

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AUGUST 5, 2024

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The Jasper County Commissioners met this date at 8:30 A.M. C.S.T at 910 S. Sparling, Rensselaer, Indiana with the following members present: Rein Bontreger, James Walstra and Jeffrey DeYoung. Also present were Auditor, Donya Jordan, Deputy Auditor, Treasure Gilbert and Eric Beaver, the Attorney that represents the Commissioners. Those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Bontreger. There was a brief moment of silence following the Pledge.

MINUTES: Mr. Walstra motioned to approve the minutes from July 1, 2024, as presented, Mr. DeYoung seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. DeYoung motioned to approve the minutes from the Joint Session with the Jasper County Council on July 16, 2024, Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

CLAIMS: Mr. Walstra motioned to approve the claims, as presented, Mr. DeYoung seconded and the motion carried.

PAYROLL CLAIMS: Mr. DeYoung motioned to approve the payroll claims with checks dated July 15, 2024 and July 30, 2024, Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

BURIED CABLES: County Engineer, Mr. Haberlin, said there was six buried cables for internet and they all looked good.

Mr. DeYoung motioned to approve the buried cable permit for Precision on 10963 N 400 W in Walker Township, Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Walstra motioned to approve the buried cable permit for Surf Internet on W 1600 S/ East St / West St / Meadow Dr / S 630 W in Carpenter Township, Mr. DeYoung seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. DeYoung motioned to approve the buried cable permit for Surf Internet with two bores on 580 W in Carpenter Township, Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. DeYoung motioned to approve the buried cable permit for Surf Internet with five bores on 580 W in Carpenter Township, Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Walstra motioned to approve the buried cable permit for Brightspeed on 380 W & US 24 in Carpenter Township, Mr. DeYoung seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. DeYoung motioned to approve the buried cable permit for IMEG from 9360 W 950 N to 9321 W 950 N in Keener Township, Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

VOTING CENTERS FOR GENERAL ELECTION: Clerk, Ms. Fishburn, joined via Zoom. She said the voting centers are the same as they were for the Primary Elections. She said they had a lot of positive feedback moving vote center #7 from the fire station to the Armory so, they are keeping it at the Armory. She said the voting hours will be from 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., per State law. Mr. Walstra motioned to approve the voting centers, as presented, Mr. DeYoung seconded and the motion carried. Ms. Fishburn said they are gearing up for the General Elections and those that requested a ballot by mail, they will be mailed out starting September 19, 2024.

KAITLYN BOOMSMA / REPLACE EMPLOYEES: Community Corrections Director, Ms. Boomsma, said they lost a surveillance officer and they would replace them with a correctional officer so, she asked to replace the correctional officer. She also asked to replace a part-time correctional officer. Mr. Walstra motioned to approve replacing the two positions, Mr. DeYoung seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Bontreger asked how things were going and their current census on residents. Ms. Boomsma said as of Friday, they have 25/30 male beds full and 2/8 female beds full. Mr. Bontreger asked if their kitchen was finally fully functional. Ms. Boomsma said they were waiting for the check to get their appliances. She said she talked to Webstaurant and they said once they get the check, it will take about 7-10 days to process and then they will ship their stuff. She said hopefully they will have everything by the end of the month.

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AUDITOR'S OFFICE / LOW QUOTE: Ms. Jordan said the quote from LOW will allow the departments to file their own claims with the Auditor's Office and reduce the paperwork. She said after they file them, they will just have to approve them. The amount was \$4,000.00 for remote claim entry with attachments annual maintenance. Mr. DeYoung motioned to approve the quote with LOW, Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

REZONE: There was a rezone from A1 Conservation Agriculture District to A2 General Agriculture District in Barkley Township. Ms. Scheurich joined via Zoom and said its very straight forward. She said it's a ten-acre piece and they are asking to rezone it to split it in half for future development. She said there was a unanimous vote from the Plan Commission. Mr. Walstra motioned to approve the rezone, Mr. DeYoung seconded and the motion carried.

ANDY BOERSMA / FORENSIC CENTER: Mr. Bontreger said they will refer to the new proposed Coroner's building as the "forensic center" going forward. He said this will be included as one of their law enforcement facilities so they can qualify to use the Special Purpose fund. Mr. Boersma said the purpose of the building is very important and he wants to make sure they fulfill the requirements by law. He said they recently had a case with a decomposed body and they have no place to store it and they cannot cremate it. He said they had to turn to the Township Trustee and they didn't have the funds to do anything. He said Marion Township gave them a grave to place the body in until they found family members. He said this case alone cost the County \$4,175.00. He said they had three cases of unidentified bodies within this time period so, this is why a new facility is important.

Mr. Boersma said the building they are in is substandard and they do not have a negative pressure room or the proper PPE that they need to have. He said they could be fined for not having the proper stuff. He said the Indiana Code gives a clear understanding of what they shall have. He said I.C. 36-2-14-22 states "All counties shall provide a climate-controlled environment; the County shall exercise reasonable care in providing a climate-controlled environment for the purpose of retarding decomposition of a human body in the coroner's custody." He said he wants to see that something gets done and he wanted to see if there was any consensus from the Commissioners; if they are willing to step forward and hire someone to make the drawings and sit down with their committee to go through the plans. He said if they can build a million-dollar building for an ambulance service then, he doesn't see why they can't do this. He said they don't need to spend 4.2 million dollars but, asked what they can do.

Mr. Boersma said he would like the Commissioners to make some sort of agreement so they can move forward. He said the county is growing and they are already at 52 cases this year. He said they have to do something. He said in their current building, the cooler is ten years old, the floor sweats, the walls get wet and they have to keep fans on 24/7 to keep it dry. Mr. Bontreger asked Mr. Walstra and Mr. DeYoung what an appropriate amount would be to get drawings done. He said they need to get a few design options so they can shoot for a lower price. He said the committee also needs to decide on a location. Mr. DeYoung added that things aren't going to get any cheaper and he is concerned about the "shall" with the State's Code. He said it will probably be around \$40,000-\$50,000 to get drawings from an engineer. He said he is willing to get the ball rolling today and they definitely need something. Attorney Beaver said they can list the specifications they need for the facility and the potential bidders can provide a design on a couple of options. He said after this, they can get more detailed specifications with the construction manager then, they can have public bidding. He said he will look at the specs and let the Commissioners know what kind of proposal they need. Mr. Urbano suggested sending out the sketch they already have to those they want to bid on the project.

Auditor Jordan said they really need to think about how they are going to pay for this. Attorney Beaver said this could be apart of the RFP (request for proposal). He said they provide financing options. Mr. DeYoung motioned to approve Attorney Beaver working on the RFP proposals to initiate the process, Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried. Attorney Beaver asked what

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ANDY BOERSMA / FORENSIC CENTER CONTINUED: would happen with the current building if they build the new facility. Mr. Boersma said it belongs to the Commissioners but, it is a slab building with no foundation and if they don't do something soon, its going to fall down around them because, it is always wet. He said they also have ceilings falling apart that they've had to patch a couple of times. Mr. Walstra said it was never made to be what it is now so, they have to start from scratch.

Mr. Boersma said that the HR Director had asked if they would be attending the AIC Conference in September and they are going to attend. He said he would like to ask questions while there.

Mr. Boersma said they still have a salary ordinance conversation that might have been misconstrued but, when he got his money from the Council last year, they raised the transport fee and the Auditor's Office keeps reducing the \$175 fee to \$125. He said the Commissioners had asked Attorney Beaver to write a letter or memorandum of understanding but, he doesn't understand why because, it is a service, not a salary. He said he would like for the people who are doing the transports to be reimbursed for the money that he asked for.

OTHER BUSINESS

BP UPDATE: Mr. Bontreger said he received a brief update from BP concerning an analysis well. He said they will not be pursuing any analysis well drilling in Jasper County for the rest of 2024. He said they are reassessing the pace of their project. He said he once again, stated their reservations and the fact that they are not in favor of carbon sequestration. He said he does not know what their intentions are for 2025 but, they will not be pursuing anything in 2024.

STRIPING: Mr. DeYoung said a citizen had requested some striping at 400 W and 10 by KV High School. He said he called around for some bids and had one from Jackson Striping. He said the lines are pretty much faded away. He said he met Mr. Jackson on site and they talked about doing both sides of the highway which includes turn lanes both ways and stop bars. The total for the quote was \$2,790.00. Mr. DeYoung said he reached out to the KV School Board and Superintendent to see if they would pay half but, they were not willing to do that.

Mr. DeYoung said he also got a quote from Jackson's for the Prairie Ridge Subdivision entrance. He said it is a widened intersection so, there should be two turn lanes to the left and right and a stop bar that never got placed. The total for this quote was \$875.00. Mr. Bontreger asked Mr. Cain if they do any in-house striping. Mr. Cain said no, they don't have the resources to do that. Mr. Walstra motioned to approve the quotes from Jackson's striping, Mr. DeYoung seconded and the motion carried.

ED CAIN / HIGHWAY UPDATE: Mr. Cain said they got the new stop signs put up and they just finished 50 miles of chip and seal. He said they are waiting on the CCMG money to start their project.

NEW LOCATION FOR MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT: Mr. DeYoung said with the upcoming Health Department remodel, they are needing to find a new location for the Maintenance department. He said they looked at the Highway Department and they have a pole barn they could use. He said they talked about putting a concrete floor on half of it and a dividing wall. He said he called three or four contractors and had a quote from his brother with Jason DeYoung Construction. He said the dividing wall, which is 40 foot across, floor to ceiling, would cost \$4,430.00. He said the floor would cost \$17,550.00. Mr. Cain asked if the plan includes a man door because, there is only one door and if they put up a divider wall, there won't be any way to access that side. Mr. Bontreger asked Mr. DeYoung to get a quote for the whole floor. Mr. DeYoung said he will come back in two weeks with a number for everything.

SAFETY GRANT: Mr. Haberlin said they should start the topic of getting a safety grant. Mr. Dammarell, with BF&S, said there is a call for projects that INDOT has. He said there has been conversations about projects that would improve safety throughout the county. He said INDOT is

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SAFETY GRANT CONTINUED: starting projects that have a quick turnaround, which is about two years. He said some examples of these projects would be striping, signal backups, signage or anything that can be done in the rights-of-way. Mr. Dammarell said they need to think about what kind of projects the county wants to do to prepare for this grant. Mr. Bontreger asked Mr. Cain if he could create a priority list. Mr. Cain said he already has one.

ORDINANCE UPDATES / SOLAR / PIPELINES: Mr. Bontreger asked Attorney Beaver if he had any updates on some of the ordinances they have been working on. Attorney Beaver said in regards to the solar ordinance proposed by the Plan Commission, the Commissioners have 90 days to act on it. The deadline for the Commissioners to act would be August 29th. He said in two weeks the Commissioners are holding a Special Meeting because, the Health Department remodel bids had to be pushed back. He said this has already been advertised so, they can add the solar ordinance amendment to that agenda.

Attorney Beaver wanted to clarify that pipeline regulations and well regulations are two different things.

MICHELLE LAGESTEE / JASPER COUNTY TRAILS CLUB: Ms. Lagestee said she just wanted to give an update that they finished a master plan. She said they got a grant from the Jasper/Newton Foundation. She said perhaps, the next meeting they can provide their findings. Mr. Bontreger said sure, she is officially on for two weeks.

ANDY BOERSMA: Mr. Boersma said there has been many accidents at the Kniman road and 231 with the bridge being out on the west side of Wheatfield. He suggested a radio announcement to remind people to be cautious, especially with school starting.

ZOOM / COUNTY WEBSITE: Ms. Gilbert said that they will be replacing the laptop in the meeting room next week so, hopefully they will have better sound going forward. Mr. Bontreger said they are trying to resolve the Zoom issues. He said the process to upgrade the County website will be starting soon. He said they plan to pursue a YouTube account which will allow word-for-word transcribing and archiving meetings online.

PUBLIC COMMENT

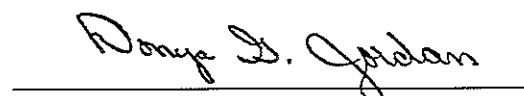
There were no public comments.

There being no further business, Mr. Walstra motioned to continue the meeting to Monday, August 19, 2024, Mr. DeYoung seconded and the motion carried.

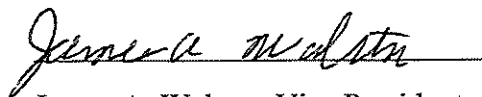


Rein Bontreger, President

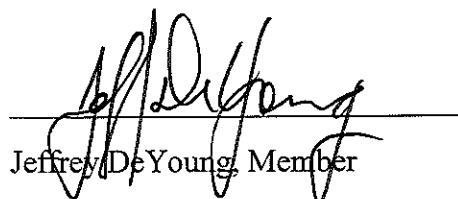
ATTEST:



Donya G. Jordan, Auditor of Jasper County



James A. Walstra, Vice President



Jeffrey DeYoung, Member