

WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 16, 2026 | 9:00 AM | Wabash County Courthouse

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tyler Niccum called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM with all three Commissioners present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tyler Niccum (Chairman), Jeff D. Dawes, Cheryl Ross

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT IN PERSON: Auditor Shelly Baucco, Brian Ridgeway, Cheryl Ridgeway, Jeff Biehl, Kim Shininger, Nicky Burnsworth, Bill Burnsworth, Ryan Hauptert, Tenille Zartman, Amy Lybarger, Kimberly Lundmark, Cheryl Evenson, Josh Petruniw, Tyler Guenin, Vickie Harrison, Dave Nelson, and Kandy Barker

VIA ZOOM: Connie (phone), Theda Metzger, iPhone, mattc, bhegel, Treasurer, Don Jervis, Cole, and CLA

The proceedings were recorded by Auditor Shelly Baucco.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

The minutes of the March 2, 2026, meeting was reviewed. Dawes made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT — ANNUAL GRANT SUBMISSIONS

Brian Swihart, Chief Probation Officer, presented the annual grants to be submitted to the Indiana Department of Corrections and the Indiana Office of Court Services. There is a total of eight grants being submitted:

1. 2027 IOCS Problem-Solving Court Grant (Drug Court)
2. 2027 IOCS Problem-Solving Court Grant (FRC Court)
3. 2027 IOCS Problem-Solving Court Grant
4. 2027 IOCS Pretrial Grant
5. 2027 Community Corrections and Justice Reinvestment Grant (Drug Court)
6. 2027 Community Corrections and Justice Reinvestment Grant (ReEntry Court)
7. 2027 Community Corrections and Justice Reinvestment Grant (Probation)
8. 2027 Community Corrections and Justice Reinvestment Grant (Pretrial)

Ross made a motion to approve the submission of the grants. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

CANDIDATE INTRODUCTION

Chris Parker, candidate for Indiana State Senate District 17, introduced himself to the Commissioners. Parker will be running to fill the seat previously held by Andy Zay. No action was taken.

FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE 2026-85-02 — SECOND READING

Brian Campbell, Wabash County Plan Director, presented the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance 2026-85-02 as a second reading. Campbell noted the ordinance has been approved by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Counsel. Dave Terflinger questioned whether the boundaries had been changed. Campbell indicated that the ordinance does not deal directly with boundaries and that those are constantly changing. Ross made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-85-02 as a second reading. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Ryan Smith, Highway Department Superintendent, provided the following updates:

1. **Bridge #196** — Smith gave an update on the status of Bridge #196.
2. **CCMG Award** — Smith reported that CCMG funding has been awarded for three small structures in the LaFontaine area: America Road, Kerr Road, and County Line Road. Total funding is \$865,000, with

the county's 20% portion being \$173,000. Smith presented a Consultation Services Agreement with Civil Con, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$45,000, bringing the total local funds commitment to \$252,000. Niccum indicated that the Auditor has identified the funding for said amounts from the Economic Development Fund (1112). Ross made a motion to approve the Agreement, subject to approval from Counsel. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

COUNTY COORDINATOR REPORT

Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County Coordinator, reported on the following:

1. Johnson Controls — Check Valve Replacement — Presented a quote/proposal from Johnson Controls to replace a check valve at the Judicial Center in the amount of \$3,619.03. Shepherd indicated this is the second time this check valve has failed and that this was one of the items called out in the Fire Marshal report. Dawes made a motion to approve the quote/proposal. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

2. Judicial Annex Wind Damage — Reported there was wind damage to the Judicial Annex roof due to high winds the previous week. A temporary repair was made on Saturday to prevent further damage until the roof can be replaced.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Shelly Bauccho, Wabash County Auditor, presented the following:

1. Accounts Payable — Claims and allowances for docket ending 03/09/2026 and 03/16/2026. 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 — Claims and allowances, including withholdings, for pay period ending 02/28/2026. Ross made a motion to approve the payroll claims and allowances. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

3. Learn More Center Agreement — Presented a not-for-profit agreement with the Learn More Center in the amount of \$20,000 from the Economic Development Fund (1112). Ross made a motion to approve the agreement. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Change Order 7-67 — Old Jail Renovation

Ross presented change order 7-67 in the amount of \$7,250 from DNE for hardware and locksets for the doors at the Old Jail, which is being renovated for the Health Department. Niccum noted that it appears completion will be done by May 1, 2026, after which the Health Department will move in. Ross noted that there is a thought process regarding the move but no details have been confirmed. Ross made a motion to approve the Chang Order. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

ADA / TITLE VI

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

MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

Keith Walters, EMA Director, updated the Commissioners on the Wabash County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, noting that the Burke Contract has been approved by Counsel and that he has reached out to Burke to get started immediately.

PUBLIC COMMENT — CARBON CAPTURE AND SEQUESTRATION

Josh Leffel addressed the Commissioners regarding Carbon Capture and Sequestration. Leffel stated his opposition to the proposed POET Biorefining CCS project on behalf of a group of citizens. He noted that a community campaign to collect Letters of Opposition had been successful, bringing together citizens and businesses across the county. Leffel presented 615 signed CCS Letters of Opposition to the

Commissioners and thanked them for enacting the moratorium. He encouraged the Commissioners to continue efforts to protect the community from the risks associated with CCS projects.

Dave Terflinger also addressed the Commissioners and thanked them for their efforts regarding Carbon Capture and Sequestration.

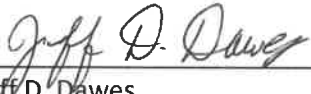
CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS REVIEWED

The Commissioners reviewed the following:

- IDEM: POET Biorefining North Manchester LLC Final Decision
 - IDEM: Bionutrients Ag — Air Permit
 - IDEM: Ford Meter Box Final Decision Air Permit
 - Six hundred nineteen (619) letters opposed to Carbon Capture and Sequestration
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ADJOURNMENT

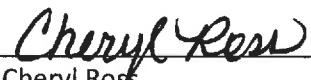
Ross made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. The Commissioners will next meet on Monday, March 30, 2026, at 9:00 AM.



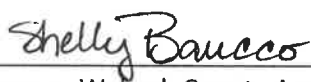
Jeff D. Dawes



Tyler Niccum, Chairman



Cheryl Ross

ATTEST: 

Shelly Bauccho, Wabash County Auditor
