

CONTINUED, SPECIAL MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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The Jasper County Commissioners met this date at 8:30 A.M. C.S.T at 910 S Sparling Ave., Rensselaer, Indiana with the following members present: Rein Bontreger, Craig Standish and Ryan Hilton. Also present were Auditor, Diana Boersma, Deputy Auditor, Cynthia Slaughter, 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.

CORONER BOERSMA: Mr. Boersma stated it the job of the County Commissioner's to give them an appointed person from the community to serve on the Child Fatality Review Team. He stated we are not a big county so we don't have a lot to go on the Suicide and Overdose Fatality Review Team as well so they are going to kind of combine them together. He stated he reached out to Jenny Morrison from Wheatfield. He stated Jenny is a retired nurse and it would be nice to have that type of expertise on the review team and he needs the Commissioners blessings for her to be on both teams. He stated their first meeting is scheduled for February 5th and they need to get some cases done on child fatality review/drug overdose and suicide and they need to get that done so they meet the state criteria and get that back to the State Health Department and they also have to report some of that to the CDC. Mr. Bontreger stated even though you are using the same personnel for these different teams do you have to have them all filed separately. Mr. Boersma stated no, they are all agreed upon and they sign a piece of paper that they can't speak about what they talk about in public. He stated certain things they can talk about but cause of death and manner of death and names are private. He stated they did not have anyone for those slots and they finally found somebody willing to step up and join them to fulfill it and they are able to meet their quota and their quorum. Mr. Standish stated the review board, some of the members are on that by statute of who they have to be. Mr. Boersma stated yes, part of it is the coroner, medical personnel for medical services, firemen, health department, hospital, law enforcement, local and state agencies from child services, mental health professional, a physician, school board or school personnel, social services, the prosecutor, and then the person he is asking for today who is willing to do this in good faith. He stated the prosecutor heads the child fatality review team and then the coroner is next under him to see that they get everything placed and in order. He stated the health department helps file the paperwork and keeps track of what gets sent for suicides and overdoses and things like that. Mr. Hilton stated it seems to him that it takes a special person to accept that challenge and he would be accepting of this individual. Mr. Hilton made a motion to approve the recommendation of Jenny Morrison to the review team. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion carried.

RECORDER KIM GROW: Mr. Bontreger stated Ms. Grow is looking for the standard approval of a 5-year land records life cycle extension for Fidler. Mr. Beaver stated they have been doing 5-year extensions for 15 years. Mr. Standish made a motion to approve the 5-year extension with Fidler. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion carried.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

KANKAKEE-IROQUOIS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

Mr. Hilton made a motion to appoint Mr. Craig Standish for a one-year term. Mr. Bontreger seconded and the motion carried.

PLAN COMMISISON:

Mr. Standish made a motion to appoint Mr. Eric Johns for a four-year term. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion carried.

HEALTH BOARD:

Mr. Hilton made a motion to approve Kari Goodman for a four-year term. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion carried.

JASPER COUNTY TOURISM COMMISSION:

Mr. Hilton made a motion to approve Rick Farias for a two-year term. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion carried.

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OVERHEAD DIGITAL PROJECTOR & SCREEN: MR. Bontreger stated this was a point of reminder and he has not had a chance to talk to Eric from IT but they want to look into getting a digital Bluetooth connectable wire, projector to put on a screen in the meeting room.

WOVEN HOPE AND HOUSE OF GRACE:

Mr. Bontreger stated Woven Hope, a 501c(3), an organization that provides women's addiction and recovery program and integration back into the workforce and society is working on getting their facility renovated and have made a request of \$20,000. He stated this request would come out of the unrestricted opioid fund. He stated this would allow them to get their renovations going.

Mr. Bontreger stated House of Grace is an active recovery program that they gave to last year and they have requested \$30,000. He stated this request would be best if it came out of the restricted opioid fund.

Mr. Hilton stated he went to the House of Grace's banquet and the strides these organizations are doing for recovery of opioid issues and things like that are tremendous. He stated you might look at success rate as being overarching but success is success nonetheless. He stated whether they have a 35% or 40% success rate these individuals and these ladies are wanting to better themselves and their lives and that is very important, especially in rural communities, to him especially as he sees that being an over developing problem throughout rural communities so he would be very supportive of both of these. Mr. Standish stated they have heard time and time again, Sheriff Williamson at the podium talking about that transition point from when they are released from detention and getting back in to the workforce so they don't end back in there and it is an ongoing problem, not just here but everywhere and he is very supportive of both. Mr. Bontreger stated they had a good suggestion and will follow it up later this year to actually get a form and have more of a formal process of applying for grants, so to speak, for these types of things, and that will be a discussion they will be having. He stated the Jasper Newton Foundation offered to lend some of their expertise to assist with that but these needs are immediate and are in the community.

Mr. Hilton made a motion to approve \$30,000 from the restricted opioid fund for House of Grace and \$20,000 from the unrestricted opioid fund for Woven Hope. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion carried.

JASPER COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD CONTRACTS FOR LEGAL SERVICES:

Mr. Beaver stated historically he does not know that the Commissioners have actually signed the contracts with the individual attorneys. He stated they went through a good amount of work last year establishing methods for paying attorneys who are selected by the board and giving them health insurance versus the ones who don't and the ones he saw appear to follow the form that the Public Defender Commission from downstate had provided for contracts for employment. He stated they are considered employees under the contract so that they are eligible to receive the health insurance benefits. Mr. Bontreger stated there is no place for the Commissioners to sign them but should they have an oral approval. Mr. Beaver stated yes. Mr. Bontreger stated the Public Defender Board has signed and approved them. Mr. Standish made a motion to approve the signed Jasper County Public Defender contracts as presented by the Jasper County Public Defender board. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion carried.

K-IRPC: Mr. Bontreger stated this is concerning the amount of money that we contract for them, and what was approved for 2026 was less than what they had requested. He stated they need to approve this and then send it to the Council for them to have an additional for this. He stated the amount requested is based on 55 cents per capita of Jasper County's population of 32,918 persons, comes up to \$18,104.90 and only \$13,168 was approved. Mr. Hilton made a motion to approve the K-IRPC request of \$18,104.90. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion carried.

AUDITOR BOERSMA: Ms. Boersma stated go.gov is an app with more ways to get information out about what is going on with the county and it seems like a lot of counties are going with that.

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AUDITOR BOERSMA CONT'D: She stated the next part is that there has been talk about wanting timeclocks to clock in and out of for work. She stated there is a quote from Low and then Mason Lane from TCP. She stated if we stick with Low then that goes with the Financial system so there would be less steps in doing payroll because then she would not have to take the file and transfer it and then update it into our Low payroll system. Mr. Bontreger stated the Low option offers the timeclock option as well and its integrated into our system. Ms. Boersma stated yes and there would be less steps with it. Mr. Bontreger stated what departments are we looking to implement this on because it wouldn't necessarily work with Highway. Mr. Cain stated they have time cards that they fill out everyday and they do have a time clock. He stated most of the time the guys are clocking in from the radio because they are out doing stuff but sometimes guys are clocking in in the morning with a timeclock. Mr. Bontreger asked is moving to something like this something that you see as beneficial or would you prefer to stay with your current method. Mr. Cain stated he is fine with the way it is now. Mr. Bontreger asked Ms. Boersma if this is an all or nothing, every department, or can you pick how many departments you want to do. Ms. Boersma stated you can pick how many you want to do, from her understanding, how many employees and in what departments you want to do this with. She stated this is just one of those things that has been around and you get salesmen calling you all the time about it and you entertain some thoughts. Mr. Bontreger asked Mr. Urbano what his thoughts are as a department head. Mr. Urbano stated he thinks things are fine the way they are. He stated he thinks this should be something that is brought to all of the department heads to see what their thoughts are but he has never had a problem with the way the timecards are processed through their office. He stated their secretary takes care of them and he looks over everything as the department head. Mr. Hilton stated he sees there being some positives behind this, you take some employees who may work after hours and things like that, just to get an idea of accountability and where they are at. Ms. Boersma stated this could be implemented at any time.

Mr. Mason Lane with TCP joined the meeting via Zoom. Mr. Lane stated they have a downloadable app to any type of cell phone and they do offer a kiosk like function to if you do not want to mandate this to employee phones. He stated they would be able to use a tablet or some type of Chromebook or another solution to clock in and out at. He stated TCP can be based off of the employee count so if you think one department might not benefit from having it but others would highly benefit from it they can adjust their employee count. He stated they had the County with 256 employees and that can increase and decrease at any time. Mr. Bontreger stated the other quote they have is from a company that already works with our financial software, what extra levels of process are there to integrate your data into our system. Mr. Lane stated they work with Low so in terms of the exporting and importing they offer only timekeeping as Low offers more of a large suite of things. He stated they will be brought in to handle the mobile decisions that need to be made so they only do time and attendance but they do have a working export to Low. He stated 7 counties in Indiana use that export today and they could show it to them. He stated they will build out the implementation for the county and they make sure it works. He stated they do 3 payroll cycles for the customer so by the end of implementation you would know that it fully works and integrates just the way they need it to. Mr. Bontreger asked that he share what other counties use their software. Mr. Lane stated they have Benton, Boone, Fulton, Greene, Noble, LaGrange, and Posey Counties that are today using TCP. Mr. Bontreger stated it looks like there are some one-time fees to get this set up and then there are recurring fees. He asked is that recurring amount based on an amount based per employee or per unit. Mr. Lane stated yes. He stated TCP bases it off of just an employee count and that would be your reoccurring basis, there are 2 reoccurring charges that would be on an annual basis. He stated the first year would be \$11,520 and then with this contract, you are set at a 5-year rate and that would be \$45 per employee per year on a 5-year basis and that is off of 256 so that could be more or less depending on how many employees participate. Mr. Bontreger stated Ms. Boersma was looking to streamline stuff, they have not heard an outcry that the current system is not working and he wanted to honor Diana's initiative as she

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AUDITOR BOERSMA CONT'D: was looking into it. He stated if there is a better way of doing something he is willing to look at it. Ms. Boersma stated she thinks it was another employee that was checking it out and she inherited it. Mr. Bontreger stated this is something they will take under consideration and not likely make a quick decision on. He stated they are familiar with the folks in Benton County and will reach out and talk to the Commissioner there and get their opinion.

OTHER BUSINESS

WEED BOARD JIM MARTIN: Mr. Martin stated they have been meeting every month since they were established and have been getting real good attendance from their board members and they are making progress. He stated he would like to request some additions to the original ordinance. He stated the original ordinance says agriculture and there is a lot of county that is not agriculture and they would like to help people that are not agriculture, they are not taking agriculture out they are just adding to the process. Mr. Bontreger stated they are adding the terms invasive species and are adding it to noxious wheat that was already there and then that have adverse significance on natural resources, local ecosystems, and agricultural production in Indiana. Mr. Martin stated yes, if it is not too much trouble and if it is not too expensive to do this it would make their job easier but they can manage if not. Mr. Beaver stated a lot of the definitions come from statute and he does not see a problem with enlarging the scope and with the mission of the statue serve its purpose better. He stated he will take a look at this and see what they can get done. Mr. Bontreger stated they can maybe handle it next month then. Mr. Beaver stated yes. Mr. Bontreger stated he agrees, widening the scope would be important to make sure they can work with anybody in Jasper County.

Mr. Martin stated they are getting ready to hire somebody to run the Weed Board, the administrator. He stated they are working on a job description and he is just giving them a heads up that they probably would ask for official permission at the next meeting but they are moving forward on that. He stated he understands the county has a part time salary of \$21.95 an hour and their person would probably working for that salary but they have more money than that available. He stated Soil and Water is going to enter into an agreement with them, if they are willing, to provide \$20,000 worth of additional salary for this employee. He stated if they need to have a Memorandum of Understanding with them they are can enter into that as well. Mr. Bontreger stated he thinks that would fit within the template that the Council just approved the other night. He stated he is agreeable with that, letting them supplement to make sure they get a qualified person. Mr. Standish asked if this is going to be a part time position. Mr. Martin stated if they could come up with enough money for full time that is what they want but they are not talking, as they talked in the past, there will be no benefits. He stated they are applying right now for a several grants and with the county money that has been provided and money coming from Soil and Water, if they get a couple of grants they are getting close to a living salary for a full-time person with the exception of benefits. He stated that living salary would be around \$50,000-\$55,000. Mr. Standish stated you are still looking for the county to supply a vehicle for the weed board. Mr. Martin stated yes if it is available. Mr. Bontreger asked Mr. Beaver to pull up that MOU template just to have available if and when they are ready to execute that. Mr. Martin stated they are committing 100% to the \$20,000.

CITY OF RENSSELAER BRYCE BLACK: Mr. Bontreger stated Bryce Black was going to be here this morning but they have some issues to deal with. He stated Mr. Black put together a letter for them, which brought to light the fees that the Commissioners paid to help with the utility expansion and the courthouse, the amount of money that they spent for the courthouse sidewalks. He stated these are capable and qualifiable matching funds for the Downtown Pavilion grant and Mr. Black is asking them to sign a letter that shows that the support and investment that they have already made to help qualify for the Readi 2.0. He stated there is no additional spending, it is just committing documenting the spending they have already done that qualifies. Mr. Standish made a

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CITY OF RENSSELAER BRYCE BLACK CONT'D: motion to sign the letters of support. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Black joined the meeting via Zoom. Mr. Black stated he would add that the figures that are in the letters are a little bit higher than the County's investment due to all the water main repairs and everything that the City had done around the courthouse, it reflects all of the investment in that area and that is why those numbers are higher than the Larson-Danielson claim that was approved in the meeting.

NIPSCO REZONE: Mr. Bontreger stated as previously listed on this agenda for this meeting and this continued meeting, they did take up the topic and listened about the rezone request and the Plan Commission recommendation that was unfavorable at the time. He stated during this time, it has provided them to have opportunity to discuss some of the outstanding issues that were brought to light in that Plan Commission meeting and Nipsco has been collaborative with them to get a lot of these issues taken care of and of course, they are working to make sure that going forward with any of these types of projects this stuff gets handles ahead of time. He stated they have Nipsco representatives at the meeting. He stated he printed out the list Tanya had sent to them but whoever would like to get to the podium first and just start the discussion. He stated they are not making a decision today and will be doing that at the February 2nd meeting and that will probably draw a lot of interest so they will probably relocate that meeting to the fairgrounds. He stated this is impacting projects of such magnitude that it has required the Commissioners doing their research, following up conversations, and trying to find out what they don't know. He stated they had a couple questions and also wanted the public to know some of those outstanding issues have been addressed. Ms. Tanya Stanley stated she is Senior Director of Real Estate Services for Nipsco, 801 E. 86th Ave. Merrillville, IN. She stated she a provided list of updated activities she would like to review. She stated she has submitted documentation to the Drainage Board for their review and approval on the schedule for 2-2. She stated they have not received any questions as of yet so they believe everything has been submitted accordingly. Mr. Bontreger asked if that was the drainage plan for the peaker site. Ms. Stanley stated yes. She stated they are also working on the building permit for the peaker site as well. She stated they have obtained all of the highway department driveway approvals and there were 7 of those completed. She stated culverts input were requested and that was done. She stated they have paid the permit fees and are fully aware that the permit will not be issued until they have met the requirements. She stated for the septic and well, they are working on the locations of those. She stated they have onboarded for this septic, Tiffany with Horizontal Drilling Services, and she will self-perform the soil samples and then help get that permit submitted for them and their expectation and anticipation is by February 2nd. She stated the well permit, they have also onboarded the appropriate vendor for that, and are identifying the locations and again they will have that hopefully in place by February 2nd. She stated they are working on the Road Use Agreement, some red lines with you guys right now, and in your hands for review. She stated they are also going to meet out on site Friday to look at the path forward that the county recommends to use for heavy traffic. She stated Nipsco has approved the Commissioner's request to put some gravel down on 300, going north up to the entrance of their project and that has started. She stated they are grading it right now and they are going to wait until the weather temperature elevate so that they can lay some gravel and smooth it out and they are working with Ed Cain on that. Mr. Bontreger stated Mr. Cain made the point that we have to plow snow and you don't want to plow the gravel into the ditch. Ms. Stanley stated they will work with that appropriately, depending on the weather. She stated they have some monitoring wells and are working very closely with Craig and team on where those are located and if there is any movement necessary. Mr. Bontreger stated he appreciates them getting the outstanding issues cleaned up so that they can move, potentially move forward with, at least everything being checked as far as where they are at. Mr. Hilton stated the fact that they have been forthcoming and forward with a lot of these things, handling it, and getting it taken care of in a timely fashion and being transparent with getting it done, so thank you. Mr. Standish asked Ms. Scheurich if we have received an

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NIPSCO REZONE CONT'D: application fee for the building permit. Ms. Scheurich stated we have not received that yet. Ms. Stanley stated it should have been in the mail Friday. Mr. Bontreger stated as part of their discussions to try to make sure things going forward don't slip through the cracks it is his understanding that Nipsco is looking at hiring a new position or creating a new position that handles some of these topics. Mr. Rick Kalinski stated he is the Director of Public Affairs and Economic Development with Nipsco. Mr. Kalinski stated currently, what they will have is Karen, who is Public Affairs, who handles Jasper County, and he knows has a relationship with the Commissioners and many of the folks in Jasper County will lead that for them but, Rob and team, as they move forward through construction will have somebody who is designated that will be part of open communication and Karen will also be at the table through that process. He stated as they move forward in any direction, good, open, transparent communication that they have established even over the last month to six weeks, is extremely critical as they move forward making sure that they are minimizing impact, people know what is happening in the community and if there are challenges and issues as they move forward that they are addressed and they are addressed safely and quickly. He stated he would like to point out that he has copies of a fact sheet for anyone that would like one and it touches on their GenCo model, how they are moving forward in a fashion where customers, because of these investments, will not be part of the rates and the investments, it will not hit their rate base. He stated it will be separate to the investments that they are making out there. He stated even to a point where, once they are fully in operation, as they have an opportunity to move forward, it will provide a credit to customers. He stated it talks a little bit about the peaker plant, talks a little bit out the gas plant, and then most importantly, on the back there is a lot of information on water. He stated he will leave those on the desk if anybody has an opportunity to grab one on their way out.

Mr. Bontreger stated they have been working on a Road Use Agreement. Mr. Rob Ridge, stated he is Director of Major Projects. He stated no major comments other than, they have heard some of the red lines and copies that they had in the last draft of the Road Use Agreement and they have since put pen to paper and had additional red lines that they turned over late last week so they are just waiting for the updated response that they have from the county and then they will take that and work to close that out as quickly and efficiently as possible. Mr. Beaver stated he is 99% done with it, he will then circulate it internally and then they can get it back to Nipsco. Mr. Bontreger stated he appreciates Mr. Ridge's back and forth with them on that and the attention to detail.

Mr. Hilton stated he is looking forward to getting out on site on Friday and trying to navigate a route and getting an understanding of how they can collaboratively keep a lot of the equipment off of the county roads as much as possible. He stated the way he looks at it is, if he has to run through his neighbor's yard, he is going to run through his own yard before he runs through theirs and he wants to do that as much as possible. He stated he appreciates the opportunity to go out on site with them and see if they can navigate this together. Mr. Kalinski stated, more just a point of moving forward on Friday, if the Commissioners can let them now if there is any other staff that will be join them out there, they want to make sure they have the right transportation and PPE for folks on site, so if they can let them know, they want to be prepared.

Mr. Bontreger stated just to reiterate, Commissioners are endeavoring to do their due diligence to find out and get to the bottom of the information that was lacking at the original presentation and they consider this an important project. He stated it is their job as executives to truly vet it, pros and cons, and to look through every possible issue that they can conceive of as they are working thought this. He stated thank you for your attention to detail and getting these items taken care of and they will continue with the process on the road use agreement.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT ED CAIN: Mr. Cain stated he gave Mr. Standish the roof bids for the new roof at the salt barn. Mr. Cain stated the roof is currently shingled and will have to remain shingled. Mr. Hilton asked if any structural work will have to be done. Mr. Cain stated he thinks some of the purlins will have to be replaced once you get up to the ridge. He stated one of the bids

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HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT ED CAIN CONT'D: includes 10% for that and 3 of them are just for new plywood decking and shingles. He stated the 4th is plywood decking, shingles, and 10% purlin. He stated one is for a clear span structure which he spoke with Mr. Standish about. Mr. Standish stated it is fabric like hoop style.

ROOF BIDS

JB WEST: \$14,191.34

BONE DRY: \$14,197.00

QUAD COUNTY: \$12,800.00

CLEAR SPAN: \$16,882.18

SCHUH CONSTRUCTION: \$19,867.52

Mr. Hilton asked if any of these companies have done a roof like this. Mr. Cain stated it is just a straight A-frame roof, it is not like the salt dome up north. Mr. Bontreger stated Shuh and Quad County are in Jasper County and Bone Dry is in Lafayette. Mr. Cain stated he believes in all the bids they provide the dumpster and take everything with them. Mr. Bontreger stated Quad County is the low bid and they have done work for them before. He stated with that low of a bid if he has to add a few purlins it would still probably be less than the other bids still. Mr. Standish stated if they throw 10% onto that bid it is still the low bid. Mr. Hilton made a motion to approve the Quad County Roofing bid of \$12,800. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Cain stated there is another project he would like to do some research on for the Commissioners up at the North lot, a heater. He stated he would like to look into tying into Nipsco's natural gas, getting a heater up there. He stated right now it is a 125, 150-point cylinder that runs a torpedo heater so it is not very efficient and doesn't really work well. He stated a new 200,000 BTU unit would hopefully be around \$2,700 and he would like to look into that. He stated he would like to replace the one at the County Highway Garage, they have 3 smaller units. He stated they are natural gas now and that unit was \$2,752 for a new unit and he thinks it is something they could install themselves. He stated they provided insulation and finished the inside of the barn up there but they have just been running the torpedo heater. Mr. Hilton asked if a line is plumbed to that building already. Mr. Cain stated no he would have to tie into that out front and would need to get some prices for that. Mr. Standish stated he would like to hold off until they get prices for that because it can be very expensive and it could be a long time getting it done. He stated it might be a better option to put a propane tank up there from a cost standpoint.

Mr. Cain stated Bud Bailey has 12 days left and he is going to be completely out of time and at that point he will get into the sick bank. He stated when he is cleared and able to come back he will be without time. He stated he would like the Commissioners permission that he can have time off for those scheduled appointments and whatnot, to be off without pay. Mr. Bontreger stated policy is to exhaust all options and then they will support Mr. Cain's discretion to give him unpaid time off as he needs it in the spring. He stated the goal was to make sure everyone uses up every option first and since he's in the sick bank as well that will help. Mr. Bontreger stated they support Mr. Cain to grant him unpaid hours, down the line, as needed.

Mr. Cain stated he wants to change the driveway permit application, clean it up with a simpler form that will be helpful for the public and them. He stated he does not know if Mr. Beaver needs to look at that. Mr. Beaver stated he did have some time on this back in October so they could give the application form with the requirements of the ordinance and he would be happy to take a look at this and work with Mr. Cain to see if there is anything that needs to be updated with the ordinance because the application and the ordinance should be the same and perhaps even the application being part of the ordinance or a schedule of some sort. Mr. Bontreger stated Mr. Haberlin was also going to look into revamping the buried cable permit as well. Mr. Standish stated it was currently

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HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT ED CAIN CONT'D: to vague and needs to be more clear with what our methods of putting cable in our right of ways are. Mr. Urbano stated people think that anything going down a State highway that they don't have to come to the County also and that is another problem. Mr. Beaver stated he was referring to the buried cable because the driveway is in the same ordinance. Mr. Urbano asked if the next meeting was going to be at the fairgrounds. Mr. Bontreger stated yes February 2nd.

RECORDER KIM GROW: Ms. Grow joined the meeting via Zoom and she wanted to make sure they were okay with the extension of the life cycle for Fidlar and that she can move forward with it. Mr. Bontreger stated Mr. Beaver weighed in on it and they approved and signed it.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments at this time.

Mr. Standish asked Mr. Beaver if he had an update on the RUA for Ozinga. Mr. Beaver stated it has not yet been sent and he does have the contact information to send that out to. Mr. Standish stated can we get that done yet this week. Mr. Beaver stated yes.

Mr. Bontreger stated he is waiting to get the bid back from Mike Cody on the EMS renovation and he thinks he said he would have it to him by the end of this week.

Mr. Hilton stated he thinks its fair that they call the elephant out in the room when they talk about February 2nd. He stated over the course of the last couple weeks, they have had a lot of conversations with a lot of different people, whether it be Nipsco or other entities about a rezone happening up in Wheatfield. He stated they have had conversations with Wheatfield Township leadership, Kankakee Township leadership, Walker Township leadership, Town of Wheatfield-some of their board members. He stated they have had conversations with other towns who are getting pursued by some of these opportunities, similar projects and he wants everyone to know that they are doing their diligence here to educate themselves with this. He stated they are being forward with us and we are being forward with them. He stated the conversations they are having are raw and Rick with Nipsco can attest to the fact that there are raw conversations. He stated he is not the most politically correct person sitting at the table but they are in fact doing and learning and educating themselves to the best of their abilities to make a decision for Jasper County. Mr. Bontreger stated for everyone to keep hawk eyeing the legislation going down in Indy as well.

Mr. Bontreger stated in February they should have a proposal back for the fire service study for the county and Mr. Beaver will have to look at it as well. He stated, essentially, local fire departments are having difficulty or are facing difficulties getting volunteers to staff and be able to answer calls during the day when they are at their jobs. He stated they are going to try to get some research to find out a number of what is it going to cost for several options, 3 or 4 different options of what it is going to cost to start implementing a fulltime paid fire response in the county. He stated they have a lot of discussion on county impact ideas, and that is one that they need some information on to know what they are going to be faced with regardless of what does or does not happen. He stated that is an issue that is going to happen no matter what and that's another topic they will be touching on likely at their next meeting.

Mr. Beaver stated he had circulated an updated contract for County Attorney and if the Commissioners were willing to proceed with that then they could move forward. He stated if they wanted to discuss further they could wait until the February 2nd meeting. Mr. Bontreger stated the County Attorney has his contract for the year and they have looked at it and discussed it. Mr. Hilton made a motion to approve the contact as presented. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Bontreger stated they have the quote for the security door for up in the Judge's chambers from Mulhaupt totaling \$27,554. He stated it is a bullet-resistant door, bulletproof glass, clear

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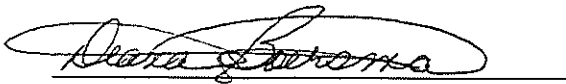
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contiguous hinge, digital lock and release, vandal resistant door. He stated he believes the Judge has budgeted \$20,000 for this so they just need to cover the \$7,554. He stated they have had previous discussions on this. Mr. Hilton stated with the circumstances we have seen in Tippecanoe County and surrounding areas he would make a motion to support this project. Mr. Standish stated just so everybody's aware of the addition, she had a situation in her chambers regarding this door with in 2 weeks of taking office. Mr. Standish he would support the motion to get this process started. He stated this is not going to be something that happens quick, so everybody understands, he thinks it is 10 to 12 weeks for getting the door built because of the height of it and to fill the space at the courthouse door that is there now. Mr. Hilton made a motion to approve the security door for Judge Waddle. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion carried.

There being no further business, Mr. Hilton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion carried.

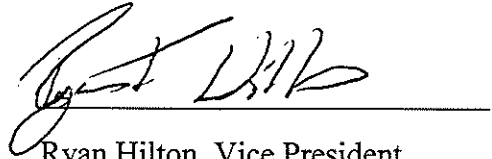
ATTEST:



Diana Boersma, Auditor of Jasper County



Rein Bontreger, President



Ryan Hilton, Vice President



Craig Standish, Member