

Parke County Non-Partisan  
Committee on Political Education  
May 11, 2008

Subject: Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2008

The May 10th Meeting was held at Parke County Fairground Extension C.R. in Rockville. The topic of this meeting was the Parke County Highway Commission operations. Department Superintendent Clarence “Randy” Norman was the speaker for the meeting.

The meeting was called to order promptly at 9:00am. Superintendent Norman was introduced and presented information about funding for the Parke County Highway Commission. Randy presented a 5 page document that showed how funding is calculated for the Commission and the status of funding over the past 4 year. This document is available for review on our web site at [www.parkecountycopa.com](http://www.parkecountycopa.com).

During the presentation a lot of discussion took place that revealed some interesting facts:

Did you know that truck registrations are not counted in determining the funding we receive for our roads? Well, this is true. It was pointed out the light trucks make up more than half of the vehicle registration in the County. But, we can all do something about this. Trucks less than 9000lbs can be licensed as cars. So, it was recommended that those of us who have light trucks register them as cars, not trucks, so that the County will get additional funds. By the way a car registration is \$9.00 cheaper. So, why not do this?

Jim Meece, County Commissioner, was in attendance and said that he was preparing a letter to the editor of the Sentinel describing this situation and asking us all to help out by registering our trucks as cars where possible. Jim said that he would delay his letter until he obtained more statistics about the impact of the action on our County Road funding. The letter will probably be in the paper in a couple of weeks.

No property Taxes go directly to the Road Commission. However, part of the Property Taxes goes to the cumulative Bridge Maintenance fund.

There are 179 open bridges and 28 covered bridges in the County. The County must inspect the bridges every 2 years and make repairs as dictated by the inspectors. These inspections run approximately \$1850.00 per bridge. Part of the maintenance on covered bridges involves repainting. Jim StClair made a suggestion that the County contact Paint Manufacturers and inquire if they would be willing to paint the bridges in exchange for advertising their products as being used on the bridges. Jim Meece said

that he would follow up on this idea. It might result in a significant savings in keeping the covered bridges in top shape.

Superintendent Norman was asked how the County prioritized the work on individual roads. The Questioner was upset that his road had not received attention this year. It was pointed out that the County Road work is based on:

- 1) Available funding
- 2) Work required on roads requiring emergency repairs
- 3) Condition of roads not requiring emergency repairs.

Did you know that there is a fee for buggies in Parke County? The County collects \$50.00 per buggy for road use. Total funds received are estimated at approximately \$11,000.00 per year. Interesting!!!

Superintendent Norman concluded his presentation by giving the status of funding as follows:

State revenue for Roads is down \$102,085.86 from 2004 to 2007

Fuel expenses are up \$112,207.18 from 2004 to 2007

The County Road Commission is attempting to do the best they can with what they have to work with to keep our roads in good condition.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45.

The next Parke County COPE Meeting will be held on June 28<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am at the County Fairground Extension C.R. The topic of discussion will be Property Taxes and the impact of the New Legislation on Property Tax. Mark Spelbring will be the presenter.

John Anderson

Chairman

Parke County Non-Partisan Committee on Political Education

Subject: Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2008 – **Addendum to May 11<sup>th</sup> Minutes**

A question concerning county funding received from the Indiana State Major Moves Program was asked in absentia by Chris Marsolf. (Major Moves was the program that leased the Indiana Toll Way for approximately \$4Billion) “How much did Parke County receive from the Major Moves Program?”

Superintendent Norman explained that Parke County received a total of \$882,000.00 over a period of 2 years, or \$441,000.00 per year. One year’s contribution was invested resulting in the balance as of last October after this year’s budget consideration of \$183,000.00