

AN UPDATE ON WARREN COUNTY

FROM OUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WINTER 2023



WARREN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN ACTION DURING WINTER STORM POWER OUTAGES

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FIRST RESPONDERS



Thank you to all of our first responders who worked tirelessly, well into the night, on December 23rd due to the weather-induced power outages experienced in Morrow and Hamilton Township. With many residents without power for over 14 hours, Warren County Emergency Management Agency worked alongside our Sheriff's Office, Morrow Police Department, the Salem/Morrow Fire Department and Duke Energy to open Little Miami High School as an overnight shelter for those impacted.

The American Red Cross was contacted to assist with the set up and the fire department went door to door to notify those impacted of the available shelter. Anyone unable to evacuate was also offered transportation. We are grateful to those who were on the scene, ready to assist and serve our community!

BUILDING THE BUDGET

2023 GENERAL FUND BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Each year, the Board of Commissioners works closely with staff to put forward a budget that is fiscally responsible on behalf of the taxpayer and supports the level of public services Warren County residents have come to expect. The general fund budget comes in at **\$86,027,130**, with **58.4%** going to the county's criminal justice system, **40.2%** to general operations, and the remaining **1.4%** to social services and miscellaneous items. As a testament to the Board's longstanding policies of receiving more than anticipated and spending less than budgeted, they expect to have an incoming revenue of **\$90,454,557** for 2023. With two major public safety investments fully financed at the close of 2022, the commissioners are pleased to announce a zero-debt balance for the county's general fund in 2023. In addition, by granting the one-year property tax holiday, **\$24 million** remained with Warren County residents out of the county's portion of property taxes. To finish out 2022, the commissioners maintained a **\$48.1 million** unencumbered carryover, and sales tax revenues were up by **7.02%**.

Criminal Justice
Operations
Social Services
Misc.



MAXIMIZING ONE-TIME DOLLARS

AN UPDATE ON AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) INVESTMENTS

Guided by the framework the commissioners established to invest ARPA dollars, many projects are gaining momentum as they move into new phases. Here are a few updates on how those dollars are being spent and the work taking place throughout the county.

“ I am so pleased that in 2023, this county will not be making any general fund debt payments and so we can legitimately say, once again, after building a new jail, and after doing our Telecom project and upgrading public safety assets, that we are debt free. ”

- Commissioner Dave Young



1 ZERO - 5 MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

In an effort to address the impacts of COVID-19 on the youngest and most vulnerable in our communities, the commissioners allocated \$400,000 to reinforce prevention and treatment services related to early childhood behavioral health. Commissioner Jones began convening those working in this space over a year ago. Now, multiple stakeholders have come together to begin to identify gaps and determine the state of these systems throughout the county. To assist those involved, a consultant has been hired to lead the working group through this process and just hosted the kick-off meeting to set the stage for a 2-year project that will address short-term needs and create long-term solutions for the mental health development of infants and toddlers in Warren County.

2 GETTING ALL OF WARREN COUNTY CONNECTED

The Commissioners dedicated \$5 million of ARPA funds to leverage with private sector dollars to build out a robust broadband network throughout the county. The goal from the beginning was to deliver high-speed broadband services to 100% of the county at an affordable cost. After issuing an RFP and going through a ranking process, altafiber was selected as the firm that offered the best solution at the best rate. Following the pandemic, it became apparent how necessary reliable access to internet service was to every home and business. This project is anticipated to be completed over the next few years with priority given to areas of the county that are the most underserved. The county is currently in contract negotiations and is looking forward to getting this work underway.



SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

SHARING COUNTY UPDATES DIRECTLY WITH OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Township Association Meeting



Chamber45005 Networking Lunch

Commissioner Shannon Jones provided updates from the county during the annual Township Association Meeting and at the November Chamber45005 lunch. With so much going on over the past year, there was a lot to share with those in attendance. In addition to breaking down items such as the county's financial position and how ARPA dollars are being utilized, Commissioner Jones spent some time discussing the OneOhio MOU and what it means for our county. This \$808 million settlement was made between the state and the three largest drug manufacturers and is a response to the opioid epidemic that has been experienced across our state.

Of the total settlement, 30% will be direct payments to local jurisdictions, and 55% is going to the OneOhio Foundation, a state-wide governing board that will allocate dollars to specific projects throughout Ohio's 19 regions under the MOU. Warren County sits in region 14 and a lot of work has taken place in the past year to stand up the region's governance structure. It has been a county-wide effort to make sure that the necessary steps have been taken so that the county, cities, villages, and townships can have their voices heard and maximize these resources once they arrive.

SPREADING JOY THIS CHRISTMAS

1 CHILDREN SERVICES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Warren County Children Services organized their annual Christmas sponsorship program for children in foster care. The event has gained a lot of momentum over the years and this year was no different, as many generous individuals, businesses, community groups, and faith-based centers stepped up to make Christmas morning special for so many children! With the support through donations of toys, clothing, gift cards, and monetary gifts, a total of **510** children were sponsored this year with **199** participating sponsors. Thank you so much to the Children Services team that puts this event together each year and to all those who gave of their time and resources to bless hundreds of children this Christmas!



2 WARREN COUNTY ANNUAL BASKET RAFFLE



The Warren County Office of Management & Budget organized the county's annual basket raffle and raised **\$4,116!** Each year, the grand total is split evenly between Warren County Children Services, to contribute to their Christmas program, and a local food pantry. Thank you to all county employees who generously supported and participated in this event!

2022 Donation made to Kings Local Food Pantry

HAVE YOU REGISTERED?!

Warren County elected officials are invited to attend a cybersecurity workshop. The event will take place on February 6th and will be in partnership with Telecom!



COMMISSION LEADERSHIP IN 2023

This year Commissioner Shannon Jones was appointed as President of the Board, and Commissioner Dave Young was appointed to serve as Vice President.

Commissioner Shannon Jones serves on the CCAO Board of Directors and was appointed as Chair of the NACo Human Services & Education Committee.



The Warren County Board of Commissioners meets on most Tuesdays at 9:00 AM and on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, as needed.

Meetings are held in the county administration building and live streamed to www.youtube.com/channel/UC1ELh0jGpXd4VV2DTgsuqPA

Stay connected with us. We value our relationships with our residents, businesses, community organizations and our elected officials. Contact us with your input, questions or concerns.

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WARREN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



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