

# COUNTY COUNCIL

April 11th, 2024

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Council convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, April 11th, 2024 to consider additional requests in excess of the budget allowed for 2024, and to conduct such other business as may be properly brought before the Council.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Council members present were John K. Pratt, President; Roy Wrightsman, Vice President; Jack B. Butler; James E. Howard; Rick Patton; Cameron Martin; Jim Meece, President, Parke County Board of Commissioners; Mary Anne Wood, Auditor; and Judge Sam Swaim. Also present were Jason Frazier, Chris O'Brien, John Martin, Katie Potter, Jessica Lancaster, Stacie Amerman, Julie Lanzone, Susan Kramer, and Matt Hayes.
- III. **READING OF THE MINUTES:** None
- IV. **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS:** The Council considered additional appropriation requests as published in the newspaper March 27th, 2024.

Council President, John K. Pratt, reviewed the appropriations from written requests submitted by Auditor, Mary Anne Wood. 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 2024, 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 governing the same: Jack B. Butler made a motion to approve the additional appropriation requests for the 1237 Opioid Restricted Fund, 21.027 American Rescue Plan Fund, and the RDC – Central Parke TIF Fund as advertised on March 27th, 2024. The motion was seconded by Cameron Martin and carried unanimously.

<u>FUND/DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>AMOUNT REQUESTED</u>	<u>AMOUNT APPROVED</u>
<b>1237 Opioid Restricted:</b>		
Service Contracts for Sheriff Department 1237-00-03-5080	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
<b>Total 1237 Opioid Restricted:</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
<b>21.027 American Rescue Plan:</b>		
Spark Loan Fund Program Thrive West Central 8912-00-03-5089	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
<b>Total 21.027 American Rescue Plan:</b>	<b>\$5,500.00</b>	<b>\$5,500.00</b>
<b>21.027 American Rescue Plan:</b>		
X-Soft Software & Support 8912-00-03-5084	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
<b>Total 21.027 American Rescue Plan:</b>	<b>\$50,000.00</b>	<b>\$50,000.00</b>
<b>RDC – Central Parke TIF:</b>		
Building and Grounds 4502-00-04-7050	\$450,000.00	\$450,000.00
<b>Total RDC – Central Parke TIF:</b>	<b>\$450,000.00</b>	<b>\$450,000.00</b>

V. **JURY PAY:** The Auditor presented the Parke County Clerk's Certification of jury fees collected for March 2024, and requested \$296.93 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 \$296.93 from the County Users Fund to the Jury Fee Fund. The motion was seconded by Cameron Martin and unanimously carried.

VI. **TRANSFER OF FUNDS:** None presented.

VII. **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- **Public Comments:**
  - Matt Hayes from the Hamilton Center presented a letter to the Parke County Council regarding the Certified Community Behavior Health Clinic (CCBHC). This letter describes the CCBHC and gives information to do more research. In the coming weeks and months, the Hamilton Center will have more details as to what this means to the service providers. The Hamilton Center is meeting with all of their community partners to deliver this information.

VIII. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Redevelopment Commission (RDC):**

RDC is required to file a report through Gateway and must be presented to the fiscal body that established it, which is the Parke County Council. The West Central Parke TIF received \$149,416.00 and spent nothing. The Central Parke TIF received \$219,886.00 and spent \$1,546,000.00 for the sewer expansion on US 41 N. The Balance at the end of the fiscal year 2023 for the Central Parke TIF was \$615,620.00 and the balance for the West Central Parke TIF was \$361,494.00. There are currently 97 parcels in the West Central Parke TIF and there are 335 parcels in the Central Parke TIF. This information will be filed through Gateway.

RDC is required to hold an annual public hearing to discuss the TIF Districts and the assessed values. The date of this meeting is Tuesday, May 28th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

The RDC entered into a purchase agreement for the purpose of purchasing the Rockville Bank Building. The intended purpose of this building is to create a County Government Annex. We are in the Due Diligence Period for 90 days, 60 days for inspection and 30 days to close. We are working with consultants on this project.

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

**Planning and Zoning Board:**

One Item was approved by the Planning and Zoning Board. Mr. Fisher is going to put a pallet assembly mill on the parcel behind the State Highway barn in Bloomingdale.. There will be no sawing.

**Solid Waste District (SWD):** Did not meet.

IX. **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

- **Mary Anne Wood, Auditor:**
  - The Auditor's Cash Flow Statement was submitted for review by the Council Members.

- **Katie Potter, Assessor:**

- Katie Potter presented the Parke County Council with the requested information on Senate Bill 183. The Senate Bill 183 was signed on March 11, 2024. This Bill is leaving it up to each County through an Ordinance as to whether or not to leave personal property tax on mobile homes. These mobile homes do not sit on foundations and the mobile home owners usually do not own any property. They tend to rent or lease the property the mobile home sits on. The financial impact would be \$82,635.00 and that is if all tax payers pay. Non-paying tax payers are turned over to Collections and it is not likely the tax is ever collected. Most often these mobile homes are sold and the ownership is never transferred. This affects the proper payment of property taxes. Roy Wrightsman explained that the mobile homes would be removed from tax payment thus causing a shift in tax. Small increases would be distributed to the rest of the tax payers. The \$82,635.00 could be recouped.

- **Judge Sam Swaim:**

- Judge Sam Swaim reported that his chief court recorder, Michelle Riffe, will be retiring in late July. She has been with Parke County for 35 years. Many people look to Michelle Riffe for advice. She has a vast wealth of knowledge. This will be a huge loss for Parke County. The plan is for Kim Gregg to move into the chief court recorder position, then move up the Secretary, Kristin Seahorn, to the assistant court recorder position and hire a new secretary. The problem is that there will be a huge learning curve for all the positions. Swaim is asking if he can post and hire for the court secretary position now. This will allow for Michelle Riffe to help train the new people in their new positions. Roy Wrightsman agreed with Judge Swaim and granted permission to begin the hiring process for a new court secretary.

- **Jim Meece, President, Parke County Board of Commissioners:**

- Jim Meece met with the Governor in Clay County on April 10, 2024 regarding the winners of the Community Crossings and Parke County was awarded \$1.5 Million. Parke County actually applied for \$1.56 Million. So, they may have taken out one project but the county will get it back in July when we apply again.

- **Jason Frazier, Sheriff:**

- Jason Frazier reported that he hired a company to recover lost data from December 7th, 2023. The company should be restoring the lost data on April 11th, 2024. Jason Fraizer is also working on estimates to replace the current system and supporting company. The only estimate that he has is around \$200,000.00.

- **Chris O'Brien, Emergency Operations Center Director:**

- Chris O'Brien gave an update on the EOC's grants. He has been reimbursed for two grants. In the next few months, he is expecting another reimbursement for the third grant for the interview room at the Parke County Sheriff's Department. Chris O'Brien is seeking approval for another grant application to help pay for the new computer system. This grant is for \$150,000.00. We should know if we are awarded this grant by the end of September 2024. The Parke Council approved Chris O'Brien continuing with the grant application process to seek \$150,000.00 in assistance for a new computer system.

- **Julie Lanzone, Emergency Medical Services Director:**

- Julie Lanzone reported that the Emergency Management took 162 calls in March, which is well over the average and 157 resulted in transport. Their busy season usually begins in May. However, they are already surpassing the busy season numbers in calls and in transports. It looks like this may be another record setting year. This year's revenues are at \$235,044.75 so far. Last year at this time, the revenue was around \$210,000.00. The EMS does not have any accounts going to collections due to the timing of the new billing company taking over. We took some collections in house and have a waiting period. Two accounts went to litigation in March. Next month, there will be a record setting accounts going to litigation just based on the timing of the billing company turnover. The EMS conducted interviews on Wednesday, April 10, 2023 for 5 open positions. There is 1 full-time position and 4 part-time positions available. They have 6 applicants. The EMS selected an applicant for the 1 full-time position. The last two interviews will be conducted on Friday, April 12th, 2024. The EMS will be fully staffed after the 4 part-time positions are filled. Julie Lanzone explained that they are running into some issues getting some quotes for Medic 2. She has reached out to at least 24 companies but none have what Parke County EMS is looking for. Julie Lanzone is working with one company and will be meeting with them on Friday, April 12th, 2024 to see if they can accommodate our needs. The highest quote is around \$378, 000.00 for an ambulance.

**X. NEW BUSINESS:**

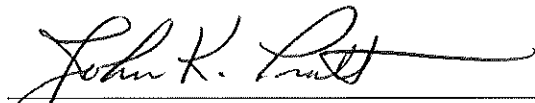
- There was a missed Encumbrance for \$832.59. This involved a payroll account for the Circuit Court Secretary. Jack B. Butler made the motion to approve the missed encumbrance of \$832.59. Rick Patton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**XI. OLD BUSINESS:**

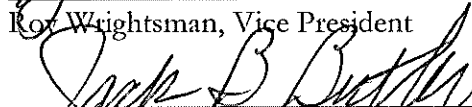
- Roy Wrightsman made a request for the Auditor, Mary Anne Wood, to send out the Budget forms to the departments by Thursday, May 9th, 2024.

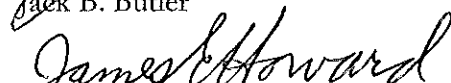
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John K. Pratt, President

  
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Roy Wrightsman, Vice President

  
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Jack B. Butler

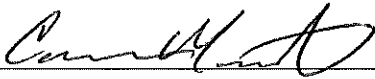
  
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James E. Howard

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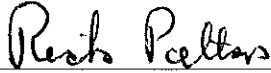
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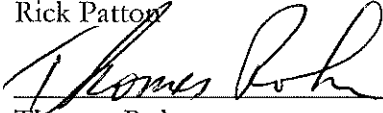
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Cameron Martin

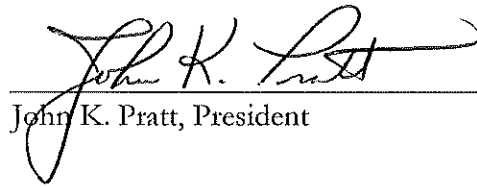


Rick Patton



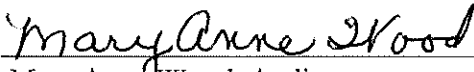
Thomas Rohr

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business to come before the Council, the motion to adjourn was made by Jack B. Butler and seconded by Rick Patton. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.



John K. Pratt, President

ATTEST:



Mary Anne Wood, Auditor