

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 4th, 2023

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 4th, 2023, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, November 20th, 2023.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Jim Meece, President; Dan R Collom, First Vice President; Bruce Hartman, Second Vice President; Mary Anne Wood, Auditor; Leanna Collisi, Deputy Auditor; and Nick Sauter, Commissioners Attorney. Also present were John Martin, Neysa Jones, Chester Crague, Karla Losin, Randy Norman, Rodger Smith, Les Webster, Eric Runyan, Dave Bittner, Kim Shorter, and Susan Kramer.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, November 20th, 2023 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 \$202,312.42 and payroll for Union Hospital Security in the amount of \$7,912.94 was approved for release on Monday, December 4th, 2023 on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. There was a correction for payroll for Statewide 911 in the amount of \$1,373.08. It was approved on a motion made by Jim Meece. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Dan Collom made a motion acknowledging receipt of the Payroll Claims Accounts Payable Report in the amount of \$200,216.29. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Accounts Payable Claims in the amount of \$1,624,263.65 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Mary Anne Wood had a request for approval of an out of cycle check to be cut for Quadient Finance for \$500.00. Mary Anne Wood explained that the check was for postage for the Extension Office. It was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Dave Bittner from the Indiana Small Business Development Center for the State of Indiana spoke in place of Courtney Richey about the business advising services they have to offer in our area at no cost. They can offer advice from starting a business, staying in business or closing a business. There are all kinds of programs in Agriculture, Manufacturing and Technical Services that can be utilized by our area. They can help with setting up websites, creating marketing plans and support with patents. Jim Meece mentioned Bloomfields as being an example of a local small business that has used these services.
- Jim Meece introduced Karla Losin with Branson Insurance on the renewal of the 2024 Worker's Compensation Policy. The renewal is with IPEP which we have been with the past several years. Karla Losin explained that Worker's Compensation premiums are based on an increase of payroll by five percent and the Experience Modification Factor of 1.04. There will be an audit conducted on the 2023 payroll which may influence the premium as well. Karla Losin mentioned that they offer safety meetings bi-monthly. OSHA will be holding a 10-hour training on December 14th and a half day on December 15th. Jim Meece confirmed that volunteers are covered by our worker's comp policy. All volunteers must be reported before they work. Jim Meece also mentioned the security at Union Hospital in Clinton is provided by the Parke County Sheriff's Department. Union Hospital reimburses Parke County for the payroll of those Sheriff's Deputies that work security. He wanted to make sure they were covered in this approved activity. Nick Sauter has a contract between Union Hospital and Parke County. Karla requested to have Nick

send her the contract. Karla will look into this coverage. Dan Collom made a motion to accept the 2024 Worker's Compensation Insurance through Branson Insurance. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Jim Meece introduced Nick Napier as the Health Insurance representative from Brown & Brown. This is to negotiate the best cost for being self-insured. The goal is to keep the premiums for our third party administrator of fixed costs at five percent or less. Nick Napier explained that the health claims, overall, have decreased and are trending in the right direction. Enrollment is down just a bit. Nick Napier explained that the best Stoploss insurer would be with Anthem/VERIS-HMIG. They have a 30% rate cap for 2025 and cannot add additional Lasers. The IRS has federally mandated a new minimum deductible for single coverage in 2024 to be \$3,200.00. Nick Napier will be available at various location Wednesday, December 6, 2023 to discuss the Annual Benefits that include Proactive MD, the Hendricks Regional Ortho Care Program, and the New Ascension St. Vincent Heart Care Program with any interested employees. Jim Meece made a motion to accept the 2024 Anthem/VERIS-HMIG Health Insurance. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Nick Napier began explaining that we currently have Delta Dental with an 8% increase for 2024. They are the strongest carrier with the best pricing in the State of Indiana. Ameritas is another dental carrier. Ameritas is quite competitive but their network is not quite as strong as Delta Dental. Jim Meece made a motion to accept the 2024 Delta Dental Insurance plan. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Next, Nick Napier said that the vision insurance through VSP did not change for 2024. Jim Meece made a motion to accept the 2024 VSP vision Insurance plan. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Nick Napier introduced another voluntary program, similar to the Hendricks Regional Ortho program, through Ascension St. Vincent Heart Care Program. There is no additional cost to participate in these programs for Parke County or the employee. Nick Napier gave Nick Sauter a copy of the contract for this new heart care program. Jim Meece made a motion to accept the Ascension St. Vincent Heart Care Program. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Nick Napier will also attend the Parke County Council Meeting on Thursday, December 14, 2023 to explain the health insurance with them as well. Nick Napier will send Mary Anne Wood a copy of the fully signed health insurance contract. Proactive MD will be joining Nick Napier on Wednesday to explain their benefits for interested employees.
- There was a request from the Parke County Health Department to re-appoint Dr. Angela Hatfield for the Parke County Health Department board. Jim Meece made a motion to accept Dr. Angela Hatfield for the Parke County Health Department Board. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- Mary Anne Wood presented Jim Meece with a denied storm damage claim from Travelers Insurance from June 29, 2023. After reviewing the claim information, Bruce explained that the overhead power lines are not included in the declaration page of the insurance plan. There was both physical and electrical damage. Jim Meece advised that they are looking into other insurers.
- Jim Meece reviewed the preventive maintenance contract for the Chiller with Elite Mechanical Services. Jim Meece made a motion to accept the preventive maintenance contract with Elite Mechanical Services. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Mary Anne Wood presented the commissioners with the 2024 Commissioners Scheduled Meetings. For the most part, the meetings are scheduled for every other Monday at 4:00 p.m. There are a few meetings that will meet on a Tuesday due to a Holiday. Dan Collom made a motion to accept the 2024 Commissioners Scheduled Meetings. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Neysa Jones gave an updated and finalized cost reimbursement report to the County Commissioners from PCI. She further explained there was a decline in income due to the increase

in expenses even though the TML fees helped with the costs of the Sheriff's Department and the EMS during the festival. Neysa Jones said that PCI has \$35,000 after the festival and all expenses are paid. In the past, PCI has had around \$60,000 to begin the year with. Jim Meece mentioned that it is his hope there could be a full-time Tourist Office sometime. After some discussion, it was decided upon to give \$25,000 to PCI. Dan Collom made a motion to approve \$25,000 to PCI for cost reimbursement. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Nick Sauter presented the finalized version of Ordinance 2023-13. It explained that Vendors can move in the after 4:00 p.m. on the Friday before the canopy tent goes up and must vacate all trailers and shacks from the courthouse premises no later the Third Wednesday following the last day of the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival unless authorized by the Parke County Board of Commissioners. If a vendor violates this ordinance, this will be a Class C Infraction with a fine of up to \$500.00 per day. Bruce Hartman made a motion to accept the Ordinance 2023-13. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Randy Norman:

- Randy Norman gave an update on the Highway Department's preparations for the winter. Randy Norman said they have ordered two 54 D shaped pipes for repairs. The Highway Department has been patching every day they can. Randy Norman further explained they have four patching machines and one is down for repairs currently. They are ready for the snow, however, they are down 4-5 drivers for the season. They have some calcium left over from last year. Jim Meece explained that Cold mix is better and more flexible. Nick Sauter began opening bids for supplies for 2024. We open them in a public meeting and make sure all the paperwork is correct. Bids are as follows:

1. E-3 Bridge - Bedford
2. St. Regis Culverts Inc.
3. U.S. Aggregates
4. Pomp's Tire
5. Metal Culverts Inc.
6. Heidelberg Material/Putnamville Quarry
7. Whitesville Mill Services
8. Milestone
9. S & G Excavating Inc.
10. Lincoln Park Stone
11. Heritage Petroleum
12. Civilcon – Pipe supplier
13. Ceres Solutions
14. Parke County Aggregates
15. Parke County Culverts/Plastic Pipe
16. E & H Bridge and Grading
17. BHK Auto Parts-Material Bid Packet
18. Illini FS

Jason Frazier:

- Jason Frazier reported Billing for inmates (out of county and USC) for Housing of Inmates was \$259,879.00. Collections year-to-date is \$92,953.34. They started re-doing the padded cell at the

Jail and should be updated by Tuesday, December 5, 2023. The Sheriff's Department is fully staffed and has a new dispatcher.

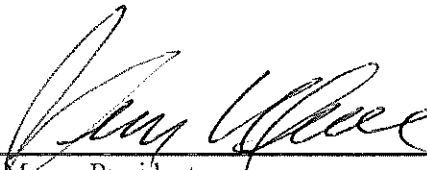
Other:

- Jim Meece explained that we had a Courthouse employee pass away, Henry Harper. His funeral will be on Thursday, December 7, 2023. The visitation will be from 10:00 a.m. until the funeral service which begins at 1:00 p.m. The Courthouse employees have asked for the Courthouse offices be closed from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for those who would like to attend the visitation and/or Funeral service. Jim Meece made the motion for the office holders to close their offices from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2023 for the funeral services and visitation for Henry Harper. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jim Meece inquired if there was any interest in maybe purchasing lights to string around the square from the clock tower again or maybe string them differently. There seemed to be some interest, so he will look into pricing the lights.

Public Comments:

- Resident Chester Crague asked if the commissioners and Randy Norman can take a closer look at the road conditions of Angle Road for re-pavement. He claims the road conditions are extremely bad. Also, Chester Crague wants to close an alley in Bridgeton. It was suggested that Chester Crague take a look at the Indiana Code (Petition to Vacate) and see if the alley way meets those requirements unless he hires a Lawyer to do so on his behalf. Jim Meece said typically we do not deny road closures unless the public is still using it.

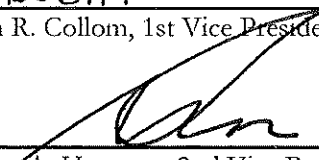
ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Dan Collom and seconded by Bruce Hartman. The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.



Jim Meece, President

Absent

Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



Mary Anne Wood, Auditor