



Board of Commissioners Work Session

May 14, 2025

MINUTES

Chair Angelena Kearney Dunlap called the May 14, 2025 Work Session to order, followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance. Others in attendance were Commissioners Hunt and Cooper, County Manager Crystal Smith, County Attorney Shiekell Richardson, and Interim Finance Officer Chuck Murray. Commissioners Davis and Baker attended virtually through Zoom.

1. ADOPT SUGGESTED AGENDA

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Cooper, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Suggested Agenda was approved.

2. PROPOSED FY26 BUDGET PRESENTATION

County Manager Crystal Smith and Interim Finance Officer Chuck Murray provided the Budget Message and Presentation. The Revenue Neutral Tax Rate is 52.4 cents following the recent tax revaluation, however the proposed budget does recommend a rate of 59.5 cents. The full presentation document is available on the Warren County website at <https://warrencountync.com/DocumentCenter/View/6164>.

3. FY26 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Commissioner Davis stated that since there is healthy Fund Balance, he would like to see the tax rate lowered to 57.1 cents. Commissioner Davis asked if Fund Balance towards the Farmers Market project. Commissioner Cooper would like to see a reduction in the tax rate. Commissioner Cooper would like to look into Retiree Health Insurance, and is in agreement with the 4% COLA for employees.

Commissioner Hunt stated that the New Elementary School construction could cost more than expected due to rising costs of materials. Commissioner Hunt further stated that we need to use caution when using Fund Balance since we do not have final costs yet on EMS Station 4 or Senior Center construction. Commissioner Baker would like to be sure we have enough money in Fund Balance to cover if there is a disaster.

Chair Kearney Dunlap would like to see the tax rate reduced to 58 cents.

4. DISCUSSION CONCERNING GRIEVANCES

County Manager Crystal Smith stated Warren County does not have a policy on grievances against Board/Committee/Commission members or volunteers and she would like direction from the Board on if they wish to establish a committee to look into this. Commissioner Hunt stated that since a grievance has been brought against a non-employee, the Chair has the ability to appoint a committee to do research and bring findings back to the Board of Commissioners. Chair Kearney Dunlap directed County Manager Crystal Smith to proceed with forming a group to look into the matter.

5. ADJOURN May 14, 2025 BOARD MEETING

On motion of Commissioner Cooper, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the May 14, 2025 Work Session was adjourned.

Paula Pulley, Clerk to the Board