

COUNTY COUNCIL

August 21, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER: The Parke County Council convened in a scheduled meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 21st, 2025 in order to conduct a public hearing on the 2026 budget and conduct other such business properly brought before the Council.

II. ROLL CALL: Council members present were Roy Wrightsman, President; Tom Rohr, Vice President; Jack B. Butler, Rick Patton, James E. Howard, Mary Alice Gregg, Matt Helderman. Present from the Auditor's Office were Susan Kramer, Auditor; Leanna Collisi, 1st Deputy. Department heads present included Jamie York, Recorder; Katie Potter, Assessor; Kim Shorter, Treasurer; Nicole Collings, Clerk; Jim Meece, Commissioner; Kevin Stalker, Deputy Prosecutor; Greg Lohrmann, Surveyor; Chris Newcomb, Park & Rec; Beth Martin, Planning and Zoning; Kay Pettis, Custodian; Donna Smith, Coroner; Katlyn Wells, CASA; Diana Bartlow, CVC; Stephanie Laws, Health Department; Julie Lanzone, Ambulance Service; Chris O'Brien, E911; Kurt Lanzone, Extension Office; Stephany Dowd, LCC Administrator; Amy South, Soil and Water; Jason Frazier, Sheriff; Jason McHargue, Probation; Gina Sunderman, Title IV-D; and Judge Swaim; Michael Slagle, Chief Public Defender.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Public Hearing Regarding the Parke County 2026 Budget:** The Council heard presentations from the various department heads regarding budget requests submitted for the 2026 Parke County budget. Each department head was given the opportunity to present their requests to the council and answer questions posed by the council. Taxpayers also had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the budget and no taxpayers requested time to be heard.

The Parke County 2026 budget requests are summarized below by fund:

CASINO/RIVERBOAT	\$0
RAINY DAY	\$0
GENERAL	\$11,604,628
REASSESSMENT	\$170,000
DEBT SERVICE	\$153,000
LOCAL INCOME TAX	\$806,500
HIGHWAY	\$4,631,164
LOCAL ROAD & STREET	\$150,000
CUMULATIVE BRIDGE	\$643,528
HEALTH	\$203,749
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM	\$315,686
PARK & RECREATION	\$265,151
CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT	\$243,500
ECON DEV INCOME TAX CREDIT	\$926,615
ADULT PROBATION	\$124,229
JUVENILE PROBATION	\$8,500
CORNERSTONE PERPETUATION	\$15,250
SALES DISCLOSURE	\$3,000
PUBLIC SAFETY	\$866,194
RECORDER'S PERPETUATION	\$25,000

LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION	\$1,000
COVERED BRIDGE	\$75,000
C.A.S.A.	\$44,474
LOCAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE	\$12,336
INNKEEPERS COMMISSION	\$415,000
CLERK'S PERPETUATION	\$12,400
PARK & REC CONCESSION	\$47,000
IDENTIFICATION SECURITY PROTECTION	\$3,100
PROBATION ADMINISTRATION	\$15,000
PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION	\$58,904
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT	\$10,000
S.C.R.A.M. (Secure Continuous Remote Monitoring)	\$12,000
AUDITOR'S INELIGIBLE HOMESTEAD DEDUCTION	\$1,500
ACCIDENT REPORTS	\$2,000
MISDEMEANANT	\$12,000
COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS TRAINING	\$5,000
PROSECUTOR INCENTIVE	\$11,312
LCC MINI GRANT-LEO TRAINING	\$3,000
RDC OPERATIONS	\$2,000
RDC REVOLVING LOAN	\$40,000
FIREARMS TRAINING	\$10,000
POLICE PENSION TRUST	\$7,000
SEX & VIOLENT OFFENDER	\$3,000
WEST CENTRAL TIF	\$675,000
CENTRAL PARKE TIF	\$840,000
PLAT BOOK	\$18,200
K-9 EQUIPMENT DONATION	\$4,000
SHERIFF METH OVERTIME GRANT	\$5,000
BULLETPROOF VEST FUND	\$5,000
LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES	\$106,747
MARINE PATROL GRANT	\$7,500
EMS TRAINING INSTITUTION	\$38,500
VERMILLION COUNTY EMS NON-RVRT	\$1,624,171
LOCAL HEALTH TRUST	\$16,159
DRUG FREE COMMUNITY	\$7,999
EMERGENCY PLANNING & RIGHT TO KNOW	\$11,150
PROBLEM SOLVING COURT	\$52,920
PROBLEM SOLVING CRT PROG. INCOME	\$7,473
DRUG COURT VENDING MACHINE	\$1,800
L.H. EMER PREPARED	\$20,000
INNKEEPERS TAX FUND	\$130,000
SHERIFF DEPT FORFEITED ASSET	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$25,535,339

IV. STEPHANIE LAWS, HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

- State funding cuts have greatly impacted the 2026 Health Department Budget.
- 1159 Budget: Sanitarian/Food Inspector salary moved from Local Health Services due to changes from the last legislative session regarding regulatory/core services which also impacts social security, PERF and health insurance. Extra clerical budget moved to professional services line since the administrator job was transitioned to a 1099 position. Clinical supplies increased by 10,000 to cover regulatory lead assessment supplies.
- 1161 Budget: \$106,747.93 approved from IDOH for operating supplies and a full-time contracted nurse
- 1168 Budget: Extra clerical budget moved to professional services line since the administrator job was transitioned to a 1099 position.
- 1206 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.
- 9117 Budget: No change in the 1099 position pay and 5,000 decrease in the equipment line.

V. DONNA SMITH, CORONER:

- 1000-17 Budget: Increase in autopsies, transport services and travel.
- Would like to potentially lease a vehicle for transport services.

VI. MATT ROMALIA, HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- 1134 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.
- 1135 Budget: Increase in salaries, everything else to remain the same.
- 1169 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.
- 1173 Budget: Increase in salaries, everything else to remain the same.
- 1176 Budget: Increase in salaries, added 40,000 to stone and gravel. Longevity, social security, PERF, insurance and unemployment have been moved to the General fund.

VII. JASON MCHARGUE, PROBATION DEPARTMENT:

- 2100 Budget: Increase in salaries and office supplies.
- 2150 Budget: Increase in salaries and office supplies.
- 2450 Budget: Increase in salaries to make up the difference that the IDOC grant does not cover and service contracts to cover the cost of the One-Step app.
- 2502 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.
- 4913 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.
- 9146 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.

VIII. JUDGE SAM SWAIM, CIRCUIT COURT:

- 1000-14 Budget: Increase in salaries, everything else remains the same
- Requested a raise for Kim Gregg to put her in more of a commensurate range with other Chief Court Reporters in other counties. Vermillion County is paying their Chief Court Reporter over 45,000.00. Currently, the Parke County Chief Court Reporter is making around 41,112.00. As far as single judge counties are concerned, Parke County has the highest caseloads in the State of Indiana.

IX. KATLYN WELLS, CASA DIRECTOR:

- 1213 Budget: Increase in salaries, office supplies and travel.
- Requesting 25,000 match from Parke County

X. KEVIN STALKER, DEPUTY PROSECUTOR:

- 1000-17 Budget: Increase in salaries and postage.
- 1182 Budget: Increase in salaries, everything else to remain the same.

- 8897 Budget: Increase in salaries, everything else to remain the same.

XI. GINA SUNDERMAN, TITLE IV D:

- 1000-18 Budget: Increase in salaries, everything else to remain the same.

XII. GREGG LOHRMANN, SURVEYOR:

- 1000-06 Budget: Increase in salaries, everything else to remain the same.
- 1202 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes. Currently ahead of schedule on the Cornerstones, searching in the southeastern part of the County.

XIII. RAYMOND LEONBERGER, VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE:

- 1000-13 Budget: Increase in salaries, everything else to remain the same.
- Through grants and donations, the Veterans Council was able to purchase a van to transport Parke County Veterans to their appointments.
- Seeking donations to purchase a laptop to be able to perform at home services to sign veterans up for benefits when they are unable to come to the courthouse.
- Working with Thompsons Cosmetology School to provide free haircuts to Veterans once a month.

XIV. CHRIS NEWCOMB, PARKS AND REC:

- 1179 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.
- 1219 Budget: Increase in salaries, operating supplies and 19,000 for grounds maintenance to replace the mulch at the playground.
- Rebuilt the staircase to the beach and the flowerbox that was destroyed by a guest.

XV. KATTIE POTTER, ASSESSOR:

- 1000-09 Budget: Increase in salaries, removal of second deputy position and adding funds to extra clerical when part-time assistance is needed for coverage. Office supplies and postage are being decreased, postage because the legislative changes to personal property and forms will not need to be mailed to taxpayers.
- 1131 Budget: Only requesting the 3,000 for training and travel. Depleted the majority of the revenue purchasing a server for the Courthouse.
- 1224 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.

XVI. AMY SOUTH, SOIL & WATER:

- 1000-10 Budget: Increase in salaries, everything else remains the same.

XVII. NICOLE COLLINGS, CLERK:

- 1000-01 Budget: Increase in salaries and postage.
- 1000-02 Budget: Increase in salaries and all election related positions in preparation for an election year, will work with the schools to possibly recruit high school students 17 and older to work the polls. Increase in service contracts.
- Going to hold another public hearing regarding voting centers response has been mostly positive. Will create 6 voting centers, removing polling places at Raccoon township (Bridgeton), Florida 2 township (Lyford) and Liberty township dispersing their equipment to the voting centers.
- 1119 Budget: Increase in salaries and equipment line to purchase 6 new computers for the Clerk's office.

XVIII. BETH MARTIN, PLANNING COMMISSION:

- 1000-12 Budget: Increase in salaries, lowered the extra clerical line but there was significant increase in office supplies, postage and travel. Requesting to purchase a laptop to utilize while in the field investigating property violations.

XIX. KAY PETTIS, CUSTODIAN:

- 1000-08 Budget: Increase in salaries, removing the custodian II line since we are utilizing a cleaning service. Increase in service contracts due to cost increase as well as adding the cleaning service.

XX. DIANA BARTLOW, INNKEEPERS COMMISSION:

- 7304 Budget: Increase in postage and publications, decrease in covered bridge maintenance.

XXI. JULIE LANZONE, EMS DIRECTOR:

- 1000-16 Budget: Increase in salaries and service contracts
- 1236 Budget: Increase in salaries and building maintenance, asphalt approaches at the ambulance bay doors.
- 4909 Budget: Increase in operating supplies, education materials, travel and professional training services.
- 4911 Budget: Increase in salaries.

XXII. CHRIS O'BRIEN, EMA DIRECTOR:

- 1000-40 Budget: Increase in salaries, office supplies, travel, equipment maintenance and service contracts. Requested 472,000 to replace infrastructure for the E911 computer networks at the Sheriff's department and also a new radio at the WAXI tower to page fire departments.
- 1152 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.

XXIII. KURT LANZONE, EXTENSION:

- 1000-11 Budget: Requested no changes from the 2025 budget,
- Letter was submitted to Purdue to address the issue of not providing a full staff of educators even though they received full payment. Youth educator position was vacant for 3 months and the Human and Health Services educator was vacant the entire year. Purdue has agreed to refund 44,863 for not fulfilling their contract obligations. Purdue also stated that there will be only 2 educator positions filled for 2026 and they are requesting the service contract be reduced from 127,510 to 104,590.
- Purdue day of giving funds can be allocated to the Parke County 4H Extension to help fund programs and positions. Kurt utilized these funds to hire 2 summer interns to assist, this program was previously funded the Community Foundation but this was no longer offered. Move the reduction of 23,000 from service contracts to summer 4H assistant as a placeholder.
- 2025 4H Membership:
637 Members
307 Livestock members
871 Animals enrolled
132 Adult volunteers

XXIV. STEPHANY DOWD, LOCAL COORDINATING COUNCIL:

- 1148 Budget: Per Roy Wrightsman the 1148 account has been over-budgeted for 2026 based on the current revenue projections. The amount requested will be reduced to 2,255 for prevention, treatment and justice. Roy suggested that Stephany check with the Parke County Clerk to make sure that all fines and fees associated are being receipted into the correct accounts.

XXV. MICHAEL SLAGLE, PUBLIC DEFENDER:

- 1000-38 Budget: Increase in service contracts, percentage went from 34% to 38.4% for Parke County based on the 2024 numbers. Public defenders received a raise based on the median level. Parke County shares the cost of the public defender with Vermillion County any funds paid by Parke County that are not used would be returned.

XXVI. JASON FRAZIER, SHERIFF:

- 1000-19 Budget: Increase in salaries, prisoner detention and prisoner medical, two new vehicles one out of general and the second out of commissary. Added 32,000 to the equipment line for the Taser payment. Most line items were copied into the 1138 and 1170 budgets.
- 1101 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.
- 1133 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.
- 1156 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.
- 1175 Budget: Increase in building maintenance
- 1192 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.
- 1193 Budget: Increase in police pension.
- 1222 Budget: Increase in salaries, office supplies and dues.
- 4103 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.
- 4113 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.
- 4920 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.
- 9100 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.
- 9102 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.
- 9108 Budget: Increase in maintenance for the boat.
- 9111 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.

XXVII. JIM MEECE, COMMISSIONER/ RANDY CLEAVER, IT CONSULTANT

- 1000-15 Budget: Major expenses coming for covered bridge repairs.
- 1000-15 IT Plan: Would like to establish a 5-year plan starting in 2026
 - Year 1 – Purchase 20 computers
 - Year 2 – Purchase 20 computers
 - Year 3 – Purchase 20 computers
 - Year 4 – Replace access point and firewall
 - Year 5 – Replace Server

XXVIII. KIM SHORTER, TREASURER:

- 1000-04 Budget: Increase in salaries, dues and service contracts.

XXIX. JAMIE YORK, RECORDER:

- 1000-05 Budget: Increase in salaries and travel.
- 1160 Budget: 2,100 for purchase of two computers
- 1189 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.

XXX. SUSAN KRAMER, AUDITOR:

- 1000-03 Budget: Increase in travel, dues and service contracts. 1,500 decrease in postage.
- 1181 Budget: Will remain the same as the 2025 budget with no changes.
- 1216 Budget: Increase in CBF overtime.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

XXXI. RE: SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT:

- Allow purchase of one new vehicle out of the Commissary fund, there will not be a purchase through the general fund. Information being gathered for leasing program through Enterprise Fleet Management program.

XXXII. RE: CREDIT FUND:

- \$300,000.00 for bituminous for road repair.
- \$270,000.00 for a Highway Equipment.
- Large increase for Service Contracts

XXXIII. RE: CUMILATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Good Reserve in this fund.
- Humane Society
- Historical Society
- Jail Operating supplies
- Jail Building Maintenance
- Jail Software/Equipment Maintenance

XXXIV. RE: COURTHOUSE ROOF:

- The Courthouse Roof project will be paid off in 2026.

XXXV. RE: PUBLIC SAFETY FUND:

- Almost entirely made up of funds for the Sheriff's Department
- Prisoner Detention, Prisoner Meals and Prisoner Medical & Dental

XXXVI. RE: RDC AND TIF:

- Revolving loans \$40,000.00
- West Central Parke is \$675,000.00
- Central Parke is \$840,000.00.

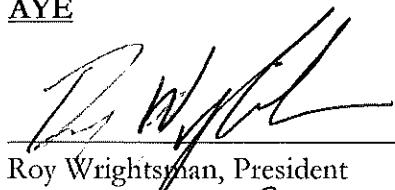
XXVII. RE: SALARY INCREASES:

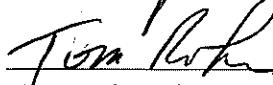
- Salaried employees shall receive an increase of 5%
- Permanent part-time hourly employees shall receive an increase of \$0.50/hour
- Regular part-time employees shall receive an increase of \$0.50/hour.
- Highway full-time hourly employees shall receive an increase of \$1.00/hour.
- EMS full-time hourly employees shall receive an increase of \$1.00/hour.
- EMS part-time hourly employees shall receive an increase of \$1.00/hour.

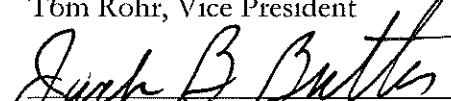
Budget hearing concluded at 1:31 p.m. with no need to continue on August 22nd.

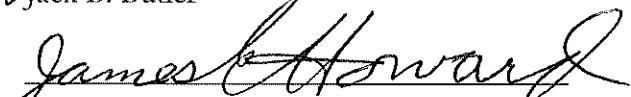
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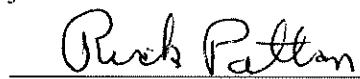
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Roy Wrightsman, President


Tom Rohr, Vice President


Jack B. Butler


James E. Howard

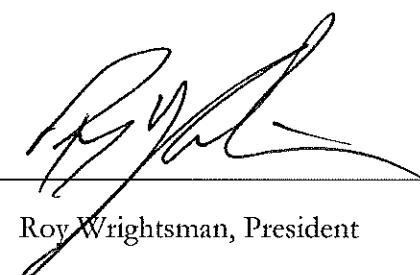

Rick Patton

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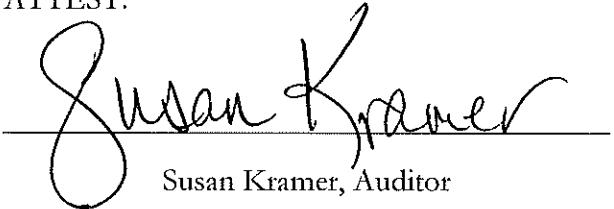

Matt Helderman


Mary Alice Gregg

Mary Alice Gregg


Roy Wrightsman, President

ATTEST:


Susan Kramer

Susan Kramer, Auditor