

WABASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 21, 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 Baucco, Emily Myers, Kimberly Lundmark, Cheryl Ridgeway, Louella Krom, Dave Terflinger, Keith Walters, Nicky Burnsworth, Bill Burnsworth, Ryan Smith, Rich Mofield, Chris Hickman, Kathy Green, Crystal Dill, Ron Franks, Kim Shiniger, Nick Kopkey, Brian Campbell, Jennifer Hicks, Dave Nelson, Cynthia Donovan.

VIA ZOOM: Zoom attendees are listed as they appeared in the Zoom participant panel. Brian Swihart, Jen’s iPhone, Martha’s phone, Connie, bhegel, Theda Metzger.
The proceedings were recorded by Auditor Shelly Baucco.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES

The minutes of the September 8, 2026, meeting were reviewed. Ross made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

APPOINTMENT TO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH: JULIE HOBBS AND KERRI MATTERN

Rich Mofield appeared before the board and reported that Ashley Schlemmer resigned from the Board of Health. Julie Hobbs was presented to fill an unexpired term and reappoint Kerri Mattern. The Board of Health has seven total members. Dawes made a motion to approve the appointment of Julie Hobbs and Kerri Mattern. Ross seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING TO VACATE A PUBLIC WAY

Brian Campbell with Wabash County Planning appeared before the board asking to table this matter until the next meeting. It was reported that counsel was not present and that, while affidavits of publication are on file, the certified mailings had not been returned. The certified mailings were described as having been held in Indianapolis for approximately ten days and not yet sent; tracking information could not confirm that the two mailings for the Liberty Mills matter had left Indianapolis and received by the property owners.

For the Rich Valley matter, a possible driveway issue was described: the driveway in question would be split along the property line if the roadway is vacated, with adjoining owners each receiving half, while the current user of the driveway relies on it as the sole access to their property. It was noted that counsel had advised, in substance, that vacating a public way must not impede access to any other property or road.

Kathy Green, Crystal Dill and Ron Franks all agreed to table the request. Ross made a motion to table this matter until next meeting. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

LETTER TO INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER

Niccum presented a letter that was prepared to be sent to Indiana-Michigan Power regarding the proposed Greentown-Sorenson Transmission line. The letter requests further discussion before final route decisions are made, particularly to ensure compliance with county zoning ordinances and proper setbacks from residential areas. It is noted that several locations appear to be within 1,320 feet of residential zones based on the mapped proposed route. Ross made a motion to send the letter to Indiana-Michigan Power. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Shelly Baucco, Wabash County Auditor, presented the following:

1. **Accounts Payable** — Claims and allowances for docket ending 9/14/26 and 9/21/26 were presented for approval. Ross made a motion to approve the claims and allowance docket. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.
2. **Payroll Claims** — Claims and allowances, including withholdings, for the pay period ending 9/12/26 were presented for approval. Ross made a motion to approve the payroll claims and allowances. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.
3. **Wheel Tax Distribution** – The July Wheel Tax Distribution in the amount of \$21,942.99 was presented for approval. Ross made a motion to approve the July Wheel Tax Distribution. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.
4. **Riverboat Revenue Sharing Distribution** – The Riverboat Revenue Sharing Distribution for September in the amount of \$65,204.18 was presented for approval. Ross made a motion to approve the Riverboat Revenue Sharing Distribution. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

No Reports were presented by the County Highway Superintendent, or County EMA Director

OLD BUSINESS

Cynthia Donovan, Roann Covered Bridge Association is seeking approval to pursue grant opportunities including a matching grant from Eli Lilly for bridge repairs. Bauccho asked if any grants would be in the county's name, the representative stated that was to be determined and that only groundwork was being done at this time. Ross made a motion to approve researching of grants; Dawes seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0.

Cheryl Ridgeway addressed the board on two matters of old business:

1. **Ordinance for Horse-Drawn Vehicles.** Ridgeway stated that on January 5 of this year the second reading of the Ordinance for Horse-Drawn Vehicles was tabled for further discussion, and encouraged the board to address it sooner rather than later. She raised concerns regarding buggy safety and general road safety, children operating buggies with other children aboard, an incident observed on Dora Road, questions of insurance coverage and liability in the event of a collision, whether any laws apply, contribution toward road maintenance, lighting requirements, possible age restrictions, and the practicality of signage placement. No action was taken
2. **County Road 100 West / Industrial Park.** Ridgeway stated that she has been contacted by a number of residents regarding the city's request that the county take back 100 West. She reported being told that the bylaws governing the industrial park provided that traffic was not to exit onto 100 West but rather via Ringle Avenue to State Road 13, and that the state highway department had previously indicated it did not want vehicles entering onto U.S. 24 at that location. She stated she has been unable to locate the bylaws and asked the board to obtain a copy, questioned making an exception for one company, and stated her view that the matter is the city's to resolve. No action was taken.

Chris Hickman inquired about the status of arbitration concerning the jail and learned it had been settled several months ago.

ADA / TITLE VI

Niccum asked if there were any ADA or Title VI concerns.

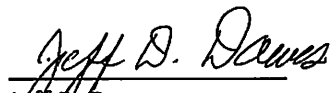
Dave Terflinger stated that, based on recent personal experience with handicapped parking, county vehicles have been observed parked in the striped access areas adjacent to handicapped spaces in the courthouse lot, making it difficult to open vehicle doors to assist elderly passengers. Terflinger asked that the commissioners send a letter or memo asking that county vehicles park farther away, noting that no ordinance was being requested. No action was taken.

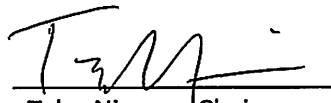
CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS REVIEWED

August Jail Report; Weights & Measures report for Sept 15

ADJOURNMENT

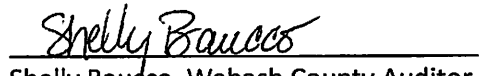
Ross made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 AM. Dawes seconded the motion; motion carried 3-0. The Commissioners will next meet on Monday, October 5, at 9:00 AM.


Jeff D. Dawes


Tyler Niccum, Chairman


Cheryl Ross

ATTEST:


Shelly Bauccho, Wabash County Auditor