

December 15, 2025

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, December 15, 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 December 1, 2025, meeting was reviewed. Ross made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Niccum seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

In new business, there was an agreement for Animal Control Services with Wabash County Animal Shelter presented. Dawes indicated that the agreement will need to be signed by the Wabash County Animal Shelter prior to funds being disbursed. Ross made a motion for the Animal Shelter to receive \$15,000 from the County for 2025. She indicated that she is recommending that they wait until after the State Legislation session ends in March before revisiting funding for 2026. Dave Terflinger stated that he would like to see the contract for 2026 that the date be changed from October 1st to August 1st due to the budget hearings being in August. He further stated that he would like to see this be a reimbursable funding. Diane Morris, a representative from the Animal Shelter, was not willing to accept that condition; however, she had no problem with the date being changed to August 1st. She further indicated that she is willing to give the Commissioners a monthly financial report. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 2-0-1 (Niccum abstain) vote.

A contract for Grow Wabash County was presented for approval. The contract is for \$85,000 for 2026. Terflinger asked if the money would be given to Grow Wabash County in one payment or quarterly payments. It was noted that it will be paid twice a year. Ross reported that she would like to see the non-disclosure agreement include all three of the Commissioners. Tenille Zartman from Grow Wabash County indicated that there is a whistle-blower policy, a confidentiality policy, and a code of ethics policy that she would like the Commissioners to sign to be able to see the report. Brian Ridgeway noted that he feels that Tyler Niccum should abstain from the vote as he is on the Board of Wabash County. It was noted that the Commissioners serve on a lot of boards. Baucco noted that it was explained to her that he is not being financially compensated and neither is any member of his family. Niccum made a motion to accept the contract for \$85,000. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

First reading on the revised Ordinance No. 2025-85-20: An Ordinance Establishing Registration Requirements and Operational Requirements for Horse Drawn Vehicles and Trailers. James Dirck indicated that the Amish are protected by the RFRA Act. It is the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Ross noted that this is for safety concerns and road damage. There will be a second reading of the Ordinance at the January 5, 2026, meeting. Ross made a motion to accept the first reading on the revised Ordinance No. 2025-85-20. Niccum seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Ryan Smith, Wabash County Highway Superintendent, was not present; however, Niccum made a motion to approve the bids from the December 1, 2025, meeting. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Shelly Baucco, Wabash County Auditor:

1. Accounts payable claims and allowances for dockets ending 12/08/2025 and 12/15/2025. 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 12/06/2025. Ross made a motion to accept the payroll claims, allowances including withholdings. Niccum seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
3. Cyber Insurance annual renewal in the amount of \$13,309.63 with Tokio Marine. Niccum made a motion to accept the renewal. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
4. December LIT Distribution in the amount of \$1,431,323.78 to be distributed to the taxing units. Ross made a motion to accept the December LIT Distribution. Niccum seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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5. LIT Operating Levy in the amount of \$1,897,888.05 to be distributed to the taxing units. Niccum made a motion to accept the LIT Operating Levy. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
6. December Settlement, which is the settlement of property tax and excise tax collected for distribution. Niccum made a motion to accept the December Settlement. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Under old business, proposals were presented for DNE Construction for the Health Department office located in the Old Jail. Ross updated everyone on the progress of the refurbishment of the Old Jail. Ross indicated that they are hoping that the renovations will be done by early spring and they are currently \$39,000 over budget and reported that they will be taking money out of the Economic Development fund. Niccum made a motion to accept the proposals from DNE Construction for the change orders on the Health Department. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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

Dawes indicated that there were three review items and they will be on the Counties website.

Daniel's Place Project bid openings. Alex Downard indicated that the construction will start in the spring. Niccum made a motion to close the bids. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. The following bids were received:

Hamilton Hunter Builders, Inc. - \$2,717,000.00
R. Yoder Construction, Inc. - \$3,118,000.00
MacDougall Pierce Construction, Inc. - \$3,008,041.00
Michael Kender & Sons - \$3,101,000.00

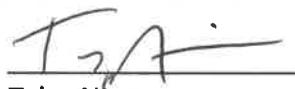
Niccum made a motion to take the bids under advisement. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

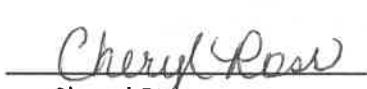
Cheryl Werking, the founder of Daniel's Place, explained the facility's mission and the need for a second location in northern Indiana. It is a respite care facility for individuals with disabilities.

Ross made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Niccum seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. The Commissioners will next meet on Monday, January 5, 2026, at 9:00am.

Also present: *In person*: David Terflinger, Katrina Edwards, Brian Ridgeway, Cheryl Ridgeway, Tenille Zartman, Diane Morris, Kyle Miazga, Cole Wyatt, Cheryl Working, Jeff Snyder, Alex Downard, Conner Hindman, Jordan Owens, Holly Hunter, Dave Nelson, Jed Dirck, Kimberly Lundmark, Tyler Guenin, Marcie Shepherd, and Kandy Barker. *Via zoom*: Don Jervis, Connie, phone, Theda Metzger, bswihart, lgrandstaff, AKline, Christine Flohr, and Amanda Shambarger.


Jeff D. Dawes


Tyler Niccum


Cheryl Ross

Attest: Shelly Baucco
Shelly Baucco, Wabash County Auditor