

HARRISON COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

Minutes of the Harrison County Commissioners' meeting held on Thursday, March 19, 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
Annis Kellum, Commissioner
Brad Wiseman, Commissioner

Chris Byrd, County Attorney
Sara Burdick, County Auditor
Chad Shireman, County Administrator

County commissioner Nelson Stepro 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.

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 prepaid vouchers as presented. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Veteran services officer Lisa Pritchard came before the commissioners, thanking them for the opportunity to serve. She noted that veteran claims have totaled \$2,246,045.20 during her employment beginning in October of 2023. Ms. Pritchard then introduced Ron Higgins from the Department of Veteran Affairs.

Mr. Higgins explained the new Indiana Code 10-17-1-9, which establishes comprehensive standards for veteran service officers. He detailed the requirements for CVSOs, including being a hired employee, maintaining office hours, utilizing the state claims management system, and attending annual training. Ron Higgins commended Lisa Pritchard and her staff for their compliance and exceeding expectations.

Ryan Ritchie of RJL Solutions came before the commissioners to provide updates on the READI 1.0 projects. The Lanesville Business Park project included \$20 million in private investments and the completion of key infrastructure components. The New Salisbury project has unlocked \$30 million in private development, with 50 homes already occupied.

Mr. Ritchie also introduced the READI 2.0 projects, consisting of the Corydon Commercial development and Woods of Heritage Hills Project. There were two letters committing the County to the local matching funds portion of these projects, with \$2 million being committed to the Corydon Commercial Development and \$835,000.00 being committed to the Woods of Heritage Hills Project. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to approve and sign both commitment letters as presented. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Ryan Ritchie then presented a Memo from Harrison County as the READI project owner of the Woods of Heritage Hills Project. Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to approve and sign the memo as presented. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

County coroner and EMS director Jeremy McKim came before the commissioners on behalf of the Harrison County JRAC board. He presented four grant requests from the county opioid settlement funds. The first request was in the amount of \$120,000.00 from the Harrison County prosecutor's office to hire a Deputy prosecutor for drug court. This request was being made out of the opioid restricted fund.

HARRISON COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

The next request was in the amount of \$58,100 for the Boys and Girls Club's teen prevention programming. The request was being made out of the opioid unrestricted fund.

The next request was in the amount of \$39,250.00 from Freed from Within for transitional recovery housing. The request was being made out of the opioid restricted fund.

The final request was in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the Next Step's recovery facility renovation. This request was being made out of the opioid unrestricted fund. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to forward all four opioid funding requests to the county council. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Stepro said the next order of business was a statement approving the submission of a levy increase request from the Harrison Township Fire Protection District. Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to table the request until more information could be obtained. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Harrison County library director Alisa Burch came before the commissioners to present the annual reporting, including statistics on physical items and library cards. Ms. Burch mentioned the upcoming Nation Library Week and a sample proclamation for the commissioners' consideration. The commissioners declined to take action on the proclamation request.

Harrison County Parks superintendent Larry Shickles came before the commissioners with two additional appropriation requests. Mr. Shickles noted that the requests had already been advertised in an effort to save time. The first request was in the amount of \$9,225.41 to replace outdated computers and purchase a new scanner. The second request was in the amount of \$24,500.00 to repair and replace the fencing at Hayswood Park. Both requests were being made out of the county share of riverboat fund. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to forward both funding requests to the county council. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Wiseman announced that Sam Day had stepped down from the plan commission, making a motion to appoint John Lopp for the remainder of the term ending December 31, 2027. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

County engineer Kevin Russel came before the commissioners with multiple items for the commissioners' consideration. The first was a proposed agreement with iWorq for online permitting services. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to approve and allow Kevin Russel to sign the agreement. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

The next item was a proposed ordinance related to right-of-way permits. Mr. Russel said this also has items to address temporary work zones and how those are addressed with flagging and temporary traffic control. This would allow the department to charge a fee of \$50.00 for right-of-way permits. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to adopt ordinance 2026-05 as presented. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

The next item was an additional appropriation request in the amount of \$400,000.00 from the cumulative bridge fund for the PE phase of the bridge #81 project. 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.

The next item was an update on Gibson County equipment bids. Mr. Russel said the County's bid for a distributor was unsuccessful. Although Harrison County had submitted the highest bid for the distributor,

HARRISON COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

Dubois County had submitted a bid for both the distributor and chip spreader, successfully winning a package deal for both pieces of equipment.

Mr. Russel said the next item was an on-call services agreement with Heritage Engineering. He noted that the first business related to the agreement will be a small structure located on Heinze Road. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to approve and sign the on-call services agreement as presented. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

The next item was the 2026-2027 INDOT salt program. Kevin Russel said the department would like to enter into a contract allowing them to buy as little as 2,560 tons and as much as 3,840 tons of treated salt. Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to approve the contract as presented. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Continuing the discussion, Mr. Russel also presented a brine maker from Brown Equipment. Highway superintendent Mark Toler spoke on the equipment's ability to make brine using treated salt. He noted the corrosion inhibitors in it, protecting public vehicles and county equipment. Mr. Toler also stated that brine made from treated salt works in colder conditions, melts snow faster, and adheres to the road better.

Mark Toler also noted that the highway department's existing brine maker is in need of repairs. A verbal quote was received for the repairs, costing \$80,000-\$100,000 to get the existing equipment up to specifications. The new piece of equipment being considered would cost \$145,000.00.

The next item was an update for bridge #170 on Smith Creek Road. Mr. Russel said they are hoping to complete the acquisition of the final right-of-way parcel in the next couple of weeks. The department is currently finalizing the plans and utility coordination, with the intent to open bids for the project at the July 2, 2026 commissioner meeting.

The next item was pertaining to the Corydon Ridge Road project. Mr. Russel said they had been working out the utility reimbursement agreement with Edwardsville Water. The agreement would allow them to go ahead and relocate within the new right-of-way, rather than requiring them to relocate outside of it. He said the agreement was about 90% complete and hoped to present a final version at the next commissioner meeting for approval.

The final item on the county engineer's agenda was personnel issues. Mr. Russel presented leave-without-pay requests for Josh Ealy and Nevin Wellman. These were new employees who already had vacations planned later in the year, noting that these were discussed during their interviews. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to approve the leave-without-pay requests as presented. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

County administrator Chad Shireman brought up a hold-harmless agreement between the County and South Harrison School Corporation. Kevin Russel noted that this would allow the school to rent a wheel loader to help clean their parking lot. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to approve and sign the hold-harmless agreement. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

County auditor Sara Burdick presented a leave-without-pay for 6-8 weeks for a highway department employee who had exhausted their 12 weeks of FMLA. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to approve the request 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 March 2, 2026 commissioner meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

HARRISON COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

Commissioner Stepro presented multiple action items to present. The first was a proposal from Shrout, Tate, Wilson as the commissioning agent on the justice center renovation project for a lump sum fee amount of \$75,925.00. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to accept, and allow commissioner Stepro to sign, the proposal as presented. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

The next item was an agreement with Build BW as the owner's representative for the justice center renovation project for a lump sum fee amount of \$219,500.00. Should construction of the project extend past July 31, 2027, services will automatically continue at a rate of \$10,800.00 per month. Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to approve and allow commissioner Stepro to sign the agreement as presented. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

The next item was an interlocal agreement with Washington County for the housing of up to 40 inmates at a cost of \$52.00 per prisoner, per day during the justice center renovation project. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to approve and sign the interlocal agreement as presented. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

The next item was a conflict-of-interest waiver and consent document for the commissioners' consideration. The County is considering a lease agreement with MPCC, LLC to rent office space during the justice center renovation project. Church, Langdon, Lopp & Banet Law represents MPCC, LLC on the lease agreement and county attorney Chris Byrd is also employed by the law firm. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to approve and sign the conflict-of-interest waiver and consent form as presented. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

The next item was a grant approval letter for the Indiana Department of Corrections for the 2027 adult community-based supervision grant and 2027 veteran's treatment court grant. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to approve and sign the letter as presented. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

The next item was for 2027 deputy coroner contracts. The documents had not yet been reviewed by the county attorney. Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to sign the contracts outside of a meeting once they had been reviewed by county attorney Chris Byrd. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

The lease agreement for office space is still pending, with some of the details currently being negotiated. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to sign the lease agreement outside of a meeting once those details are decided upon and approved by the county attorney. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

Commissioner Stepro said there were a few documents that were time-sensitive and had to be signed outside of a meeting. The first was for an unsuccessful bid made on a truck at another county's auction. Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to ratify the bid document signature. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

The next item was a merchant's application for payment processing at Harrison County Animal Control's newly established spay & neuter facility. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to ratify the merchant's application signature. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

HARRISON COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

The final document was a general obligation bond draft. Commissioner Kellum made a motion to ratify the bond draft signature. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

County administrator Chad Shireman presented additional appropriation requests for infrastructure totaling \$10,294.44 and revenue sharing totaling \$191,182.61. Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to forward the funding requests to the county council. Commissioner Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.

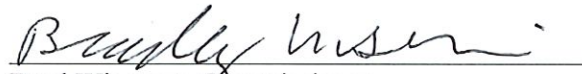
Commissioner Kellum made a motion to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. Commissioner Wiseman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 3 ayes and 0 nays.



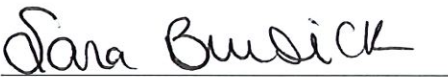
Nelson Stepro, Commissioner



Annissa Kellum, Commissioner



Brad Wiseman, Commissioner

ATTEST: 

Sara Burdick, County Auditor