



Board of Commissioners Work Session

April 19, 2023

MINUTES

1. ADOPT SUGGESTED AGENDA

On motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Hunt, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the April 19, 2023 Work Session Agenda was approved with the removal of Item 5.

2. PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 2023 AS NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Powell, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Proclamation Declaring April 2023 as National County Government Month was approved.



Proclamation

National County Government Month
April 2023



"COUNTIES RISE!"

WHEREAS, the nation's 3,069 counties serving more than 330 million Americans provide essential services to create healthy, safe and vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, counties fulfill a vast range of responsibilities and deliver services that touch nearly every aspect of our residents' lives; and

WHEREAS, Warren County take pride in our responsibility to protect and enhance the health, wellbeing and safety of our residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of National Association of Counties President Denise Winfrey, NACo is highlighting how "Counties RISE!" demonstrating exemplary Resiliency, Inclusion, Solvency, and Empowerment; and

WHEREAS, each year since 1991 the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties across the country to elevate awareness of county responsibilities, programs and services; and

WHEREAS, Warren County re-commits to the mission statements of Warren County and our individual departments as we are committed to serving with *EXCELLENCE* to our county, residents and businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Bertadean Baker, Chairperson of the Warren County Board of Commissioner, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as National County Government Month and encourage all county officials, employees, schools and residents to participate in county government celebration activities.

Proclaimed, this 19th day of April, 2023.



Bertadean W. Baker
Bertadean Baker, Chairperson
Warren County Board of Commissioner

Attest to:
Paula Pulley
Paula Pulley, Warren County Clerk to the Board

3. BI-ANNUAL REPORTS

A. Board of Elections Report - Written

B. Cooperative Extension Bi-Annual Report - Written

C. Community & Economic Development Report - Written and In-Person

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Buck Spring Park Master Plan Discussion - Congresswoman Eva M. Clayton

Congresswoman Eva Clayton reminded the Board of Commissioners of the commitment they made several years ago to develop Buck Springs Park. She stated that one building has been constructed and now it is time to complete the next phase. Congresswoman Clayton suggested that the overnight cabins be the next step, and then the completion of the larger event space, and suggested that perhaps

COVID funds could be used towards this project.

B. Warren County Fire Commission - Commissioner Tare Davis

Commissioner Tare "T" Davis, Fire Association President Joey Andrews, Dr. Chris Grainger, and several others spoke of the importance of having staff at each of the 14 Volunteer Fire Departments serving Warren County. Currently six of the Volunteer Fire Departments have one paid firefighter on staff, and the County Budget provides \$160,000 to pay for those staff members. The total cost to the county of one paid firefighter at each of the 14 stations would be \$465,920, an increase of \$305,920 in county funds. Commissioner Davis asked if ARPA funds could be used to pay for firefighters. County Manager Vincent Jones responded by saying yes, ARPA funds could be used, however you would not want to pay for ongoing operations cost with one-time funding. Commissioner Davis did indicate that he would expect funding to continue.

C. Vance Granville Community College Board Expansion Proposal - Rachel M. Desmarais, Ph.D., President, Vance-Granville Community College

Dr. Rachel Desmarais, Ph.D, discussed the desire to broaden the Vance Granville Community College Board to better reflect all of the partners in the system. Dr. Desmarais further stated that more programming is in the plans for the Warren campus, and the basketball program will be officially moving to the John Graham Gym. More information will be coming, along with a formal request, next year.

D. Warren County Schools Construction Funding - Superintendent Keith Sutton, Warren County Schools

Superintendent Keith Sutton presented information concerning possible scenarios on how to achieve the goal of consolidating all of the County's elementary schools. At this time, the School Board believes that using the New Tech building and adding two additional wings will be the best scenario.

Superintendent Sutton further discussed concerns about safety at each of the current schools. Sutton stated there are currently 2 School Resource Officers and 7 schools. The two SRO's are stationed at Warren County High School and Warren County Middle School. Sutton would like to purchase metal detectors for schools, Halo Smart Sensors, and Lockdown Shades. The cost of metal detectors can run between \$1,200 and \$4,500, Halo Smart Sensors are \$1,400, and Lockdown Shades are \$29 each.

E. Consider Fine Free Library Service Policy - Christy Bondy, Library Director

On motion of Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Davis, and duly carried by unanimous vote, the Fine Free Library Service Policy was approved.

F. Work Session Follow-Up Re: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding - Vincent Jones, County Manager

County Manager Vincent Jones discussed the possibility that the U.S. Treasury could begin to claw back unobligated American Rescue Plan funds. Mr. Jones asked the Board for priorities when it comes to obligating remaining funds. Commissioner Pierce stated that funds should be used on operational expenses, or saved for a new EMS Satellite. Commissioner Davis agreed with Commissioner Pierce and asked that the paid firefighter program be included.

5. CLOSED SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) FOR INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS LOCATION OR EXPANSION

Item removed from agenda.

6. ADJOURN APRIL 19, 2023 WORK SESSION

April 19, 2023 Work Session was declared adjourned by Chair Bertadean Baker.

Paula Pulley, Clerk to the Board