

WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 17, 2026

Council present for the meeting: Ben Dispennett, Ethan Foxworthy, Nicolas Weston, John Hetrick, Dwain Akers, Neil Ellis.

Public: Heather Deno, Jeff Peters

Department Head/Elected Official – Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor; Cori Herndon, Chief Deputy Auditor; Jim Morson, EMA Director.

1. The Council Meeting was called to order by Ethan Foxworthy, Council President.
2. Ethan Foxworthy, Council President led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. New Business:
 - a. Neil Ellis made a motion to approve the agenda seconded by Dwain Akers, all voted in favor.
 - b. Ben Dispennett made a motion to approve the Council minutes for February 17, 2026 seconded by Nicholas Weston, all voted in favor.
 - c. 2026 Additional Appropriations Resolution – Neil Ellis made a motion to approve Resolution #2026-0317A Additional Appropriations seconded by John Hetrick, all voted in favor; Ben Dispennett abstained.
 - i. Donations - 4-H Council - \$1,000.00
 - ii. Local Public Health Services Welcome Baby Program - \$500.00 and Office Supplies \$455.00
 - iii. COVID Vaccine Ins Reimb Health Dept Clerk/Registrar Stipend - \$5,000.00
 - iv. Prosecutor IV-D Incentive Clerical - \$234.00
 - v. Pretrial Services Grant Public Defender - Part Time - \$(7,000.00) and Public Defender Pre-Trial - \$7,000.00
 - vi. County General Medical Care of Prisoners \$15,000.00 and Pest Control \$1,800.00 and Expense to State Institutions \$9,000.00
 - vii. MVH Restricted Leased Equipment - \$42,000.00
 - viii. Jordan Creek Wind Farm HWC 1000 Road Survey - \$10,000.00
 - d. 2026 Additional Appropriations Resolution – Dwain Akers made a motion to approve Resolution # 2026-0317B the discussed additional appropriations seconded by Ben Dispennett, all voted in favor.
 - i. Warren County Ball Program/Park \$7,500
 - ii. Ambulance Equipment \$8,000
 - e. Jeff Peters, Peters Franklin LTD – Peters explained fiscal plans viable for commissioners and council looking over future years and present years forecast. Projecting revenue changes up to 2031 due to HB101. The changes in assessed values of 1% down 1/3, 2% down 2/3 and 3% up to \$2 million loss. A \$3 tax rate for all districts is being presented for Legislature next year. SEA 1 changes local income tax structure end of 2028. The LIT structure goes away and will need to replace for pay 2029. Levy Freeze and PTC will go away as well. Max levy's will go back on when levy freeze goes away. PTR will go away without subsidized with property taxes. Property tax rates up as AV down, circuit breakers will come into play. LIT changes include income tax 1.2% impose for county use, 1.2% municipalities 3,500 population and below share, LIT limitation 2.9%. Peters Franklin will build plans for next several years. Capital replacements are also built into the plan. Explained debt options. Budget assistance and revenue building future years is also part of the fiscal plan. Peters proposal cost is max of \$24,000 at \$235/hr. Dispennett asked if possible to include the towns. Council made an informal recommendation to proceed. The agreement will be presented to the Commissioners.
 - f. 2026 Budget Additional Appropriations – Insurance \$196,000 and Workman's Comp \$37,000. Foxworthy explained the information. John Hetrick made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriations seconded by Ben Dispennett, all voted in favor; Foxworthy abstained.
4. Old Business:
5. Elected Official/Department Head comments:
 - a. Heather Deno, LEDO Director – Deno explained meeting she attended explained tax increase will hurt county lower income and will hit the county tax revenue.
 - b. Weston-Hubner – Weston-Hubner introduced Cori Herndon who is now the Chief Deputy Auditor. Currently working on abstract, taxes, low online.

6. Public Comment:

Next Council meeting April 20,2026 @ 4:30 p.m.

There being no further business Neil Ellis made a motion to adjourn seconded by Nic Weston, all voted in favor.

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

Ethan Foxworthy
Ethan Foxworthy, President

Ben Dispennett
Ben Dispennett, Vice President

Nicholas Weston

Brady Foster

Neil Ellis
Neil Ellis

Dwain Akers

John Hetrick
John Hetrick