

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 8th, 2025

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8th, 2025, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, December 18th, 2024.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Jim Meece, President; Dan Collom, first Vice President; Bruce Hartman, second Vice President; Nick Sauter, Commissioner's Attorney; Susan Kramer, Auditor; and Leanna Collisi, 2nd Deputy Auditor. Also present were Beth Martin, Jason Frazier, Kim Shorter, Tim Dickey, Kathy Collom, Ben Brower, Brenda Brower, Anthony (Field Representative), Steve Collisi and Chester Crague.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, December 18th, 2024 were approved on a motion from Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- IV. **PAYROLL:** County payroll in the amount of \$254,216.26, Union Hospital Security payroll in the amount of \$3,930.75 and Center of Excellence in the amount of \$1,500.00 were approved for release on Monday, December 30th, 2024 on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. County payroll in the amount of \$267,491.23 and Union Hospital Security payroll in the amount of \$2,298.96 were approved for release on Monday, January 13th, 2025 on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Acknowledgement of receipt of Payroll Claims Accounts Payable Report for December 30th, 2024 and January 13th, 2025 in the amount of \$351,432.50 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Accounts Payable Claims in the amount of \$2,084,512.94 were approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- There were four out of cycle checks needing approval. The first invoice was from RT Insurance for property liability in the amount of \$99,632.00. The second invoice was from VS Engineering for the Melcher Bridge in the amount of \$533.57. The third invoice was from Southeastern Equipment for the purchase of a used roller and a used broom in the amount of \$138,000.00. The fourth invoice was from INDOT for reimbursement on a Community Crossing Grant in the amount of \$7,767.46. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the four out of cycle checks as presented. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Kim Shorter presented the Parke County Investment Policy for 2025 to the Parke County Commissioners for approval. This policy is the same as it has been in the past. This policy describes where funds will be deposited. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the Parke County Investment Policy for 2025. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Nick Sauter, the Parke County Commissioners' Attorney, reviewed the VS Engineering 2025 On-Call Engineering Contract and Fee Schedule. Nick Sauter stated that he was good with the contract. Dan Collom made the motion to approve and sign the VS Engineering 2025 On-Call Engineering Contract and Fee Schedule. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Nick Sauter opened a bid for the 2024-2 Community Crossing project from Milestone. Jim Meece explained that this bid is for a two and a half inch overlay on the roadway designated by the grant. Milestone's bid came in at \$419,643.60. Jim Meece made the motion to approve and

sign electronically the 2024-2 Community Crossing project bid from Milestone. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Jim Meece asked if any nominations need to change for the Parke County Board of Commissioners. Dan Collom and Bruce Hartman both agreed they were happy with the elections of the Parke County Board of Commissioners as it stands. Bruce Hartman made the motion to leave the officers of the Parke County Board of Commissioners as is. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jim Meece mentioned that there is a hallow Sycamore tree near the Melcher Bridge that needs to be removed. This tree is on the west end of the bridge. Permits are in place now, so the bidding needs to happen again in order to place the Melcher Bridge back over the water in its' original place. The original cost to take down the tree was \$1,600.00, however, because a crane needs to be used, the cost has increased to \$3,200.00. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the proposed bid from Layne Experts LLC for \$3,200.00 to remove the hallow Sycamore tree near the Melcher Bridge. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jim Meece stated that Don Pruner has been dealing with some medical issues. He has managed to handle everything at the Courthouse. He was able to get the snow cleared around the Courthouse. There were a few concerns with the Courthouse's Flag Lowering Policy. As a standard, the first working day of every month, the flag is lowered in honor of anyone who has passed away. However, with President Jim Carter's passing, the Courthouse will lower the flag from Wednesday, January 8th, 2025 through Thursday, January 9th, 2025. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the special flag lowering in honor of President Jim Carter. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- Jim Meece commented on the Courthouse window issues that Judge Swaim brought to the Parke County Commissioners' attention at the last meeting. Jim Meece was able to caulk what windows he could to help with the window situation at the Courthouse. Jim Meece inspected the windows and determined, in his opinion, that the casings and seals need to be replaced on the Courthouse windows. The windows are at least 23-24 years old. This will be a major project.
- The Highway Department's recommendation of acceptance of material bids for the year 2025 was reviewed by the Parke County Commissioners. Dan Collom made the motion to approve and sign the material bids for the year 2025. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- The Parke County Commissioners reviewed the CDL Reimbursement Agreement. This agreement states what Parke County will pay for regarding obtaining a CDL License through Parke County and any consequences of repayment due to not fulfilling the two years employment commitment after receiving the CDL licensure. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the CLD Reimbursement Agreement. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- At the last Parke County Board of Commissioners' Meeting, the Parke County Commissioners agreed to reimburse \$25,000.00 to Parke County Inc. for the tent rental during the 2024 Covered Bridge Festival as long as Parke County Inc. brought in the tent invoice. Parke County Inc. did turn in this invoice for reimbursement. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the \$25,000.00 reimbursement to Parke County Inc. for tent rental during the 2024 Covered Bridge Festival. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jim Meece explained that Parke County has a Moratorium on Solar Panels. Jim Meece suggested that Parke County create a Solar Power Committee to take a look at the county's needs for solar power and implement policies. This committee can meet with other counties' Commissioners to see how they are each handling solar power in their communities. We have tried to have some companies send us sample ordinances, but they have not produced the information. Jim Meece recommended Luke Gill, Kirk Gill and Dennis Hobbs along with the three Parke County

Commissioners – Jim Meece, Dan Collom and Bruce Hartman. Dan Collom thought maybe having someone opposed to solar power on the committee as well. Jim Meece made the motion to form a Solar Energy Committee for Parke County and add more members as needed. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Jim Meece stated that an Executive Session needs to be arranged to discuss the applications and resumes for the Parke County Highway Superintendent position. Currently, Anthony (Bucky) Vandiver is the interim Highway Superintendent. Jim Meece stated that Bucky Vandiver is doing an excellent job at clearing the roadways of snow. It was agreed upon to have the Executive Session at the Auditor's Office on Thursday, January 16th, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. This will be advertised in the local paper as well.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Beth Martin, Parke County Planning and Zoning:

- Beth Martin presented the Parke County Commissioners with the Parke County Area Planning, Zoning and Building Commission's Tentative Meeting Schedule for 2025 along with the Board of Zoning Appeals. The Parke County Commissioners put this tentative schedule on hold until the Planning Commission and the BZA approve the meeting schedule for 2025. Also Beth Martin wanted to make the Parke County Commissioners aware of a petition against rezoning for APC Towers to be built near Bloomingdale, Indiana.

Jason Frazier, Parke County Sheriff:

- Jason Frazier presented the Parke County Commissioners with his Sheriff Contract Extension for 2025. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve and sign the Sheriff Contract Extension for 2025. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Jason Frazier also presented the Parke County Commissioners with a work order from People Driven Technology to rebuild the data center. The cost of the project is \$212,469.62 and has been budgeted for. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve the work order to rebuild the data center. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Jim Meece made the motion to authorize Sheriff Jason Frazier to sign the data center rebuild contract. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Katie Potter, Assessor:

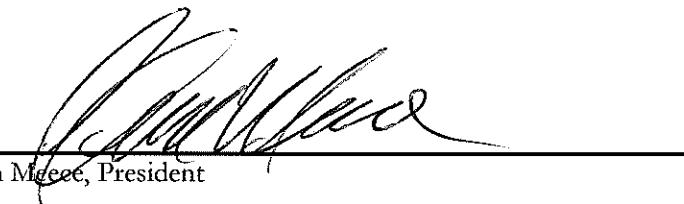
- Katie Potter informed the Parke County Commissioners of her recommendations for the Commissioner appointments to the Parke County Property Tax Board of Appeals (PTBOA) for the calendar year 2025. She is recommending Joshua Sorrels, Delbert Lewis and Michael Strack. Dan Collom made the motion to approve Katie Potter's recommendations for the 2025 Parke County Property Tax Board of Appeals. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- The Hamilton Center submitted the Annual Division of Mental Health and Addiction County Report for 2024 to the Parke County Board of Commissioners. This report provides an overview of what the Hamilton Center has done for Parke County in 2024.
- Chester Crague informed the Parke County Board of Commissioners that no agreement has been made yet in the issue of closing an alley located in Bridgeton, Indiana. Jim Meece recommended to vacate the road and that road will go to Matthew Collom. Then the alley can be vacated and

each property owner gets a certain part of the alley way. Chester feels that this is unfair to the Browers because they are not aware of the property lines and have not seen the survey yet. Chester Crague felt that the roadway and alley should be split half way with each property instead of Jim Meece's suggestion of giving a road way to Matthew Collom and then splitting up parts of the alley way to Chester Crague and the Browers. Neither Chester Crague or the Browers were in agreeance of that proposal. The Browers concern was that they have not seen the survey that Matthew Collom had done on the road and the alley to be closed. The Browers thought that they would see the survey and then get back on the agenda for further discussion. But that has not happened. Dan Collom offered to show the Browers the pins in the road and alley once the snow melts. Jim Meece did say that a 30 Day Notice can be written to Matthew Collom to move his fence if that would help the situation. Chester Crague stated that there is a major show of favoritism. The alley was supposed to be used for the Crooks Addition not for accessibility to Matthew Collom's property. Jim Meece stated that anyone can object to a closing of a roadway even if they do not have property that connects to the property requesting to be closed. This matter will be tabled again.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Dan Collom and seconded by Bruce Hartman. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.



Jim Meece, President



Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



Susan Kramer, Auditor