

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 5, 2023

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 5th, 2023, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, May 15th, 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; Pam Adams, 2nd Deputy Auditor and County Attorney Nick Sauter. Also present were Jessica Lancaster, Jason Frazier, Shay Vandivier, Tom Bayless, Cyndi Todd, John Martin and Randy Norman.
- III. **MINUTES:** Dan Collom made a motion to approve minutes for the meetings held on April 3rd and May 15th, 2023. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- IV. **PAYROLL:** County payroll in the amount of \$214,443.11 was approved for release on Monday, June 5th, 2023 on a motion made by Dan R. 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 \$282,117.07. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- V. **CLAIMS:** After reviewing the Claims Docket, claims in the amount of \$987,149.82 were approved for release on Monday, June 5th, 2023 on a motion made by Dan R. Collom and seconded by Bruce Hartman, the motion carried unanimously.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Redevelopment Executive Director, Cyndi Todd, appeared before the Board to discuss a recent meeting that was held at the Fairgrounds by County leadership organizations regarding the lack of available and affordable childcare in Parke County. At this time only approximately half of the children in the county are being served, and fourteen percent (14%) of Parke County children are repeating Kindergarten, whereas the State average of children repeating Kindergarten is four percent (4%). The Community Foundation is applying for a three-year, \$500,000.00 grant through the Lily Foundation. Todd is writing the grant application, and is asking the County to match what the Community Foundation is contributing, \$53,674.00. Jim Meece discussed using American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds for this purpose, these funds are to be used for the benefit of everyone in the county. Meece stated there is an ARP advisory committee that meets to discuss what the county should use the funds for, but the Board of Commissioners have the authority to commit ARP monies. Bruce Hartman made a motion to commit \$53,674.00 toward this program, Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- The Board reviewed requests from the Parke County Sheriff's office for two checks to be processed outside of the regular claims cycle, the request is contingent upon approval of appropriation by the County Council at their meeting on Thursday, June 8th, 2023.
- The Commissioners reviewed the annual SRI Agreement and Tax Sale Support Services Addendum between the County and SRI. County Attorney Nick Sauter advised the Board this is the same agreement they have entered into with SRI for tax sale services in the past. Jim Meece made a motion to enter into the agreement, Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- The Board reviewed a Notice of Preliminary Determination from Bose, McKinney & Evans regarding a project for Southwest Community School Corporation.
- Reviewed the 2024 Annual Contribution Agreement between Parke County and the West Central Solid Waste District (WCSWD). Bruce Hartman made a motion to accept the agreement and continue to partner with WCSWD for 2024. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jim Meece reported that when the recycling bins at Scott Pet Product's, located at 840 North U.S. Highway 41, are full then people are leaving bags of recyclables on the ground next to the bins which is littering. Meece would like to have a sign made to be posted at the bins advising people they will need to come back if the bins are full, and if they are caught leaving bags on the ground they can be cited and fined. Meece asked Highway Supervisor Randy Norman how much a sign would cost, Norman stated it depends on the size and how much lettering. Jim Meece made a motion to have the sign made costing up to \$400.00, Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- The Commissioners received a recommendation from the Parke County Health Board regarding an opportunity for the County to opt-in to a three-year program with the State to receive funds for the Health Department. Per the information Parke County would be eligible to receive approximately \$500,000.00. Meece indicated the County will also have the opportunity to opt-out if necessary. Jim Meece made a motion to opt-in to the program. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Meece stated he has received complaints regarding a house in Bellmore which is infested with rodents and has a significant amount of trash and rubbish. This property had been in a similar condition previously, the owners cleaned it up after they were cited by the county. Parke County Sheriff Jason Frazier advised the Board that he will send someone out to issue a citation.

VII. OLD BUSINESS: None presented.

VIII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Parke County Highway Department Superintendent, Randy Norman:

- Randy Norman will bring Contract Paving bids to the July 3rd, 2023 Commissioners meeting to be opened. And then will have his recommendations for the Board to make their awards at the July 17th, 2023 meeting.

- Chip and seal is being done on B'Dale and Golf Course roads, after completion the department will do some paving.
- Martin road has been recycled and stone has been put down. Norman said he has not received any complaints from the residents.
- Patching is almost finished; the department is running two machines.
- Dust control will be completed tomorrow.
- The Roseville covered bridge at Coxville will re-open tomorrow. The lettering will be done at a future date.
- Norman reported they are short by two employees and the excavator is not back yet from being repaired.

Parke County Sheriff, Jason Frazier:

- Frazier reported the total Jail count is seventy-four. There are fifty-nine county, five department of correction, seven out of county and one inmate that is away.
- Billing for inmate housing so far this year is \$117,828.00; and the year-to-date Report of Collections is \$44,227.92.
- Reported the new phone system went live last week.

Emergency Medical Services Director, Julie Lanzone:

- The Board was presented with Interlocal Agreements between the Parke County Board of Commissioners and the following volunteer fire departments: Mecca/Wabash Township, Marshall, Lyford, Bridgeton, Bloomingdale, Bellmore, Rosedale/Florida Township, Rockville/Adams Township and Montezuma/Reserve Township. The County is purchasing and loaning LUCAS devices to the County Volunteer Fire Departments for the benefit of the citizens of Parke County. These devices may offer life saving options to the citizens as they can provide a continuous chest compression function. The Departments will be required to ensure the devices are used properly and are maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and training. Each fire department will be responsible for any damages to the LUCAS device(s) other than ordinary wear and tear consistent with its proper use.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Parke County Auditor, Mary Anne Wood presented the Commissioners with the Statement of Salaries and Wages Proposed to be Paid to Officers and Employees in Calendar Year 2024. The Board acknowledged receiving the documents.
- Tom Bayless appeared to ask the Board if they had plans to make changes to the elevation of the culvert pipe in front of his house, located on Hilltop Road. The Commissioners indicated they did not have plans to lower the pipe. Bayless' neighbor has renovated their house to include a walk-out basement and in the course of putting in a ditch so water is directed away from their house, the pipe is now higher than their ditch and water is pooling. Meece stated this is not a Highway Dept. issue as the culvert was installed properly, Meece noted that after the installation, the property owner(s) are responsible for keeping culvert clear of debris.

X. ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Dan R. Collom and seconded by Bruce Hartman. The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Jim Meece, President

Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President

Bruce Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:

Mary Anne Wood,
Parke County Auditor