

WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 4, 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, and Cheryl Ross

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT IN PERSON: Auditor Shelly Bauccho, Dave Nelson, Louella Krom, Cynthia Donovan, Kimberly Lundmark, Kim Shiningler, Chris Hickman, Jim Dixon, Keith Walters, Marcie Shepherd, Jeff Brill, and Kandy Barker

VIA ZOOM: Connie, AKline, Amanda Shambarger, Don Jervis, and Theda Metzger

The proceedings were recorded by Auditor Shelly Bauccho.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

The minutes of the April 20, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Dawes made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

BEVERLY FERRY, CEO, LIVING WELL IN WABASH COUNTY - SECTION 5311 CY 2027 FEDERAL GRANT APPLICATION, SECTION 5339 VEHICLE GRANT

Beverly Ferry, CEO of Living Well in Wabash County, presented **Resolution 2026-85-07:** Resolution Authorizing the Filing of a CY 2027 Application for a Grant under Section 5311/5339 of the Federal Transit Act. Ferry read the resolution into the record, noting that its content has not changed from prior years and must be read annually. The resolution authorizes Chairman Niccum to make the necessary certifications and assurances and to enter into agreement with INDOT for the provision of rural public transportation services within Wabash County. It also designates Living Well in Wabash County as the nonprofit organization to coordinate and provide 5311-funded rural public transit services, and authorizes Ferry as CEO to execute and file the application with INDOT.

Ross made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-85-07. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Ferry then presented the following items for signature: Certification of Use of Project Equipment and Facilities; Local Financial Certifications and Capital Use Assurances; Special Warranty Arrangement; Special Section 5333(b) Warranty List of Public Transportation Providers and Labor Unions; Statement of Acceptance of the Special Section 5333(b) Warranty; and Section 5311 Pass-Through Agreement for Rural Public Transportation. Ferry noted that the Section 5311 Pass-Through Agreement will also require the signature of County Attorney Mark Frantz.

Ferry explained that the local match sources for the grant include Wabash County government (\$30,000), City of Wabash (\$30,000), United Fund of Wabash County (\$18,000), Town of North Manchester (\$19,000), and Living Well General Fund (\$90,464). She noted the 80/20 federal-to-local match structure and explained that funds previously reserved from an insurance settlement on a totaled vehicle are held in a restricted transit account and will be applied toward the required local match for the vehicle purchase under Section 5339.

Ferry stated that under Section 5339, Living Well in Wabash County will be purchasing a bus, and that a legal advertisement will be placed notifying the public of an opportunity to request a public hearing on the matter. She noted that the organization is still operating four days per week and continues to interview for additional drivers, adding that raising the starting driver pay to \$15.00 per hour has made a significant difference in recruitment.

COUNTY HIGHWAY

Ryan Smith, County Highway Superintendent, presented a Detour Plan from INDOT for the planned resurfacing of State Road 16 from State Road 13 to Huntington County, to be conducted in Spring 2027. The project will occur in three phases. Smith requested Commissioner signatures on the detour plan document.

COUNTY SHERIFF

Tyler Guenin, Chief Deputy, presented the April 2026 jail report. The statistics are as follows:

- Average Total Prisoner Count: 137.9
- Average Female Prisoner Count: 34.1
- Average Male Prisoner Count: 103.8
- Number of Prisoners Booked into Jail: 76
- Average Number of Bookings per Month: 79
- Level 6 Felony Sentenced Females on 04/30/2026: 12
- Level 6 Felony Sentenced Males on 04/30/2026: 10
- Total Inmate Transports: 27
- Males Transported to IDOC: 8
- Females Transported to IDOC: 0
- DNA Collected from Arrested Felons: 27

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Shelly Baucco, Wabash County Auditor, presented the following:

1. **Accounts Payable** — Claims and allowances for dockets ending 04/27/2026 and 05/04/2026 were presented for approval. 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 the pay period ending 04/25/2026 were presented for approval. Ross made a motion to approve the payroll claims and allowances. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
3. **LIT Distribution** — LIT Distribution for May, 2026, to be distributed to the taxing units in the amount of \$1,411,943.16. Ross made a motion to approve the LIT Distribution for May, 2026. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
4. **FIT Distribution** – Semi-annual Financial Institution Tax Distribution in the amount of \$73,397.00 to be distributed to the taxing units. Ross made a motion to approve the FIT Distribution. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
5. **CVET Distribution** – Semi-annual Commercial Vehicle Excise Tax Distribution in the amount of \$108,422.00 to be distributed to the taxing units. Ross made a motion to approve the CVET Distribution. 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.

2026 COMMUNITY CROSSINGS BID OPENING FOR SMALL STRUCTURE REPLACEMENTS

The Commissioners conducted a bid opening for the 2026 Community Crossings Small Structure Replacements project. Dawes made a motion to close the bids. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

The following bids were received:

- Pioneer Associates, Inc., Albion, Indiana: \$1,027,706.00
- Bercot, Inc., Fort Wayne, Indiana: \$955,687.00

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

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS REVIEWED

The Commissioners reviewed the following:

- 2025 Wabash County Jail Information Report
 - IDEM correspondence regarding the City of Wabash
 - IDEM correspondence regarding American Strategic Metals Indiana LLC
 - Two letters opposed to CCS
 - North Manchester RDC Notice of Public Hearing
 - Weights and Measures March Monthly Report
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ADJOURNMENT

Ross made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 AM. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. The Commissioners will next meet on Monday, May 18, 2026, at 9:00 AM.



Jeff D. Dawes

Tyler Niccum, Chairman



Cheryl Ross

ATTEST:



Shelly Baucro, Wabash County Auditor