WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
2021 For 2022 Budget Final Review
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM
107 W. Locust Street
Boonville, Indiana
September 2, 2021
7:03 PM

The Warrick County Council met in Budget Session in the Warrick County Courthouse, 107 W. Locust Street, Boonville, Indiana.

Attorney Cliff Whitehead and Administrator Krystal Powless were in attendance.

Auditor Debbie Stevens and Secretary Kristine Georges attended and recorded the minutes.

All Council Members except Councilman David Hachmeister were present for this meeting.

Council President, Greg Richmond, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

There was no Pledge of Allegiance or Roll Call.

EMA DEPUTY DIRECTOR POSITION

Councilman Richmond: I'll call this meeting to order. It's 7:03 PM.

Krystal Powless: Greg, I have, I have three (3) things and I don't know which one (1) you want to take first. I have EMA, Council on Aging, and then the email from Bobby on the Highway Laborers. I don't know if anyone has anything else. So, you can take them in whatever order you wish.

Councilman Richmond: Let's do EMA first. I think you all got an email from them this week.

Krystal Powless: Yes, and I copied the email and put it on your desks.

Jake Greer: Jake Greer, Director of Warrick County Emergency Management. I think you all got my email, I hope, and attachments. I've never done this before, so I don't know what your procedure is. If you want to ask me something. My, my idea was to send the emails and the attachment why we needed a full time Deputy Director first. That would give you a chance to read it. The only think that I can add to that tonight is that I'm up here to be I guess, I hate to say proactive (inaudible) all that. But, anyway, try to get, try to get the position, because to try to replace that person when Dave leaves is going to be very difficult job to do. If you don't find someone that's retired and just looking to stay in Emergency Services. So, basically, I think for them to have the NIMs classes and the IC classes before they get here, that's going to have to be some of them that's been in Emergency Services and is looking to stay in Emergency Services or someone that's come out of school that's got a degree in Emergency Services and they're looking to move into the Director job. And that's how I see the Deputy Director as the next step for them if they come in. They're a Deputy Director. When I leave, then they have a good shot at being Director and that's their goal is to be the Director. You need someone with all the qualifications before you give them that position. So, that's why I'm pleading for a full time Deputy Director.

Krystal Powless: And remember, I had, if you approved, I had this coming out of the Public Safety LIT.

Councilman Richmond: The, unless you've had your TV set off the last couple of days, there's been a lot of EMA work done around the Country. God forbid us to ever have something like that. But it wouldn't hurt to be prepared.

Councilman Overton: Krystal, what did we end up, did we end up allocating, or am I just lost, part-time money, additional part-time money for the…

Councilman Whetstine: I think we did. (Inaudible).

Krystal Powless: If you give me a minute.

Councilman Overton: I'm sorry. I don't know that I wrote that down and, but I thought it would be easier to ask you, instead of me trying to find my notes.

Councilman Richmond: I think part of the question and part of the problem we have, when these emergencies come up, there's a whole lot to do. More than we can handle. And then when there's not an emergency, do you have enough to keep this person busy?

Jake Greer: Right now, yes. As we explained or what I tried to explain was that part of what, part of what I look at is if we get a full-time grant writer, is that, that grant writer's job is solely to search out grants. We stay busy and are currently staying busy with the grants. Keeping up with the processes as they go through the different reports. If we get a grant writer and that grant writer is successful in getting 'x' number of grants, that's all they're going to do is get the grant. The departments they're getting them for, as in the EMA, we still have to track those grants and go through those processes of all the reports that the IDHS wants in IntelliGrants. So, although they get the grant, we still do all the work. As I said in my email, we do the, we've got the new building to take care of. We're yet to actually go down there and do the inventory and get the inventory list. I started on it. But, we're going to have to go through and do each shelf and label the shelf and then do all the inventory by the items. And we have to come up with the guidelines for the items in that building on top of the other items we have with the Roth Road building. All that stuff takes out-of-office time. Dave will do it sometimes on his own. But, we just don't, we don't have time to leave the office and go off and do that stuff and keep up with what's going on back in the office.

Councilman Richmond: This maintenance of the equipment in the Disaster Storage Building, like the generator and the light plants and the fork lift, mobile morgue, and the health trailer, would that be maintenance of the air conditioning system, changing the oil…?

Jake Greer: Well, right now, the way we do it is I start monthly. Run them monthly, put them on a load, the generators, run them on a load. That's by the manufacturer's recommendations. So, you have to keep, you have to do the fluid checks, keep the gas in it, make sure the gas isn't stale gas. And then as far as the trailers go, we've got batteries in the trailers that you have to check. And then you always, we put an air compressor down there to be able to keep the tires aired up and then there's just maintenance. I mean we've got trailers sitting outside now out at the Roth Road barn that really are supposed to be inside. But, we have no room for them. So, we do need maintenance on those too because they're sitting out in the weather getting rusty and the roofs need sealed on them. So, there's always something to be done. But, anytime you've got stuff sitting someplace, you have to rotate it and you have to go and check it. You have to keep it moving otherwise it goes bad. So, yes, there is work to be done outside.

Councilman Whetstine: Do you, back to Brad's question, did we not approve some extra money for additional part-time?

Krystal Powless: We didn't.

Councilman Whetstine: We did not?

Krystal Powless: Uh uh.

Councilman Whetstine: Oh, I thought we did. Huh. And Dave, Dave if you could for just a second, Dave, could you, like fill us in, a lot of the questions we had during the Personnel Meetings and stuff were really after you guys left and that trying to just get an idea of, what is it that you do? I know you're thinking about for someone after you leave, right?

Dave Woolen: Yes.

Councilman Whetstine: So, if you were going to describe that job to someone. Tell us, tell us what you do.

Dave Woolen: What we do?

Councilman Whetstine: That makes it, the need for full time.

Dave Woolen: For full time, the problem is right now, I can't get out, I was doing most of the maintenance on the equipment other than the standard routine yearly maintenance that we take them in for. I try to do all that. I haven't in the last year and a half, haven't had time to do any of that. Like I say, right now, we've got five (5) grants in the works. We have to do the tracking on it. We have to do the bids on it. A grant writer, what we needed a grant writer for is someone to come in and could word these grants to where we would get them. And that's what we understood the grant writer was going to be here to do. Not, I mean, according to State, we have to track all of our stuff ourselves and keep it up. Actually, there, like he said, trailers that are sitting outside right now, part of the deal with the State was they were to be housed inside. And we've got three (3) that have never been inside. We don't have a place to put them inside. So, we have to do a little extra, they need to have extra maintenance on them and it's not getting done.

Councilman Whetstine: Let me ask it this way. I'm going to say something and you finish it. This job needs to be full time because…

Dave Woolen: Cause there's just more work than one (1) part-time guy can do. And if we have meetings to attend, we have classes we have to attend. In the last year, we have not had classes for the simple fact that they're doing everything online. And it may continue, I'm not sure about that. But, in the past, you have one (1) or two (2) meetings a month that you have to attend. You have one (1) or two (2) classes a month you have to attend. So, when you get down to all of that and start tracking your grants, keeping all your paperwork caught up with that. You just, you don't have time to take care of your equipment. I don't know who's going to go over that building and keep track of everything. The fire departments are already kind of putting out word that it's a store or it's a pick up point to pick up whatever they need rather than them ordering their own stuff. Which that's not what I understood it to be. It was going to be an emergency, in the event of an emergency we would have it on hand. Not a handout for the fire department. We've got to kind of do planning for that. We have, what is it, seven (7) or eight (8) plans that have to be rewritten every four (4) years.

Jake Greer: We got our CPOD Plan last night after I left, I got an email. So, they're ready to bring that back. Actually sent it back for our review. We got to go over it. They sent it back last month for review. They asked for us to send it back September 10th.

Councilman Richmond: That was my next question. If we get these CPODs and we go through with this, is that going to take extra work too that this person could do?

Dave Woolen: The plan would have to be updated constantly. They won't let any plan go more than four (4) years without an update.

Jake Greer: And that's what we're doing right now. We're doing the, just, we've got the Commodity Flow Study, it should be done and back to us. It was supposed to be August, but I'm looking for September. We just got that updated this year. The Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, we're getting ready to start on. And then the CPOD Plan, which Warrick County's never had a CPOD Plan. And I, what a CPOD Plan is for anybody who doesn't know, they called it an LSA. It's Logistical Staging Areas. You identify places in your County that the State Could bring down and set up basic food, like food supplies, water, and from that place, such as the 4-H, say they bring down all these truckloads and stuff that you're going to hand out to the Community. Wherever the disaster took place, from that Logistical Staging Point, you have points of distribution. That's the POD, CPOD part is, Part of Distribution. So, we take it over to Elberfeld and set it up in the, in the Industrial Park, say for just right now. And you make an in and out. It has to have a way for vehicles to

come in and go out. There's no stopping. The public drives through and have their trunks open and you have cases of water, MRE's, and they've got tarps, and they put tarps in your vehicle and you keep moving. So, that's what this plan is. All it is, is from an earthquake or something like that happens, you've got areas already preplanned and approved by those places that own them and Warrick County's never had that. The State is requiring that every district to have those now. Everybody's got to have their own CPOD Plan. So, we're getting done for free because we participated in an earlier project that was nine (9) counties in Indiana that got selected and Warrick County was one (1) of them. So, somebody else is writing the plan, we just have to go through it and make sure it's correct and get it back to them so they can finalize it.

Dave Woolen: But then every four (4) years it has to be updated.

Jake Greer: So, plans are always on the updates.

Councilman Overton: So, I've got a couple questions. One (1), if we've got stuff that's sitting outside that's rusting and should be under, in shelter, why, did you guys not ask for any money for any of this budget to like do an addition to this building or anything?

Dave Woolen: Dallas had in the past.

Councilman Overton: But, I mean, that, the additional funding with the Public Safety, I think it would be prudent to put stuff like that under shelter. But, there was no request for that unless I missed it somewhere.

Dave Woolen: The story we've been told for years and years...

Jake Greer: We've been told...

Dave Woolen: Was Storm Water's moving out of the building on Roth Road and when they do, we'll get that building and at that point we'll have room to put all the trailers.

Councilman Overton: Yeah, but I mean if that's, you know, there's always all kinds of stories and things going around. I mean we're going to have funding for this. So, to me, that would definitely seem like something that's really got nothing to do with the other question. But, since you brought that up, I'm going to go ahead and touch on it. But, I mean I think that needs to be part of your amended budget to ask either, like we want that either some definition within a certain amount of time to get that stuff under weather, under protection. I mean, hell, it'd be better than having at least...

Dave Woolen: A carport would be nice.

Councilman Overton: Something, yeah. But, I mean, you've got the funding there to do that. So, I mean to add or enclose those, even if it means building something over there that's going to be turned into something else. I think that's something you guys need to get done like, you know, come back to us or get something squared away with that. Because that seems to be...

Krystal Powless: You can add, I mean you can still add into the Public Safety Budget tonight.

Councilman Overton: Yeah, because, I mean, I think we need something to put those things under. Because the stuff we have just sitting out there and it's just rotting. I don't, I'd rather not have my truck sitting outside, but it does not fit in the garage.

Dave Woolen: We, we have an Animal Control trailer. We have a...

Councilman Overton: Well, honestly, I don't care. I'm talking about you guy's.

Dave Woolen: That, it's ours. We got it under a grant for them for an emergency.

Councilman Overton: Oh, that's yours? Okay, sorry.

Dave Woolen: It's a mobile kennel and treatment center so if someone has to leave their home with their pet and they won't go into a shelter because they can't take their pet to the shelter, we shelter them in that. Ground patrol actually shelters them in that trailer. We have that trailer. We have a mobile hospital tent. We have a disaster trailer.

Councilman Overton: So, how much, so my question is and you guys should know roughly. How much square footage you need for something like that? To get that crap under a roof?

Dave Woolen: I don't know. Like I said, the, about the size of the Storm Water. About Storm Water size building.

Councilman Overton: Okay, I mean, what are we looking at for a five thousand (5,000) square foot building? Are you talking quarter million ($250,000.00)?

Jake Greer: Do we have County-owned property that we can...?

Councilman Overton: Hell, we've got property out the wazoo. We've got property sitting out there at the 4-H Center that's not in use but two (2) weeks out of the, or one (1) week out of the freaking year. So, I mean that's out there fallow the whole time. So, surely we could find something to stick somewhere. I mean I got to think, is Terry still around? I mean this is kind of like pulling this out of my rear end. But, we out to find something to stick that up. So, I say we could allocate what, a quarter of a million ($250,000.00), two hundred fifty thousand dollars ($250,000.00) for a building? Or what? We've got that Public Safety money. Anybody got any ideas? Hey, you do building stuff, don't you? What do you think?

Councilman Richmond: I was going to suggest Public Safety. If we're going to put it in the budget, that's okay, isn't it? The line, when we did the Ordinance had blanks to fill in and we did the ten percent (10%) for Ohio Township Fire Department. Do we need to fill in other blanks for EMA?

Cliff Whitehead: No.

Councilman Richmond: Cause it describes it in the actual Statute. There's like fifteen (15) different things we can spend it on. And EMA was one (1) of them.

Cliff Whitehead: Right, the Ordinance just says the tax rate, the point five percent (0.5%). So, in the budget you can do whatever you want.

Krystal Powless: Right.

Councilman Overton: I mean, I don't know. That's way off base. Maybe we can take a look at that next...

Dave Woolen: Like I said, Dallas asked for this years ago. And we were always just flat denied.

Councilman Overton: (Inaudible).

Councilman Richmond: That's what I heard.

Krystal Powless: That is not like you, I mean you, the only thing you can add, you know, after you adopt, like you can add Additionals in January.

Councilman Overton: Yeah, let's maybe...

Krystal Powless: But, they aren't going to have any money 'til February. So, it's not like you can.

Councilman Overton: Yeah, it's not like we're gonna get, okay.

Krystal Powless: No.

Councilman Overton: I mean, so, guys, maybe we can come back and, we need to get that fixed in my opinion. I'm not the one (1) that makes policy, but seems like we need to get that stuff lined out.

Councilman Richmond: Push to find out if Storm Water's, I heard they're going to move to Prospect Drive.

Councilman Overton: Yeah.

Dave Woolen: We've heard that and they've always told us that when they did we would get that building. But, I've never seen anything in writing and anything...

Krystal Powless: (Inaudible) three (3) years.

Councilman Overton: Let's say we get something found out on that some way or another. And then the second thing, almost seems to me, and I'm not, seems to me like we really need a, we've got a part-time position in Administrative Clerk. It's almost as if the Administrative Clerk, I mean we've already got a full time position. I mean how, it really seems like what you guys are needing is probably somebody that is you know almost more like twenty-five (25) hours a week doing some part-time stuff if your Administrative Clerk, I don't know. I'm trying to figure out how we can allocate that.

Dave Woolen: The Administrative Clerk also has to oversee everything from the LEPC, that's in her job description too. And right now, she's running the LEPC, because the Chair and the Co-Chair very rarely show up for meetings. She's actually doing that. So, she had very little time to, to fill in on the stuff that we're working on.

Krystal Powless: So, right now he is a part-time Deputy Director. So, what you're saying you would like to put more money in for another part-time Deputy Director?

Councilman Overton: I, I don't know what I'm saying.

Jake Greer: Well, regardless, my whole point was because I think the County's going to have a shortfall whenever we don't have any Deputy Director. And when I leave, you're going to have a hard time, unless you know someone that wants to be Director, you're going to have a hard time filling that position. That's why I thought if the Deputy Director was a full time Deputy Director, they could step into the Director's job. Then they can hire their own person or find someone.

Dave Woolen: Most people think this job is you sit over here and wait for something to happen. But, and for years I thought that was kind of what it was too, until I had to take it over. There's tons and tons of paperwork. I mean we've got bookracks full of plans. And every year you have to update. Fire Departments change who's in command.

Councilman Overton: Well, that's what I'm saying, guys, it almost seems like this is, I mean, maybe it's just the title of Deputy Director. Seems like there's a lot more of Administrative stuff done than, you know, like this is more of a, not necessarily clerical but more of that kind of work. You know, almost like an Administrator type of stuff. No offense, Krystal.

Jake Greer: And we're all doing that. We're all doing that clerical work now.

Councilman Overton: Right.

Jake Greer: We don't have, now if you throw in a tornado or something like that, then the office is empty because we're not in there. So, I mean, yes, we do, do clerical work because it has to be done. We should have somebody out there doing the other stuff that we want, you have to keep up with. We don't just want to keep up with it. You have to keep it up.

Councilman Overton: I mean it almost seems like you need more of a mechanic or somebody more than anything.

Dave Woolen: I don't mind doing the mechanic stuff. I told him, I'd volunteer after this is over with to do part of that work. I don't mind that. But, we need someone in the office. We don't have anybody now. We don't have time to go out and talk to the churches to keep those groups tied in with us. We just don't have a lot of time to go out in the field and do what we need in the field because we're busy with State paperwork. And like Jake said, every two (2) weeks they're changing the rules anyway.

Councilman Richmond: What was the figure you gave us for salary?

Dave Woolen: It was like sixty-eight with benefits ($68,000.00). It was a forty thousand dollar ($40,000.00) a year salary and whatever the benefits come out.

Krystal Powless: I didn't bring it.

Jake Greer: I didn't bring it.

Councilman Richmond: I know they've changed the way it used to be done. But, there was reimbursement from the State in the past.

Dave Woolen: The only problem, and Krystal brought this up and I didn't think about it. If you use LIT, or the LIT money for that, when they do the salary reimbursement, that money would have to go back into LIT, if you do it with LIT

Krystal Powless: Right.

Dave Woolen: Now, it goes back to the General Fund.

Councilman Richmond: It's a wash. Okay.

Dave Woolen: And I didn't think about that at the time I brought it up. So.

Councilman Bacon: (Inaudible) way we get reimbursed?

Krystal Powless: Yes.

Councilman Bacon: It's just where it goes.

Krystal Powless: Typically.

Dave Woolen: And that's kind of in the air right now. It used to be fifty percent (50%). Then they brought it back by population. And now they're kicking around going back to the fifty percent (50%).

Councilman Bacon: Who's they?

Dave Woolen: The State.

Councilman Bacon: Who's they? The State, you've got a big picture there. We talking Homeland Security? Are we talking State Legislature?

Dave Woolen: Homeland Security, I think it's Homeland Security. It's a FEMA, FEMA actually pays the money back through IDHS.

Jake Greer: Yeah.

Councilman Bacon: Okay, so, it doesn't really come from the State.

Dave Woolen: State, no.

Councilman Bacon: That's what I was getting at.

Dave Woolen: Okay. Yeah, it's Federal money.

Councilman Whetstine: Do we have any other comparisons to go off of? Do any other Counties have a…?

Dave Woolen: Vanderburgh…

Jake Greer: That's it.

Dave Woolen: I think Vanderburgh is the only other one (1) right now with a full time.

Councilman Whetstine: And do you know what their pay is?

Dave Woolen: Fifty-one thousand ($51,000.00), I think he told us.

Councilman Whetstine: Thanks. And would this be something that would have been in that WIS report?

Krystal Powless: I feel like it, I feel like it was a PAT A at thirty-nine-eight-twelve ($39,812.00) starting salary is where they classified it.

Dave Woolen: I think we, I did a statewide search for Deputy, full time Deputy Directors, and that was about average for the State, what I put down.

Councilman Whetstine: Thirty-nine ($39,000.00)?

Dave Woolen: Well, forty ($40,000.00). I just rounded it off forty ($40,000.00).

Councilman Richmond: Do we need…?

Councilman Overton: Anybody else have any input on this? I've been over here running my mouth the whole time.

Councilman Whetstine: I'm just curious, Ted, you're on the Board, right?

Councilman Metzger: Um hum.

Councilman Whetstine: I mean, anything? Anything?

Councilman Metzger: I think they need the position to get their paperwork done and free up the manpower. It would be nice to have somebody on board that could step right into the position immediately like he mentioned. We're not getting any smaller. You know? I don't see any reason why not.

Councilman Richmond: We need a motion to move on.

Councilman Metzger: I'll make a motion we approve the, what is it, full time Director position?

Dave Woolen: Full time Deputy Director.

Councilman Metzger: Deputy Director position.

Councilman Reid: Second.

Councilman Richmond: Okay, motion by Ted and second by Rick. And that would be at a PAT A?

Krystal Powless: Um hum.

Councilman Richmond: Thirty-nine-eight-twelve ($39,812.00) plus benefits. Okay, any further discussion? We've had a lot. If not, I'll call for the question. All those in favor of adding this and it's going to come out of the safety, Public Safety money, the thirty-nine thousand eight-twelve ($39,812.00), Deputy Director, full time. Vote? That's five (5). And against? One (1) and that's Brad. Okay. (Motion carried 5-1 with Brad Overton opposing).

Krystal Powless: Before they sit down, if you remember that we had a question on the Officers that they were wanting…

Dave Woolen: Operation Officers.

Krystal Powless: Operation Officers that they were wanting to implement, and I was going to put that in Public Safety, but we had questions as to what the Operation Officers were.

Councilman Bacon: Um hum.

Dave Woolen: Operation Officers in the past has, during tornado, they did the FEMA and State where they handed out tarps and that. In other words, they do the field operations during a major disaster and they also did the siren work. Wayne Lamb used to be, he was an electrician, had his own electrical company. He took care of the sirens. We had a deal with him that he would repair them as part of that job and then we paid for the parts. And he was getting a stipend, I believe at that time, and they told us that wasn't legal. So, he did, he's doing it now under, we call him, he shoots us a price, and nobody else works on them in the area. They have to come out of Utah if we call the siren company. And they charge us to fly them in overnight. Whatever it takes. So, it's very expensive. So, in the past Wayne has been certified by them to do the local work, you know, stuff he can do. And we get him to work on them now at, whatever his hourly rate is. And he's been taking care of them that way. But, in the past, like I said, that job included that. And taking care of any field operations during a disaster.

Councilman Overton: So, they just like, on call or something then?

Dave Woolen: At that time, that's the way it worked. Yes. Now, we were thinking of putting a part-time guy that can do the maintenance on the generators and do all that field stuff, so that you didn't have to pull anybody out of the office. And like I said, we'd rather have a full time Director than a, or a Deputy Director than have a part-time Deputy Director and an Operations, part-time. Because the office work needs more help than the field work. Like I told him, I'd volunteer for a while to take care of some of that stuff. I don't want to walk away from, I've done this for coming up on eighteen (18) years.

Councilman Richmond: Can we do this one (1) step at a time, maybe, by allowing the Deputy Director to work for a little while to see how it goes? And then (inaudible).

Dave Woolen: Like I said, I'll help. I've done told him I don't mind helping out as a volunteer. I'll do that for the time being. I don't want to just walk away from it.

Councilman Richmond: Okay, so bring that back again next budget. Is that it?

Krystal Powless: Um hum.

Councilman Richmond: Okay, thank you guys.

Dave Woolen: Thank you.

Jake Greer: Thank you.

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING

Councilman Richmond: I think we need to do the Warrick County Council on Aging next and Gail's been sitting here enjoying our meeting tonight. Gail Powers is the President of the local County Council on Aging. I gave you all some handouts. I'm on the Board. I'm Vice President of it. Kathy Fark, it's her granddaughter that's up there in Indianapolis right now. And she really is hands on the operation of everything and it would have been nice for her to be here to detail the needs. But, Gail and I can do the best we can. Gail has some insight that I don't have, because she's talked with Kathy a lot more than I have. But, I wanted to bring to your attention that the LIT Tax that we have now that is EDIT portion, actually, it's all just really LIT now except the Public Safety and the other two (2) designations. It says that in the code that it does not have to be limited to transportation because it's any legal purpose that we need to be done. And so, first of all, transportation years ago might have been what it was for. But, right now, we can spend that EDIT money on anything legal for the benefit of the County. Our transportation expenses out there before COVID in 2019, ninety thousand dollars ($90,000.00), ninety thousand two hundred seven dollars and eighty-two cents ($90,207.82) a year is what that turned out to be. And our revenues from fundraising decreased quite a bit, eighteen-five ($18,500.00) is what she had here. But, I have some updated figures. The main page, if you can read my scribbles and follow them is this one (1) that says two-'o-two-one (2021) and has seven (7) months at the top and has a bunch of scribbles in the left margin beside the budget line items. And I highlighted the seven (7) month total income as seventy-three thousand six hundred eighty-one dollars ninety-six cents ($73,681.96). I just rounded it out to seventy-three thousand six hundred eighty-two ($73,682.00) when I did my figures. So, I divided that number by seven (7) and I got ten thousand five hundred twenty-six dollars ($10,526.00) a month. And there's five (5) months left in 2021 and five (5) times that ten-five-twenty-six ($10,526.00) is fifty-two thousand six hundred thirty ($52,630.00) more on top of the seventy-three-six-eighty-one ($73,681.00) for a total of one-twenty-six-'o-four-two ($126,042.00). And when I did the one-seventy-seven-two-'o-two ($177,202.00), which was the total income from 2019 before COVID, you see that in kind of the middle there to the right of the titles. It turned out to be fifty-one thousand one hundred sixty dollars ($51,160.00) that we have in less income than we did in 2019 if things keep going as is. We of course were unable to have major fundraisers last year. And we did kind of close down operations to save money.

Gail Powers: Except we did keep one (1) van running during that.

Councilman Richmond: One (1) van was running full time. Yeah.

Gail Powers: Yes.

Councilman Richmond: And the vans do a great service to people who need to go to the doctor. People that need to go to the grocery store that don't have transportation. And it's by donation. If they can't afford anything, it's basically free. And then on the other page, I've got the transportation costs in 2019 again, utilities costs in 2019. I don't think I gave you a page that was not included in transportation costs, but couple of batteries cost three hundred dollars ($300.00). And then we have eighteen thousand nine hundred dollars ($18,900.00) that is scheduled that we are updating the buses with what are called cough shields. That's the plastic partitions between the seats and HIPA filters, air filters to protect our people that we transport and our drivers. We're having troubles keeping drivers. The ones we do have, two (2) of them are sick now. So, we're down to one (1) driver mainly. And then the, one (1) of the workers, part-time workers out there fills in for one (1) of the drivers too. We have one full time person that's really not full time. They work three (3) days a week and no benefits. It's basically a social security deduction things like that that you have to take out. And then we have two (2) others that are part-time that work even less. They're usually in a couple hours, a couple days a week like that. And so, they are requesting an additional fifty thousand dollars ($50,000.00) to help them. And I'm going to let Gail talk about some of the improvements that we want to make. I mentioned a couple of them last meeting that is an ultimate goal that we'd like to go back to five (5) days a week like we were five (5) years ago or so. Gail, tell them about the computers, what we want to do, things like that.

Gail Powers: Yeah, a lot of the seniors are asking for computer classes. We have no computers and so we have kind of like a nook that we could turn into a computer room. We just have to put up one wall and get some computers and desks. Because they are asking to do the computers and they're telling us that their grandchildren are just not patient with them when they ask them to help them with their computers. So, we thought if we could get some, you know, do a computer room, have computer classes and help them. Cause a lot of them would like to have a Gmail account to talk to their families and stuff that live out of state and stuff. So, that's one (1) thing that we would like to do. This year, we've been hit with major things breaking down. Our building is nine (9) plus years old. So, things are starting to wear out. We have three (3) air conditioning units. We lost one (1) we had to replace. We had to replace the refrigerator. We had a freezer go out we had to replace. So, we've been kind of hit with a bunch of expenses that that money could have went to help the seniors. We have approximately two hundred and twenty (220) plus members. And we also have people that come out there that are not members. We don't discriminate. And our vans, they make approximately eighty (80) to a hundred (100) trips per month. That's taking them to the doctors and our van drivers are so good that when they take them to the doctors, they don't just drop them off at the door. They take them into the office and make sure they're there on time. And then they go and pick them up and bring them back too. So, we would like to do, the Computer thing is something we're really wanting to do because they're asking for this stuff and we just don't have the money to do it. So, the extra fifty thousand ($50,000.00) would help in that area. It would also keep our van service going. And...

Councilman Richmond: Two (2) new air conditioners, one (1) unit costs five thousand six hundred eighteen dollars ($5,618.00).

Gail Powers: Right. And then the other two (2) are just as old as the one (1) that just went out. So, I don't know if they're going to last, how long they will last. Then there's always building repairs on the building that come up that we have to pay for and stuff. We pay our own utilities. Our employees, I have to say, are so dedicated that in 2018 when I first joined the Board, I discovered that they had not had a raise for nine (9) years. I'm, I, I mean, I came from the business world. I know what it's like not to get a raise. So, we did work in a raise. But, the highest paying, which is the Director, is only making fifteen dollars ($15.00) an hour. And everybody else is making less than fifteen dollars ($15.00). And they're still there. I mean, I wouldn't blame them to walk down to Taco Bell right now and put in for a job. Cause they're offering a three hundred dollar bonus ($300.00) for getting a job. But, these ladies are dedicated to our clients. They know their clients. They know them by name. They know what's going on in their families and the clients enjoy interacting with them. So, the extra funds would help us out to try to get the computer classes going and stuff, keep the busses running. And again, the guys before me were talking about vans sitting out. Our vans have to sit out. We're looking to try to get some kind of a carport or something so our vans can sit under those. That's extra money too. So, anything you could give us would help.

Councilman Richmond: Need a storage shed real bad too.

Gail Powers: Yeah, that's true too.

Councilman Richmond: Wheelchairs and things like that that we have.

Councilman Overton: (Inaudible).

Gail Powers: And I will invite any of you to go along with any of our drivers for a day to see what they go through. Because a lot of our clients are elderly. They have to go into their house; help them out of their house. Our vans are wheelchair accessible, so they deal a lot with wheelchairs too. So, if any of you ever want to go for a ride and spend a day, you're more than welcome.

Councilman Richmond: I have and I can vouch for the drivers. They're really good.

Councilman Overton: Probably had to help you get in there, didn't they.

Councilman Richmond: Yeah, I'm getting there.

Councilman Bacon: Gail, who owns the building?

Gail Powers: You guys.

Councilman Bacon: Who owns the building?

Gail Powers: The County.

Councilman Bacon: Okay, that's why I'm asking. Does the County own the building?

Councilman Richmond: The County owns the land. The building was bought…

Gail Powers: I think the building is ours. It was bought with a grant.

Councilman Bacon: Okay.

Gail Powers: But, the ground is the County's.

Councilman Whetstine: That would make the building the County's too then.

Gail Powers: Well, it'd be nice if you paid for the upkeep.

Councilman Bacon: How can you own the ground and not own the building?

Councilman Whetstine: Yeah, that would be an improvement (inaudible).

Councilman Richmond: Well, ask anybody in the Villages.

Councilman Bacon: (Inaudible) attorney questions.

Councilman Richmond: You build houses in the Village, you don't own the ground.

Councilman Whetstine: (Inaudible) separate it out.

Kristine Georges: Lynnville Park.

Councilman Richmond: Lynnville Park.

Councilman Overton: Well, I've got a question for you, Gail.

Gail Powers: Yes.

Councilman Overton: You've got a shortfall of fifty-one thousand dollars ($51,000.00) from 2019.

Gail Powers: Um hum.

Councilman Overton: So, honestly, is the fifty thousand dollars ($50,000.00) you're asking, I mean is all that's going to do is meet your expenses that you weren't able to meet before?

Gail Powers: No, we meet our expenses by the grace of God. We do fundraisers like crazy.

Councilman Overton: Well, I just meant if you were down fifty grand ($50,000.00) from before, is this fifty ($50,000.00) going to get ate up just because of the less money you have.

Gail Powers: I hope not. I'm hoping to use, some of it probably will, yes. But, I'm hoping to use some of it for a computer room and computers and desks.

Councilman Overton: I mean, my question, just seemed like you probably already had a lot of outstanding expenses that this is just going to eat up.

Councilman Richmond: I can answer part of that. There was no fundraisers hardly at all last year period, we made four ($400.00) or five hundred dollars ($500.00). This year we have had some fundraisers that made a little bit. We got the auction coming up that we're going to do, try doing differently this year. One (1) of those online auctions. And so, we're planning to make more money. We've got a couple other fundraisers, too, going and some trips that we make money off of. Those trips aren't 'til next year though.

Gail Powers: Right.

Krystal Powless: And Brad, you do understand that you currently give them fifty thousand ($50,000.00). They're asking for a hundred thousand ($100,000.00).

Councilman Overton: Right. Fifty ($50,000.00) additional.

Krystal Powless: Correct, um hum.

Councilman Overton: For a minute there (inaudible).

Krystal Powless: Yeah.

Gail Powers: We just put in, did a grant for, United Way was giving money away. I think a lot of it was COVID. We put our grant in, got denied. We did another grant, got denied.

Councilman Richmond: Well, we don't have professional grant writers.

Councilman Overton: Maybe a retired school teacher could do stuff like that? If I know one (1), I'll let you know.

Councilman Richmond: If I only knew.

Councilman Overton: You know how to write.

Councilman Richmond: Yeah, I can write.

Gail Powers: Does anybody have any questions I can try to answer?

Councilman Richmond: And this is a year to year thing. I mean if we see that things are better and we get the computer room set up and things like that, you know it doesn't have to come next year, the extra fifty thousand ($50,000.00) if we're doing our fundraising like we want to.

Councilman Overton: I mean that's what I think. I'm just trying to, I mean if we're really looking at expenses for a computer room and there's (inaudible) air conditioning units, I'm not…

Councilman Richmond: Well, we had some long range plans. What was it? Two hundred fifty thousand dollars ($250,000.00) to build on?

Gail Powers: Yes, we did.

Councilman Richmond: Put some classrooms in.

Gail Powers: Yeah, we would like to do more. But, when money's not there, you do what you can do.

Councilman Richmond: And our clientele are not wealthy people.

Gail Powers: No, and if any of your wives are looking for a mink coat, it will be in the auction.

Councilman Richmond: Wow.

Gail Powers: It's very nice.

Councilman Overton: Tell you what, I'd like to see my wife in a mink coat. That'd be interesting.

Councilman Richmond: Need a motion of some kind.

Councilman Reid: I'll make that motion.

Councilman Richmond: Motion by Rick Reid. Is there a second?

Councilman Bacon: I'll second it.

Councilman Richmond: Second by Ron, thank you. Alright, any additional discussion? All those in favor of the extra fifty thousand ($50,000.00)? One (1), two (2), three (3)...

Councilman Reid: (Inaudible).

Krystal Powless: No, four (4).

Councilman Richmond: Four (4). Okay.

Councilman Reid: (Inaudible) sleeping over there.

Councilman Richmond: And those opposing?

Krystal Powless: Two (2).

Councilman Richmond: Brad and Ted. Did you vote?

Councilman Metzger: I'm just going to, I'm not opposing. I'm abstaining, I'm sorry. Brain dead for a second there.

Councilman Richmond: Okay. Four (4) to one (1) which is Brad and Ted abstains. (Motion carries 4-1-1 with Brad Overton opposing and Ted Metzger abstaining).

Councilman Bacon: Need some (Inaudible).

Krystal Powless: I don't think he heard that.

Councilman Bacon: I think he did.

Councilman Richmond: Okay. Thank you, Gail.

Gail Powers: Thank you. Thank you.

Councilman Reid: Good luck.

Gail Powers: Your money will be put to good use, believe me. And you're all invited to join the senior citizens. Hey, I don't feel like I belong there cause I'm only nineteen (19). Thank you very much.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – LABORERS

Councilman Richmond: What's the third item now?

Krystal Powless: If, if you wanted to address Bobby's email about the Highway laborers. You are starting, you have agreed to start them at seven dollars ($7.00)...seventeen dollars ($17.00) an hour. Sorry.

Councilman Overton: Seven dollars ($7.00) an hour, we're really going to have a problem.

Krystal Powless: Seventeen dollars ($17.00) an hour.

Councilman Richmond: And he thinks we need to compete with the nineteen ($19.00)?

Krystal Powless: Well.

Councilman Richmond: Cause didn't he lose a driver or something? I know the County, the Solid Waste Board lost a CDL driver to the State. We were paying fifteen ($15.00) and we raised it to seventeen ($17.00) next year.

Krystal Powless: Well, you can't go to nineteen ($19.00). I mean, so, just, bear with me for a second.

Councilman Richmond: Okay.

Krystal Powless: Right now, you have approved the Laborers at seventeen dollars ($17.00) an hour starting, okay? Which was a pretty large increase cause that's not what Waggoner, Irwin, and Scheele, they were like sixteen twenty-five ($16.25) or something like that. The Truck Drivers and Light Equipment start at nineteen dollars ($19.00)...at nineteen-'o-eight ($19.08) an hour. And the Heavy Equipment start at twenty-sixty-five ($20.65) an hour.

Councilman Richmond: Where's my paper on that? So, was Laborers on that paper? I thought it was Drivers. What did I do with my paper?

Councilman Overton: On that screenshot you're talking about?

Councilman Richmond: Yeah.

Krystal Powless: He already knows that the Truck Drivers are starting at nineteen-'o-eight ($19.08). He knows that.

Councilman Overton: It simply says no CDL, no problem, INDOT will pay for your CDL training while you still earn nineteen dollars ($19.00) an hour. Wages increase when you get your CDL. I guess you can go there and be a laborer and work to get your CDL?

Councilman Richmond: Um hum.

Councilman Overton: That's what it sounds like.

Krystal Powless: Yeah, so he was discussing maybe more for the laborers starting out.

Councilman Whetstine: And we went to, how much was it? Seventeen ($17.00)?

Krystal Powless: Seventeen ($17.00).

Councilman Overton: What was WIS recommending?

Krystal Powless: Like sixteen ($16.00) something. Don't quote me. I'd have to, it'd been a while since I've looked at it. But, it was sixteen something ($16.00).

Councilman Bacon: But haven't we always been competing with INDOT?

Krystal Powless: Yes.

Councilman Bacon: I remember that from way back (inaudible).

Krystal Powless: I mean I don't know what they're benefits are compared to our benefits and the hours that they work. I don't know any of that.

Councilman Overton: I don't know. I don't know. You looking for a motion or something?

Councilman Richmond: Yep. Or I'll just call for a motion. If I don't get a motion in three (3) calls, nothing happens.

Councilman Overton: Start calling.

Councilman Richmond: Is there a motion? Is there a motion? Last call for a motion. Seeing none, no action.

Krystal Powless: Okay, I will get these adjustments made.

Councilman Reid: I'll make a motion though.

Councilman Richmond: Okay, there's that.

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Councilman Reid: To close.

Councilman Bacon: Motion to adjourn?

Councilman Richmond: Motion to adjourn by Rick. Second by…?

Councilman Bacon: Ron.

Councilman Richmond: Ron. All in favor? Everybody? (Motion carried 5-0).

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.

WARRICK COUNTY COUNCIL

Greg Richmond, President

Brad Overton, Vice President

Ron Bacon

David Hachmeister

Ted Metzger

Richard Reid

Chris Whetstine

ATTEST:

Deborah K. Stevens, Auditor
Warrick County, IN

Minutes transcribed by Kristine Georges