

COUNTY COUNCIL

November 9, 2023

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Council convened in a regular meeting on Thursday, November 9, 2023 to consider additional requests in excess of the budget allowed for 2023, and to conduct such other business as may be properly brought before the Council.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Council members present were John K. Pratt, President; Roy Wrightsman, Vice President; Jack B. Butler; James E. Howard; Cameron Martin; Rick Patton; Thomas Rohr; and Mary Anne Wood, Auditor. Also present were John Martin, Kim Shorter, Katie Potter, Jessica Lancaster, Jason Frazier, Chris Newcomb, Chris O'Brien, Stephany Dowd, Jason McHargue, Sam Swaim, Chester Crague and Jim Meece.
- III. **READING OF THE MINUTES:** Minutes from the September 14th and October 12th meetings were presented for approval. A motion was made by Tom Rohr and seconded by Jack B Butler to approve the minutes as presented and the motion carried unanimously.
- IV. **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:** The Council approved the following requests for the transfer of funds on a motion made by Roy Wrightsman. The motion was seconded by Jim Howard and carried unanimously.

Be it resolved; the Parke County Council hereby approves the following requests for additional appropriations:

Amount: \$105,000.00
 1169-00-02-3100
To: Local Road and Street – Operating Supplies (Bituminous Material)

Amount: \$8960.00
 1219-00-03-5055
To: Park & Rec Fund – Ground Maintenance

Amount: \$10,547.58
 9111-00-04-7020
To: Bullet Proof Vest Fund Sheriff – Police Equipment

Amount: \$4089.26
 9166-00-03-5026
To: Narcotics Incinerator – SRO Vests

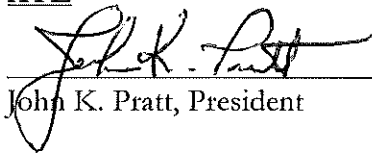
Amount: \$25,000.00
1175-020-03-5050
To: Misdemeanant – Building Maintenance (Padded Cell Replacement)

The next two Additional Appropriations passed but without a unanimous vote. Thus, they are being recorded separately.

Jack B Butler made the motion to approve the Additional Appropriation with Tom Rohr seconding the motion. The motion passed with Jack B Butler, Tom Rohr, John Pratt, Rick Patton and Jim Howard in favor; Roy Wrightsman and Cameron Martin against.

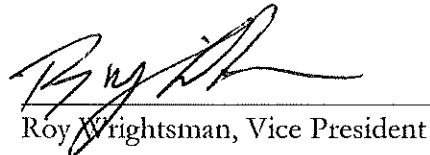
Amount: \$8,000.00
1237-00-03-5080
To: Opioid Restricted – Service Contracts

AYE

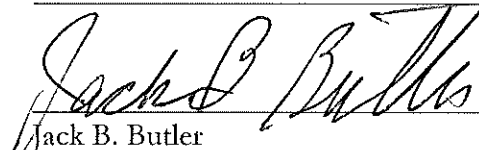


John K. Pratt, President

NAY



Roy Wrightsman, Vice President



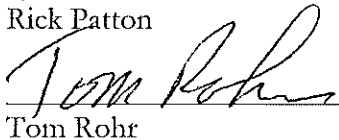
Jack B. Butler



Jim Howard



Rick Patton



Tom Rohr

ABSENT

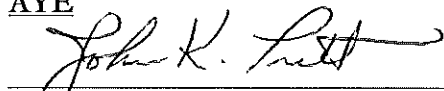
Cameron Martin

Jack B Butler made the motion to approve the Additional Appropriation with Tom Rohr seconding the motion. The motion passed with Jack B Butler, Tom Rohr, John Pratt, Roy Wrightsman, Cameron Martin and Rick Patton in favor; Jim Howard against.

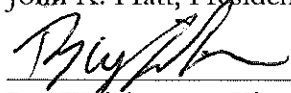
Amount: \$3708.00
4119-00-01-1101
To: Union Hospital Security – Hospital Security Coordinator

Amount: \$48,957.00
4119-00-01-1201
To: Union Hospital Security – Hospital Security Officer

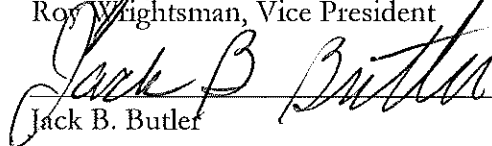
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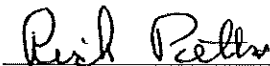
John K. Pratt, President



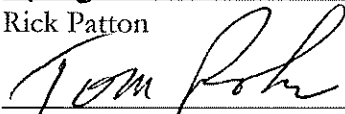
Roy Wrightsman, Vice President



Jack B. Butler



Rick Patton

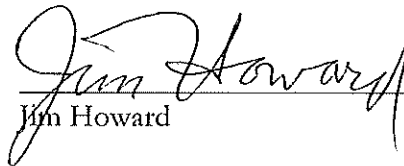


Tom Rohr

ABSENT

Cameron Martin

NAY



Jim Howard

V. **TRANSFER OF FUNDS:** The Council approved the request for the transfer of funds on a motion made by Jack B Butler. The motion was seconded by Cameron Martin and carried unanimously.

Be it resolved; the Parke County Council hereby approves the following requests for transfer:

Amount: \$1,000.00
From: 121300-02-3010
Office Supplies
To: 1213-00-03-5011
Building Rent

Amount: \$1,000.00
From: 1000-01-03-5040
Equipment Maintenance
To: 1000-01-02-3020
Postage

Amount: \$550.00
From: 1000-03-02-3010
Office Supplies
To: 1000-03-03-5020
Travel

Amount: \$326.74
From: 1176-03-02-3043
Welding Supplies
To: 1176-03-02-3100
Operating Supplies

Amount: \$104.12
1000-16-03-5040
Software/Eqpt Maintenance
To: 1000-16-03-5020
Medical Supplies

Amount: \$1,270.88
1000-16-03-5040
Software/Eqpt Maintenance
To: 1000-16-02-3030
Medical Supplies

Amount: \$221.91
1000-16-02-3020
Postage
To: 1000-16-02-3030
Medical Supplies

Amount: \$90.00
1000-11-03-5040
Equipment Maintenance
To: 1000-11-03-5070
Dues

Amount: \$1000.00
1000-11-03-5040
Equipment Maintenance
To: 1000-11-02-3010
Travel

Amount: \$530.00

To: 1000-11-03-5040
Equipment Maintenance
1000-11-02-3010
Office Supplies

Amount: \$1,402.00
1000-11-02-3020
Postage
To: 1000-11-02-3010
Office Supplies

VI. JURY PAY: The Auditor presented the Parke County Clerk's certificate of jury fees collected for October 2023, in the amount of \$479.84 and requested these amounts to be transferred to the Jury Pay Fund, pursuant to IC 33-19-8-8. Rick Patton made the motion to direct the Auditor to transfer. The motion was seconded by Jim Howard and carried unanimously.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Redevelopment Commission (RDC): Did Not Meet

Courthouse Security Committee: Did Not Meet

Solid Waste District (SWD): Tom Rohr shared a recap of the numbers from the Tox-Away Days and Electronics recycling days that were held here in Parke County. It listed the numbers for the past three years. In 2023 there were 58,572 pounds of various items turned in during the day. For the Electronics Recycling days there was a total of 8,328 pounds of electronics. It was very successful for both events.

Planning and Zoning Board: JB Butler stated that two applications came before the board. One is a bakery in Lyford and the other was ammunition manufacturing and gun retail sales just outside Montezuma. Both were approved but the application on the ammunition manufacturing and gun retail sales has restrictions on it such as no shooting. JB also corrected a statement he had made at the last meeting. The church camp application down at Ferndale was approved by the BZA and he had previously stated that he didn't believe that it had passed.

VIII. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

- **Jason Frazier, Sheriff:**
 - Sheriff Frazier presented the Report of Collections year to date of \$88,708.84. The housing of out of county inmates has brought in 231,955.50.
 - Jason presented a quote to re-pad the padded cell. This is something that has to be done every ten years or so. He is using the cheapest quote. This quote is for \$29,925.00 however, with this quote the stripping of the old padding will be done by jail maintenance. He will be using funds out of the misdemeanor fund to pay to have the cell re-padded. The Sheriff also provided pictures of the cell showing use/damage and the need for repadding.

- **Katie Potter, Assessor:**

- Reassessment is complete in Adams Township and has moved on to the Commercial parcels in Rockville Town.

- **Kim Shorter, Treasurer:**

- It is once again Tax Collection time and the payments are steadily coming in.

- **Jim Meece, Commissioner:**

- Mr. Meece told the Council that they had had final meeting yesterday with companies that want to bid on the Chiller/Boiler repair and replacement contracts. The Chiller quote came in much lower than expected for a Trane unit at \$139,000.00. There is a long lead time of 40 weeks on obtaining the chiller. However, the quoted price includes removal of the old unit as well. The new contract for the boiler maintenance will be \$6,000.00 per year.
- Jim met with LTAP as a Board and individually to discuss three issues. The first of those issues is Amish Wheel Tax. Currently the Amish only pay for a buggy license but do not pay wheel tax in Parke County but do pay wheel tax in other counties. What does Parke County have to do to institute a wheel tax for the Amish? Secondly, he is working with LTAP on an RFP for Randy Norman's position at the Highway Department. Lastly, he spoke to them regarding sharing a Highway Engineer with Vermillion County to help defray the costs. Other counties have successfully shared an Engineer and he believes it is a viable option for Parke County. With that being said, Jim Meece asked Mary Anne to please provide him with the current account balances for the ARP Fund.
- Meece then moved onto to talking about the County insurance. He believes that in talking with Nick Napier, that Anthem on the fixed costs anticipate a 10% increase. They have gone to market on the reinsurance bids and they anticipate a 5% total increase. Jim then asked if he could be given the amount in the Reserve Insurance Account. That will help determine where we are and where we need to fund the account. We started out the year getting hit hard with claims and. Jim asked to be provided with the number and cost of claims to help determine where we are with the funding.
- The Commissioners are going to do a "Festival Shack Ordinance". They have had one shack that was not gotten off of the courthouse lawn in a timely fashion and they need to have a mechanism to enforce the removal of the shacks. It is anticipated that the Ordinance will state that the shacks have to be off the lawn by the third Wednesday after the festival.
- Mr. Meece told the Council that they are invited to an end of year discussion meeting between the Commissioners and Council. The intent of this meeting is to discuss upcoming major expenses and how to plan for them and to also discuss a Renewable Energy Ordinance. The meeting had initially been set for December 13th but a gentleman that advises counties regarding renewable energy could not be here on that date. They have changed the date to December 6th to accommodate his schedule. It will be at 9:00 AM at the EOC.

- **Chris O'Brien, EMA Director:**

- Mr. O'Brien appeared before the Council to seek approval for seeking a grant to obtain a new recording system for the Interview Room at the Jail. It is a no match grant. The Council gave Chris their approval to seek the grant for the new recording system.

- **Chris Newcomb, Rockville Lake Park Director:**

- Brought the annual report for the lake for the Council's review.
- Mr. Newcomb also advised the Council that they will be removing the diving pier and thus, the additional appropriation request that was before them. They have had several issues regarding the diving pier with the latest being a drowning this summer. The quote that is being used is \$8,950.00 and this will drop it in place and use it as a fish habitat. This will be done in the off season.
- The next projects for the lake are to get WIFI for the campground and to start utilizing online reservations. The Council complimented Chris for all the work he has put into the park.

- **Stephany Dowd, LCC:**

- Stephany Dowd from the Local Coordinating Council was accompanied by Jason McHargue from the Probation Department and Judge Sam Swaim to discuss an additional appropriation of 26,500.00 for a Drug Court Conference in Anaheim, California in May of 2024. Stephany turned it over to Judge Swaim and Jason McHargue to present some additional information regarding the conference. Judge Swaim explained to the Council that the first request that Stephany presented was a quote for everyone eligible to attend the conference. They are just estimates since they do not have hard numbers at this time. However, since the last council meeting, they have asked those eligible how many of them will be attending conference and that pared the number down. The number has now gone from 11 persons to 7. The original quote was for 11 people, flights, housing, conference registration and meals. Now that it is down to 7 that will lower the cost. The new estimate is down to 20,000.00. It was also pointed out to the Council that this is a conference but it is several different classes and the group will spread out and attend different classes and they will not all be attending the same class. It had been suggested that fewer attend the conference and bring the information back to the rest of the group but, in this scenario, that will not work. Another point that was brought up is that the Opioid Fund that this training is being paid out of is very limited and there are very few things that the fund can pay for, this is an eligible expense. They are asking for the grant to be approved with a max outlay of 20,000.00. John Pratt from the Council asked if they are still planning on sending Hamilton Center employees to this conference. The Judge and Jason McHargue both said that yes, two Hamilton Center employees are included in this number. The Council expressed their displeasure that the Hamilton Center employees are included in the number that the county will be funding. It is the belief of the Council that the Hamilton Center can pay for their employees to attend the conference. Roy Wrightsman brought up the fact that there is only a 67,000 balance in the restricted fund and we are going to dump 20,000 of that into this conference with another additional appropriation request for 8,000 coming out of this fund and going to Hamilton Center. The Council was trying to understand why they are in such a hurry since the conference isn't until May. Jason McHargue stated that they are just planning ahead and Judge Swaim stated that the housing is gone within hours of the conference opening up. Jack B Butler asked if they had to get the housing off of the conference. Mr. McHargue stated that the Drug Court Conference usually uses a Gaylord resort. However, they can also look at hotels nearby or Airbnb's as well. They were asked if this is the only conference this year and the answer was yes. Roy Wrightsman asked if there was any training anywhere closer and it was stated that this is the only training for 2024. Tom Rohr asked if they could send half in 2024 and half the people in 2025. The Council said

that they do not have a problem sending our people but they will not pay to send Hamilton Center people. Roy Wrightsman said that first of all, there is no point in appropriating money now as that appropriation will die at the end of 2023. That will not be approved for an encumbrance. It was requested that the group try to obtain numbers on “hard costs” of sending only our people to conference and submit those to Mary Anne by early to mid-December for a January 2024 additional appropriation.

- Stephany then proceeded to submit another additional appropriation request in the amount of 8,000.00. This money is to be paid to Hamilton Center for working with groups within the NCP School Corporation. Roy Wrightsman stated that after the October meeting when this additional appropriation was broached, he started doing some research. He then contacted the high school and middle school. He found out that the school corporation had been contacted Hamilton Center about providing school groups. The school superintendent and the high school counselor both agreed that it was a good idea. However, Hamilton Center took it upon themselves to suggest that they fund this through the LCC Opioid funding. Hamilton Center then submitted the letter to the LCC and they (Hamilton Center) signed the high school counselors name to it. Most of the principals and counselors at the schools are not happy with the performance by Hamilton Center. Some even asked to have the funding “killed”. However, Mr. Wrightsman said that he told the schools that he would not actively seek to “kill” the funding as the schools did agree to Hamilton Center providing the school group service. The portion that Roy wants stressed is that Hamilton Center did this on their own and submitted the grant request. John Pratt went on to tell Ms. Dowd that when these grant requests are put before her, she should do some leg work to see if it is all legitimate. Roy did the leg work this time but that is not the job of the Council.

IX. Public Comments:

- Chester Crague:

Chester Crague came before the Council to discuss the 2023 Bridge Festival in Bridgeton and his thoughts on how it could be improved upon in 2024. Mr. Crague wanted to take a moment to ask the Sheriff about the safety this year. It was Mr. Crague’s understanding that no one was hit this year and Sheriff Frazier agreed. Mr. Crague then asked about the number of EMS runs at this year, were they up or down? Sheriff Frazier stated that he had no idea and that would be a question for the EMS Director. With that, Chester went on to talk about his observations and suggestions for future Bridge Festivals. He wanted some changes in where the barricades are placed and maps given out at the parking lots letting the visitors know how to get around. Chester continued on with his suggestions the Council let Mr. Crague know that they do not set the policy. They just fund the services such as the Sheriff’s Department and the EMS. He should take his concerns to the Commissioners meeting and voice his concerns to them as they set the policy. Chester stated he wasn’t aware of that and he appreciated the Council listening to him and he will take this before the Commissioners.

X. NEW BUSINESS:

- Resolution 2023-09 Reduction of Appropriations

Roy Wrightsman stated that the coroner has had a lot of autopsies of late and she has overshot her appropriation by 4,000.00. Roy proposed the following:

Reduce:

General – County Council

1000-41-03-5082

Special Projects

Amount to Reduce:

\$4,000.00

Reappropriate To:

General – Coroner

1000-07-03-5003

Autopsies

\$4,000.00

Reduce:

County Highway

1176-03-02-3040

Gas, Oil & Lube

\$27,447.18

Reappropriate To:

County Highway

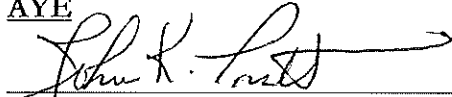
1173-02-02-3111

Bituminous

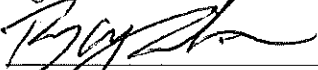
\$27,447.18

The Council approved Resolution 2023-09 Reduction of Appropriations on a motion made by Tom Rohr. The motion was seconded by Cameron Martin and carried unanimously.

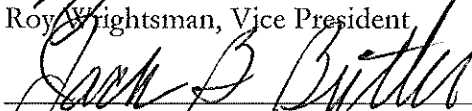
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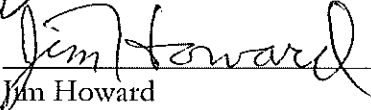
John K. Pratt, President



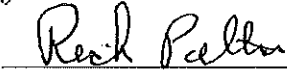
Roy Wrightsman, Vice President



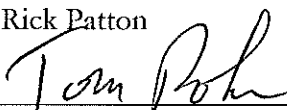
Jack B. Butler



Jim Howard



Rick Patton



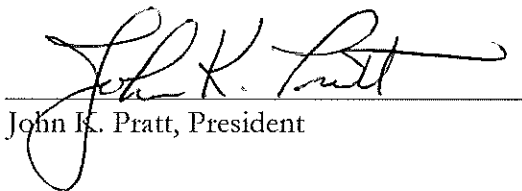
Tom Rohr

ABSENT

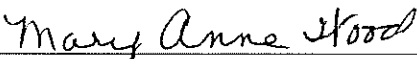
Cameron Martin

NAY

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business to come before the Council, the motion to adjourn was made by Jack B. Butler and seconded by Cameron Martin. The meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.


John K. Pratt, President

ATTEST:



Mary Anne Wood, Auditor