

THE MARTIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 14, 2026  
MINUTES

The Martin County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular session on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, in the Commissioners' Room at the Courthouse located at 129 Main Street, Shoals, Indiana. Commissioners present were Paul R. George and Retha Warner. Commissioner Aaron Summers was absent. Also present was Attorney David Lett and Auditor Michelle Norris.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 5:30 p.m.

**RE: APPROVAL OF MINUTES & CLAIMS**

The minutes from the regular meeting of March 31, 2026, were approved with a motion made by Commissioner Warner, seconded by President George. All in favor, motion passed. A motion was made by Commissioner Warner to approve the claims and allowances, seconded by President George. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: RIDE SOLUTION GRANT APPLICATION AND PROGRAM UPDATE**

Becky Guthrie of Ride Solution addressed the Commissioners to request a resolution authorizing Ride Solution to continue as the public transportation provider for Martin County, a requirement for their 2027 INDOT grant application. Ms. Guthrie explained that this is the third year such a resolution has been required. She also asked the Commissioners if they would include \$2,500 for Ride Solution in the 2027 budget, the same amount as the previous year. She noted that Ride Solution provides daily trips within and outside Martin County for various needs, including medical appointments and grocery shopping, and has recently hired an additional person to accommodate demand. A motion was made by Commissioner Warner to approve the resolution 2026-15 authorizing Ride Solution's application for the Federal Transit Act grant, seconded by President George. All in favor, motion passed. A motion was made by Commissioner Warner to approve the 2027 budget request for \$2,500, seconded by President George. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATES**

Director Andy Ringwald reported that a tornado training class held the previous night was well-attended, with approximately twenty-five participants, including one from Southern Illinois. Assistant Director Monty Wolf reported a major expense for one of their trucks, which required a new computer control panel for the pump at a cost of just over \$5,000. He commented on the high cost and complexity of modern vehicle electronics compared to older, manual systems. The Commissioners and Assistant Director Wolf discussed the rising prices of new trucks and the reduction in available grants, noting the department's newest truck is from around 2010.

**RE: TOURISM PART-TIME POSITION**

Dianna Ragsdale, Secretary of the Tourism Board, requested approval to hire a part-time employee for up to eight hours per week. The position's duties would include participating in regional tourism calls, managing the website and social media, maintaining a county event calendar, and assisting with other events. She confirmed that funding for the position would come from the existing tourism budget; the Council approved the budget and salary and wage ordinance at their last meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Warner to approve the Tourism Board's request to hire a part-time person for public relations and other duties, seconded by President George. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: LEGAL UPDATES**

Attorney David Lett stated he had no updates other than the wheel tax resolution and that he is preparing the complaint for the ongoing bridge litigation, mentioning he may consult with another attorney for assistance.

**RE: WHEEL TAX FUND ESTABLISHMENT**

Auditor Michelle Norris provided an update on the recently implemented wheel and surtax. She confirmed that January and February distributions have been sent to Loogootee, Shoals, and Crane. To manage the county's portion, she requested the creation of a new local fund. The State has an established fund, 6020 (Wheel Tax/Surtax Combined), where all revenue is initially deposited and the fund from where the units are paid. The resolution requests the creation of Fund 4977, a local fund, to hold Martin County's portion of the wheel and surtax revenue. This will allow the funds to be budgeted by the Council and spent by the Highway Department. The total revenue received to date is \$116,736.17, with \$98,720.75 being the County's portion. Martin County's share for January was \$35,632.70 and the share for February was \$63,088.05. It was clarified that the funds are restricted to road work and cannot be used for equipment or salaries, a rule that applies to municipalities as well. The distribution formula is based 20% on population and 80% on road miles. A motion was made by Commissioner Warner to approve the ordinance establishing fund number 4977 for the receipt and distribution of the county wheel tax and motor vehicle excise surtax, seconded by President George. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECORDS TRANSFER**

Auditor Norris informed the Commissioners that the Historical Society is moving old court case records from the upstairs of the former courthouse. The records, with some dating back to 1922, are temporarily in the military room in the Historical Society and are scheduled to be moved to the Courthouse's downstairs vault. Auditor Norris stated the Judge indicated that many of these records, including felonies over fifty years old and other shorter-term records, can likely be destroyed after review by the Clerk's office or the Court. Auditor Norris also addressed the issue of numerous chairs stored in the vault, some of which have mold or mildew. A motion was made by Commissioner Warner to move the chairs from the vault to the recycling center building for temporary storage, seconded by President George. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: AMBULANCE SERVICE QUARTERLY UPDATE**

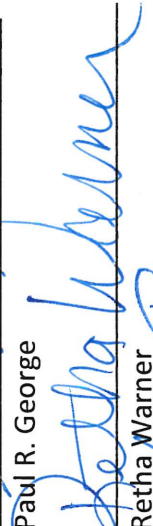
President George reviewed the quarterly ambulance service run volume report for January through March 2026. There were a total of 320 runs, broken down as 93 in January, 77 in February, and 93 in March. This is a decrease from the 381 runs in the first quarter of the previous year.

President George inquired about the status of finding a new billing collection company. Auditor Norris will reach out to other counties and municipalities to see who they use.

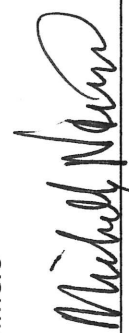
**RE: ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Warner and seconded by President George. All were in favor, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:07 PM. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

  
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Paul R. George

  
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Retha Warner

  
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Aaron C. Summers

ATTEST:   
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Michelle Norris, Martin County Auditor