

COUNTY COUNCIL

August 13, 2026

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Council convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, August 13th, 2026, to consider additional requests more than the budget allowed for 2026, and to conduct such other business as may be properly brought before the Council.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Council members present were Roy Wrightsman, President; Thomas Rohr, Vice President; Jack B. Buttlert, Matt Helderman, Rick Patton; Susan Kramer, Auditor and Leanna Collisi, Deputy Auditor. Also present were Jason Frazier, Katie Potter, Jim Meece, Sam Swaim, Chris Newcomb, Kyla Clover, Lisa Wood, and Monica Wallace.
- III. **READING OF THE MINUTES:** Minutes for the Council Meeting held on July 9th, 2026, were presented. Matt Helderman made a motion to approve July 9th, 2026, minutes as presented. Tom Rohr seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.
- IV. **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS:** The Council considered additional appropriation requests as published on Gateway July 30th, 2026.

Council President, Roy Wrightsman, reviewed the appropriations from written requests submitted by Auditor Susan Kramer. Thus, the following ordinance was adopted: WHEREAS; it has been determined it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget for 2026, BE IT ORDAINED, by the County Council of Parke County, Indiana, for the expenses of said County government, the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set out of the funds specified, subject to the law governing the same: Jack B. Butler made a motion to approve the additional appropriation requests as published on Gateway July 30th, 2026. The motion was seconded by Rick Patton, and it carried unanimously.

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Professional Services	1161-000-0003-5387	\$120,000.00
Total LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES	Total	\$120,000.00

COMMUNITY CROSSINGS

Bituminous	8173-002-0002-5037	\$963,662.00
Total COMMUNITY CROSSINGS	Total	\$963,662.00

MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY

Deicing Material	4801-000-0003-5387	\$65,000.00
Total MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY	Total	\$65,000.00

PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION

Equipment	1169-000-0002-5531	\$5,000.00
Total PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION	Total	\$5,000.00

- V. **JURY PAY:** The Auditor presented the Parke County Clerk's Certification of jury fees collected for July 2026 and requested \$236.79 be transferred into the Jury Pay Fund, pursuant to IC 33-19-8-8. Matt Helderman made a motion to direct the Auditor to transfer the jury fees collected in the amount of \$236.79 from the County Users Fund to the Jury Fee Fund. The motion was seconded by Rick Patton and carried unanimously.

VI. **REAPPROPRIATION:** None presented.

VII. **TRANSFER OF FUNDS:** The following transfers were presented by the Auditor for consideration. Jack B. Butler made a motion to approve the transfers as presented. Rick Patton seconded the motion and carried unanimously.

Transfer Amount: \$250.00

From: 1000-016-0002-5367 General – EMS Postage

To: 1000-016-0002-5327 General – EMS Office Supplies

Transfer Amount: \$250.00

From: 1000-016-0003-5426 General – EMS Software/Eqpt Maintenance

To: 1000-016-0002-5327 General – EMS Office Supplies

VIII. **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- Sheriff Jason Frazier and Matron Kyla Clover presented the mid-year Commissary Fund Report. Tom Rohr questioned a payment to Precision for \$37,151.12, Kyla stated that amount was a typo and should be \$3,715.12 she will submit a corrected Commissary Fund Report.

IX. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Redevelopment Commission (RDC): Met with Developer & Chief Contractor to go over detailed design. Bob Clutter is currently working on the Build-Operate-Transfer paperwork. Work on the ONB building will begin at the end of the month, projecting completion in one year. GNP at 3.4 million which includes all soft cost, developer fees and developer bond.

Courthouse Security Committee: Did not meet.

Planning and Zoning Board: Did not meet.

West Central Solid Waste: Absent.

Northern Parke Regional Sewer District: Design phase, 60% complete.

X. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Resolution 2026-07: A resolution amending the Parke County Levy tax rate from 0.37% to a minimum of 0.33%. Jack B. Butler made a motion to approve the Resolution 2026-07 as presented. Tom Rohr seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**PARKE COUNTY
RESOLUTION 2026-07
AMENDMENT TO PARKE COUNTY LEVY FREEZE TAX RATE**

WHEREAS, it has been shown that it is evident that excess revenue is being captured by the existing Parke County levy freeze income tax rate; and

WHEREAS, the Parke County Council has the sole authority to increase or decrease the income tax rates in Parke County; and

WHEREAS, Parke County has a balance in the LOIT Stabilization Fund of \$594,964.07 as of June 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Parke County expects to distribute \$17,705.99 from the LOIT Stabilization Fund by December 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the current LIT Levy Freeze Rate for Parke County is 0.37%; and

WHEREAS, the current LIT Levy Freeze Rate would collect approximately \$1,577,630.74 in 2027; and

WHEREAS, Parke County's Levy Freeze requirement remains at \$1,584,715; and

WHEREAS, sufficient anticipated tax revenues and LOIT Stabilization Fund balances exist to fully fund the Parke County Levy Freeze requirement; and

WHEREAS, SEA 1, signed by the Governor on April 15, 2025, abolishes the LIT Levy Freeze rate as of January 1, 2028, amended by HEA 1210-2026 revising the effective date to January 1, 2029; and

WHEREAS, IC 6-3.6-11-1(b) requires Parke County to seek approval from the Department of Local Government Finance to lower the Parke County Levy Freeze LIT Rate.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Parke County Council requests the Department of Local Government Finance approve the reduction of the Parke County Levy Freeze rate from 0.37% to a minimum of 0.33%.

Duly adopted on August 13, 2026, by the Parke County Council.

- Roy Wrightsman, President County Council presented the 2026 Parke County LIT calculations for review:

2026 Parke County LIT Calculations

LIT	Rate	Collection	Taxable Income
LIT EMS	0.20%	\$852,773.00	\$426,386,500.00
LIT Public Safety	0.25%	\$1,065,967.00	\$426,386,800.00
LIT EDIT	0.43%	\$1,833,463.00	\$426,386,744.19
Certified Shares + Levy Freeze	1.37%	\$5,841,497.00	\$426,386,642.34
PTRC	0.40%	\$1,705,547.00	\$426,386,750.00
Average Taxable Income			\$426,386,687.30

Parke County Levy Freeze Requirement	\$1,584,715.00
2026 Revenue from Existing Levy Freeze Rate (0.37%)	\$1,577,630.74
Projected surplus to Stabilization fund	(\$7,084.26)

June 30, 2026, Stabilization Fund Balance	\$594,964.07
2026 Excess Levy Freeze Collection	(\$17,705.99)
Projected December 31, 2026, Stabilization Fund Balance	\$577,258.08

Proposed 2027 Levy Freeze Rate	0.33%
Projected 2027 Levy Freeze Collection	\$1,407,076.07
2027 Levy Freeze Requirement	\$1,584,715.00
Shortfall from collection	(\$177,638.93)
Projected December 31, 2027, Stabilization Fund Balance	\$399,619.15

- Jason McHargue, Chief Probation Officer, presented an Opioid grant request for \$700.00, the grant funds will be used to fund the 2026 Drug Court Picnic. Tom Rohr made a motion to approve the Opioid grant request as presented. Matt Helderman seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

XI. Department Head Comments:

- **Jim Meece, Commissioner:**
 - Nick Sauter is working on the hold-harmless agreement for the Hale family. Norma Hale has also requested that Parke County pay her attorney to review the agreement once it is completed.
 - Five second floor windows at the Courthouse will be replaced, still waiting on projected start of the project.
 - Boilermaster stated that the chimney flu at the Courthouse is beginning to fail, Matt Stechley has been contacted to locate a possible vendor that works on this type of project. Roy Wrightsman asked if it needed to be fixed or if it could be by-passed since it is no longer used.
 - The chiller has two pumps, one of those pumps is failing, replacement cost will be \$2,000 to \$3,000.
- **Katie Potter, Assessor:**
 - Reassessment is almost complete in Washington township; Nexus has Liberty and Jackson townships remaining.
- **Jason Frazier, Sheriff:**
 - Sheriff Deputy, Chris Fisher has left the department. After Deputy Fisher's payout of compensatory time, holiday and vacation time Roy Wrightsman said the new Deputy would not be allowed to start for seven or eight weeks. Interviews are being held, there are four applicants, two of which have already been through academy.
 - Five leased Explorers have been delivered and upfitted.
- **Sam Swaim, Judge:**
 - Due to a scheduling conflict, he will not be able to attend next week's budget hearings, asking for increases in salaries, office supplies, and travel.
 - Security issue that occurred on Wednesday, August 5th, 2026 when there was no security on duty. Unstable male attempting to get to the Judge to speak to him directly regarding an old cold case. Judge Swaim is requesting that security be posted five days a week to cover his courtroom, would also like to have a single point of entry on the east side of the Courthouse requiring all visitors to use

the automatic door and go through a metal detector before they are allowed to enter the building.
Judge Swaim will have his staff research availability of federal grants to pay for the metal detector.

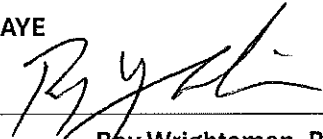
Discussion ensued regarding five days a week security coverage, but they would need to remain at their post and not be a courtroom baliff. Jack B. Butler made a motion to approve courthouse security coverage for five days a week as long as the stipulation is followed. Rick Patton seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

- **Chris Newcomb, Parks and Recreation Director:**

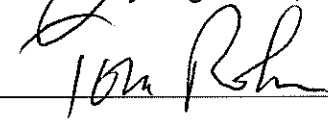
- Lily pad removal will start next week.
- 2028 budget would like to purchase an aquatic harvester to maintain the lake estimated cost would be approximately \$60,000.00.

XII. OLD BUSINESS: None presented.

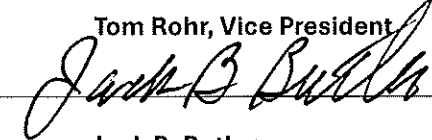
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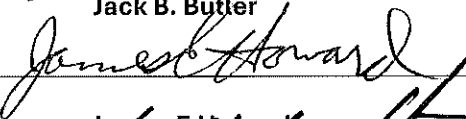
Roy Wrightsman, President



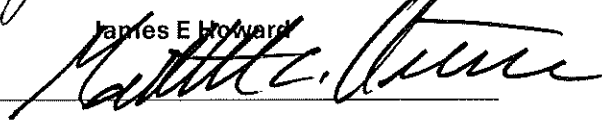
Tom Rohr, Vice President



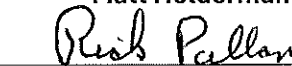
Jack B. Butler



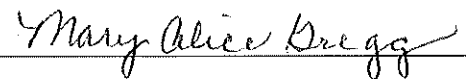
James E. Howard



Matt Helderman



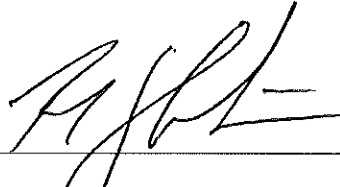
Rick Patton



Mary Alice Gregg

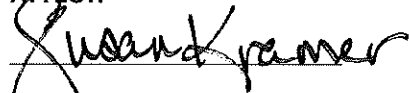
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ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business to come before Council, the motion to adjourn was made by Jack B. Butler. The meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.



Roy Wrightsman, President

ATTEST:



Susan Kramer, Auditor