

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 3rd, 2025

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 3rd, 2025, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 21st, 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 Kim Shorter, Steve Collisi, Jessica Lancaster, Mandy Adams-Washburn, Greg Siequist and Chester Crague.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Tuesday, January 21st, 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 \$278,236.21 and Union Hospital Security payroll in the amount of \$4,088.66 were approved for release on Monday, February 10th, 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 February 10th, 2025 in the amount of \$150,180.26 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 \$1,367,433.81 were approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Katie Potter, the Parke County Assessor, requested that Susan Kramer, the Parke County Auditor, present the Infrastructure Investment Application to be signed by Jim Meece. This application is the same every year and nothing has changed.
 - Jason Frazier, the Parke County Sheriff, requested that Susan Kramer present a grant application request for National Night Out for \$8,000.00 to be approved. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the National Night Out grant application. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Jim Meece has been receiving notices from Luke Collom regarding a couple of covered bridges that need stabilized for repairs. The Sim Smith Covered Bridge has a lower chord that is damaged. Portland Mills Covered Bridge needs repairs on a broken post. Jim Meece thought the cost to repair these bridges would be around \$2,700.00 per bridge. Bruce Hartman made the motion to have the Sim Smith and the Portland Mills Covered Bridges repaired for \$2,700.00 each. Jim Meece seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Jim Meece received a letter from the Department of Natural Resources stating that they may be re-drawing the flood plain lines in Parke County.
 - Jim Meece also received two letters from the Amish community regarding the need to have Marshall Road paved. Marshall Road is on the list for paving this Spring and Summer with Community Crossing Grants.
 - Three appointments for the Redevelopment Commission needed approval. The three appointments are Bruce Hartman, Jim Meece and Ronja Branson. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the three appointments – Bruce Hartman, Jim Meece and Ronja Branson – to the Redevelopment Commission. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- The Solar Power Committee met on Monday, January 27th, 2025. Jim Meece met with Luke Gill, Kirk Gill and a representative from Parke County REMC. The representative from Parke County REMC explained that they install 25 Kilowatts for solar power in residential structures. A typical house load is somewhere between 8.5 and 10 Kilowatts. The Solar Power Committee decided that a limit of solar power for residential structures will be 25 Kilowatts or less and battery storage cannot exceed 50 Kilowatts to be outside of the Moratorium that Parke County currently has in place.
- Dan Collom took a look at the box culvert bridge on Rosedale Road just inside of the county line that Chester Crague brought to the Parke County Commissioners' attention at the last meeting. Dan Collom will meet with Anthony Vandivier, the acting Highway Superintendent, to figure out a plan to fix the box culvert bridge. Dan Collom thought that two pipes might help reinforce the culvert bridge but not sure what the actual resolution will be.
- Jim Meece explained that the Parke County Commissioners have decided on a Highway Superintendent after a couple of interviews held on Friday, January 24th, 2025. The Parke County Commissioners have completed a background check and are waiting on drug screening results. Jim Meece and Anthony Vandivier met with the new candidate for the Highway Superintendent. His name is Matthew Romalia. He seems to be very knowledgeable and would like to retire from Parke County in the future. Matthew Romalia has experience as an equipment operator and a field mechanic. Jim Meece would like to see if the County Council would keep Anthony Vandivier's salary the same as it is now. Jim Meece stated that the new Highway Superintendent will be hired in at Randy Norman's salary. Randy Norman was the previous Highway Superintendent. Then after six months, possible perform a review and maybe re-evaluate Matthew Romalia's salary for an increase. Jim Meece made the motion to approve Matthew Romalia as the new Highway Superintendent pending the results of the drug screen. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Matthew Romalia's start date would be March 1st, 2025 and will be eligible for health coverage immediately. Jim Meece would like to re-visit the wait time for medical coverage for new hires with Parke County. He would like to see exclusion of pre-existing conditions for a certain time frame upon hiring and go back to having an embedded deductible. Parke County's medical coverage needs to be re-evaluated in the near future.
- Dan Collom stated that the three parties involved in the alley and road closures in Bridgeton have come to an agreement. The alley and the road will be closed and the property from the closure will be split among the property owners accordingly. Nick Sauter will call Chester Crague's Attorney and see what information he may have on the alley closure as well as any Orders requesting closure of the alley that he may have already prepared. The Parke County Commissioners will review this information and take it into consideration before approving any closures. This will be presented for approval at the next Parke County Board of Commissioners' Meeting on Monday, February 17th, 2025.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

None

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:


- Mandy Adams-Washburn from the Hamilton Center in Parke County presented key points from the Annual Report for 2024 to the Parke County Commissioners. The Hamilton Center served 424 consumers here in Parke County in 2024. Parke County utilized 216 inpatient days. The Hamilton Center outpatient services served 12,829 consumers. Parke County contributes \$109,126.00 a year to the Hamilton Center for area residents to utilize. Nine Parke County residents are employed at the Hamilton Center. The five most treated substance addictions for

adults are stimulants, cannabis, alcohol, opioids, and tobacco, in that order. The most common treated addiction in youth is cannabis/THC. Top five referral sources come from the schools, probation, court/law enforcement, DCS, hospitals/physicians or self/family. MRT is a group therapy to help patients have better decision-making skills and better behaviors. It is very good to see young people discussing mental health issues and working through them.

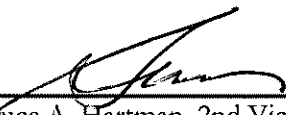
ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Jim Meece and seconded by Dan Collom. The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.



Jim Meece, President



Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:

Susan Kramer, Auditor