

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 16th, 2025

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 16th, 2025, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, June 2nd, 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 Matt Romalia, Kim Shorter, Jessica Lancaster, Cassandra Wathen and Steve Collisi.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, June 2nd, 2025 were approved on a motion from Bruce Hartman. Jim Meece seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- I. **PAYROLL:** County payroll in the amount of \$281,718.13 and Union Hospital Security payroll in the amount of \$2,489.44 were approved for release on Monday, June 16th, 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 June 16th, 2025 in the amount of \$221,194.03 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- II. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - There were five out of cycle checks that needed approval. The first out of cycle check request was from Flock Safety in the amount of \$10,950.00 for the new software at the Sheriff's Department. The second out of cycle check request was from KidZone Party Rentals in the amount of \$4,180.14 for bounce house rentals for 2025 National Night Out. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the first two out of cycle check requests for Flock Safety and KidZone Party Rentals. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The third out of cycle check request was from IBS/Wiers International in the amount of \$5,006.23 for an invoice dated March 2025. The fourth out of cycle check request was from INDOT in the amount of \$2,468.28 for the repayment of grant funds on CCMG-2024-2. The fifth out of cycle check request was from Milestone Contractors, South LLC in the amount of \$1,240,440.20 for paving project CCMG 2025-1. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the last three out of cycle check requests from IBS/Wiers International, INDOT and Milestone Contractors, South LLC. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Mid-America Elevator Company sent a letter regarding an increase to our Elevator Maintenance Agreement. The current price is \$355.53 with an increase to \$361.90 per month effective July 1, 2025. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the Monthly Adjustment agreement with Mid-America Elevator. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Jim Meece took a phone call regarding TMLs and if tattoos and piercings were allowed. Jim Meece thought that years ago there might have been prohibition not allowing invasive procedures in which the skin is penetrated by a foreign object like needles or jewelry. Susan Kramer, Parke County Auditor, will look to see if there is an ordinance for such invasive procedures being prohibited for TMLs.
 - Jim Meece introduced Ray Leonberger, the new Veterans Service Officer for Parke County. Jim Meece said it is very important to take care of our veterans in the community. Ray Leonberger is settling in and will have more updates at future meetings. Susan Kramer said Ray Leonberger is an amazing fit to the Courthouse.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- Jim Meece updated the Parke County Board of Commissioners on the hole in the concrete of the tunnel located under the Courthouse Grounds. Kim Shorter's son fell through the ground into the underground tunnel which left a nice hole in the concrete. This needs to be patched or filled in. Jim Meece further explained that there was a manhole base that had broke and the dirt had fallen in around the hole. However, the sod had not caved in until Kim Shorter's son stepped on that area and the sod gave way. Jim Meece did not know if we needed a professional to make the repairs. Jim Meece thought there would not be much material needed to make the repair. He thought a couple of bags of Sakcrete and a steel plate for support would do the job. Jim Meece volunteered to do the labor, if Dan Collom would make the plate of steel. Dan Collom stated that he would supply all the materials for the repair. Jim Meece and Dan Collom will look at the tunnel and assess what needs to be done and the materials to complete the repair to the tunnel.
- Jim Meece also mentioned that in a couple of years the Town of Rockville will be seeking a grant for the eastside of the square and that would be the time to replace the brittle water line. The Town of Rockville is getting rid of all the transite water lines. We can apply for our grant and include it with their grant.
- Jim Meece stated that the Parke County Board of Commissioners need to work on creating a Solar Ordinance. It is time to fine tune a solar ordinance that will include battery storage. Jim Meece would like to see the solar ordinance completed by the end of this year.
- Jim Meece explained that the June 2nd, 2025 Parke County Board of Commissioners had adjourned prematurely. Matt Romalia had some out of cycle checks that needed approval. The meeting adjournment was rescinded and the meeting was reopened to approve those out of cycle checks. No other business was conducted. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the Parke County Highway Department's out of cycle checks on June 2nd, 2025. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Matt Romalia, Parke County Highway:

- Matt Romalia informed the Parke County Board of Commissioners that the materials for the Ferndale Bridge repairs are scheduled to be delivered on June 30th, 2025. It should take three weeks to install and the bridge will be ready to go.
- Matt Romalia stated that Bridge #214 on County Road 1200 has been repaired. Matt Romalia is waiting on more estimates to repair Bridge #214 permanently. The Parke County Highway Department has the metal to deck the bridge. This will be the next bridge on the schedule for repairs after the Fernedale bridge is completed.
- Some trees were down and some parts of the roads were washed out on County Roads 25 W and 1200 from the recent rain fall. The Parke County Highway Department is currently working to clean up these areas affected by the rain fall.
- The Parke County Highway Department was sscheduled to be chip and seal this week but due to more rain in the forecast, on Thursday the Parke County Highway Department will begin priming Martin Road so it will be ready for paving.
- Dan Collom asked what the deadline was for dust control. Matt Romalia replied that dust control needs to be requested and paid for by the end of April each year.
- Matt Romalia explained that there are a couple of log jams that need to be addressed. One is on Carpenter Road and the other is on Mansfield Road. Matt Romalia had received a quote from Collom Excavating and shared it with the Parke County Board of Commissioners. Matt Romalia tried to get another quote but Mr. Morgan said this would be too much to handle with the time frame given. The Parke County Highway Department has the money in their budget. Bruce Hartman made a motion to accept Collom Excavating's quote for removing the log jams on

Carpenter Road and Mansfield Road. Jim Meece seconded the motion with Dan Collom abstaining from the motion.

- The wheeled excavator is going to be turned back in at the end of the lease which is soon approaching. The mini excavator is being utilized every day. The Parke County Highway Department will be getting the Gradall back soon. It seems we are getting more use out of the mini excavator with a trailer than the wheeled excavator. Most of the Highway Department employees know how to use the skid steer and the mini excavator. MacAllister Machinery has the cheapest lease for a mini excavator with a trailer. The lease is around \$30,000.00 cheaper than leasing a wheeled excavator. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the Parke County Highway Department to lease a mini excavator with a trailer through MacAllister Machinery instead of another wheeled excavator contingent on the Parke County Council approval. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Matt Romalia is also wanting to purchase a used 1995 track skid steer from Southeastern. This skid steer has 1200 hours on it and the DEF system has been redone. The Parke County Highway Department would like to sell their 2000 skid steer. Roy Wrightsman, Parke County Council President, is good with this purchase. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the purchase of a 1995 tracked skid steer from Southeastern contingent on the Parke County Council approval. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Matt Romalia stated that he would like to hire one more full time CDL driver. There are two more employees that will be completing their CDLs in July.
- Indiana LTAP has a program called Train the Trainer for further CDL instruction with a simulator. This program is provided by Purdue in Lafayette, Indiana. Matt Romalia will be sending the Parke County Highway Department employees there for further training.
- Julie Lanzone has also offered for the Parke Highway Department to utilize the Ambulance conference room for any training that is needed.
- Jim Meece suggested attending the Road School in March with as many Parke County Highway Department employees that would like to attend.

Melissa Buel, Parke County Health Department:

- Melissa Buell is the new Administrator for the Parke County Health Department. She is looking at changing some of the operations of the Parke County Health Department since they do not have extra clerical help anymore. Melissa Buell is suggesting to have walk-in hours two days a week and appointment only hours three days a week with dedicated work time for Liddy Dowd-Wright, Parke County Health Inspector, to inspect food and septic systems and for Natalie Cole, Parke County Health Department Nurse, to conduct school clinics and other health events. The Parke County Health Department hours will remain 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday -Friday. The Parke Health Department will be available for emergencies during their clinic hours. Jim Meece asked if the Parke County Health Department had a Facebook Page. Melissa Buell replied yes and she will put this new information on the Facebook Page. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the new type of hours for the Parke County Health Department having walk-in hours on Monday and Wednesday and appointment only hours on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and will treat emergencies if needed at any time. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Melissa Buell has been working on cleaning up all kinds of stuff in the Parke County Health Department and shared a surplus inventory list with the Parke County Board of Commissioners. The Parke County Health Department has two vaccine coolers that can be plugged into a vehicle which could be utilized by the EMS/Ambulance if they would want the coolers. Melissa Buell mentioned a non-working refrigerator and a cabinet that it sits on. These two items need to be handwritten on the list. Dan Collom made the motion for the Parke Health Department to offer their list of surplus items to the other Parke County Departments and dispose of what is left. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Jim Meece asked Melissa Buell if the Parke County Health Department was still receiving Covid vaccines. Melissa Buell stated that she does not think they are receiving the Covid vaccines because no one wants to get the Covid vaccine anymore and now they pay for the Covid vaccines. She thinks they do have Covid test kits.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Susan Kramer received a rezoning request letter from Kirby and Paula Kirkpatrick. They want to change a portion of their property from AP-Agricultural Productive to Business/Commercial. Kirby and Paula Kirkpatrick are wanting to offer a beautifully maintained “glamping” site that honors the quiet charm of their surroundings while offering guests a unique opportunity to rest, recharge and enjoy the natural beauty of Parke County. There is a public hearing with the Board of Zoning Appeals on Thursday, July 31st, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

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 4:41 p.m.



Jim Meece, President



Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



Susan Kramer, Auditor