

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
December 18th, 2023

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 18th, 2023, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, December 4th, 2023.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Jim Meece, President; Bruce Hartman, Second Vice President; Mary Anne Wood, Auditor; Leanna Collisi, Deputy Auditor; and Nick Sauter, Commissioners Attorney. Also present were John Martin, Randy Norman, Chris O'Brien, Cindy Todd, Sandy Wallace, Mandy Adams, Kristina Ervin.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, December 4th, 2023 were approved on a motion from Bruce Hartman. Jim Meece seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- IV. **PAYROLL:** County payroll in the amount of \$208,016.39 was approved for release on Monday, December 18th, 2023 on a motion made by Bruce Hartman. Jim Meece seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. There was no Payroll Claims Accounts Payable Report to approve because Susan Kramer was out sick. The commissioners will approve it at the next meeting on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- Mary Anne Wood presented the Purdue Extension Contractual Services Agreement to the Commissioners for approval and signatures. Nick Sauter explained that this agreement is the same as last year. It was approved on a motion made by Jim Meece. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- Mary Anne Wood presented Dr. Angela Hatfield's Certificate of Appointment to the Parke County Board of Health to the commissioners for signing. This appointment was previously approved at the last meeting held on Monday, December 4th, 2023.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Randy Norman:

- Randy has grant money left in Grant 2023-2. He thinks it is around \$233,000.00. Randy Norman wanted to ask the board's opinion on using that money to help fund Lena Rd for repaving. It may cost \$112,653.00. Randy Norman explained Strawberry Rd (\$114,337.00) and 1100 E (\$156,439.00) were already scheduled for repaving and thought adding Lena Rd with these extra funds would be a good idea. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve adding Lena Road to the paving project funded from Grant 2023-2. Jim Meece seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Randy further explained that 800 S, 350 W and 775 E are in need of repair as well, with an estimated cost of \$1,503,000.00. These roads will be funded with the new grant for 2024. Bruce

Hartman mentioned that he read in an article from AIC, he thinks, that in 2024 INDOT may let us apply for \$1.5 million in assistance as long as we have closed any 2022-1 grant projects and have an asset inventory. Bruce Hartman asked Cindy Todd to research this option for funding. These grants are a 75/25 match. We may get lower pricing on products used for repairs since gas and oil prices are decreasing.

- Jim Meece wants to take a look at Marshall Road (from SR 47 to Martin/Stark Road) and Strawberry Road for repaving in 2024. Jim Meece said the Parke County Council may have some extra money from the Art fund to help. There was some discussion that Pike Road in Montezuma is bad too.
- The Highway Department is staffed for one 12-14 hour shift during any snow events. Randy Norman is short 3-4 CDL drivers to help through the winter.
- May 31st, 2024 is Randy Norman's last day. Jim Meece said that Randy Norman is much appreciated.
- Jim Meece asked Randy Norman to get a copy of the cost proposal for the Melcher Covered Bridge. Cindy Todd has a grant opportunity through DNR for historic and cultural projects within a 500 mile radius from the Wabash River. Since all the covered bridges in Parke County are on the historic list, Melcher Bridge would qualify for this grant opportunity. It is an 80/20 match up to \$100,000.00. The deadline for application is January 31, 2024. Jim Meece made the motion for Cindy Todd to seek out this DNR Grant to help with the cost of the Melcher Covered Bridge project. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Chris O'Brien:

- Chris O'Brien explained that the Community Emergency Response Team or CER Team is wanting to use volunteers for this program. All training for this program is paid for through FEMA. Chris O'Brien wanted to make sure this was approved by the Board of Commissioners. Jim Meece explained that Karla Losin with Branson Insurance needs the list of volunteers before they begin working. Our insurance company expects everyone to follow this procedure in order to be properly covered by our insurance. Jim Meece made the motion to approve of the Emergency Management's creation of the CER Team and use volunteers for this new program. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

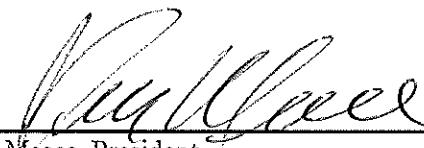
CASA:

- Mandy Adams, Hamilton Center Program Manager, and Kristina Ervin, Hamilton Center Clinical Supervisor, represented CASA. They deal with Substance Use Disorder Treatments and Mental health issues. Underlying Mental Health issues can arise before or after treatments. The abuser must be willing to do the work in order to get better. Alcohol abuse seems to be easier to treat than opiate abuse. Courts can only recommend methadone and suboxone to help with recovery from drug use. CASA is using peer recovery specialists to help others navigate the recovery process because they understand firsthand what the abuser is going through. Jim Meece would like to meet sometime in the future to discuss further what CASA is all about. It was explained that Hickory takes referrals from anywhere not just our county. Intake can happen over the phone. They offer a 28-day lockdown which Insurance pays for or presumptive Medicaid will pay for if the abuser does not have any insurance. CASA is glad to communicate what they do and will help anywhere they are needed.

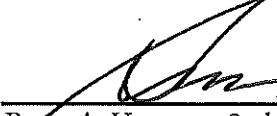
Other:

- Jim Meece mentioned that insurance renewal has been approved and the Parke County Council has approved a 6% increase to the employees cost of the insurance for 2024.
- Jim Meece said that there will be a vote for Travelers Property Insurance renewal at the Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024 Board of Commissioners Meeting.
- John Martin approached the Board with the need to use a camera to better manage media that can be used on our ParkeCounty.gov website. This will make it easier to utilize original content for the website. Jim Meece made the motion to approve John Martin's use of a camera for the parkecounty.in.gov website. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Nick Sauter presented the Board with an Ordinance and a Notice that he had been working on for approval. The first was 2023-14 Ordinance regarding the reduced speed limit to 30 mph from West of County Road 150 between State Road 41 and Catlin Road, then from County Road 150 South to State Road 41 along County Road 50 West. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the 2023-14 Ordinance - speed limit reduction on a same day, same meeting circumstance. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Secondly, Nick Sauter presented the Notice regarding the Hold Harmless for the Main Street Shops to use the courthouse restrooms on the weekends for its customers. Jim made the motion to approve the Notice regarding Hold Harmless on a same day, same meeting circumstance. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Bruce Hartman and seconded by Jim Meece. The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.


 Jim Meece, President

ABSENT - 12-18-23
 Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President


 Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:

Mary Anne Wood
 Mary Anne Wood, Auditor