

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**February 16th, 2026**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 16th, 2026, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, February 2nd, 2026.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Jim Meece, President; Dan Collom, first Vice President; Bruce Hartman, Second Vice President; Susan Kramer, Auditor; and Leanna Collisi, 2nd Deputy Auditor. Also, present were Mark Spelbring, Julie Lanzone, Chris Newcomb, Kim Shorter, Chris Novotney, Ray Leonburger, Courtney Cook, Austin Cook and Jerry Newlin.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, February 2nd, 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.\*\***

County payroll in the amount of \$195,084.34 was approved for release on Monday, February 9th, 2026 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 February 9th, 2026 in the amount of \$210,411.80 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

II. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- The Parke County Auditor, Susan Kramer, presented the Parke County Board of Commissioners with a letter informing West Central Solid Waste District that the 2026 appointment to the West Central Solid Waste District Board is Dan Collom. The Parke County Board of Commissioners has also designated George Nichols to serve as a proxy for Dan Collom for the calendar year 2026. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the 2026 appointment for the West Central Solid Waste District Board as well as naming George Nichols as the proxy for the calendar year 2026. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Kim Shorter, Parke County Treasurer, explained the 2026 Parke County Investment Policy to the Parke County Board of Commissioners. The only change from last year is that Riddell Bank was added to the 2026 Parke County Investment Policy. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the 2026 Parke County Investment Policy. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Chris Novatney from West Side Tractor had Jim Meece sign the 2026 Grader Leases for the Parke County Highway Department. The Parke County Council has approved the 2026 Grader Leases as well. There were three out-of-cycle checks that needed to be written and approved. The first check was for \$61,722.50 to West Side Tractor and the second check was for \$258,867.90 to John Deere Financial. Jim Meece made a motion to approve the checks to West Side Tractor and John Deere Financial. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The third check was to PowerPlan for \$61,722.50. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the check to Powerplan. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Nick Sauter had prepared Ordinance 2026-05 in which Motor vehicle traffic on CR 300 S from the intersection with County Road 300 S and Walker Boat Ramp Rd. to the intersection with CR 300 S and Graves Rd., all in Parke County, Indiana, shall not exceed the speed of (20) twenty miles per hour (mph) at all times. Violators of this ordinance may be charged with a class C infraction with fines imposed up to \$500.00. The Parke County Board of Commissioners had

a few questions for Nick Sauter. The approval of Ordinance 2026-05 was tabled. Dan Collom made the motion to table Ordinance 2026-05. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Courtney Cook from Clay Plant, a pottery studio in Bloomington, IN, asked the Parke County Board of Commissioners to consider Clay Plant as an actual location for the Covered Bridge Festival. There are nine official locations and they would like Clay Plant to become the tenth official location. This is the fourth year that Clay Plant has participated in the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival. Clay Plant has increased their number of vendors each year. They have grown from fifteen vendors to thirty vendors next year and possibly have fifty vendors in the near future. The Commissioners discussed that official sites of the Covered Bridge Festival have always been towns. A set of criteria needs to be created to identify Official Locations of the Covered Bridge Festival and what to do with location outside of Towns. The Parke County Board of Commissioners will have to think about how to address locations outside of the Towns.

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

- Susan Kramer informed the Parke County Board of Commissioners that the Administrative Assistant position at the Parke County Highway Department was advertised internally on Thursday, February 12th, 2026 and will be advertised to the public in the Parke County Sentinel, the Parke County Website and the Parke County Facebook Page on Friday, February 20th, 2026. Applications and Resumes will be received until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13th, 2026. The Parke County Board of Commissioners will review the applications and resumes and schedule interviews.

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

#### **Ray Leonberger, Parke County Veteran's Administration:**

- The Parke County Veterans Administration has had twenty-one new clients with fifteen developing new claims that are in motion. Five clients are in appeals. Six new Veterans are receiving State benefits. Ray Leonberger had one Veteran in the hospital and was homeless when he got out of the hospital. Ray Leonberger was able to use his contacts to have the Veteran stay in a motel until he found permanent housing.
- The Veterans' Van has run fifty-four trips since January 5th, 2026. Fifty-eight percent of the van runs were for Parke County. Right now, the Parke County Veterans Administration has three vehicles to help the Veterans to medical appointments. However, Ray Leonberger explained that his administration will be losing the DAV large van. Ray Leonberger has discussed with Vermillion and Putnam Counties about donating \$5,000.00 each along with Parke County to purchase a new van. If we were to get \$15,000.00 then the Disabled American Veterans will give another \$15,000.00 totaling \$30,000.00 towards the purchase of a new van. Usually, the DAV gets the vehicle back when it reaches 100,000 miles. Ray Leonberger is going to try to change this return to be when the vehicle reaches 200,000 miles instead.
- Ray Leonberger mentioned that Senator Banks has been working to get a POW back from Cambodia and to create a Statute to get all the benefits back to this Veteran that he has missed out on during his imprisonment in Cambodia. Senator Banks may be someone to contact to help with any Veteran issues that Parke County may need assistance with.
- Jim Meece also knows a Veteran that needs dental benefits. Ray Leonberger stated that the VA has new dental benefits and for Jim Meece to direct the Veteran to him for more information.

### **Julie Lanzone, Parke County Ambulance:**

- Julie Lanzone reported that the call volume of Parke County EMS has been average about the same as last year. The Parke County EMS came in well ahead in revenue. Above \$1 million collected last year.
- Julie Lanzone will have another Annual Contract to sign with Vermillion County for Parke County managing their Ambulance services. She would like all parties to sign the contract by Docusign. Nick Sauter has approved the Ambulance Service Contract. The original contract was supposed to be auto renewed but it did not. However, this ambulance contract will automatically renew on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Vermillion County currently owns two ambulances and is working on purchasing a third ambulance. They have also purchased a building to store their ambulances in. Vermillion County has also increased its monthly fees that it pays to Parke County to stay on top of ambulance expenses that Parke County manages. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve the contract between Parke County and Vermillion County to manage Vermillion County's Ambulance Service and to authorize Jim Meece to Docusign the contract when it is completed for signatures. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

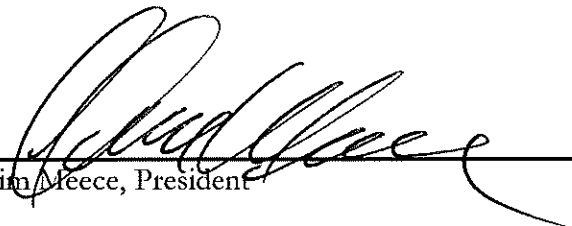
### **Chris Newcomb, Rockville Lake Park:**

- Chris Newcomb informed the Parke County Board of Commissioners that his residence needs to upgrade the septic tank to a 1,100-gallon septic tank. UMAC has priced the septic replacement at \$4,500.00 and Chris Newcomb will use money from the 2026 Budget. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the septic tank upgrade at the Rockville Lake Manager's Residence. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Rockville Lake has an overgrowth of Lilly Pads in the lake. They have taken over coves heavily. Rockville Lake has never been dredged either. There are not any government grants to help with this problem because Lilly Pads are native to Indiana. It is estimated to cost around \$40,000.00 to have the Lilly Pads removed by a Lilly Pad Combine which will remove the Lilly Pads and their root systems as well. Chris Newcomb was hoping to have Parke County give \$20,000.00 and have Little Raccoon Conservancy give another \$20,000.00 to clear up the Lilly Pad problem at Rockville Lake Park.

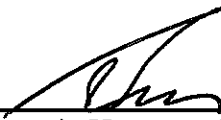
## **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Jerry Newlin spoke with Jim Meece before the meeting began regarding a creek crossing on the south end of Bloomingdale. This creek crossing was washed out a long time ago and has gotten progressively worse to cross especially when heavy rains occur. This creek crossing is near Leatherwood and Hilltop roads. Jerry Newlin would like to see 2 culverts installed along with a permanent concrete structure to pass over. Matthew Collom from Collom Excavating will investigate this request to see what can be done to remedy this situation with the creek crossing.

**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 4:55 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