

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 3rd, 2024

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 3rd, 2024, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, May 20th, 2024.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Jim Meece, President; Dan Collom, First Vice President; Bruce Hartman, Second Vice President; Mary Anne Wood, Auditor; Susan Kramer, Deputy Auditor and Leanna Collisi, Deputy Auditor. Also present were Jason Frazier, Kim Shorter, Jessica Lancaster, Julie Lanzone, Pam Sanders, Bill Wibbels, Will Dudley, Josh Nally, Johnny McCrory and Luke Gill.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, May 20th, 2024 and an Executive Session held on Friday, May 24th, 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 \$225,230.84, Union Hospital Security payroll in the amount of \$3,070.91 and Early Voting payroll in the amount of \$768.00 were approved for release on Monday, June 3rd, 2024 on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Acknowledgement of receipt of Payroll Claims Accounts Payable Report for June 3rd, 2024 in the amount of \$107,211.13 was approved on a motion by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Accounts Payable Claims for June 3rd, 2024 in the amount of \$409,841.31 were approved on a motion from Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Mary Anne Wood, Auditor, presented the Commissioners with 3 out of cycle checks for approval. The first check was to Sam Swaim. He had paid for his expenses during the RISE24 Conference in California in the amount of \$959.56. The second check was to VS Engineering for Phase 1 of the Bridge inspection in the amount of \$98,193.50. The last check was to Deere Credit for a lease payment in the amount of \$29,187.61 on an excavator for the Highway Department. The Commissioners were hesitant to approve the check to Deere Credit because the Highway Department has had some issues with the new excavator and may look into returning the piece of equipment. The Commissioners decided to table approval of the check to Deere Credit. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the checks to Sam Swaim for \$959.56 and VS Engineering for \$98,193.50. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Mary Anne Wood informed the Commissioners that the fees for the West Central Solid Waste District had increased for 2025. She presented them with the 2025 Contract to approve and sign. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the 2025 West Central Solid Waste District Contract. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Mary Anne Wood presented the Commissioners with the National Opioid Settlement with the Kroger Company. She stated that Parke County needs to "opt in" to participate and receive a share of the settlement. The Commissioners decided to table this decision until next meeting.
 - Mary Anne Wood gave the Commissioners information on the Shane Allen Willey vs Toni Gilman and the Parke County Sheriff's Department and Donald Peoples vs the Parke County Commissioners, the Highway Department and the Indiana Department of Transportation.
 - Mary Anne Wood informed the Commissioners that Sparklight billing will increase by \$5.00 per month unless Auto Pay is used and a \$5.00 credit will be applied.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- Jim Meece spoke about the Executive Session held on Friday, May 31st, 2024 in which the Parke County Commissioners held interviews for the Highway Superintendent position. Jim Meece complimented Mike Wood on stepping up as the Interim Highway Superintendent. Jim Meece thought that Mike Wood should be compensated for his extra time. This can be decided later. Jim Meece met with the Highway Department to explain how the hiring process would be conducted. Applications were taken and reviewed. Some of the Highway employees approved promoting from within, while others approved hiring from the outside. There were four applicants that were interviewed. All were very qualified. Jim Meece wanted this hiring process to be very transparent. The Commissioners met for an Executive Session on Friday, May 24th, 2024 to discuss the applications and chose to interview all four applicants. The applicants were Luke Moody, James Howard, , Chad Gordan and Mike Wood. Bruce Hartman made the motion to choose Luke Moody as the applicant to offer the Highway Superintendent position to. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Highway Department:

- Janie Hardman requested the Commissioners approve and sign the Notice to Public and Bidders and the Requirements for the Community Crossings paving jobs. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the Notice to Public and Bidders and the Requirements for the Community Crossing paving jobs. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Jason Frazier:

- Jason Frazier stated that the siding replacement on the Jail is going well and looks good.

Julie Lanzone:

- Julie Lanzone wanted to make sure that Jim Meece signs the DocuSign Lease Agreement with Vermillion Ambulance Service when he sees it come through his email. Julie Lanzone explained that no money will be used from Parke County to fund this agreement. She stated that Vermillion County was 2 years into a 5-year plan to have their own ambulance service up and running. Currently, Parke County will help Vermillion County until the end of this year but potentially looking at 3 years. She also distributed a copy of an Ordinance to increase the base fees for the Parke County Ambulance Service beginning in January 2025. There is a State House Bill 1385 that was passed which establishes the community cares initiative fund. This bill requires a health plan operator to provide payment to a nonparticipating (out-of-network) ambulance service provider for ambulance service provided to a covered individual at a rate not to exceed the rates set or approved, by contract or ordinance, by the county or municipality in which the ambulance service originated; with no balanced billing to patients. Parke County Ambulance Services must opt in by January 2025 with this Ordinance. This will increase the revenue yet offset the increase in base fees without increasing fees to the Parke County patients serviced. Julie Lanzone would like the Commissioners to take a look at the proposed Ordinance for any changes or additions. Mary Anne Wood explained that the Ordinance would need to be advertised in the local paper 30 days before the Ordinance would take effect. Julie Lanzone will

bring this Ordinance back for approval before effective date. Julie Lanzone reported that the Ambulance Service's revenue year to date is \$348,957.17 which is a \$71,859.00 increase from last year at this time. They are experiencing more runs and mostly critical medical patients. The Ambulance Service has used the Lucas Device for Chest Compressions quite frequently. There are nine Lucas Devices throughout Parke County. County Fire Departments have reported using their Lucas Devices at least twice since having received the devices. The Lucas Device has at least 5-7 years longevity. Julie Lanzone reported that the EMS is fully staffed and has 2 part time positions still open. Julie Lanzone also mentioned the Crew Breakfast will be July 28th, 2024.

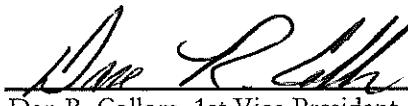
VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Bill Wibbels from CivilCon updated the Parke County Commissioners regarding the County Road 50 Bridge. There are two options to choose from in trying to make the bridge wider for farm equipment to cross adequately. The first option is to replace the Bridge with an aluminum box for around \$150,000.00. This will last a very long time. The second option is to place concrete beside the existing bridge for around \$70,000.00, however, it could fail. There is another thought about utilizing used steel beams to make the bridge more secure. Jim Meece mentioned there are some large concrete slabs at S & G Excavating that could be used as well. No decision was made at this time as to what option to go with.
- Hamilton Center reported that they have performed 342.63 hours of group service at the Southwest Parke Community Schools which were paid with a grant except for 75 hours which were donated by the Hamilton Center. All of the 73.5 hours of group service performed at North Central Parke Community Schools were donated by the Hamilton Center. There was a very good response to this program.

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 4:46 p.m.



Jim Meece, President

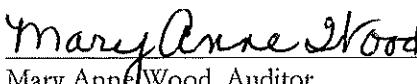


Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



Mary Anne Wood

Mary Anne Wood, Auditor