

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 2nd, 2026

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 2nd, 2026, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, January 20th, 2026.
  - II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Jim Meece, President; Dan Collom, first Vice President; Bruce Hartman, Second Vice President; Nick Sauter, Commissioners' Attorney; Susan Kramer, Auditor; and Leanna Collisi, 2nd Deputy Auditor. Also, present were Mark Spelbring, Jason Frazier, Matt Romalia, Kim Shorter, Beth Martin, Cassandra Wathen, Geri Pavich, Linda Roessler and Josh Gaskill.
  - III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, January 20th, 2026 were approved on a motion from Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- I. **PAYROLL:**

**Note: \*\*The Parke County Board of Commissioners is not approving authenticity of the claims presented but are approving what claims are received.\*\***

Acknowledgement of receipt of Payroll Claims Accounts Payable Report for February 2nd, 2026 in the amount of \$269,918.23 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Accounts Payable Claims in the amount of \$1,511,284.02 were approved in a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
  - II. **NEW BUSINESS:**
    - Nick Sauter, the Parke County Board of Commissioners' Attorney, composed Ordinance 2026-04, amending the allowable fee schedule for the volunteer fire departments. At the last Parke County Board of Commissioners' Meeting, the Commissioners agreed to amend the old fees that were included in the Ordinance 1994-1. Jim Meece made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-04, Same Day, Same Meeting. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Jim Meece made a motion to approve setting a new fee schedule for the volunteer fire departments in Parke County and Ordinance 2026-04 will become effective after thirty days from being published in the Parke County Sentinel. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
    - Chris O'Brien presented Resolution 2026-01 regarding the Parke County Hazard Mitigation Plan to the Parke County Board of Commissioners. Dan Collom made a motion to accept the Resolution 2026-01-Parke County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
    - Chris O'Brien has applied for Federal Funds to help Parke County with the extra costs of the recent winter storm in January 2026 through the Parke County Disaster Emergency Declaration in January 2026.
    - Jim Meece informed the Parke County Board of Commissioners that the Parke County Assessor is wanting to apply for Indiana to become a Broadband Infrastructure Investment Zone. There are benefits to the County to become a Broadband Infrastructure Investment Zone. Jim Meece made the motion to grant the Parke County Assessor the authority to apply for Indiana to become a Broadband Infrastructure Zone. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
    - The Parke County Board of Commissioners appointed a temporary trustee for Penn Township. Jim Meece made the motion to appoint Brenda Irelan as the temporary trustee for Penn Township. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
    - Beth Martin, Planning and Zoning Administrator, brought a rezoning request to the Parke County Board of Commissioners. This rezoning request was from Walker Core LLC to rezone Ag to

Commercial for the Walker Boat Ramp Storage facility. The Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning Commission both denied the rezoning request from Ag to Commercial. They wanted to bring this rezoning request to the Parke County Board of Commissioners because the Commissioners can approve and override the initial decision made by the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning Commission. Jim Meece made the motion to accept the recommendation from the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning Commission to reject the rezoning request from Ag to Commercial made by Walker Core LLC. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Jim Meece mentioned that the Parke County Highway Secretary will be retiring at the end of July 2026. The replacement would begin training May 1st, 2026 at Deputy Pay and then be increased to the Highway Secretary Regular Pay beginning August 1st, 2026. If an internal applicant takes the position, the training may be increased to four months to include training time for the internal applicant's current position. The Parke County Commissioners agreed to post the Parke County Highway Secretary position internally for five days beginning February 9th, 2026. On February 16th, 2026, the position will be advertised externally in the Parke County Sentinel with the deadline for applications to be at the end of the day on March 13th, 2026. On March 23rd, 2026, the Parke County Commissioners will decide who to interview within the next two weeks. The Parke County Auditor needs to locate the job description for the Highway Department Secretary position for this process to begin. Dan Collom suggested that Matt Romalia, the Parke County Highway Superintendent, be involved in selecting the applicant for the Parke County Highway Secretary.

### **III. OLD BUSINESS:**

- None

### **IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

#### **Matt Romalia, Parke County Highway Superintendent:**

- Matt Romalia informed the Parke County Board of Commissioners that the Highway Department employees worked twelve hours on Sunday and ten hours on Monday during the January 2026 Snowstorm. Most of the snow has been cleared and sanded. There were not a lot of phone calls during the snowstorm.
- The Highway Department employees have hauled 1200 tons of sand and four tankers of calcium chloride to replace what was used during the snowstorm. Beet sand has been replenished as well. Calcium chloride works until the temperature goes to minus seventeen degrees and beet juice works until the temperatures reach minus thirty-nine degrees.
- The Lacerator has arrived at Westside. This piece of equipment is leased. Matt Romalia stated that this lease is lower than what was anticipated.
- Jim Meece stated the LTAP Board Meeting met the last Thursday. Jim Meece would still like to have Matt Romalia investigate what is used to repair the Amish lanes on the roads. Matt Romalia replied that the piece of equipment that is used to repair the Amish lanes is called an Asphalt Zipper.
- Milestone Bid came in \$106,000.00 less than was expected.
- Jim Meece mentioned that the Gravel Pit needs to be cleaned up in the dump areas, specifically the northeast section of the Gravel Pit. Matt Romalia plans to install a new gate with a lock.
- The Parke County Highway Department is waiting on two more leased trucks that are at Myers and a triaxle dump truck that is at Higgs. Matt Romalia is hoping to have the triaxle dump truck by the end of February 2026.

- Ian Kyle has passed his CDL Permit and he will be attending CDL training in Greencastle at Area 30. This is still a state reimbursable training program for the County.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Josh Gaskill with SJCA Inc. introduced himself to the Parke County Board of Commissioners. SJCA Inc. is a Civil Engineering Firm that specializes in bridge work. His company has worked on Covered Bridges. They also do bridge inspections and design.

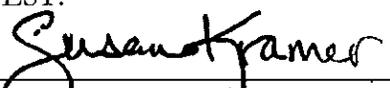
**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Dan Collom and seconded by Bruce Hartman. The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

  
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Jim Meece, President

  
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Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President

  
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Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:

  
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Susan Kramer, Auditor