

September 2, 2025

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, September 2, 2025. Chairman Jeff D. Dawes called the meeting to order at 9:00a.m. with Dawes, Tyler Niccum, and Cheryl Ross present. The proceedings were recorded by Wabash County Auditor Shelly Baucco.

The minutes of the August 18, 2025, meeting was reviewed. Ross made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Niccum seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Wabash County Animal Shelter Funding Request Diane Morris, Board President, Wabash County Animal Shelter and Jennifer Castro, Manager, Wabash County Animal Shelter formally requested financial support from the Wabash County Board for the years 2025 and 2026. Morris shared that a recent audit, which cost the shelter \$12,800, was favorable overall, though it highlighted some procedural issues to address.

The shelter is seeking:

- Partial funding for 2025
- Full funding of \$100,000 for 2026 (to match City of Wabash contributions)
- Reimbursement of the \$12,800 audit expense

Morris emphasized that the shelter has been servicing the county since 2022 without any county funding, even though a majority of the animals come from the county. The City of Wabash currently contributes \$100,000 annually, disbursed quarterly in \$25,000 installments. Financial records for the shelter showed a substantial loss in the first half of the year, underscoring the urgency of their funding needs to maintain operations.

Commissioner Dawes expressed interest in having the County Commissioners appoint a board member if funding is granted. Dawes also requested a detailed business plan from the shelter. Commissioner Ross made a motion to take the matter under advisement, Niccum seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Dawes presented an appointment of Cindy Pence to the Laketon Area Regional Sewer District. Niccum made a motion to accept the appointment. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Dawes indicated that at the August 18, 2025, meeting that they had approved a quote from DNE Construction for the work done at 79 W. Main Street, and they have since found a mistake and are rescinding that quote. Niccum made a motion to rescind the quote for the project at the Old Jail. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Ryan Smith, Wabash County Highway Superintendent:

1. Noted a road closure that has been ongoing on CR 50 N 100 W due to NIPSCO work and is expected to last 3-4 weeks.
2. Introduced Jeff from CivilCon and indicated that they are working on the 2026 Community Crossings funding. He noted one of the things he is working on is a plan to add additional structures to what was already approved. They would like to be able to add two more small structures that would push the funding to about \$750,000. He reported he is up against a deadline to present it by October 1, 2025. Niccum made a motion to put the two small structures in Community Crossings. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
3. Smith indicated that he is working on the Bridge 53 project and indicated that it will exceed the threshold for Community Crossings. He requested permission to begin researching funding options including the wheel tax funds, which the Commissioners granted.

Tyler Guenin, Wabash County Sheriff's Department:

1. Reported Jail numbers for the month of August. Total prisoner counts 121, average female prisoners 28, average male prisoners 94, prisoners booked into jail 86, average bookings 83, prisoner transports 25, males transported to IDOC 3, females transported to IDOC 1, DNA collected from arrested felons 29, misdemeanor fingerprints ordered by the Court 1, and inmates housed outside of the county 1.

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2. Reported that JCAP program has started and appears to be going well.

Marcie Shepherd, County Coordinator/HR Director:

1. Presented a quote for Tri-County Heating and Cooling for duct cleaning at 79 W. Main Street, in the amount of \$2,150. Niccum made a motion to approve the quote. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Presented estimates from Complete Glass Solutions. The first estimate is for the replacement of the basement windows at 79 W Main St, replacing 4 of the windows that have lost their seals in the amount of \$6,056. The second estimate is for the Health Dept. area, replacing the two front windows on the exterior and the door including hinges on the interior door and adding a reception window in the amount of \$30,615. An additional estimate for the replacement of handicap buttons on the exterior in the amount of \$6,556.39. The total of all the estimates is \$43,227.39. Niccum made a motion to accept the estimates. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
3. Quote from Jones Contracting replacing a unit in the Judicial Annex in the Jury room in the amount of \$16,811.41. Auditor has found funding for the project. Niccum made a motion to accept the quote. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Shelly Bauccho, Wabash County Auditor presented:

1. Presented a Non-For-Profit Agreement with the Learn More Center for 2025 in the amount of \$10,000.00. Niccum made a motion to approve the agreement. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Accounts payable claims and allowances for dockets ending 08/25/2025, and 09/02/2025. Ross made a motion to approve the claims and allowances as presented. Niccum seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
3. Payroll claims and allowances, including withholdings, for pay period ending 08/27/2025. Niccum made a motion to accept the payroll claims, allowances including withholdings. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
4. LIT September Distribution in the amount of \$1,431,323.76 for approval to disburse to the taxing units. Ross made a motion to approve the distribution. Niccum seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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

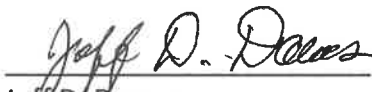
Cynthia Donovan, Roann Covered Bridge Association, reported that the fire retardant was applied to the Covered Bridge and they feel like they have the bridge in really condition. Further, she reminded everyone that the Covered Bridge Festival will be taking place this weekend and that on Saturday is the breakfast on the bridge which the costs help maintain the bridge.

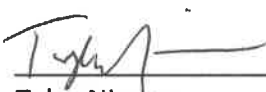
The Commissioner's reviewed the following:

- City of Wabash – Zoning Appeals and IDEM: MPS Initial Permit

Ross made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Niccum seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. The Commissioners will next meet on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 9:00am.

Also present: *In person*: Mark Frantz, Dave Terflinger, Conrad Morris, Jeff B, Cheryl Ridgeway, Brian Ridgeway, Tenille Zartman, Amanda Shull, H. George, Bill Burnsworth, Nicky Burnsworth, Dave Nelson, Kimberly Lundmark, and Kandy Barker. *Via zoom*: Blake H, phone, Don Jervis, Connie, Christine Flohr, and Tamara Unger.


Jeff D. Dawes


Tyler Niccum


Cheryl Ross

Attest: 
Shelly Bauccho, Wabash County Auditor