

WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 15, 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, Jeff D. Dawes, and Cheryl Ross

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT IN PERSON: Shelly Bauccho, County Auditor, Dave Nelson, Nick Kopkey, Marcie Shepherd David Terflinger, Louella Krom, Cynthia Donovan, Kimberly Lundmark, Bill Burnsworth, Nicky Burnsworth, Chris Hickman, Diane Morris, Heather George, Jeff Patton, Betty Wright, Cynthia Johnson, Beth Gillespie, Lavonne Sparling, Tenille Zartman, Justin Scott, Tyler Guenin, and Emily Myers

VIA ZOOM: Don Jervis, Connie, Theda Metzger, Laura Grandstaff, Brian, Angie Kline, B. Swihart, Clarrisa Russell

The proceedings were recorded by Auditor Shelly Bauccho.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

The minutes of the June 1, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Ross made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carries 3-0.

The ARC of Wabash County

Jeff Patton, President/CEO presented an \$80,000 funding request for the next program year, explaining significant changes including the loss of their 14C certificate and a 13% decrease in Medicaid funding due to federal and state administrative changes. The organization reported they had prepared for these changes and were able to absorb most of the \$300,000 funding loss through other business ventures and expanded day programming. The Board received the presentation. No action was taken at this time.

The Learn More Center

Cynthia Johnson with The Learn More Center requested \$25,000 for 2027, highlighting their expanded training programs including certifications in paraprofessional, peer recovery coach, entrepreneurship, clinical medical assistant, and construction, with 30 students having completed high school diplomas so far this year. The Board received the presentation. No action was taken at this time.

Wabash County Animal Shelter

Diane Morris and Heather George with the Wabash County Animal Shelter presented a \$60,000 request for an animal control services contract for services in 2027. Morris stated rising personnel, veterinary, and operational costs make continued government partnership essential to sustaining current service levels. The Board received the presentation. No action was taken at this time.

The Lagro Canal Foundation

Beth Gillespie with The Lagro Canal Foundation requested \$10,000 to create a storefront on the Dover Street Line building to serve as a community event center and entrepreneurship space. The Board received the presentation. No action was taken at this time.

COUNTY HIGHWAY

Shelly Bauccho, County Auditor, requested for the Highway Superintendent authorization to proceed with the Bridge 96 project and submit the required request to INDOT. Ross made a motion to approve. Dawes seconded; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Josh Petruniw, County Attorney, presented a request for **Outside Counsel — Clark, Johnson and Knight** — Petruniw on behalf of Mark Frantz requested authorization to retain Clark, Johnson and Knight of Merrillville, Indiana, to assist in defending the County in litigation that has been filed against the County. Frantz noted the firm has experience with the claims and that he has spoken with them and a litigation plan is already in place. Ross made a motion to approve the retention of Clark, Johnson and Knight. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

COUNTY EMA DIRECTOR

Keith Walters provided a detailed report on a tornado that hit the area on Thursday night, causing damage to multiple homes and properties, with current assessments showing two homes destroyed, six with major damage, nine with minor damage, and two affected windows. Walters mentioned that the state is seeking a disaster declaration for 38 counties affected by the tornado, and requested the commissioners sign a limited disaster declaration. Ross made a motion to sign the limited disaster declaration. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

COUNTY COORDINATOR/HR DIRECTOR

Marcie Shepherd reported:

1. Rental agreements for 808 Manchester Avenue – The date of the rental is July 18. Ross made a motion to approve the rental agreements. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carries 3-0.
2. Shepherd discussed progress on the 79 West Main St. building projects, including plans for a transfer switch installation and upcoming inspection on 6/22/26.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Shelly Bauccho, Wabash County Auditor, presented the following:

1. **Accounts Payable** — Claims and allowances for dockets ending 06/08/2026 and 06/15/2026 were presented for approval. Ross made a motion to approve the claims and allowance docket. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carries 3-0.
2. **Payroll Claims** — Claims and allowances, including withholdings, for the pay period ending 06/06/2026 were presented for approval. Ross made a motion to approve the payroll claims and allowances. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carries 3-0.
3. **June LIT Distribution** – \$1,872,190.01 for the June, 2026, LIT Distribution to be distributed to all taxing units. Ross made a motion to approve the LIT Distribution. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carries 3-0.
4. **Supplemental LIT Distribution** – The Supplemental LIT Distribution in the amount of \$85,561.00 to be distributed to all taxing units. Ross made a motion to approve the Supplemental LIT Distribution. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carries 3-0.
5. **Supplemental LIT Distribution** – The Supplemental LIT Distribution in the amount of \$485,322.00 to be distributed to all taxing units. Ross made a motion to approve the Supplemental LIT Distribution. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carries 3-0.

Niccum noted that they received a quote to replace the handrail at 79 West Main Street for \$15,200.

Dave Terflinger requested a budget report for the council meeting on 79 West Main projects. The Board acknowledged the request. Auditor Bauccho will prepare a budget report for the upcoming Council meeting.

ADA / TITLE VI

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

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS REVIEWED

The Commissioners reviewed the following: - IDEM MPS air permit

ADJOURNMENT

Ross made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 AM. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carries 3-0. The Commissioners will next meet on Monday, June 29, 2026, at 9:00 AM.


Jeff D. Dawes


Tyler Niccum, Chairman


Cheryl Ross

ATTEST:


Shelly Bauccho, Wabash County Auditor