

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**January 9th, 2025**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Council convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, January 9th, 2025 to consider additional requests in excess of the budget allowed for 2024-2025, and to conduct such other business as may be properly brought before the Council.

**II. ROLL CALL:** Council members present were, Roy Wrightsman, Vice President; Jack B. Butler; James E. Howard; Rick Patton; Thomas Rohr; Matthew Helderman; Mary Alice Gregg; and Susan Kramer, Auditor. Also present were Jason Frazier, Chris Newcomb, Natalie Cole, Stacie Amerman, Mandy Adams-Washburn and Chester Crague

**III. READING OF THE MINUTES:** Minutes for the Council Meeting held on December 12th, 2024 and the Council Meeting held on December 30th, 2024 were presented. Rick Patton made a motion to approve the December 12th, 2024 meeting minutes as presented and the December 30th, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Jim Howard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**IV. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS:** No additional appropriations requested.

**V. JURY PAY:** The Auditor presented the Parke County Clerk's Certification of jury fees collected for December 2024, and requested \$254.23 be transferred into the Jury Pay Fund, pursuant to IC 33-19-8-8. Rick Patton made the motion to direct the Auditor to transfer the jury fees collected in the amount of \$254.23 from the County Users Fund to the Jury Fee Fund. The motion was seconded by Jim Howard and unanimously carried.

**TRANSFER OF FUNDS:** The Council approved the request for the transfer of funds on a motion made by Rick Patton. The motion was seconded by Matt Helderman and carried unanimously.

**Be it resolved; the Parke County Council hereby approves the following requests for transfer:**

Transfer Amount:	\$ 66.21	From Account	Account
Number:	1000-12-02-3010	Name:	PLANNING OFFICE SUPPLIES
To Account		Account	
Number:	1000-12-02-3020	Name:	PLANNING POSTAGE
Transfer Amount:	\$ 6.20	From Account	Account
Number:	1219-00-01-2400	Name:	P & R UNEMPLOYMENT
To Account		Account	
Number:	1219-00-01-2300	Name:	P & R INSURANCE
Transfer Amount:	\$ 1381.05	From Account	Account
Number:	1219-00-04-7010	Name:	P & R VEHICLES
To Account		Account	
Number:	1219-00-03-5100	Name:	P & R UTILITIES

Transfer Amount:	\$ 1227.18	Account	
From Account		Name:	P & R BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES
Number:	1219-00-04-7021	Account	
To Account		Name:	P & R UTILITIES
Number:	1219-00-03-5100		
Transfer Amount:	\$ 156.77	Account	
From Account		Name:	EXTRA CLERICAL
Number:	8897-00-01-1501	Account	
To Account		Name:	INCENTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE
Number:	8897-00-01-1002		
Transfer Amount:	\$ 600.00	Account	
From Account		Name:	CORONER LAB FEES
Number:	1000-07-03-5004	Account	
To Account		Name:	CORONER TRANSPORT SERVICES
Number:	1000-07-03-5021		
Transfer Amount:	\$ 500.00	Account	
From Account		Name:	CORONER STORAGE OF BODY
Number:	1000-07-03-5025	Account	
To Account		Name:	CORONER TRANSPORT SERVICES
Number:	1000-07-03-5021		

## VI. GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Roy Wrightsman opened up the meeting with the Election of Officers for 2025 County Council. Jack B Butler made the motion to elect Roy Wrightsman as President and Thomas Rohr as Vice President of the County Council for 2025. Matt Helderman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Annual Council Appointments for 2025, Thomas Rohr made the motion to approve the appointments listed below with the exceptions noted in red. Jack B Butler seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

POSITION	NAME	TERM	NOTE
Council President	Roy Wrightsman	2025	
Council Vice President	Tom Rohr	2025	
Plan Commission Representative	J. B. Butler	2025	
Parke County Redevelopment Commission	John K. Pratt	2025	
	Roy Wrightsman	2025	
West Central Solid Waste District	Mary Alice Gregg	2025	

Thrive West Central Board of Directors	Cameron Martin	2025	
Parke County Alcoholic Beverage Commission	Cameron Martin	2025	
Parke County Park and Recreation Board	Brodie Burgess	2025-2028	4 year term
	Pam Adams	2023-2026	4 year term
Board of Zoning Appeals	Brad Craycraft	2025	
Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals	Kim Shorter	2025	
	Doug Burgess	2025	<b>Effective 01/10/2025</b>
Parke County Public Library Board of Directors	Sherri Paxton	6/1/2021 to 5/31/2025	4 year term
	Rachel Mundell	2/8/2024 to 12/31/2026	4 year term
Montezuma Public Library Board of Directors	Wayne Baldwin	9/1/2024 to 12/31/2027	4 year term
	Sara Morgan	1/1/2024 to 12/31/2027	4 year term
911 Advisory and Communications Board	Rick Patton	2025	
Emergency Management Advisory Council	Jim Howard	2025	
Local Emergency Preparedness Commission	Matt Helderman	2025	
Northern Parke Regional Sewer District	Matt Helderman	2025-2026	2 year initial term, 4 yr term thereafter
	Katie Potter	2025-2028	4 year initial term, 4 year term thereafter
Courthouse Security	Tom Rohr	2025	
<b>Parke County Health Board</b>	<b>Veronica Hill</b>	<b>2025-2028</b>	<b>Tabled</b>
County Council Attorney	Bob Clutter	2025	

- The 2025 Parke County Council Meeting dates and times were reviewed by the Council Members. Tom Rohr made the motion to approve the 2025 Parke County Council Meeting dates and times. Jack B. Butler seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION	Deadline for Add'l Appropriations
January 9, 2025	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	December 19, 2024
February 13, 2025	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	January 23, 2025
March 13, 2025	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	February 20, 2025

April 10, 2025	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	March 20, 2025
May 8, 2025	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	April 17, 2025
June 12, 2025	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	May 22, 2025
July 10, 2025	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	June 19, 2025
August 14, 2025	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	July 17, 2025
August 21, 2025	Thursday	8:30 AM	Parke County Annex 1	*Tentative Budget Hearing Date
September 11, 2025	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	August 21, 2025
October 9, 2025	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	September 18, 2025
November 13, 2025	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	October 16, 2025
December 11, 2025	Thursday	9:00 AM	Parke County Annex 1	November 20, 2025

- The 2025 mileage rate will remain at 44 cents per mile which can be reviewed at any time if there is significant change to the economy and gas prices Matt Helderman made the motion to approve the 2025 mileage rate. Jack B. Butler seconded the motion and it carried unanimously
- As the newly elected President, Roy Wrightsman stated that he will continue to vote on all matters as he has done in the past and not limit his votes to just tie breakers. Roy has an obligation to his constituents that elected him to the Council and he will honor that obligation.
- Going forward, Roy Wrightsman will request quarterly updates from the 2025 Appointees and report on the information received during the monthly Council meetings.

## VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Redevelopment Commission (RDC):** Did not meet

**Courthouse Security Committee:** Did not meet.

**Planning and Zoning Board:**

Planning and Zoning Administrator continuing to send out notice of violations to landowners. Disgruntled landowner that continued to place false statements regarding the Administrator on Parke County Chatter was fined \$5,000 by the court for failure to appear for his notice of violations.

**Solid Waste District (SWD):** Meeting was held but nothing to report

## VIII. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

- **Susan Kramer, Auditor:**
  - The Auditor's Cash Flow Statement was submitted for review by the Council Members.
- **Jim Meece, Commissioner:**
  - Recent weather condition led to a few issues with the Highway Department but over all everything was handled efficiently. Bailey Chapel Hill Road was closed temporarily for the safety of Parke County residents.
  - Courthouse Flag was lowered to half-staff in honor of Former President Jimmy Carter.
  - Executive Session scheduled for Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to review resumes/applications received for the Highway Superintendent position.
  - Commissioners are establishing a Solar Committee to discuss Parke County's current moratorium on renewable energy. The ordinance states that it can only be used for residential needs, any excess would need to be stored in battery back-ups and can not be sold back to the grid. Selling the excess back to the grid would deem it a commercial venture which is banned by the moratorium. The following is a list of the current Solar Committee members;

Jim Meece  
Dan Collom  
Bruce Hartman  
Luke Gill  
Kirk Gill  
Dennis Hobbs

Jim will also ask fellow Commissioners Bob Davis, Sullivan County and John Frye, Montgomery County to attend meetings to get their insight on benefits and or issues that their counties have had with renewable energy, solar being the main focus.

- **Natalie Cole, Health Department Nurse:**
  - Presented a request for grant application. Natalie is seeking a Parke County Community Foundation grant to purchase sleep sacks for infants that were previously provided by the State of Indiana to protect infants from suffocation. Natalie reported that there is a need to provide a safe sleeping environment for infants, last year there were roughly 200 births in Parke County. The distribution of the sleep sacks would be free to those in need, if purchased in bulk the Health Department would be able to get 100 sleep sacks with shipping for \$1200.00. Tom Rohr made a motion to approve Natalie Cole to seek a Parke County Community Foundation grant for infant sleep sacks. Matt Helderman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- **Chris Newcomb, Park and Recreation Director:**
  - Chris Newcomb would like to seek a Community Impact Grant through the Department of Natural Resources to replace playground equipment at the Rockville Lake Park. Deadline for the grant application is February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Chris will obtain the necessary paperwork from the Auditor's office. Chris is seeking \$5,000 in grant funds for this project. Tom Rohr made a motion to approve Chris Newcomb to seek a Department of Natural Resources grant to replace playground equipment. Mary Alice Gregg seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- **Jason Frazier, Sheriff:**
  - Jason Frazier presented the Council Members with his 2025 Parke County Sheriff's Compensation Contract for approval. Thomas Rohr made the motion to approve the Parke County Sheriff's Compensation Contract for 2025. Jack B Butler seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The Compensation Contract was approved by the Board of Commissioners on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- **Stacie Amerman, Hamilton Center:**
  - No Updates

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS:**

- President Roy Wrightsman would like to establish a public comment policy stating that a time limit of 3 minutes will be imposed and the member of the public must be signed in on the meeting roster located in the back of the room. Jack B Butler made a motion to approve the public comment policy. Matt Helderman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Due to a miscommunication regarding the Health First Initiative funding amount required by the State, health insurance for the Health Department will be maintained in the general fund.
- President Roy Wrightsman introduced Robert Clutter, attorney for the Parke County Council. Engagement letter was presented for 2025 agreeing to perform requested services including bond work at his normal \$360.00 per hour billing rate with no retainer amount being required. Tom Rohr made a motion to approve the letter of engagement with Robert Clutter. Jack B Butler seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- President Roy Wrightsman reported on the Innkeepers Tax increase and issues when the original bill was passed it did not include the provision that the increase was to go towards public safety, statutory guidelines state the increase is to be used for tourism unless otherwise stated. Senator Deery is trying to get the issue rectified but until that passes the innkeepers tax collection revenues deemed for the volunteer fire departments will be held. Roy will be writing a letter to the fire departments explaining the situation and will have the Auditor send on his behalf. Roy presented the Parke County First Responder Runs data that he had received from the EMA Director, Chris O'Brien the information was generated from the CAD System.

## **Parke County First Responder Runs**

**1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024**

**Total runs is all runs by all departments in a first responder role. Does not include fire related runs.**

**State Property runs include runs to state-owned properties (parks, buildings, conservation areas) only.**

**Total adjusted is the sum of total runs and state property runs, giving double weight to state property runs.**

### Total Parke County Runs

Year	Total Runs	State Property	% State			Total Adjusted	
						Total Adjusted	
2022	1177	39	3%			1216	
2023	1268	75	6%			1343	
2024	1587	79	5%			1666	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4032</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>5%</b>			<b>4225</b>	

### Marshall Fire Department

Year	Total Runs	State Property	% State	%	%	Total Adjusted	%
				Total	State	Adjusted	Adjusted
2022	156	11	7%	13.25%	28.21%	167	13.73%
2023	174	30	17%	13.72%	40.00%	204	15.19%
2024	234	39	17%	14.74%	49.37%	273	16.39%
<b>Total</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>13.99%</b>	<b>41.45%</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>15.24%</b>

### Bloomingdale Fire Department

Year	Total Runs	State Property	% State	%	%	Total Adjusted	%
				Total	State	Adjusted	Adjusted
2022	119	10	8%	10.11%	25.64%	129	10.61%
2023	109	17	16%	8.60%	22.67%	126	9.38%
2024	127	17	13%	8.00%	21.52%	144	8.64%
<b>Total</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>8.80%</b>	<b>22.80%</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>9.44%</b>

### Montezuma Fire Department

Year	Total Runs	State Property	% State	%	%	Total Adjusted	%
				Total	State	Adjusted	Adjusted
2022	141	0	0%	11.98%	0.00%	141	11.60%
2023	142	1	1%	11.20%	1.33%	143	10.65%
2024	122	0	0%	7.69%	0.00%	122	7.32%
<b>Total</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>10.04%</b>	<b>0.52%</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>9.61%</b>

### Mecca Fire Department

Year	Total Runs	State Property	% State	%	%	Total Adjusted	%
				Total	State	Adjusted	Adjusted
2022	86	0	0%	7.31%	0.00%	86	7.07%
2023	75	0	0%	5.91%	0.00%	75	5.58%
2024	99	0	0%	6.24%	0.00%	99	5.94%
<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>6.45%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>6.15%</b>

### Rockville Fire Department

Year	Total Runs	State Property	% State	%	%	Total Adjusted	%
				Total	State	Adjusted	Adjusted
2022	157	1	1%	13.34%	2.56%	158	12.99%
2023	200	5	3%	15.77%	6.67%	205	15.26%
2024	416	7	2%	26.21%	8.86%	423	25.39%
<b>Total</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>19.17%</b>	<b>6.74%</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>18.60%</b>

### Bellmore Fire Department

Year	Total Runs	State Property	% State	%	%	Total Adjusted	%
				Total	State	Adjusted	Adjusted
2022	281	17	6%	23.87%	43.59%	298	24.51%
2023	290	22	8%	22.87%	29.33%	312	23.23%
2024	268	16	6%	16.89%	20.25%	284	17.05%
<b>Total</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>20.81%</b>	<b>28.50%</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>21.16%</b>

### Lyford Fire Department

Year	Total Runs	State Property	% State	%	%	Total Adjusted	%
				Total	State	Adjusted	Adjusted
2022	103	0	0%	8.75%	0.00%	103	8.47%
2023	120	0	0%	9.46%	0.00%	120	8.94%
2024	134	0	0%	8.44%	0.00%	134	8.04%
<b>Total</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>8.85%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>8.45%</b>

### Rosedale Fire Department

Year	Total Runs	State Property	% State	%	%	Total Adjusted	%
				Total	State	Adjusted	Adjusted
2022	87	0	0%	7.39%	0.00%	87	7.15%
2023	98	0	0%	7.73%	0.00%	98	7.30%
2024	113	0	0%	7.12%	0.00%	113	6.78%
<b>Total</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>7.39%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>7.05%</b>

### Bridgeton Fire Department

Year	Total Runs	State Property	% State	%	%	Total Adjusted	%
				Total	State	Adjusted	Adjusted
2022	47	0	0%	3.99%	0.00%	47	3.87%
2023	60	0	0%	4.73%	0.00%	60	4.47%
2024	74	0	0%	4.66%	0.00%	74	4.44%
<b>Total</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>4.49%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>4.28%</b>

**X. OLD BUSINESS:**

- 2025 Certified Budget Order was received from the DLGF on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Chester Crague discussed grievances regarding different roads in the County. Mr. Crague was informed that the roads were under the Commissioner purview and not the Council's.

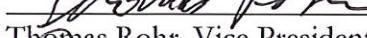
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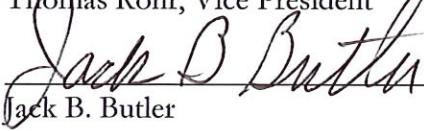
Roy Wrightsman, President

NAY

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Thomas Rohr, Vice President



Jack B. Butler

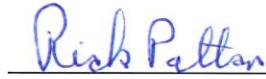
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James E. Howard



Matt Helderman



Rick Patton

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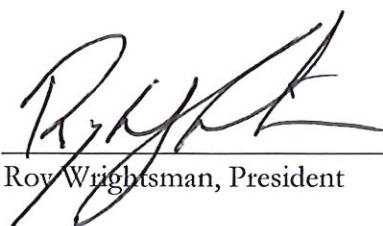
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Mary Alice Gregg

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**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business to come before the Council, the motion to adjourn was made by Rick Patton and seconded by Jack B Butler. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.



Roy Wrightsman, President

ATTEST:



Susan Kramer, Auditor