

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 20th, 2023

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 20th, 2023, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, November 6th, 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; Leanna Collisi, Deputy Auditor; and Nick Sauter, Commissioners Attorney. Also present were Don Pruner, John Martin, Cyndi Todd, Pam Sanders, Stacie Amerman and Jessica Lancaster, Brandi Vandiver, Neysa Jones, Chester Crague.
- III. **MINUTES:**
- IV. **PAYROLL:** County payroll in the amount of \$216,064.46 was approved for release on Monday, December 4th, 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 \$240,425.68. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - Mary Anne Wood introduced Leanna Collisi as the new Accounts Payable person in the Auditor's Office.
  - Jim Meece announced that there is a county wide burn ban enacted from November 15<sup>th</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>. The commissioners and other fire chiefs around Parke County felt it was necessary. There is to be no outside burning of trash and leaves. Jim Meece did say this excluded campsites that used the proper size of fire ring, 23 inches in diameter and 6 inches tall. Jim mentioned a couple of recent outside burning incidents. One was in Bloomindale where the fire made it to the woods and the other was 4 acres in Rosedale that burned. Jim Meece made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-11 for a County wide burn ban. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
  - Ordinance 2023-12 prohibiting the sale of synthetic marijuana products by merchants during the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival. Jim Meece mentioned that there were several instances that the Sheriff's Department had responded to during the festival regarding overdosing and other medical issues directly related to the sale of synthetic marijuana from the Covered Bridged Festival. Bruce Hartman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-12 prohibiting the sale of synthetic marijuana products during the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
  - Jim Meece gave a quick summary of the health insurance for 2024. The eye plan with VSP had no increase or changes. Delta Dental will remain the same. There was only a \$15 per month per family difference by going with another dental company. Jim explained the overview of claims for the year thus far. There will be a slight increase in Health Insurance premiums. Maybe a 5% increase even though expected claims are to be lower. Jim Meese said that reserves may help with the cost. He asked Mary Anne Wood to provide the reserve amount at the next meeting. Nick Napier will be attending the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting to give the final numbers and further details on health insurance for 2024.
  - Release and Hold Harmless Agreement is for the Main Street shops to have use of the courthouse restrooms during the weekends. This agreement is necessary to protect taxpayers from any liability that might occur from damage. Bruce Hartman wanted to make sure there was a

termination clause written in the agreement based on harm done to the premises. Nick Sauter will include termination upon written notice in the Release and Hold Harmless Agreement.

- Jim Meece explained the Disaster Recovery Services Agreement from the County Recorder's office. The claim was for \$21,498.29. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

- There was some discussion about creating a deadline for removing vendor sheds around the courthouse lawn after the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival is over. Currently, move in is the Friday before tent setup and clear out by the weekend after the festival is over. The commissioners settled on a removal deadline of the Weekend after the festival is over or there would be a \$100 per day fine issued. Nick Sauter is going to add the additional fine information to the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival Guidelines.
- Jim Meece wanted to hold off on the TML Letters because of the "Handmade Item" Exemption. He feels there should be some monetary income levels involved on making the decision if a vendor qualifies for this exemption. There was some discussion about how to make sure that the "Veteran" vendor, who is also exempt from TML Licensing, be the actual vendor that sets up during the festival. There needs to be way to discourage using a Veteran's Exemption as a way not to pay for a TML License.

## **VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

### **Parke County Couthouse, Don Pruner:**

- Jim Meece and Don Pruner have met with a two companies for estimates to replace the Chiller unit at the Courthouse. Irish Mechanical Services' estimate was \$189,000 and Elite Mechanical Services' estimate was \$139,000. The Chiller unit still has a R-22 gas leak. We need to keep it going through another summer. Boiler Masters bid was \$3,340 plus parts annually for the maintenance agreement on the Boiler system. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the \$3,340 annual maintenance agreement with Boiler Masters. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve the \$139,000 replacement of the Chiller unit by Elite Mechanical Services. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Don will get contract from EMS.
- Jim Meece discussed discontinuing Irish Mechanical. Jim Meece made the motion to approve. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### **PCI:**

- PCI presented their Festival recap and partial cost reimbursement. Jim Meese wants to see the end of the year report before committing to two \$25,000 distributions to PCI for next year. He said initially there were two \$25,000 distributions to help with the start-up costs and paying bills. Jim wants to see what PCI's need is for next year because he knows they have raised fees and have vendors now to help support them. Next meeting PCI will provide figures and a better idea of the need for reimbursement. Mary Anne Wood will get TML report from John Martin.

### **Public Comments:**

- Resident Brandi Vandiver discussed the traffic and high rate of speeds on 150 South. She has spoke with Sheriff Jason Frazier to find out the speed limit on that road. It is 55 mph. She inquired about a reduction in the speed limit with small children present in the area, the influx of

extra traffic since Market Street is closed and the new Saw Mill Truck traffic. Nick Sauter will write a request to change the speed limit to 30 mph from West of County Road 150 between State Road 41 and Catlin Road, then from County Road 150 South to State Road 41 along County Road 50 West.

- Cyndi Todd, Executive Director of Partnership Parke County, discussed the possibility of a grant through the Indiana Office of Energy Development with an 80/20 match up to \$100,000 the county courthouse could use for the Chiller updates. Cyndi Todd will look into the grant information and see if the County would be eligible. Jim Meece made the motion to approve. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- December 6<sup>th</sup> will be a special meeting to discuss numbers and contracts for a Highway Engineer and Superintendent. Also, there will be a person come to discuss Solar and the types of ordinances that need to be in place. Clay and Montgomery counties already have ordinances in place for Solar. Nick Sauter suggested Jim Meece get copies of their ordinances.
- Jim Meece spoke about an organization called Thrive. In order for a county to participate in Thrive, it must contribute a one-time fee of \$5,500. This will allow county access to a revolving loan fund for people in our county. Jim Meece made the motion to approve. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Otterbein United Methodist Church would like to put a Nativity on the Square. Dan Collom made the motion to approve. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Resident Chester Crague asked if Angle Road/Greencastle Road was on the list in 2024 for pavement. Chester wondered why 75 W was paved which has little traffic as compared to Angle Road not paved and has greater traffic. Jim Meece explained that next year's road repairs have not been decided. Dan Collom explained that the county used to cost share if the owner paid ½ the cost, which may be the reason that 75 W was paved. Now, Parke County does not do cost sharing for road repair.
- Kurt Lanzone announced the 4-H Fair dates for 2024. The 4-H Fair will run from July 12, 2024 through July 19, 2024. He also wanted to make sure the commissioners received their invite in the mail to the Annual Extension Dinner. The cost is \$10.00 per plate and there will be a speaker presenting information regarding broadband access.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Jim Meece and seconded by Dan Collom and Bruce Hartman. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 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