

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 1st, 2024

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 1st, 2024, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, June 17th, 2024.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Jim Meece, President; Bruce Hartman, Second Vice President; Nick Sauter, Commissioners' Attorney; Mary Anne Wood, Auditor; Susan Kramer, 1st Deputy Auditor; and Leanna Collisi, 2nd Deputy Auditor. Also present were Luke Moody, Kim Shorter, Jessica Lancaster, Josh Nally, Andrew Gauer, Warren Artz and Luke Gill.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, June 17th, 2024 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 \$231,242.75 and Union Hospital Security payroll in the amount of \$3,293.64 were approved for release on Monday, July 1st, 2024 on a motion made by Bruce Hartman. Jim Meece seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Acknowledgement of receipt of Payroll Claims Accounts Payable Report for July 1st, 2024 in the amount of \$124,924.37 was approved on a motion made by Bruce Hartman. Jim Meece seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Accounts Payable Claims for July 1st, 2024 in the amount of \$1,092,902.85 were approved on a motion from Jim Meece. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Mary Anne Wood, Auditor, presented the Commissioners with five out of cycle checks for approval. The first check was to SRI, Inc. for \$1,867.35 for Tax Sale Postage service. The second check was to Stephany Dowd for \$700.00 for her Monthly Fees. The third check was to the Montezuma Police Department for \$2,200.00 for the purchase of Ballistic Shields. The last two checks were to the Parke County Drug Court for a total of \$700.00. This was a donation from the Parke County LCC for the Parke County Drug Court Alumni Picnic. Jim Meece made the motion to approve all five checks. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - The CASA Program's Independent Contract Agreement with Taylor Norris needed to be approved and signed by the Commissioners. Jim Meece made the motion to approve and sign the CASA Program Independent Contract Agreement with Taylor Norris. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - The Covered Bridge Certification for the State Comptroller was requested to be approved and signed by the Commissioners. Parke County has twenty-eight covered bridges in service and the county receives funds from the state to maintain these covered bridges. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve and sign the Covered Bridge Certification. Jim Meece seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - WTH Technology, Inc. sent in their Yearly Proposal to provide the Monthly Parcel Split Updates for Parke County. Jim Meece made the motion to approve and sign the WTH Technology, Inc. Yearly Proposal. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- Andrew Gauer with Gordon Flesch Company presented the Parke County Board of Commissioners with a proposal to replace the copiers in the Parke County Government Offices. He has been working with the Auditor's Office to gather information about what printers we have and in what departments. Andrew Gauer has found that the lack of account support and service are the biggest issues. He also found that some of our equipment was either owned with service, on a fair market value lease or on a lease with a \$1.00 buyout. Seventeen machines will be replaced. Gordon Flesch Company has fifteen technicians and is the only brick and mortar copier business in the Wabash Valley Area. They also do in house leasing. Gordon Flesch Company can meet with the Auditor's Office at least once or twice a year to review the account. Andrew Gauer explained that all the leases for each copier can have the same contract date. The color copy rates for all copiers are set at 3 ½ cents. The proposal includes shipping back the Wells Fargo Fair Market Value leased machines. Andrew Gauer stated that the proposed pricing is good for 30 days. Jim Meece commented that the Commissioners will compare the proposals presented by Ricoh and Gordon Flesch Company. Hopefully, a decision will be made by the next Parke County Board of Commissioners Meeting on Monday, July 15th, 2024.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Luke Moody:

- Luke Moody presented his Highway Department Monthly Report for June 2024 to the Commissioners for review. Jim Meece commented that the Highway Department has had three tractors that have been sitting and not been started in the back lot for at least four years. Luke Moody has been able to put these tractors back in service. An A Arm mower attachment was purchased and installed on one of the John Deere tractors that had been sitting in the back lot of the Highway Department. They have also utilized the quick hitch which gives the mower more stability. Jim Meece is excited about the changes that have been made and what changes will be implemented in the future. Luke Moody is concentrating on team building. Nick Sauter commented that he overheard a compliment that the brush trimming is looking good. Luke Moody gave an update on the chip and seal of the roads in Parke County. Currently, the Highway Department is working on Martin Road repairing a culvert, clearing brush and ditches. The main goal is to get water off the roads as quickly as possible. Shoulder removal is a dusty task. On the Administrative side, Luke Moody is using work orders and tracking them. He is in the process of compiling a replacement list for all the equipment the Highway Department owns or leases. Jim Meece asked if the ditch cleaning machine will work for the Department. Luke Moody is not sure if the machine is in working condition. He also stated that it would work, but it depends on the area you are working in. It is a messy machine. This machine is designed to throw the dirt back onto the property. However, in the process of throwing the dirt it also throws any other debris with the dirt. Retrieval is the biggest problem. Luke Moody is also looking at snow removal and winter road preparations. He needs to identify the main arteries and the bus routes that need to be plowed first. He is thinking about only sending out plow

trucks if the snow is 1 ½ -2 inches deep or more. The Highway Department will continue to seal roads, oil and fill in the gaps before winter. Roads need to be chip and sealed every 5-7 years. Luke Moody has spent some time looking at the covered bridges throughout Parke County. Jim Meece commented that it is important to preserve the integrity of the original covered bridge structures. Covered Bridges tend to fail at the arch points. It is important to keep the arch points clean and dry. Luke Moody intends to meet with Dan McCain of Carroll County to gain knowledge on how to implement funding opportunities for Parke County. Dan McCain had been able to bring in a lot of money for Carroll County and funded the Wabash Area Canal. It is great to be able to meet with other people to gain different perspectives on how to create funding for projects like the covered bridges in Parke County. Community Crossings has roughly \$369,000.00 left to spend. It would be helpful to meet with Milestone and see how much road they can cover at that cost. Luke Moody also announced that Highway 59 will be under construction beginning July 8th, 2024. The unofficial local detour will utilize 900 S, 775 E and 720 S. The County Highway Department is working with INDOT on this detour for approval. If there is extra wear and tear on the detour roads, pictures need to be taken in order to work with the State on any repairs that need to be done.

- Nick Sauter opened a bid for the Community Crossings project. Milestone's bid came in at \$1,332,809.05. Warren Artz, a representative from Milestone, introduced himself to the Parke County Board of Commissioners.

Chris O'Brien:

- Chris O'Brien reported that the new radio console has been installed and dispatch is running fine. The total cost came in less than expected. Therefore, there is extra money to hopefully purchase a new logger for dispatch and new call handling equipment. Chris O'Brien will speak with the Parke County Council to determine how the extra money can be spent.

Julie Lanzone:

- Jim Meece stated that the transition with Vermillion County Ambulance Service went well. At no point in time did Parke County residents ever lose ambulance coverage and no money from Parke County was used in this transition with Vermillion County Ambulance Service. It was entirely funded by Vermillion County. Julie Lanzone is an amazing worker and is very creative. Nick Sauter and Julie Lanzone have done a great job working with Vermillion County.

Mary Anne Wood:

- Mary Anne Wood stated that the June Settlement was completed early. All checks were done by June 20th, 2024. This was the earliest the checks have been done. She commented that this had a lot to do with XSoft.


VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- None

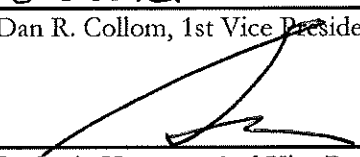
ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Bruce Hartman and seconded by Jim Meece. The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.



Jim Meece, President

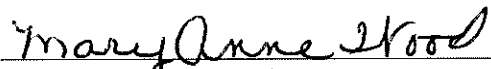


Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



Mary Anne Wood, Auditor