

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 17th, 2025

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 17th, 2025, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, March 3rd, 2025.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Jim Meece, President; Dan Collom, first Vice President; Bruce Hartman, second Vice President; Susan Kramer, Auditor; and Leanna Collisi, 2nd Deputy Auditor. Also present were Roy Wrightsman, Kim Shorter, Steve Collisi, Mandy Adams-Washburn, Chance Hoover, Janie Hardman, Mary McMurray and Cyndi Todd.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, March 3rd, 2025 were approved on a motion from Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- IV. **PAYROLL:** County payroll in the amount of \$270,393.99 and the Center of Excellence in the amount of \$3,000.00 were approved for release on Monday, March 24th, 2025 on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Acknowledgement of receipt of Payroll Claims Accounts Payable Report for March 24th, 2025 in the amount of \$219,168.70 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Roy Wrightsman, Parke County Council President, presented Resolution 2025-02 to the Parke County Board of Commissioners. Resolution 2025-02 amends Resolution 2021-13, Defining County Council Election Districts of Parke County, Indiana. Resolution 2025-02 revises the boundaries of certain districts in the county. Parke County is divided into four districts. It is proposed to move Howard Township from District 4 to District 2, then Parke County will be in compliance with the Indiana Law. This resolution will take effect immediately. The Clerk of the Parke County Circuit Court will receive a copy to make the changes official. Jim Meece made the motion to approve Resolution 2025-02, amending Resolution 2021-13 to redefine the County Council Election Districts of Parke County, Indiana. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Roy Wrightsman presented joint Resolutions 2025-03 and 2025-04 Relating to Limits on Earned Compensatory Time. Roy Wrightsman explained that the Parke County Council's Attorney drafted this joint Resolution. There is a need to establish a policy for accumulation of earned compensatory time (Comp Time) by full-time employees of Parke County as set forth below:
 1. A full-time salaried civilian employee of Parke County is eligible to accumulate Comp Time in lieu of overtime pay at the rate of 1.5 hours per 1.0 hours worked in excess of 40 hours worked in a week for civilian employees and 171 hours in a 28-day period for Sheriff's deputies. Any hours worked in excess of the normal scheduled work day, but less than 40 hours in a week for civilian employees and 171 hours in a 28-day period for Sheriff's deputies, will be accumulated at a rate of 1.0 hours per 1.0 hours worked. Elected Officials and Department Heads are not eligible for overtime or Comp Time. Salaried Correction Officers (jailers) at Parke County Jail and dispatchers will receive overtime pay, but are not eligible for Comp Time.
 2. Earned Comp Time must be in no less than 15-minute intervals.

3. An employee that accumulates Comp Time after the adoption date of this resolution is required to utilize the earned Comp Time within a reasonable period of time.
4. An employee with accumulated Comp Time prior to the adoption of this resolution must utilize the earned Comp Time within four (4) months of the adoption of this resolution.
5. The maximum amount of Comp Time that may be accrued by a public safety employee is four hundred eighty (480) hours and the maximum amount of Comp Time that may be accumulated by all other employees is two hundred forty (240) hours.
6. In case of emergency, or if the above restrictions would interfere with the services provided to the citizens of Parke County, the elected official or department head may request an exemption from the county executive.
7. This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption and its terms incorporated into the Parke County Employee Handbook.

Roy Wrightsman stated that the Parke County Council will adopt this joint Resolution at its next meeting on April 10th, 2025. Resolution 2025-03 represents the Parke County Board of Commissioners' approval and Resolution 2025-04 represents the Parke County Council's approval. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve joint Resolution 2025-03 Relating the Limits on Earned Compensatory Time. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Roy Wrightsman led a discussion regarding the ARP Fund. At this point in time, neither the Parke County Council nor the Parke County Board of Commissioners will be able to approve any more projects until further notice. There is uncertainty of what the Indiana State Legislature will do with property and income tax revenue to the counties. Senate Bill 1, which is just a shell, and House Bill 1402, could cut property and income tax revenue for the county. This is still being discussed by the State of Indiana Legislature. Parke County is not sure of how much money it will be receiving if these new laws take effect. However, the copper replacement project for the Parke County Jail and Joink will be paid for by the ARP fund. The Parke County Council and the Parke County Board of Commissioners will have to find the money somewhere else to cover the cost of replacing the Parke County Highway Department's Roof which will cost \$108,500.00. Maybe the Parke County Highway Department's budget can come up with the money to cover the roof replacement. The contract has already been approved and signed by the Parke County Board of Commissioners. Roy Wrightsman will look to see where the money can come from.
- The Parke County Council will also go ahead and approve the match for the Community Crossings' Grant funds.
- The Highway Department is in the process of purchasing a new truck but is coming in at \$20,000.00 over the budgeted amount. Roy Wrightsman suggested looking into leasing vehicles instead of purchasing or using a trade in for the difference.
- Jim Meece explained that the new Highway Superintendent has not started his position due to illness. There is a new start date of April 1st, 2025.
- Susan Kramer, Parke County Auditor, presented the Parke Board of Commissioners with an Amendment #1 to the LPA Consulting Contract for Bridge Inspections. Some Bridges build in 1924 or before need to be on a 12-month bridge inspection cycle instead of a 2-year bridge inspection cycle. This Amendment creates an additional amount owed of \$64,179.00 to cover this new bridge inspection cycle. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the Amendment #1 to the LPA Consulting Contract for Bridge Inspections. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- The INDOT Reimbursement Voucher was signed by Jim Meece.
- Susan Kramer presented an Amendment to the Nationwide 457B plan to offer a Roth 457B plan. The Roth 457B would be an after-tax plan and can be ran through our payroll system. Jim Meece

made the motion to approve the Amendment to the Nationwide 457B plan to offer a Roth 457B plan. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- April 18th, 2025, is the 250th Anniversary of Paul Revere's Ride. Sue Weber, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, would like to put two lights in the Parke County Courthouse window to symbolize the Old North Church to commemorate this historical event. Jim Meece will be putting a committee together to help celebrate this anniversary of Paul Revere's Ride. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the placing of two lights in the Parke County Courthouse window to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of Paul Revere's Ride. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Collom Excavating had two contracts for the Parke County Board of Commissioners to sign for work to be done on the Melcher Covered Bridge. The first contract was the itemized cost for Phase II of the Melcher Covered Bridge repairs. This cost is \$329,988.00. The second contract agreement is a project description of the work to be completed on the Melcher Covered Bridge. Jim Meece made the motion to sign and approve the two contracts for the Phase II Melcher Covered Bridge Repair from Collom Excavating. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jim Meece posed a question from the Parke County Fire Departments to the Parke County Sheriff. However, Jason Frazier was not present to speak on behalf of the Parke County Sheriff's Department. Jim Meece wanted to know if there was a schedule of fines that may be issued during a county-wide burn ban. There was an abandoned property that had caught fire during the latest county-wide burn ban. There was some discussion that there should be consequences for such an act. Jim Meece wanted to ask the Parke County Sheriff if they would cite the property owners in these circumstances. There could be fines already set in place or even an ordinance enforcing the fines. Janie Hardman thought there may be an ordinance from 2011 on burn bans in Parke County.
- The Parke County Board of Commissioners discussed continuing the county-wide burn ban through Wednesday, March 19th, 2025. It was agreed to lift the burn ban on Thursday, March 20th, 2025. Jim Meece will inform the county fire departments.
- May 1st, 2025 is the National Day of Prayer and the Parke County Ministerial Association has requested to hold services on the Parke County Courthouse Square grounds. Jim Meece made the motion to approve having services on the Parke County Courthouse Square for the National Day of Prayer on May 1st, 2025. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Dan Collom had a request to post a speed limit sign on a county road. However, they only have issues during the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival. It would not be beneficial to post the sign because the deputies are busy patrolling in the towns and main streets during the Parke Covered Bridge Festival.
- Janie Hardman from the Parke County Highway Department requested approval for her to donate vacation time to another Parke County Highway Department employee who experience storm damage on Saturday, March 15th, 2025. He only has thirty-five hours available to use. Janie Hardman would at least give him enough vacation hours to complete a 40-hour week. There was some discussion about this issue between the Parke County Commissioners. It was agreed that sick time cannot be donated if there were no medical issues at hand. In this case, vacation hours would be donated. The Parke County Board of Commissioners agreed that donation of sick or vacation hours to a needed employee would have to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and only sick time for sick time and vacation time for vacation time in special circumstances only.
- There was a letter from a 4th grader at Maxwell Intermediate School requesting information on Parke County. Mrs. Murphy's Class is doing research on the Indiana Counties. The students will be presenting their research projects on the Indiana Counties at the end of May. Jim Meece will respond to the 4th grade student in Mrs. Murphy's Class at Maxwell Intermediate School.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- None

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Cyndi Todd, Parke County Redevelopment:

- Cyndi Todd needed the Parke County Board of Commissioners to appoint a trustee for the Regional Sewer District through IDEM. Matt Helderman is the Parke County Council's appointment as a Regional Sewer District Trustee. Katie Potter was a nominee for the Parke County Board of Commissioners' Regional Sewer District Trustee. The appointed trustee must be a Parke County resident and a land owner with in the district. The deadline for appointing a trustee for the Regional Sewer District is set for April 11th, 2025. Bruce Hartman made the motion to appoint Katie Potter as Parke County Board of Commissioners' Regional Sewer District Trustee. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.


VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Chance Hoover inquired if a decision had been made on the Wabash Township Trustee position. Jim Meece stated there were two candidates that applied for the Wabash Township Trustee position. Kelsey Hoover and Jessica Taylor were the two applicants. The Parke County Board of Commissioners were in agreeance to appoint Kelsey Hoover as the Wabash Township Trustee so long as there is no conflict of interest holding two positions. Currently, Kelsey Hoover is the Clerk-Treasurer of Mecca. The Clerk-Treasurer position is appointed/non-elected. Chance Hoover said, speaking for Kelsey Hoover, that she would give up her Clerk-Treasurer position to hold the Wabash Township Trustee position if there is a conflict. Jim Meece made the motion to appoint Kelsey Hoover as the Wabash Township Trustee. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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



Jim Meece, President

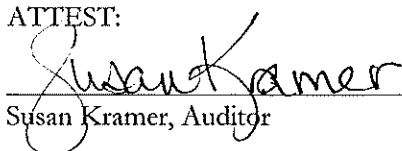


Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



Susan Kramer, Auditor