

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 5th, 2023

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5th, 2023, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, August 21th, 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 John Martin, Mandi Burns, Greg Goluska, John Stanley, Becky Stanley, Donna Whitmer, J. B. Butler, Jessica Lancaster and Stacie Amerman.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, August 7th, 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 \$221,583.30 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 to acknowledging receipt of the Payroll Claims Accounts Payable Report in the amount of \$224,555.95 Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Accounts payable Claims in the amount of \$ 1,244,330.11 was approved for release on Tuesday, September 5th, 2023 on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Jim Meece began reviewing the Commissioners' pay after attending the Budget Hearing Meeting on Thursday, August 17th, 2023. The Commissioners receive \$10,700.00 per year. Parke County Commissioners are the next to last lowest paid County Commissioners in the State of Indiana. The lowest paid County Commissioners are paid \$1,000.00 less that Parke County Commissioners. We are half of the pay of some Commissioners with similar size and population. Jim Meece explained that the Council members are in the same boat with their compensation. There may still be more discussion on pay raises for the Commissioners/Council for the next Term. We are beginning to look at restructuring the pay for the employees.
 - There was a bridge damaged on River Road in West Union. A truck hit the bridge. Both wing walls were damage and the truck was severely damaged as well. The cost could be around \$20,000.00 to fix the bridge. Farmers will be using the bridge and need it repaired by the start of Harvest. Currently, the bridge is closed. Parts have been ordered, so it should be fixed within the month.
 - An Ordinance for the Covered Bridge Festival prohibiting no alcohol sales from Transient Merchants off site was discussed. This does allow for family-owned Wineries to conduct wine testing but no sale of alcohol. If this new ordinance is violated, the vendor will be charged with a Class B violation and a fine of \$1,000.00 per occurrence per day. A question was posed about using the DORA Act that authorizes a municipality to create a designated outdoor refreshment area that allows patrons who are at least twenty-one years of age to purchase alcoholic beverages from approved vendors and retail establishments. Jim Meece stated that we are not anti-alcohol, but just do not want it at the Covered Bridge Festival. Jim Meece made the motion to adopt the Ordinance 2023-07, prohibiting Transient Merchants from selling alcohol during the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Ordinance 2023-07 was signed same day, same meeting and will be published within 30 days.

- Jim Meece reported that there is a large hole in West Union on the South end that needs to be filled in. Jim Meece wanted to know if it would be okay to ask Dave if he had enough gravel to fill in the hole. Jim Meece also wanted to know if he could offer Dave some payment for the gravel and filling the hole in with his tractor. All the Commissioners were okay with that arrangement.
- Jim Meece said that Chad Jenkins asked if his group could paint the West Union Bridge and any other bridges that needed painting. Jim made the motion to allow Chad Jenkins and his group to paint any bridge as needed to cover graffiti. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. There is no cost to Parke County. The Rockville Rotary Club and the Impact Club from the High School volunteer to paint the bridges.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- Jim Meece wanted to make sure that if anyone who was not internet certified to contact Cyndi Todd with the Partnership Parke County by Friday, September 8th, 2023, so we can submit it to the Parke County Sentinel for public advertising. Jessica Lancaster informed Jim Meece that it was too late to advertise in the paper for next week. Jessica Lancaster will post it to Facebook instead. We just need to know if residents have access to the internet. That can mean having any line coming into the residence whether it is being used or not. We are wanting find any underserved areas in Parke County. Cyndi Todd has been working on a list of unserved internet addresses in Parke County. She is compiling a map for the State of Indiana to analyze.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Parke County Highway, Randy Norman:

- Jim Meece said Randy Norman was unable to attend this meeting.
- Jim Meece reported that there was no change in the projects the Highway Department was working on.
- The paperwork for the bridge inspections have been received and the Commissioners will need to sign.

Parke County Sheriff's Office, Jason Frazier:

- Jim Meece reported that Jason Frazier was unable to attend the meeting.
- Jail Count total is 67: 55 County inmates, 10 Department of Corrections and 2 Out of County Holds. The Report of Collections to date are \$71,608.51 and inmate billing is \$186,692.00.
- Nick Sauter said that another Tort was filed but is likely to be dismissed. It is similar to the other Tort that was dismissed as well.

Parke County Ambulance, Julie Lanzone:

- Julie Lanzone was unable to attend this meeting. Julie Lanzone is changing billing companies and Bruce Hartman signed the new billing contract.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Mandi Burns from the Town of Rockville Bicentennial Committee requested to place a banner on the Northeast Corner of the Courthouse lawn during 2024 when Mainstreet has nothing going on.

This banner is to let the public know that the Town of Rockville is celebrating their Bicentennial year in 2024. Jim Meece is fine with the banner. He suggested not having the banner up all the time. Jim Meece suggested displaying the banner one weekend a month. Jim Meece also suggested that the time capsule can be displayed in the Courthouse as well.

- Greg Goluska represented Patty Hawley, from Mainstreet, and presented the Commissioners with the Certificate of Insurance that was requested at the August 21st, 2023 meeting. Parke County is listed as an additional insured on their policy. There was some discussion about who was going to clean the restrooms and why aren't the local stores providing restrooms for their customers? Jim Meece suggested that an agreement needs to be made with Mainstreet to use the Courthouse Restrooms for their customers/visitors. Nick Sauter will put a contract together regarding the use and liability of the Courthouse Restrooms by Mainstreet customers during the weekends from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.
- Becky Stanley requested approval to have a fundraiser for Jacob Reynolds on September 23rd, 2023 on the square. He is 14 years old and is an 8th Grader from Parke Heritage Middle School. He is currently at Riley Hospital fighting Stage 3 Hodgkin Lymphoma. Businesses have donated items for an auction and all the proceeds will go to the family. Jim asked if they needed water and electricity. Becky Stanley said that would be great to have both utilities. Beck Stanley requested to set up on the Northwest side of the Courthouse. Jim Meece said that Don Prunner will get the hoses hooked up and electricity. Becky Stanley asked who to talk with about security and blocking off streets for safety. Jim Meece suggested for them to ask the Town of Rockville at the Town Hall. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve the use of the Courthouse Square on September 23rd, 2023 for a fundraiser for Jacob Stanley and his family. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mary Anne Wood will give Don Prunner a heads up about this upcoming event.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Dan Collom and seconded by Jim Meece. The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.



Jim Meece, President



Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



Mary Anne Wood, Auditor