

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 17th, 2026

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 17th, 2026, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, August 3rd, 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. Also, present were Leanna Collisi, Steve Collisi, Chris O'Brien, Joe Clark, Bailey Spear, Mark Spelbring, Kim Shorter, Jason Frazier, Patty Kirkpatrick and Janet Wall-Myers.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, August 3rd, 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 \$204,724.00 due for release on Monday, August 24th, 2026 was approved 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 in the amount of \$269,544.52 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

II. NEW BUSINESS:

- Jim Meece reported on the storm damage regarding Parke County Covered Bridges. Jim Meece visited twenty-nine covered bridges and the vast majority had no damage to them. There was wind damage to the Conley's Ford and the Portland Mills covered bridges. These two bridges were already closed to traffic. The Roseville covered bridge had a large limb poked a hole in the roof and thirteen rafters were taken out. Laynes Tree Experts will remove the tree from the Roseville covered bridge sometime this week. Another huge tree came down on the Nevins covered bridge and it sheered an upper cord. This bridge is closed to traffic as well. The Parke County Highway Department has been working to shore up the bridge with cribbage and concrete blocks to hold it. It will take a crane to remove the tree and the crane will not be available until Friday, August 21st, 2026.
- Joe Clark and Bailey Spear with VS Engineering came to the meeting to give an overview of the 2026 full cycle bridge inspections for Parke County. VS Engineering looked at 168 bridges throughout Parke County this year. Next year, they will begin looking at 166 bridges. Bridge #139 and Melcher Bridge have been replaced. Bridge #35 (Nevins) needs major repair. The new ratings from the government have caused lower ratings in some areas. Superstructures have increased in the Poor Rating Category. Our bridges have seen loads on them that should not have been on the bridges in the first place. Substructures have also increased in the Poor Rating Category due to the different ratings set by the government. It would not hurt to look at the bridges after the water recedes from the recent storms. Postings for load capacity have increased due to bridge deterioration. Any bridge built since 1924 will have to be inspected yearly. The scour of the bridge

means how much the water is eating away under the abutment. Bridge rail guards that have been hit are being repaired by the Parke County Highway Department. Federal Funding applications for NOVA begins November 2nd, 2026 through December 4th, 2026. Cyndi Todd with Partnership Parke Inc. will investigate this funding for Parke County Bridges. It is an 80/20 reimbursement split. Bridge #8 off of 720 South might qualify for this Federal Funding. The bridge is 85.2 feet long. VS Engineering will send a summary of the maintenance items to the Parke County Highway Department in an Excel spreadsheet. This is the end of Phase 2. We will begin Phase 2A next year. Parke County will have to put out the RFP for Bridge Inspections either in January or February of 2027.

- Jim Meece announced an Executive Session will take place on Tuesday, August 18th, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the EOC building. This meeting will discuss personnel and a Courthouse Safety Meeting to discuss going to one entrance. Visitors would enter through the Handicapped Entrance on the East Side of the Courthouse. There would be metal detectors installed and all other entrances would be closed to entry but used as an exit only in case of an emergency. There is no requirement from the State of Indiana to have a single entrance for a Courthouse. There is an administrative 19 Rule for the Courthouse to have a security plan in place which is to be determined at the Local level.
- Chris O'Brien with the Parke County EMA reported there were two tornado warnings for Parke County during the recent severe storms. They were for Bloomingdale and Rosedale/Bridgeton areas. Chris O'Brien stated that the emergency alert system tries to keep the specific warning areas separate so not to alert everyone in Parke County.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- The Solar Ordinance was missing the part about penalties if there are repeated violations. Nick Sauter, the Parke County Board of Commissioners' Attorney, had placed this information into the Solar Ordinance. Jim Meece read aloud the Solar Ordinance penalties for repeated violations to the meeting attendees. The State of Indiana may come in and take away Home Rule in Parke County, someday. A question from the Public was asked. Have other counties used this description of penalties and violations and have they stopped the violators? Jim Meece replied that yes, Tippecanoe County has used it for their solar ordinance and was able to cut down on the number of first time and repeated violations. Dan Collom made the motion to adopt the Parke County 2026-17 Solar Ordinance as same day same meeting. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

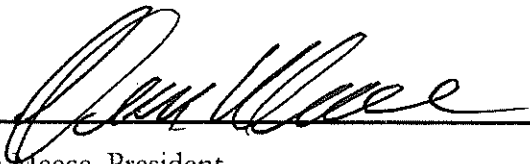
IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- None.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Nonc.

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 4:53 p.m.



Jim Meece, President

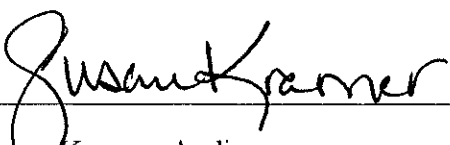


Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



Susan Kramer, Auditor