

THE MARTIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
July 21, 2026
MINUTES

The Martin County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular session on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, in the Commissioners' Room at the Courthouse located at 129 Main Street, Shoals, Indiana. Commissioners present were Paul R. George and Retha Warner. Commissioner Aaron Summers attended via Zoom. Also present was Attorney David Lett and Deputy Auditor Melissa Cooper.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 5:30 p.m.

RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES & CLAIMS

The minutes from the regular meeting of July 7, 2026, were approved with a motion made by Commissioner Warner, seconded by President George. All in favor, motion passed. A motion was made by Commissioner Warner to approve the claims and allowances, seconded by President George. All in favor, motion passed.

RE: HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Highway Department Administrative Assistant Theresa Ray stated there is a dump truck down; parts have been ordered. Ms. Ray further reported that they met with FEMA earlier that day regarding the preliminary review of storm damage to a bridge and culverts to determine eligibility for federal assistance.

Ms. Ray also informed the Commissioners that the Governor's temporary suspension of the gasoline tax had significantly reduced the revenue received for the July distribution of taxes deposited into the Local Road and Street and Motor Vehicle Highway funds. Documentation had been provided to each Commissioner showing that the July Local Road and Street distribution was approximately half of the county's normal allocation, with similar reductions reflected in the MVH funds. She explained that if reimbursement funds had not been approved, the Highway Department would have experienced substantial revenue losses of approximately \$50,000 in each of the MVH funds, along with an additional reduction of approximately \$9,000 in the LRS fund.

Ms. Ray advised that an email had been received indicating the State intended to release reimbursement funds to cover the period from April 8th through May 31st and expressed hopes that those funds would be received soon. President George stated additional reimbursement for June and July will need to be approved by the State. The Commissioners discussed the statewide financial impact of the gas tax suspension, noting that approximately \$12 million per month was withheld from Indiana counties alone. In April and May, there was a total revenue loss of \$30 million in MVH between cities, towns, and counties.

Ms. Ray advised that the Highway Department's mowing equipment was generally operational, although one John Deere tractor had been in the repair shop that day. Ms. Ray reported that the department started chip and seal operations that day. Attorney David Lett commented that Belgrade Road and Church Street both looked very nice after recent work.

Mary Smith inquired about the plan for using the wheel tax funds, referencing at the June 23rd meeting it was stated that the Highway Superintendent would present a plan at the July 7th meeting. President George listed several roads on the upcoming work schedule to be funded by the wheel tax, including Tedrow Lane, Gibson Road, Wininger Road, Bear Hill Road (on the hills), Hart Road, and Dover Hill Gate Road. He clarified that these roads are on the list to be done, not that they have all been completed. It was noted that Poplar Grove Road and a portion of Tedrow Lane were finished, and work was currently underway on Gibson and Wininger Roads. The Commissioners explained that road selection is based on recommendations from hired engineers; the Commissioners then take those recommendations under advisement. Commissioner Warner stated that when she receives a road complaint, she does go out and drive the road, so she knows firsthand the condition of the road when they are discussing road plans. President George also mentioned that Boyd Hollow Road is scheduled for work under the Community Crossings Matching Grant (CCMG) program, separate from the wheel tax funds, and would cover the section from Highway 550 to Highway 150.

RE: AMBULANCE SERVICE UPDATE

Ms. Smith inquired about the status of the second quarter report for the ambulance service, noting she had missed a couple of meetings. President George confirmed that the second quarter report had not yet been received. He added that the county is still searching for a more effective billing service. He explained that a recent review of claims revealed only about twenty claims that were not filed properly and could be pursued. Most of the apparent financial losses are due to the difference between the charged amount and what Medicare and Medicaid pay, which makes the service appear "upside down" on paper. President George mentioned that once this write-off is accounted for, the financial situation is much more stable; the Commissioners and Council felt better after seeing the detailed breakdown.

RE: COUNTY BURN ORDINANCE

Attorney David Lett presented a sample burn ordinance that he had prepared at the Commissioners' request. He distributed copies to the Commissioners for their review. He instructed them to provide him with any suggestions, questions, additions, or deletions, after which they would proceed with finalizing the ordinance.

RE: BRIDGE 44

Attorney Lett provided an update regarding Bridge 44. He reported that he sent one final request to the insurance company within the last ten days, stating it was the last opportunity to negotiate before the County proceeds with further action. He has not yet received a response. President George questioned how long they must wait for a reply, and Attorney Lett indicated that if he does not hear back within another week, they will press forward with legal action. President George noted the urgency, as they may have a bridge company returning to work on the Friends Creek Bridge and could potentially have them address Bridge 44 at the same time.

RE: RECONCILIATION CORRECTIONS

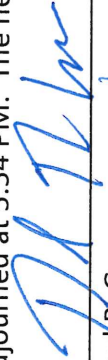
Auditor Michelle Norris, attending via phone, requested approval for three reconciliation corrections needed to balance the county's financial software (Harris) with the bank statement. She explained that while the corrections approved last month have cleared, there are three older items that had dropped off the County's financial software, Harris, due to the age of the transactions and were causing a discrepancy. These outstanding items were a March 2013 PERF correction for \$30.15, a 2012 miscellaneous payroll error for \$190.76, and a difference in deposit from October (year not noted on reconciliation sheet) for \$13.00. The total amount needed to reconcile the account was \$233.91. These funds would be issued in a check to the Treasurer to allow for a manual entry to balance the system with the bank records.

A motion was made by Commissioner Summers to approve the payment of \$233.91 to the Treasurer to balance the checking account with the financial software. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Warner. All in favor, motion passed.

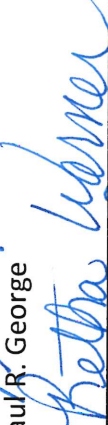
RE: WEST BOGGS PARK BOARD APPOINTMENT

Rick Sargent introduced himself and noted he was observing the meeting. President George acknowledged that Mr. Sargent had previously contacted the Commissioners regarding an upcoming open position on the West Boggs Park Board. President George confirmed that the Commissioners had not yet received a formal resignation. Mr. Sargent stated that the current board member would likely be present at the August board meeting before officially resigning and moving to Florida.

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Warner and seconded by Commissioner Summers. All were in favor, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:54 PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 5:30 PM.



Paul R. George



Retha Warner



Aaron C. Summers

ATTEST:  _____
Michelle Norris, Martin County Auditor