

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 20th, 2025

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 20th, 2025, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, October 06th, 2025.
 - 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 Jessica Lancaster, Sharon Earl, William Hoffman, Mary Patton, Cindy Patton, Jenny Patton, Nicole Collings, Matt Romalia, Karie Ennis and Michael Conly.
 - III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, September 15th, 2025 were approved on a motion from Dan Collom. Jim Meece seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, October 6th, 2025 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 \$280,143.23 and Union Hospital Security payroll in the amount of \$3,430.41 were approved for release on Monday, October 20th, 2025 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 October 20th, 2025 in the amount of \$373,945.71 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - II. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Jim Meece led a discussion regarding continuing to keep the County-wide Burn Ban in place. No rain has been forecasted. Jim Meece asked the other Commissioners to give him authority as President of the Parke County Board of Commissioners to make the decision to lift the County-wide Burn Ban after speaking with the area Fire Chiefs. Dan Collom made the motion for Jim Meece to have the authority to lift the County-wide Burn Ban after speaking with area Fire Chiefs. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Resolution 2025-13 – Designation of Parke County as a Vote Center County was presented to the Parke County Board of Commissioners for approval. Jim Meece asked Nicole Collings, Parke County Clerk, how long will the Vote Center County be in place. Nicole Collings explained that at the election board meeting it was decided to keep the current Vote Centers in place for at least one year. The vote centers can be reevaluated for voting usage and close the vote centers that have the least amount of voter turnout. Jim Meece suggested that the vote centers be reevaluated at least through a Presidential Election. Nicole Collings stated that there will be people to come out to the elderly to help them vote. There will be early voting at the Parke County Courthouse and absentee ballots will be available. Moving to Voting Centers is a positive move. All nine polling locations will remain open. Voters will be able to vote anywhere in Parke County. We can always amend the voter center plan. The public is welcome to attend any election board meeting. The Parke County Council did approve the vote center plan. Nick Sauter stated that he did not see an expiration in the vote center plan. We can go back if we do not like the voting centers at any time. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve Resolution 2025-13 – Designation of Parke County as a Vote Center County. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- The Parke County Board of Commissioners signed the Notice of Supply Dealers. This is a notice to the material dealers of an upcoming deadline to place a bid to be considered by the Parke County Highway Department. The deadline to place a bid is Monday, December 1st, 2025 by 3:30 p.m.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- Jim Meece reminded everyone that on October 25th, 2025 Crawford Street in Annapolis will be closed for a wedding.

IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Matt Romalia, Parke County Highway Superintendent:

- Jim Meece stated that there is a little section on 400 South that needs chip and sealed. Also there is also a small hill that is rough and needs some attention. Matt Romalia will go out and look at it. It may need to be patched then chip and sealed. This may not happen until Spring because of the temperatures.
- The Community Crossings Grant request needs to be submitted. Matt Romalia explained that there are seven roads on the list which are equal to ten miles of road. Jim Meece explained that the Community Crossings has changed to 1 million dollars with lane miles being deducted. For example, if a county has \$300,000 in lane miles, then the Community Crossings Grant would be \$700,000.00. Matt Romalia has been working with Warren with Milestone on the Community Crossings. Warren said his numbers are a rough estimate and will go down as projects get going. Matt Romalia wanted to make sure that Warren understood to be mindful of the mobilization and demobilization of the equipment. It can get expensive for the County.
- Matt Romalia said the Parke County Highway Department will use Duraberm with nines and elevens in gravel. Bill Webster and LTAP have been conducting a study with Duraberm in Steuben County.
- Matt Romalia plans to chip and seal Marshall Road next year and then every five years. He would really like to fog seal it as well.
- Currently Parke County collects \$50.00 per Amish Buggy. In LaPorte County, buggy fees are \$400.00. Road money only comes from gas taxes not property taxes. At some point, Parke County needs to renegotiate fees with the Amish since the buggies are extremely rough on the roads. Common ground needs to be found. The buggy fees need to be commensurate of what is paid by a vehicle. Jim Meece explained that LaPorte, Indiana has a machine to repair the section of road that the buggies use. Having this type of machine might be beneficial to Parke County. Lancaster County uses rubber shoes on the horses and have restricted studded tires.
- The Nevins Covered Bridge will be closed with barricades and pictures will be sent to INDOT. The southwest corner of the bridge is bent and has gotten worse since the Covered Bridge Festival.
- Matt Romalia stated that the Parke County Highway Department will chip and seal a couple more roads before winter. In the Spring, he has plans to chip and seal all of Fisher Road, Coxville Road from Mecca to Slavens Road, Arabia Road, 375 W in the Tangier area to Fountain County Line to 1200, Martin Road from Mansfield to 775 and 210 S off of US 41 a connector road to Fisher Road. Nyesville Road needs to be addressed as well.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Michael Conly with Architura met with Cyndi Todd about the bank building project and thought he would also introduce himself to the Parke County Board of Commissioners. He explained that Architura has worked with Lawrence County on replacing their Courthouse windows and HVAC. Jim Meece met with Matt Stechley from Core Facilities along with three other companies to look at the windows to give us estimates on sealing them. Jim Meece stated that our Courthouse windows on the second floor ultimately need replaced. The lowest bid for sealing the windows is \$50,000.00. The next highest bid was \$68,000.00. Knowing that the Courthouse windows need to eventually be replaced, we need to consider the cost of sealing as a temporary fix versus going ahead and replacing the windows. Jim Meece thanked Michale Conly for visiting the Parke County Board of Commissioners and will keep him in mind as we consider repairing or replacing the Courthouse windows. It was perfect timing.

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 4:42 p.m.

absent

Jim Meece, President

Dan R. Collom

Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President

Bruce A. Hartman

Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:

Susan Kramer

Susan Kramer, Auditor