

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 7th, 2020, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, November 16th, 2020.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Commissioners Jim Meece, President; Dan R. Collom, First Vice-President; Bruce Hartman, Second Vice President; Laura Fischer, Auditor; Tammy Thomas, Third Deputy Auditor; and County Attorney Nick Sauter. Also present were Karla Losin, Cassie Wittenmyer, Cyndi Todd, Randy Norman, Jim Erickson of TDM Farms, Pam Sanders, George Smith, Justin Cole, and Gretchen Wittenmyer-Stone from the Parke County Sentinel.
- III. **LARRY BEMIS:** Jim Meece expressed the Commissioner's sorrow and condolences to the family of Larry Bemis of the Parke County Sentinel, and numerous organizations and boards at his unexpected passing and the loss of his knowledge regarding the county. A moment of silence and prayer was also held. Pearl Harbor Day and all involved with that in 1941 was also acknowledged by the Board.
- IV. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting on October 5th, 2020 and the regular meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 were approved upon a motion made by Dan R. Collom and seconded by Bruce Hartman, the motion carried unanimously.
- V. **PAYROLL:** County payroll in the amount of \$221,634.95 (Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>) was approved on a motion made by Bruce Hartman and seconded by Dan R. Collom. The motion passed unanimously. County payroll in the amount of \$182,124.95 (Dec 7<sup>th</sup>) was approved for release on Monday, December 7th, 2020 on a motion made by Dan R. Collom and seconded by Bruce Hartman and it carried unanimously. Dan R. Collom made a motion acknowledging receipt of the Payroll Accounts Payable Report in the amount of \$234,186.64. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- VI. **CLAIMS:** After reviewing the Claims Docket, claims in the amount of \$511,017.68 were approved for release on December 7th, 2020 on a motion made by Bruce Hartman and seconded by Dan R. Collom. The motion carried unanimously.
- VII. **HAND TYPED CHECKS:** Jim Meece made a motion to pay Commonwealth Engineers claim of \$12,000 to cover the redevelopment grant. The motion was seconded by Dan R. Collom and the motion passed unanimously. The following checks were presented to be written as out of cycle claims: G&M Ace Hardware, \$272.37; WTH, \$500; M. Waldrige, \$100; Cleaver Cabling, \$500; Culligan, \$22.90; Cleaver Cabling, \$750; and Parke Co. Lumber, \$97.80. These claims were approved to be written out of cycle on a motion made by Dan R. Collom and seconded by Bruce Hartman. The motion passed unanimously.
- VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - Cassie Wittenmyer of the Planning and Zoning Commission presented an ordinance requested by the Planning Commission at their November meeting. The ordinance requests the rezoning of six acres in Hollandsburg for North Star Storage. This property would be re-zoned from Ag Production to Commercial General. Jim Meece made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-25

rezoning the Hollandsburg property at a same day same meeting. Dan R. Collom seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Jim Meece made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-25 as presented. The motion was seconded by Dan R. Collom and it passed unanimously. November construction is up to almost \$2 million. Jim Meece mentioned that the old Shopko building is re-investing in the county with a \$2 million expansion besides the Planning & Zoning total. They expect to create about 11 new jobs. This is an opportunity for families to make a real wage and families to find jobs here, raise their families here, buy houses here and not have to go searching for work elsewhere. The Board deeply appreciates the investment in the county.

- Karla Losin of Branson Insurance presented the 2021 Workmen Compensation Insurance. The policy is due for renewal on January 5, 2021. The increase of 1.14 – 1.16 is not from rate change, but from increased payroll. In 2020, there were 21 claims, but only eight of those generated any payment. Projected premium for 2021 is \$126,749. Monthly safety meetings continuing each month. IPEP does attend each month, however due to COVID, it is held by teleconference now. Ms. Losin requested the Board to encourage all departments to send at least one member to the meetings. Bruce Hartman made the motion to renew the workmen's compensation insurance with the quote of \$126,749. Dan R Collom seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- George Smith-2021 County Liability Insurance. Cyber liability renewed December 2. In 2019 the premium was \$9,572 and in 2020 it was \$9,804. Mr. Smith is confident we are adequately insured. The premium is based on county revenues. The county's insurance was sent out for bids. Some of the insurance companies refused to bid because of the county's 78% loss ratio. The county will be once again going with Traveler's insurance. The buildings were previously under a blanket policy. This year, due to the renovations and the fact that the courthouse is an historical building, and on the Register of Historical Buildings it has its own policy. This policy is a \$15 million replacement cost policy. The vehicle coverage cost has increased due to the cost of replacing new vehicles. Property insurance is around \$7,000 more. Everything except cyber totals up to \$205,126. In 2019 it was \$183,000. County Attorney Nick Sauter requested Mr. Smith send him the policy that includes the language of refusing to settle court cases. Jim Meece made the motion to accept the insurance premiums as presented contingent upon Attorney Nick Sauter's approval of the language of refusing to settle court cases. Also, to give Mr. Sauter the approval to contact Mr. Smith and give the go ahead with the policies. Dan R. Collom seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The contracts will be signed today, however, are meaningless without Mr. Sauter's approval.
- Jim Erickson of TDM Farms appeared before the board to notify the county that next fall TDM Farms may have to truck out some of the manure generated by the sow farm. Approximately 8,000 gallons of manure hauled by a semi tanker weighing approximately 80,000 pounds will be hauled over the county roads 600W and 700W in the northern part of the county during a time span of 2-3 weeks next fall. Highway Superintendent Randy Norman stated that he thought the county roads could handle this. TDM Farms will take responsibility if any county roads are damaged due to the hauling.
- The Board reviewed the Disaster Recovery Services Agreement between the Recorder's office and Computer Systems Inc for 2021. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve the agreement with Computer Systems Inc for 2021. The motion was seconded by Dan R. Collom and it passed unanimously.
- The Board reviewed the 2021 schedule of claims due in office dates and date claims paid. Dan R. Collom made a motion to adopt the schedule of claim dates due in office and date claims paid for 2021. The motion was seconded by Bruce Hartman passed unanimously.

- The Board reviewed the 2021 Commissioner Meeting schedule. Dan R. Collom made the motion to adopt the schedule of the 2021 Commissioner's meetings. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Resolution 2020-26 regarding the choosing of option 2 formalization for reimbursement of the Cares Act for Public Health and Safety was presented to the board for signatures. This resolution states that the CARES Act reimbursement be receipted into the Parke County CARES Act fund # 8905.
- Jeremy Zientek from Energy Harness Corporation appeared before the Board and presented an LED lighting proposal for the courthouse for a total of \$41,290.33. Commissioner Hartman explained that the lighting upgrade agreed to at the jail was a no cost up front agreement. Whereas, this one is not. Due to the COVID outbreak and revenues being down the next two years, neither the Parke County Council nor the Commissioners are interested at this time.
- The Board reviewed the Traveler claim.
- The Board reviewed a letter regarding a request for road repair on 275 South and Fisher Road. Randy Norman, of the Highway Department said this would be taken care of next year if the money holds out.
- The Board reviewed the Planning Commission report.
- Auditor, Laura Fischer advised the Commissioners that the salary encumbrance has been off for several years. There has always been split pay in the Auditor office in the past with hours worked in December would be paid in compliance with the prior year salary ordinance in effect for December. The hours worked in January would be paid in compliance with the new salary ordinance in effect January 1. It is possible that one of the January pays would have December hours at the old rate and January hours at the new rate on the same pay. The Parke County Council has decided to change the payroll procedures to be paid out on February 14, 2020, the payroll checks to be paid would catch up to first part of year for the budget of 2020. Auditor Fischer, has audited each employee salary for 2020 and found that the employees should be paid their regular pay on January 4, 2021 to balance out the 2020 Salary Ordinance. Auditor Fischer plans to present this information to the council at the Thursday, December 10 meeting.

## **IX. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

**Parke County Emergency Management, Julie Lanzone: absent**

**Parke County EMA/E911, Chris O'Brien: absent**

**Parke County Sheriff, Justin Cole:**

- The jail is housing 53 inmates. By the end of 2020, the jail will have invoiced \$203,218.50.
- 4,947 meals have been served through November.
- The jail is short two jail officers.
- There has been no quarantine of inmates or employees and no COVID positives.
- The two Ford Taurus' have been in accidents and totaled. A 2014 Chevy Tahoe was purchased.

**Parke County Highway, Randy Norman:**

- The sealed 2021 Highway Material Bids were opened and read by County Attorney Nick Sauter.
- Requested two checks, one in the amount of \$8,699.49 to VS Engineering for bridge inspection, and one for \$30,000 to Mager Farms for the purchase of a tri-axle trailer to be processed outside

of the regular claim cycle. Bruce Hartman made a motion to allow the out of cycle checks to be processed. Dan R. Collom seconded the motion and the motion carried.

- Cardinal Road has been ground up and has 2-3 layers of stone and will be this way until Spring to let the stone settle and indicate weak spots in the roadway. 275S and Fisher Road have been patched.

**Parke County Redevelopment Commission, Cyndi Todd:**

- There has been interest in some of the parcels that didn't sell at the tax sale. These properties will be sold by sealed bid that needs to be received before January 26, 2021 at 6:00 pm. Bids for the former Lee Alan Bryant property east of Rockville on 36 will be accepted, however, an Indiana Brownfield survey is pending. A complete list of properties is available at the Redevelopment Commission Office at 110 East High Street in Rockville.
- Applications for the OCRA Covid response grants for next year is due January 29, 2021 for \$250,000. This grant can be used for mental health, child care, public WIFI, food pantries or banks, or subsidence loans to businesses. The Board gave the Redevelopment Commission their encouragement to go after these grants.

X. **PERSONS REQUESTING TIME ON THE AGENDA:** none

XI. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

XII. Jim Meece made the announcement that because of Parke County being in the red for COVID, the Commissioner's meetings will be limited to twelve persons attending each meeting until further notice. These include the three commissioners, the auditor, third deputy auditor, the county attorney, and department heads making reports to the Board. If anyone needs to appear before the Board other than these people, they are asked to call and request to be at the meeting so seating arrangements can be made. Also, during this time, John Martin, of Parke Without Reverse will be live streaming the meetings online.

XIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Dan R. Collom and seconded by Bruce Hartman. The meeting adjourned at 5:39 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:

*Laura J Fischer*

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Laura Fischer, Auditor