

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**September 18th, 2023**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, September 18th, 2023, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 5th, 2023.
- II. ROLL CALL:** Members present were Jim Meece, President; Dan R Collom, First Vice President; Bruce Hartman, Second Vice President; Mary Anne Wood, Auditor; Susan Kramer, Deputy Auditor; and Nick Sauter, Commissioners Attorney. Also present were Jason Frazier, John Martin, Kevin Kelly, Catlin Kelly, Stephany Dowd, Cyndi Todd, Pam Sanders, Stacie Amerman and Jessica Lancaster.
- III. MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, August 21st, 2023 were approved on a motion made by Dan Collom and seconded by Bruce Hartman. The motion carried unanimously.
- IV. PAYROLL:** County payroll in the amount of \$213,443.71 was approved for release on Monday, September 11th, 2023 on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Union Hospital Security compensation in the amount of \$4,431.10 was approved for release on Monday, September 11th, 2023 on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Dan Collom made a motion acknowledging receipt of the Payroll Claims Accounts Payable Report in the amount of \$192,866.36. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- V. NEW BUSINESS:**
  - Mary Anne Wood had a couple of invoices and a contract that needed approval. The first invoice was for Core Facilities, Inc. for the work on the Jail repairs on the siding in the amount of \$3,508.20. Bruce made the motion to approve the Core Facilities, Inc. Invoice for \$ 3,508.50. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The second invoice was for HFD Mechanical & Building Solutions and is past due in the amount of \$615.00. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the HFD Mechanical & Building Solutions' invoice for \$615.00. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The contract with VSP Vision Care needs approval for renewal from 1-1-2024 to 12-31-2025. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the renewal contract with VSP for two years. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
  - The 2024 Holiday Schedule from Governor Holcomb was presented to the Commissioners for approval. Bruce Hartman pointed out that 2024 has the election holidays included. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the 2024 Holiday Schedule. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Jim Meece made a note that we always go by the State approved holidays.
  - Ordinance 2023-09 regarding the Temporary Bridgeton Road Closures for public safety needed to be approved. Certain roads in Bridgeton have been designated for temporary closure during the Covered Bridge Festival from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve Ordinance 2023-09. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. This ordinance was signed and approved, same day, same meeting. Mary Anne Wood will have Ordinance 2023-09 advertised in the paper.
  - Jim Meece discussed paying time and a half for the Sheriff's Department. Bruce Hartman thought that if the Commissioners' and Council Members' attorneys could agree on a policy then that would be good. Jim Meece further explained the policy that Roy Wrightsman, a council member, would like to see take effect on October 1, 2023, the compensation for all county employees

would be based on base pay, longevity, applicable premium pay and applicable stipends. Susan Kramer would like for this not to hit in a mid-pay cycle. She would like for this to begin with the October 10, 2023 pay cycle. Jim Meece made the motion for this new compensation policy for all county employees which includes base pay, longevity, applicable premium and applicable stipends to take effect October 10, 2023 with a new pay period. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Mary Anne Wood made mention that the second meeting scheduled in October, the Courthouse is closed for Columbus Day. Jim Meece said the Board of Commissioners Meeting will be on the Tuesday after Columbus Day.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

- Approval of the Union Hospital Agreement has been tabled. As of this meeting, Nick Sauter had not heard back from Union Hospital on this issue. Jim Meece is really concerned that this gets figured out as soon as possible. The risk is great for these deputies that are working security for Union Hospital. The liability needs to be set in a contract. Nick will reach out to the Union Hospital's Attorney again.

## **VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

### **Parke County Highway, Randy Norman:**

- Randy Norman was unable to attend meeting.

### **Parke County Ambulance Service, Julie Lanzone:**

- Julie Lanzone was unable to attend the meeting, however, she sent a report for the Commissioners to review.

### **Parke County Sheriff's Office, Jason Frazier:**

- Jail Count total is 64: 52 County inmates, 9 Department of Corrections and 3 Out of County Holds. The Report of Collections to date are \$71,608.51 and inmate billing is \$186,692.00.
- Jim Meece asked if the Sheriff's Department was fully staffed. Jason Frazier replied they are hiring a new deputy and then the department will be fully staffed.

### **Parke County Clerk, Nicole Collings:**

- Nicole Collings was unable to attend the meeting, however, she sent the monthly report for the Commissioners to review.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

### **Stephany Dowd:**

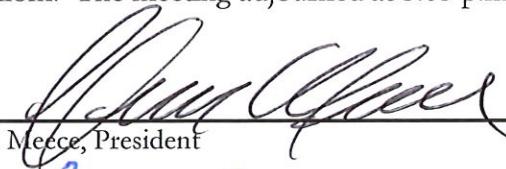
- Stephany Dowd presented the Commissioners with an Additional Appropriation from the Opioid Restricted Fund 1237 in the amount of \$34,500.00. The State sent checks out to the towns by mistake for incorrect amounts. Stephany Dowd has two applications from LCC in which one has been reviewed and approved. The first appropriation, which has been approved by the LCC, is for 11 individuals that help out with Drug Court and Probation to attend the RISE Conference in May 2024 in California. The requested amount is \$26,500.00 for 11 individuals to attend. This

includes supplies, expenses, travel and lodging for these attendees. This conference deals with different methods of treatment, addiction, mental health and justice reform. Judge Swaim may attend as well. The other appropriation is for the North Central Parke School Corporation and has not been reviewed or approved by the LCC. Stephany Dowd is confident that the LCC will approve the appropriation and when they do, she will already have the appropriation in place. The amount of this appropriation is for \$8,000.00 for an evidence-based prevention program. The prevention program is called Wiggle Worm. Up to 40 students can attend each week. Cheryl McDaniel will be responsible for this program. The students attending Wiggle Worm will be identified by the teacher and administrators of the North Central Parke School Corporation. The Hamilton Center will come in and work with these students on a weekly basis. Jim Meece made two motions: One in the amount of \$26,500.00 for the RISE Conference and the other in the amount of \$8,000.00 for North Central Parke School Corporation contingent on the approval from LCC. Dan Collom seconded the two motions and they carried unanimously. Mary Anne Wood asked Stephany Dowd for a letter regarding the additional appropriations for the Council Members.

**Kevin & Catlin Kelly:**

- Kevin Kelly is concerned with the Bridgeton Road Closure since he has a new parking lot in place that has cost over \$70,000.00. Jim Meece explained that anyone coming from the South will have access to Kevin Kelly's parking lot. Kevin Kelly is concerned about putting up enough signage for him to have enough visitors using his parking lot to be profitable. Jim Meece said some confusion should be expected the first year of implementing this new Bridgeton Road Closure during the Covered Bridge Festival. Visitors will learn the changes and will remember for next year. There has only been one public meeting concerning this road closure. Kevin Kelly would like to have more public input and maybe advertised the meetings better. Kevin Kelly asked the Commissioners to consider moving one barricade. The Commissioners are reluctant to move any barricades especially this close to the Covered Bridge Festival. Bruce Hartman said that it should all be for the safety of everyone at the Bridgeton Festival. Dan Collom feels that Kevin Kelly's 300 spot parking lot will be full during the festival. Dan Collom says that many cars go past his home and Kevin Kelly's parking should be full. Jim Meece supports the Bridgeton Road Closure as it stands currently. Jim Meece is fine with Kevin Kelly posting signage for his parking lot. Jim Meece does not think that Kevin Kelly will be financially impacted with the Bridgeton Road Closure.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Jim Meece and seconded by Dan Collom. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.



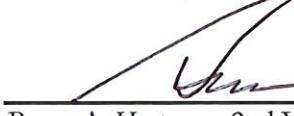
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Jim Meece, President



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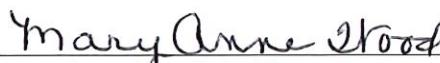
Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



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Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



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Mary Anne Wood, Auditor