

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 18th, 2024

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 18th, 2024, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, December 2nd, 2024.
- 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 Beth Martin, Jason Frazier, John Martin, George Smith, Kim Shorter, Luke Gill, Neysa Sandusky, Rodger Smith, Eric Runyan and Chester Crague.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, December 2nd, 2024 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 \$252,736.84 and Union Hospital Security payroll in the amount of \$2,636.96 were approved for release on Monday, December 16th, 2024 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 December 16th, 2024 in the amount of \$190,734.25 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Judge Sam Swaim wanted to make the Parke County Board of Commissioners aware of some issues regarding the Courthouse windows. The wood is rotting and deteriorating around many of the window frames in the Court Room and the Probation Office. These window frames need to be replaced. There are large gaps allowing air in and out of the offices. There have also been heating and air issues throughout the Courthouse. Judge Swaim was wondering if Don Pruner's computer was properly calibrated and if the sensors were working correctly on the heating and air system. There seems to be no consistency in the office temperatures. Judge Swaim also wanted to confirm that the replacement of the Courthouse Chiller would be in April 2025. Jim Meece did confirm the Chiller replacement is scheduled for April 2025. Jim Meece also stated that caulking the windows may give some temporary relief until the wood frames around the windows could be replaced. Judge Swaim also mentioned that the electrical in the Probation needs one more circuit. Jim Meece stated that two more circuits will be added. Judge Swaim further explained that sometimes a humming noise can be heard in the Probation Office, then it is gone for a month or so then back again.
 - George Smith with RT Insurance presented the 2025-26 Equipment and Building Insurance renewal. George Smith felt that Bliss McKnight had done a good job with the claims this past year and would continue with them for covering the County's equipment. The cost of Equipment Insurance will increase by \$16,219.00. The cost of liability is based on payroll, so as payroll increases so will the amount for increased liability. The cost of insurance for the buildings through Auto Owners will decrease by \$118.00 in 2025-26. George Smith needs a request to measure the buildings at the Fairgrounds. Jim Meece gave George Smith the go ahead to measure the 4-H Buildings on the Fairgrounds and to put them on the Parke County Insurance policy. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the RT Insurance renewal for Parke County's equipment and building insurance for 2025-26. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Resolution Number 2024-09, a Resolution of the Parke County Commissioners establishing a 504 Grievance Procedure as to discrimination on the basis of disability, was passed and signed.

- ARPA funds are to be utilized for ordinance and resolution codification, digitizing the meeting minutes and live streaming/online hosting services for the Parke County Board of Commissioners and Parke County Council meetings. These services will be provided by CivicPlus based on Nick Sauter, Commssioners' Attorney, reviewing the contracts. Online posting, live streaming and meeting minutes maintenance will cost \$6900.00 and the Codification of Codes, Ordinances and Resolutions will initially cost \$8,950.00 with a renewal of \$2,495.00. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the CivicPlus contract for the online hosting and live streaming for the amount of \$6,900.00 provided Nick Sauter reviews and approves the contract. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve the CivicPlus contract for the Codification of the Ordinances and Resolutions for the initial amount of \$8,950.00 and with a renewal in the amount of \$2,495.00 provided Nick Sauter reviews and approves the contract. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- ARPA funds will be used to provide Parke County residents access to broadband through Joink. Joink has not turned in an invoice yet but Parke County will owe them \$936,000.00. This will be distributed as Joink gives access to the community residents. Jim Meece approved the use of ARPA funds for the payment of the Parke County Community Broadband access through Joink. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carred unanimously.
- Nick Sauter stated that the attorneys response to the Tort Claim for Foltz was that Parke County has no liability for the claim being filed. This was an incident that occurred at Raccoon State Parke Boat Rental which is not under the jurisdiction of Parke County. There should be no reproccussion on Parke County for any negligence in this matter.
- There were nine out of cycle checks for the Business Recovery Program Grants needing approval and they are as follows:

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|---------------------------|------------|
| Hurricane Hill | \$1,000.00 |
| NAPA Auto Parts | \$1,000.00 |
| Britton Winery | \$1,000.00 |
| Rusted Root | \$1,000.00 |
| Brother Bear Construction | \$1,000.00 |
| The Clay Plant | \$1,000.00 |
| Urban Farm Chic | \$1,000.00 |
| Tom Poynter | \$1,000.00 |
| Off Duty Flagpoles | \$ 762.37 |

Jim Meece made the motion to approve the nine out of cycle checks for the Business Recovery Program Grants. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

There were another six miscellaneous out of cycle checks needing approval and they are as follows:

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|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Taylor, Minnette and Schneider | \$ 200.00 |
| West Central Solid Waste District | \$ 20,195.00 |
| INdigital | \$ 19,774.26 |
| Sound Communications | \$ 13,051.47 |
| Branson Insurance | \$ 188,953.00 |
| Milestone Contractors | \$1,322,452.45 |

Jim Meece made the motion to approve the six miscellaneous out of cycle checks. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- Jim Meece stated that there was one Highway Bid that did no get accepted because it did not include a bond or check. There was another bid that did get accepted that did not have a bond or check because they were an existing contractor renewing a bid with Parke County.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Nicole Collings, Parke County Clerk:

- The Monthly Report from the Clerk of Parke County Circuit Courts was reviewed by the Board of Commissioners.

Beth Martin, Parke County Planning and Zoning:

- ARPA funds will be used for the Comprehensive Master Plan for the Planning Commission. Beth Martin informed the Commissioners that Cyndi Todd was unable to find any grants available to help. Beth Martin is planning a kick off meeting in the beginning of January 2025. Nick Sauter has reviewed the contract. Jim Meece made the motion to approve HWC's contract for \$70,000.00. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Jason Frazier, Parke County Sheriff:

- Jason Frazier requested approval to purchase a drone for the Parke County Sheriff's Department. This drone costs \$15,000.00. Jason Frazier would like to pursue grants through The Community Foundation and Parke County REMC to cover the cost of the drone. The Commissioners granted approval for Jason Frazier to pursue grants to cover the cost of a drone for the Parke Sheriff's Department.

Angie Mathas, Parke County Plat Office:

- Angie Mathas is wanting to seek a grant to scan the platbooks which will allow the deeds to come through a lot better. She just received a quote from the same company Mary Alice Gregg, the Parke County Recorder, used to scan the documents in the Recorder's Office. Angie Mathas has not had a chance to look over the quote. The estimate is around \$28,000.00 to scan all the platbooks. The Transfer Books have already been scanned. The Commissioners gave Angie Mathis the approval to seek a grant to cover the cost of scanning the platbooks.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Chester Crague has attended and presented his request to close an alley located adjacent to his property in Bridgeton, IN during several Parke County Board of Commissioners' meetings in the past. He is here again to talk about closing this alley. Chester Crague has had some discussions with the other property owners involved in the closure of the alley. Dan Collom explained that Matt Collom has agreed to move his fence twenty feet to the south. However, if Webster Street is closed that would place Matt Collom's fence in the water. He is concerned with where his fence would be placed and having access to his fence as well. There was some mention about Chester Crague and the Browers selling a portion of their lands to Matt Collom so he would have access to his property and fence. The Browers have not answered back regarding this request. Jim Meece stated that the three property owners need to come to some agreement in order for Parke County to close this alley. They may have to seek a mediator to help in the process of coming to an agreement for the alley closure.
- Neysa Sandusky from the Parke County Inc. requested approval to promote two Dine on a Covered Bridge events in 2025. They would like to use the Mecca Covered Bridge if it is good to use. Dan Collom recalled that the northwest corner might have had some damage. This presented the question as to if Parke County is inspecting the bridges that are bypassed or can Parke County do this and how much it would cost. Dan will try to take a look at the bridge. The

Commissioners gave Neysa Sandusky the go ahead to make her plans to have two covered bridge dinning events for 2025. She will use the Mecca Covered Bridge in May and the Bridgeton Covered Bridge in August. She expects around 110 people to attend each event. Jim Meece made the motion for Neysa Sandusky to promote two Dine on a Covered Bridge events in 2025. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Neysa Sandusky presented an overview of the Covered Bridge Festival. PCI has a \$10,000.00 outstanding bill with the Town of Rockville for electricity. The most expensive cost for the Covered Bridge Festival was with ACE Party Rentals for the rental of tents. Neysa Sandusky inquired if Parke County would be willing to contribute \$25,000.00 in 2025 as they did in 2024. PCI is still in need for those funds especially for building improvements. Jim Meece recommended PCI to submit invoices for reimbursement for the tents. He requested that PCI bring the invoice to the next meeting and the Commissioners will approve the \$25,000.00 reimbursement at that time.

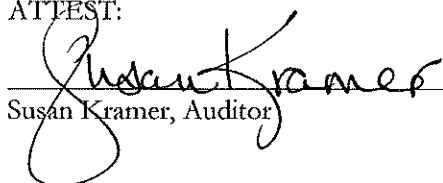
ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Dan Collom and seconded by Bruce Hartman. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.


Jim Meece, President


Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President


Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:


Susan Kramer, Auditor