

August 4, 2025

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, August 4, 2025. Chairman Jeff D. Dawes called the meeting to order at 9:00a.m. with Dawes, Tyler Niccum, and Cheryl Ross present. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Shelly Baucco.

The minutes of the July 21, 2025, meeting was reviewed. Niccum made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Rich Mofield, Director of the Wabash County Health Department, and Brandi McCann, Education Liasson for the Health Department, came before the Commissioners seeking approval to apply for Safe Routes to School mini grant. Mofield indicated the grant would be managed by Brandi and that it is a pass-through grant. They are asking for \$10,000 for supplies and equipment. McCann indicated that the grant would be used for interactive sessions for students and families to learn bike safety and to find different ways to get out and be active. She indicated that one of the KPI's for the Health First Indiana grant is to improve physical activity. Niccum made a motion for approval to proceed with the grant application. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Mofield also indicated that the Health Department hosted a car seat safety event and wanted to thank the Commissioners for the use of 808 Manchester Avenue. Mofield indicated, that among other things, McCann has been instrumental in a lot of the Health First Indiana programming. McCann is a certified car seat inspector. McCann reported that the building was perfect for the event, and that they were also able to run an emergency preparedness drill. McCann indicated that she will be using the building for a CPR class this week, as well as a pregnancy group meeting.

The Zoom meeting was interrupted and had to be shut down. A new Zoom meeting was started.

Beverly Ferry, CEO, Living Well in Wabash County CoA, Inc, presented the second quarter voucher in the amount of \$105,575.00 for signature. She indicated that they had to go back to four days a week as they had lost a driver but will be going to five days a week after Labor Day. She further reported that they are always looking for drivers.

Alex Downard, Community Foundation of Wabash County, presented two contracts for Daniel's Place, which is part of the Stellar Pathways projects from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs in the Stellar Pathways Grant Program. Wabash County is the local government sponsor for the Daniel's Place project. The first contract is for the Certified Grant Administrator for Mike Kleinpeter, which is required by the grant to have. The second contract is for MKM Architecture and Design. Downard reported that MKM has done all the architecture and design work for Daniel's Place. Daniel's Place is the subrecipient, therefore, all invoices and everything as to be signed off by Daniel's Place and the ultimately signed off by the County. Both contracts will be paid out of the local funds portion which is the money that Daniel's Place already has raised at this point. Downard indicated that the 1.1 million, will be paid from the grant funding that has been set aside. Niccum made a motion to approve both contracts. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by 3-0 vote.

Beth Gillespie, Lagro Canal Foundation, came before the Commissioner's with a fund request for the 2026 Budget. They are requesting \$100,600. She reported that the Lagro Canal Foundation has been in effect for seven years. She gave some updates on different projects that they have completed. Gillespie that they had asked for funding in 2025 and were put in the budget for \$25,000 but only received \$5,000, and indicated that there was not a lot of information on why their funding had been cut. In addition, Lagro Canal Foundation, was part of the Stellar grant and were elated that they were going to receive \$100,000 but that funding was cut and they received zero. She reported that the loss of funding has been detrimental to the Foundation. She reported that losing that money is the reason for such a big funding request in 2026. Gillespie asked the Commissioners if they would be willing to sponsor grants, if they were able to obtain

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them. Niccum indicated that they would be willing. Niccum also indicated that Lagro Foundation was not the only one who had funding cut and that with SB1 changes unknown cuts are being made. Dawes indicated that he feels that cutting their funding does not shine a positive light on Wabash County. Gillespie reported that their typical donation is around \$150 and it takes a lot of those to complete projects and indicated that is why they are seeking funding in different areas.

Tyler Guenin, Wabash County Sheriff's Department:

1. Requested permission to purchase a 2024 Dodge Ram from John Jones Auto Group in the amount of \$43,164.50. Niccum indicated that this was the additional appropriation that was requested from the Council. Niccum made a motion to approve the purchase. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by 3-0 vote.
2. Monthly Jail report for July, 2025: Average Total Prisoner Count (117), Average Female Prisoner Count (32), Average Male Prisoner Count (81), Number of Prisoners Booked into Jail (86), Average Number of Bookings per Month (81), Level 6 Felony Sentenced Females on 07/31/2024 (4), Level 6 Felony Sentenced Males on 07/31/2024 (8), Prisoner Transports (22), Males transported to IDOC (6), Females transported to IDOC (3), DNA Collected from Arrested Felons (31), and Misdemeanor Fingerprints as ordered by the Court (2).
3. Guenin gave a brief update on the staffing for the Jail and reported they are currently at 27 Jail Officers. They would like to get to 34 Jail Officers eventually. He also reported that they had interviewed for 2 open Merit Deputy positions that were still open. He indicated that they have had a Merit Deputy opening for the last two years after adding two SRO positions. With those two hires they are fully staffed with the Merit Deputy position.
4. Dawes asked if there was room to get possibly ten inmates from out-of-county and Guenin reported that he will discuss this with the Sheriff.

Marcie Shepherd, County Coordinator/HR Director:

1. Gave an update on the ESI contract for the new phone system. She indicated that Attorney Frantz has approved the contract; however, there is still some conversation in regards to some of the wording.

Shelly Baucco, Wabash County Auditor presented:

1. Accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 07/28/2025, and 08/04/2025. Niccum made a motion to approve the claims and allowances as presented. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Payroll claims and allowances, including withholdings, for pay period ending 07/19/2025. Niccum made a motion to accept the payroll claims, allowances including withholdings. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
3. LIT monthly distribution in the amount of \$1,431,323.76. Ross made a motion to approve the LIT distribution. Niccum seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
4. Baucco indicated that she had received an update from Barbara Amos, a representative from the Francel Slocum chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, that the historical marker clean-up is completed and the marker is back in place.

Dawes asked if there were any ADA or Title VI concerns. None were heard.

The commissioners reviewed the following:

- IDEM Notices – Wabash Castings LLC and Metal Source LLC

Niccum made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. The Commissioners will next meet on Monday, August 18, 2025, at 9:00am.

Also present: *In person*: Louella Krom, David Terflinger, Brian Ridgeway, Cheryl Ridgeway, Kim Shiningier, Lavonne Sparling, Bill Burnsworth, Nicky Burnsworth, Conner Hindman, Dave Nelson, Kimverly Lundmark, Cole Wyatt, and Kandy Barker. *Via zoom*: Connie, bswihart, Suzanne Peebles, Amanda Shambarger, akline, and Igrandstaff.

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Jeff D. Dawes
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Tyler
Tyler Niccum

Cheryl Ross
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Attest: Shelly Baucio
Shelly Baucio, Wabash County Auditor