

Wabash County Board of Commissioners Minutes for February 16, 2026

The Wabash County Board of Commissioners met in regular session in the Wabash County Courthouse on Monday, February 16, 2026. Tyler Niccum, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00am with all three Commissioners present: Jeff D. Dawes, Cheryl Ross, Tyler Niccum. The proceedings were recorded by Auditor Shelly Baucco.

The minutes of the February 2, 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.

Resolution 2026-85-03; Resolution Assigning Tax Sale Certificate to the Town of LaFontaine. Mark Frantz indicated that whenever a parcel goes through tax sale and is not sold, the Commissioners get the certificate and that whenever it is within a municipality the Commissioner's can assign the certificate to the municipality as if it is the purchaser and go through the process to get ownership of the property. Dawes made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-85-03. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Reappointment of the North Manchester Plan Commission members Dennis Ayers and Byron Brunn. Baucco noted that the town of North Manchester requested the reappointments. Ross made a motion to reappoint the North Manchester Plan Commission members Dennis Ayers and Byron Brunn. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Cheryl Evenson, Clerk, presented a firewall quote to meet the Indiana Dept. of Child Services requirements for connectivity to the ISETS application. Evenson reported that they hope to have this completed by the end of the year and it is 100% funded from the IV-D Incentive Fund (8895) for the initial costs. Any maintenance or ongoing purchases after the initial setup is eligible for a 15% IV-D Incentive Fund. The quote is from Intrasect and for the firewall it would be \$9,236.63 plus \$3,600.00 in cost of the labor for installation. Ross made a motion to accept the quote, pending review from Counsel. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Niccum presented the Insurance Renewal of Stop Loss with McGowan contract, pending Counsel's review. Dawes made a motion to accept the Insurance Renewal. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Ryan Smith, Highway Department Superintendent, noted that pre-con for Bridge #143, which is 1050 South in LaFontaine, is starting next week. Smith believes that they have all the issues resolved regarding a temporary bridge for residents in the area. Also, he has estimates in for 700 West in Rich Valley and what it is going to take to clean that area. They are currently looking at what permits will be required to complete the project. The goal is to have it done before the spring rain. He reported that he will be attending Road School along with Supervisor and Sign Tech all taking educational classes.

Tyler Guenin, Wabash County Sheriff's Department, presented a title that needs signed by the Commissioner's as they are trading the vehicle into Copsgear. Ross made a motion to approve the signing of the Title. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Mark Frantz reported that the claim against the County by the General Contractor for the building for the new Jail is going to Mediation. Frantz reported that Niccum will be going with him as they must have someone with authority to settle, if they settle at all, and is asking for permission to give Niccum the authority to settle the claim up to \$125,000; which is the amount that the County retained. Ross made a motion to approve Niccum as the represented. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

Niccum presented quotes for hood on the vents at the Jail as snow and rain is getting in the vents. He reported they reached out to obtain three quotes and only received one quote for the hoods and one for the installation. The first quote was from Schlemmer's at \$3,343.69 for each hood, as there is four of them, for a total of \$13,374.76. Next the quote for install was from Atlas for \$15,773.00. The total cost is \$29,147.76 and Baucco indicated that there is money in the Jail's budget; however, they will need to do a transfer and/or additional appropriation. Dawes made a motion to approve the quotes. Ross seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.

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Shelly Bauccho, Wabash County Auditor presented:

1. Accounts payable claims and allowances for docket ending 02/09/2026 and 02/16/2026. Ross made a motion to approve the claims and allowances as presented. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
2. Payroll claims and allowances, including withholdings, for pay period ending 01/31/2026. Ross made a motion to approve the payroll claims and allowances. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote.
3. Reported that the Annual Financial Report has been completed and submitted to Gateway.

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

The Commissioners reviewed the following: IDEM – H & S Metals; and IDEM – POET Biorefining North Manchester; and 28 letters Opposed to Carbon Capture and Sequestration.


Ross made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dawes seconded the motion; it passed by a 3-0 vote. The Commissioners will next meet on Monday, March 2, 2026, at 9:00am.

Also present: *In person:* Bill Burnsworth, Nicky Burnsworth, Conner Hindman, Kimberly Lundmark, Dave Nelson, Cole Watt, Ryan Smith, Tenille Zartman and Kandy Barker. *Via zoom:* Connie, phone, bhegel, Theda Metzger, Laci, Lgrandstaff, bswihart, Amanda Shambarger, Rich Mofield and AKline.


Jeff D. Dawes


Tyler Niccum, Chairman


Cheryl Ross

Attest: 
Shelly Bauccho, Wabash County Auditor