

Ms. Bennett-Stearnsman said that today is just an approval for the \$12,000.00 change to the bond for the study to be paid from the interest. Councilman Overton questioned the Highway Garage and where they are with that. Ms. Bennett-Stearnsman said that the studies were finished for that and, due to cost, would have to be something completely different. Councilwoman Pat Brooks made a motion to approve the change. Councilman Chris Whetstine seconded the motion. President Bacon read Ordinance 2026-03 into the record.

*Ordinance 2026-03, An Ordinance of the Warrick County Council, the Fiscal Body, of Warrick County, Indiana, Amending Ordinance 2023-02 and Amending Ordinance 2023-03 Providing for the Appropriation of the Proceeds of the Warrick County General Obligation Bonds Series 2023*

The motion carried 5-1 with Rick Reid opposing.

*(Ordinance 2026-03 is located on Page 5 of these Official Minutes)*

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

President Bacon read the following into the minutes:

- 11A. Additional Appropriation Insurance Correction  
Community Correction 4901.17300.000.0000 Health Insurance \$32,500.00  
1123.17300.000.0000 Health Insurance \$32,500.00
- 11B. Additional Appropriation  
Rainy Day 1186.31200.000.0000 Legal Services \$1,125.00
- 11C. Additional Appropriation Reimbursement  
\*Sheriff 1000.44000.000.0005 Motorized Equipment \$25,700.00
- 11D. Salary Ordinance Retirees or Resignation  
Lieutenant 848 Hours \$37,070.35  
Deputy 609 Hours \$18,258.57  
Deputy 816 Hours \$29,103.38  
Dispatcher 275.125 Hours \$6,794.13  
Jailer 8 Hours \$183.97
- 11E. Additional Appropriation Error Correction  
Superior Court 1 1000.11420.000.0201 Part Time \$7,236.00
- 11F. Additional Appropriation Missed Encumbrances  
Clerk 1000.36500.000.0001 Computer Maintenance \$796.00  
1000.21100.000.0001 General Supplies \$797.00  
1000.36500.000.0001 Computer Maintenance \$14,479.36  
1000.21100.000.0001 General Supplies \$29.69  
1000.36500.000.0001 Computer Maintenance \$852.75  
1215.21100.000.0001 General Supplies \$175.00  
Election
- 11G. Additional Appropriation Missed Encumbrances  
ARPA 8950.31702.000.0000 Coroner Freezer \$15,000.00  
Opioid Restricted 1238.31400.000.0000 Contractual Services \$113,000.00  
Opioid Unrestricted 1237.31400.000.0000 Contractual Services \$28,833.00
- 11H. Additional Appropriation Correction for Reorganization  
LEPC 1152.21312.000.0000 Emergency Planning \$400.00  
1152.32400.000.0000 Communication \$800.00
- 11I. Transfer Reorganize Budget  
Transfer From: 1152.18300.000.0000 Per Diem \$700.00  
Transfer To: 1152.21314.000.0000 Hazmat Deacon Supplies \$700.00  
Transfer From: 1152.23400.000.0000 Computer Supplies \$1,000.00  
Transfer To: 1152.32400.000.0000 Communication \$1,000.00  
Transfer From: 1152.32300.000.0000 Travel \$300.00  
Transfer To: 1152.44010.000.0000 Equipment Haz/material \$300.00

Councilman Brad Overton made a motion to approve with Councilman Chris Whetstine seconding the motion. There was a brief discussion on removing 11B, Legal Services, and approving all other items. Councilman Overton amended his motion to remove Legal Services and vote on separately approving all other items. Councilman Whetstine amended his second. The motion carried 6-0.

President Bacon had already read into the record the following:

- 11B. Additional Appropriation 1186.31200.000.0000 Legal Services \$1,125.00  
Rainy Day

The Legal Services was a missed claim for Marlin Weisheit. There was a brief discussion on the claim. Councilman Brad Overton made a motion to approve. Councilman Greg Richmond seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-2 with Pat Brooks and Rick Reid opposing.

*(February Appropriations is located on Page 6 of these Official Minutes)*

**12. COUNCIL BUSINESS  
RESOLUTION ENCUMBRANCE  
RESOLUTION 2026-01**

Council Administrator Powless presented the Encumbrance Resolution 2026-01 to encumber funds from 2025. Ron read title into the record:

*A Resolution by the County Council of Warrick County, Indiana,  
Approving Encumbrances for the 2025 Fiscal Year.*

Councilman Ron Bacon made a motion to approve. Councilman Brad Overton seconded. The motion carried 6-0.

*(Resolution 2026-01 is located on Page 5 of these Official Minutes)*

**PUBLIC COMMENT/ SIGN IN SHEET**

There was no public comment.

**OTHER BUSINESS  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

The Council again thanked the Highway Department for their work during the snowstorm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next Warrick County Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 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 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 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

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL ORDINANCE NO. 2026-03  
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL, AS FISCAL BODY OF WARRICK COUNTY, INDIANA, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2023-02 AND AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2023-03 PROVIDING FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE WARRICK COUNTY, INDIANA, GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2025**

WHEREAS, the Warrick County Council (the "County Council"), as the fiscal body of Warrick County, Indiana (the "County"), previously adopted Ordinance No. 2023-02 and Ordinance 2023-03, the provisions of which are hereby included herein by this reference thereto (the "Bond Ordinances"), issuing a general obligation bond of the County for the purpose of providing funds to pay the cost of acquisition, construction, renovation, improvement and/or equipping of various capital projects and local public improvements at certain County-owned facilities; and

WHEREAS, the County Council desires to Amend the Bond Ordinances to appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00) for a feasibility study regarding the potential construction of a new coroner's building (the "Project");

WHEREAS, there are insufficient funds available or provided for in the County's existing budget and tax levy which may be applied to the cost of the Project, and the appropriation of the Bond is necessary for the Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL, AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The Bond Ordinances are hereby amended to specifically appropriate an amount not to exceed Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00). Such appropriation is to be provided for out of the proceeds of the Bonds issued by the County in connection with the Project. Such appropriation shall be in addition to all appropriations provided for in the existing budget and levy, and shall continue in effect until the completion of the Project. Any surplus of such proceeds shall be credited to the proper fund as provided by law.

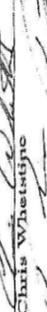
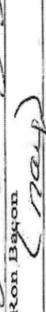
**Section 2.** A certified copy of this ordinance, together with such other proceedings and actions as may be necessary to carry out the intent of the County Council, shall be filed for appropriation, with the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.

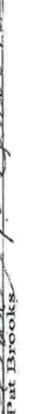
**Section 3.** Any member of the Board or the County Council, the Auditor of the County, and the counsel to the County Council and the County are hereby authorized, empowered and directed, on behalf of the County to take any and all actions and proceedings that may be necessary to carry out the intent of this ordinance, including the filing of a report of this appropriation with the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance and the execution of an agreement with a financial institution to hold and administer the Fund, and any actions heretofore made or taken be, and hereby are, ratified and approved.

**Section 4.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption and compliance with the procedures required by applicable law.

**BILLY PASSED AND ADOPTED** on this 3 day of Feb, 2026, by the Warrick County Council, as fiscal body of Warrick County, Indiana, by a vote of        in favor,        opposed, and        abstaining.

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL

  
 Greg Richmond  
  
 Chris Whetsigne  
  
 Ron Bacon  
  
 Richard Reid

  
 Brad Overton  
  
 Robert Dimmett  
  
 Pat Brooks

ATTEST:

  
 Mike Dietsch, Auditor  
 Warrick County, Indiana

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 01  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF WARRICK COUNTY, INDIANA APPROVING ENCUMBRANCES FROM THE 2025 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 2024 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:

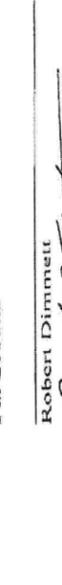
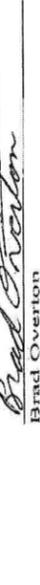
**Section 1.** That those certain County funds, purchase orders, and invoices, as identified on Exhibit A and attached hereto and made a part hereof, are hereby encumbered.

**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 3rd day of February 3, 2026.

  
 Greg Richmond  
  
 Chris Whetsigne  
  
 Richard Reid  
  
 Ron Bacon

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL  
  
 Pat Brooks  
  
 Robert Dimmett  
  
 Brad Overton

ATTEST: this 3 day of February, 2026

  
 Mike Dietsch, Auditor

