

# COUNTY COUNCIL

February 13th, 2025

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Council convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, February 13th, 2025 to consider additional requests in excess of the budget allowed for 2025, and to conduct such other business as may be properly brought before the Council.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Council members present were, Roy Wrightsman, President; Jack B. Butler; Rick Patton; Thomas Rohr Vice President; Matthew Helderman; Mary Alice Gregg; and Susan Kramer, Auditor. Also present were Jason Frazier, Stacie Amerman, Mandy Adams-Washburn, Katie Potter, Jessica Lancaster, Kurt Lanzone, Leanna Collisi and Chester Crague
- III. **READING OF THE MINUTES:** Minutes for the Council Meeting held on January 9th, 2025 were presented. Tom Rohr made a motion to approve the January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 minutes as presented. Jack Butler seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- IV. **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS:** The Council considered additional appropriation requests as published in the newspaper January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Council President, Roy Wrightsman, reviewed the appropriations from written request submitted by the Auditor, Susan Kramer. Thus, the following ordinance was adopted: WHEREAS: it be determined now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget for 2025, 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 herein specified, subject to the law of governing the same: Matt Helderman made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request for MVH Fund, Park And Recreation Fund, Supplemental Adult Probation Fund, American Rescue Plan Fund, EMS Training Institution Fund, Innkeepers Tax Fund and Narcotics Incinerator Fund as advertised on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mary Alice Gregg and carried unanimously.

<u>FUND/DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>AMOUNT APPROVED</u>
<b>EMS Training Institution</b>		
Operating Supplies 4909-00-02-3100	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Education & Training Material 4909-002-02-3110	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Travel & Training 4909-00-03-5020	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Professional Training Service 4909-00-03-5085	\$29,000.00	\$29,000.00
<b>EMS Training Institution Total:</b>	<b>\$41,500.00</b>	<b>\$41,500.00</b>
 <b>MVH FUND</b>		
Deicing Materials 1176-02-02-31158	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00
<b>Total MVH Fund</b>	<b>\$70,000.00</b>	<b>\$70,000.00</b>
 <b>21.027 American Rescue Plan</b>		
Broadband Match 8912-00-03-5085	\$936,000.00	\$936,000.00
<b>21.27 American Rescue Plan Total:</b>	<b>\$936,000.00</b>	<b>\$936,000.00</b>

<b>Park and Rec Fund</b>		
Grounds Maintenance 1219-00-03-5055	\$17000.00	\$17,000.00
<b>Total Park and Rec Fund</b>	<b>\$17,000.00</b>	<b>\$17,000.00</b>
<b>Supplemental Adult Probation Fund</b>		
Drug Testing 2100-00-03-5081	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
<b>Total Supplemental Adult Probation Fund</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>
<b>Innkeepers Tax Fund</b>		
Professional Services 4910-00-03-5085	\$104,856.66	\$104,856.66
<b>Total Innkeepers Tax Fund</b>	<b>\$104,856.66</b>	<b>\$104,856.66</b>
<b>Narcotics Incinerator Fund</b>		
Equipment 9164-00-04-7020	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00
<b>Total Narcotics Incinerator Fund</b>	<b>\$16,000.00</b>	<b>\$16,000.00</b>

- V. **JURY PAY:** The Auditor presented the Parke County Clerk's Certification of jury fees collected for January 2025, and requested \$279.47 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 \$279.47 from the County Users Fund to the Jury Fee Fund. The motion was seconded by Jack Butler and unanimously carried.

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

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

Transfer Amount:	\$ 2061	
From Account		Account
Number:	1000-14-01-1210	Name: PER DIEM OF PETIT JURORS
To Account		Account
Number:	1000-14-01-1203	Name: PROBATION OFFICER
Transfer Amount:	\$ 1703	
From Account		Account
Number:	1000-14-01-1210	Name: PER DIEM OF PETIT JURORS
To Account		Account
Number:	1000-14-01-1205	Name: ASSISTANT PROBATION OFFICER

## VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Redevelopment Commission (RDC):**
  - RDC met on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 the following officers were elected; John Pratt - President, Roy Wrightsman - Vice President and Parke Swaim -Secretary. All members present were sworn in by the Parke County Auditor, Susan Kramer Everyone has been sworn into their new office positions.
  - RDC applied for a Lilly Endowment Grant for the Bank Building, still waiting on announcement of what projects will be funded.
  - Town of Rockville applied and received an extension on the completion of their OCRA water project through June 2025.
  - HWC Engineering is working on the County Comprehensive Plan
  - Montezuma held preconstruction meeting on their OCRA water project
  - Regional Sewer District formation notice should have been received by 02/12/2025. There have been a few proposed project changes that would decrease upfront cost but increase operational cost
  - RDC selected Bob Clutter for their attorney
  - Purchase agreement for the Bank Building has been extended through the end of April, with closing to occur before the end of April as well.
  - Final payment to the Town of Rockville for the 41 North Sewer project was processed and delivered 02/12/2025.
- **Courthouse Security Committee:** Nothing to present
- **Planning and Zoning Board:** Nothing to present
- **Solid Waste District (SWD):** West Central Solid Waste District 2024 Annual report presented for Council to review.

## VII. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

- **Susan Kramer, Auditor:**
  - The Auditor's Cash Flow Statement was submitted for review by the Council Members.
- **Katie Potter, Assessor:**
  - One appeal going to Indiana Board of Tax Review the Assessor would like to have Marilyn Minn represent Parke County in the proceeding. No objections from the Council
- **Jason Frazier, Sheriff:**
  - Jason Frazier seeking the following grants for the Sheriff's Department; Grant from the LCC/JRAC in the amount of \$8000 for National Night Out as well as funding for the purchase of a Drone in the amount of \$16,000 donations have been received from Nucor Steel Corp, Futurex Plastics, Parke County Community Foundation and Parke County REMC.
- **Kurt Lanzone, Extension:**
  - Kurt Lanzone stated that a verbal offer was given to the Youth Educator candidate, start date would be March 3. Kurt would like to reclassify 2<sup>nd</sup> secretary position which is permanent part

time position to a more skilled position with an increase in pay, Roy explained that all the permanent part time position are paid the same amount according with the salary ordinance. Kurt will need to have a discussion with Purdue if funding was going to change if only having two Educators available before any decisions other decisions will be made by the Council.

- **Stacie Amerman, Hamilton Center:**

- Provided statistics on new annual report for 2024. Report was Provided to the Council and Commissioners.
- Initiating Moral Reconation Therapy to promote moral reasoning, improve decision making and encourage more appropriate behavior among juvenile and adult criminal offenders.
- Hamilton Center employees 10 Parke County residents, 9 of which work at the Rockville location.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

### Amendment to the 2025 Parke County Salary Ordinance

The Parke County Council at their February 13th, 2025 meeting determined to amend the 2025 Parke County Salary Ordinance in the following manner:

Fund/ Appropriation Number	Department	Position	2025 Amount Approved	2025 Amended Amount	Bi-Weekly Rate Approved	Bi-Weekly Rate Amended
1000-14-01- 1203	Circuit Court	Probation Officer	\$ 66,194.00	\$ 68,255.00	\$ 2,545.92	\$ 2,625.19
1000-14-01- 1205	Circuit Court	Assistant Probation Officer	\$ 49,270.00	\$ 50,973.00	\$ 1,895.00	\$ 1,960.50

Jack Butler made a motion to approve the 2025 Amended Salary Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mary Alice Gregg and carried unanimously.

- Health Board appointment, per IC 16-20-2-5 One person who either has public health knowledge or is a member of the general public, is appointed by the county fiscal body. A list of candidates was presented to the Council for review with a strong recommendation from the Health Board President to appoint Veronica Hill. Candidates not appointed will be forwarded to the largest municipality within Parke County which is the Town of Rockville for their appointment choice. The following is the list of candidates;

- Bruce Patton
- Abby Cleghorn
- Tiffany Martin
- Josie Sanders
- Mary Jo Harkrider
- Veronica Hill
- Dr. Katherine Chobanov

Jack Butler made a motion to appoint Veronica Hill to the Parke County Health Board. Tom Rohr seconded the nomination and it carried unanimously.

**2024 Encumbrance Totals**

\$637,344.76

Fund #	Fund	Fund Total
1000	General	\$112,440.57
1112	CEDIT.	\$138,000.00
1138	CCD	\$21,447.71
1159	Health	\$40.00
1161	Local Public Health	\$104,410.00
1170	Public Safety	\$260.60
1173	MVH Restricted	\$81,264.49
1176	MVH	\$132,402.45
1182	Pre-Trial Diversion	\$1,337.72
1206	Local Health Trust	\$765.00
1222	Statewide 911	\$43,982.54
2100	Supplemental Adult Prob	\$697.88
2150	Supplemental Juvenile Prob	\$36.20
2502	SCRAM	\$259.60

Sum	\$637,344.76
Check	\$637,344.76

Tom Rohr made a motion to approve the 2024 Encumbrances as presented. Matt Helderman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**IX. OLD BUSINESS:**

- \$2.8 million dollar road project, Highway department is seeking the Community Crossing grant which we would receive \$1.5 million from the State and the County would come up with the remainder of the funds. Currently there is \$600,000 appropriated for the road project with the remainder of the funds coming from the MVH Restricted fund roughly \$800,000.
- Highway department is seeking quotes to purchase a new dump truck, it has been two years since the last purchase. \$270,000 currently appropriated in the budget for this purpose.
- Offer has been extended to the new highway superintendent based on the results of the background check and drug screen. Highway Superintendent would officially start March 3, 2025 pending the results and would be paid at the former Superintendent's rate.
- Southwest Parke School is requesting a special election for their Referendum May 6, 2025. Southwest Parke School has been informed that they are required to pay for the special election in advance based on an estimate provided by the Parke County Clerk, Nicole Collings. The election will be held like all others except it is for the Southwest Parke district with only the Referendum Question on the ballot. The current estimate is coming in around \$20,000, any corrections to the amount will be reconciled after the special election.
- Minutes from the Parke County Public Library meeting were submitted by the Council appointees, going forward Roy has requested that all Council appointees submit a quarterly report on their respective Boards.
- Roy discussed the Inn-Keeper tax issue with Senator Deery who is optimistic that the language needed to be able to distribute funds to the fire departments would get in a Bill before the end of the current legislative session.
- HB1245 Allows counties that meet certain criteria to adopt an ordinance to impose a surcharge of not more than \$1 in addition to the fees charged by the Department of Natural Resources for entry into certain state parks and recreation areas. Provided that the surcharge may not be imposed on an annual state park pass holder. Requires the department to collect

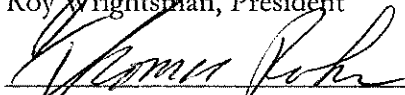
and to report and pay the surcharge to each county treasurer. Provides that the surcharge collected is to be used for public safety or infrastructure. Counties that share state parks and recreational areas would have to create a matching ordinance regarding the new house bill if passed. Raccoon State Park would be shared with Putnam County, Shades State Park would be shared with Montgomery County and Turkey Run State Park would be Parke County only. Further research would need to be done regarding the splits but Roy would propose that an Ordinance be adopted if it passes the Senate. Council would also adopt an ordinance creating a Home Rule Fund where the funds would be maintained, council would then decide on how those funds would be distributed. Bob Clutter is working on an ordinance.

- All information regarding the delinquent landowners not submitting their Inn-keepers tax to the Parke County Treasurer has been submitted to the Prosecutor's Office with the State Police beginning their investigation.
- Joint Ordinance with Commissioner's and Council being drafted regarding Compensatory Time. The draft ordinance is informational only and its purpose is to construct an ordinance that will get this unfunded liability under control. Once an ordinance has been completed and approved by both Commissioner's and Council it will become part of the new employee handbook. Per Federal law, public safety positions can not accrue more than 480 hours and all other eligible position can not accrue more than 240 hours. Council has requested that Compensatory Time be reported on a regular basis.

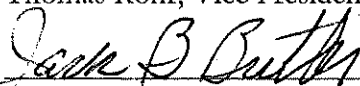
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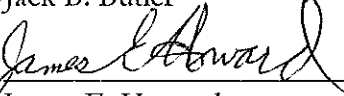
Roy Wrightsman, President



Thomas Rohr, Vice President

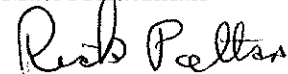


Jack B. Butler

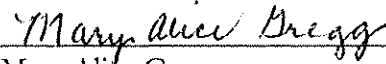


James E. Howard

Matt Helderman



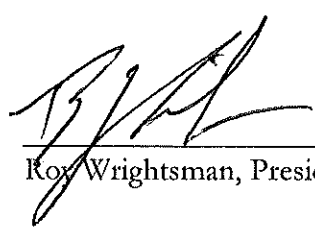
Rick Patton



Mary Alice Gregg

NAY

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business to come before the Council, the motion to adjourn was made Jack Butler and seconded by Rick Patton the meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.



Roy Wrightsman, President

ATTEST:



Susan Kramer, Auditor