

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS
302 West Washington Street
Room E418
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2769

AUDIT REPORT
OF
SUPERIOR COURT I
WARRICK COUNTY, INDIANA
January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011



FILED
09/19/2012

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COUNTY OFFICIALS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Official</u>	<u>Term</u>
Judge	Keith A. Meier	01-01-07 to 12-31-12
President of the County Council	Gary Meyer	01-01-11 to 12-31-12
President of the Board of County Commissioners	Don Williams Tim Mosbey	01-01-11 to 12-31-11 01-01-12 to 12-31-12



STATE OF INDIANA
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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TO: THE OFFICIALS OF WARRICK COUNTY

We have audited the records of the Superior Court I for the period from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011, and certify that the records and accountability for cash and other assets are satisfactory to the best of our knowledge and belief, except as stated in the Audit Result and Comment. The financial transactions of this office are reflected in the Annual Report of Warrick County for the year 2011.

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS

August 27, 2012

SUPERIOR COURT I
WARRICK COUNTY
AUDIT RESULT AND COMMENT

FEES

Warrick County has a Problem Solving Court (Drug Court) as authorized by Indiana Code 33-37-5-24 and Indiana Code 33-23-16-23. However, fees for such Drug Court are expressly not applicable to proceedings outside of the Drug Court. A fifty dollar (\$50.00) Drug Court Substance Offense Fee or a ten dollar (\$10.00) Drug Court Non Substance Offense Fee are being collected on all misdemeanor and felony cases, but are not authorized by a specific statute or Supreme Court Rule.

These fees were established by Warrick County Commissioners Ordinance #2011-18 on July 25, 2011. However, Home Rule does not allow local units to exercise any power that is expressly denied by statute.

Indiana Code 5-7-2-2 states:

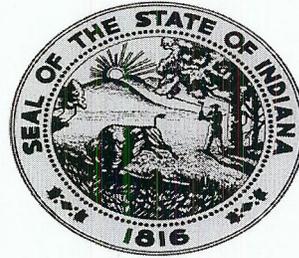
"No county or township officer in this state shall, under color of the officer's office, charge, tax up, or receive, or permit to be taxed up or received, in relation to any service in or about the officer's office, any fee or sum of money except such fee or sum of money as is plainly specified in IC 33-37 and IC 36-2 without resort to implication."

Indiana Code 36-1-3-5 states in part: "(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a unit may exercise any power it has to the extent that the power: (1) is not expressly denied by the Indiana Constitution or by statute . . ."

SUPERIOR COURT I
WARRICK COUNTY
EXIT CONFERENCE

The contents of this report were discussed on August 28, 2012, with Keith Meier, Judge. The Official Response has been made a part of this report and may be found on page 6.

STATE OF INDIANA
WARRICK CIRCUIT & SUPERIOR COURTS
2nd JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
ONE COUNTY SQUARE
BOONVILLE, IN 47601



KEITH A. MEIER

JUDGE

September 12, 2012

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO: tmoodys@sboa.in.gov; allinneweber@sboafe.in.gov

OFFICIAL RESPONSE

State Board of Accounts
302 West Washington Street, Room E 418
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2765

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This letter is in response to the recent State Board of Accounts audit of Warrick County, specifically with regard to Ordinance #2011-18.

This Ordinance was preceded by Ordinance #2008-04 which was enacted by the County Commission following legal research by the then County Attorney to determine its validity and after having received an opinion from the office of the Attorney General of Indiana. Ordinance #2011-18 was enacted by the County Commission rescinding Ordinance #2008-04 after consideration by that body. Both Ordinances were enacted to address the severe funding problems of the Warrick County Drunk Driving and Drug Court Program which presented the imminent possibility the Program would be ended with the many felony male and female defendant/participants in the Program being sent to the Indiana Department of Correction to serve their sentences at great cost to the taxpayers of Indiana. The three judges supported both Ordinances because of the needs being met by the Program.

Since the County Commission was the body enacting the Ordinance, it is their decision as to whether it should remain in effect, be suspended, rescinded, repealed or otherwise.

Very truly yours,

The Hon. Keith A. Meier, Judge

Cc:
Adam Long, County Attorney
County Commission
Sarah Redman, Clerk
Krystal Powless, County Council
Mr. Alan C. Linneweber, 8244 Heather Dr., Newburgh, IN 47630