

**WARREN COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2020**

The Warren County Council met for their first meeting of November 2020.

Council Members present for the meeting: John Comer, George Taylor, Neil Ellis, Matt Commons, Ethan Foxworthy, Sharon Hutchison and Lee Kay (teleconference)

Commissioners present for the meeting: Brian Jordan, Clay Andrews and Adam Hanthorne (teleconference)

Also, in attendance:

Department Head/Office Holders: Robin Weston-Hubner, Auditor; Rusty Hart, Sheriff; Jenny Hobaugh, Highway Department Office Manager; Hunter Reece, Judge; Matt Herndon, Highway Supervisor.

Public: Derek Puterbaugh, Craig Greenwood.

1. The meeting was called to order by John Comer, Council President.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Comer, Council President.
3. New Business:
 - a. Meeting Agenda Approval – Neil Ellis made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Matt Commons, all voted in favor.
 - b. Sharon Hutchison made a motion to approve the October 29, 2020 Council minutes with a second from Ethan Foxworthy, all voted in favor.
 - c. December Council Meeting Date Change – Neil Ellis made a motion to change the Council Meeting from December 21, 2020 to December 23, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. with a second from George Taylor, all voted in favor.
 - d. Judge Reece, 2020 Budget Transfers – Judge Reece explained Stacy Miley will be retiring December 31, 2020 as Probation Officer after over 40 years of service. A new employee will start December 14, 2020. As explained during 2021 budget discussions, this will not be funded with taxpayer dollars. Amend the 2021 Salary Ordinance for Chief Probation Officer from \$71,833 to \$60,234 and Probation Officer from \$51,417 to \$36,334. The request is to transfer funds from Probation Clerk line to a probation trainee line in the probation budget. The Probation Clerk line has \$5,153.97 due to gap in employment for this position. Sharon Hutchison made a motion to add probation trainee line to the 2020 budget moving funds from Probation Clerk to Probation Officer Trainee lines in the amount of \$5,153.97 with a second from Matt Commons, all voted in favor.
 - e. 2021 Salary Ordinance, #2020-1130 – Ethan Foxworthy made a motion to approve the 2021 salary ordinance with a second from Matt Commons, all voted in favor. Ethan Foxworthy made a motion to amend the Ordinance removing the Jordan Creek Wind Farm Liaison with a second from Matt Commons, all voted in favor.
 - f. Highway Department 2021 budget adjustment - Hobaugh explained the State cut the 2021 budget for the Highway Department by \$179,533. Hobaugh suggested lowering 1176 gas and oil line by \$50,000 and stone line by \$24,533; 1173 stone and gravel by \$105,000. Also, expect to need an additional appropriation during 2021 to cover possibly. Stone budget should be okay due to the Wind Farm donating stone to the county. Weston-Hubner explained the 2020 MVH revenue has not been lower to date, as the State projected. Herndon explained the progress on roads currently. Neil Ellis made a motion to approve the adjusted 2021 Highway Budget with a second from Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor.
 - g. Planning for Jordan Creek Wind Farm Economic Development Funds – Weston-Hubner explained the payment received in the amount of \$1,130,055.56 and \$1,000,000 is currently invested. Discussed options for the funds such as economic development options, internet issues, fire department aid, etc. This will be further discussed at a later time with all as well as the community. Discussed items to be done with the permit fees such as building of Truck storage shed at the highway and remodeling Litzenberger Office and Legion Building as both are now owned by the County.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Health Department – Hutchison stated that there has been a meeting with Fountain County and Warren County to discuss the Fountain and Warren Health Department. Discussion to help with the amount of additional work due to COVID suggestions were made to hire an administrator. The Health Department Board will make these decisions. Discussed the IFA CARES grant additional funding that is specifically to be used for education, awareness, etc.
5. Elected Official/Officer Holder Comment:
 - a. Weston-Hubner – Stated the CARES Grant has been turned in to the IFA. The majority of the funds have been expended at this time and the remaining funds were discussed.
 - b. Hutchison – Discussed a Highway Engineer the state will pay \$40,000 of this position to help Highway Supervisor.
 - c. Jordan – Discussed the Courthouse masonry repairs, drainage issue on the northeast side, etc. that were over budget compared to what was previous approved. The cost should not be more than \$50,000 over the old total making this \$650,000. Lee Kay made a motion to approve the increased costs for the repairs with a second from Neil Ellis, all voted in favor.
 - d. Transfer of funding – Extension requested to move funds due to the change where the employees are being paid as per Purdue. Ethan Foxworthy made a motion to approve the transfer from the Extension with a second from Matt Commons, all voted in favor. A transfer was explained from the Custodian as this is within budget category not approval needed.
 - e. Health Department Billing from Fountain County – Presented the bills from Fountain County for E911, Radio Dispatch and Health Department 3rd Quarter Salaries, Health Insurance and Supplies. Discussed the Health Department, Radio Dispatch and E911 budget balance. Discussed the funding from county funds, grants, etc. Matt Commons made a motion to pay the bills as presented with a second from Sharon Hutchison, all voted in favor.
 - f. Settlement has been finalized and disbursed.
6. Public Comment:

The next County Council meeting will be December 23, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

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

