

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 21st, 2024

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 21st, 2024, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, October 7th, 2024.
- 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, Lana Head, John Martin, Jessica Lancaster, Pam Sanders, Luke Gill, Ryan Lengacher, Glenn Harrill, Amanda Harrill, Stephanie Dowd, Matt Stechly, Jackie Woodrum, Brenda Johnson, Chief William McMichael and Officer Cameron Martin from the Rockville Police Department.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, October 7th, 2024 were approved on a motion from Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- IV. **PAYROLL:** County payroll in the amount of \$263,017.91 and Union Hospital Security payroll in the amount of \$1,428.80 were approved for release on Monday, October 21st, 2024 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 October 21st, 2024 in the amount of \$143,993.91 was approved on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - Stephanie Dowd presented the Parke County Commissioners with an LCC Narcotics Grant Application for the Rockville Police Department. This grant will be used to purchase drug test strips and the money for the grant will come from the Opioid Fund. The Commissioners support the efforts of the LCC. Bruce Hartman made the motion to approve the LCC Narcotics Grant for the Rockville Police Department. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Matt Stechly from Core Facilities, explained how bad the copper tubing was in the Parke County Jail. Jim Meece stated that the copper pipe can be repaired in three to five sections over a few years. Parke County can use ARP Funds as long as there is a signed contract by the end of 2024. Matt Stechly would leave all the copper onsite for Parke County to scrap since copper is bringing good money. The copper in the jail currently, should not have failed. Copper should last more than twenty-five years. There is a Type M Copper, which is the thinnest form of copper, may have been used when the jail was built. Way back when, there might have been a Sheriff that did not believe in using a water softener and salt. This could have caused the copper to become weak in spots because of build up from the hard water running through the copper pipes. Matt Stechly had emailed the Commissioners an RFP with all the specs for them to take a look at. Copper is volatile. Linear Copper pipe was used in the Jail. It will cost the County around \$100,000.00 to \$125,000.00 to replace. This cost is only for the copper. There also needs to be more isolation valves throughout the Parke County Jail. The Jail and the Parke County Highway Department both need their roofs replaced. Matt Stechly is waiting on one more quote to come in before making a decision which contractor to use. He should have a contract ready to sign before the end of this year. It will probably be within the next couple of weeks. Matt Stechly informed the Commissioners that he has a very low bid but that company uses employees with only Mexican Driver's Licenses. The other two bids are coming in around \$1 million. Matt Stechly also updated the Commissioners on the grading and seeding of the ground at the Jail. He stated that they are

waiting on rain to help settle the ground before completing the drainage project. Dan Collom suggested to hold back about \$5,000.00 and seed in the Spring. This will give the ground time to settle and be ready for seeding. Dan Collom suggested that we pay for the services that have been completed. Matt Stechly will be in touch with the changes.

- The Contractual Service Agreement with Purdue University needed to be approved and signed by the Parke County Commissioners. This agreement is for \$127,510.00 for the year 2025 for Parke County. Dan Collom made the motion to approve and sign the Contractual Service Agreement with Purdue University. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- Ryan Lengacher with Wellspring Solar represented Glenn and Amanda Harrill regarding the installation of a hybrid solar panel system for their home. The home owners have a twenty-three-year-old daughter that needs care and electricity around the clock. All the electricity generated will be used by the residence. The home owners will not have the capability to export any electricity commercially. Ryan Lengacher presented information regarding solar panels to the Parke County Board of Commissioners. Ryan Lengacher shared some variance and self-consumption statistics. Ryan Lengacher will get a UDO from LaGrange County for the Commissioners to use as an example to create ordinances regarding solar panel systems. Jim Meece thought that anything over thirty-seven panels may require the property to be assessed as Commercial. Ryan Lengacher said there is a solar exemption that can be filed with the State of Indiana. Luke Gill commented that Parke County could set limits in their ordinances for the total amount of electricity that can be produced or sold back to a Commercial Business for resale and also have a list of restrictions. Usually if someone is to sell electricity back to an electric company, that person would receive a credit on their electric bill. Ryan Lengacher explained that the company he works for, Wellspring Components, LLC, is located in Shipshewana, Indiana and is Amish owned. Jim Meece stated that he would like to learn more about the process as the Harrill's go through it putting in a solar panel system at their home. The Parke County Board of Commissioners does not want to impede the Harrill's progress and gave them the go ahead to proceed. Their solar panel system is not affected by the Moratorium.
- Susan Kramer, Auditor, presented the Parke County Board of Commissioners with a Notice to Supply Dealers for the Highway Department's sealed bids for 2025 publication. Dan Collom made the motion to approve the Notice to Supply Dealers for publication in the local paper. Bruce Hartman seconded to motion and it carried unanimously.
- Jim Meece suggested seeking out bids to redo the interior doors of the Courthouse.
- Dan Collom will get in touch with Barney Carroll to repair the Thorpe Ford Covered Bridge.
- Jim Meece stated that the County Wide Burn Ban is still in place.
- Jim Meece explained that Thrive placed the road counters and were paid for by the CVC.
- Dan Collom was able to take a helicopter ride over Parke County. He saw several high traffic areas in the county. There was a three-way intersection in Bridgeton that was a high traffic area. Dan Collom thought that the County may look into renting temporary stop lights that can be placed in these high traffic areas. These areas may also need dust control if the roads stay busy.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- A new finisher was added to the EMS copier. The Ricoh contract was amended and needed signatures and approval for change to the contract price. The contract price will increase \$12.70 per month. Jim Meece made the motion to approve and sign the amended Ricoh contract. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS: None

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Jackie Woodrum and Brenda Johnson inquired about Ron Roberts or Bumblebee Enterprises cleaning up their property on Old Highway 36. They were wondering if Bumblebee Enterprises had been served any citations regarding violations to any Parke County Ordinances. Nick Sauter believed the property owners were served a citation. He looked up Ronnie Roberts/Bumblebee Enterprises and there is a court date set for Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

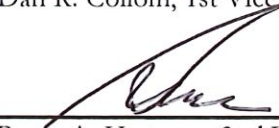
ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Dan Collom and seconded by Bruce Hartman. The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.



Jim Meece, President

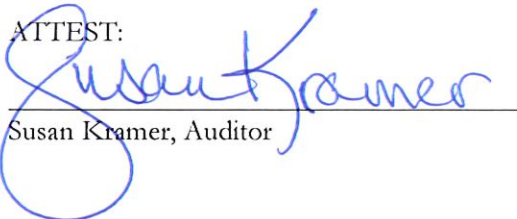


Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce A. Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



Susan Kramer, Auditor