

**WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY JULY 24, 2023**

Council present for the meeting: Matt Commons, Dwain Akers, Ben Dispennett, Rusty Hart, Sharon Hutchison, Neil Ellis.

Public: Dylon Walters, Hayden Rickey, Mark Doud

Department Head/Elected Official – Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor; Charity Perigo, Chief Deputy Auditor; John Comer, Commissioner; Clay Andrews, Commissioner; Anthony Pruitt, Sheriff.

1. The Council Meeting was called to order by Matt Commons, Council Vice President.
2. Matt Commons, Council Vice President led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. New Business:
  - a. Weston-Hubner requested to change minutes date to July 24, 2023 and add Highway Restricted \$105,001 additional appropriation. Rusty Hart made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor
  - b. Neil Ellis made a motion to approve the Council minutes for July 24 2023 Budget and Council Meetings Minutes seconded by Ben Dispennett, all voted in favor.
  - c. Warren County 2024 Budget Hearing – Matt Commons called the Warren County 2024 Budget Hearing opened. With no public comment, Rusty Hart made a motion to approve the 2024 Warren County Budget seconded by Neil Ellis, all voted in favor.
  - d. Solid Waste 2024 Budget hearing – Matt Commons called the Warren County Solid Waste 2024 Budget Hearing opened. With no public comment, Sharon Hutchison made a motion to approve the 2024 Warren County Budget seconded by Ben Dispennett, all voted in favor.
  - e. 2024 Max Levy & Tax Cap - Neil Ellis made a motion to approve the 2024 Warren County Maximum Levy and Tax Cap seconded by Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor.
  - f. 2024 Circuit Breaker – Sharon Hutchison made a motion to approve the 2024 Warren County Circuit Breakers seconded by Rusty Hart, all voted in favor.
  - g. Additional Appropriation Resolution – Neil Ellis made a motion to approve Additional Appropriation Resolution #2023-0828A Fund 1173 MVH Restricted \$78,500 Leased Equipment and Health Department Trust Fund 1206 \$3,168 seconded by Ben Dispennett, all voted in favor.
  - a. Additional Appropriations – Matt Commons explained the Additional Appropriations. Discussion concerning WeCare Clinic funding and Health Insurance. Dylon Walters inquired concerning the Health Insurance and WeCare savings to the County. Discussion concerning the installation of the Jail Security. Sheriff Pruitt explained the cameras have been installed and are operational. Sharon Hutchison made a motion to approve the additional appropriations seconded by Rusty Hart, all voted in favor.
    - i. Health Department – Vehicle and Trailer \$43,451
    - ii. JCWF Econ Dev – Attorney Fees \$20,000; Broadband \$2,513,000
    - iii. Cumulative Cap Development – Jail Security \$189,000
    - iv. ARAP Funds – Broadband Project \$1,505,846
    - v. County General – Software Contracts - \$33,500; Insurance \$10,000; We Care Clinic - \$40,000; Employee PTO Payout \$10,000
    - vi. Sale of County Owned Prop - \$20,183
    - vii. Highway Restricted - \$105,001
4. Old Business:
5. Elected Official/Department Head comments:
  - a. Jordan Creek Wind Farm Abatement – Weston-Hubner explained the process and timeline.
  - b. Extension 2024 Budget – Commons explained Emily Ade requested an increase in the summer intern budget line due to the hourly pay increase will not allow for the number of hours needed. Weston-Hubner explained 3 options – 2024 additional appropriation allowing for increased budget; add a specific pay rate to the salary ordinance of \$13 or leave the budget as approved. After much discussion, Rusty Hart made a motion to add hourly rate of \$13/hour Extension Summer Intern to the 2024 Salary Ordinance seconded by Neil Ellis, all voted in favor.
  - c. Fire Department Donation – Commons explained information received from Fire Chief's requesting the funding to be reinstated in the 2024 Budget. Council discussed Fire Territory funding. Clay Andrews, Commissioner, explained where the funds would be used. Discussed Fire Departments requesting if funds are needed along with financial information from the Fire Departments. Comer explained issues with the need for funding continues as well as issues with manpower. Hart stated County still would support, Fire Departments present requests.
  - d. 2024 Utilities Budget – Weston-Hubner explained the utilities were not combined as previously thought and will need additional appropriation in 2024 of \$65,000 in County General. Hart explained utilities were previously in the Jail budget.
  - e. Sheriff Pruitt – Explained Radio Dispatch is currently reviewing new software for the Center. The cost will be significant but possibly ask the Towns to help financial as well as Counties. Fountain County EMA applied for grant to upgrade the CAD Program. Issue will be the loss of data with new system or pay to have converted data.
  - f. Weston-Hubner – County General Custodian Budget requested to move \$12,000 from Extra Help to Building/Grounds Maintenance. Prosecutor Budget request to move funds \$1,500. County General Personnel Budget request to move budget fund \$6,000 from Flex Spending and \$3,000 Unemployment Compensation to HSA WC Wellness Contribution total \$9,000. County General Recorder Budget request to move \$100 from Newspaper Microfilm to Extra Help. County General Prosecutor Budget request to move \$1,500 from Phone/Internet to Office Supplies. Neil Ellis made a motion to approve all Budget Transfers seconded by Rusty Hart, all voted in favor.

