

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 8, 2020

- **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Board of Commissioners convened in a regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8th, 2020, having adjourned from a regular meeting on Monday, August 17th, 2020.
- **ROLL CALL:** Members present were Commissioners Jim Meece, President; Dan R. Collom, First Vice-President; Bruce Hartman, Second Vice President; Laura Fischer, Auditor; Henry Harper, 1st Deputy Auditor; Tammy Thomas, 3rd Deputy Auditor and County Attorney Nick Sauter. Also present were Kathy Collom, Pam Sanders, Justin Cole, Chris O'Brien, Randy Norman, Cyndi Todd, John Martin, and Dean Perkins.
- **MINUTES:** Minutes for the regular meeting on August 17th, 2020 were approved upon a motion made by Dan R. Collom and seconded by Bruce Hartman. The motion was carried unanimously.
- **PAYROLL:** County payroll in the amount of \$174,601.69 was approved for release on Monday, September 14th, 2020 on a motion made by Dan R. Collom. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Dan R. Collom made a motion acknowledging receipt of the Payroll Accounts Payable Report in the amount of \$191,002.43. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
- **CLAIMS:** After reviewing the Claims Docket, claims in the amount of \$441,230.49 were approved for release on September 9th, 2020 on a motion made by Dan R. Collom and seconded by Bruce Hartman. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ambulance director, Julie Lanzone was absent from the meeting and had wrote a letter to Commissioner's about a COVID grant that she applied for, the funds have to be processed within three days of receiving the grant monies. Commissioner Jim Meece made the motion for the grant monies to be disbursed within three days after receipt by the Auditor office. Commissioner Dan R. Collom seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Health Department Sanitarian Liddy Dowd Wright presented a request to the Commissioners to have her vacation time re-instated that was lost on her anniversary date due to COVID. Dan R. Collom made the motion to re-instate Ms. Wright's vacation time. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- **Ordinance 2020-15** was passed to set a speed limit of 30 miles per hour on Nyesville Road in Parke County from the intersection of CR 400E and Nyesville Road south for .8 of a mile. Commissioner Meece made the motion to adopt **Ordinance 2020-15** for the Nyesville Road speed limit. The motion was seconded by Dan R. Collom and it passed unanimously.
- Mr. Dean Perkins of Covington, Indiana, who owns property at 2127 New Discovery Road, Rockville, Indiana, came before the Commissioners in response to a letter from county attorney, Nick Sauter regarding the flooding of New Discovery Road as a result of a levy on his property. Discussion was had between the commissioners and Mr. Perkins regarding this issue.

At the end of the discussion, the Commissioners suggested Mr. Perkins and Highway Superintendent Randy Norman arrange a time to meet at the property to discuss possible ways it could be resolved.

- The Commissioners reviewed a letter received from Melvin L Burks, CEO of Hamilton Center, Inc. stating his approval of the cancellation of the 2020 Covered Bridge Festival and the struggle each commissioner had in deciding their vote. He appreciates the commissioner's "commitment to the health and wellbeing of our communities."
- The Board reviewed a letter from IDEM regarding the permit renewal of Panhandle Eastern Pipeline.
- The Board reiterated the policy for operation during the 2020 Covered Bridge Festival. A brick and mortar store can operate during the festival as long as they have a retail merchant certificate for that location. The Department of Revenue requires a retail merchant certificate. As far as yard sales are concerned, Commissioner Meece is waiting on clarification from attorney's Barnes & Thornburg. As far as definitions of a yard sale from State of Indiana, a yard sale is for selling personal items, not for purchasing items to sell at the yard sale, and not family or groups getting together. A motion was made by Commissioner Meece to suspend the selling of TML (transient merchant license) from October 1 thru October 25, 2020. Bruce Hartman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Board will contact the health department and suggest they do the same for temporary food permits during that time.
- Commissioner Meece mentioned to the board that he had had requests from individuals wanting to cover up the graffiti on covered bridges themselves. Dan R Collom suggested that the individuals cover the graffiti with white paint if it had been done in white paint and if it is on non-painted timbers, it should be covered with brown stain. Jim Meece made a motion to allow individual volunteers to cover up the graffiti on the covered bridges, as long as they are aware that the liability is on the volunteers and not the county. Dan R. Collom seconded and it passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Meece met with the landscape representative. The company is willing to spray for weeds, re-seed, aerate and fertilize the lawn for \$1,000. Jim Meece made the motion to allow custodian Don Pruner to reach out to the company and allow them to go ahead with this program. Dan R. Collom seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Meece reminded the commissioners about the removal of the trees with the red berries around the courthouse. The berries cause a mess on the sidewalk around the courthouse. The commissioners wanted to take another look at the trees before a final decision was made so the decision was deferred.
- Attorney Nick Sauter requested from the board that the insurance bi-weekly billing be taken out of Mr. Sauter's check instead of his wife's, who works for the prosecutor's office. This would be with the understanding that if Mrs. Sauter loses/left her job, Mr. Sauter will lose his insurance as well. Commissioner Meece made the motion that allows the Auditor to immediately change the billing for Nick Sauter's family insurance; to no longer take it out of his wife's check, but out of Nick's. Dan R. Collom seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- **Business Recovery Grant: Resolution 2020-12** was passed to accept the local match of Parke County Community Foundation. Resolution 2020-12 is authorizing application submission and local match commitment of the business recovery application to the Indiana Office of

Community and Rural Affairs and addressing related matters. The County Commissioners, accepts the requisite local funds in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) as matching funds for said program by the Parke County Community Foundation, such commitment to be contingent upon receipt of funding from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. Bruce Hartman made a motion to accept the local match from the Parke County Community Foundation. Dan R. Collom seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- **Resolution 2020-13** was passed for Parke County Board of Commissioners have approved of Parke County Business Recovery Grant Application to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). Upon grant approval of said submission by OCRA, Parke County will receive funding up to \$250,000 to stimulate low to moderate income job retention and growth within the county. The following individuals shall be appointed to receive and approve local application for funding from said OCRA funds in the name of Parke County Units of Government: Cyndi Todd, Nancy Eldridge, Colleen Engle, Greg Goluska, Heather Thompson and Nick Sauter. Bruce Hartman made the motion to create a committee to approve these applications. Dan R. Collom seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

OLD BUSINESS:

- Auditor Laura Fischer, will advertise in the Parke County Sentinel for the two parcels located in Diamond of Raccoon Township and there will be a public notice in the Parke County Sentinel newspaper. The property for sale is in Raccoon Township and will take place during the regular Commissioner meeting on October 5, 2020.
- **Ordinance 2020-16** was passed this is to amend Ordinance 2009-12 that would require real estate owners to ensure that any transient merchant conducting businesses on an owner's real estate must possess a valid TML issued by Parke County Auditor office. Then penalty for a property owner's property has a validly issued TML prior to conducting business shall be a fine of \$500, and said fine shall be imposed per occurrence per day (i.e. every separate violation on every separate day shall result in a separate \$500 fine). This ordinance was passed during Commissioners regular meeting August 17, 2020 and now signed today by the Parke County Commissioner's.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Parke County Sheriff Justin Cole:

- Sheriff Cole presented a grant request from the USDA vehicle grant. The grant would fund 1/3 of the cost of a vehicle and outfitting a vehicle for police use. The county's portion of the cost of a vehicle would be approximately \$28,000. The motion was made by Dan R. Collom to allow Sheriff Cole to pursue this grant for a new vehicle. The motion was seconded by Bruce Hartman and it carried unanimously.
- The jail billed out \$13,950 for DOC and no out of county inmates are being held. The average cost per month works out to \$17,525 and there was 4,231 meals have been served at the jail this year.

- The LED lighting upgrade is complete. The sheriff's department was able to get rid of the old bulbs by donating them to anyone in the county that would like them.

Parke County Highway Supervisor Randy Norman:

- Randy presented the commissioners a claim for an out of cycle check in the amount of \$938.93 to AT&T for a damaged phone line on county road 1000S.
- Vectren contacted the highway department regarding the closure of 500N for line replacement almost to West Street. The road needs to close and/or be limited to one lane for the day care and residents. This limitation and closure will last 5-6 weeks.
- Randy is comfortable with 10-20 miles paving per summer with his own crew. The cost runs about half price for the county employees to pave the roads themselves.
- Staff is missing 2 truck drivers and one planning on retiring. He will be short one operator in November. No applications have been received.
- Dan R Collom reported complaints regarding the curve at Neet Bridge. The brush is needing cut. Also, cutting needs to be done on Crooks Road, Hoosier Road and School Road in Bridgeton. The Crooks bridge on the northwest corner is missing some siding and parts of the bridge are exposed to the weather.
- Discussion was held again regarding the personal property tax payments on the leased equipment from John Deere Credit. The government is exempt. Mr. Sauter read a statute that states a form is needed to be filled out. He will do more investigation.

Parke County Emergency Management (EMA/E911) Director, Chris O'Brien:

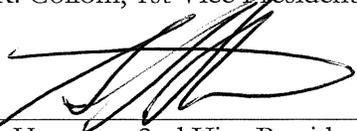
- EMA/E911 Director, Chris O'Brien brought before the board an approval request for a \$75,000 IT grant. Jim Meece made the motion to allow Chris O'Brien and the health department to send in the grant application documents. Dan R. Collom seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- The COVID working group has four requests that need to be forwarded for reimbursement. The amounts are \$5,685.91, \$11,230.29, \$100.00 and \$60.00. However the \$60.00 claim was denied for bank fees reimbursement and therefore the Treasurer office will seek reimbursement from bank. Commissioner Meece made the motion to approve these grant requests and forward them on to be reimbursed by the Corona Virus relief fund. Dan R. Collom seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- **PERSONS REQUESTING TIME ON THE AGENDA:** None
- **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.
- **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 5:33 p.m.



Jim Meece, President



Dan R. Collom, 1st Vice President



Bruce Hartman, 2nd Vice President

ATTEST:



Laura J Fischer,
Parke County Auditor