

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 15th, 2025

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 15th, 2025, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, December 1st, 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, Jason Frazier, Kathy Collom, Stacie Conner, Julie Lanzone, Kurt Lanzone, Ray Leonberger, George Smith, Ryder Smith and Dakota Wilson.
  - III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, December 1st, 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 \$193,606.38 was approved for release on Monday, December 15th, 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 December 15th, 2025 in the amount of \$233,702.62 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
  - II. **NEW BUSINESS:**
    - Ryder Smith, a student from Parke Heritage, joined the meeting. He is studying Local Government at school and thought attending a Parke County Board of Commissioners Meeting would give him some fairly good insight into how Local Government is run.
    - There was one out of cycle check request that needed approval. The check request was to Rockin L in the amount of \$350.00 for a drain issue at the Parke County Highway Department. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the out of cycle check request to Rockin L in the amount of \$350.00. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
    - Jim Meece questioned Nick Sauter, Parke County Commissioners' Attorney, regarding expired liens on property. Jim Meece wanted to find out if there is a State Code to find liens on properties. Nick Sauter explained that liens stay with the property. The new owner will acquire those liens attached to the property being sold if the liens are not found and satisfied before the sale. This is a good example of why to use a Title Company to research liens attached to properties. A lien is good for ten years. It is the responsibility of the original owner of the lien to reup the lien and notify the lienholder if the lien has expired or the owner is moving.
    - George Smith with MJS Insurance presented the 2026 Parke County Liability Insurance Renewal to the Parke County Board of Commissioners. Bliss-McKnight handles Parke County's automobile, liability and physical damage coverages, which will increase approximately 4.89% from last year with a cost of \$322,866.00 for 2026/2027. Property-Owners insurance handles Parke County's Commercial Property coverage for the county buildings. The 2026/2027 Commercial Property insurance will increase 9% from last year. The cost for the 2026/2027 Commercial Property insurance renewal will increase to \$108,940.00. When Parke County adds the 4-H Buildings to its policy, we will add endorsements to the main policy. This will increase the premium. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the renewal of the 2026/2027 Auto, Liability

and Property insurances through Bliss-McKnight and Property-Owners insurance companies. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Chris O'Brien asked the Parke County Board of Commissioners to approve their Emergency Management Advisory Council Appointment. Darla Burgess is the appointee. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve the Parke County Commissioners' appointment of Darla Burgess to the Emergency Management Advisory Council. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Beth Martin was unable to attend the meeting. She wanted to request approval for the Parke County Flood Plain Mitigation Plan. Jim Meece tabled the approval of the Parke County Flood Plain Mitigation Plan. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Kurt Lanzone from the Parke County Extension Office requested permission to purchase a booklet maker from Ricoh for the cost of \$43.73 per month for forty-eight months. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the purchase of a booklet maker from Ricoh for the Parke County Extension Office. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

### III. OLD BUSINESS:

- None

### IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

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

- Matt Romalia reported that the 2026 Community Crossing was approved for the roads that were signed off on by the Parke County Commissioners earlier. Fifteen miles of roads throughout the County will be paved in 2026. The Parke County Commissioners signed off on the Notice to Public and Bidders for the 2026 Community Crossings. Janie Hardman, Parke County Highway Department Administrative Assistant, will advertise the Notice to Public and Bidders - Parke County Asphalt Paving – 2026-1 Des# 2501289. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the Notice to Public and Bidders. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- The new Mack tandem is at Vomac and will be picked up tomorrow. This unit has a more efficient blade on it.
- The Parke County Highway Department was out Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday clearing snow around the County. People were very appreciative of all the arduous work it took to keep the roads clear. The Parke County Commissioners extended their gratitude to all the Parke County Highway Employees as well.
- Bridge 214 on 1200 is being repaired. The Parke County Highway Department will begin work on the Nevins Covered Bridge when the weather clears. Portland Mills Covered Bridge can be patched up and will last three to five years with the installation of two temporary supports. Cyndi Todd has been seeking out Federal Emergency Money to help with the rebuilding of the Portland Mills Covered Bridge.
- There have been some violations regarding the weight limitations of 100 N this past Thursday and Friday. A milk truck says he is under fourteen tons. He continues to get milk from Sunset View and several other Amish farms/businesses in which he travels down roads that do not allow semis. Signage is well posted in advanced. The only recourse the County may have is to have the Sheriff sit on site and fine the truck drivers in violation. As well as call the DOT for weight verification.
- Matt Romalia has one position to fill for a Laborer.
- He has one employee to pass the CDL training/testing. Eight Parke County Highway employees have taken advantage of this CDL program this year.

- Janie Hardman will be retiring on the first of August 2026. Matt Romalia would like to see someone in this position by the end of May 2026 to allow for training.

#### **Ray Leonberger, Parke County Veterans Administration:**

- Ray Leonberger reported that the new Veterans Transportation Van has accounted for transporting 28% of Parke County Veterans to appointments. There have been 473 requests to take Veterans to appointments.
- Ray Leonberger has helped thirteen people get other services like obtaining a fishing license and tax deductions.
- Ray Leonberger has filed thirty-six claims over the past thirty days and most of which were on appeals due to the government shutdown. He has placed four new claims to bring in more tax-free dollars for the County.
- The Parke County Veterans Administration has hosted two Veterans' Day Programs in Parke County.

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

- Julie Lanzone presented the Parke County Board of Commissioners with the Ambulance Monthly Report. The Parke County Ambulance Service had 151 responses and 122 transports for the month of November. Vermillion County had 167 responses and 139 transports for the month of November. The revenue for Parke County is \$889,184.36 and the revenue for Vermillion County is \$848,945.63. Collections are down due to a state requirement making County ambulance services an in-network service for insurance companies. These insurance companies pay within 30 days as required by the state. The Ambulance Service uses 911 Billing and for collections they use Arbor Professional Solutions.
- Julie Lanzone announced that the Crew Breakfast is scheduled for January 25th, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Ambulance Service.
- Vermillion County operations are going well. Vermillion County is planning to purchase a building in Cayuga for one of their ambulances.
- The Parke County Ambulance Service is down a full-time employee. She fell while decontaminating her clothing. She broke her hip. They are not sure how long she will be off work. She is planning to retire soon. Vermillion County is down an employee. She is doing well and waiting to have an MRI on her shoulder. She may very likely have to have surgery.
- Parke County Ambulance Services passed their CSR inspection. Julie Lanzone reached out to the DEA and is waiting for them to complete their inspection for Medications to be kept on site.
- Julie Lanzone explained that 2026 Funding will be available to aid in getting services to people with non-emergencies.
- Julie Lanzone is making sure her employees are trained well and will have EVOC training, which Parke County's insurance company will be happy to see happen.
- Karianne Cody will be the new primary instructor for the Parke County EMS. She will be an independent contractor with the Parke County EMS Training Institute. Jim Meece made the motion to approve Karianne Cody as an Independent Contractor to train the Parke County EMS employees. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Julie Lanzone presented the Parke County Board of Commissioners with an Emergency Vehicle Sales Contract for 2027. She explained that we need to sign an agreement now with no financial obligations. However, Nick Sauter said there could be a cancellation fee. The new ambulance will cost \$334,885.00 with an additional \$60,000.00 for the installation of the new cot equipment. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the signing of a contract to purchase a new emergency vehicle in 2027. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Julie Lanzone mentioned that on U.S. 41 one of Parke County's ambulances is sitting due to a bad brake line and a flat tire.

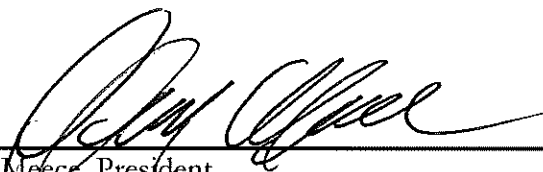
**Jason Frazier, Parke County Sheriff:**


- Jason Frazier reported to the Parke County Board of Commissioners that \$20,000.00 was raised for Shop with a Cop. They spent around \$100.00 per child this year. This is the most money ever raised to date.


**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 4:46 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