

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 5th, 2024

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 5th, 2024, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 16th, 2024.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Jim Meece, President; Dan Collom, First Vice-President; Bruce Hartman, Second Vice President; Nick Sauter, Commissioners' Attorney; Mary Anne Wood, Auditor; and Leanna Collisi, Deputy Auditor. Also present were John Martin, Randy Norman, Chris O'Brien, Chris Newcomb, Charles Davis, William Wibbels, Jessica Lancaster, Pam Sanders and Cyndi Todd.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, November 6th, 2023 and Minutes for a regular meeting held on Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 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 \$219,344.84 and Union Hospital Security payroll in the amount of \$3,905.40 were approved for release on Monday, February 12th, 2024 and County payroll in the amount of \$238,356.56 and Union Hospital Security payroll in the amount of \$3,875.26 were approved for release on Monday, January 29th, 2024 on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Payroll Claims Accounts Payable Report for January 29th, 2024 in the amount of \$199,623.66 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Accounts Payable Claims for February 5, 2024 in the amount of \$ 831,414.64 were approved on a motion from Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Jim Meece had a couple of 4-H Leaders request to use the Courthouse elevators to assist in the training of service dogs. Jim Meece made the motion to approve allowing 4-H to use the elevators at the Courthouse to train service dogs. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Jim Meece had delivered the \$100,000.00 Grant to the Government Building in Downtown Indy last Wednesday Morning, January 31st, 2024. This grant will enable work on the Melcher Covered Bridge.
 - National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 2nd, 2024. Jim Meece had a requested to have a prayer service at Noon on the Courthouse steps for about one hour. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the prayer service on the Courthouse steps. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - The School Superintendent has requested the Board of Commissioners to write a letter of support for the Ready 2.0 Grant for placing Childcare Facilities attached to the schools. All the board members agreed to provide a letter of support.
 - Jim Meece updated the Board of Commissioners on the employment search for the Highway Superintendent and Engineer. He has met with LTAP and the Workforce Investment Board to discussed options and will be creating job descriptions. Job postings will be place on LTAP's website and the Workforce Investment Board uses LinkedIn. Sharing an Engineer with other counties seems to be the most feasible option. The cost of an Engineer is around \$120,000.00. The County would pay \$20,000.00- \$25,000.00 and the State will contribute \$40,000.00 for each County. We are still pursuing the Engineer position but on a shared basis with another county. Jim Meece will give updates to the Board of Commissioners as the hiring process continues.

- Jim Meece explained the Indiana Economic Development Corporation attracts Billion Dollar industries. However, the Development in Lebanon has run into an issue with supplying enough water to the industries being developed in that area. There is a study being conducted to investigate if tapping into the aquifer would help supply issues to these industries. The Commissioners have decided to wait on a decision until they see the results of the aquifer study.
- Jim Meece informed the Commissioners that development of the old Rise Chemical building in Vermillion County is still being worked out because it is not centrally located. Jim Meece further explained that some areas just do not have sufficient housing, childcare and workforce to develop these businesses.
- There were three Out of Cycle Checks requested for payment. The first check was to One Step Software for \$1,920.00. This software is used in Drug Court. It is paid by a grant. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the Out of Cycle Check Request for One Step Software. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The second check was to VS Engineering for the Melcher Bridge repairs - \$1,079.74 and the third check was to Collom Excavating for more repairs on the Melcher Bridge - \$79,200.00. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the Collom Excavating check for \$79,200.00 and the VS Engineering check for \$1,079.74. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- American Structurepoint GIS Limited Use Agreement was signed by the Commissioners. This agreement allows Structurepoint to gather information from the County's GIS System for the Town of Rockville's Impervious Surface Study. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the use of the GIS System by Structurepoint. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- West Central Indiana Solid Waste Management Board sent a Letter requesting the Board of Commissioners' appointments for 2024. Jim Meece proposed appointing Dan Collom as the representative from Parke County and George Nicholas as the Proxy representative from Parke County. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the appointments of Dan Collom as the representative and George Nicholas as the proxy representative of Parke County to the West Central Indiana Solid Waste Management Board for 2024. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Mary Anne Wood presented the Commissioners with the 2024 Commissioner Appointments for approval. The Innkeepers Tax Commission – CVC – has one open position. Jim Meece did not have anyone to suggest to appoint for this position. Other appointments for approval were Angela Hatfield to the Parke County Health Board. Jim Meece made the motion to approve Angela Hatfield's appointment to the Parke County Health Board. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Samantha Woodard was appointed to the Parke County Public Library. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve Samantha Woodard's appointment to the Parke County Public Library. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Dan made the motion for the Commissioners to approve the appointment requests as presented. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- George Smith with MJS Insurance had sent over a quote for the Canine Coverage. It would be about \$1,800.00. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the Canine Insurance Coverage. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Cyndi Todd presented information about the Partnership Parke County. Their focus is Economic Development of Parke County. This year will be the Partnership Parke County's 10th Anniversary. They are a non-for-profit 501c3 business. They are supported by public and private dollars. They work with large and small businesses wishing to expand into Parke County. The Partnership Parke County seeks out loan programs and grants for start-up businesses. The Partnership Parke County has brought \$25 Million into Parke County over past last twenty-five years. They have three goals for the upcoming years. The first goal is to keep working on Childcare grants.

Currently, the Partnership Parke County has use grant money to create 32 seats in the HeadStart facility. Secondly, Thrive West Central has used Ready Grants for Housing. Parke County has 29% vacant homes. This is quite a bit higher than surrounding counties. So, this is a concern that needs to be addressed. Lastly, Partnership Parke County would like to look into the prospect of regionalizing a public sewer for the Northern part of Parke County.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Chris Newcomb:

- Chris Newcomb requested additional appropriation for demolition of the diving pier at Rockville Lake Park. He brought an estimate from Collom Excavating for \$8,960.00. Mary Anne Wood informed Chris Newcomb that the additional appropriation will have to be advertised in March before presenting the additional appropriation to the Parke County Council. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the demolition of the diving pier by Collom Excavating for \$8,960.00. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jim Meece requested that Chris Newcomb put together funding paperwork for the Rockville Lake Park's WIFI for the Commissioners' approval. Jim Meece further explained that the Funds are to come from ARP. Chris Newcomb said the cost is \$90,000.00 for the WIFI project.
- Chris Newcomb will be picking up his 2012 truck for Rockville Lake Park on Tuesday, February 6th, 2024.
- Rockville Lake Park will be receiving 6 new cabins that the Amish built and a splash pad. Also, he applied for the Ready grant to upgrade all the electric in the Modern Loop.

Chris O'Brien:

- Chris O'Brien informed the Board of Commissioners that he had a bid from CRS out of Terre Haute, IN for replacing the Dispatch Radio Console. It would cost around \$188,000.00 and this would be coming from the 911 dollars. This purchase includes 13 radios, controllers and the positions in the dispatch. This system they are looking at purchasing is similar to what is in the Parke County Jail. Chris O'Brien said that Putnam County just started using this system and is very pleased with it. He was able to visit Putnam County and see the system first hand as well. This is a Linux system. It will take 3-4 months for the installation process to be completed. Jim made the motion to approve the purchase of the Dispatch Radio Console from CRS. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Randy Norman:

- Randy Norman reported that his employees are working 10 hours a day and 8 hours on Fridays.
- They are in the process of fixing holes in the roads.
- They were trying to stock up on Duraberm but their supplier is shut down. So, Randy Norman is stock up on 53 gravel for now.
- Nick Sauter opened a bid Randy presented him from Mile Stone for the Community Crossings project.
- Jim Meece requested a Superintendent job description from Randy Norman.


Public Comments:

- Rebecca Beil with the Rockville and Turkey Run Elementary Schools requested to display the students' Art in the Courthouse. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the schools displaying their students' Art in the Courthouse. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Charles Davis led a discussion regarding a Road at his Raccoon Lake residence that he uses for his boat. The Army Corp of Engineers for Raccoon Lake has requested that Charles Davis obtain a letter from the Board of Commissioners stating that the old road bed is not abandoned and/or is an easement used for public access. This road accesses Charles Davis' shoreline property. Nick Sauter will compose a letter and let Charles Davis know it is ready.

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 5:02 p.m.



Jim Meece, President




Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



Mary Anne Wood, Auditor