

**WARREN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**

Commissioners present for the meeting: Clay Andrews, Craig Greenwood, John Comer.

Also, In Attendance:

Public: Ben Dispennett, LEDO Director; Lyn Martin; Cheryl Clark; Kevin Howard; John Van Pelt; Suzi Etchison; Tom Witsman; Kayla Witsman; Jack Kay; Greg Robison; LeAnn Conrad.

Department Head/Elected Official – Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor; Charity Perigo, County Attorney; Ingrid Barce, County Attorney; Matt Herndon, Highway Superintendent; Jenny Hobaugh, Highway Department; Anthony Pruitt, Sheriff; Randy Haddock, Surveyor; Ethan Foxworthy, Council; Jill Wilson, HR Director; Sharon Hutchison, Council/Grant Writer (remote); John Kuiper, Zoning Director; Laci Frodge, Health Department; Derek Puterbaugh, VSO;

1. The meeting was called to order by Clay Andrews.
2. Clay Andrews, Commissioner President led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. New Business:
  - a. Craig Greenwood made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Clay Andrews, all voted in favor.
  - b. John Comer made a motion to approve the September 5, 2023 Commissioner Meeting Minutes with a second from Craig Greenwood, all voted in favor.
  - c. John Comer made a motion to approve the September 5, 2023 – September 18, 2023 Accounts Payable Claim Dockets with a second from Craig Greenwood, all voted in favor.
  - d. John Comer made a motion to approve the September 15, 2023 payroll with a second from Craig Greenwood, all voted in favor.
  - e. Highway – Herndon explained the John Deere 624K Loader is at the end of lease with buyout or renewing lease options. The buyout is for \$107,808.93. John Comer made a motion to buy out loader \$107,808.8 from Fund 1176 seconded by Craig Greenwood, all voted in favor. Herndon presented a quote for a 2023 CAT grader and trade in 2011 CAT Grader. The lease options are \$50,331.92/5 year lease with \$80,000 trade in of 2011 CAT Grader and buyout of \$1.00 paid from Fund 1173 leased equipment, other options would be larger buyout with lower yearly payments. Craig Greenwood made a motion to approve the lease of John Deere Grader for \$50,331.92 for 5 years with \$1.00 buyout from Westside Tractor paid out 1173 and additional appropriation seconded by John Comer, all voted in favor. Herndon state the rented rock crusher worked nicely.
    - a. Ordinance Regulating Hazardous Liquid Pipelines in Warren County – Andrews explained APC met last week, this was tabled and rescheduled. The APC will meet October 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 to further discuss. Tabled until November 6<sup>th</sup> Commissioner Meeting.
    - b. Additional Appropriation Broadband Contract Expenses – Dispennett explained the LEDO invoice for \$75,196.00 showing payments to Ice Miller for Broadband project. Dispennett is requesting funding from the County. Clay Andrews made a motion to reimburse LEDO from 4918 for Broadband Legal Fees seconded by John Comer, all voted in favor.
    - c. UBO, Van Pelt – Clay Andrews opened the UBO hearing. Kuiper explained the house is located in pence and owner is deceased. John Van Pelt explained he is Mr. Van Pelt's son and is working to clean up the area. Currently people are living in the home and were supposed to paying the property taxes but did not, John Van Pelt paid the taxes. The house will be transferred to John Van Pelt in near future. A dumpster will be brought in, trees and weeds cleaned up. The house is being worked on currently with new plumbing, floor joist, etc. Cars have been removed. House has no water, but has electric. Greenwood stated County appreciates cleaning up the property and hard work. Clay Andrews made a motion to extend the UBO 120 days and stay the demolition seconded by John Comer, all voted in favor. Barce stated the UBO is extended to the Dec 18<sup>th</sup> meeting will be revisit at that time. Clay Andrews closed the UBO hearing.
    - d. Matt Commons/Derek Puterbaugh, Veteran Memorial – Puterbaugh explained the idea of a Veteran Memorial in the area. Possibly have a 5-person committee to explore ideas and then proposal to the Commissioners. Discussed ideas such as engraved stone, flags, etc. Hutchison, Grant Writer, will work on grants with Puterbaugh.
    - e. Better Way Food Coop – Andrews explained the Coop has requested County assistance as food supplies are low. John Comer made a motion to donate \$2,500 to Better Way Food Coop paid from Fund 4918 Community Improvements seconded by Craig Greenwood, all voted in favor. Greenwood state the EMA water spigot has been repaired for the COOP food plot and EMA building repaired water issue changing hot water to toilets to cold.
4. Old Business:
  - a. Ordinance Tax Sale – Barce stated a meeting with SRI to organize the ordinance today and will have for the October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
  - b. JOINK Public-Private Agreement – Discussed the agreement. John Comer made a motion to approve the Public-Private Agreement between Warren County and JOINK seconded by Craig Greenwood, all voted in favor. Discussed JOINK point of contact between County and JOINK. The fiber is being buried 2-3 feet underground.
  - c. St Vincent Tower Convergence/FireTech MOU – Barce stated a letter was sent with response deadline of September 30<sup>th</sup>, if not response then we will move forward. Discussed area needing cleaned.
5. Department Head:
  - a. Extension Building Invoices – Greenwood explained Warrick Excavating installed the donated electric sign and parking pad as well as worked on drainage around the building. The invoices are for \$7,942.39 Warrick and

16.77 Powell Lumber. John Comer made a motion to pay \$7,942.39 to Warrick and \$16.77 to Powells from Fund 1138 seconded by Clay Andrews, all voted in favor.

- b. Pence water works – Discussed the additional \$15,000 needed for repairs on the Pence Water Works project. Craig Greenwood made a motion to approve \$15,000 to Pence Water Works paid from Fund 4917 Jordan Creek Windfarm Expense Fund seconded by John Comer, all voted in favor.
- c. Jail Generator – Hobaugh explained the generator bid closed at \$2,525.00. Commissioner approved the final bid.
- d. Randy Haddock, Surveyor – Haddock stated the Surveyors Office will need a copy of the mapping for the broadband project as tiles could be cut. Haddock stated Tammy Lucas, Liberty Township Trustee, would like to know who will lay out the cemetery on land donated by the County. Dispennett stated a layer in GIS will get to Randy and Karen Brooks.
- e. Health Dept – Laci Frodge explained the State gave final numbers for the new Health First Funding in 2024 and County will receive \$136,241.41. The budget will be updated and submit to the State. The electronic sign should be installed this week.
- f. Weston-Hubner – Currently working to allow offices to see their financials/budget reports and State Board of Accounts is still working on the County audit.
- g. Jenny Hobaugh, Solid Waste – Hobaugh stated the new Ford has arrive and the Highway will need to surplus the gas truck.
- h. Ingrid Barce, County Attorney – Barce is currently working on the JCWF abatement with Barnes and Thornburgh. Heavy equipment ordinance changes for larger trucks.

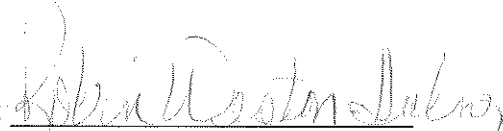
6. Public:

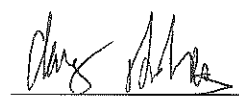
- a. Cheryl, Better Way Food COOP – Explained not able to receive funding other than donations and greatly appreciates the County donation.
- b. Lyn Martin – Martin stated thank you for helping Pence Water Works and a carbon sequestration, meeting at the Williamsport Church Family Life Center will be taking place.
- c. Suzie Ethchison – Questioned the Ordinance on Carbon Sequestration and who created the ordinance. Barce stated Barce is working on this. Andrews explained the process.


Next Commissioner meeting October 2, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

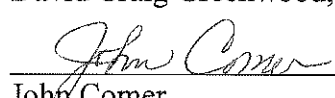
There being no further business John Comer made a motion to adjourn with a second from Craig Greenwood, all voted in favor.

ATTEST:

  
Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor

  
Clay Andrews, President

  
David Craig Greenwood, Vice President

  
John Comer