

WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 29, 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 Louella Krom, Cynthia Donovan, Kimberly Lundmark, Tenille Zartman, Brian Ridgway, Cheryl Ridgway, Christine Flohr, Jim Dixon, Roberta Ritter, Teresa Galley, Rachel Castle, Amber White, Pam Campbell, Katie Beachamp, Rich Mofield, Keith Walters, Ryan Smith, Ryan Baker, and Emily Myers

VIA ZOOM: Connie, Theda Metzger, Laura Grandstaff, Angie Kline, Amanda Shambarger, B. Swihart, Christine Flohr, phone

The proceedings were recorded by Auditor Shelly Bauccho.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

The minutes of the June 15, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Ross made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carries 3-0.

VISIT WABASH COUNTY

Christine Flohr with Visit Wabash County presented the 2027 funding request of \$75,000. Materials distributed included an economic impact report, a year-in-review booklet, data from the organization's "Live Here" website landing page, and Thrive in Wabash County podcast growth data. Commissioners received the presentation. No action was taken at this time.

NORTH MANCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Laura Rager, Director of North Manchester Historical Society presented the 2027 funding request of \$10,000. The county has supported the North Manchester Historical Society since approximately 2020. County funds are directed to the general fund to cover insurance and utilities; funds are not used for salaries or stipends. Commissioners received the presentation. No action was taken at this time.

WABASH COUNTY MUSEUM

Teresa Galley, Executive Director with the Wabash County Museum presented the organization's 2027 funding request of \$35,000. An extensive packet was distributed including a formal request letter, a seven-page summary of annual activities, the most recent profit and loss statement, information regarding the museum's designation as the Community Foundation of Wabash County's 2026 Nonprofit of the Year, information about America 250th programming, a board member list, an invitation to the Wabash County Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony, letters of community support, and letters from the CEO of the Indiana Destination Development Corporation and the Executive Director of the Indiana Tourism Association. Commissioners received the presentation. No action was taken at this time.

COVERED BRIDGE CERTIFICATION

Niccum addressed the annual covered bridge certification required to be submitted to the State of Indiana, certifying the existence of two covered bridges in Wabash County.

Ross made a motion to approve the annual covered bridge certification for submission to the State of Indiana. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carries 3-0.

RICH MOFIELD, WABASH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Rich Mofield, Administrator of the Wabash County Health Department, appeared before the Commissioners and reported on the following matters:

1. **Office Relocation:** The Health Department is in the process of relocating to 79 West Main. Staff are working to minimize disruption to services during the move.

2. Retirement - Lori Foust, Public Health Nurse: Mr. Mofield reported the retirement of Lori Foust, a public health nurse who has been associated with the department for approximately 28 years. Ms. Foust's last day is July 31, 2026. Mr. Mofield acknowledged that Ms. Foust did not wish formal recognition but stated for the record his personal appreciation for her service. The Board extended its appreciation to Ms. Foust.

3. Replacement Hire - Jerry Luke: Mr. Mofield requested Board approval of the selection of Jerry Luke as the replacement public health nurse, with a start date of July 20, 2026, providing a two-week overlap with Ms. Foust prior to her July 31, 2026 departure.

Ross made a motion to approve the hiring of Jerry Luke as replacement public health nurse for the Wabash County Health Department, with a start date of July 20, 2026. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carries 3-0.

RICHVALLEY ALLEY VACATION Public Hearing

A public hearing was held for the Vacation of a portion of a public alley in the Town of Richvalley. Roberta Ritter and Brian Campbell presented a petition for the vacation of a portion of a public alley in the Town of Richvalley.

The ten-foot wide North-South alley between Lots 6 & 7 of Isaac Kellers Addition and the ten-foot wide East-West alley between Lots 9 & 10 and Lots 7 & 8 of the Continuation of Isaac Kellers Addition.

Ross made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2026-85-06 to vacate the alley. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carries 3-0.

Ross made a motion to Suspend the rules and move forward with a second reading. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carries 3-0.

Ross made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2026-85-06 to vacate the alley on the Second Reading. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carries 3-0.

COUNTY HIGHWAY

Ryan Smith with the County Highway provided the following updates:

Chip and Seal Program: Completed just under 90 miles of chip and seal work over 17 days during June 2026.

North Manchester Bridge: Market Street: The bridge replacement project is on time and on budget. The bridge is expected to open on or about July 15, 2026.

America Road: Smith reported that Gaunt and Son completed required repairs the prior week. The road was being reopened to traffic on June 29th. The County's engineering firm recommended that the county not formally accept the road until the repairs are monitored and no further problems arise, as this preserves Gaunt and Son's liability under the one-year maintenance term. Commissioners concurred with Smith's recommendation. Smith stated he would work with the County's engineering firm to continue monitoring the road. It was noted that 36 locations of lime stabilization failure were identified on America Road.

COUNTY EMA DIRECTOR

Keith Walters, Director of EMA presented Resolution No. 2026-85-08 for adoption of the Wabash County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan will remain in effect for five years. Following adoption, the EMA Director stated the intention to visit incorporated towns within the county to request their sign-on to the county hazard mitigation plan.

Ross made a motion to adopt Resolution No 2026-85-06, the Wabash Hazard Mitigation Plan. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carries 3-0.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Shelly Bauccho, Wabash County Auditor, presented the following:

1. Accounts Payable — Claims and allowances for dockets ending 06/22/2026 and 06/29/2026 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 06/20/2026 were presented for approval. Ross made a motion to approve the payroll claims and allowances. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carries 3-0.

3. **Wheel Tax Distribution for April 2026** – The April 2026 Wheel Tax Distribution in the amount of \$25,593.28 was presented for approval. The distribution is made to qualifying taxing units. Ross made a motion to approve the Wheel Tax Distribution. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carries 3-0.

4. **June 2026 Settlement** – The June 2026 Settlement in the amount of \$26,732,623.48 was presented for approval, representing the distribution of property tax and excise tax collections to all taxing units for the first half of the year. State approval of all distributions had been received. Ross made a motion to approve the June 2026 Settlement. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carries 3-0.

ADA / TITLE VI

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

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS REVIEWED

Monthly weight and measure report; Annual Weights and Measurers report; Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission Meeting Packet

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, July 6, 2026, at 9:00 AM.


Jeff D. Dawes


Tyler Niccum, Chairman


Cheryl Ross

ATTEST:


Shelly Baucio, Wabash County Auditor