

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 20th, 2026

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 20th, 2026, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, April 6th, 2026.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Jim Meece, President; Dan Collom, first Vice President; Bruce Hartman, Second Vice President; Nick Sauter, Commissioners' Attorney; Susan Kramer, Auditor; and Leanna Collisi, 2nd Deputy Auditor. Also, present were Kim Shorter, Beth Martin, Cyndi Todd, James Adams, Reed Willis, Steve Meehan, Dave Hazel, Gregg Larson, Melissa Buell, Kristina Ervin, Mark Spelbring and Matt Romalia.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, April 6th, 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 \$195,527.88 was approved for release on Monday, April 20th, 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 April 20th, 2026 in the amount of \$240,411.59 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

II. NEW BUSINESS:

- Cyndi Todd introduced three gentlemen from Chesco Company, Steve Meehan, Dave Hazel and Reed Willis. Chesco is based out of West Chester, PA. They are looking at several sites throughout Indiana to build a natural gas electric power plant and an electric substation. Due to our aging generation fleet and fast-growing power demand, many energy market leaders and institutions are raising concerns about grid reliability. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) monitors power grid reliability and in 2025 found thirteen of twenty-three regions at risk for grid reliability over the next five to ten years. Chesco Company is currently looking at an area that is one mile north of Racoon Lake for a Natural Gas Simple Cycle plant with potential battery storage. It is a small footprint of thirty acres with a \$300 million plus total investment. The site specifics in Parke County are two parcels. One is north of Pratt Road and the other parcel is south of Pratt Road. There are two natural gas lines that run through this property. Data Centers are booming and manufacturing is growing, thus the need for twenty-four-hour power load is necessary. They need to win a competitive bid of the one of the local utilities in order to be able to provide a power source to that local utility. Wabash Valley does the buying for Parke County REMC. Bruce Hartman attended Meet the Governor meeting last week and the

Governor stated that there is a need to help our power grid. Jim Meece is excited about the project.

- Cyndi Todd gave an overview of the Gateway TIF Management-Redevelopment Report for 2025. The West Central TIF received \$127,184.50 in revenue and the Central Parke TIF received \$196,162.59 in revenue. There were no expenses paid in West Central TIF and there were \$71,805.64 in expenses paid out of the Central Parke TIF. West Central Parke TIF has a Fund balance of \$602,873.29 and Central Parke TIF has a Fund balance of \$590,117.51. The Parke County Redevelopment purchased the Old National Bank Building at half the price by waiting to purchase the property and was able to utilize TIF Funds. The Parke County Commissioners acknowledged receiving the Gateway TIF Management-Redevelopment Report for 2025.
- Beth Martin presented the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance 2026-09 for the Parke County Board of Commissioners' approval. Jim Meece made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-09 Flood Damage Prevention same day, same meeting. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Jim Meece made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-09 Flood Damage Prevention. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Parke County Incorporated will be issuing only ten free youth TMLs during the first Saturday of the 2026 Parke County Covered Bridge Festival. The TML fee will be waived for these youth participants. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the free youth TMLs during the 2026 Parke County Covered Bridge Festival. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Susan Kramer, Parke County Auditor, presented the Parke County Commissioners with the schedule of events for Mainstreet during 2026. There are no conflicts and Mainstreet has submitted their Liability Insurance Coverage. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the Mainstreet 2026 Events. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jason McHargue would like to submit a Probation Department Grant request for the RISE26 Conference for \$8,990.00. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the grant request for RISE26 Conference for the Parke County Probation Department. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jason Frazier would like to submit a Sheriff's Office Grant request for the 2026 Sheriff App in the amount of \$6,685.50. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve the grant request for 2026 Sheriff App for the Sheriff's Office. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- There are two out of cycle check requests that need approval. The first out of cycle check request is for Bloomfield LLC's revolving loan in the amount of \$12,000.00. The second out of cycle check request is for American Dredge and Aquatic Weed Control in the amount of \$18,950.00 for the removal of the Lilly Pads in Rockville Lake. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the two out of cycle check requests for Bloomfield LLC and American Dredge and Aquatic Weed Control. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Gregg Larson with Billie Creek requested permission to close Old 36 as needed during the Civil War Days on May 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 2026. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the closure of Old 36 as needed during the Civil War Days on May 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 2026. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Melissa Buell with the Parke County Health Department presented the Parke County Board of Commissioners with the Health Board's appointee of Liz Hewitt, RN. The Town Council approved Liz Hewitt on March 2nd, 2026. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve Liz Hewitt, RN as the Health Board's appointee. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Matt Romalia, the Parke County Highway Department Superintendent, presented two quotes for a replacement patcher. The quote for \$110,500.00 was approved by the Parke County Council.

This new patcher will replace the 2002 patcher that will be put up for surplus. The price of new patchers will only increase if we wait to purchase. Our newest patcher is a 2019 patcher. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve the purchase of a new patcher for the Parke County Highway Department in the amount of \$110,500.00 and the surplus of the 2002 patcher. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- None

IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Matt Romalia, Parke County Highway Superintendent:

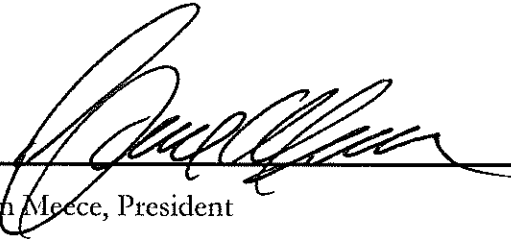
- Jim Meece stated that there is a stretch of Coxville Road in Mecca that needs serious repair. It is about .7 to .9 of a mile in the town of Mecca. There is a school bus owner that will not put in a bid for next school year if this stretch of road is not repaired. This is extremely hard on the bus. Chip seal could cost \$20,000.00 and Jim Meece did not know if this was within the Parke County Highway Department's budget. He did not know if we could help the Town of Mecca out. Jim Meece can go to the next Mecca Town Board Meeting and offer this one-time repair and that Parke County is not taking over the repairs of this road permanently. Dan Collom stressed his concern over the money for the county roads being in jeopardy. Matt Romalia estimated chip seal materials would cost around \$11,000.00 - \$12,000.000 and estimated this to be a two-day job in labor. Maybe Mecca can help with the cost of chip seal materials. Jim Meece will talk with Mecca at their next town meeting and see if they have funds to help.
- There is a bridge in Rosedale that needs to be repaired. Rosedale has bought the culvert pipe from Civilcon. Parke County will put the bridge back together after the Strawberry Festival.
- Midway Bridge is closed. Civilcon is coming up Tuesday, April 21st, 2026 to look at it and see what needs to be done to repair it.
- The West Union Bridge could be temporarily repaired by wedging a piece of wood into the missing block. Then a more permanent repair can be made with a rebar and concrete form. Dan Collom saw two spots that needed to be repaired. The Parke County Highway Department has one more bridge to take care of and then the West Union Bridge will be up next for repairs.
- Nick Sauter stated that the Hold Harmless Letter for the County Right-of-Way at Portland Mills Bridge is not complete yet. Nick Sauter will put both names on it. He should have it completed later this week.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:


- James Adams discussed with the Parke County Board of Commissioners the need for road repairs from Dam Road to 1000 East on Ferndale Road. This road is in terrible condition. There have been many vehicles with flattened tires traveling this stretch of road. Some trucks have managed to bump their way into ditches too. Jim Meece will talk with Matt Romalia, the Parke County Highway Superintendent, about this stretch of road and will give James Adams a call. James Adams left his phone number with Jim Meece. Later in the meeting, Jim Meece asked Matt Romalia about this stretch of road and when road repairs were scheduled to happen. Matt Romalia stated that this stretch of road from Dam Road to 1000 East on Ferndale Road is

number three on the Community Crossings list for road repairs in Parke County. Matt Romalia suggested going ahead and chip seal it now. Then chip seal the road again if needed.

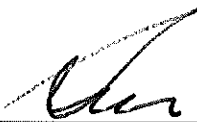
ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Dan Collom and seconded by Bruce Hartman. The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.



Jim Meece, President



Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



Susan Kramer, Auditor