

WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 5, 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, Emily Myers, Kimberly Lundmark, Mark Frantz, Tyler Guenin, Cole Wyatt, Cheryl Ridgeway, Louella Krom, Dave Terflinger, Marcie Shepherd, Keith Walters, Nicky Burnsworth, Bill Burnsworth, Ryan Smith, Chris Hickman, Kathy Green, Crystal Dill, Ron Franks, Kim Shiniger, Brian Campbell, Jennifer Hicks, Dave Nelson, Cheri Slee, Ben Boszor, Amy Boszor.

VIA ZOOM: Zoom attendees are listed as they appeared in the Zoom participant panel. Don Jervis, phone, Laura Grandstaff, Amanda Shambarger, AKline, Tonya Blair, unger, Theda Metzger. The proceedings were recorded by Auditor Shelly Bauccho.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

The minutes of the September 21, 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.

iWorQ Service Agreement – Plan Commission

Brian Campbell with Wabash County Planning presented an iWorQ service agreement for online permitting processes in the amount of \$13,000 annually effective January 1, 2027 for a 3 year term. Campbell noted that while initial funding would come from the new budget, the program should become self-funded in future years, and they are working with Cheri Slee, Surveyor on mapping and GIS system requirements to implement the service. Dave Terflinger, Council member encouraged the approval. Ross made a motion to approve the iWorQ service agreement. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

USDA Grant

Dave Terflinger, council member asked about the availability of a USDA grant of \$500,000 to help residents remain in their homes, capped at \$5,000 per family or house, which may be used for air conditioning, HVAC, window replacement, and other energy-saving improvements. The speaker reported his understanding that the City of North Manchester cannot apply because it has an open Stellar grant, and asked whom in county government to coordinate with. It was noted the County may be subject to the same limitation due to its participation in a Stellar grant, that the County does not have staff dedicated to grant administration and typically partners with an outside organization, and that the EMA Director may have relevant grant experience. The County Attorney noted that a nonprofit might administer the funds with the County as applicant, as is done with other grants. It was suggested the speaker begin with the Auditor. The Commissioners agreed to look into the matter and asked that the speaker provide the grant information. No action taken.

COUNTY HIGHWAY

Ryan Smith, Superintendent reported the following:

- Bridge 96 (Hanging Rock Road) letting occurs this week; the project is moving forward.
- North Manchester Market Street Bridge, opened Labor Day weekend: final cost of \$3,591,177 which is under budget. A core drill sample has been sent to Lafayette; results are expected in approximately six months. If an overlay is determined to be needed, funds will be available and the matter will be worked out with the contractor. The final walk-through has been completed and the contractor understands that possibility. The County has until July 2027 before final acceptance. Sealing work was performed.

- Community Crossings (CCMG): Two of the three small structures are complete. The third structure is being reinstalled this week; all three should be complete early next week. The Superintendent reported that the contractor has been good to work with on the design-build structures.

COUNTY SHERIFF

Major Tyler Guenin presented the following statistics for September 2026:

- Average daily inmate population: 136 (30 females, 106 males)
- Prisoners booked during the month: 63; year-to-date monthly average: 80
- Level 6 sentenced inmates housed: 3 females, 16 males
- Prisoner transports: 60; 9 males and 1 female transported to the Indiana Department of Correction
- DNA collected from arrested felons: 16
- Misdemeanor fingerprints collected (court-ordered): 23
- Inmates currently housed outside Wabash County: 0

No questions were raised. The Board received the report.

Guenin provided to the Board a quote from John Jones for the purchase of a new 2027 Chevrolet Express cargo van for jail transport at a fleet cost of \$42,289.50. The existing secure transport insert can be transferred from the current Chevrolet van into the new vehicle. Local dealers were contacted; none could match fleet pricing, and it was further reported that the two local dealers could not obtain a vehicle before the end of the year. The purchase would require an additional appropriation from the misdemeanor fund; the Auditor indicated she would determine whether the advertising deadline could still be met for the October council meeting, noting the next meeting is not until December 7. The County Attorney advised that approval of the contract would be subject to appropriation. Ross made a motion to approve the quote pending on the council appropriation. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

No Reports were presented by the County Attorney

COUNTY EMA

Keith Walters, EMA Director requested permission to apply for the 2026 Emergency Management Performance Grant, which reimburses for two full-time positions. Reimbursement this year is \$35,500. Ross made a motion to authorize permission to apply for the 2026 Emergency Management Performance Grant. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

COUNTY COORDINATOR /HR DIRECTOR

Marcie Shepherd, presented a rental agreement for 808 Manchester Ave for October 3, 2026. Ross made a motion to approve the rental agreement for 808 Manchester Ave. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Facility Matters:

- Judicial Center roof (high peak): No resolution yet; the coordinator is awaiting direction from the Commissioners as to which route to pursue. The Commissioners indicated they would discuss it later that day.
- Coroner's office parking lot: The lot has been sealed. A question was raised as to whether striping and a designated handicap space are required for ADA compliance given the small number of spaces (approximately three). The coordinator will research the requirement and reach out to the appropriate individual.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Shelly Baucco, Wabash County Auditor, presented the following:

1. **Accounts Payable** — Claims and allowances for docket ending 9/28/26 and 10/5/26 were presented for approval. Ross made a motion to approve the claims and allowance docket. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. **Payroll Claims** — Claims and allowances, including withholdings, for the pay period ending 9/26/26 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** – The October LIT Distribution in the amount of \$1,411,943.16 was presented for approval. Ross made a motion to approve the October LIT Distribution. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
 4. **Transfer Request** – Baucco presented a transfer request for a camera for the drainage board / surveyor's office, as discussed during budget hearings, in the amount of \$53,192.48. Ross made a motion to approve the transfer request. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
 5. **X-Soft Contract** – Baucco presented a contract with X-Soft in the amount of \$241,350. During budget hearings the County Council voted to move to X-Soft for property tax software. The contract spreads payments over three years. The Auditor reported the annual service cost will be less than the current property tax software and includes training. Dawes made a motion to approve the X-Soft contract. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
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OLD BUSINESS

Woolpert Contract -Surveyor Slee

Cheri Slee, County Surveyor reported on a contract signed by the Commissioners on January 21, 2025 to upgrade county aerial photography to three-inch resolution, in the amount of \$42,367 as stated. The State subsequently provided three-inch aerial photography to counties at no cost, which the Surveyor believed rendered the contract null and void. The vendor has since taken the position that the contract was never voided and has offered to apply the contract amount toward other items. The Surveyor reported that the remaining scope would cost more than the contract amount, that the Council did not fund the item for the following year, and that any additional needs can be provided through the county's existing agreement with Schneider. She recommended the contract be voided. Ross made a motion to void said contract. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Tabled Ordinances 2026-85-09; 2026-85-10; 2026-85-11 from September 21, 2026 Agenda, Alley Vacations

Brian Campbell, Wabash County Planning, presented each of the three alley vacation petitions. Campbell reported that the 811 utilities locate process was completed for each petition and that notices were mailed September 11 by both certified and regular mail. He noted an unexplained delay in delivery of the certified mailings, with regular mail arriving first; at least one recipient did not receive certified notice until the prior Wednesday. Campbell reported that the Postmaster was contacted and the delivery issue has been corrected. He noted that the County pays approximately \$11 per certified mailing.

Ordinance 2026-85-09, Alley Vacation, Town of Liberty Mills (Green)

Petition of Kathy Green to vacate the east-west alley between Lots 93, 94, 79, and 80, running east and west from 3rd Street west to the west lines of Lots 93 and 80. The alley is unimproved and presently mowed grass. No objections were received. A member of the audience inquired about an alley; following discussion it was clarified that the north-south alley adjacent to Lot 81 is an improved alley and is not proposed for vacation, and that the inquirer's question was satisfied. Ross made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-85-09. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. Ross made a motion to suspend the rules and proceed to the second reading. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. Ross made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-85-09 on second reading. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Ordinance 2026-85-10, Alley Vacation, Town of Liberty Mills (Dill)

Petition of Crystal and David Dill to vacate the north-south alley adjoining their property, approximately one block south of the preceding petition, between Lots 68 and 69. The area is mowed grass adjacent to the petitioners' driveway and is partially stoned, the stone having been placed by the petitioners at their own expense, providing access to a garage on the opposite side of the alley. Campbell reported that the adjoining owner, Anita Blaske, submitted a signed and verified written statement declining her half of the vacated alley and asking that it be conveyed to the Dills, as she does not use it and does not wish to assume maintenance. He further reported that the church owning the parcel at the southwest corner of the parking area reviewed the matter and had no objection. No other objections were received. Ross

made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-85-10 with an amendment for Dills to receive the alley. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. Ross made a motion to suspend the rules and proceed to the second reading. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. Ross made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-85-10 with an amendment for Dills to receive the alley on the second reading. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Ordinance 2026-85-11, Vacation of Platted Walnut Street Right-of-Way, Town of Richvalley (Franks)
Petition of Ron Franks to vacate a portion of the platted Walnut Street roadway on the east side of Bridge Street in the Town of Richvalley. The area currently functions as driveway. Mr. Franks addressed the Board and explained that the petitioners wish to construct a two-car garage addition on the south side of the house with direct access into the residence, and that there is not currently sufficient room on the property to do so. Vacation would provide an additional 25 feet, more than required under the applicable zoning district setback. Vacation would also improve access to a barn at the rear of the property; the existing driveway approach is currently within the street rather than on the petitioners' property. Campbell reported that the matter originated from a complaint regarding a makeshift tarp-covered structure erected by a tenant without permitting that extended into the alley; letters were issued and the structure has since been removed. He further reported that the Lions Club, which owns the parcel to the south, was contacted and had no objection. No other complaints were received. Ross made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-85-11. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. Ross made a motion to suspend the rules and proceed to the second reading. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. Ross made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-85-11 on second reading. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

ADA / TITLE VI

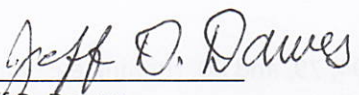
Niccum asked if there were any ADA or Title VI concerns. None were heard.

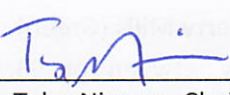
CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS REVIEWED

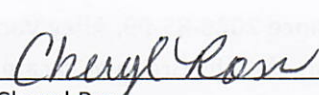
IDEM Wabash Castings LLC Notice of final decision

ADJOURNMENT

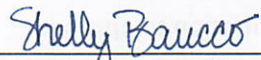
Ross made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 AM. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. The Commissioners will next meet on Monday, October 19, at 9:00 AM.


Jeff D. Dawes


Tyler Niccum, Chairman


Cheryl Ross

ATTEST:


Shelly Bauccho, Wabash County Auditor