

## **Wabash County Board of Commissioners Minutes for January 5, 2026**

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, January 5, 2026. Wabash County Auditor Shelly Baucco called the meeting to order at 9:00am with all three Commissioners present: Jeff D. Dawes, Cheryl Ross, Tyler Niccum. The proceedings were recorded by Auditor Shelly Baucco. Baucco requested nominations for Commissioner Chairman. Dawes made a motion to nominate Tyler Niccum as Chairman for 2026. Ross seconded the motion. With no other nominations, Dawes made a motion to close the nominations. Niccum seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. Baucco then turned the meeting over to Niccum who requested nominations for Vice-Chairman. Dawes made a motion to nominate Ross as Vice-Chairman. Ross seconded the motion. Dawes moved to close all nominations. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

The minutes of the December 15, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Ross made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Second reading on the revised Ordinance No. 2025-85-20: An Ordinance Establishing Registration Requirements and Operational Requirements for Horse Drawn Vehicles and Trailers. The Commissioners have agreed to table the Ordinance for further discussion. Dawes made a motion to table the Ordinance. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. Ordinance No 2025-85-20 will not be used; when the Horse Drawn Vehicles Ordinance is presented again it will be with a 2026 number.

Resolution 2026-85-01: A Resolution Establishing the Intent to Conduct a Commissioner's Sale to Sell Tax Sale Certificates for Properties That Are Severely Delinquent in Payment of Property Taxes. Baucco indicated that each year after the Property Tax Sale, there are left over properties that are the Commissioners that will be sold in the Spring. Ross made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-85-01. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Resolution 2026-85-02: A Resolution Confirming Participation in the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission. Baucco indicated that it is a resolution that the Commissioners re-approve every two (2) years that they are going to stay in the Heritage Corridor Commission. Baucco further reported that they will be appointing Mike Beauchamp and Keith Poole as representatives. Ross made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-85-02. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Rich Mofield, Wabash County Health Department, and Brett Robinson, Wabash County YMCA, presented a contract renewal with the YMCA with the Health First Indiana. In 2025, the YMCA was awarded \$20,000 and in 2026 the Health Board approved an award of \$15,000. It is for Chronic Disease Prevention which is one of the key performances that the Health Department is to be working on with the Health First Indiana funding. The funding coming out of fund 1161, Health First Indiana. Ross made a motion to approve the contract. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Niccum indicated that the meeting schedule is a little different for 2026. They will still meet on the first and the third Monday every month, at 9:00am, unless there is a fifth Monday, there will be a meeting. A copy of the meeting dates can be found on the Wabash County website, as well as in the Auditor's Office.

The Commissioners were assigned to the following boards:

Animal Control Board – Cheryl Ross  
Central Dispatch Advisory Board – Jeff Dawes  
Emergency Management Advisory Council – Cheryl Ross  
Grow Wabash County Board – Tyler Niccum  
Imagine One 85 – Jeff Dawes  
Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) – Cheryl Ross  
Northeast Regional Partnership – Tyler Niccum  
Northeast Indiana Mayor and Commissioners Caucus – Tyler Niccum  
Personnel Administration Committee (PAC) – Cheryl Ross

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Plan Commission Board – Jeff Dawes  
Redevelopment Commission – Tyler Niccum  
Region III A – Cheryl Ross  
Transit Advisory Board – Tyler Niccum  
Tax Abatement Committee – Jeff Dawes  
Public Records Commission – Tyler Niccum  
Solid Waste Management Board – Jeff Dawes, Cheryl Ross, and Tyler Niccum  
Drainage Board – Jeff Dawes, Cheryl Ross, and Tyler Niccum  
Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals – Marie Lloyd, Bob Lundquist, and Jon Rosen

Ryan Smith, Wabash County Highway Department, gave an update on Bridge 143 reporting that it went out for bid and the bid was accepted with Millstone Construction.

Tyler Guenin with the Wabash County Sheriff's Department; presented the December, 2025, monthly report for the Wabash County Jail. The average total prisoner county, 128; average female prisoner count, 27; average male prison count, 101; number of prisoners booked into Jail, 62; average number of bookings per month, 79; Level 6 felony sentenced females on 12/31/25, 5; Level 6 felony sentenced males on 12/31/25, 13; prisoner transports, 14; males transported to IDOC, 9; females transported to IDOC, 5; DNA collected from arrested felons, 18; and misdemeanor fingerprints as ordered by the Court, 1.

Marcie Shephered, Wabash County Coordinator presented:

1. Contract with Intrasect for additional charges to the original contract for the new phone system for extra wire and extra help. The overage was a total of \$19,302 and it will be split between Intrasect and the County. The Counties portion is \$9,651.25. Dawes made a motion to accept the contract. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Contract with ATLAS for tuckpointing repair to the East elevation of the Courthouse in the amount of \$137,773.00. Once the East side is done the whole building will have been tuckpointed. Ross made a motion to approve the contact. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
3. Contract with ATLAS for tuck pointing and patching around the chillers in the amount of \$14,773.00. Ross made a motion to accept the contract. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Shelly Baucco, Wabash County Auditor presented:

1. Accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 12/22/2025, 12/29/2025, and 01/05/2026. Ross made a motion to approve the claims and allowances as presented. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Payroll claims and allowances, including withholdings, for pay period ending 12/20/2025. Ross made a motion to approve the payroll claims and allowances. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
3. The January LIT Distribution to be disbursed to the taxing units, in the amount of \$1,431,323.78. Ross made a motion to approve the January LIT Distribution. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Niccum asked if there were any ADA or Title VI concerns, none were heard.

Dawes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. The Commissioners will next meet on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 3:00pm.

Also present: *In person*: Bill Burnsworth, Nicky Burnsworth, Kim Shininger, Brian Ridgeway, Cheryl Ridgeway, Jay Driscoll, Tenille Zartman, Alex Downard, Conner Hindman, Brooke Robinson, Cole Wyatt, Kimberly Lundmark, Dave Nelson, and Kandy Barker. *Via zoom*: Connie, phone, iphone(2), bswihart, lgrandstaff, sfrehse, AKline, Clarissa Russell, Amanda Shambarger, dwter, and Ksawin.

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Jeff D. Dawes Ty A. Cheryl Ross  
Jeff D. Dawes Tyler Niccum, Chairman Cheryl Ross

Attest: Shelly Baucop  
Shelly Baucop, Wabash County Auditor