

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 2nd, 2026

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 2nd, 2026, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, February 16th, 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, Matt Romalia, Kim Shorter, Courtney Cook, Tim Smith, Josh Gaskill, Steve Collisi and Cassandra Wathen.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, February 16th, 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 \$198,574.20 was approved for release on Monday, February 23rd, 2026 on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Another County payroll in the amount of \$192,399.81 was approved for release on Monday, March 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 March 9th, 2026 in the amount of \$172,116.88 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 \$1,447,432.25 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 2026-05, reducing the speed limit of 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 Commissioners were concerned with the proposed twenty miles per hour speed limit and how many residents are requesting this speed limit reduction. Matt Romalia stated that the Detweiler's were the only residents requesting this reduction in speed since their business is located in this area. Matt Romalia also mentioned that part of the speed limit would be twenty miles per hour in front of the Detweiler's business and the rest of the area be thirty miles per hour. Matt Romalia will have to assist Nick Sauter in rewriting Ordinance 2026-05 to reflect the correct speed limits in this area. Nick Sauter will have to bring corrected Ordinance 2026-05 to the next Board of Commissioners meeting. Ordinance 2026-05 was tabled for further clarification.
    - There were five out of cycle check requests needing approval. The first out of cycle check request is from PNC Equipment Finance in the amount of \$3,148.83. The second and third out of cycle check requests comes from Rockin L, LLC in the amounts of \$5,368.00 and \$960.00. The fourth out of cycle check request is from INDOT in the amount of \$1,270.77. The fifth out of cycle check request is from VS Engineering in the amount of \$26,960.00. Jim Meece made a motion to approve the five out of cycle check requests. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### III. OLD BUSINESS:

- Collom Excavating presented an estimate to repair the Leatherwood Creek Bridge crossing on Hilltop Road which came in at \$39,640.00. This repair includes new culvert pipes and new footers. Collom Excavating will provide concrete, rebar and labor. The County will provide riprap and culvert pipes. Jim Meece asked Matt Romalia if he had this money in his budget and Matt Romalia said no. He would like to have the Parke Council produce the funds. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve contingent on Parke County Council's approval and funding that the Leatherwood Creek Bridge crossing be repaired by Collom Excavating with an estimate of \$39,640.00. Jim Meece seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Matt Romalia will have to work this bridge repair into the Parke County Highway's schedule.
- Courtney and Austin Cook with Clay Plant in Bloomingdale, IN requested to become an Official Location for the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival during the last Board of Commissioners' meeting. At that time, the Parke County Commissioners wanted to have Courtney Cook produce specific requirements to be an Official Covered Bridge Location. CVC does the map advertising for the Covered Bridge Festival and there is a deadline to be included in this year's map advertisement. Clay Plant would like to be included on the Map Advertisement if approved to be an Official Location for the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival. A new ordinance needs to be created. This new ordinance would be for those venues that are outside of a town and would like to become a designated location for the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival. Jim Meece would like to have a policy in place before approving any new Official Locations for the Covered Bridge Festival. Bruce Hartman is ready to approve Clay Plant as an Official Location. Nick Sauter recommended creating a Resolution based on the number of vendors and present it to the Parke County Board of Commissioners. Courtney Cook had emailed the Parke County Board of Commissioners her version of a Proposed Criteria for Official Festival Locations. So, with this Proposed Criteria, the Board of Commissioners decided to make this a policy for extra destination sites during the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival. This Resolution will be codified and Nick Sauter will have this new resolution at the next Parke County Board of Commissioners' Meeting for signing. The new Resolution for Official Location during the Covered Bridge Festival will read as follows:

*To promote fairness, consistency and clear operational standards for all approved festival sites during the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival, the follow criteria are required:*

- 1. The location must be outside incorporated town limits.*
- 2. The location must operate as a brick-and-mortar business.*
- 3. The location must host more than twenty vendors who are each paying the required Transient Merchant License fees.*
- 4. The location must provide an appropriate number of porta potties based on vendor count, with units cleaned and maintained regularly throughout the full ten days of the festival.*
- 5. The location must remain open and operational for the entire ten days of the festival.*

Bruce Hartman made a motion to approve the new policy for becoming an Official Location during the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival as a Resolution 2026-02. Jim Meece seconded a motion and it carried unanimously. Jim Meece made a motion to approve and acknowledge Clay Plant as an Official Location/Destination during the Parke County Covered Festival. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

#### IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

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

- Matt Romalia informed the Parke County Board of Commissioners that the Highway Department continues to patch Catlin Road. There have been calls for patching throughout the county. Bridgeton Road and Cemetery Road are bad and need to be addressed as the weather breaks. Hopefully, the residents of the County will have patience with the Highway Department as roads get patched this Spring.
- There was some discussion about Divers inspecting bridges and the regular schedule of Bridge inspections being every 2 years. Joe Clark with VS Engineering needs to be contacted to clarify the VS Engineering billing just received. Parke County has a few special bridge companies they do business with but only one has sent the Parke County Auditor information and that is Kurdziel Barker Engineering. The Auditor does not have any new information from Fishback or VS Engineering.
- All the new Graders are in and the other two pick up trucks are in as well.
- The Bridge on 1200 W passed inspection and is complete.
- The Parke County Highway Department will be concentrating on the ditches and culverts since rain is coming in the next week or so.
- Matt Romalia will be completing two days of Road schooling at Purdue and he will have his Road Builder Certification. Next, Matt Romalia will begin working on his Master Road Builder Certification.
- Chainsaw and John Deere Gradall training will take place in April and May 2026. Jim Meece mentioned to Matt Romalia that Julie Lanzone should be notified of any training so that she can relay that information to IPEP.
- There are two internal resumes and one external application that has been turned in for the Highway Department Administrative Assistant. March 13th, 2026 is the deadline.


#### V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- None

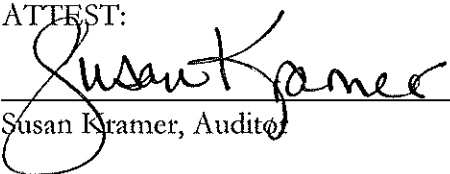
**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Dan Collom and seconded by Bruce Hartman. The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

  
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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