

**WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2018**

The Warren County Council were sworn in for their first meeting of September 2018 by Debra Hiatt, Clerk. Present for the meeting were: John Comer, Adam Hanthorne, Steve McIntosh, George Taylor, Clay Andrews, and Sharon Hutchison. Also, in attendance were Tom Hetrick.

1. The meeting was called to order by John Comer, Council President.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Comer.
3. The Warren County 2019 Budget Adoption was discussed. Clay Andrews made a motion to approve the 2019 Budget seconded by Adam Hanthorne, all voted favor and the Form 4 was signed.
4. The Warren County Solid Waste 2019 Budget Adoption was discussed. George Taylor made a motion to approve the 2019 Budget with a second from Steve McIntosh, all voted in favor and the Form 4 was signed.
5. The State Line City 2019 Budget Adoption was discussed. Steve McIntosh made a motion to approve the 2019 State Line Budget with a second from George Taylor, all voted in favor and the Form 4 was signed.
6. Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor, presented the information concerning the proposed change to the Local Income Tax for 2019. The Local Income Tax change will not increase the income tax for County residents, but will change the disbursement of the funds to the Public Safety and Economic Development funds. The change will take effect January 1, 2019. Clay Andrews made a motion to approve the Local Income Tax Ordinance with a second from Adam Hanthorne, all voted in favor and the ordinance was signed. Weston-Hubner explained that the West Lebanon Fire Department has inquired about help with equipment repairs and will be attending a upcoming meeting.
7. New Business:
 - a. George Taylor made a motion to approve the August 27, 2018 minutes with a second from Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor and the minutes were signed.
8. Officer Holder Comment:
 - a. Tom Hetrick, County Commissioner, explained that the courthouse roof repair work progress has been steady. Hetrick explained that the asbestos testing has been conducted with no asbestos found. Additional work to the dome that was not in the original bid will be required consisting of replacement of the clay tiles which the savings from the absence of asbestos will go to the additional costs. Hetrick explained that the ornamental stone above the north and west doors will most likely need replaced in order to seal the roof as well. Commissioner Brian Jordan is overseeing the day to day work on the project. Steve McIntosh questioned the composite material compared to the concrete material. Hetrick stated that there are courthouses with the composite and the look is not as good. Hetrick stated that the ornamental will be \$37,000 to seal, but the Commissioners are looking into other options. Next meeting is Monday October 1st with the construction company.
 - b. Tom Hetrick, County Commissioner, discussed the fence at the County Farm. Hetrick stated that this was given to us and is ours to maintain. The income from the County Farm is an average of \$36,000 over 4 years and \$39,000 over 10 years with 204 tillable acers. There is approximately a little over a mile of fence that will need to be replaced and there will need to be clearing prior to building the fence. The average is approximately \$180/year per acre income. As the farm generates the funds, Hetrick is asking to have the income used to rebuild the fences. The amount of income for the pasture is a small amount as the fences are not in good shape as the fence is very old, approximately 60 years old. The pasture itself is in good shape. The landfill on the north is not under regulation, but the south landfill is still under IDEM requirements and as such trees, crops, etc. are not allowed to grow. The tenant gets the hay from the landfill parcel. Hetrick stated that about a year ago he presented a quote which was approximately \$120,000 for both clearing and fence, but it is hard to know how much until we get into the project. Hetrick would like to see the Commissioners to have the authority to spend a certain amount each year to rebuild the fence. This would then allow the rent to be increased as well. Sharon Hutchison stated she would like to make a proposal to set aside a specific amount to do have the project done at one time rather than over many years. Comer stated concern with the assessed values over the years and the circuit breakers being reached more often now. Clay Andrews suggested that Tom have the project bid and present them to the Council. Adam Hanthorne stated that the amount of materials would be less by buying them at one time rather than small amounts over years. Hetrick stated that he is suggesting the use of locust posts with 5-strand barbed wire. McIntosh stated that he believes this needs to be done. Comer would like to arrange a time for the Council to view the pasture. The Council decided to meet at the County Farm to view the pasture at 3:00 p.m. on October 29th with Council meeting following at 4:30 p.m. at the Courthouse.
 - c. Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor, discussed the insurance claims and insurance budget for the remainder of the year. There has been a rise in claims this year and we are anticipating having to transfer from Rainy Day Fund. There are a few lines in the Commissioner's budget to move funds from such as longevity as the increase was never approved. Longevity was discussed as it has been approved for the 2019 budget as well. The Council discussed having a joint meeting with the Commissioners to discuss the longevity pay when the County Farm is discussed. The insurance budget is generally approximately \$1,000,000.00 per year. The estimated claims for the remainder of the year look to be more than the remainder of the insurance budget. The deficit looks to be approximately \$125,000.00. There can be funds transferred by the Council to the Rainy Day Fund each year from the used appropriations. This is something that can really help with the Rainy Day Fund running low without any funds being added on a yearly basis. This is something that should be looked at in December 2018 to be see how much funds remain of the 2018 budget to be added to the Rainy Day Fund.
 - d. Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor, explained the budget changes this year and next year. The new Budget Director at the Department Local Government and Finance has changed the due dates so that the 2019 Budgets will be approved by December 31, 2018. Weston-Hubner, explained the changes in the department budgets for next year. There are department codes for several of the items that have been in the Commissioner Budget and for the 2020 budget the other items will be more divided out.

- e. County Attorney was inquired about. The Commissioners are looking into options and have decided to wait until the new Commissioner is elected. The Council will need representation as well.

The next County Council meeting will be October 29, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. after viewing the County Farm at 3:00 p.m.

There being no further business, George made a motion to adjourn with a second from Sharon.

ATTEST: *Robin Weston-Hubner* WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL
Robin Weston-Hubner

John Comer
John Comer, President

Steve McIntosh
Steve McIntosh, Vice President

Clay Andrews
Clay Andrews

Laurie "Lee" Kay

Sharon Hutchison
Sharon Hutchison

Adam Hanthorne
Adam Hanthorne

George Taylor
George Taylor