

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**October 19th, 2020**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 19th, 2020, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, October 5th, 2020.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Commissioner Jim Meece, President; Dan Collom, First Vice President; Bruce Hartman, Second Vice President; Cyndi Todd RDC, and County Attorney Nick Sauter. Also present were Larry Bemis, Justin Cole, Ron Maines, Rick Anderson, Jeremy Vientek and Randy Norman.
- III. **MINUTES:** Tabled due to Auditor's office quarantine for Covid-19
- IV. **PAYROLL:** Tabled due to Auditor's office quarantine for Covid-19
- V. **CLAIMS:** Tabled due to Auditor's office quarantine for Covid-19
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - There were no hand typed checks.
  - Jeremy Vientek from Energy Harness presented their findings from the lighting audit of the EOC Building, Courthouse, Highway Department and Ambulance Service. Presentation suggested a 63% savings on electric costs related to lighting only. Lighting costs are normally 25% of an electric bill. Pricing for new lights and installation is \$41,290.33. New lighting is manufactured by Energy Harness and they offer a warranty. An operating lease agreement can be explored to spread payment over time. Commissioners will consider and share with the Council.
  - Rick Anderson from JMS presented their report for Parke County to look toward energy conservation through solar solutions. See flyer for details. Their focus was on the jail which is the biggest energy user. Estimated project cost is \$1,131,983. Project would require 1 – 2 acres of land to place the solar park. Commissioners suggested the presentation be taken to the Council to see if necessary to continue with project development.
  - Ron Maines from Apex Insurance presented 2021 projected costs for the County's insurance plan. Packet was presented with three company quotes and three scenarios with incumbent. The quote provided by Anthem is proposed only and would require an enrollment period. Based on current claims, personnel, and plan, the incumbent projects a 21-26% increase. Quoted rates are valid through Oct 30. Commissioners stated they could not cover an increase of this amount. Discussion occurred on consideration of increasing the stop/loss threshold, aggregating scale for 1<sup>st</sup> member, and increasing the deductible to lower cost of the plan increase. Ron was asked to provide new projections prior to October 30 and they must be no more than a 10% increase. On October 30 at 3:00 p.m. a joint special meeting will be held for Commissioners and Council to discuss quotes.
  - Letter from Parke County Health Board was read stating Leslie Batty's resignation.

- Letter from DNR was provided by American Structure Point regarding Town of Rockville's Market Street reconstruction project. Nick will check to see if the Town has current site plans to share so they may see sidewalks, etc.
- A request for a Letter of Support for an EDA grant application was presented for signature. The grant is for a fiber ring to further our endeavor to provide broadband in Parke County. Commissioner Collom made a motion in support of the project and signing of the letter. The motion was second by Commissioner Hartman and it passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Meece stated he'd been asked for a letter of support from WCIEDD to participate in the Regional EPA grant. Meece made motion to allow him to sign coalition letter once available. The motion was seconded by Dan Collom and it passed unanimously.
- Office of Community and Rural Affairs announced a grant, Community Connections for People with Disabilities. Cyndi Todd reached out to CARS for a possible partnership with the county. Meece made motion to pursue the grant opportunity with CARS. The motion was seconded by Dan Collom and it passed unanimously.

#### **VII. OLD BUSINESS:**

- Meece made a motion to lift the county-wide burn ban since rain is expected. If sufficient rain does not occur, the burn ban will be reinstated the following Monday. The motion was seconded by Dan Collom and it passed unanimously.

#### **VIII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

##### **Parke County Sheriff, Justin Cole:**

- Justin Cole provide the monthly report.

##### **Parke County Highway Department, Randy Norman:**

- High Bridge Road was completed last week. Discussion on weight limits during colder weather was discussed. Commissioners and Legal reminded Norman that he sets the date in which weight ordinances are in effect on roads. Road north of Portland Mills will be stated tomorrow. Meece patched Henley road. Norman stated supplies are good. He is down 6-7 employees and had no response to the last advertisement.

#### **IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**


- Chester Crague expressed his and the community's concern regarding COVID-19 and possible public updates. Meece stated he meets weekly with county health and emergency services. He posts the update from that meeting on Facebook. Crague hopes they reach more people to share the update because there is more and more need to stress the importance. It's also creating high anxiety. Secondly, Crague asked for

consideration of changing the time of the meeting. Commissioners shared the various reasons why it is at 4:00 p.m. such as overtime pay for the secretary, tracking of attendance did not change when hosted later in the evening, and there are alternate medias available to the public.


- X. **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 6:02 p.m.

  
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Jim Meece, President

  
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Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President

  
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Bruce Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:

  
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Laura Fischer,  
Parke County Auditor