

**WARREN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY JULY 16, 2024**

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

Council present: Ethan Foxworthy, Matt Commons, Neil Ellis, Dwain Akers, John Hetrick, Sharon Hutchison, Ben Dispennett

Also, In Attendance:

Public:

Department Head/Elected Official – Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor; Charity Perigo, Chief Deputy Auditor; Jill Wilson, Human Resource Director; Randy Haddock, Surveyor; John Kuiper, Zoning Director; Debbie Hiatt, Clerk; Judge Hunter Reece; Matt Herndon, Highway Superintendent; Jenny Hobaugh, Highway Office Manager; Debbie Hiatt, Clerk; Kira Bailiff, Incoming Treasurer; Lori Heidenreich, Treasurer; Melissa Drake, Recorder; Jessie Kerst, Assessor; Laci Frodge, Health Department Nurse; Emily Ade, Purdue Extension; Derek Puterbaugh, VSO; Russ Haddock, Custodian; Ted Commons, Warren County Park Board; Justin Brummett, Coroner (remote);

1. The meeting was called to order by Craig Greenwood, Commissioner President and Ethan Foxworthy, Council President.
2. Craig Greenwood, Commissioner President led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. New Business:
  - a. Court, Judge Hunter Reece – Judge Reece explained Court, Probation budgets with Judge applying and receiving over \$1.2 million dollars in grants. Cases have increased 367% increasing the need for interpreters. Added a new Interpreter budget line \$4,000. Currently criminal filings are at a 5 year high. Public defender salary is 35% paid through grants. Explained many programs that are covered by grants. Due to employees leaving, 75% of the staff is new. Discussed requested salary increases of \$1,750 and next year possibly aligning with prosecutor employee salaries. Discussed cost of certified interpreter. Judge explained \$200/hour versus \$75/hour certified versus not certified.
  - b. Highway – Matt Herndon, Highway Supervisor & Jenny Hobaugh, Highway Office Manager presented Highway budgets. Cumulative Bridge budget will be used for Bridge 39 County Share. Local Road & Street is lowered \$140,000 due to State reduced 2024 budget; MVH has slight increase. Bridge 39 will be approximately \$4.1 million total. Hobaugh explained MVH restricted and nonrestricted spending allowed and MVH restricted should be \$0.00 at end of each year which is very hard to accomplish due to restrictions on spending.
  - c. Clerk – Deb Hiatt, Clerk explained the 2025 budget. Explained every other year for all elections as Town elections were adjusted to align with County elections so the towns will not have to pay for elections. Election support will always be charged so this line was increased. Revenue is approximately \$8,000 - \$10,000 per year.
  - d. EMS/Ambulance – Discussed 2025 budget increase by \$40,000 and new ambulance purchase \$263,639. Discussed paying only from County General rather than partial from Public Safety and ambulance purchase paid from Rainy Day Fund.
  - e. Treasurer – Kira Bailiff, Incoming Treasurer and Lori Heidenreich, Treasurer explained the 2025 Budget. Increase in 2025 budget is less than unused 2023 Budget. Explained bank services are no longer needed due to new bank agreement. Discussed investment revenue.
  - f. Recorder – Melissa Drake, Recorder presented the 2025 Budget. Explained no real changes other than salary increases. Drake explained possible scanning project which would complete all documents scanned approximately \$60,000 paid from Recorders Perpetuation Fund.
  - g. Surveyor/Drainage Board – Randy Haddock, Surveyor explained 2025 Budget with only increases in salaries. Explained cornerstone budget of \$35,000 per 1967 legislation to redo all county section corners with no funding from State which Schnieder facilitates this. Each year 6-8 sections are completed.
  - h. Assessor – Jessie Kerst, Assessor, explained 2025 Budget with addition of new plotter printer, for \$3,000 and salary increases. Explained mapping photos facilitated by Eagle View is being considered. The cost would be \$87,000 per flight which includes 3-inch countywide that will allow views around homes benefitting Sheriff Deputies seeing all exit doors. The photos will integrate with WTH. The price includes change finder \$10,000 which will compare previous photos showing additions/removals of improvements. Considering 3 inch for towns only and 6-inch remainder for \$55,000. The fee can be paid over 3 years. Explained AVS employee completes on the ground reassessment, new construction/removals for us. The mapping was discussed will look into in the future.
  - i. Warren County Health Department – Laci Frodge, Health Department Nurse, explained 2025 Budget. All salaries are in Fund 1159 Health Department. Health First Fund 1161 approved for \$262,500 but not finalized as all 92 counties have opted in so the 2025 funding amount could change.
  - j. Human Resources – Jill Wilson, Human Resource Director, explained 2025 Budget with increases in technology and salary. Wilson explained ADA training is needed and not budgeted. Employee Benefits, WeCare deal of the day TMF dropped the clinic but Harrison Steel will not go for an increase in the rates. Training ADA, cybersecurity, Title VI will need to happen this year and will need to bring in services. Office Technology will need a new computer this year. ADA 10k public safety, add 10k to ADA Commissioner 20K only remove 10K public safety. LEPC 3528.13 received this year. Wilson explained hazmat materials reports from county companies, school safety officer required as part of the grant. Bal 27435. 3000 – 5000 revenue each year. Companies in county pay hazmat to state and report where it is kept for emergency, that comes from the state. Rather than stipends required allowed to provide meal for the meetings, saves money. Meet every other month Wednesday. 3
  - k. Purdue Extension – Emily Ade, Extension Director, presented 2025 Budget and explained services provided. Increase in salaries, added summer assist with salary paid ½ Extension and ½ Health Department.
  - l. VSO – Derek Puterbaugh, Veteran Service Officer, explained 2025 Budget increased only slightly. Explained took office in 2022 with training requirement of 80 hours and 40 hours yearly. Office duties include working directly with Veterans helping coordinate Federal, State and Local entities, manage memorial day flags. Office needs walls repaired and painted.
  - m. Area Plan/Zoning/Animal Control – John Kuiper, Zoning Director/Animal Control, explained 2025 budget increase APC/BZA pay to 6,000. Discussed increasing paying board member \$100 per meeting, currently \$50 per meeting. Discussed training for board members. Increase APC/BZA to \$100/meeting per member and pay for training. Wilson will coordinate the training. Animal control work varies but there are calls daily. Discussed the need for PA system in courtroom for meetings and hiring someone to facilitate the PA system until decision made on purchase.
  - n. Custodial Care – Russ Haddock, Custodian, explained 2025 Budget with lowered extra help, increased snow removal and salary. Discussed snow removal and possibility of having Highway do this. Discussed increasing Building Grounds Maintenance due to number of new buildings added over past years by \$50,000.

- o. County Park Board – Ted Commons, Warren County Park Board, presented 2025 Budget and discussed grant sustainability. Explained Park Plan for bike trails, walking trails, etc. with projects meant to improve quality of life in Warren County and attract people.
- p. EMA – Discussed budget request. Public Safety budget remain with no increase and County General \$900 decrease approved.
- q. Coroner – Justin Brummett, Coroner, explained 2025 Budget with increase in salaries. Requesting increase in callout pay from \$100 to \$150 per call. Currently have several call out deputies to cover.
- r. Community Service – Discussed donations. Increase Better Way COOP to \$5,000. Discussed 4-H council versus building fund which Greenwood explained Fair Board decides use of funds.
- s. Cumulative Capital Development – Discussed 2025 Budget, leave as requested \$100,000 for capital assets
- t. Economic Development Fund – Discussed Community Crossing Grant county share of \$500,000 needed, decreased to \$300,000. If more funds are needed possibly use MVH funds.
- u. Commissioner/Public Safety – Discussed Public Safety Fire Department budget, remove \$15,500 due to Fire Territory funding. Commissioner County General 2025 Budget change \$89,726 Mental Health as per State, increase software yearly contract to \$200,000; utility line increased due to additional buildings; decrease phone due to phones with Comcast as per Axxess PC; increased technology upgrades due to need for upgraded server.
- v. E-911 – Discussed dispatch/911 budget. Add \$25,000 to fund 1222 and remain County General \$87,500, Public Safety \$87,500. Total \$350,000.
- w. County Health Insurance – Discussed 2025 Budget of \$1.2 million, \$150,000 WeCare clinic which has shown to save funds in health insurance, prescriptions, etc. Discussed smoking cessation.
- x. Salaries – Discussed Sheriff Matrix and 4% increase salaries all other salaries. Discussed prosecutor requested increase. Discussed spot raise, add a \$15,000 line for this and create committee. Wilson will look into this possibility.
- y. John Hetrick made a motion to approve all 2025 Budgets seconded by Dwain Akers, all voted in favor (Sharon Hutchison was absent for voting).

Public Comment: No public comment.

Next Commissioner Meeting August 5, 2024 @ 8:30 a.m.

Next Council Meeting August 20, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

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

There being no further business Matt Commons made a motion to adjourn with a second from Neil Ellis, all voted in favor

ATTEST: Robin Weston-Hubner  
Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor

Ethan Foxworthy  
Ethan Foxworthy, President

Matt Commons  
Matt Commons, Vice President

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Dwain Akers

Sharon Hutchison  
Sharon Hutchison

Neil Ellis  
Neil Ellis

Ben Dispennett  
Ben Dispennett

John Hetrick  
John Hetrick

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor

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David Craig Greenwood, President

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John Comer, Vice President

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Clay Andrews