

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**January 21st, 2025**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21st, 2025, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 8th, 2025.
- 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 Jason Frazier, Kim Shorter, Jessica Lancaster, Steve Collisi, Luke Gill, Andrew Akers and Chester Crague.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Wednesday, January 8th, 2025 were approved on a motion from Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Minutes for an Executive Session held on Thursday, January 16th, 2025 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 \$294,660.86 and Union Hospital Security payroll in the amount of \$2,049.74 were approved for release on Monday, January 27th, 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 January 27th, 2025 in the amount of \$222,634.07 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**V. NEW BUSINESS:**

- Jim Meece commented on the temperature of the Probation Office located on the second floor of the Courthouse. There has been no heat and Jim Meece had given Judge Swaim the approval to send employees home with pay if they could not stand the cold. The mechanics have been working on the HVAC/Heating system to get it up and running again. There was a burned-out motor. They are scheduled to replace the motor tomorrow, Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025. Then the temperature should return to normal.
- Chris Newcomb with the Rockville Lake Park prepared a Community Impact Grant Request for the Parke County Board of Commissioners to approve. This grant will be used to purchase new playground equipment at Rockville Lake Park. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the Community Impact Grant Request for new playground equipment at Rockville Lake Park. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- The Parke County Board of Commissioners reviewed the 2025 Commissioner Appointments. Jim Meece made the motion to retain Nick Sauter as the Parke County Commissioners' Attorney for 2025. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The only changes in the 2025 appointments were Jim Meece being appointed to the County Highway Representative and Dan Collom being appointed to the Jail Representative. The rest of the appointees remain the same for 2025. The County Highway Supervisor and the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator will remain blank until the Highway Superintendent position is filled. Andrew Akers presented the Parke County Board of Commissioners with the re-appointment of Samantha Woodard as the Parke County Public Library Representative. The Parke County Commissioners acknowledged and signed a Proxy Letter stating that Dan Collom has been appointed to the 2025 West Central Solid Waste District Board and George Nicholas will continue to act as a proxy for Dan Collom on the West Central Indiana Solid Waste Management Board for 2025. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the changes to the 2025 Commissioner Appointments. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- A bid from Milestone was accepted for the County Highway 2024-2 DES #2401080 Asphalt Paving Project. Jim Meece made the motion to approve and sign the bid from Milestone for the County Highway 2024-2 DES #2401080 Asphalt Paving Project. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jason Frazier began a discussion regarding the HSA and the Health Insurance Waiting Period with the Parke County Board of Commissioners. Jason Frazier had an employee begin employment with Parke County on December 9th, 2024 and wanted to clarify the 61-day waiting period. Susan Kramer, the County Auditor, further explained that the employee's waiting period would end on March 1st, 2025. There is a 60-day waiting period beginning from the date of hire, then insurance coverage and HSA eligibility would begin the first of the month following the 60th day. Jason Frazier suggested that the Commissioners take a look at the policy and consider making changes. Jason Frazier had done some research with some surrounding counties to see how we compared to their waiting periods for health insurance and HSA eligibility. Clay County has a 60-day waiting period, Fountain County has a 30-day waiting period, Warren and Montgomery Counties have an immediate coverage and Vermillion has a 30-day waiting period. Susan Kramer asked Jason Frazier if these counties were self-insured. This can make a big difference on how pre-existing conditions are handled. Jason Frazier was unsure how the surrounding counties were insured. Jim Meece thought that a 61-day waiting may be too long for an employee to wait for insurance and agreed that the Parke County Insurance Acceptance Policy needs to be reviewed for the future.
- There will be an Executive Session on Friday, January 24th, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. in the Auditor's Office in the Courthouse on the First Floor. The Executive Session will be to interview 2 applicants for the Highway Superintendent position and the Highway Engineering position.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

- Jim Meece wanted to set a meeting date and time for the Solar Power Committee. Luke Gill, Kirk Gill and Dennis Hobbs were interested in helping with this committee. The meeting is planned for Monday, January 27th, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the EOC Building. If for some reason, this date does not work, Thursday, January 30th, 2025 is the backup date with the same time and place. Jim Meece welcomed Chad Jenkins, CEO of Parke County REMC, to also join in the committee meetings if he was interested.
- Jim Meece brought up some covered bridges that are in need of repairs. Dan Collom had looked at the Mansfield Covered Bridge and determined that it needs some minor repairs. Jim Meece was not sure if the Nevins Bridge needed anything. Portland Mills Covered Bridge, West Union Covered Bridge and the Sim Smith Covered Bridge are also in need of some repairs. Jim Meece wanted to put these bridges on the radar to make siding repairs. The County Highway Department and the CVC have a cost share for siding repairs on the covered bridges.

## **VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

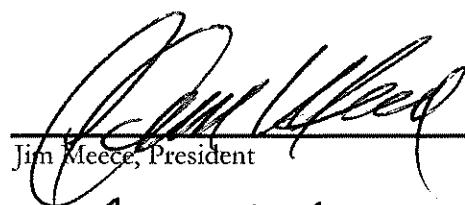
None

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Chester Crague was not in attendance to discuss the alley closure because he did not have an agreement between the property owners yet. He wanted to report an issue with a culvert on Rosedale Road just inside the county line. The culvert seems to be collapsing. Dan Collom will take a look at this culvert bridge on Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025 to assess the situation. Chester wanted clarification on the Flag Lowering Policy for the Courthouse. Jim Meece stated that the first work day of the month, the flag is lowered for all who have passed. Jim Meece also stated that the Courthouse always follows the flag protocol. Chester Crague commented that the

county did a poor job plowing the roads in his area. Jim Meece thought differently, however, he took note of Chester Crague's concern.

**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 4:34 p.m.



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Jim Meece, President



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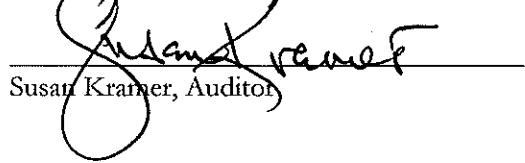
Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



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Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



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Susan Kramer, Auditor