

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 15th, 2026

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 15th, 2026, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, June 1st, 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 Cyndi Todd, Matt Romalia, Jeff Symmes, Glenn Bell, Tiffany Bell, Janet Wall-Myers, Connie Copeland Bowman, Karen McHargue, Judy Branham, Kim Clodfelter, Cassandra Wathen, Patty Kirkpatrick, Laurie Krumwiede, Jack Hooker, Stacey Hooker, Vickie Mace, Donna Payne, Christina Thistlethwaite, Donna Grimes, Keith Krumwiede, Deborah Cunningham and Brian Dickehut.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, June 1st, 2026 were approved on a motion from Bruce Hartman. Jim Meece 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 \$197,469.92 due for release on Monday, June 1st, 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 June 1st, 2026 in the amount of \$245,610.04 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 granted Jim Meece, President of the Parke County Board of Commissioners, authority to sign any Indiana Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Grant Application Information. Bruce Hartman made the motion to give Jim Meece authority to sign any Indiana Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Grant Application Information. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jim Meece explained that the only change to the Parke County Data Center Ordinance 2026-11 was to add Internet Service Providers in Section 1, Letter d. of the definition of exclusions. Dan Collom made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-11 – Parke County – Data Centers. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jim Meece presented a draft ordinance for Solar Farms in Parke County. Jim Meece met with Tippecanoe County about their ordinances regarding solar farms. Tippecanoe County's ordinance states that a solar farm may not exceed 400 acres with at least a one-mile break in between the next solar farm. Their ordinance also talks about setbacks of at least 500 feet on the side that property owners share with the solar farm. If the solar farm and a property owner share two sides,

then the setbacks are 750 feet on each side they share. If the solar farm and a property share three sides, then there is 1,000 feet set back required. If a solar farm is across the street from a property owner, then there is 1,500 feet set back required. Setting these setbacks helps to prevent the property owner from feeling surrounded or blocked in by solar farms. Jim Meece stated that there will be continued discussion concerning Solar ordinances over the next two months. This draft will be available in the Auditor's Office. Ideas will be collected there as well. Jim will make a list of any proposed changes that will be discussed during the Parke County Board of Commissioners' meetings. Then a new ordinance will be codified at the August 24th, 2026 Parke County Board of Commissioners' Meeting.

- Resolution 2026-04 regarding the Issuance of Bonds for the new Government Center. The Old National Bank Building was purchased by Parke County Redevelopment and did not affect our taxes because Parke County Redevelopment use TIF funds to pay for the building. The cost of the building was \$516,000.00 which was half of the original asking price, just by waiting to purchase the Old National Bank Building. Dan Collom made the motion to approve Resolution 2026-04 – Issuance of Bonds for the new Government Center. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- There were two out-of-cycle check requests that were presented for approval. The first check request is for Cody Conner in the amount of \$450.00 to DJ the Rockville Lake Park's 4th of July Celebration. The second check request is for Kurdziel Barker Engineering in the amount of \$2,688.00 for the Highway Department's On-Call Services for Bridges. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the two out-of-cycle check requests to Cody Conner and Kurdziel Barker Engineering. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- The Parke County Highway Department presented the Parke County Board of Commissioners with a quote from Barney Carroll to paint the Parke County Highway Department Building for \$4,800.00. Dan Collom made the motion to approve Barney Carroll's quote to paint the Highway Department's Building for \$4,800.00. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- The Parke County Highway Department also had the NCL Lease for the new Mack triaxle truck that needed approval. The Mack truck is done being outfitted and is ready at Vomatic in Terre Haute, IN. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the NCL Lease for the new Mack triaxle truck for the Parke County Highway Department. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- The Parke County Highway Department had another lease through Municipal Capital Finance for the new Total Patcher T-7500 with accessories to be approved. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the Municipal Capital Finance Lease for the new Patcher. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- None.

IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Matt Romalia, Parke County Highway Superintendent

- The Parke County Board of Commissioners asked Matt Romalia if there had been any information gathered for purchasing signs for Rosedale. Matt Romalia stated that the signs and locates have been ordered. Matt Romalia stated that the low clearance signs for the covered bridge are estimated at \$300.00. Jim Meece would prefer wood board signs instead of metal signs. Jim Meece said there can be more discussion about these covered bridge low clearance signs.
- Matt Romalia reported that the Parke County Highway Department has been working on dust control in the area and has one left to finish. There were forty-four residences that requested dust control and paid for that service.
- The Highway Department will begin chip sealing for 2026. They have about twenty-five miles to chip seal weather permitting. They will start at the north end of the County and will work their way South. Then the Highway Department will begin work on paving in mid-August.
- The Highway Department will stay on drainage projects throughout the County.
- The new patcher is at the Highway Department.
- The Rosedale bridge is complete.
- The Bridge at Midway and Coloma Road should be here next week and they will get that put in.
- 900 S. at the Marathon Pipeline has been closed. This road should be back open in three days. Jim Meece reminded Matt Romalia that the Commissioners need to approve such closure prior to a road being closed.
- Jim Meece explained that a dog went missing and was found stuck in a culvert pipe. Jim Meece and the owner used a backhoe to dig the dog out of the culvert. The road had to be fixed by the Highway Department.
- Jim Meece stated there was a situation on Hilltop Road in Rosedale on private property where culvert drainage has created a stream. This cannot happen. Responsibility has been passed back and forth from the County to DNR to fix the problem. Jim Meece thought the County could dig a ditch to help with the drainage. There will have to be more conversations about this situation.
- Matt Romalia reported that there are log jams at Carpenter Road and 1200 near Lodi. DNR is good with the County fixing the log jams. Quotes are on the way and work will need to be done on the abutments.

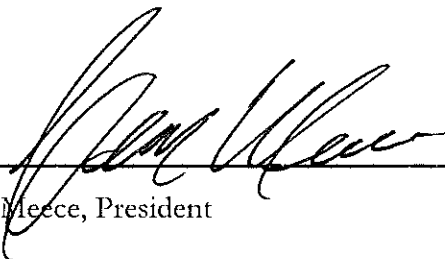
V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Jim Meece stated that the Parke County Board of Commissioners are open to having new business if the new business is good for Parke County as well. Jim Meece opened the floor up to Public Comments, Questions and Concerns. Each person is allotted two minutes to speak.
- Deborah Cunningham asked if the Parke County Commissioners have signed any type of Non-Disclosure Agreement. Jim Meece replied that none of the Parke County Commissioners have signed any type of Non-Disclosure Agreement. Jim Meece would never sign one. Jim Meece went on to say that the Parke County Commissioners can hold an executive session to have a discussion on a certain topic, however, no decisions are made during the executive session. The Parke County Commissioners have no outside discussions amongst themselves for any kind of decision-making purposes.
- Other residents requested to add noise, air and light pollution control to the ordinance for Data Centers. Jim Meece stated that the Parke County Commissioners will take care of that if it should become an issue.

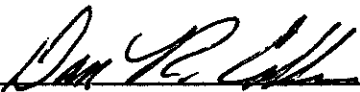
- Deborah Cunningham mentioned a petition to support no Data Centers at all in Parke County was in the works. Jim Meece said the public has every right to petition which will gain the Parke County Commissioners' attention as to what the public wants.
- Deborah Cunningham stated that at the Parke County and Clay County line, Blue Power LLC, formally called Midwest, energy plant is for a data center nearby. The dot on the map is showing up in Parke County. They do not have an exact address of where the data center will be.
- Jim Meece reassured the public that no one has proposed a plan for a Data Center in Parke County.
- Letters were received by the Clay County's Mayor, Clerk, Council and Commissioners making them aware of plans for a power company and a data center.
- The public is concerned about a data center being run by seven turbine engines and five or six of the turbine engines will run 24/7. Chemicals and noise will be emitted.
- The language for the permit is for a nearby Data Center. So, it could be located in Parke County. Nick Sauter, the Parke County Commissioners' Attorney, stated that first a proposal must go before the Parke County Planning and Zoning Commission. The Planning and Zoning Commission meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Parke County Fairgrounds. Dan Collom and Nick Sauter will know any news of a Data Center before the rest of the Parke County Commissioners do because they attend these meetings and Dan Collom is on the Planning and Zoning Board as well.
- The Public wanted to clarify the Ordinance for Data Centers in Parke County. A change can occur at any time for an ordinance. Jim Meece said the best we can do is put it in writing on paper. Bruce Hartman further explained that an ordinance is a local law just as we have state and federal laws. These types of laws can be changed at any time. Dan Collom stated that the reason we have a Solar Ordinance is that it has been in the works for a while whereas the issue with Data Centers just came about a month ago.
- The question was asked if a gas turbine were in Clay County, would it pass our ordinance? Jim Meece stated No. We do have a company looking at Parke County to put in a power grid supplement that runs on gas.
- Jim Meece will talk with the Clay County Commissioners to make sure that none of them have received any letters regarding data centers.
- Bruce Hartman said that Paul Sindors of Clay County requested a copy of our data center ordinance last week. Bruce Hartman stated that the Planning Commission is very loose in Clay County. There are no zoning and planning in Clay County.
- Montgomery County was sued by a business that started building and then was shut down. Montgomery County won the lawsuit. Montgomery County has no zoning too.
- The Public asked what if the businesses' pollutions affect our water and air quality? Could we sue the entity involved in producing the pollution? Jim Meece stated we could sue. Air and noise pollution is a huge concern for the Parke County residents.
- Another resident mentioned the American Legislative Exchange Council which is where state legislators are dedicated to principles of limited government, free markets and federalism. They promote state preemptions.
- There was more discussion regarding Todd Houston, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, being the most powerful person in the State of Indiana. The State of Indiana can mandate and the local laws will not mean anything.
- The Indiana Association of County Commissioners supports low productive land and home rule. The legislature only supports state laws and would like to see home rule go away.
- DNR can check out wells to get a base line, however, you would have to prove a direct connection.

- A question was asked if Parke County was prepared to sue if the issue should arise. Jim Meece said that Montgomery County did win their lawsuit and did not pay out any money. The County Commissioners have people or lobbyists that are fighting to keep home rule throughout the State of Indiana.
- We must pay attention to whom we elect into office and make sure they stand for the things you stand for.
- A public comment was made that we have a good Planning and Zoning Commission that does their job. They prevented enhanced storage units from being built in Parke County.

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 5:12 p.m.



Jim Meece, President

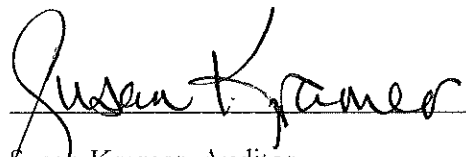


Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



Susan Kramer, Auditor