

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 18th, 2026

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 18th, 2026, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, May 4th, 2026.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Jim Meece, President; Dan Collom, first Vice President; Bruce Hartman, Second Vice President; Susan Kramer, Auditor; and Leanna Collisi, 2nd Deputy Auditor. Also, present were Steve Collisi, Mark Spelbring, Jason Frazier and Raymond Leonberger.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, May 4th, 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 \$196,756.38 due for release on Monday, May 18th, 2026 was approved 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 May 18th, 2026 in the amount of \$303,303.98 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

II. NEW BUSINESS:

- The Parke County Board of Commissioners received the Congressional School Annual Report. Acknowledgement of the receipt of the Congressional School Annual Report was approved on a motion made by Bruce Hartman. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Penn Township has appointed a new Trustee, Brodie Burgess. Jim Meece made a motion to approve the appointment of Brodie Burgess as the new Penn Township Trustee. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Barney Carroll submitted quotes to paint a list of Parke County Covered Bridges and the Highway Department building. The Parke County Board of Commissioners were concerned that some of the covered bridges on the list needed repairs before painting. They would like to have a chance to talk with Matt Romalia, Parke County Highway Superintendent, about the status of these bridges before approving the quotes from Barney Carroll. Dan Collom made the motion to postpone the approval to paint the list of Parke County Covered Bridges and the Highway Department building. Jim Meece seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- The Annual Operational Report for the Highway Department was received by the Parke County Board of Commissioners.
- There were two out-of-cycle check requests from V.S. Engineering. The first check request was for on-call services in the amount of \$1,407.92 and the second check request was in the amount of

\$103,832.99. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the two out-of-cycle check requests from V.S. Engineering. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- Matt Brooks with Verizon out of Kentucky left Bruce Hartman a phone message regarding placing a temporary cell tower in Bridgeton on Hawkins Road during the 2026 Parke County Covered Bridge Festival. Bruce Hartman will send Dan Collom Matt Brooks' contact information. Dan Collom will give Matt Brooks a call to figure out the details.
- Jim Meece stressed the need for Parke County to begin the process of creating ordinances regarding solar farms before proposals for solar farms start coming in. In Sullivan County, Indiana, there are thousands of acres of solar panels. Sullivan County is thinking that this may not be a good idea. We are a zoned county; therefore, Parke County Planning and Zoning looks at all the zoning issues. Cattle Farms are another issue because the State controls approval based on head count and county has no control. Jim Meece looked at White, Benton, Montgomery, Davies, Tippecanoe and Sullivan counties' Solar Ordinances and they are all over the map. Jim Meece liked the Tippecanoe County's Solar Ordinance the best because they have set back requirements of solar panels and no more than 400 acres of continuous land on one solar farm. Jim Meece plans to talk with Tippecanoe next week and go over the details. Before any ordinances are put into effect, Jim Meece would like to use the public comments section of each Parke County Board of Commissioners' Meeting for the next two months as public hearings regarding Solar Farm Ordinances for Parke County. This ordinance notice will be posted at the Auditor's Office and the Parke County Facebook page by June 1st, 2026. The public in attendance wanted to know if similar things will happen for wind farms and data centers. Jim Meece stated that no one will hide anything from the Parke County Public. We will take it piece by piece. Jim Meece stated that by August 3rd, 2026, there will be a solar farm ordinance to vote on during the Parke County Board of Commissioners Meeting.

IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Raymond Leonberger, Parke County Veterans Administration

- Raymond Leonberger reported to the Parke County Board of Commissioners that his office will be placing flags at the Parke County Cemeteries on Friday for Memorial Day Services and remembrance. Anyone is invited to help. Please meet at Memorial Park on Friday, May 22nd, 2026.
- With the help of donors for park benches, Ray Leonberger will be placing an order for the park benches. He will set aside three park benches for each of our posts. The rest will be placed around Rockville Town Park.
- Ray Leonberger will be out of the office next month for two weeks for the VFW Training and the Veterans Administration Conference.
- Jim Meece made the reminder of the Flag raising at 10:00 a.m. on July 4th, 2026 in commemoration of 250 years of Independence. Jim Meece is still working on getting the choir from Parke Heritage High School or some of its members to participate. Jim Meece and Raymond Leonberger are working on a war reenactment as well.

- Raymond Leonberger reminded the Parke County Board of Commissioners that he will be resubmitting the budget for the extra day a week for him during the Budget Hearing Meeting in August 2026.

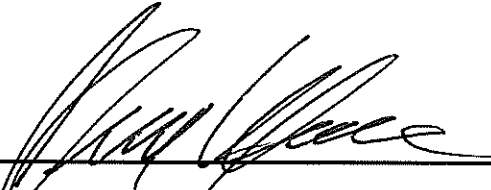
Jason Frazier, Parke County Sheriff

- Jason Frazier reported to the Parke County Board of Commissioners that the Boat Patrol will begin Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend. The Boat Patrol will occur on weekends only. This supplements the DNR Agency.
- Jason Frazier also reported that five new Ford Explorers are getting outfitted in Lafayette, IN. These are the new leases through Enterprise.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- There was great concern from the Parke County Public regarding the possibility of a Data Center being built in Parke County. Jim Meece stated that there has been no conversation about a Data Center. We can make restrictions to make it impossible to get approved for a Data Center in Parke County. There is Indiana Legislation requiring Data Centers to provide their own electricity and most will have a small nuclear reactor called SNRs. Oracle has developed a closed loop system. Jim Meece suggested creating an ordinance to codify this by passing a ban on data centers that are not independent from the local grid. They need to create electricity in a closed loop direct contact system. We do not support any Data Center. Bruce Hartman stated that we may not be able to ban Data Centers completely according to Indiana Law. One public comment stated that Memphis, TN has a large self-contained Data Center. Another public comment asked about using a blanket coverage instead of being specific about Data Centers. Jim Meece wants to be specific when it comes to banning Data Centers. The Parke County Board of Commissioners voted to ban any data center that is not independent from the local electrical grid other than the usual and customary office building needs such as restrooms, drinking, maintenance, etc. The ban also applies to any data center that is not independent from local water resources for cooling purposes. Cooling must be managed by closed loop non-evaporating systems. Data Centers must have zero impact on local electric power and water supply beyond levels required for normal office building requirements. Jim Meece made the motion to approve the ban on data centers in Parke County unless certain requirements are met. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. A public comment thanked the Commissioners on how they are handling the Data Centers.


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 4:57 p.m.



Jim Meece, President


Absent

Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



Susan Kramer, Auditor