

HARRISON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2026

Minutes of the Harrison County Council meeting held on Monday, April 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. local time, in the Commissioners' and Council Room of the Harrison County Government Center located in Corydon, Indiana.

Present:	Jake Blackman, Council Member	Mike Summers, Council Attorney
	Sherry Brown, Council Member	Sara Burdick, County Auditor
	Jennie Capelle, Council Member	Chad Shireman, County Administrator
	Holli Castetter, Council Member	
	Richard Gerdon, Council Member	
	Joe Kellum, Council Member	
	Kyle Nix, Council Member	

Chairman Nix led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chairman Nix called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with all seven members of the Harrison County Council and County Attorney Mike Summers present.

Harrison Township Fire Chief Jon Saulman came before the council with a bond resolution for an addition to the firehouse located on Fairview Church Road. He highlighted the importance of timely response, citing a recent structure fire where a three-minute response time saved antiques and other valuable items. The addition would provide sleeping quarters for the firehouse, allowing for 24-hour firefighter presence at the location. Three firefighters are on duty half a day at this station, spending the second half at the main station in Corydon. Mr. Saulman noted that seven of ten structure fires were responded to from the Fairview Church Road location.

Councilwoman Castetter spoke in opposition of the proposal, citing concerns of tax increases that would impact businesses and homeowners. She also requested more efficiency in emergency services in order to reduce the high volume of non-fire calls that the department responds to.

Councilman Nix said that there was still time for public comment on the bond issue until April 20th and taxpayers can remonstrate against the bond issuance until May 21st.

Councilwoman Castetter made a motion to deny Resolution 2026-03. Councilwoman Capelle seconded. The motion failed with a vote of 2 ayes and 5 nays. Councilman Kellum, Councilman Blackman, Councilwoman Brown, Councilman Gerdon, and Councilman Nix were opposed.

Councilman Gerdon made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03. Councilwoman Brown seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 5 ayes and 2 nays. Councilwoman Capelle and Councilwoman Castetter were opposed.

County health administrator Jennifer Caffrey came before the council to present the Harrison County Health Department's 2025 annual report. Highlights included educating 831 5th and 6th graders on vaping prevention, hiring a part-time preparedness coordinator, and providing over 1,500 weather radios to rural residents. Environmental services issued 128 septic permits, conducted 264 site consultations, and completed 138 environmental complaint investigations. The health department also provided flu shots & vaccines and started a Trail of Health & Safety event in partnership with the Harrison County Hospital.

Harrison County Hospital CEO Dr. Lisa Clunie came before the council to introduce EMS director Jeremy McKim and CFO Don Duval who presented EMS operational and financial updates for 2025.

Mr. McKim said EMS responded to 7,395 calls for service, with an average time of 8 minutes and 26 seconds. Opioid settlement funding was secured to purchase video laryngoscopes, updating laryngoscopes for every ambulance, and certifying all paramedics in neonatal resuscitation. EMS also added two new ambulances and updated equipment to improve patient and staff safety.

Don Duval covered the financial report, which reflected continued improvement in overall performance. Gross revenue exceeded \$12 million, coming in 5.4% above budget, while net revenue surpassed \$3.3 million, exceeding budget by 13.1% due to stronger-than-expected collection rates. Operating expenses totaled approximately \$4.4 million and were slightly under budget, with salaries and benefits making up the largest portion. While certain costs such as billing fees and insurance were over budget, these increases were largely tied to higher collections and post-budget rate adjustments. The year concluded with a net loss of approximately \$1.05 million, which was favorable by roughly \$433,000 compared to budget and improved by about \$270,000 over the prior year. The county tax levy of \$854,243 resulted in an actual shortfall of \$197,206, significantly better than the anticipated \$630,000 deficit.

Collection rates have steadily improved as a result of outsourced billing services, reaching approximately 28% in 2025 compared to 27% in 2024 and 23% in 2023. Mr. Duval noted that each 1% increase in collections is estimated to generate roughly \$100,000 in additional net revenue. Ongoing challenges include claim denials from Anthem insurance. Jeremy McKim further acknowledged the strong performance and credited both operational improvements and staff efforts in achieving these results.

EMA director Mike Kurz came before the council with an additional appropriation request in the amount of \$14,250.00 for a service maintenance agreement for the emergency services communication system, which provides 98% coverage throughout the County. The agreement includes repair and replacement of towers and radio systems, with exceptions for hardware damaged by storms.

County auditor Sara Burdick presented an additional appropriation request in the amount of \$10,142.00 for a new collar for the Purdue extension office. She noted that a representative would be present at the next council meeting, and that the department would likely be making a transfer request to reduce the overall need for additional funding.

Commissioner Nelson Stepro presented multiple additional appropriation requests for the animal control department. The first request was in the amount of \$2,990.00 to purchase billing and scheduling software for the new spay and neuter program.

The next two requests for animal control were as follows: \$12,000.00 for other supplies and \$3,365.00 for contractual services. Mr. Stepro explained that these funding requests had been approved in 2025, but funding reverted back at the end of the year due to a delay in delivery of the new spay and neuter building.

Chairman Nix said that the next order of business was additional appropriations advertised to be voted on at tonight's meeting. Councilwoman Castetter made a motion to approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$308,625.00 for contractual services in the cumulative bridge fund. Councilman Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Blackman made a motion to approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$5,540.47 to the Town of Corydon, \$240.89 to the Town of Crandall, \$343.83 to the Town of Elizabeth, \$143.09 to the Town of Laconia, \$1,504.02 to the Town of Lanesville, \$96.77 to the Town of Mauckport, \$758.70 to

the Town of Milltown, \$49.41 to the Town of New Amsterdam, \$166.77 to the Town of New Middletown and \$1,450.49 to the Town of Palmyra for infrastructure out of the county share of riverboat fund. Councilwoman Capelle seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Kellum made a motion to approve additional appropriations in the amount of \$88,238.13 to Crawford County, \$14,706.35 to Washington County, \$14,706.35 to Floyd County, \$7,353.18 to the Town of Georgetown, \$22,059.53 to the City of New Albany, \$16,121.11 to the Town of Corydon, \$2,101.54 to the Town of Crandall, \$2,401.55 to the Town of Elizabeth, \$1,813.29 to the Town of Laconia, \$5,804.60 to the Town of Lanesville, \$1,679.47 to the Town of Mauckport, \$5,128.10 to the Town of Milltown, \$1,539.76 to the Town of New Amsterdam, \$1,882.41 to the Town of New Middletown and \$5,647.24 to the Town of Palmyra for riverboat revenue sharing out of the county riverboat ordinance 98-12 fund. Councilwoman Brown seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nay.

Councilman Blackman made a motion to approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$120,000.00 for contractual services-other in the opioid restricted fund. Councilwoman Capelle seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Kellum made a motion to approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$39,250.00 for contractual services-other in the opioid restricted fund. Councilwoman Capelle seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Kellum made a motion to approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$58,100.00 for contractual services-other in the opioid unrestricted fund. Councilman Gerdon seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Kellum made a motion to approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$25,000.00 for contractual services-other in the opioid unrestricted fund. Councilwoman Brown seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the Annual Budget;

NOW THEREFORE: Sec. 1 Be it ordained by the County Council of Harrison County, Indiana, that for the expenses of the taxing unit the following additional sums are hereby appropriated out of the funds named for the purposes specified, subject to the laws governing the same:

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>
<u>CUMULATIVE BRIDGE FUND</u>		
1135-31600-000-0530 Contractual Services	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 308,625.00
TOTAL CUMULATIVE BRIDGE FUND	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 308,625.00
<u>COUNTY SHARE OF RIVERBOAT FUND</u>		
1191-30601-000-0100 Town of Corydon (I)	\$ 5,540.47	\$ 5,540.47
1191-30702-000-0100 Town of Crandall (I)	\$ 240.89	\$ 240.89
1191-30801-000-0100 Town of Elizabeth (I)	\$ 343.83	\$ 343.83
1191-30901-000-0100 Town of Laconia (I)	\$ 143.09	\$ 143.09
1191-31002-000-0100 Town of Lanesville (I)	\$ 1,504.02	\$ 1,504.02
1191-31109-000-0100 Town of Mauckport (I)	\$ 96.77	\$ 96.77

1191-31207-000-0100 Town of Milltown (I)	\$	758.70	\$	758.70
1191-31307-000-0100 Town of New Amsterdam (I)	\$	49.41	\$	49.41
1191-31408-000-0100 Town of New Middletown (I)	\$	166.77	\$	166.77
1191-31508-000-0100 Town of Palmyra (I)	\$	1,450.49	\$	1,450.49
TOTAL COUNTY SHARE OF RIVERBOAT FUND	\$	10,294.44	\$	10,294.44

COUNTY RIVERBOAT ORD. 98-12 FUND

7303-30107-000-0100 Crawford County (RS)	\$	88,238.13	\$	88,238.13
7303-30204-000-0100 Washington County (RS)	\$	14,706.35	\$	14,706.35
7303-30301-000-0100 Floyd County (RS)	\$	14,706.35	\$	14,706.35
7303-30501-000-0100 Town of Georgetown (RS)	\$	7,353.18	\$	7,353.18
7303-30404-000-0100 City of New Albany (RS)	\$	22,059.53	\$	22,059.53
7303-30600-000-0100 Town of Corydon (RS)	\$	16,121.11	\$	16,121.11
7303-30701-000-0100 Town of Crandall (RS)	\$	2,101.54	\$	2,101.54
7303-30800-000-0100 Town of Elizabeth (RS)	\$	2,401.55	\$	2,401.55
7303-30900-000-0100 Town of Laconia (RS)	\$	1,813.29	\$	1,813.29
7303-31001-000-0100 Town of Lanesville (RS)	\$	5,804.60	\$	5,804.60
7303-31108-000-0100 Town of Mauckport (RS)	\$	1,679.47	\$	1,679.47
7303-31206-000-0100 Town of Milltown (RS)	\$	5,128.10	\$	5,128.10
7303-31307-000-0100 Town of New Amsterdam (RS)	\$	1,539.76	\$	1,539.76
7303-31407-000-0100 Town of New Middletown (RS)	\$	1,882.41	\$	1,882.41
7303-31507-000-0100 Town of Palmyra (RS)	\$	5,647.24	\$	5,647.24
TOTAL RIVERBOAT ORD. 98-12 FUND	\$	191,182.61	\$	191,182.61

OPIOID RESTRICTED FUND

1237-39307-000-0000 Contractual Services-Other	\$	120,000.00	\$	120,000.00
1237-39307-000-0000 Contractual Services-Other	\$	39,250.00	\$	39,250.00
TOTAL OPIOID RESTRICTED FUND	\$	159,250.00	\$	159,250.00

OPIOID UNRESTRICTED FUND

1238-39307-000-0000 Contractual Services-Other	\$	58,100.00	\$	58,100.00
1238-39307-000-0000 Contractual Services-Other	\$	25,000.00	\$	25,000.00
TOTAL OPIOID RESTRICTED FUND	\$	83,100.00	\$	83,100.00

ADOPTED THIS 13th DAY OF APRIL, 2026

Chairman Nix said the next order of business would be transfer of funds for the council's consideration. Councilman Blackman made a motion to approve transfer requests as follows: \$325.00 from training to equipment and \$500.00 from contractual services to equipment in the assessor budget in the county general fund. Councilman Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Gerdon made a motion to approve a transfer request in the amount of \$19,200.00 from comprehensive business policy to contractual services in the commissioner budget in the county general fund. Councilman Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Councilwoman Capelle abstained.

Councilman Kellum made a motion to approve a transfer request in the amount of \$1,482.31 from fuel to equipment in the weights & measures budget in the county general fund. Councilwoman Castetter seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

TRANSFERS PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 54

WHEREAS, certain extraordinary emergencies have developed since the adoption of the existing annual budget, so that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the Annual Budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, to meet such extraordinary emergencies:

Sec. 1. Be it ordained by the County Council of Harrison County, Indiana, that for the expenses of said Municipal Corporation the following items are hereby transferred and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same.

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>
<u>COUNTY GENERAL FUND</u>		
1000-42100-000-0008 Equipment	\$ 325.00	\$ 325.00
1000-42100-000-0008 Equipment	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
1000-31600-000-0068 Contractual Services	\$ 19,200.00	\$ 19,200.00
1000-36100-000-0308 Equipment	\$ <u>1,482.31</u>	\$ <u>1,482.31</u>
TOTAL COUNTY GENERAL FUND	\$ 21,507.31	\$ 21,507.31

Sec. 2. **WHEREAS**, it has been shown that certain existing appropriations now have un-obligated balances which will not be needed for the purpose for which appropriated, it is further resolved that the following existing appropriations be reduced the following amounts:

	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Amount Appropriated</u>
<u>COUNTY GENERAL FUND</u>		
1000-31100-000-0008 Training- Assessor	\$ 325.00	\$ 325.00
1000-31600-000-0008 Contractual Services	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
1000-34201-000-0068 Comprehensive Business Policy	\$ 19,200.00	\$ 19,200.00
1000-22100-000-0308 Fuel-Weights & Measures	\$ <u>1,482.31</u>	\$ <u>1,482.31</u>
TOTAL COUNTY GENERAL FUND	\$ 21,507.31	\$ 21,507.31

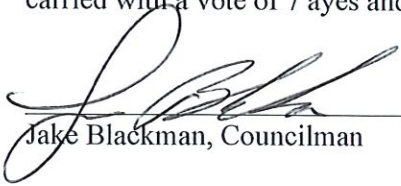
ADOPTED THIS 13th DAY OF APRIL, 2026

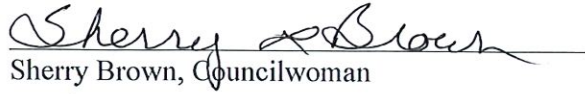
Under other county business, Chairman Nix said the requirement for one meeting with the police department to discuss needs for the department and patrol offices had been met and requested a motion to close the meet and confer process for the year. Councilman Blackman made a motion to close meet and confer. Councilwoman Castetter seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

County Sheriff Nick Smith approached the council to request salary adjustments for patrol officers. He asked that salaries be increased to the budgeted amounts for the department, reflecting the midpoint of a wage study conducted on the council's behalf by a third-party vendor. Councilwoman Castetter made a motion to approve the salary increases as requested, with an effective date of May 1st covering the April 5th-April 18th pay period. Councilman Blackman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Blackman made a motion to allow chairman Nix to sign the council attorney contract with Mike Summers outside of the meeting for the remaining three quarters of 2026. Councilman Kellum seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Councilman Blackman made a motion to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. Councilman Gerdon seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays.


Jake Blackman, Councilman


Sherry Brown, Councilwoman


Jennie Capelle, Councilwoman


Holli Castetter, Councilwoman


Richard Gerdon, Councilman


Joe Kellum, Councilman


Kyle Nix, Councilman

ATTEST: 
Sara Burdick, County Auditor