

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 16th, 2020

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2020 having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, March 2nd, 2020.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Commissioners Jim Meece, President; Dan R. Collom, First Vice President; Bruce Hartman, Second Vice President; Laura Fischer, Auditor; Tammy Thomas, 1st Deputy Auditor and County Attorney Nick Sauter. Also present were Larry Bemis, Pam Sanders, Julie Lanzone, Mike Strack, Cyndi Todd, Kim Shorter, Chris O'Brien, Randy Norman, Kathy Collom, Liddy Wright, Stacie Jeffries, Christie Jacob, and Sheriff Justin Cole.
- III. **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, March 2nd, 2020 were approved on a motion made by Dan Collom and seconded by Bruce Hartman. The motion carried unanimously.
- IV. **PAYROLL:** County payroll in the amount of \$166,319.11 was approved for release on Monday, March 16th, 2020 on a motion made by Dan Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Dan Collom made a motion acknowledging receipt of the Payroll Accounts Payables Report in the amount of \$89,182.16 from March 2, 2020. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Jim Meece made a motion acknowledging receipt of the Payroll Accounts Payables Report for March 16, 2020 in the amount of \$49,422.73. Dan Collom seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
- Dan Collom made a motion to approve a hand-typed check payable to the Parke Vermillion County Humane Society in the amount of \$10,000 for an additional donation to match Vermillion County. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Dan Collom made a motion to approve a hand-type check payable to Parke County Sheriff's Office in amount of \$1,000 for drug investigations. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
 - Kenny Austin had scheduled time before the board to discuss the condition of Co Rd 800S, however, he was not at the meeting. Randy Norman stated that as of the meeting Co Rd 800 S had been patched.
 - Christie Jacob, Director of the Purdue Extension Service of Parke County presented a Postage Meter Agreement to be approved by the board. The meter would be installed at the Extension office at the fairgrounds. The fee for the postage meter would come out of their budget. Bruce Hartman made a motion to allow the Extension office to go ahead with the installation. Dan Collom seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Jim Meece signed the agreement.
 - Montezuma Public Library sent a Certificate of Appointment for Kim Crowder to continue for a third term with the library board. Dan Collom made a motion to accept the third term for Kim Crowder and Bruce Hartman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
 - The board reviewed the proposed township voting locations for 2020. The following locations were approved by a motion made by Bruce Hartman and seconded by Dan Collom.
 - o Adams 1-4
 - o Fairgrounds

- Howard, Sugar Creek, Washington
 - Jackson and Union
 - Reserve and Wabash
 - Florida 1
 - Florida 2
 - Liberty
 - Penn
- Marshall Federated Church
 - Bellmore Fire Dept
 - Montezuma Community Center
 - Rosedale Civic Center
 - Lyford Firehouse
 - Tangier Community Bldg
 - Bloomingtondale Community Hall

The Election board had listed Bridgeton Fire Dept as the new proposed location for Raccoon Township. It had previously been held at Collom's General Store. There was some discussion on this matter from the public, as Dan Collom is running for office, and he owns the store. Dan excused himself from this vote. Bruce Hartman and Jim Meece did not bring a motion to move the polling place from Collom's store to the fire department, therefore, the polling place will remain Collom's General Store.

- The Board approved a resolution (2020-06) for the transfer of tax sale certificates for property in the town of Mecca by a motion from Dan Collom and seconded by Bruce Hartman and it carried unanimously.
- The Board reviewed a letter from Duke Energy stating that a herbicide application is planned for our area this year between June 1 and Sept 30, weather permitting, to clear trees, brush, etc from power lines.
- The Sheriff brought two state grant applications before the Board. One for school resource officer training and one for drug training. Bruce Hartman made a motion that the Sheriff pursue these grants. The motion was seconded by Dan Collom and it carried unanimously.
- The Board reviewed the January 2020 and February 2020 Treasurer's Report.
- The Board reviewed the February 2020 report from the Plan Commission.
- The Board reviewed the January 2020 Clerk's Report.
- The Auditor, Laura Fischer updated the Board regarding the property taxes. She stated that they had been sent in for approval and she is waiting on the confirmation of approval.

VI. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- **Liddy Wright, Health Department:**

Ms. Wright stated she is looking for a new hire. Wright stated that Cindy Watson has been retained as the new County Nurse. Ms. Wright is urging all persons visiting the health department call to make an appointment first. There will be "some" tests available for COVID-19. The Health Dept. is looking to set up a drive-thru testing site at the fairgrounds. A training for POD (point of distribution) will be held on Wednesday, March 18. At the courthouse, the janitorial department will be making an extra effort to keep the courthouse clean by wiping down counters, doorknobs, light switches, etc multiple times a day. Julie Lanzone is to get a case of hand sanitizer to distribute. The quantity that can be ordered is limited. Posters and printed information will be distributed regarding the virus, as well as information on social sites. The information given out to the public is to be positive. Julie Lanzone, EMS, Chris O'Brien, EMA/E911, Liddy Wright, Health Dept, and Jim Meece are to meet at 9am Wednesday, March 25 for an information gathering meeting at the EOC to update each other on their findings.

- **Chris O'Brien, EMA/E911:**

Posters and printed information will be provided for the COVID-19 with listed symptoms and what do to if you have them. Dispatchers are receiving training to get information from callers as a checklist to keep the responding officers/ambulance employees better prepared to respond. Chris reported that per the governor and CDC, restaurants have shut down except for take out or delivery, gatherings have been limited to 50 people (but could be changed), social events and meetings have been cancelled throughout the state. This is a plan for an 8-week period with changes possible. Chris presented a FEMA grant request for security programs, including video equipment for Sheriff's department, automatic license plate readers, and mobile cameras to use during festivals. Chris will have further information at the next meeting. Jim Meece made the motion for Chris to move ahead with applying for the grant. The motion was seconded by Bruce Hartman and the motion carried unanimously.

- **Julie Lanzone, EMS:**

The ambulance service will still be responding to calls. There will be a limited number of personnel in contact with a possible case of Coronavirus. The patient will be asked to put on a mask, if possible. Also, the responders will wear a mask when returning from the run and leave it on until the truck has been decontaminated. It will be cleaned after each run and will sit for four hours to let the disinfectant do its job. Julie has been in contact with the hospital for triage to be done by telemedicine on tablets with the patients. All nine departments are certified.

- **Jim Meece, President:**

Jim made the motion that the attendance policy in the handbook be waived temporarily. If anyone feels the need to take days off related to the coronavirus, they should use their comp time first, then sick days, then vacation days. If you have run out of time, the department heads should document this time and the employee will be reimbursed as the county is reimbursed from the government. This includes the ambulance workers who need to self-quarantine after possible contact with a possibly infected person. Dan Collom seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Meece commended Chris, Julie, and Liddy for their hard work and determination to do the best for the county.

Mr. Meece brought to the attention of the board and audience a case in Montgomery county regarding the windmill construction. No existing ordinance existed opposing that, however it was being discussed, but had not made a decision. The windmill construction company went ahead with their construction. Later on, it was voted to not allow windmill construction. A lawsuit was brought to get the money back from the construction company. It is advised that each county have a moratorium on windmill construction until such time as the decision can be made by the commissioners of each county. Jim Meece made a motion to have a moratorium for Parke County on windmill construction until such time as the Planning Commission can develop a policy and that policy be adopted. The motion was seconded by Dan Collom and it passed unanimously.

- **Randy Norman, Parke County Highway:**

Randy has 8 trucks running. 800S, 350W, 1200E Deer Run, Jeffries Ford, and 900S were doing hand patching. Patching machine on 1000E and Nyesville Road. All 4 graders going. March 30 will be going to four 10 hr. days. Randy has almost a full crew now. Four of them are working on their CDL. Mr. Meece asked if the money had been transferred as requested by council. The auditor confirmed that it had.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mike Strack: 2 years ago, it was stated that the commissioners always follow the advice of the election board. Then it was recommended that the voting place for Raccoon Township be Collom's General Store. This year, when Dan Collom has opposition for his office, the election board recommended changing the location to the fire department and the Board of Commissioners did not make a motion to adopt that change. Mr. Strack feels it gives the wrong perception to have the polling place on public property and on a property that belongs to Dan Collom.

Cyndi Todd passed out information about low interest loans for small businesses. She stated we need to have Parke County small business owners to respond to the survey in order to get the loan interest rate lowered. If there are no survey responses from Parke County, there will be no loans available for the county.

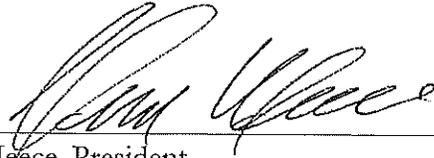
Cyndi Todd had a conversation with Mitchell Smith from Indiana Brownsfields. Property in Lodi that was a former gas station. Indiana Brownsfields reaching out to landowners to perform site investigations for clean-up. The cleanup is at no cost to the county or homeowners. Indiana Brownsfields needs the Commissioners approval for access to complete their site investigation on the alleyways. The motion was made by Bruce Hartman to sign the Site Access Agreement furnished by Indiana Brownsfields to allow them to continue their investigation. The motion was seconded by Dan Collom, and it passed unanimously.

Christie Jacobs made the announcement that the extension office will be discontinuing face to face meetings until April 6 because of COVID-19. Office will be working at home, as able, and someone will be there to answer the phone

Ryan Keller, executive director of West Central Indiana Economic Development district. Area 7 following states guidelines of not going into people's homes because of COVID-19. Telecommuting as much as possible. The meetings with clients previously done as face-to-face is now being done by telephone at least until April 6. Meal sites are being told do disband. However, packs with frozen meals, home delivery. Rural transport is still continuing with precautions.

Nick Sauter updated the board on the jail lighting contract. Early termination clause in the contract states that if the contract is terminated within seven years, the full amount will have to be paid. After the seven years, it is a tiered cost.

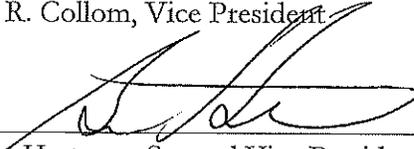
VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Bruce Hartman and seconded by Jim Meece. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.



Jim Meece, President

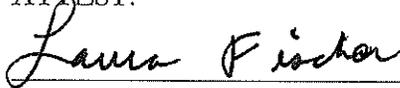


Dan R. Collom, Vice President



Bruce Hartman, Second Vice President

ATTEST:



Laura J Fischer, Auditor