

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 17th, 2025

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 17th, 2025, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, November 3rd, 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, Kim Shorter, Matt Romalia, Chris Newcomb, Matt Stechley, Andrew Akers and Nick Napier.
 - III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, November 3rd, 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 \$281,680.30 and Union Hospital Security payroll in the amount of \$1,379.86 were approved for release on Monday, November 17th, 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 November 17th, 2025 in the amount of \$203,147.79 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - II. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Matt Stechley from Core Facilities spoke about presenting an interest in submitting a quote to replace the Parke County Courthouse windows. He believes repairing the leaking windows with caulk is short term fix. Jim Meece explained that there are at least two other companies interested in providing a quote for the Courthouse windows. Phil Savage with R.C. Engineering is interested in preparing an estimate. Parke County used R. C. Engineering to repair the Courthouse roof and bell tower. Michael Conly with Architura would also like to be given the chance to present a quote for the replacement of the Courthouse windows as well. The Courthouse windows are at least twenty-five years old or better and there is quite a bit of water damage. Matt Stechley has replaced Martin County's Courthouse windows. Matt Stechley would provide multiple RFPs with several Manufacturers. He can do the replacement in phases and during off hours installation. He would like to see one seamless installation. Matt Stechley would usually give a flat rate quote; however, he feels using a percentage-based quote would be best due to the variable flow of the workload. There are many options for the Courthouse to consider. For example, whether to install composite custom-made windows or permanently closed windows versus windows that can be opened. Most competitors build a budget and always meet or come in just under budget in the end. Matt Stechley would like to go directly to the manufacturers and installers to get the best pricing, giving Parke County many options to choose from. Dan Collom asked what the life expectancy on new windows would be. Matt Stechley replied that twenty to thirty years is the life expectancy of new windows and if the windows were not to be opened, could add an additional ten to twelve years on the life expectancy. Bruce Hartman asked if all the windows need to be replaced. Matt Stechley recommended replacing all the windows.
 - Nick Napier from Brown and Brown Insurance Services presented the 2026 Health Insurance Renewal Proposal to the Parke County Board of Commissioners. He explained the differences between the eight option plans. Nick Napier recommended that the Parke County Board of Commissioners look closely at approving Plan #5 with Anthem. This plan uses the same network

and the Stop Loss remains at \$75,000.00. There is no Laser Liability. Jim Meece wanted to let the employees enjoy their five percent increase for 2026 and recommend to the Parke County Council increasing the 2026 health insurance premiums by only two percent for the employees' share of the insurance costs. Dan Collom and Bruce Hartman both agreed on Plan #5 as well as the two percent increase for the employees. Jim Meece would like to see what the surplus is in our account for insurance premiums. Dan Collom made the motion to approve Plan #5 for the 2026 Healthcare Insurance for the Parke County employees. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. It was agreed upon to have Jim Meece recommend to the Parke County Council a two percent increase in the employees' share of the 2026 Health Insurance premiums. Dan Collom made the motion to recommend a two percent Health Insurance Premium increase to the employees for 2026. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Nick Napier gave an overview of the Centers of Excellence through Hendricks Regional and Ascension/St. Vincent Hospitals. Seven people have taken advantage of the Hendricks Regional Center of Excellence and these people have saved around \$ 5,000.00. No one has used the Cardiovascular Center of Excellence through Ascension/St. Vincent. Forty-three members have been taking advantage of the RxProtect medication plan. There is an IRS mandated increase in the deductible rates for High-Deductible plans for 2026. Currently, we have a \$3,300.00 deductible and in 2026 the deductible will increase to \$3,400.00. There was some discussion about increasing the HSA payout by \$100.00. Nick Napier stated that open enrollment is scheduled for December 2nd, 2025 and Bethany from ProActive MD will also be in attendance to answer any employee questions. He plans to visit the Jail, the Courthouse and the Highway Department. Employees may visit any of these locations to have questions answered during the day. Dental and Vision are in a rate hold and will remain the same for now.

- Andrew Akers with the Parke County Public Library had a position with the Parke County Library Board up for renewal. He wanted to ask for the Parke County Board of Commissioners' approval on re-appointing Lisa Wrightsman to the Parke County Public Library Board. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the appointment of Lisa Wrightsman to the Parke County Public Library Board. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Kim Grayless with Mainstreet of Rockville wanted permission from the Parke County Board of Commissioners to host again Mainstreet Rockville Hometown Holidays. This would also give the people attending this event access to the Courthouse Restrooms. There will be a parade at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 6th, 2025. Then Santa will light the Christmas Tree. Santa will be taking pictures with the children on the main floor of the Courthouse. They will also need two extension cords out of the Northwest side windows for the Hot Chocolate House hosted by Tri Kappa. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the use of the Parke County Courthouse and the grounds during the Mainstreet Rockville Hometown Holidays event on Saturday, December 6th, 2025. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jim Meece had a request from the Otterbein United Methodist Church of Rockville to place a Nativity Scene on the corner of the Courthouse Grounds during the Holiday Season. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the Otterbein United Methodist Church of Rockville placing a Nativity Scene on the corner of the Courthouse Grounds during the Holiday Season. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- There were two out of cycle check requests that needed approval. The first check request was for Marietta Equipment & Diesel in the amount of \$3,530.58 for Field Truck #15. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the out of cycle check request to Marietta Equipment & Diesel in the amount of \$3,530.58. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The second check request in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the bank building's escrow. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the out of cycle check request for the bank building's escrow in the amount of \$10,000.00 per the approval of the Parke County Council. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- None

IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Chris Newcomb, Parke County Rockville Lake Park:

- Chris Newcomb needed Jim Meece's signature to place a seasonal hold on the credit card machine at the Rockville Lake Park Gatehouse.
- Chris Newcomb presented the Parke County Board of Commisisoners with the Rockville Lake Park 2025 Annual Report. There were some unexpected incidents that occurred during the 2025 season. The beach staircase was rebuilt because someone drove into it before the fireworks and the flower box at the flagpole was rebuilt and painted because someone drove into it as well. Christmas in July and the Vintage Camper events were a big hit during the summer. There were eighteen participants in the Vintage Camper event. Chris Newcomb had the Rockville Lake Park brochure revamped. Jim Meece stated that the CVC will reimburse half of the expenses for the brochures up to \$1,000.00. Chris Newcomb will attend the next meeting and present his brochure expenses to them for reimbursement. Chris Newcomb has had major repairs on the main water line and the sewer line in the Park Manager's Residence just recently. The Residence has also received a new roof and siding this year. He is looking at redoing the electricity in the residence in 2027.

Matt Romalia, Parke County Highway:

- Matt Romalia and Jim Meece discussed the Fleet Enterprise truck and equipment document. Jim Meece has not seen the Highway Department's document. Matt Romalia stated that he should be receiving it by email at any time. The Parke County Sheriff has already received their department's vehicle document and Jim Meece has reviewed it.
- The Parke County Highway Department should be receiving two 2026 three-quarter ton pick-up trucks and one 4500 truck.
- Jim Meece wanted to remind Matt Romalia to bring any vehicle purchase recommendations for the Parke County Highway Department to the Parke County Board of Commissioners first and then to the Parke County Council.
- Matt Romalia stated that the new Mac Dump Truck should be delivered next week.
- The Parke County Highway Department has sixteen plows and enough drivers for the plow trucks this winter season.
- Duke Energy still needs to replace a power pole.
- Matt Romalia reported that Bridge #214 was closed. The Highway Department is repairing this bridge which is located near 1200 E toward the Fountain County Line. The corners are rotted out. After putting a new deck and road work to the bridge, the bridge should be good for a while.
- The Bridge on New Discovery Road needs to be replaced. In the meantime, a hole can be patched. In January, the bridge can be addressed appropriately with concrete and rebar reinforcements.
- The Portland Mills bridge is still closed. Dan Collom said he had paid out of his own pocket and for his own knowledge to have Nevins Bridge and Portland Mills Bridge inspected. At some point in time, the Nevins Bridge had been overloaded more than once. It was recommended to change the posts, fix the one diagonal and all the arch ends and put up two temporary supports. This will be a temporary fix for five years or so. The Nevins Bridge needs to have new lower cords and will have to be rehabilitated like the Melcher Bridge. Matt Romalia stated that the Portland Mills Bridge is closed due to rot underneath. Dan Collom said that it is caused by powder beetles and

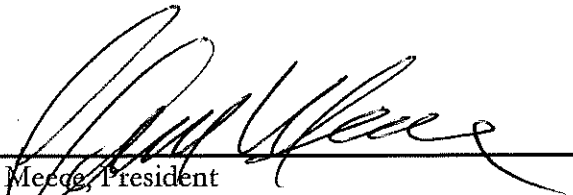
can be fixed to get by for a little bit before it needs to be rehabilitated. Matt Romalia continues to work with Cyndi Todd for funding on repairs to these Parke County Covered Bridges. One suggestion was to invest in portable cameras to ticket people that do not abide by the laws for using these historic covered bridges.

- Patching continues since we have had good weather.
- Many people are very happy with the Melcher Bridge.


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 5:15 p.m.



Jim Meece, President



Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



Susan Kramer, Auditor