

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 19th, 2025

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 19th, 2025, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, May 5th, 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 Matt Romalia, Pam Sanders, Kim Shorter, Jessica Lancaster, Jackie Torongeau, Dan Jensen, Jeff Stevens, Amy Harpel, Catherine Beck, Leslie Bearing and Steve Collisi.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, May 5th, 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 \$273,667.11 and Union Hospital Security payroll in the amount of \$1,973.05 were approved for release on Monday, May 19th, 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 19th, 2025 in the amount of \$228,443.00 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - There was one out of cycle check to approve. The claim voucher was from Milestone in the amount of \$416,352.57. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the out of cycle check request from Milestone. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - The Parke County Board of Commissioners received one application for the Veterans' Service Officer. Dan Jensen, Commander of the VFW and Jeff Stevens spoke highly of the one applicant, Raymond Leonberger. He knows the ins and outs of the Veterans' system and will do an exceptional job. Raymond Leonberger has a great work ethic and is a smart guy. He is a disabled veteran and knows how claims work. Raymond Leonberger is a great person. Jim Meece made the motion to approve Raymond Leonberger as the new Veterans' Service Officer for Parke County with a start date of the pay period beginning June 1st, 2025. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - The Parke County Probation Office is switching credit card companies. They received poor service from Card Services Company and are switching to First Financial Bank for their credit card needs. The Parke County Probation Office needed Jim Meece to sign the credit card application for First Financial. Jim Meece signed the application and made the motion to approve Parke County Probation Office to use First Financial Bank for their credit cards needs. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Congressman Messmer is needing ideas from the Parke County Board of Commissioners.
 - Jim Meece inquired about white lining 200 N and Marshall Road. Matt Romalia had a quote from Milestone for \$40,660.00 to do the shoulders of 200 N and Marshall Road. There was some discussion about having the Parke County Highway Department do the white lining of these roads. Matt Romalia felt it would be more economical to rent a lining machine that an employee could ride on and do a little at a time. The Parke County Highway Department would have to purchase reflective sand paint as well.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- Jim Meece informed the Parke County Board of Commissioners that the Courthouse Chiller issue was actually a Boiler issue. The Boiler was kicking on at the same time the Chiller was on and the issue was in the Jackson Controls. Kay Pettis was able to override the controls to turn off the heat. Jackson Controls will be in this week to correct the issue. The temperature in the Courthouse should be under control now.
- Jim Meece reported that the Parke County Highway Department roof is fixed now.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Matt Romalia, Parke County Highway:

- Matt Romalia informed the Parke County Board of Commissioners that he has increased the price of the driveway and field entrance culvert piping by 30%. These prices have not been updated since the 1997. This was not bid on during the regular bidding process. Hendricks, Montgomery and Putnam counties are priced comparably as well. Civilcon bid the price of the regular culverts that Parke County Highway Department uses for other purposes.
- Jim Meece stated that there is an Amish man that farms on 10 O'Clock Road. He usually uses the road to turn his team of horses and equipment on when he is planting and harvesting. He needs to be informed not to use the road as turnaround for his team of horses and farm equipment after 10 O'Clock Road is paved. Matt Romalia will do that. He has already had the same talk with other Amish Farmers on Marshall Road.
- Matt Romalia stated that there may be an ordinance about the Amish having to use boots on their horses' hooves on Parke County roads. Some of the Amish are using rubber shoes on the horses. It would be nice to have the Amish use rubber wheels as well. The older Amish are more apt to adhere to this ordinance. Jim Meece will contact the Amish Elders on this issue especially since Parke County has freshly paved roads. The Amish had no problem with license plates for their buggies so they probably will not have any issues with booting their horses' hooves. It seems like the roads only last about 2 years before repairs are needed if the horses' hooves are not booted. Nick Sauter stated that Amish communities like Orange and Elkhart Counties have ordinances in place to protect their roads from damage from horses' hooves and buggy wheels. He can look further into the details of their regulations.
- Matt Romalia informed the Parke County Board of Commissioners that Parke County Highway Department now has five CDL drivers that have completed the training through Area 30 in Greencastle, Indiana. This program is reimbursable by the State of Indiana after 6 months of completing the CDL Program through Area 30. The Parke County Auditor's Office will be applying for this reimbursement this week. There is one employee getting ready to go into the CDL Program and one employee that will be redoing the CDL Program because he was not ready the first time through.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Amy Harpel and Catherine Beck requested an update on the Ferndale Road Bridge closure. Matt Romalia explained to the Parke County Board of Commissioners that the Parke County Highway Department should be able to replace the bridge for around \$117,000.00 and with equipment rental for the excavator the grand total should be around \$130,000.00. Matt Romalia estimated the bridge replacement should begin the first of July after the completion of a water study in June. It will take 6 weeks for the manufacturing company to build the replacement bridge to be set in place. The end target date should be around Labor Day 2025. They will need to dam the water daily by either sand bagging or a bank run in order to prep the site for the replacement bridge and

to actually set the bridge in place. Jim Meece will text this information to Roy Wrightsman, the Parke County Council President.

- Jackie Torongeau requested purchasing the lot located behind her property in Judson, Indiana. She thought the Town of Rockville was deeded the property when Judson shutdown. Jim Meece suggested that she check with the Parke County Assessor's Office to find out specifically who that piece of property is deeded to and proceed from there. Any landowner within 400 feet of the property would need to receive a letter in order to split the property. Jim Meece stated that it would be difficult to split a pie shaped property between adjoining landowners. Parke County could just sell the property. Nick Sauter explained that if Parke County owns the pie shaped property, a sealed bid could be accepted with the best price. That would be the easiest way to handle the ownership of the pie shaped property in question. Dan Collom thought there may be another property owner by the name of Chris Herschberger in the area that would also like to have a chance to purchase this piece of land as well.
- Leslie Bearing inquired about the Harper's property in Mansfield. This property looks like a ransacked junkyard. There was a call placed to Beth Martin with the Parke County Planning Commission last week. Beth Martin was supposed to have attended this meeting but was unable due to a family emergency. Beth Martin is the correct person to ask about a particular ordinance regarding this property. Beth Martin will be able to enforce any action to clean up this property according to a Parke County Ordinance. Leslie Bearing will try to give her a call in the office tomorrow. Leslie Bearing also inquired about the Old Mansfield Bible Church. He heard the Otterbien Church had purchased the Mansfield Bible Church. Randy Dragon is the pastor and lives in Brazil, Indiana. The Otterbien Church is separating from the United Methodist Church. Leslie Bearing has offered to take care of the property and has cut the grass twice. Nobody has touched the grass recently. He is not sure whether he should continue to cut the grass. He would like to know who owns the property. Jim Meece directed him to check with the Parke County Assessor's Office. Leslie Bearing also mentioned that everyone on the Mansfield Bible Church's Board is deceased. This could become a complicated transfer of ownership. Nick Sauter looked up the owner on Parke County GIS and it said that the owner was the Mansfield Bible Church. The owner's address was on North Murphy Road in Brazil, Indiana. Leslie Bearing claimed that the house at that address had burned. The mailing address to the owner of the Mansfield Bible Church needs to be updated.

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 4:40 p.m.




Jim Meece, President



Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President

Absent



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



Susan Kramer, Auditor