

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 20th, 2026

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 20th, 2026, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, January 5th, 2026.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Jim Meece, President; Dan Collom, first Vice President; Bruce Hartman, Second Vice President; Susan Kramer, Auditor; and Leanna Collisi, 2nd Deputy Auditor. Also, present were Mark Spelbring, Cyndi Todd and a Representative from Milestone.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, January 5th, 2026 were approved on a motion from Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

I. PAYROLL:

Note: **The Parke County Board of Commissioners is not approving authenticity of the claims presented but are approving what claims are received.**

County payroll in the amount of \$194,023.09 was approved for release on Monday, January 12th, 2026 on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. County payroll in the amount of \$193,333.79 was approved for release on Monday, January 26th, 2026 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 26th, 2026 in the amount of \$256,582.55 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

II. NEW BUSINESS:

- Neysa Sandusky presented the Parke County Board of Commissioners with Parke County Incorporated's tent rental invoice from Ace Party Rental for the 2025 Covered Bridge Festival tent rental. Jim Meece explained that Parke County gives \$25,000.00 to PCI each year to help cover the cost of tent rental throughout Parke County during the Covered Bridge Festival. The Parke County Commissioners agreed to give PCI \$25,000.00 for tent rental for Mecca, Montezuma and Tangier. The balance will go toward tent rentals for Rockville.
- Cyndi Todd presented the Parke County Board of Commissioners with the 2025 Partnership Parke County, Inc. Impact Report. Cyndi Todd expressed the importance of the retention efforts with businesses in the Parke County area. Partnership Parke County, Inc. is involved with grants, housing, childcare, infrastructure and job retention in Parke County. For every \$1 invested in Partnership Parke County, Inc. over the past 11 years has generated \$32 in investment. Jim Meece was appreciative of the involvement Partnership Parke County, Inc. has in our community.
- Jim Meece explained on Beth Martin's behalf that the Water Department at the Department of Natural Resources is requesting an amendment be made to the Parke County Flood Plain. She will bring it to a future meeting when it is completed.
- Susan Kramer presented two grant application requests from Jason Frazier, Parke County Sheriff. Both grant requests are through the Indiana Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council (JRAC). One of the grant applications is \$9,000.00 for the 2026 License Plate Reader Camera Project and the second grant request is \$8,000.00 for the 2026 Parke County National Night Out. Dan Collom made the motion to grant Jason Frazier the authority to seek the grant request applications. This is not approving the grant itself. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Susan Kramer submitted, on behalf of the Parke County Clerk, the 2026 Infinity Voting System Annual Maintenance Agreement from Microvote to the Parke County Board of Commissioners for signature and approval. This agreement locks in \$15,000.00 per year for the next four years. It

does not lock Parke County into any sort of commitment to voting equipment during that time. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the 2026 Software Maintenance Agreement through Microvote at the cost of \$15,000.00 per year for the next 4 years contingent on approval of Parke County's Attorney, Nick Sauter. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Jim Meece stated that Jason Gains with the Bellmore Fire Department is needing to update their pricing. Their prices have not been updated in 30 years. The State of Indiana has new fee schedule for billing for the fire departments, and the Bellmore Fire Department would like to adopt those new fees. Nick Sauter can look at the old Ordinance 1994-1 and create an amendment to Ordinance 1994-1 to update the pricing increases for the fire department. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve an amendment to the Ordinance 1994-1 contingent on approval of Parke County's Attorney, Nick Sauter. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Susan Kramer presented Ordinance 2026-4 which is an ordinance providing a penalty for failure to acquire a county right-of-way use permit. This ordinance requires a permit to close one lane and will require a flagger and signs posted according to the State Statute. Dan Collom made the motion for Same Day, Same Meeting approval. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Dan Collom made the motion to approve Ordinance 2026-4 An Ordinance Providing a Penalty for Failure to Acquire a County Right-of-Way Use Permit. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jim Meece explained that "Bucky," Anthony Vandiver, gave up 144 hours of vacation time. He is requesting to reinstate those vacation days since this occurred while he was filling in during the transition of the Superintendent of the Highway Department. Jim Meece made the motion to approve reinstating all of Anthony Vandiver's vacation hours. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jim Meece announced that there will be a solar power storage meeting on Thursday, January 22nd, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the EOC building. NextEra Energy will be present to discuss battery storage in Parke County. Jim Meece has no problem with them building battery storage facilities. Jim Meece visited a battery storage facility in Indiana and was pleased with what he saw and heard. Parke County will need to create ordinances for solar energy and battery storage facilities.
- Susan Kramer presented the Parke County Board of Commissioners with the 2026 Commissioners Appointments. There were a few new appointments: Matt Romalia – Parke County Highway Supervisor, Ray Leonberger – Parke County Veterans Officer, Kay Pettis – Courthouse Custodian I and deleted the Courthouse Custodian II position, Jen Cursic – Innkeeper's Tax Commission (CVC), Katie Chobanov – Licensed Physician on the Parke County Health Board. Jim Meece made a motion to approve the 2026 Commissioner Appointments. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Bruce Hartman opened the bid for the Highway Department. This bid was from Milestone for the 2026 Community Crossings project. Susan Kramer will give this bid to Matt Romalia for review. Next year, Lane Mileage will be in place. Every County will get some money for their road paving projects.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- Jim Meece signed off on all the 2026 Material bids for the Parke County Highway Department.
- Jim Meece explained that the wood is rotting away on the frames of the Courthouse windows, especially on the second floor. There are several companies interested in managing this project. RC Engineering would give an estimate for the starting price of \$13,000.00 to look at the windows to see what needs to be replaced or repaired. Architura would give an estimate for \$24,000.00 but is willing to come down to \$8,000.00 to do the same evaluation of the Courthouse windows. Matt Stechley with Core Facilities is willing to manage the project for 8% of the cost of the project. Currently, we are looking at fixing five windows that are in really bad condition. Matt Stechley would create RFPs and have a company replace the windows on an as needed basis. Parke County would be out the cost of replacing the windows plus 8% for Matt Stechley. He can set up RFPs

and get a company to replace the windows and retain the same company to replace more windows in the future. Dan Collom made the motion to approve Matt Stechley with Core Facilities at the cost of 8% of the total cost of replacing five windows at the Courthouse plus the cost of replacing the five windows. Parke County will use Matt Stechley and the same company for future replacements. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Jim Meece will present this at the next Parke County Council Meeting on Thursday, February 12th, 2026.

IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- None


V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- None

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 4:39 p.m.



Jim Meece, President




Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



Susan Kramer, Auditor