

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 6th, 2026

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 6th, 2026, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, March 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 Kim Shorter, Steve Collisi, Jason Frazier, Cyndi Todd, Noble New, Mark Spelbring, Matt Romalia, Stephany Dowd, Cassanda Wathen, Stacie Conner and Ray Leonberger.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, March 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 \$198,048.37 was approved for release on Monday, April 6th, 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 April 6th, 2026 in the amount of \$349,114.51 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 \$1,324,909.13 were approved in a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

II. NEW BUSINESS:

- Cyndi Todd discussed the Owner-Occupied Rehab Grant Program with the Parke County Board of Commissioners. This grant is from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs which establishes a local home repair program. This program allows communities to improve their housing stock and for low-income homeowners to age in place, have better mobility and make needed repairs for their comfort and safety. Rehabilitation activities include roof replacement, heating and cooling system replacement, water heater replacement, select lighting and electrical upgrades and ADA accessibility modifications up to the threshold of the home. The target audiences are people with disabilities, older adults, Veterans and single parent/guardian households. Partnership Parke County will coordinate a grant proposal partnership between the Parke County Commissioners and the Community Action Program of Western Indiana (CAPWI). The Commissioners will be the applicant and CAPWI will be the subrecipient and market and execute the rehabilitation program. CAPWI has many years of experience working with low-income families along with housing new construction and rehabilitation and referral networks. Partnership Parke County will provide the grand administration requirements. CAPWI will

identify the target audience(s) and create an application process for the homeowners. They will also manage the contract work for the rehabilitation. There will be a maximum of \$25,000.00 per home. The local match for the program is 10% of the total project cost. We are seeking funds to go towards the match requirement. In-kind contribution of up to 5% is allowed if we can develop those professional opportunities. The Parke County Community Foundation may contribute \$20,000.00. They anticipate applying for a \$200,000.00 grant in July 2026. Jim Meece made the motion to grant Partnership Parke County approval to apply for the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation grant with Parke County Commissioners as the applicant provided matching will come from a third party. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Cyndi Todd informed the Parke County Board of Commissioners about the Montezuma 19th Annual 5K run which will be held on May 16th, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. by the Sims Covered Bridge.
- Beth Martin with Parke County Planning and Zoning submitted the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance (First Reading) to the Parke County Board of Commissioners. Jim Meece made the motion to acknowledge receipt of the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Nick Sauter, the Parke County Board of Commissioners' Attorney, opened the only bid for the 2026 On-Call Engineering Services Contract and Fee Schedule for the Parke County Highway Department from Kurdziel Barker Bridge Engineering. No other engineering service applied. Dan Collom made the motion to accept the bid from Kurdziel Barker Engineering. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Susan Kramer, the Parke County Auditor, presented the Parke County Board of Commissioners with the Tower Clock Company's Preventative Maintenance Service Agreement which costs \$900.00 per year. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the Tower Clock Company's Preventative Maintenance Service Agreement. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Susan Kramer submitted the UMB/Card Services' Organization Resolution and Agreement for the Credit Card Program to the Parke County Board of Commissioners. Susan Kramer explained that the list of names from our organization needs to be updated with the Credit Card Company and the Parke County's Resolution. Jim Meece made the motion to give Susan Kramer, the Parke County Auditor, authorization to sign the credit card update. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Susan Kramer presented the Jeff Dossett Consulting Services Agreement for the Title IV Cost Allocation Program. Susan Kramer recommended signing up for the three-year plan for \$4,500.00 per year for their services. The Parke County Commissioners agreed. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the three-year service plan for the Title IV Cost Allocation Program with Dossett Consulting. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Stephany Dowd from the Local Coordinating Council (LCC) presented four Opioid Grants to the Parke County Board of Commissioners. The grants are to the Rockville Police Department for Trick or Treat Bags in the amount of \$1,078.00, Parke Heritage Post Prom in the amount of \$1,000.00, Riverton Parke Post Prom in the amount of \$1,000.00, and Crossroads Recovery Service, LLC. in the amount of \$4,480.00. These funds come from the State to the Counties to spend. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the Opioid Grants that Stephany Dowd had presented. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Nick Sauter presented Ordinance 2026-05 setting the speed limit of thirty miles per hour on CR 300 S from the intersection of CR 300 S and Walker Boat Ramp Rd. to the intersection of CR 300 S and 1200 East. Violators of this ordinance may be charged with a Class C Infraction with fines imposed up to \$500.00. Dan Collom made the motion to approve Ordinance 2026-05 as same day, same meeting. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Dan Collom made the motion to approve Ordinance 2026-05 that will set the speed limit to thirty miles per

hour on CR 300 S from Walker Boat Ramp Rd to 1200 East. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Jim Meece stated that the moratorium on solar, renewable energy and battery storage in Parke County needs to be addressed soon. He spoke with Chad Jenkins, the General Manager and CEO of the Parke County REMC, about solar and renewable energy. REMC is making plans on how to store energy for future use like during peak periods in the Winter and Summer months. Chad Jenkins is willing to talk with the Parke County residents and the Parke County Commissioners. Jim Meece also met with Sullivan County to discuss how they oversaw solar and renewable energy in their county. Jim Meece is not opposed to battery storage for energy. Jim Meece suggested that Parke County should have a solar and renewable energy meeting with all its residents at the Parke County Fairgrounds in late summer to have a public discussion. The other Commissioners agreed to this idea.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- Jim Meece addressed Ray Leonberger from the Parke County Veterans' Administration regarding the 4th of July Celebration this year. The Commissioners did not want to interfere with other county events that were planned. Jim Meece has purchased the 250th Celebration Flag and thought of doing a flag raising on the Courthouse lawn around 10:00 a.m. Jim Meece thought of having the color guard and the High School members of the Choir participate as well. Ray Leonberger liked the ideas. Jim Meece asked Ray Leonberger if there could be a gun salute. Ray Leonberger will investigate the correct protocol and put something together along those lines.
- Jim Meece stated that there were seven applicants for the Parke County Highway Administrative Assistant position. There were five extremely highly qualified individuals that were interviewed. Dan Collom made a motion to offer the Administrative Assistant position to Leanna Collisi. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Leanna Collisi accepted the Parke County Highway Administrative Assistant position.

IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Matt Romalia, Parke County Highway Superintendent:

- Jim Meece reported that the Portland Mills Bridge was closed and at the request of a landowner the run around was closed. Now J.B. Hale has agreed to keep the run around open until Parke County takes it over as a County Right-of-Way. In the interim, a Hold Harmless Agreement will need to be created and signed. Jim Meece made the motion to Hold Harmless J. B. Hale and his wife, Norma Hale for keeping the run around open while the County is making it a Right-of -Way. Dan Collom second the motion and it carried unanimously. Nick Sauter will create the Hold Harmless Agreement and he will call Jim Meece to sign it.
- The Parke County Highway Department continues to patch potholes on the county roads.
- Milestone is in town working on Coxville Road, then to Arabia. Milestone would like to get Parke County done first because they have a heavy workload scheduled throughout the summer months.
- The Parke County Highway Department will also be replacing culverts.
- In September, the Community Crossings will be due.
- Matt Romalia just completed the Purdue Road School this past March. He is on track to become a Master Road Builder.
- LTAP offers employees online courses to complete and increase their pay with more knowledge and skills.

- The Tri-Axle truck is almost finished. The truck should be here next week from Higgs Welding.
- The Parke County Council has approved the purchase of another patcher. Matt Romalia will be putting options together soon. This new patcher will increase our number of patchers to five. The new patcher will be replacing was a 2002 patcher that has 9,200 hours on it. The old patcher will be used as a back-up.
- V.S. Engineering will be starting bridge inspections. They will need to look at the West Union Bridge because on the East side of the bridge there is a stone that has come out.
- Matt Romalia informed the Parke County Board of Commissioners that he will be hiring one or two guys to replace those that are leaving for better opportunities. The guys leaving are good workers.

Jason Frazier, Parke County Sheriff:

- Jason Frazier reported that there have been three gas leaks in the last month. One gas leak was in the holding section of the Parke County Jail and the other two gas leaks were in the Boiler Room, which the Jail Maintenance person was able to fix. Sycamore Emergency Response was called out to fix the gas leak in the holding section of the Jail. Jason Frazier was genuinely concerned.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Noble New, a Parke County Resident in Carbon, IN, was questioning why the process for vacating an alley has changed and why he must get the deeds of the other homeowners and a survey done. Jim Meece explained that the process to vacate an alley has not changed in years. Nick Sauter stated that it is necessary to get the legal description of the alley to vacate the alley. The legal description of the alley can be drawn from the legal description in the deeds of the adjoining landowners. Notices and green cards need to be sent to the adjacent homeowners along the alley. It was suggested to Noble New to take his survey he had done to an attorney and have the attorney send out the notices to the landowners. Noble New explained that the neighbor has a building that is setting part way on the alley. He asked why the County has not asked him to move it. The County was not aware of the building sitting on the alley. It is up to Noble New to take his information to an attorney for the process to be completed correctly. The Parke County Board of Commissioners are not granting Noble New permission to do anything with that right-of-way. Noble New must go through the correct channels to vacate an alley.


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 5:11 p.m.



Jim Meece, President



Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



Susan Kramer, Auditor