

# HARRISON COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2026

Minutes of the Harrison County Commissioners' meeting held on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. local time, in the Commissioners' Room of the Harrison County Government Center located in Corydon, Indiana.

Present: Nelson Stepro, Commissioner      Chris Byrd, County Attorney  
          Brad Wiseman, Commissioner      Sara Burdick, County Auditor  
          Annissa Kellum, Commissioner      Chad Shireman, County Administrator

County auditor Sara Burdick called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with all three Commissioners and county attorney Chris Byrd present. The pledge to the American Flag was recited. Mrs. Burdick asked for nominations for president of the Harrison County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to appoint Commissioner Nelson Stepro for president of the Harrison County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 2 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Commissioner Stepro abstained.

Commissioner Stepro asked for nominations for vice-president. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to nominate Commissioner Brad Wiseman for vice-president of the Harrison County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Stepro seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 2 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Commissioner Wiseman abstained.

Commissioner Stepro said the first order of business would be claims for the commissioners' consideration. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to approve all regular claims as presented. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to approve the payroll and the first set of prepaid vouchers as presented. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

The next order of business was flagged claims. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to allow payment to vendor #174, 4:34 Ministries, in the amount of \$7,000.00 once an agreement is fully executed and on file in the auditor's office. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to allow payment to vendor #198, Blue River Services, in the amounts of \$310,010.00 and \$100,000.00 once an agreement is fully executed and on file in the auditor's office. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to allow payment to vendor #1525, Boys & Girls Club, in the amount of \$150,000.00 once an agreement is fully executed and on file in the auditor's office. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

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Commissioner Kellum made a motion to allow payment to vendor #6942, Comfort House, in the amount of \$31,500.00 once an agreement is fully executed and on file in the auditor's office. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to allow payment to vendor #286, Harrison County 4-H Council, in the amounts of \$5,000.00, \$51,148.00, and \$29,700.00 once an agreement is fully executed and on file in the auditor's office. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to allow payment to vendor #282, Harrison County Agricultural Society, in the amounts of \$5,000.00 and \$32,650.00 once an agreement is fully executed and on file in the auditor's office. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to allow payment to vendor #6468, Harrison County Alternative School, in the amount of \$312,948.00 once an agreement is fully executed and on file in the auditor's office. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to allow payment to vendor #287, Harrison County Community Services, in the amount of \$247,500.00 once an agreement is fully executed and on file in the auditor's office. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to allow payment to vendor #7043, Harrison County Economic Development Corporation, in the amount of \$200,000.00 once an agreement is fully executed and on file in the auditor's office. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to allow payment to vendor #5098, Harrison County Lifelong Learning, in the amount of \$225,000.00 once an agreement is fully executed and on file in the auditor's office. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to allow payment to vendor #294, Harrison County Solid Waste, in the amount of \$100,000.00 once an agreement is fully executed and on file in the auditor's office. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to allow payment to vendor #471, Leadership Harrison Count, in the amount of \$9,000.00 once an agreement is fully executed and on file in the auditor's office. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to allow payment to vendor #4766, The Next Step, in the amount of \$40,950.00 once an agreement is fully executed and on file in the auditor's office. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

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EMA director Mike Kurz came before the commissioners with an additional appropriation in the amount of \$62,154.00 for radio equipment and furniture for training improvements. Mr. Kurz outlined his goals for improving the 911 dispatch center. He referred to the need for better training, reduced liability, and improved service for emergency responders. This will be accomplished through office upgrades, an improved training program, and creating a dedicated training position. Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to forward the funding request to the county council. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Chief deputy sheriff Brad Rothrock came before the commissioners with a funding request for new police vehicles and upfitting. He presented three quotes for 2026 Ram 2500 crew cab trucks and three quotes for 2026 Dodge Durango's. Officer Rothrock said the department would need one truck and five SUVs. He also presented quotes for the vehicles to receive upfitting. Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to forward the lowest quotes on the vehicles as follows: Ray's for (1) 2026 Ram 2500 in the amount of \$44,969.00 and Fletcher's for (5) 2006 Dodge Durango's at \$42,096.00 each. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

County administrator Chad Shireman requested a motion to approve annual agreements as follows: 4:34 Ministries in the amount of \$7,000.00, Blue River Services in the amount of \$310,010.00, Boys & Girls Club in the amount of \$150,000.00, Comfort House in the amount of \$31,500.00, Harrison County 4-H Council in the amount of \$85,848.00, Harrison County Agricultural Society in the amount of \$37,650.00, Harrison County Alternative School in the amount of \$312,948.00, Harrison County Community Services in the amount of \$247,500.00, Harrison County Economic Development in the amount of \$200,000.00, Harrison County Lifelong Learning in the amount of \$225,000.00, Harrison County Solid Waste in the amount of \$100,000.00, Leadership Harrison County in the amount of \$9,000.00, and The Next Step in the amount of \$40,950.00. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to approve all agreements as presented. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Stepro said the next order of business was 2026 board appointments. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint Joe Shireman to the alcohol beverage board for a one-year term. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint commissioner Brad Wiseman to the alternative education center board. Commissioner Stepro seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to appoint Jeremy Mackey to the Blue River regional water board for a four-year term ending December 31, 2029. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

The commissioners tabled their appointment to the board of zoning appeals.

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Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint Pam Wolfe to the Boone Township fire district board for a four-year term ending January 31, 2030. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to appoint commissioner Annissa Kellum to the community services board for a one-year term. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint Danny Stults to the conservation committee for a four-year term ending December 31, 2029. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint Jim Heitkemper to the conservation committee for a four-year term ending December 31, 2029. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to appoint Daniel Shireman to the economic development board for a one-year term. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint David Lett to the economic development board for a one-year term. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to appoint commissioner Nelson Stepro to the economic development board for a one-year term. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to nominate Rusty Crosier to the economic development board of a one-year term. This is a joint appointment to be confirmed by the county council. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint commissioner Annissa Kellum, commissioner Nelson Stepro, and commissioner Brad Wiseman to the economic development commission for one-year terms. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to appoint Bob Adams to the emergency management board for a one-year term. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to appoint commissioner Annissa Kellum to the family and children board for a one-year term. Commissioner Stepro seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

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Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint Chris Byrd to the health board for a four-year term ending December 31, 2029. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to appoint Bill Smythe IV to the Heth-Washington fire district board for a four-year term ending December 31, 2029. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint Rebecca Reed to the Heth-Washington fire district board for a four-year term ending December 31, 2029. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to appoint sheriff Nick Smith to the community correction board/JRAC advisory board for a four-year term ending January 31, 2030. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to appoint Dr. Lisa Clunie to the community correction board/JRAC advisory board for a four-year term ending January 31, 2030. Commissioner Stepro seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 2 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Commissioner Kellum abstained.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint Shelly Adams-Brown to the community correction board/JRAC advisory board for a four-year term ending January 31, 2030. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint Lynn Lopp to the community correction board/JRAC advisory board for a four-year term ending January 31, 2030. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint Pam Bennett Martin to the hospital board for a four-year term ending December 31, 2029. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to appoint Manda Graf to the lifelong learning board for a one-year term. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to appoint commissioner Anissa Kellum and commissioner Nelson Stepro to the national organization of disability board for one-year terms. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint Fred Uhl to the Palmyra fire district board for a four-year term ending December 31, 2029. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

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Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint Gary Reed to the plan commission for a four-year term ending December 31, 2029. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to appoint Larry Shickles to the PTABOA board for a one-year term. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint Carolyn Lowe to the PTABOA board for a one-year term. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to appoint Aletha Goodman to the PTABOA board for a one-year term. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint Eric Plaiss to the regional sewer district board for a four-year term ending December 31, 2029. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

The commissioners tabled their second appointment to the regional sewer district board.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint commissioner Brad Wiseman to the river hills board. Commissioner Stepro seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint commissioner Nelson Stepro, commissioner Anissa Kellum, and commissioner Brad Wiseman to the solid waste board. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to appoint Michael Wiseman to the tourism board for a two-year term ending January 15, 2028. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint Scott Fluhr to the tourism board for a two-year term ending January 15, 2028. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint Steve Bachman to the Webster Township fire district board for a four-year term ending January 1, 2030. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint Bill Booth to the Milltown-Whiskey Run fire district board for a four-year term ending December 31, 2029. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

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Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to appoint Jerry Carman to the Milltown-Whiskey Run fire district board for a four-year term ending December 31, 2029. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to appoint Matt Kitterman to the Harrison Township fire district board for a four-year term ending December 31, 2029. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

County engineer Kevin Russel came before the commissioners with multiple items on his agenda. The first item was an update on the bridge #55 maintenance & repair project. Mr. Russel said the county council would be voting on the funding request at their next meeting. The highway department plans to have the commissioners authorized the task order with BFS at their January 20, 2026 meeting.

The next item was for the bridge #43 project. Mr. Russel said he plans to open bids at the January 20, 2026 commissioner meeting. He requested the commissioners consider forwarding an additional appropriation request to the county council in the amount of \$600,000.00 from the cumulative bridge fund. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to forward the funding request as presented. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

The next item was for the bridge #37 and bridge #75 project. Mr. Russel said he plans to open bids at the January 20, 2026 commissioner meeting. He requested the commissioners consider forwarding an additional appropriation request to the county council in the amount of \$200,000.00 from the cumulative bridge fund. Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to forward the funding request as presented. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

The next item was a credit application with Pomp's Tire Service. County attorney Chris Byrd recommended striking the personal guarantee and 1-day invoicing from the application. Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to approve the request, pending those amendments. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

The final two items on the engineer's agenda were personnel issues. Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to approve Jeffrey Shaffer as the new assistant superintendent with an effective date of February 2, 2026. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to approve leave without pay for two highway employees as requested. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

County auditor Sara Burdick presented a leave without pay request for an employee in the EMA department. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to approve the leave without pay request as presented. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

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Commissioner Kellum made a motion to approve the November 17, 2025, December 15, 2025, and December 18, 2025 commissioner meeting minutes as corrected. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion for the commissioners to sign the county treasurer's public official bond. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

County administrator Chad Shireman had multiple action items for the commissioners' consideration. The first was DNR timber sales that had been received in the amount of \$48,534.23. He said that each eligible fire department receives \$1,000.00 unless a higher annual distribution is approved by the county legislative body. Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to provide the maximum amount of \$3,033.39 to each of the qualifying fire departments. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

The next item was an additional appropriation in the amount of \$100,000.00 that serves as the local match of the 5311-transportation grant for Blue River Services. Mr. Shireman noted that the county council had approved this funding, but it was omitted from the county budget in error. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to forward the funding request to the county council. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

The final items were additional appropriations for infrastructure totaling \$30,881.43 and revenue sharing totaling \$573,512.32. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to forward the additional appropriation requests to the county council. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to accept the county clerk and county treasurer monthly reports for December. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion for the commissioners to sign the recorder's office bond as presented. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Kellum made a motion to forward the additional appropriation request presented by Brad Rothrock for vehicle upfits in the amount of \$73,878.07. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.



Nelson Stepro, Commissioner

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Brad Wiseman  
Brad Wiseman, Commissioner

- Absent -  
Annissa Kellum, Commissioner

ATTEST: Sara Burdick  
Sara Burdick, County Auditor