

**WARREN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY JULY 27, 2026**

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

Council present: Ethan Foxworthy, Brady Foster, Neil Ellis, Dwain Akers, John Hetrick, Ben Dispennett

Also, In Attendance:

Public: Cheyne Moses

Department Head/Elected Official – Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor; Charity Perigo, Chief Deputy Auditor; Randy Haddock, Surveyor; John Kuiper, Zoning Director; Debbie Hiatt, Clerk; Jenny Hobaugh, Highway Office Manager; Matt Herndon, Highway Superintendent; Kira Bailiff, Treasurer; Melissa Drake, Recorder; Anthony Pruitt, Sheriff; Lori Heidenreich, Assessor Elect; Bonnie Adams, Prosecutor; Judge Hunter Reece; Laci Frodge, Heath Nurse; Dr. Sean Sharma, Health Officer; Jill Wilson, HR Director, Russ Haddock, Custodian; Emily Ade, Purdue Extension; John Charlesworth, Purdue Extension; Dilynn Harmon, Purdue Extension; Jim Morson, EMA Director; Heather Deno, LEDO Director;

1. The meeting was called to order by Clay Andrews, Commissioner President and Ethan Foxworthy, Council President.
2. Agenda: Ben Dispennett made a motion to approve the Council agenda seconded by Neil Ellis, all voted in favor. John Comer made a motion to approve the Commissioner agenda seconded by Craig Greenwood, all voted in favor.
3. New Business:
 - a. Highway, Matt Herndon & Jenny Hobaugh – Fund 1135 budgeted \$1 million for bridge 39 which will be bid in January 2027 and built in 2027. Currently estimated at \$2.4 million with Federal funding of \$1.9 million and county funds \$484,000 total. This is a reimbursable Federal grant so must be appropriated. Due to lack of revenue in Fund 4901, Sale of County Owned Property, \$66,000 for Highway Enterprise Trucks must be moved. Adding \$66,000 to 1176 Equipment and \$66,000 to 1173 Stone, these fund budgets must be the same. Fund 1169 lower to \$180,000 total budget. Create account line Road Improvements and add \$300,000 in Lane Miles Fund 1242.
 - b. Clerk, Deb Hiatt – Postage will more than likely be more than budgeted but will shuffle funds around if needed. Good with fund balance no tax rate needed.
 - c. Treasurer, Kira Baiff – No changes. Explained the tax bill printing due to LOW inability to print inhouse. Issue this year was due to not explained by parcel and should be by mailing address but will get resolved this year so next year mailing is much better. Postage increased due to USPS prices going up.
 - d. Recorder, Melissa Drake – No changes. Back indexing project, think under \$22,000 and half way finished.
 - e. Auditor, Robin Weston-Hubner – Explained increase in mail. Added \$5,000 from Plan Fund for Chief Deputy due to increase in responsibilities. Explained funds are collected with each deed processed so fee based not taxpayer dollars.
 - f. Surveyor, Randy Haddock – No Change.
 - g. Break
 - h. Sheriff/Jail, Sheriff Anthony Pruitt – Medical discussed added \$25,000 to the 2026 budget due to increase in offsite medical claims. Increased 2027 budget to 80,615 explained the nursing hours increase from 4 to 6 at \$41,115.20 for contract nurse, doctor and mental health not including offsite medical and if increased to 10 hours per week \$55,615.20. The unknown is the offsite so adding \$25,000 which will put at 80,615 for 2027. Dispennett inquired what does the increase in hours give us. Sheriff Pruitt explained it is a liability aspect as we are responsible for medical after booked in. Issue with offsite such as ER visits which is much higher than a nurse. DOC requires passing meds by nurse majority of the time. Vehicles \$75,000 in public safety. Enterprise vehicle leases \$109,366.76 annually. In 2027, will receive final 2 with downpayment of \$16,786 and resale of 5 estimated at \$69,000 making 2027 budget at \$75,000. Discussed the Axon 5-year agreement for body cameras, in car cameras, tasers, etc. At this time, all equipment is at end of life so full pay or agreement. Cost is year 1 \$53,486 and years 2-5 \$51,041. The agreement includes training device. Discussed SRO costs as school promised to pay 50% of all cost associated with SRO. The MOU with MSD must be revisited.
 - i. Coroner – No Change.
 - j. Assessor, Lori Heidenreich (Assessor Elect) – Postage increased as USPS prices went up and will send Form 11's next year. Explained the form 11 process and regulations. Discussed plotter printer at \$5,000 if needed but will know more when she takes office. Discussed more education to the taxpayers concerning assessed values. Software issues in the Assessor Office. Software was purchased in 2005 currently are only 6 counties still with Proval which the company is not upgrading. Xsoft is the program she is looking at. This would combine in 3 different programs. Total \$166,800 which paid in 3 annual payments. This will be revisited in the coming year.
 - k. Zoning/Animal Control, John Kuiper – Discussed the APC/BZA Board budget. Take down from requested Board \$6,000 and legal \$5,500. Animal Control budget discussed kennel expenses and possibly replace sections, 4 runs total, will use 2026 funds. Possibly AC unit of some sort. Does have exhaust fan on the west side.
 - l. Prosecutor, Bonnie Adams – Discussed salaries. Added Prosecutor Investigator line \$6,000 for 10 hours per month when needed. Most county Prosecutors have investigators to aid in cases. Explained staff changes of 4D Administrator and Intern. High level felonies still high in numbers. Talked about jail usage. Discussed the crimes and history of people. Discussed flock cameras with budget of \$6,000 for storage and maintenance.
 - m. Extension, Emily Ade – Purdue extension miles included in contractual agreement line. Basically, cleaned up the budget. Computers are leased from Purdue at \$1600. Emily is reginal supervising educators and budget for 4 counties. John Charlesworth is overseeing daily duties and Program Coordinator is shared with Benton County.
 - n. Lunch
 - o. Human Resources, Jill Wilson – No changes. Background checks are being done on all new hires. ADA in Public Safety budget with accessibility at the Fleming park and courthouse to be improved. Discussed handicap parking around the courthouse. Greenwood looked into this years ago and has drawings from State for parking off State Road 28. Wilson explained remainder of 2026 budget and 2027 budget for these projects.
 - p. VSO – Increased soldier burial \$1,500. Discussed increasing salary to \$15,000.
 - q. Custodian, Russ Haddock – Only change is pest control increase.
 - r. Council – No change.

- s. Commissioners – No change.
 - t. Judge Reece – Reece explained the presentation. Staff explained where paid from. Since taken office have received \$2.45 million in grants. Only use appropriation when needed otherwise use fee and grant funds. Budget without salaries shows budget does not change much over the years. About half paid for by appropriation and budget. State stopped paying interpreters years ago but now paying \$750. State increasing public defender salary 8% to \$120/hour. Increase in criminal and juvenile cases with 30% drop in CASA funding. Public defender fees come from pauper council budget which is reimbursed at 40%. Public defender budget has been exceeded every year since 2023 and has been covered from other areas. High level felonies have increase considerably creating the need for more public defender hours. Increased budget \$15,000 for public defender/pauper. CASA/GAL explained shares with Fountain County for CASA but mostly volunteers. Budget is \$4,500 all other costs are covered with grants/fees. VOCA cut 30%. Currently 18 children being served with 1226 volunteers over 3 years, if paying \$76,625/year. Asked for 2% increase in pauper to \$40,000 and asking CASA to \$16,500. Budget presented had items that need added back in.
 - u. Health Department, Laci Frodge, Dr Sharma – No changes, expanding programs in the next year without budget increase.
 - v. EMS Ambulance – No change to the budget of \$431,300. Increase of \$30,000 in repairs. Discussed a member overseeing the repairs of county ambulances as this has increased 90% over past 3 years. Will bring to the next commissioner meeting.
 - w. EMA, Jim Morson – Morson explained his budget increases. Discussed the increases. Public Safety Printing of items for the festivals and handouts. Discussed the dues & subscriptions budget increase. Discussed the COMs buildout. Discussed \$15,000 in budget for work on the building which would be paid for from Cumulative Capital Development. Changes are 2026 budget same in most items lower travel 1,000 and printing 1,000; Pubic Safety cell phone remove as paid by Commissioner Budget, comms end user \$100,000, remove ema vehicle \$15,000, change repair equip \$7000.
 - x. Break
 - y. Warren County Park Board – No Change.
 - z. Statewide 911/Dispatch –Contract remains the same. No change.
 - aa. Donations – Since Tax payer dollars cannot be used, can we use fees in county general which are collected by other offices.
 - bb. LEPC – No Change.
 - cc. Employee Benefits/Personnel – Remove Employee Retention Program as never used, increased Health Insurance \$200,000,
 - dd. Cumulative Capital Development – Increased Capital Improvements to \$500,000 for upcoming projects. Discussed the jail generator estimated at \$250,000 as current does not run entire facility such as freezers, refrigerator, etc.
 - ee. Rainy Day – No budget.
 - ff. County Farm Capital Improvement – Andrews suggested all county farm cash rent going into this fund and remove cap of \$50,000. Weston-Hubner will take this to Barce for amending of resolution. Increased budget to \$50,000.
 - gg. Economic Development, Heather Deno – Explained how the funds are used from the county. Discussed moving Dispatch \$200,000 from public safety to economic development to aid in fund balances.
 - hh. Jordan Creek Wind Farm Econ Dev –No budget
 - ii. Unsafe Building – No change
 - jj. Wheel Tax – No change
 - kk. Salaries – Discuss a 2%, 4% and 6% increase. Decided on 4%.
4. Budget will be reviewed and finalized August 4, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Next Commissioner Meeting July 28, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m.

Next Council Meeting August 4, 2024 @ 8:00 a.m.

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

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

ATTEST:


Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor


Ethan Foxworthy, President


Ben Dispennett, Vice President


Dwain Akers


Brady Foster


Neil Ellis


Nicolas "Nic" Weston


John Hetrick