

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 21st, 2025

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 21st, 2025, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, July 7th, 2025.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Jim Meece, President; Bruce Hartman, second Vice President; Nick Sauter, Commissioner's Attorney; Susan Kramer, Auditor; and Leanna Collisi, 2nd Deputy Auditor. Also present were Kim Shorter, Nicole Collings, Stacie Amerman, Ray Leonberger, Lillian Floutsis with Land and Liberty Coalition and Taylor Christian with NextEra Energy Resources.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, July 7th, 2025 were approved on a motion from Bruce Hartman. Jim Meece seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- I. **PAYROLL:** Two County payrolls in the amount of \$293,165.69 and \$291,495.03 and one Union Hospital Security payroll in the amount of \$2,549.15 were approved for release on Monday, June 30th, 2025 and on Monday, July 14th, 2025 on a motion made by Bruce Hartman. Jim Meece seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Acknowledgement of receipt of Payroll Claims Accounts Payable Report for July 14th, 2025 in the amount of \$200,521.10 was approved on a motion made by Bruce Hartman. Jim Meece seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- II. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - There was one out of cycle check that needed approval. The out of cycle check request was from Atlas in the amount of \$3,833.27 for welding on equipment for the Parke County Highway Department. Jim Meece made a motion to approve the out of cycle check request from Atlas. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Jim Meece informed the Parke County Board of Commissioners that there are still some issues with controlling the temperature in the Court room and the Judge's office. Conserve has been contacted to look at the control device. The initial cost for Parke County would be \$700.00 for this inspection. Bruce Hartman expressed it was a good idea to get a second opinion on controlling the temperature in these areas of the Courthouse. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve contracting a second company, Conserve, to look at the temperature controller to see if they can help improve the temperature situation in the Court room and in the Judge's office. Jim Meece seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Jim Meece also stated that the one room school in Mecca is on private property. Every first Saturday of the Covered Bridge Festival, there is a square dance fundraiser held in memory of a fallen state worker, Gaylord Shaw. He was killed by a person running through barricades. The owner of the one room schoolhouse property would like the signage for the square-dancing memorial event be moved onto Parke County's property which would be closer to the Mecca Covered Bridge. Jim Meece made the motion to approved moving the square-dancing memorial event signage onto Parke County's property. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - There are three covered bridges on Billie Creek Village's property that need repairs, especially to their roofs. Jim Meece stated that if these bridges could come back under Parke County, we could receive grant money to put metal roofs on them and make other necessary repairs as well. Jim Meece would like to see a Commission created to look at these bridges to investigate the repairs needed. The State of Indiana gives Parke County between \$1,500.00 to \$1,800.00 per bridge per year for repairs. We do not repair each bridge every year, so the fund can build money. Bruce Hartman thought this was a good idea. Two of the covered bridges need repairs on their arches.

Jim Meece explained that from the arch to the abutment is the crucial point to keep clean to prevent repairs.

- Nicole Colling, Parke County Clerk, explained to the Parke County Board of Commissioners that the Parke County's Microvote panel voting machines will become outdated soon and will need to be replaced. The Parke County Council has approved the expenditure of \$103,587.76 to replace thirty-six machines. This will be paid with two payments. The cost will include the pickup and disposal of the old units being replaced. Jim Meece made a motion to approve the Parke County Clerk's Office to purchase thirty-six voting machines from Microvote at the cost of \$103,587.76. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Nicole Collings also explained that the poll service iPads need to be upgraded as well. Apple will stop updating the current iPads the Clerk's Office uses for elections soon. Parke County Council has approved the purchase of seventeen iPads with an all-new setup including new iPads and stands. Jim Meece made a motion to approve the Parke County Clerk's Office to purchase seventeen iPads at the cost of \$18,615.00 from Knowink, LLC. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- WTH contract was presented for renewal. This company handles Parke County's parcel splits. Currently, the contract is for \$500.00 a month. WTH will be increasing the monthly cost to \$750.00. Nick Sauter stated that this is the same contract as last year with automatic renewal unless cancelled 60 days in advance. Jim Meece made a motion to approve the renewal contract with WTH costing \$750.00 per month. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- The Covered Bridge Certification for twenty-eight covered bridges in Parke County was presented for approval by the Parke County Board of Commissioners. This determines the amount of money we will receive from the State of Indiana for covered bridge repairs. Jim Meece made a motion to accept the Covered Bridge Certification for twenty-eight covered bridges in Parke County. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- There were three businesses that applied to clean the Courthouse and the EOC building. Our current Maintenance Director, Kay Pettis, recommended T-Time Commercial Services. Their services include windows and other items the other two businesses would not do. The weekly cost will be \$625.00. Bruce Hartman made a motion to approve using T-Time Commercial Services as Parke County's Courthouse and EOC building cleaning service. Jim Meece seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. If there is a contract, please forward it to Nick Sauter for review before signing. However, if there is no contract, just a quote, then there are no cancellation requirements in place for Parke County.
- Nick Sauter also reported that three alleys in Bridgeton are being vacated. Two of the three alleys are done and the third alley is being worked on currently.
- Jim Meece gave an update on the Melcher Bridge. Footers have been poured and looks great. The walls will go up next week for the abutment. The August timeframe, as promised by the company, is on track and the Melcher Bridge should be set in place in September. Just in time for the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- Nick Sauter, Parke County Board of Commissioners' Attorney, said he will send the Parke County Board of Commissioners the tattoo ordinance. However, Nick Sauter is still working on the synthetic marijuana ordinance. He still needs to get with Jason Frazier, Parke County Sheriff, for details on the synthetic marijuana ordinance.

IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

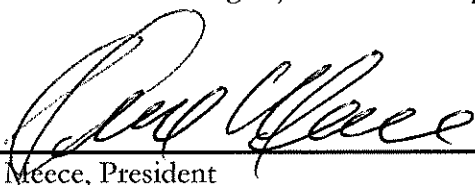
Raymond Leonberger, Parke County Veterans' Administration:

- Raymond Leonberger reported that the 51 Bridges' fundraiser for the Parke County Veterans' Administration held on July 18th and 19th, 2025 was a success. They have raised enough money to purchase a van for the Parke County Veterans' Administration. The Parke County Foundation is matching \$7,000.00 of the money earned by the 51 Bridges' fundraiser. They are in the process of finalizing the van purchase and trying to figure out how to put veterans' license plates on the van. This van will be used to get Parke County Veterans to appointments.
- Ray Leonberger is also trying to set up a reoccurring day for each month that Thompson's College of Cosmetology can offer free haircuts for the Veterans of Parke County.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Lillian Floutsis, a Field Representative with the Indiana Land and Liberty Coalition, introduced herself to the Parke County Board of Commissioners. The Indiana Land and Liberty Coalition's mission is to teach the community about different types of energy. They are a community outreach program and will be holding educational events throughout Parke County.
- Jim Meece mentioned that Parke County is in the process of creating ordinances for the different types of energy being used or will be used in the Parke County. Specifically, solar energy and energy storage. Lillian Floutsis said she can email Jim Meece an Ordinance Guidebook. She also invited Jim Meece and the public to join in on a zoom meeting scheduled for August 6th, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. to see what the Indiana Land and Liberty Coalition is all about.
- Taylor Christian with Nextera Energy Resources introduced himself to the Parke County Board of Commissioners. He can help with community engagement and engineering development regarding energy storage. Taylor Christian can have an energy storage meeting later with the Parke County Board of Commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Bruce Hartman and seconded by Jim Meece. The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.



Jim Meece, President

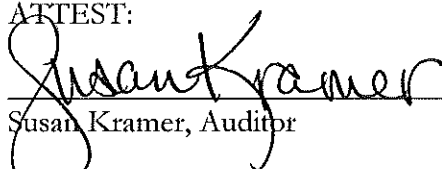


Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



Susan Kramer, Auditor