

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 3rd, 2026

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 3rd, 2026, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, July 20th, 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 Steve Collisi, Josh Gaskill, Cassandra Wathen, Janet Wall-Myers and Patty Kirkpatrick.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, July 20th, 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 \$203,243.52 due for release on Monday, July 27th, 2026 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. County payroll in the amount of \$202,926.90 due for release on Monday, August 10th, 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 in the amount of \$181,601.65 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 \$1,293,840.33 were approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

II. NEW BUSINESS:

- The camera wiring in the Courthouse Elevator needs to be corrected to pass inspection. Mid-America Elevator's Repair Proposal was in the amount of \$10,504.00. Jim Meece made the motion to approve Mid-America Elevator's Repair Proposal. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Janie Hardman, the Parke County Highway Administrative Assistant, requested to donate her remaining vacation and sick time to a couple of Highway employees. There was some discussion regarding how difficult this would be to keep track of if offered to other employees with different pay rates as well. Janie Hardman retired on July 31st, 2026. It is only fair to pay Janie Hardman for 42 Vacation Hours and the rest of her sick and vacation time will be forfeited. Jim Meece asked Susan Kramer, the Parke County Auditor, what her opinion on the matter was. Susan Kramer stated she felt that it was an unfunded liability and that she agreed that record keeping would be very difficult due to the different rates of pay. Parke County has never accepted such a request for leftover vacation and sick time from a retiring employee. The Parke County Board of Commissioners in the past has approved leave transfer in the case of an employee having cancer. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve only paying Janie Hardman for 42 Vacation Hours

and forfeiting the remainder of vacation and sick time. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- Boilermasters wanted to inform the Parke County Board of Commissioners of the status of the Courthouse Chimney issue. The chimney liner needs to be replaced with a stainless-steel shaft. Matt Stechley is looking into getting the chimney liner and the flue gases inspected to determine the severity of the issue for replacement. Boilermasters does not do this type of work anymore. It has been difficult to find another company that will do this work. Dan Collom stated that the Parke County Council will need to know about the possible replacement of the Courthouse chimney liner.
- Shawn Malone is requesting public records of the Northern Parke County Regional Sewer District Project in Marshall, IN. This sewer project is under Cyndi Todd at Partnership Parke County which is a 501C3 organization and is not subject to public records. The Parke County Board of Commissioners instructed that the Parke County Auditor's office give Shawn Malone what he asks for and can charge him 10 cents per copy if he requests a hard copy of the public records. Susan Kramer, the Parke County Auditor, stated that she has the signed resolution and where the Commissioners and Council made an appointment and the rest of the information goes through Partnership Parke County.
- The Parke County Highway Department requested that the Parke County Board of Commissioners approve and sign the LPA report to request 80/20 reimbursement from INDOT for VS Engineering inspecting and maintaining the bridges in Parke County. Dan Collom made the motion to approve and sign the LPA report. Jim Meece seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jim Meece asked if the Parke County Highway Department has replaced the Arrow signs at the curve near the Cemetery in Rosedale. Leanna Collisi, Parke County Highway Administrative Assistant, replied she was not sure if the Arrow signs had been replaced. She will look into this issue.
- There is one out-of-cycle check request that needed approval. The check request was for Bob's Road Service in the amounts of \$645.00 for the CBF EMA Mobile Command's battery replacements and other maintenance. This mobile command was borrowed from Vermillion County and will come out of the Public Safety Fund through the Parke County Sheriff's Department. Jim Meece made a motion to approve the check request for Bob's Road Service. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- The BZA will be involved with the Solar Plan. The BZA supports the setbacks for solar panels and these setbacks can also be used for Data Centers as well as limits on noise levels for both. China is utilizing the ocean floor for cooling their Data Centers. So, there are other ways being explored for cooling purposes besides fresh water that is used for public consumption. Nick Sauter, the Parke County Board of Commissioners' Attorney, stated that he has begun to draft the solar plan into our system. He will be adding in specific language and special exceptions as considered. The Public asked what surety is. Nick Sauter explained that it is a bond to do the decommissioning or demolition of solar energy facilities properly. Voting on the Solar Plan will take place at the next Parke County Board of Commissioners' Meeting on Monday, August 20th, 2026. Nothing bigger than 400 acres will be used for any solar energy facility. Bruce Hartman agreed that starting low on the acreage is best. The minimum height of the solar panels are 36 inches and the maximum height is 16 feet. The public asked if this solar plan has been tested in Court. Jim Meece reassured the public that it has been tested and had no issues.

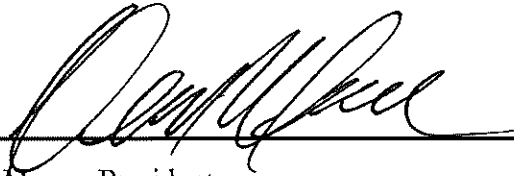
IV. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- None.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- The public commented on the main issues with the Data Centers in Lebanon. They found the bulk of complaints were covered in the Solar Ordinance Draft. They really liked what the Solar Ordinance Draft said and how things would be handled. The Solar Ordinance can easily be converted to manage Data Centers in a separate ordinance. Dan Collom explained that Data Centers are using Lime Stabilization which is mixing lime and clay together. It sets up like concrete. Unlike the easy demolition process for Solar Energy Facilities, the Data Centers create a more permanent structure requiring more planning and equipment to revitalize the land the Data Center sits on.

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 4:33 p.m.



Jim Meece, President



Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:

Susan Kramer

Susan Kramer, Auditor