

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**November 6th, 2023**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 6th, 2023, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, October 16th, 2023.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Jim Meece, President; Dan Collom, First Vice-President; Bruce Hartman, Second Vice President; Mary Anne Wood, Auditor and Nick Sauter; Commissioner's Attorney. Also, present were John Martin, Randy Norman, Jason Frazier, Jessica Lancaster, Stacie Amerman, Susan Kramer, and Kim Shorter.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, October 2nd, 2023 were approved on a motion from Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Minutes for a regular meeting held on Monday, October 17th, 2023 were approved on a motion from Jim Meece. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- IV. **PAYROLL:** County payroll in the amount of \$243,197.03 and Union Hospital Security payroll in the amount of \$1,433.74 were approved for release on Monday, November 6th, 2023 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 November 6th, 2023 in the amount of \$220,336.73 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Accounts Payable Claims in the amount of \$560,716.31 were approved on a motion from Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - Jim Meece asked Mary Anne Wood if there were any out of cycle checks that needed to be approved. Mary Anne Wood said that she did not have any out of cycle checks.
  - Jim Meece had received a Summons in the Parke County Circuit Court from Oliver & Kline Attorneys at Law. Nick Sauter explained he talked to the Attorneys and determined that this was a misunderstanding. The Plaintiffs thought the County had abandoned two roads, 800 and Coal Bluff Roads, however, the County had not abandoned the roads. Nick Sauter thinks with this information the lawsuit will be resolved. These roads have not been vacated. They are just not on the inventory list for the County to maintain because the roads are not used. The culvert will be replaced but not maintained.
  - Jim Meece presented a letter from Dossett Consulting explaining that they are offering a new service to help Counties get the refund for fuel tax for highway, ambulance and possible other services. Counties are eligible to go back three years to collect the fuel tax refund. Dossett Consulting will fill out the forms necessary to claim the refund for a flat rate of \$600.00 if they find anything to claim. Bruce Hartman is going to check with Jeff to see how they are handling the look back for fuel tax refund.
  - Jim Meece presented a Claim acknowledgement from Travelers Insurance and also changes in the next year's policy with new deductibles.
  - Jim Meece wanted to meet with other counties that charge Wheel Tax on the Amish buggies to see how they handle charging the Amish. The other Commissioners gave Jim Meece the go ahead to look into charging a Wheel Tax on the Amish Buggies.

**Randy Norman:**

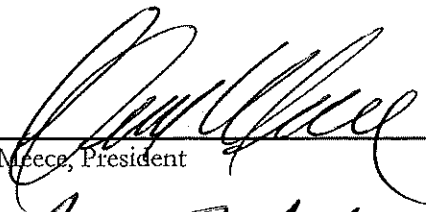
- Randy Norman reported that he had an out of cycle check for Milestone for \$1,039,351.86. Jim Meece also reported that they received the Grant for the Community Crossings. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the out of cycle check to Milestone for \$1,039,351.86. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Randy Norman presented the Bridge Inspection Contract that needs the Commissioners' signatures. The State will sign this contract as well. Then we will have a contact with the State. No movement on Melcher Bridge yet. AT & T needs to be contacted to move the wire from the bridge temporarily so work can begin on the Melcher Bridge.
- Jim Meece took a call from a resident to have a bridge on Catlin Road cleaned out. Randy will handle this issue.
- Randy Norman reported the Highway Department has been doing a lot of patching of the roads in Parke County.

**Jason Frazier:**

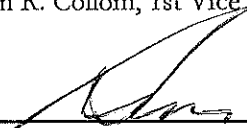
- Jason Frazier commented that over all the Covered Bridge Festival was peaceful and went well.
- Jason Frazier reported the Year-to-Date Collections is \$88,708.84. The Year-to-Date Billing for Inmate Housing costs were \$231,955.50.
- Jim Meece informed Jason Frazier that all the contracts are in place for the re-siding project and will take place this Spring 2024.
- Jason Frazier explained that every ten years the padded cell needs to be replaced. He had three bids. One was for \$38,8890.00 and the second one was for \$58,960.00. The bid that Jason Frazier liked was for \$29,925.00 with us removing the padded down to the bare walls which would save \$2,737.00. Jim Meece asked what kind of prisoner goes into that type of cell. Jason Frazier said that a destructive or suicidal prisoner would be put in the padded cell.
- Jim Meece mentioned that we may need to write up an agreement with Vermillion County Humane Society stating the expectations between us and them. Their humane society is almost full. They tend to try to get families to foster the animals they have no room for. Jason Frazier said that he is going to add on to our Kennels. He has 5 pins available and maybe double the pins by cutting them in half. Dan Collom offered to donate straw and food for the animals in our kennels.

**Cyndi Todd:**

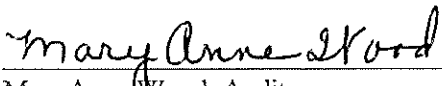
- Jim Meece acknowledged the 2024-2026 Economic Development Funding Request for the Indiana Small Business Development Center. They had received some Grant funding to create some positions in the Indiana Small Business Development Center. They dedicated time to each county to help emerging small businesses in our community. They can help with business plans, business start-up assistance and making contacts for the businesses. The Grant is running out, so this would have to be funded by the counties wanting to extend this service to its local businesses. The amount to fund 2024 is \$60,000.00 split into three installments of \$20,000.00 each. The Commissioners will take this under advisement.

  
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Jim Meece, President

  
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Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President

  
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Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:

  
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Mary Anne Wood, Auditor