

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 1st, 2024

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 1st, 2024, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, March 18th, 2024.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Jim Meece, President; Dan Collom, First Vice President; Bruce Hartman, Second Vice President; Nick Sauter, Commissioners' Attorney; Mary Anne Wood, Auditor; and Leanna Collisi, Deputy Auditor. Also present were John Martin, Jason Frazier, Jessica Lancaster, Stephanie Laws, Mandy Adams-Washburn, Mark Davis, Chris Morris, Cole King, Jaycee Offett, Doug Burgess, Max Wimmer and Jim Virostko.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, March 18th, 2024 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 \$217,875.48 and Union Hospital Security payroll in the amount of \$2,670.61 were approved for release on Monday, April 8th, 2024 on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Assessor Level Three in the amount of \$1,250.00 and Hendricks-Center of Excellence correction in the amount of \$1,500.00 were approved for release on Monday, April 8th, 2024 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 8th, 2024 in the amount of \$162,836.13 was approved on a motion by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Accounts Payable Claims for April 1st, 2024 in the amount of \$ 555,189.08 were approved on a motion from Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Mary Anne Wood presented the Commissioners with three out of cycle check requests. The total of the three payments is \$81,116.55. The three checks (X-Soft for \$77,392.00, Layne Tree Experts for \$2,800.00, and V.S. Engineering for \$924.55) were approved with a motion made from Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Jim Meece reported that Randy Norman has experienced some medical issues and will not be returning as the Highway Department Superintendent. The job posting for a new Superintendent is in the process. In the meantime, an Interim Superintendent must be selected. There were two applicants that have been interviewed by the Parke County Board of Commissioners in an Executive Session held on Monday, April 1st, 2024. Jim Meece thanked the two individuals that wanted to step up into the Interim Superintendent's position. The Commissioners chose Mike Wood as the Interim Superintendent with a motion for approval made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Jim Meece explained that Parke County Health Department was able to enter into a new type of funding from the State of Indiana. Consequently, this funding will radically increase the Budget and increase the opportunities for the Parke County Health Department. Stephanie Laws from the Health Department presented an update to the Commissioners on the Health First Parke County initiative. The department has been conducting an internal audit to see if they are fulfilling their core services adequately. This audit process will identify the strengths, weaknesses and any gaps that exists. The Health Department and the Parke County Ambulance/EMS Services has created a formal relationship to better help the residents of Parke County. Both departments would like to

entered into a contract, which the Commissioners need to approve and sign. This contractual relationship will establish transparency between the departments as they work together to serve the citizens of Parke County. Jim Meece further explained that if for some reason this relationship does not work, Parke County is not tied down to the contract. Things can be changed and tweaked. The second contract that Stephanie Laws spoke about was out sourcing for the public health coordinator for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Plan for Parke County. This public health coordinator will ensure that the correct resources are in the right place at the right time. Jim Meece further explained that the funding will increase from \$40,000.00 to \$400,000.00 over the next couple of years. Stephanie Laws also mentioned that Natalie Cole will be replacing Sandy Rogers as the new nurse in the Health Department. Sandy Rogers has accepted a position with Union Hospital and will be working out of Dr. Swaim's office in Rockville. Dan Collom made the motion to adopt both contracts for the Health Department. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- Jim Meece introduced Mark Davis with the Parke Trails Alliance to give an update on the old iron bridge in Bridgeton. They will be moving forward on the removal of the iron bridge this Spring and put the bridge back in place this Fall. They will be restoring the iron bridge during the Summer. The Parke Trails Alliance will put the old iron bridge back in commission. The bridge will become a part of the Parke Trails for people to enjoy walking on.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Jason Frazier:

- Jason Frazier updated the Commissioners on the Medical Company's contract which will begin May 1st, 2024. Jason Frazier had Nick Sauter look at the new contract. Nick Sauter pointed out a few items that he felt Parke County should be aware of. There is a \$20,000.00 a year cap, services are specifically listed, nursing duties are limited to 25 hours per week with no holiday coverage and the excess will be charged to the County, 60-day notice is required to cancel the contract and the contract will automatically renew. We are keeping the same doctor and nurse for the inmates. Jim Meece made the motion to approve and sign the Medical Contract for the inmates at the Parke County Jail. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jason Frazier reported \$13,743.22 in total collections and \$93,377.00 for Out of County Housing.

Julie Lanzone:

- Jim Meece mentioned that Tim Yocum, a Vermillion Commissioner, is asking for help to cover their Ambulance Service if the IRS were to shut them down. As of now, the Vermillion Ambulance Services is still active for another 30 days. If Parke County were to help out, the Vermillion Ambulance Service Employees will be paid by Parke County and then Parke County would get reimbursed for those expenses.

Public Comments:

- Jim Virostko has concerns with his accessibility to his farmland with a couple of bridges on County Road 5 West. The bridges are too narrow for farm equipment to fit through. One bridge has a 25-foot span with concrete winged walls. Dan Collom thought that the winged walls

could be taken out and replaced with a guardrail for a better clearance of the bridge. The other is an old railroad bridge with an abutment. There are no plans to remove the abutment. There was some discussion about maybe putting in a pipe for the drainage. Dan Collom will get in touch with the Engineering Firm that inspects the bridges to see what can be done to alleviate this dilemma.

- Cole King with Spectrum attended the meeting to ask the Commissioners to approve the work for running fiber optic wire under the Portland Mills Bridge. Spectrum would be running a 2-inch conduit with a 96-count fiber optic wire. Spectrum wanted to know how the County would like them to attach the conduit to the bridge. Spectrum will need rigging on the bridge and will be using an articulating bucket truck to install the fiber wire. Spectrum will probably need to shut down the bridge from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for one day in order to complete the project. The Commissioners were concerned that if the County needed to have the cable removed for some reason, how hard it would be to have this done through Spectrum. Cole King explained that the County could call Spectrum any time to remove the fiber wire if need be. However, the fiber wire should never need to be removed for projects like resurfacing the bridge, etc. The only time the fiber wire should be removed is if the bridge needed total replacement. Dan Collom will get in touch with Randy Norman from the Highway Department regarding the placement of the fiber wire on the Portland Mills Bridge. Spectrum will need to work with the Highway Department on any closures of the Portland bridge because the closures will need to be advertised and communicated to area residents. Spectrum would like to have the bridge attachment completed by the end of July.

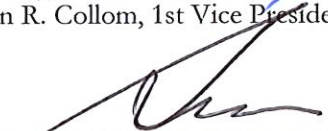
ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Dan Collom and seconded by Bruce Hartman. The meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.



Jim Meece, President

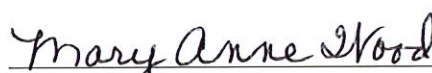


Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



Mary Anne Wood, Auditor