

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 19th, 2018

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 19th, 2018, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, February 5th, 2018.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Commissioners Jim Meece, President; Dan R. Collom, First Vice President; Bruce Hartman, Second Vice President; Pam Adams, Auditor; and County Attorney John Asbury. Also present were Kathy Collom, Mike Strack, Terri Shoufler, Janie Hardman, Justin Cole, Pam Sanders, Andy Thompson, Julie Lanzone, Rick Thompson, Chester Crague, Hans Eilbracht, Carol Greenlee, Kris Ratcliff, Kim Shorter, Jennifer Campbell and Jane Knobloch.
- IV. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting February 5th, 2018 were approved upon a motion made by Dan Collom and seconded by Bruce Hartman. The motion was carried unanimously.
- V. **PAYROLL:** County payroll in the amount of \$154,710.82 was approved for release on Monday, February 19th, 2018 on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Bruce Hartman made a motion acknowledging receipt of the Payroll Claims Accounts Payable Report in the amount of \$223,263.08. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Dan Collom made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the monthly financial statement for January 2018. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried.

### VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Parke County Sheriff Justin Cole reported:**
  - Presented the Board with the 2018 Sheriff's Compensation Agreement for their review. Bruce Hartman made a motion to renew the compensation agreement with Sheriff Cole, Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
  - There are seventy-nine (79) inmates at the jail; twenty-one (21) are Out of County.
  - A dishwasher, two washing machines and an ice maker all need repairs or to be replaced.
  - The jail is currently understaffed by one (1) jail officer.
  - Will be applying for a USDA grant to help purchase three new police vehicles this year. The Courthouse Security Committee will also be applying for a USDA grant which may create a situation where only one grant can be awarded to the County, if that is the case the Board of Commissioners will be responsible for determining which grant is the higher priority.
- The Board reviewed a notice from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management regarding an approval of facility change on a confined feeding operation.
- Reviewed information on the 2018 Operation Stay Afloat Conference.
- The Treasurer's monthly financial report for January 2018 was presented for review.

### IX. OLD BUSINESS:

- Commissioner Jim Meece, County Attorney John Asbury and Parke County Auditor Pam Adams signed the USDA Grant application presented by the Courthouse Security Committee. If awarded the grant will be used to help pay for security camera's for the Courthouse.
- Meece stated he has spoken with someone at Bloomington Home Telephone regarding being appointed to the Redevelopment Commission.
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### VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

#### Parke County Highway, Janie Hardman:

- Bruce Hartman made a motion to approve the Highway Administrative Operations report that was presented to the Board at the previous meeting. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously
- Presented a bridge inspection claim in the amount of \$4,488.35
- Jim Meece provided copies of a proposed Utility Right of Way permit process for the other Board members and Randy Norman to review and consider.

### **Parke County EMS, Julie Lanzone:**

- Lanzone wrote a letter of thanks for the assistance the County Highway Department provided to the Ambulance Service during the ice event on February 11, 2018. There was a call for an ambulance to be sent to the Rocky Fork Lake area, it took the ambulance nearly two hours to arrive at the location due to the treacherous driving conditions. Lanzone stated a County Highway truck was in the lead treating the roads to ensure the crew arrived at the location of the patient safely.
- Presented contracts from AccuMed for billing services and Arbor Professional Solutions for collections. Attorney John Asbury had reviewed the contracts prior to the meeting and stated they were pretty standard. Lanzone stated this will ensure billing and collections are compliant with regulations, and that the County should receive insurance reimbursements in a more timely manner. Bruce Hartman made a motion to enter into the contracts with AccuMed and Arbor Professional Services. Dan Collom seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- Lanzone presented a proposed agreement for employee background checks with IN.gov as discussed at the prior Commissioners meeting. The agreement is in the amount of \$95.00 for one year, as previously discussed at the end of the first year Lanzone will use the service on an ad hoc basis. Dan Collom made a motion to enter into the agreement with IN.gov. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Reported Med II is having repairs done by City Welding.
- Has entered a pilot program with Union Hospital Clinton for a narcotics exchange program, in which the county will receive boxed narcotics from the hospital and if the medication gets near its expiration date it can be exchanged without cost to the County. The EMS will only be charged for narcotics that are actually used, which should result in significant savings.
- Has applied to have the Ambulance Building to be recertified as a training facility. Parke County personnel and personnel from surrounding agencies would be able to train locally.
- Has contacted several contractors and is currently waiting on bids to complete construction on the Ambulance Service Building.
- The department is currently fully staffed, but will be losing an employee on February 21, 2018. The position is being advertised and is looking to hire a paramedic.
- Continues to work on the straight time pay for full time employees.
- The Dodge truck has been fitted with emergency lights and will have the emblems installed on the doors soon. At that point it will look like an emergency vehicle which will make it easier to access an accident scene.

### **VIII. PERSONS REQUESTING TIME ON THE AGENDA:**

- Terri Shoufler with Espy a telecommunications billing, audit and analysis service presented a proposal to the Board regarding performing a communications audit to determine if the County is being charged a fair rate from our providers. The County will need to enter into a one year agreement with Espy, but Shoufler stated they should have the audit done within three months. The County will split any realized savings with Espy. Pam Adams asked as to how labor intensive the process will be for her staff, Shoufler indicated that the County will need to provide copies of one months' worth of telephone bills and the contracts, Shoufler also stated that if necessary she is willing come to the Auditor's office to pull the invoices and contracts herself. The Commissioners agreed to review the information provided and will make a determination as to the proposal at their next meeting.
- Chester Crague regarding Raccoon Precinct Polling location:

Commissioner Jim Meece started by stating that the Board has heard, at length, about the desire to move the polling location back to the Raccoon Township Firehouse. Meece said that if there is new information that has not been presented to the Commissioners previously they will hear it, but if the information being presented is a reiteration of what has been put forth before then the Board will not hear it.

Commissioner Dan Collom indicated that he would not actively participate in the discussion and will abstain from voting on the matter.

Chester Crague stated the polling location was illegally moved from the Bridgeton Firehouse to Collom's General Store. Crague then stated he feels that his civil rights are being violated by the County because he will be denied access to his polling location. Crague said he has been banned from Collom's General Store for life, therefore he will not be allowed to enter to vote. Jim Meece then stated the polls are located in the back of the building, where there

is an entrance and Crague would have access using that entrance and would not have to walk through the store. Meece also stated no one will be denied access to vote.

Meece proceeded to read a letter from Kathy Collom regarding how she was approached by Bill Ferguson who was a member of the Parke County Election Board to have the polling location moved to the store. Meece also said the Commissioners had received a letter from the poll workers prior to the polling location being changed, which complained of poor lighting and the Firehouse being cold. Kris Ratcliff stated there had been new lighting installed in the building and the poll workers were shown where the thermostat was to raise the temperature in the building.

Several people indicated they had been at the recent County Election Board meeting, the vote ended up in a tie as Bill Ferguson was not in attendance so there was no recommendation being made to the Commissioners. Those in attendance were told by Election Board President Randy Wright that the ultimate decision is the Commissioners, not the Election Board. Meece then stated if there was no recommendation forthcoming he was not willing to entertain moving the polling location.

Commissioner Jim Meece and Commissioner Bruce Hartman both acknowledged, multiple times, that the Board of County Commissioners are responsible for assigning polling places for the County. However, their decision has always been based upon the recommendation of the County Election Board.

Meece advised those in attendance that if the entire Election Board met and made a recommendation to move the polling location the Commissioners would take action, and there is still time to move the location. Mike Strack responded that Randy Wright indicated the matter had already been voted on and he was not willing to meet again. Meece said they should still try to get another meeting, there is still time to make the change as long as everything can be done and to the Commissioners in time to properly advertise the locations.

Jim Meece stated that he was speaking on his behalf, but unless the Board of Commissioners receives a recommendation to move the polling location back to the Bridgeton Firehouse, then he has no intention of taking any action on the matter. Meece said the County has these committees and boards for a reason, they have done the "homework" to determine where the best location is and the Commissioners rely on the recommendations of committees such as the Election Board when making decisions.

A heated discussion throughout the meeting room ensued, and Bruce Hartman interrupted everyone by telling them to go back to the Clerk and the Election Board. Hartman also said the Election Board is responsible for checking the polling locations to determine if they meet the needs of the voters and indicated his intention to act upon the recommendation of the Election Board.

The meeting attendees once again became agitated and argumentative, at which point Jim Meece indicated the matter would not be discussed further at this meeting.

## **IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Hans Eilbracht appeared to ensure the Board was aware of their invitation to an open house event at the Child and Adolescence facility located on 8th Avenue in Terre Haute, Indiana on Friday, March 2nd, 2018 beginning at 10:00 a.m. There will be a community update presentation called Meth, Myths and Mysteries and behavioral healthcare.

**X. ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bruce Hartman and seconded by Dan Collom. The meeting adjourned at 5:14p.m.

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Jim Meece, President

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Dan R Collom, Vice President

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Bruce Hartman, Second Vice-President

ATTEST:

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Pam Adams, Auditor