

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 5th, 2025

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 5th, 2025, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, April 21st, 2025.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Jim Meece, President; Dan Collom, first Vice President; Bruce Hartman, second Vice President; Nick Sauter, Commissioner's Attorney; Susan Kramer, Auditor; and Leanna Collisi, 2nd Deputy Auditor. Also present were Paul Gable, Jason Frazier, Matt Romalia, Pam Sanders, Mandy Adams-Washburn, Kathy Collom, Jessica Lancaster, Neysa Sandusky, Cyndi Todd, Julie Lanzone and Steve Collisi.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, April 21st, 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 \$279,887.90 and Union Hospital Security payroll in the amount of \$2,132.56 were approved for release on Monday, May 5th, 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 May 5th, 2025 in the amount of \$277,033.52 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Accounts Payable Claims in the amount of \$1,287,485.48 were approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - Jim Meece led a short discussion on Resolution 2025-07 – Moratorium on Commercial Renewable Energy. Questions have arisen regarding the commercial development of battery storage of energy (including renewable energy) in Parke County, Indiana. This resolution is to make clear that the previously imposed moratorium also applies to commercial battery storage of energy in Parke County, Indiana. In the previous moratorium, the establishment of any Commercial Renewable Energy Projects in Parke County, Indiana is declared to be a violation of public interest of Parke County, Indiana. The Parke County Board of Commissioners recognizes the need to review, consider potential changes or potentially adopt additional moratoriums pertaining to Commercial Renewable Energy in Parke County, Indiana. Dan Collom made the motion to approve Resolution 2025-07 - Moratorium on Commercial Renewable Energy. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
  - Neysa Sandusky from Parke County Incorporated, informed the Parke County Board of Commissioners of an additional activity during the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival in the Fall. This activity is called The Children's Handmade Market which will be for 8-14 year old children who live in Parke County. This will be held for one day and she is hoping this event will be at no cost to the families of the children participating. Currently, there are ten kids signed up for this new event. Neysa Sandusky asked if the TML could be provided at no cost to the children. The Auditor's Office was fine with not charging the children for a TML, however, they must have one to participate. Neysa Sandusky stated she is also requiring them to have a Certificate of Insurance. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the new Children's Handmade Market activity during the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
  - MainStreet Rockville submitted their event schedule for approval. This event schedule included the Community Yard Sale which has pasted. Jim Meece stated that they were sanctioned for the Community Yard Sale by the insurance and we were all good. Also, a new Certificate of

Insurance was received. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve the Event Schedule for MainStreet. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- There was one out of cycle check to approve. The claim voucher was from V. S. Engineering in the amount of \$357.29 for the Melcher Bridge. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the out of cycle check request from V. S. Engineering. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jim Meece commented that the new Highway Superintendent is doing good.
- Stan Rukes from the Veterans' Office will be retiring. The Parke County Board of Commissioners would like to take applications for a new VSO Officer until Monday, May 19th, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. They can review the applications during the Monday, May 19th, 2025 Parke County Board of Commissioners' Meeting. Dan Collom made a motion to approve taking application for the VSO Officer until Monday, May 19th, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jim Meece discussed Don Pruner's retirement plan. Don Pruner's health has given him some issues. He seems to not be getting any better at this point. Don Pruner has agreed to retire on Friday, June 13th, 2025. The plan is for Kay Pettis to move to Custodian and not to fill the Custodian II position but instead hire a cleaning service to come in and do what Kay Pettis does now. Don Pruner has over 200 sick hours which he does not get paid for. His vacation days will still accrue and will get paid for his vacation days when he retires. Jim Meece made the motion to approve Don Pruner's retirement, upon the Parke County Council's approval of Don Pruner's retirement on Friday, June 13th, 2025. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

- Jim Meece informed the other Commissioners that Matt Stechley has put together an estimate to repair the leaking roof over the Sheriff's Office. This quote came in at \$1,800.00. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the repair of the leaking roof over the Sheriff's Office for \$1,800.00. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jim Meece reported that Fydea is working on repairing the leaking roof over the parts room at the Highway Department Garage.
- Jim Meece stated that Matt Stechley is willing to manage the window replacement at the Courthouse. His quote for putting together the RFP's and overseeing the project to completion will be \$8,000.00. Normally, he would charge around \$15,000.00-\$20,000.00 for this type of project. Jim Meece made the motion to approve Matt Stechley managing the Courthouse window replacement project for \$8,000.00. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jim Meece reported that the Courthouse Chiller is up and running. However, Judge Swaim has had issues with the temperature in his office. There may be a scheduling issue with the Chiller. Normally, the Chiller turns on at 5:30 a.m. and is off at 4:00 p.m. There may need to be some adjustments made to the schedule to have comfortable temperatures throughout the Courthouse. Jim Meece thought about firing up the Chiller at 3:30 a.m. to see if it reaches comfortable temperatures by 8:00 a.m. Another thought would be to have the Chiller run 24 hours. We can do each of these options for a month at a time and compare costs. For now, the Parke County Board of Commissioners has agreed to turn on the Chiller at 3:30 a.m. and turn off the Chiller at 4:00 p.m.

## VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

### Jason Frazier, Parke County Sheriff:

- Jason Frazier questioned what to do with the copper pipes that were left from the copper pipe replacement project at the Jail. Jason Frazier was not sure if there is a better way of disposing of the copper pipe than just taking it to Mecca Salvage Yard. Jim will ask Matt Stechley if there is a better place to recycle the copper pipes.

### Matt Romalia, Parke County Highway:

- Matt Romalia has been the Parke County Highway Superintendent for three weeks.
- More signage needs to be in place for road closures around Parke County area bridges. Semis have the biggest issues because it is very difficult for them to get turned around.
- Milestone will begin paving Marshall Road from State Road 47 on Wednesday, May 7th, 2025. After Marshall Road has been paved to Rockville, Milestone will begin paving Strawberry Road. County Road 200 has been done.
- School signage needs to be put in place on County Road 200 near Jacob Stoltzfus's driveway.
- Matt Romalia is trying to compare costs with either contracting bridge repair work out on the Ferndale Covered Bridge or doing the work ourselves. The Collom Excavating quote is at \$270,000.00. Matt Romalia seems to think the Highway Department can do the repairs for between \$110,000.00 - \$140,000.00. This is a significant savings if we can do some projects ourselves.
- Currently the Highway Department has a 2004 Hyundai Loader. They would like to lease a new one for the pit and keep the old loader in the yard. Matt Romalia has checked into leasing a new loader from Southeastern for five years. The lease can either have an option to buy at the end of the lease term or lease a new loader. Matt Romalia has talked to several companies about leasing options from Westside, Macallister and Rudd. Matt Romalia said that Roy Wrightsman, President of the Parke County Council, gave him the go ahead to lease a new wheeled loader for the Highway Department. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the lease of a new loader, contingent upon approval from the Parke County Council. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- There was damage to the weather head located on the Highway Department building when the roof was being worked on by Fydea. Allee Electric charged \$10,709.94 to repair the weather head. This damage to the weather head occurred on Thursday, April 17th, 2025. It appears that the weather head was knocked off by the roofing company, Fydea. There does not seem to be any failed brick. Nick Sauter would like to get Matt Stechley, the project manager, involved to figure out what has happened and how to handle the repair cost.
- Matt Romalia explained that the Highway Department had two vehicles that were not in use. However, by taking an engine from one truck and putting it into another, they were able to have one running truck to use. 765 Diesel did the work on this project. The cost of this repair is in the budget.
- There have been four Highway Department employees that have passed their CDL and a couple other employees are almost complete. This has turned out to be a good program for the Highway Department Employees.
- There was some discussion about Angle Road having deep pot holes in the road. Dan Collom would like this road looked at.
- Matt Romalia further explained that the next Community Crossings Grant can take care of repairing Mecca Road to 41 South towards Coxville Road. The rest of B'dale Road needs to be taken care of as well.
- Matt Romalia has just received INDOT Certification for 732.91 miles of road in Parke County.

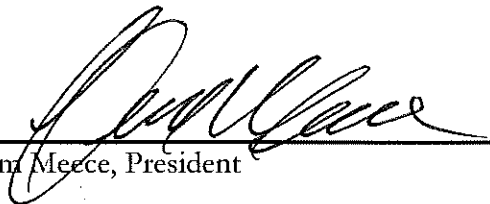
### **Julie Lanzone, Parke County Ambulance/EMS:**

- Julie Lanzone reported that the Parke County Ambulance/EMS is \$32,000.00 ahead of last year.
- There have been a couple of complaints about the Parke County Billing increasing. Our rates have almost doubled in price since the last increase in 1989. This increase is in accordance with the State guidelines.
- Medic 3 had a replacement engine put in for \$\$12,829.94. Ford Pro Elite was able to help cover the cost of \$5,131.98. This left us to cover \$7,697.96 which was Council approved through additional appropriation. Medic 3 should be back in service after the meeting.
- Julie Lanzone had 12 applicants for part time and full time EMT positions. After looking at the applications, eleven applicants were interviewed and three were offered a position.
- Julie Lanzone reported that eleven of the EMT students Parke County has been training have passed testing last weekend. Five of these students were High Schoolers and the rest were adults. Grow our own and keep our own.
- Medic 2 is being replaced on May15th, 2025 with a new ambulance. Julie Lanzone asked to do a sealed bid on Medic 2 since it is worth so much. Matt Romalia said the Highway Department might be interested in Medic 2. This is up for some discussion.
- Julie Lanzone asked permission to begin gathering information for quotes for a new ambulance for 2027-2028. The Parke County Board of Commissioners were good with Julie Lanzone beginning the process for a new ambulance quote for 2027-2028.
- Julie Lanzone explained that Gregory Meyer will be her assistant for the Mobile Integrated Health Program. They will handle small issues in the beginning and work their way up with more complicated issues.
- Julie Lanzone said that the next Crew Breakfast will probably be held in June.
- Parke County Ambulance is fully staffed. Some of the part time EMTs will move to full time as positions become available.

### **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- April and John Steadman rescheduled for the next Parke County Board of Commissioners' Meeting due to a scheduling conflict for this meeting. They would like to discuss a speed limit change on Valley Road.
- Mandy Adams-Washburn explained that the Hamilton Center is celebrating the month of May as Mental Health Awareness. Green Ribbons will be distributed to wear in support of Mental Health. There was some discussion regarding another facility called Hickory Treatment Center in Rockville. This is an outpatient program with overnight housing and the patients can come and go as they please. Some patients have full time jobs. Usually, this program is for 28 days. Hickory Treatment Center is not part of the Hamilton Center. Jim Meece really appreciates this partnership that Parke County has with the Hamilton Center.

**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 5:02 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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Susan Kramer, Auditor