

Wabash County Board of Commissioners Minutes for March 2, 2026

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, March 2, 2026. Tyler Niccum, Chairman, 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 Bauccho.

The minutes of the February 16, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Ross made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Brian Campbell, Wabash County Plan Director, presented the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance 2026-85-02. This ordinance is a request from the Department of Natural Resources and is something that is presented every 10-15 years, according to Campbell. He noted that this would be taking care of everything for the federal government when it comes to FEMA within in Wabash County. They were requesting some changes as far as definitions and so forth. The towns of Lagro, Roann, and LaFontaine have approved the changes along with the Plan Commission. Niccum indicated he would like to have it as a first reading in case anyone had questions. Ross made a motion to approve the Ordinance 2026-85-02 as a first reading. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Keith Walters, EMA Director, updated the Commissioners on the Wabash County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Walters noted that in 2024, an opportunity to apply for a grant thru the State for a Multi-Haza Mitigation Plan. He received permission to apply for the grant from the Commissioners and Council and received the fully funded executed grant agreement in December, 2024. In January, 2025, an email was received from FEMA indicating that all grant funding was suspended. Last week, he received an email from the State asking how they were doing on the grant and Walters noted that he referenced the email and they noted that he should not have received the previous email. Walters noted that he has requested an updated contract from the State. Walters noted that the grant ends in August of this year, therefore, it is required by FEMA at this time, if there would be a Presidential declared disaster and they grant funding was opened Wabash County would not qualify if no plan was in place. Dawes made a motion for Walters to move forward with the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Ryan Smith, Highway Department Superintendent, requested authorization to sell items in the McKillip Machinery Auction on March 12-13, 2026. He indicated the items are just not cost effective and items that are not being used anymore. He noted the Auditor has submitted advertisement in the paper and is posted on the County Website under Legal Notices. Ross made a motion to authorize the sale. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Tyler Guenin, Wabash County Sheriff's Department, presented the Wabash County Jail report for February, 2026. The average total prisoner count, 134; average female prisoner count, 31; average male prison count, 103; number of prisoners booked into Jail, 63; average number of bookings per month, 71; Level 6 felony sentenced females on 02/28/2026, 5; Level 6 felony sentenced males on 02/28/2026, 7; prisoner transports, 29; males transported to IDOC, 9; females transported to IDOC, 0; DNA collected from arrested felons, 17; and misdemeanor fingerprints as ordered by the Court, 3.

Mark Frantz reported the mediation with Kettlehut, roofing contractor for the new Jail, did settle. He indicated their insurance companies combined are going to pay the County \$80,000 and the County will be releasing the retainage to Kettlehut.

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Coordinator:

1. Presented a contract for Johnson Controls, which has not been review by Counsel. The contract is for fire protection for the Judicial Building. The contract can either be for one-year or three years and the price would remain the same. The cost would be \$3,606.05 per year. The contract is for the Preventive Maintenance for the sprinkler system, fire alarm, pull alarms and miscellaneous. Johnson Controls is the one who originally put the equipment in the Judicial Building and if there would be a change to a different vendor, all the equipment would have to be removed and replaced by a

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different company. Dawes made a motion to approve the contract for a period of three years, subject to Counsel approval. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

2. Reported that there were two rental agreements for 808 Manchester Avenue on March 7, 2026, and May 30, 2026.
3. Noted that there will be a preliminary meeting with Atlas for the tuck-pointing on the East side of the Courthouse.

Shelly Bauccho, Wabash County Auditor presented:


1. Accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 02/23/2026 and 03/02/2026. 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 02/14/2026. Ross made a motion to approve the payroll claims and allowances. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
3. The March LIT Distribution to be disbursed to the taxing units, in the amount of \$1,411,943.16. Ross made a motion to approve the February LIT Distribution. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
4. Presented a non-for-profit agreement with Somerset Relocation Development Board in the amount of \$5,000. Ross made a motion to approve the agreement. 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.


The Commissioners reviewed the following: Weights and Measure Monthly Report; IDEM Ford Meter Box Company, Inc.; 4 letters opposed to Carbon Capture and Sequestration; Visit Wabash County Letter; Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission March 11 Meeting Agenda.

Ross made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. The Commissioners will next meet on Monday, March 16, 2026, at 9:00am.

Also present: *In person*: Bill Burnsworth, Nicky Burnsworth, Conner Hindman, Kimberly Lundmark, Dave Nelson, Cole Watt, Dave Terflinger, Louella Krom, Kim Shining, Jana Thibos, Jim Dixon, and Kandy Barker. *Via zoom*: Connie, phone, Theda Metzger, J. Hicks, Lgrandstaff, Amanda Shambarger, and AKline.



Jeff D. Dawes



Tyler Niccum, Chairman



Cheryl Ross

Attest: 

Shelly Bauccho, Wabash County Auditor