

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2026

PAGE 142

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.

BOARD REORGINIZATION: Mr. Standish made a motion to open nominations and nominated Mr. Bontreger as Commissioner President and Mr. Hilton as Vice President. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Hilton made a motion to close nominations. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion carried.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REZONE: Mr. Bontreger stated this is in regards to a rezone request from Nipsco. Ms. Mary Scheurich stated the Plan Commission held a meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup> and heard the cause and made an unfavorable recommendation with one member abstaining. Mr. Bontreger stated the Commissioners have final authority and they can either follow that, make no decision, or can decide to overrule. He stated they are not going to make a decision today because they recognize that the gravity of this particular project is more than just about a typical rezone. He stated the implications for Jasper County could be extensive. He stated they have asked the presenter to come and give more information. He stated they will also have a brief time of public comment for those who wish to share anything that would be new information other than what they heard at the Plan Commission. He stated he was at the Plan Commission meeting and they definitely heard those concerns and have created a list of assurances that they are applying to Jasper County. He stated they are still in data collecting mode and they recognize the importance of this. He stated they also recognize that this particular project and endeavor is under the scrutiny of state and federal interests as well. He stated what they decide or don't decide could get overruled at the state level, as there is pending legislation to ultimately cite some of these things. He stated they prefer the opportunity to be able to stay engaged as local executives. He stated one of the great concerns of the Commissioners Association, is that Home Rule is preserved. He stated Home Rule was granted to them by the state legislature in the first place and they have to learn how to work within the parameters that they are given.

Mr. Vince Parisi, President for Nipsco he stated they did amend the application to be able to provide some additional detail related to the designs at the site. He stated they have potentially allowed for the Commission to look at it all in one piece or in multiple parts. He stated it is a critical project, it is important for the state and the country. He stated they think the 3,200 acres they have out at Schaefer is a significant site for them to be able to ultimately develop and build more gas generation but also potentially set a data center. He stated he knows that is an important issue for the community. He stated it is an important issue for the folks behind them and that live here and they want to make sure that they are working as partners with the community and have been here for over 50 years. He stated through the process of having conversations with them they have looked at some of the things that they have done and they realized that there are places that they could be better at what they do. He stated they did pull some permits with respect to the peaker facility, but they did miss a couple. He stated those are 2 permits that they will file this week. He stated one is for the drainage and the other is for the building permit and both of those are necessary for them to continue. He stated they recognize the importance of that and the team is digging into that. He stated to be sure they are better at that going forward they are going to dedicate somebody full-time to permitting and land to make sure that they are in a place where they are always in front of and not behind those kinds of issues. He stated as they work through the project they will have someone dedicated to meet with the Commissioners on a regular basis. He stated they recognize from the Plan Commission meeting and other discussions that there are a number of concerns the community has around water and being able to access the area and move through and they have had some conversations with the State with respect to State Road 49 and County Road 1500 regarding putting in better infrastructure there to ensure that as they are building

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2026

PAGE 143

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REZONE CONT'D: these projects local folks aren't as heavily impacted. He stated with respect to water, they have had their water permit since 1972. He stated their permit from DNR allows them to pull 68.5 million gallons per day from the river. He stated right now, with units 17 and 18 when they are operating, their maximum design capacity is about 47 million gallons per day. He stated the combined cycles, the way they operate, they will use about half, even a little bit less than half as designed of the water per day that ultimately the coal units would use so significantly less water is used with respect to the CCGT operations than with the coal operations. He stated they measure water on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis with respect to about 100 different items. He stated that information is provided to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and is publicly available. Mr. Standish stated what is your permitted usage of water a day from the DNR. Mr. Parisi stated the maximum is 68.5 million gallons per day. Mr. Bontreger stated the use of 47 million a day was when you had 2 units running. Mr. Parisi stated that is correct, the design capacity with respect to those 2 units would be about 47 million gallons per day, it does not necessarily mean that is what they are using. Mr. Bontreger stated and of that, is that all river water, is it pumped from local wells. Mr. Parisi stated the vast majority of it comes from the Kankakee River. He stated about 5% of the water that is used in the county is used by Nipsco and the other 95% is usage not related to Nipsco. Mr. Hilton stated you said that the CCGTs and the peaker unit would use accumulatively half of what you are utilizing today. Mr. Parisi stated yea, the design for the CCGT's, the design capacity is 20 million gallons per day, compared to the design capacity for the coal units which is about 47 million gallons per day. He stated the peakers will not use water just the CCGT's.

Mr. Parisi stated one of the other concerns that have come up is the cost of energy going up. He stated they have created something called GenCo. He stated through the GenCo. process they are able to separate 100% of the cost associated with any kind of a data center or large customer development away from the core customers so the core customers will pay nothing for any of that generation. He stated the CCGT's, for example, will invest over \$5 billion in Jasper County with respect to that project and the customers will not pay any of that. He stated there will be about a billion dollars that will go back to customers over the life of the contract with respect to that piece. Mr. Bontreger stated some people have downplayed a billion over 15 years, can you talk about what the trend line is going to be. He stated that at least indicates that these types of developments won't negatively impact, as far as, what current rates, aside from what normal increases would be, these won't be spiking directly as a result of a project like this. He stated that is exactly right, with their GenCo. they are able to completely separate all of the construction, development operating costs with respect to the units. He stated they have a special contract that they entered with the data center customer that ultimately, all those costs are recovered directly from the data center customer, not from their core customers. He stated so at a very baseline, customers will not see a negative impact, their bill will not go up based upon their data center development and because of the use of systems charge there will be a credit on the bill that will start in 2027 and then go up through the construction period and through the ramp up period till it gets to its max in 2032 and then run for the balance of the contract.

Mr. Standish stated will there be any adverse effect, they have talked a lot about energy rates as far as electric, but what about natural gas, if they are going to fire all this stuff with natural gas how is it going to affect natural gas rates. Mr. Parisi stated none of the costs with respect to operating the plant will be borne by their core customers. He stated they have a very robust system at Nipsco, they have a 600-pound loop and are also blessed with having 5 interstate pipes that cross their system so they have significant upstream access to natural gas. He stated they are able to go out and do hedging programs and they do that for their core customers to make sure that they are able to pick times in the market where the rates are lower and more stable to help stabilize those prices. He stated right now in the market, what they see is a downward trend with respect to prices on the long term. He stated certainly during peak periods, natural gas prices spike and go up and down but they don't anticipate any negative impact with respect to natural gas prices. He stated as they build these large plants, their natural gas customers could actually see a reduction in price

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2026

PAGE 144

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REZONE CONT'D: with respect to that portion of the bill because they will have another large customer on there that will be utilizing the system.

Mr. Bontreger stated one of the concerns brought up was the fact that they are not actually going to shut the coal down. He stated he did see that the federal government issued an order for them to continue. He stated, what is the long-term goal, and will the coal actually be shut down at some point, what is Nipsco's position or desire on that. Mr. Parisi stated that is correct, they did receive, they refer to it as a 202c order. He stated it is an emergency order that is issued by the Department of Energy from the federal government that ultimately was issued about a week ago that compels them to continue to operate Unit 17 and 18 during dependency of that. He stated the order under the Emergency Powers Act can only be issued in 90-day increments. He stated what they are seeing with respect to other units that have also received orders in other states is that those orders are being reissued. He stated their understanding is that they will likely continue for a period of time, potentially through the end of the Trump administration. He stated they do have their integrated resource planning process, that is where they take a look every 3 years at the generation that they need for their core customers. He stated in that process, they look about 20 years out, it has demonstrated that the Schaefer unit typically would be closed, but for the continuation of the 202c order. He stated they will continue to look at that, that there are some environmental items that have compliance requirements that, if they have to meet those, it does become expensive to run.

Mr. Bontreger stated one of the other concerns is, will we notice locally when you are talking about CO2 emissions and so forth, how will the CCGT compare to what we have experienced locally with the coal during operations. Mr. Parisi stated the CCGT, natural gas is significantly cleaner just as a natural energy source than coal. He stated significantly less is needed when it comes to ultimately scrubbing and purifying so that when you operate it in a CCGT mode, which is that combined cycle mode, it is actually significantly more efficient than it would be in just a simple cycle mode. He stated it is a very efficient source of energy.

Mr. Parisi stated they will continue to develop the project for carbon capture and potentially do that down the road if ultimately that becomes a need or a desire from the community or from the government. He stated they will design it in that method. He stated they will not necessarily put that equipment on to start, but they will continue to look at those types of sustainability issues.

Mr. Bontreger stated how about comparable noise, decibel levels, would people notice any difference when those are running as opposed to when Schaefer currently runs. He stated how does that compare. Mr. Parisi stated there should not be a noticeable difference with respect to the decibel level, with respect to the noise, from the Schaefer facilities.

Mr. Standish stated during one of the conversations they had with Nipsco the statement was made that 98% of the time you would be cooling with air if there was a data center placed up there, 2% of the time you would be using water. He stated if water is not an issue would it be quieter to cool with more water than air, from the noise/sound from the fans. Mr. Parisi stated he does not have an answer for that but he can get an answer for that for them. He stated the percentage that they are using is correct, that is what they understand as well, about 98% of the time they just use air to cool and it is really just during the extreme heat periods that they would use water to cool.

Mr. Parisi stated the water usage from a data center of the size that they are contemplating there is usually less than what a golf course would use on an annual basis. Mr. Standish stated 8.5 to 10 million gallons a year is what they were told. Mr. Parisi stated that is their understanding, that is for an entire year.

Mr. Bontreger stated as far as the discharge, how does that process work or how has that historically worked from Schaefer as far as water being discharged back out, how is it tested, and will that process essentially be the same going forward. Mr. Parisi stated he will ask Brian to come up and speak to that. Mr. Brian Kortum, Director of Environmental Permitting for Nipsco stated there are about 100 different constituents, including temperature, that are monitored. He stated all

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2026

PAGE 145

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REZONE CONT'D: of that will continue to be the same according to the IDEM and PDS permit. He stated the water goes into the final settling basin, that is about 220 acres, and it continues to cool in that basin before it is discharged to the river so the temperature of it going into the river is basically what a pond or a lake in that area, that same temperature would be. He stated back in 2019 when the entire site was in operation the warmest that was discharged was 80.2 degrees and it was in the month of August. Mr. Bontreger stated trace elements could be an issue, are those tested for. Mr. Kortum stated the limits for the discharge are going to be similar and it is based on the regulation that they have to comply with, it does not change with the type of generation that you are doing, they still have to meet those limits. He stated they are responsible for the water they take in, they take water in and it cycles and whatever they are discharging, especially with the CCGT, that water is non-contact cooling water and it is just cycles and concentrated so the elements they are discharging came from the river.

Mr. Standish stated if there was a data center on the east side of the existing plant, where would it draw its water from, he understands the river but was there not intent that it would come from the cooling ponds. Mr. Kortum stated it will come from the intake settling basin in the same way that the coal does. He stated the water comes off of the river, goes into an 80-acre intake settling basin, lets some of the sediment from the river settle out before it goes into the system and there is some processing that they do to the water. He stated there is reverse osmosis, some chlorine that is added, and things like that to prevent scaling on the pipes. Mr. Standish stated if he is looking north at the north entrance on 1500 into the plant, the pond that is on the west side of that entrance is the intake pond. Mr. Kortum stated yes that is the intake pond. He stated the pond on the west side of the entrance is the final settling basin where it goes back to the river and the pond is roughly 10 feet deep.

Mr. Parisi stated they amended the application to allow the parcels, the 5 parcels, to be considered either all together or in two different tranches. He stated the 3 would be associated with the CCGTs and then the 2 that would be associated with the data center. He stated they wanted to separate that to enable the Commission to look at it holistically, or look at it in part. He stated they also provided additional design details, for the most part, measurements with respect to the peaker unit. Ms. Tanya Stanley, Senior Director of Real Estate Services for Nipsco stated they provided, along with the amendment, details for the measurements on the peaker project, which showed the setbacks, the boundary lines, the size of the buildings, and so forth related to that project. She stated the boundary lines are within their property, so it is not an exact parcel, so they outlined, in detail where that would sit on the parcel. She stated for the CCGT they are in conceptual drawings, so they have the drawings of the assets and now they are working on how that will sit on the site so they will provide that. Mr. Bontreger asked, as far as the peaker itself, is it currently on the I2 parcel. Ms. Stanley stated yes, most of assets that are intended to be built are on the I2 portion, there is a partial pond on the ag side. Mr. Hilton stated a retention pond and stormwater pond is 2/3rds, 1/3<sup>rd</sup> and then they have a gas metering yard, construction trailers, things like that. Ms. Stanley stated correct. Mr. Kortum stated he would like to make a correct to what he said earlier. He stated earlier he said the intake pond was 80 acres and that is not right, it is 20 acres and about 80 million gallons.

Mr. Parisi stated that Nipsco wants to be a partner with the community and this is an important community and they think it is a critical project. He stated they realize there is a lot of interest and they need to make sure that they are answering questions and are providing information that is need. He stated they remain available for ongoing conversations, what additional information they need, and are happy to take any kind of additional questions.

Mr. Standish stated one of the things that was brought up at the Planning Commission meeting was property values. He stated what they have seen in property values from previous projects up there, concern about property values from any project going forward up there, specifically the houses there on 1300 both sides of 300 East. He asked if they have given any thought to how they would mitigate property value loss for those homes or if they are prepared to engage in that

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2026

PAGE 146

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REZONE CONT'D: conversation. Mr. Parisi stated they are prepared to engage in that conversation. Mr. Hilton stated he does appreciate the forthcomingness, it took a couple of rounds, but them coming to the table and sitting down with them. He stated he has a lot of maps on his computer that he is looking at right now, a lot of the measurements, a lot of the things from Planning Commission perspective as far as gas energy production goes and he appreciates that. Mr. Parisi stated he appreciates all the time they have spent and the questions have been very good and helped them clarify a number of points in providing additional information.

Mr. Bontreger stated they are not going to move on this today. He stated he knows most of the folks in the room are here concerning this cause and they will entertain public comment at this time. He stated they will need to keep it brief and will be timed to 1-2 minutes. He stated if they want to raise a topic that has not already been talked about; they are thoroughly aware of local property values, noise, water usage, traffic flow. He stated he was at that meeting and heard loud and clear what the concerns were. He stated he was also at a meeting talking about the potential need for Jasper County to move away from volunteer fire to fulltime paid fire departments which is going to mean probably putting a tax on the taxpayers if they create a fire district. He stated as Commissioners they are looking at the economics of it, they are looking at the impact of it on you as neighbors and the county as a whole. He stated they have a lot of what ifs they are considering that goes along with the generation and the potential data center. He stated what if the result of this coming in is a significant amount of AV, that they would not have to implement a wheel tax to do road funding. He stated the State is wanting to lay that on them. He stated what if they can get funding to be able to allow the local fire departments to start paying fulltime firemen, what if taxes in those townships could go down by 50%. He stated that is a lot of what ifs they are talking about. He stated this is an opportunity where they are thinking out loud. He stated they want them to have transparency and talk about their thought process and what that is all about. He stated they are not just making a decision and rubber stamping it. He stated what if they deny the rezone and what if the State goes ahead then and provides for siting of a data center that is going to land there anyway and then we miss out on potential billions of dollars of AV, benefits and economic development payments that could greatly benefit the county. He stated he is not saying as an answer, he is literally thinking out loud. He stated what if they can provide a list of assurances to Nipsco and the potential developer that they get a signature on, not an MOU, nothing verbal, but actually get signed agreements to essentially work towards an agreement as to what these values could be that mean long-term stable revenue for Jasper County. He stated the State is shifting away from a levy-based tax system. He stated Jasper County was given a specific levy that they could tax for local services and needs and you levy the max, which they usually did but tried to be very frugal with it. He stated they have had many people say we need better this and that why don't they just raise taxes and get more money and it does not work that way. He stated if your AV grows, your tax rate goes down slightly which is great. He stated Jasper County has had the 5<sup>th</sup> highest income tax in the state, which spread the burden on everyone, and the 10<sup>th</sup> lowest, on average, property taxes in the state. He stated the State is moving away from levy-based taxing and going to a rate-based system. He stated the natural attrition and the way they have changed farmland values and home discounts that they are going to be giving out the natural AV growth is going to start to decline. He stated the last couple years, the county has had a 10-11% of gross AV growth but the trend is going to force that down so unless they consider a development that could be transformational like this which would give a potential AV boost. He stated it would also afford the county to be a lot more selective as to what projects they would have to entertain. He stated there are a lot of moving parts and a lot of things to consider. He stated they have driven around the property and have looked at it personally, and wrestled with this a lot. He stated over the next few weeks, they will come to a decision so that everyone will know what is going on. He stated they, the Commissioners, and the Council have interacted and talked and none of this is taken lightly. He stated they are not just looking at the shiny thing, which is a lot of money, they are trying to evaluate all the impacts across the board. He stated he does appreciate the fact that a lot

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2026

PAGE 147

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REZONE CONT'D: of folks have shared a lot of the negatives that have been posed and positioned around data center development and we have the benefit of observing where other people miss some points. He stated they have the opportunity now to learn from other people's mistakes and not have to report those which is why they are putting together a list of assurances that he would have to have in place, very secure, that would answer these concerns and these questions that folks have been bringing up. He stated they received emails, they have heard comments which is your right to do that as they are the first level of government that they can interact with. He stated some of the concerns were expressed out of some fear, some emotion, and some good thought-out logic. He stated from where they sit as Commissioners, yes they have emotions concerning this but ultimately when the decision comes to be made they can't make that decision based on an emotion they have to look at the facts and weigh how it affects the overall landscape of Jasper County. Mr. Bontreger stated he would love to see, obviously, the economic boost would be awesome. He stated one project would allow the freedom to not have to try to push for 5,000 or 10,000 new homes in a short amount of time. He stated a lot of people live in Jasper County because, and he has shared this with company officials, a lot of folks moved here to get away from the noise of up north and many now feel that the noise might be following them but if they can get some assurances to help mitigate that impact it is worth considering what the overall benefit could be. He stated they have had conversations with leadership from Nipsco and they have recognized that previous leadership decisions, administrations before them, probably left a bad taste in many peoples mouths, but we are not there, we are not then, we are now and can we now establish a professional relationship that actually starts to build trust as opposed to just being based on cynicism and bad experiences. He stated he is not trying to be naïve about this and they have had conversations about these kinds of things. He stated that is his perspective and they have tried to be open and transparent. He stated he went through significant duress when the BP situation was here, carbon sequestration and he never expected to be facing anything like that. He stated this is very significant but he would much rather be talking about this issue than what that issue was. He stated thank you for your attention and respect and he wants to give Mr. Standish and Mr. Hilton an opportunity to share a thought or two and then they will entertain some public comment. He stated to be respectful of time and not to diminish anybody, they know water, sound, light, traffic, and property values are at the forefront of their considerations. He stated that has been made very clear to them and if he lived up there within a few miles of the place they would be very clear to him as well. He stated though he lives 20 miles away we are still Jasper County and what affects one affects all. He stated last he knew we were the top ag-producing county in the state and they want to preserve that ability and that legacy in Jasper County. He stated they want to try to walk the line and have a good quality of life that we appreciate in Jasper County.

Mr. Hilton stated to echo a lot of what Mr. Bontreger said, he looks at this from the perspective of a 38-year old individual who has lived in Jasper County his entire life. He stated he takes a lot of this responsibility to the most level of seriousness you could ever imagine. He stated he does not want to do something in this county without having the most knowledge that he can possibly have, because 50 years from now, he is still going to be living in this county. He stated he wants to make a decision that he knows he can live with 50 years down the road, knowing that his kids are hopefully following in his footsteps, and his friend's kids, and all the family that he can find. He stated without this education they are getting on the forefront, and to his point, they went through a couple of meetings in the Plan Commission level where they kept getting a little bit more information. He stated he is going to speak on behalf of himself, but they have come to realization that Jasper County's not just going to get walked over and we are going to have an opportunity to sit down at the table, and Nipsco representatives are sitting in front of him looking at him and nodding their heads. He stated they realized they screwed up and they should have provided a lot of this information several months ago. He stated he is very appreciative of the fact that they have been able to provide some of this information and as far as a conversation of a data center he is not even in the realm of that conversation yet because he wants those individuals to be the ones to

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2026

PAGE 148

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REZONE CONT'D: speak on behalf of that. He stated Nipsco knows energy, they do not know data center production, President Vince said that he couldn't answer that question and there is a reason for that, he is not a data center knowledge individual. He stated no matter which direction moving forward, there is always a forefront of knowing that Jasper County and its residents are always going to be in the forefront of his mind and he wants to insure everyone of that. He stated nothing at this table goes lightly, like he already said, he is still going to be living here and he takes a lot of that to heart. He stated he wants to make a decision that is going to be right for Jasper County 50 years from now, he wants to know that they hit this one out of the park, he does not want to live with regret 50 years from now.

Mr. Standish stated whatever happens in this decision for a gas plant and potentially a data center, the 3 of them there are going to own it forever, just as the Commissioners in 1972 owned Nipsco Schaffer Plant, anything that happened positive or negative out of that was because of their involvement. He stated to put yourself in that position and then ask yourself if you think you are going to take it seriously. He stated there are pros and cons to all of this and obviously they have outlined some of those today but how do they navigate through that to make a right decision. He stated if it happens, how do they protect everybody in the area as best as they possibly can. If it doesn't happen how do they go forward and fund some of the things that were listed today. He stated thanks to the people who reached out to him by email, by text, who he has talked to on the phone. He stated it is very important, if you are not here today and you are listening online, that you reach out to them, every one of them are accessible, can be reached by phone, and will show up to visit with you and help answer some of your concerns and maybe get some questions that they haven't thought of yet. He stated please stay engaged, part of them being transparent is your engagement and it can't just be engagement when there is a hot topic you need to stay engaged year-round, that makes us a stronger and more efficient community. He stated thank you to the Plan Commission for the hard work they have done.

Mr. Bontreger stated they would entertain public comment, and once again, if it is something new, that would be great, they would like to focus on that.

### PUBLIC COMMENT:

DOTTIE WARRICK, 436 S. Kittery Drive, Rensselaer: Ms. Warrick stated God owns the world and we need to be good stewards for God's world and this data center is not what God intended for us to do. She stated she is a great-grandmother and we need to preserve this world for future generations. She stated she thinks at the Plan Commission meeting, they talked about closed water system and she said that was malarkey. She stated they did not even bring that up today. She stated 50 years ago Nipsco was a respected company and Dean Mitchell was the president and she was proud to say that she was a Nipsco union employee. She stated 50 years later Nipsco is not respected like they used to be, it is all about money. Mr. Bontreger stated it is important to clarify and say, in your opinion. Ms. Warrick stated ok. She stated she did love it and when they closed the commercial offices, got rid of the line crews, the gas crews, the linemen, the local customer service went out the window. She stated the Newton County Highway Department has a hard time getting ahold of Nipsco when they need to solve a problem. Mr. Bontreger stated he appreciates her experience and she shared very passionately at the Plan Commission meeting. Ms. Warrick stated they also mentioned CCF, that they would be interested in that. She stated she thinks they need to talk to Michelle Douglas, the mayor of Sartartia, Mississippi, almost suffocated that night when the gas explosion happened. Mr. Bontreger stated we certainly indicated that we are not interested in that. Ms. Warrick stated but he, Nipsco President, entertained it and mentioned it. Mr. Bontreger stated carbon capture and storage is different as opposed to carbon capture and utilization. He stated we are not thrilled or in favor of injection around here and our geology does not support it at the level that BP wanted to do it. He stated he does not want to mix topics today. Ms. Warrick stated for the data center, she thinks they need to put a moratorium on it for 5 years at least. Mr. Bontreger stated they are not allowed to do that. Ms. Warrick stated she knows it is all about money. She stated she is a grandmother and has a 3-year-old great granddaughter and

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2026

PAGE 149

DOTTIE WARRICK, 436 S. Kittery Drive, Rensselaer CONT'D: used to be proud to work for Nipsco. She stated she used to work with paper, pen, and manual typewriter.

DAVE JONES, 216 S Medow Lane Wheatfield: Mr. Jones stated he has been a union electrician for 30 years and has spent a lot of his career working outside of the county. He stated Nipsco is requesting to rezone some property that they own in an effort to build much needed power generation in the form of peakers and a combined cycle unit. He stated not only will this create hundreds of jobs for folks like himself it will bring much needed tax revenue for the county. He thinks our community has a good partnership with Nipsco for years and this is a great opportunity to continue that partnership. He stated he knows no action is being taken today but he would urge the Commissioners and respectfully asks that they approve the rezoning request for the peakers and combined cycle projects when the time comes.

LISA DAUGHERTY, DID NOT STATE THAT SHE LIVES IN JASPER COUNTY, DID NOT PROVIDE ADDRESS, WORKS FOR CENTER OF WORKFORCE INNOVATIONS: Ms. Daugherty stated she is CEO of the Center of Workforce Innovations which serves as the region's intermediary around workforce development, not done entirely by them but with many different types of partners. She stated there are 2 points that she wants to make. She stated there is more to consider beyond the construction jobs that happen, which are good paying jobs. She stated the jobs that happen within the walls of the data center are good paying jobs and technology jobs. She stated there are ancillary jobs that are created, good paying jobs, when a data center exists and other businesses come, workforce development is economic development. She stated the most important concern that she wants to bring to their attention is data, as a region they are seeing the workforce aging and literally since 2000 there has been a 60% decline. She stated the trend line for prime working age 25 to 54 is declining significantly and the total population for the workforce is declining, not as significantly by that percentage. She stated the biggest concern they have is youth and creating opportunities for them, not just the youth that are currently in your community. She stated you want to attract youth and they want these good paying jobs. She stated for Jasper's economy and workforce in the future this is a phenomenal opportunity.

BARB DEARDORFF, 5298 E. 1350 N. San Pierre: Ms. Deardorff stated her address is in Kankakee Township. She stated the Planning Commission recognized an abundant number of reasons to take an unfavorable position with regards to the rezoning position. She stated a few other things to consider, not only are there concerns about groundwater and shallow wells in the area near Nipsco but there is no municipal water supply in Kankakee, Walker, and Wheatfield Townships. She stated the residents of the town of Wheatfield, like those in the countryside, all have private wells. She stated Wheatfield Elementary School is on a well and only located one and a half miles from Nipsco as the crow flies or as the aquifer flows. She stated how will these homes, businesses, and schools have a reliable water source if the proposed data center does drop the water table or contaminate the groundwater. She stated she has not heard Nipsco offer to set up a municipal water supply for Kankakee, Wheatfield, or Walker Townships and she is sure the cost of doing so would far exceed any county tax revenue generated by this proposed rezone. She stated having to construct a municipal water supply for the surrounding townships would cause serious financial harm to our county's finances. She stated she also wants to talk about light pollution and the need for a county ordinance about lighting. She stated a consistent complaint she has heard about the solar project are the very bright lights Nipsco has used in its new substations in Kankakee Township and how they are impacting neighbors. She stated she would ask that they would begin to look at implementing an ordinance about lighting and light pollution, especially in areas near homes. She stated she would like them to take a look at the rezoning map. She stated the land in the southwest portion of the map, the land that abuts the former County Road 250 West is currently a coal ash landfill. She stated they have been piling coal ash there since she was a kid, riding the bus down the road each morning and afternoon. She stated the land on which a portion of the coal ash landfill sits on is zoned agricultural and they are petitioning for it to be zoned industrial. She stated she checked with the zoning for the landfill in Newton County and it is zoned industrial and

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2026

PAGE 150

BARB DEARDORFF, 5298 E. 1350 N. San Pierre CONT'D: it does not operate a hazardous waste landfill like the one operated by Nipsco so she asks that they check the zoning on that land and determine if Nipsco has acted unlawfully by operating a hazardous waste landfill on the eastern portion, which is zoned agricultural.

JERRY MCKIM, 355 E. Arnst Drive, Rensselaer: Mr. McKim stated he wanted to talk about assurances, getting assurances. He stated did we get assurances in 1972. He stated he thought we did, at least that is what was presented at the last meeting. He stated he would like to know what your assurances are going to be like, how you are going to frame them, and how they are going to be monitored and managed. He stated, when people have complaints, will they have to go get an attorney to have it resolved. He stated most people won't be able to afford that. He stated when they talk about assurances that is one thing that he took from the meeting he went to last time, yea they sound like a good thing but who is going to monitor it, who is going to enforce it, who is going to have the integrity to live up to what they pledge to do for the people that live in that area. He stated what will happen to the water resources in the future in the river. He stated he is assuming more and more people will demand water, especially corporations, from that river. He stated what assurances will we have then, what will the cost of drilling new wells be to the people that live in the area and maybe throughout Jasper County. He stated and also maybe in terms of health because we don't know what that water is going to look like in terms of consumption and use. He stated assurances, make it strong, make it accountable, make sure there is some recourse that you can come back to with the corporation involved and hold them accountable.

HEATHER ENNIS, DID NOT STATE THAT SHE LIVES IN JASPER COUNTY, DID NOT PROVIDE ADDRESS, WORKS FOR NORTHWEST INDIANA FORUM: Ms. Ennis stated she is President and CEO of the Northwest Indiana Forum. She stated she resemble Lisa's remarks as an aging workforce participant, so the economy is changing, we can choose to participate in it, or we can choose to be left behind, these opportunities they are seeing right now are once-in-a-generation opportunities. She stated we will need more power to be able to participate, for the whole region to be able to participate in these activities. She stated the type of investment that Nipsco is looking to make is critical infrastructure for being able to attract not only data centers investments but continue to grow the economy on a regional basis. She stated this project is consistent with the Planning Commission plan for that area and it seems to be in the Comprehensive Plan as your vision for the future of the county. She stated these types of investments will not remain out there forever so if we choose to remain dormant on them we do so at the opportunity of missing these types of investments. She stated the economy is evolving and we need to continue to participate in a meaningful way. She stated she appreciates you guys talking about the changing tide around local government finance and what that means, being very mindful, that the opportunities that you present to your community do hinge on continuing to look at growth opportunities.

TERRY WELLSAND, Wheatfield: Mr. Wellsand stated he lives in Wheatfield and wants to talk about the elephant that is in the room that nobody has talked about, is where Nipsco gets their money to pay their taxes, it is from us, the customer, we the people. He stated so whenever you raise their taxes it comes from us. He stated they do not bring this money in from other places. He stated the people that are speaking for this do not live in Jasper County for the most part. He stated the gentleman here that is in charge said that he is going to do road improvements. He stated we already know the things under construction, road improvements cannot happen that fast. He stated he talked about we can get the water testing results that they are public, where do we see that easily available. He stated when he spoke about water usage he talked about the peaker plant, he did not mention the data centers which are the ones that consume the large amounts of water. He stated you have to read between the lines with this guy. He stated he said that they have a deal where it is going to pay 100% that we the customers will not pay any of it but State law says that 20% can be paid by us the customers and it can be passed on legally by them. He stated he has lived in Northwest Indiana his entire live and he has yet to see Nipsco reduce his rates, ever and so the

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2026

PAGE 151

TERRY WELLSAND, Wheatfield CONT'D: promises are very unsustainable in his mind. He stated with the two big ponds, what about evaporation, how much loss of water of those large ponds from our natural river takes place. He stated the people are talking about the jobs that are going to be created but look at old Wheatfield. He stated Nipsco has been here since '72 and downtown does not look very prosperous, so how is that going to change. He stated there are too many compromises, we need to stop the non-disclosure agreements. He stated there are 72 data center plans right now planned in the state of Indiana, we have 92 counties, do we need 92 data centers.

Mr. Bontreger stated maybe we can get the answer for the water results. Mr. Kortum stated the IDEM website has those results. He stated there is a link on the fact sheet under groundwater monitoring. Mr. Bontreger stated that is the fact sheet you have back there for people to pick up. Mr. Kortum stated yes.

PAUL MYERS, 12694 McLean Court, Wheatfield: He stated, Nipsco, thank you for bringing more information and keeping the discussion open. He stated this is a tremendous opportunity for the county. He stated a lot of work, a lot of union work, a lot of skilled craftsmen and craftswomen in the area. He stated projects of this scale, you are going to get the best of the best across the board from every trade, he is confident in that. He stated another thing he would like to bring up is that we as Jasper County have an opportunity, both economically and for, we have to keep in mind that the reliability of the Nipsco power is beyond Jasper County. He stated this project, it is in the best interest of Nipsco customers, which is about the northern third of the State. He stated he request that they keep an open mind and continue the dialogue between Nipsco and Jasper County and get the information to get this project moving, moving forward safely and like they have mentioned before, have our voice as Jasper County be a part of it and not get overruled by state and federal levels. He stated this is an opportunity for us to be heard and benefit our community.

PAUL CONLEY 1424 E. 1275 N. Wheatfield: Mr. Conley stated as he stands here in this meeting today what he hears is that regardless, we are just going through formalities, regardless of what these people say, these people that are impacted, these are formalities we are going through. He stated we know that if we don't rezone that they are going to sue, they will take it to the State and they will get their way. He stated big business has been stepping all over this county for too long. He stated as far as number one in ag, all he sees are solar panels everywhere and now we are going to have big bright lights in the sky and constant noise shoved down our throats, the people that live around there. He stated there are other places where these things can happen, it was brought up D&H Mitchell up on the lake, ample supply of water and all kinds of property, why does it have to happen here.

Mr. Bontreger stated to answer your comment, which he does appreciate, this is not just a formality. He stated for him personally, he is trying to weigh in all the concerns, yours included, up in the area so he does thank him for that. He stated they consider this a very weighty topic and he does not think they would be doing their job and carrying out their responsibilities if they just rubber stamped it one way or the other.

NORITA DYKSTRA, 3367 E. 1300 N.: Ms. Dykstra stated one concern she does have other than her property value is an experience she went through. She stated one experience she went through with the solar panels was they did a lot of damage to her property through construction. She stated she approached them with it and talked to them about it and they were willing to reimburse her for that damage but the only way they would reimburse her for that damage was with a non-disclosure, a gag order. She stated so she went to a lawyer and there was nothing she could do to get out of it so she never got reimbursed because she did not sign the gag order or she wouldn't be talking about this right now. She stated that gag order went so far as if she gave her property to her children that gag order went with that property. She stated if she sold her property that gag order was also sold with her property and this was the only way she could get reimbursed for the damage that they did to her property. She stated that is another concern, living right there, next to

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2026

PAGE 152

NORITA DYKSTRA, 3367 E. 1300 N. CONT'D: it, what kind of damage is she going to have and is she going to be reimbursed or is she going to have to sign a gag order. She stated she wants them to be aware that that did happen and it could happen again. Mr. Bontreger stated that is part of the list of concerns and assurances they are talking about, is a process to have damage assessments and a process for that to be taken care of that you don't have to go through and he was thinking of her specifically from when she was with him on the study committee. He stated that was totally uncalled for, how that happened, so that is one of the concerns that they are talking about. He stated another what if that Barb brought up as well was what if municipal water could be provided for Wheatfield at no cost, as part of the economic impact they are trying to collect. He stated in a situation like that do you force it on Wheatfield or do you make it available for them or do they even look into that possibility.

SUE STEINKE, 13700 N. 700 W. DeMotte: Ms. Steinke stated she is a numbers girl and she comes here talking to them mostly about getting money but today she is going to talk about a few things new that she does not know that have been looked at. She stated there are many inconsistencies that she has heard here today, a lot of minimized numbers. She stated she hears numbers about this project and numbers about that project but have all of those numbers been correlated together at consumption use and consumption rates. She stated have we seen like a column of this project will use this, this project will use this, and this project will use this. She stated she knows what they are permitted for but have we looked at the percentage of what they have been using compared to the percentage of what they will be using of that permit. She stated like we are permitted to use so much water out of the river too but we don't use it right. She stated she knows the State has those for a reason and they are just saying oh we are permitted for that, we are permitted for that but they have not been using what they are permitted for, so what will the effect of that usage be when that permitted percentage rate goes up. She stated these are things that she is hoping that they are looking at. She stated she does not know that it has been put all together in one location because even as they spoke this morning they say this project will use this, this project will use that, and they are minimizing their numbers. She stated what happens when all three projects are put together. Mr. Bontreger stated those concerns have been looked at as they are trying to get what the use is for the entire development. He stated early indications are, and once again they will drill down on it, would be less than what Schafer used, historically, when they were operating the coal plants. He stated if Brian or Vince want to speak to that, that is fine. Mr. Brian Kortum stated so you want to talk about decrease, so again, we are not going to exceed what the permit limits are. He stated the proposed CCGT is 20 million gallons a day and the current design is for about 47 million gallons a day, that is 59% less water. He stated it is unlikely that the CCGT and the coal plant are going to run at the same time and if they do it would only be 17 18 but that would require that 202c order to continue into '29, so unlikely. He stated the amount of water a data center is likely to use is between 8 and 10 million gallons a day. Mr. Bontreger stated a day or a year. Mr. Kortum stated you are right a year, they use 8 to 10 million gallons a year. He stated they can supply that water directly from the intake settling basin without having any additional water off of the river. He stated he mentioned they hold 80 million gallons of water in that intake settling basin. Mr. Bontreger stated what if other large users start accessing water from the river, does IDEM or DNR have limited use of the river as a whole. Mr. Kortum stated the permit that Nipsco has to withdraw from the river is unique, DNR has told them this. He stated they are the only one that has a permit on the river, all of the other water uses in the State are just water registrations. He stated you are required to register if you are using over 100,000 gallons a day. He stated what they have is very unique and they have some limits on there for when there are droughts and that was specifically put in during the '80s when there was concern about low water. He stated since that permit was issued in the '80s there has only been 2 times that the water in the river has been reduced to that amount, where they have had to trigger some curtailments in what they were withdrawing from the river. He stated he thinks the 59% water withdrawal needs, he has some per megawatt numbers. He stated they do discharge less water with the CCGT, it is

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2026

PAGE 153

SUE STEINKE, 13700 N. 700 W. DeMotte CONT'D: less water and it is cleaner. He stated there is movement within the EPA to go to a zero liquid discharge so this is a movement towards that. He stated they talk about the constituents that might be in the water that they are discharging, they are discharging less water, total volume is about 80% less water so that is a benefit to the environment. Mr. Standish stated at the 47 million gallons that coal used at its peak, if you are withdrawing and using 47 million gallon in a 24-hour period how much are you discharging, so we can get an understanding of what is being lost to evaporation. Mr. Kortum stated he can say it in a different way, he does not have the actual discharge volumes but he can tell them what the water consumption is. He stated the water consumption is 18.4 million gallons a day and that is lost in steam, both through the evaporation in the cooling tower as well as what might be lost off of the ponds. Mr. Standish stated do you expect that to go up or down with the combined cycle. Mr. Kortum stated water consumption with the combined cycle design to design, this is with everything that was running, will go down by 16%. He stated if you look at that on a per megawatt basis, because the CCGT produces more power than Schaefer Coal, it is 37% less per megawatt.

BARB NEUHAUSER, 4946 E. STATE ROAD 14, Francisville, Gillum Township: Ms. Neuhauser stated there is a data center law that came in place, The Indiana Data Center Tax Incentive, and it offers tax exemptions on energy and equipment for new data centers built in Indiana for up to 50 years which is the longest exemption period in any state when it was passed. She stated servers, routers, wiring, software, and other equipment are exempt from the business personal property tax and state sales tax. She stated electricity purchases also are exempt from state sales tax and this was from an article from The Times written by Joseph Peet. She stated we talked a lot about the economy and needing to bring it in but with that, that is the data center. She stated the data centers are the servers, routers, wiring, software and including the electricity that they use now has exemptions up to 50 years. She stated Commissioner Hilton talked about 50 years and she is not sure she will be alive in 50 years, she stated she will probably expire before these tax exemptions expire. She stated that is a lot of tax exemptions for such large corporations. She stated they talked about the economy, to her, this is not going to help our economy at all in Jasper County. Mr. Standish stated she is talking about sales tax there, in some aspects, and business personal property tax, all decisions that were made at the State House that are out of there realm. He stated they can weigh in just as you are now with our opinions on it. Ms. Neuhauser stated that means they are not going to be paying and the rest of us are going to have to. Mr. Standish stated he thinks that is why you see the influx of the data centers coming to Indiana, the state of Indiana has made it very popular to site data centers in this state, that that is what they want. He stated they want the investment, they want the AV growth in the state and to someone's point, there are 72 planned projects or proposed projects in the State and that did not happen by chance, there is a reason for that. He stated this is one of the most advantageous states to site a data center so it's a matter of where can you get the stock. Ms. Neuhauser stated because they don't have to pay tax but the rest of us are all paying tax, it is going to get to the point where we are saturated and all of us little people are going to be broke. Mr. Standish stated let's hope that is not the case, he stated not too many of them have stuck so far that have been proposed, there have been a few. He stated it is not just us, when they went to the Commissioners Conference in December it was every county down there was being inundated with either still following up with wind, solar, or data center was the conversation. Ms. Neuhauser stated she thinks it is plausible to put in a moratorium until the State can get this fixed and they pay what everybody else is paying. She stated she does not think people would be quite as upset as what they are about everything if they were paying their fair share, because they are not paying their fair share when they are getting all of these tax exemptions. Mr. Bontreger stated that is one of the things, currently, the way things set up, we have the ability to leverage some agreements that will get us the revenue we need. He stated those incentives are from the State but what we are talking about is long-term revenue streams that won't necessarily be based on just the taxes we collect. He stated they are taking a different posture than they did when wind and solar were kind of dumped in their lap. He stated they have the opportunity here to exercise a bit of leverage and that is why they are taking it to

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2026

PAGE 154

BARB NEUHAUSER, 4946 E. STATE ROAD 14, Francisville, Gillum Township CONT'D: heart because they actually have opportunity to leverage income for the county to benefit the taxpayers unlike the other projects. He stated once again, and he knows some are going to think he has already made up his mind but he is trying to weigh in all the possibilities here and at the end, essentially do a Ben Franklin decision in his mind, what are the pros, the cons, and how does it weigh out. Ms. Neuhauser stated her recommendation would be that we need a moratorium until they are paying their fair share, then they can come back. Mr. Bontreger stated moratoriums have been limited at the state level to only a year and once you do one you cannot do another one. He stated because counties were throwing moratoriums out like parade candy and unfortunately, they got slapped back on that. Ms. Neuhauser stated she thinks we should utilize our one-year moratorium then. Mr. Bontreger stated he appreciates her opinion on that but in the meantime until the next major topic comes around. Mr. Hilton stated then we wish we had it in our back pocket to use. Mr. Standish stated exactly. Ms. Neuhauser stated she is holding out that they pay their fair share like the rest of us.

SURVEYOR MR. VINCE URBANO: Mr. Urbano stated the way he understands it there was more information that was presented after the Plan Commission meeting, why wasn't that presented at their Planning Commission meeting. He stated, is this even the same application if they have presented new information to the Commissioners and the Plan Commission did not even get to review that stuff. He stated as a Plan Commission member he is confused why, usually with an application somebody comes in, they present the information, and then that proceeds to the next step, but they have got a bunch of new information here that the Plan Commission didn't even get a chance to review or look at, or anything along those lines. He stated he is a little confused by that as a Plan Commission member, why that is being presented to you guys, and why wasn't that presented to the Plan Commission when they had their Plan Commission meeting and made their decision. He stated he is confused and curious why the new information now, why wasn't that presented back at the original meeting. Mr. Bontreger stated that was the result of them asking further questions because ultimately the final decision does rest with the Commissioners. He stated they understand their recommendation was unfavorable at this time. He stated they also recognize that through statute the State has essentially given the Commissioners the authority to dig deeper into a project if they don't deem it necessary to consider the override of the Plan Commission. He stated now, as you know, that is a very rare thing, it does not happen, and probably has not happened in a very long time. He stated that would be why, just because of the timeframe involved, now that the recommendation got kicked to the Commissioners, they have the 90 days as opposed to restarting the clock on all of it. He stated the ultimate decision is on their necks so that is why they have asked the questions to get more information, to get more clarity to follow up with what their concerns were. Mr. Urbano stated again he is curious why that wasn't presented to them, because that might have gave them more information on the actual topic then and now, again, it looks like they are kind of scrambling around to get some more things to you that they probably should have provided at the first step of this thing. Mr. Standish stated some of that came from questions at the Plan Commission, you know; where is this at; you are supposed to have this plan. He stated to your point, when you made the motion, it was you are not ready, you do not have everything here for us now, so they provided that stuff now to be ready. Mr. Urbano stated so that is an incomplete application presented to the Plan Commission if they are changing it and giving it to the Commissioners, in his opinion. Mr. Bontreger stated one of the topics they recognized needed to get cleaned up in regards to the peaker was the drainage plan. He stated they understand, so they are mindful of his responsibilities and authority of his office. Mr. Hilton stated there have been a lot of post-conversations, obviously, since that meeting that like he said, he thinks it was before Mr. Urbano even came into the room, they have been extremely forthcoming on. He stated to the same point he made earlier, they are only looking to get information from them on CCGTs and their Peaker project, that is the only thing he is looking at right now. He stated he wants somebody with information based on the other topic to come to the table and sit in front of them and present because these gentlemen well know, with the information being provided, he is

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**January 6, 2026**

**PAGE 155**

SURVEYOR MR. VINCE URBANO CONT'D: becoming more and more comfortable with what their projections and plans are. He stated he has documentation sitting in front of him, measurements down to the foot away from the road. Mr. Urbano stated don't you think that would have been important for all of them to have had at that point. Mr. Hilton stated they have spoken numerous times, directly through Zoom calls, and he has expressed that a multitude of times with them, they should have started this off on the right foot back in October and they have admitted that, in fact, tonight they have admitted that numerous times, or this morning they have admitted that. Mr. Bontreger stated, they don't ever want him to feel like he is boxed out of the situation. Mr. Urbano stated he is not saying that, he just sees a lot more information that he feels should have been presented to the whole plan. Mr. Bontreger stated that had been, to Ryans point, that has been part of the learning process, this is new territory for all of us, they have taken some points to learn and we are obviously learning along the way. Mr. Hilton stated they know collectively, we, Jasper County leadership, are paying attention. He stated it has been echoed a multitude of times, they are attentive to the details. Mr. Standish stated it sounds like they have taken it to heart to, as Vince (Nipsco) said in his beginning statement, that they are bringing on somebody now that is going to do this, this is what they are going to do for Nipsco everywhere. Mr. Bontreger stated it was mentioned that the economy is evolving and he thinks attention to these small details is part of the evolution of the process going forward, things that maybe once kind of just got swept aside, or were just considered not that big a deal, now everything is a big deal.

Mr. Bontreger thanked everyone and stated there will be a 5-minute break.

Jasper County Commissioners meeting reconvened.

HIGHWAY BIDS FOR BITUMINOUS EMULSIFIED ASPHALT & VARIOUS SUPPLIES & MATERIALS:

Mr. Bontreger asked Mr. Haberlin to remind him what he is supposed to read. Mr. Haberlin stated let me start off first, unless you put a wheel tax on, we can't afford any of this. Mr. Bontreger stated he would have to talk to Mr. Jordan about that.

Wonderland Tire Company

11R22.5H \$320.03 \$97.25 (install)

Top Line Trucking/Stone Sales

INDOT 23 sand \$19.25/ton

Limestone to DeMotte \$8.75/ton

Limestone to Rensselaer \$6.75/ton

Bit Mat Products

PG 64-22 \$575/ton

Beemsterboer

73 \$7.50/ton

INDOT 24 Sand \$8.25/ton

Hauling freight highway garage \$18.50/ton

Hauling freight DeMotte \$18.00/ton

Mattocks & Sons

Case 350 Excavator \$200.00/hour

Cat 330 Excavator \$200.00/hour

Cat Dozer \$150.00/hour

Asphalt Materials, Inc.

AE-90 \$2.084/gallon

PG 64-22 \$514.84/ton

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**January 6, 2026**

**PAGE 156**

HIGHWAY BIDS FOR BITUMINOUS EMULSIFIED ASPHALT & VARIOUS SUPPLIES & MATERIALS CONT'D:

Central Paving, Inc.

Bituminous emulsified asphalt	\$0.32/gallon
Calcium Chloride – 38% delivered to any point in Jasper County	\$1.27/gallon
38% delivered, metered, and applied through distributor	\$0.34/gallon

38% liquid calcium furnished, applied at any point in Jasper County	\$1.61/gallon
---	---------------

US Aggregates, Inc.

INDOT 73-Francisville	\$10.50/ton
INDOT 73-Lowell	\$13.15/ton
Rogers Group	
INDOT 73	\$9.75/ton

Mr. Hilton made a motion to accept all bids as presented. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion carried.

PAYROLL CLAIMS: Mr. Standish made a motion to approve the payroll claims with checks dated December 15 and December 30, 2025. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion carried.

CLAIMS: Mr. Hilton made a motion to approve the prepay and health insurance claims as presented. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion carried.

SHERIFF WILLIAMSON: Sheriff Williamson did not have anything to present to the Commissioners.

CORONER BOERSMA: Mr. Boersma stated they ended the year with 101 coroner's cases, of which, they autopsied 23. He stated that was not quite 25% which is not really to the State's satisfaction, they would like to see them do 100%. Mr. Bontreger asked how does that number fall historically, is that approximately what you end up doing every year. Mr. Boersma stated that is pretty much approximately. He stated they look a lot of times to the incident and what the incident demands and what the state demands. He stated if it is someone under the age of 18, then they require it to be done regardless of the incident, unless the person's being seen by two physicians, and two physicians are willing to confer with the Coroner that they don't have to do an autopsy. He stated something he and Sheriff Williamson have spoke about is that right now they have an administrative assistant that they share under the building at the north end, it hasn't become a logistical problem, but they have talked about moving the Sheriffs line item to the Coroners line and just having her under one boss rather than having 2 different people make decisions of when she is working and when she is not. He stated the Sheriff has also more or less turned that building to him, he stated they still do things for him there, the guys still use it, and that that is going to continue to happen but they have taken over the telephone bill since they are the ones making a lot more calls out there. He stated they have internet up in the ceiling and they called NetNitco and put him on as the administrator so that he can make decisions on that. He stated they are trying to streamline things so that State reports aren't backlogged and not getting to where they need to go on a timely fashion. He stated most of them are emailed and are encrypted and a lot of times are good sized files so it was better to have a hardline. He stated they will continue to do the things that the Sheriff requires to have done, because she is a sworn officer for him, so she will still give out police reports, golf cart/four-wheeler permits, and that kind of stuff. He stated the officers will still be able to utilize that building for lunch and whatever they want to. He stated they do have some dog training stuff up there that they want to bring down here so they can train their dogs more logistically. He stated he offered them an enclosed trailer to move stuff. He stated they ended the year with some cash flow left over so they bought some shelving to get stuff off the floor and pulling moisture off the floor. Mr. Bontreger asked when their annual training is. Mr. Boersma

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2026

PAGE 157

CORONER BOERSMA CONT'D: stated their annual training is set in June. He stated the money that is collected from death certificates goes to the Coroners Training Board and that pays for their training and their room and board. He stated that in December the State got some harebrained idea that they want to eliminate the, let's just say out of the constitutional offices, they want to elect the Sheriff and elect the Clerk of the Circuit Court and everybody else would be non-elected. He stated they would be appointed by the joint resolution that they are trying to meander their way through at the moment. He stated he does not think that it is a wise decision as things move forward, we will have to start calling our legislators. He stated he does not worry about our county because we have a good group of people that can make wise decision but it would not be a good idea in other counties. Mr. Bontreger stated it seems like a bit of overreach. Mr. Boersma stated yes to remove that from the people would be an ignorant thing to do.

### BONDS:

Mr. Bontreger stated they have an Indiana Department of Transportation Right of Way bond that was involved with the sidewalk project and the employee bonds. Mr. Pickering stated regarding the INDOT bond they will be able to cancel that once INDOT signs off on the sidewalks. Mr. Standish made a motion to approve all bonds as presented. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion carried.

STACE PICKERING, MAIN STREET RENSSELAER: Mr. Pickering stated they ran into a bunch of IT issues on the computers for the Christmas light projectors at the courthouse. He stated he worked with the company and received parts and in the end is waiting to see if they are going to send somebody to fix them or if they are going to send them back and have them replaced. He asked if he could leave them up for a little longer to see if the company is going to come up. He asked if next year the outside lights could be put on a timer also. The Commissioners gave Mr. Pickering consent to leave the projectors up.

### BOARD APPOINTMENTS

#### ALCOHOL BEVERAGE BOARD:

Reappoint Ms. Bonnie Partin for a one-year term.

#### ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD:

Reappoint Ms. Brooke Scheurich, Mr. Alex Hamilton, Ms. Tammy Burkett, Dr. Janice Mallory, Ms. Shelly Conley, and Ms. Leda Fedor for a two-year term.

#### ARROWHEAD COUNTRY R C & D COMMISSION:

Reappoint Mr. Lou Nagel.

#### BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:

Reappoint Mr. Kent Korniak for a four-year term.

#### CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LAND APPLICATION:

Reappoint Mr. Rob Bueter, Mr. Noah Hoek, and Mr. Chad Healey for a one-year term.

#### CIVIL DEFENSE/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Reappoint Ms. Karen Wilson as the Emergency Management Director for a one-year term.

#### COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ADVISORY BOARD:

Reappoint Ms. Claudia Dubowski for a four-year term.

#### COURTHOUSE AND ANNEX CUSTODIANS:

Reappoint Mr. Charles Flick as the Head Custodian and Mr. Rodney Boomsma as the Assistant Custodian for a one-year term.

#### COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Reappoint Attorney Eric Beaver as the County Attorney.

#### FAIR BOARD:

Reappoint Mr. Ryan Hilton for a one-year term.

#### HEALTH BOARD:

Reappoint Ms. Roberta Jeffries, Ms. Anita Reed, Mr. Stevan Vuckovic, Ms. Roberta Gutwein, and Dr. Richard Davis for four-year terms.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**January 6, 2026**

**PAGE 158**

BOARD APPOINTMENTS CONT'D:

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT:

Reappoint Mr. Ed Cain for a one-year term.

JASPER COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:

Reappoint Ms. Jill Duttlinger, Mr. Travis Gutwein, Ms. Anne Cecile Egan, and Mr. Timothy Donnelly for one-year terms.

JASPER COUNTY TOURISM COMMISSION:

Reappoint Ms. Suzi Howard and Mr. Randy Rottler for a two-year term.

KANKAKEE-IROQUOIS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION:

Reappoint Mr. Ryan Hilton for a one-year term.

KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION:

Reappoint Mr. Vince Urbano for a one-year term.

NORTHWEST INDIANA SOLID WASTE DISTRICT:

Reappoint Mr. Rein Bontreger and Mr. Craig Standish for a one-year term.

PLAN COMMISSION:

Reappoint Mr. Kent Korniak as President for a four-year term.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT:

Reappoint Ms. Mary Scheurich and Ms. Kellie Standish for a one-year term.

PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT BOARD OF APPEALS:

Reappoint Mr. Scott Barton and Mr. Donald Putt for a one-year term.

PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD:

Reappoint Mr. Richard Maxwell for a three-year term.

RENSELAER DISABILITIES COMMISSION:

Reappoint Ms. Merrie Etta Stowers for a one-year term.

REVIEW BOARD FOR COMMON NUISANCES:

Reappoint Mr. Scott Barton for a one-year term.

TOWN OF DEMOTTE PLAN COMMISSION:

Reappoint Mr. John VanSoest for a four-year term.

VETERAN SERVICE:

Reappoint Mr. Tim Flynn as the Veteran Service Officer for a one-year term.

NORTHWEST INDIANA WORKFORCE BOARD:

Reappoint Mr. Scott Maienbrook and Mr. Tom Fleming for a two-year term.

Mr. Standish made a motion to approve the noted board appointments. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion carried.

ATTORNEY BEAVER:

AMBULANCE CONTRACTS: Mr. Beaver stated he had the ambulance contracts drafted for 2026 using the numbers that have been approved by the Council with appropriations that are larger amounts. He stated they are doing it a little differently this year with installment payments on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month and that would be with the prepaid claims process. He stated the entities can receive a check in January and they will not receive two checks in December. He stated it puts it at the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and allows those claims to be approved during the next, regular meeting, and so that should be before the second Commissioners meeting of December and that is permissible under the prepaid claim's ordinance and state law. Mr. Bontreger stated he thinks the EMS services will appreciate being able to have their funding come at regular intervals throughout the year. He stated the Wheatfield contract is for \$700,000 and Keener is for \$700,000. Mr. Hilton stated he believed Keener should be for \$775,000. Mr. Beaver stated that was a typo on his part. Mr. Bontreger stated Jasper County EMS should be \$1.1 million. He stated just to clarify Wheatfield is \$700,000, Keener is \$775,000, and Jasper County EMS is \$1.1 million. Mr. Hilton made the motion to approve the contracts with the corrected contract amounts. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion was carried.

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2026

PAGE 159

OZINGA RUA: Mr. Beaver stated he drafted a road use agreement using a template that they have negotiated previously for low-intensity uses of the roads, it does not involve destroying the roads and rebuilding them, that centers on an approved route along with any necessary permitting for use of the roads and then also approving a route. He stated it has to do with Ozinga's project in the vicinity of County Road 430 East and Division Road just south of 14 near the county line on the east side and it would include authorization to travel on 430 East from 14 to Division then from Division from 430 East to 450 East on 450 East between Division and 30 South, 30 South between 450 East and 600 East and then 600 East between 30 South and 114 so it is a couple mile loop. He stated that was based on the document Ed had provided. Mr. Standish stated Ed's on 430 East at the entrance to their plant for a short term to Division Road. He stated we don't want them to use 430 East from that entrance north to State Road 14, so that would be 600 East, south of State Road 14 to 30 South, 30 South across where it meets up with Division Road and then on 430 East, they could go north again for 100 yards-150 yards through their entrance right to their facility. He stated this will keep them on paved roads as much as they can. Mr. Standish stated they will have to amend that to make it right. Mr. Bontreger stated Ozinga is hauling to be able to inject it into the gas line at the dairies. Mr. Standish stated there is a tap, in Nipsco's gas line on Division Road and 430 East where natural gas that is in excess of what the dairy produces from their methane conversion is then sold to and injected into the natural gas line that everybody here uses. He stated there is a facility outside of Jasper County that produces natural gas but does not have an injection point so they are hauling that natural gas by tanker truck to the spot and tapping into it and injecting it into Nipsco's natural gas line. Mr. Standish stated a neighbor called him and told him about the situation and he went over on a Saturday and witnessed it. He stated he was there for 45 minutes and 4 semis went by, it is a 24-hour a day, 7-days a week process that is supposed to end, according to his conversation with the Ozinga gentleman, September at the latest of this year. He stated they will have a tap at the facility that is making the natural gas so they will be able to tap straight into it as the dairies do now. Mr. Hilton made the motion to approve the RUA with the proposed amendment to the route. Mr. Beaver stated there is no frost law exemption, no overweight exemption, no permits given by the agreement. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Standish stated Ozinga will be responsible for Mr. Beavers fees to draw this up and it won't be on the taxpayer.

EDA INVOICE: Mr. Bontreger stated this is an invoice that we generate and give to Nipsco to collect the economic development agreement payment on Dunns 2 and are on payment number 2. He stated this invoice needs to get out in a timely fashion to make sure that they receive the money and Mr. Beaver has prepared that invoice and it needs to be presented to the company. Mr. Beaver stated he thought this was in regards to the wind deal and getting a request for funds but this does jog his mind about the invoice that needs to go to Nipsco to get the EDA payment and he will look at that right away. Mr. Bontreger stated so this EDA invoice you were thinking about was for the additional funding needed for construction compliance. Mr. Beaver stated yes but this is the economic development payment under Dunns Bridge 2, economic development agreement and he believes that process, around a million dollars or so is triggered by the county sending an invoice. He stated that was what was done last year and it took a bit of time for the responsive person with Nipsco to receive what the county had sent. Mr. Bontreger stated Nipsco sent it to the lockbox last year. He stated we need a check sent to the courthouse in care of the Auditor.

WOVEN HOPE: Mr. Bontreger stated Woven Hope is a 501c(3) and has a grant request. A representative from Woven Hope stated they are asking for grant funds from the opioid grant. She stated they are looking into securing a transition home. She stated this home will be for women coming out of recovery programs. She stated statistics find that long term, another step secures, reentry and helps sustain them in a better community. She stated they are asking for \$20,000 and have 2 potential houses at this time. She stated they have not moved forward because they are waiting on funds and this is not their only sustaining fund avenue. She stated they have donors, sponsors, are putting together mystery boxes and subscription boxes for fulltime income to the nonprofit so it is not something that they are just asking from them to sustain. She stated there are

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2026

PAGE 160

WOVEN HOPE CONT'D: some repairs to both potential homes that need to be made and there will be leasing costs to either one of the homes or both depending on what they move forward with. She stated they are asking that they receive the funds from the opioid grant as it will directly impact women who are striving to overcome addictions reintegrate successfully into our community. She stated they will oversee all aspects of the project ensuring that the funds are used efficiently and transparently. She stated their mission is simple yet profound, to see lives restored, families reunited, and our community strengthened through faith, compassion, and practical support. She stated this project will stand as a beacon of hope for women who have fought to break free from addiction and are now ready to walk forward in healing and in purpose. She stated they have partnered with the Crisis Center and also the Work Release Program and will be getting women from both of those places to help further their commitment to being a constructive part of our community. She stated one house can have 3 women at a time and they will stay from any length of 6 months to a year and the other one is looking like 4 women. She stated if they can do both it will be a capacity of 7. She stated transition homes enables a better outcome versus not having one. She stated they will be providing life skills training, helping them move towards a better education, better job placement, and supportive counseling services which will be referrals as they are not counselors and will not be counseling but will be mentoring and helping them walk that path. She stated they want to grab their hand and walk them through every system from the street to their own home. Mr. Bontreger asked if they had students selected. She stated they have a couple potential ones in the wings waiting but can't make any commitments. She stated if they receive the money they should be able to open a door at 30 days max. She stated they have people ready to do the work, have received the bids, and are ready to move forward when they get the finances. She stated they have an office on Van Rensselaer Street but are not officially opened yet but will service Jasper County. She stated because they work with the Crisis Center and they service four counties she can't say that they only service Jasper County. Mr. Bontreger stated in some cases, trying to get through some of these issues in your home county provides other difficulties. She stated sometimes it is better to be somewhere other than your home county.

HOUSE OF GRACE: Ms. Tammy Tidd stated she is the founder and Executive Director of House of Grace Recovery Homes, which is a recovery house that is helping women struggling with addiction. She stated they have been open for 9 years next month, their first house was in Thorntown and then they opened the Rensselaer house 5 years ago, and are preparing to open their 3<sup>rd</sup> house in Lafayette this summer. She stated their mission is to inspire, change, empower women to make good choices in daily routines, work ethics, relationships, both physically and spiritually to successfully maintain an alcohol and drug-free life. She stated their vision is to offer a safe place for women coming out of jail, prison, or off the street where they can continue to rebuild and restore their lives and introduce them to Christ. She stated they are a 501c(3) self-funded ministry and operate on donations, grants, fundraisers, and weekly fees that the ladies pay. She stated they have a budget around \$45,000 a year just for the Rensselaer house. She stated they are asking for \$30,000 out of the opioid money to help them continue to do some work. She stated some of that money will be used to get some kind of a used gator or yard cart/golf cart with a bed in the back to help them do yard work because they found out that there is more yard work to do than they expected. She stated some would be used for sponsorship funds for the ladies who come in the house who don't have money, which the majority of them are in that category and that will help pay for their fees for the first 3 or 4 months until they get them into a job. She stated some of the money would be used for some education classes for the staff, continued learning, and operating expenses. She stated they would appreciate anything that is offered that would help them continue to change one life at a time. Mr. Bontreger asked if they had any stats as to how their houses have been going in general. Ms. Tidd stated, they have had their 31<sup>st</sup> graduate to this point out of Jasper County, and around 89 ladies who have come to the house. She stated most of those did not stay but some did and their success is about 31-32%. She stated for her, true success is do you stay clean and sober after you leave, and they have had good success with that as well with those who have graduated. She stated they are getting ready to open their third house and they are watching

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2026

PAGE 161

HOUSE OF GRACE CONT'D: things go and grow and they believe that they are going to have even more here in Jasper County this year than they have had in the past. Mr. Bontreger asked what the duration of the program is. Ms. Tidd stated it is a 1-year program but they can stay up to 18 months. Mr. Bontreger asked if they are still looking for a larger facility in the county. Ms. Tidd stated they have not yet, the house they are in has been good for them to this point but they have found that they need more space especially for the management. She stated management is having to share bathrooms with the residents and that is always a struggle. She stated they need another living space for visits and classes so they are looking and waiting for that person to come to them and say they have it because being a 501c self-funded ministry is difficult. Mr. Bontreger stated they have been using the house that was the Jasper County Recovery House which is owned by Harris Homes and they have been working in cooperation with that and it has been a good partnership. He stated they originally started in the apartments over at the college and Tammy got introduced and brought up to Jasper County largely through the initiative of Sheriff Williamson. He thanked them for the work they are doing and stated they would have a response for them at the Commissioners January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

### OTHER BUSINESS

FUEL CONTRACTS: Mr. Hilton stated they have an updated fuel contract. He stated they first covered it last month but there were a couple of lines that were missed and added and one that they dropped. He stated he called Keystone and they added those under the same rate that they had. Mr. Bontreger stated they had approved the amount before and are signing again because lines were added.

COMMISSIONER STANDISH: Mr. Standish stated there is a current employee that has lost a husband this week and then another employee that was her uncle, the same guy. He stated please keep the family and friends of Ray Schultz in your thoughts and prayers.

COUNTY ENGINEER JACK HABERLIN: Mr. Haberlin stated he had a right of way permit for Nipsco. He stated this was in regards to the project that was discussed at the Commissioners last meeting regarding replacing around 6 miles of 2-inch natural gas line in the Remington area. He stated they were here last month and discussed everything. Mr. Hilton made a motion to approve the permit as presented. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion carried.

BF&S JAKE DAMMARELL: Mr. Dammarell stated regarding the striping project which is an HSIP funded project through INDOT with 90% federal funds that, 10% match comes from the local constituent and they have reached out to DeMotte and Wheatfield. He stated both have been willing to provide some amount of the match towards the project and this is for striping that will occur on arterial roadways that intersect State Road 10. He stated what is needed is either a motion or to provide direction to have Mr. Beaver begin an interlocal agreement between the county and those two communities for both the local match and then the long-term maintenance of that striping once it has been installed. Mr. Haberlin stated by the KV School, the first time INDOT did it, the second time, KV helped but now it has to be restriped and we pay for it every time it needs updated. Mr. Hilton stated as long as it is written in there that this is paid for from them now on he is fine with it. He stated every time they go out there in the dark you can't see anything coming up to the stop light. Mr. Dammarell stated they would recommend that be part of the interlocal agreement, that they make a contribution to the 10% local match, based on the amount of work that occurs, is roughly \$2,000 of local match and carrying forward, striping that would need to occur once the work has been degraded over the years would be their responsibility within their jurisdictions to do that work and not the county. Mr. Hilton made a motion to approve Mr. Beaver to get an interlocal agreement developed under the advisement of BF&S to make sure that all the points are covered, including maintenance. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Bontreger asked when the work on this would start, once everything is signed. Mr. Dammarell stated it would most likely begin in September of '27 because of the completion due date for the funding.

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2026

PAGE 162

### BF&S JAKE DAMMARELL CONT'D:

Mr. Haberlin stated maybe one of the next bridges they work on next is Bridge 88 and Jake has been working with the drainage board for the Zimmer ditch. Mr. Dammarell stated the Commissioners wanted to have a public hearing that was going to occur for the Zimmer ditch to talk directly to the property owners affected by improvements on Bridge 88. He stated with the 2 of those projects lining up and then the delay in the public hearing for the Zimmer ditch they did not have that opportunity and needs to know how they want to move forward with bridge 88, if they want to engage those residents prior to any action or wait for a point in time in which a public hearing occurs for Zimmer ditch. Mr. Standish stated he has spoken to a couple of the landowners and they are understanding. He stated they want the ditch cleaned but they understand that having that done and the realignment of the ditch for the bridge makes good sense timing wise. He stated he does not think it is an issue as far as that goes and if they want to pull them in and talk to them he thinks they are ready for that conversation. He stated to being after harvest of '26 they would need to start the paper work soon. Mr. Dammarell stated they have all seen and had a chance to review the services agreement from back in November/December and none of that has changed. He stated permitting for any of the work in the ditch and some of the permitting for the bridge is what is going to be the driving force as well as any right of way acquisition, while they may be favorable, it still takes time to go through the process. Mr. Standish stated they should try and see if they can get everybody together before spring break for this.

Mr. Haberlin stated they did 3 grants, one for striping, one for signage, and an SS4A and that tells about what they should do with our roads and he thinks we have to have an agreement for them. Mr. Dammarell stated SS4A, Safe Streets for All, was funding they went after and were able to get that grant, through the Federal Highway. He stated this provides for what is referred to as a Safety Action Plan. He stated at the time, a lot of these meetings had a lot of folks coming, telling them about problems and issues with intersections. He stated what this Safety Action Plan does is it takes a comprehensive look at all of Jasper County, identifies hotspots for accidents and things of that nature and then develops a plan to mitigate those. He stated this will be in coordination with KIRPC, who has got a similar grant in place to do that kind of work. He stated they had identified, 2 locations in the county that they would look at under their plan and what remains would be looked at under your own plan. He stated the county went through an RFP process, which is a selection process for professional services, they used the INDOT website to administer that and received 3 respondents. He stated they went through a scoring process and then they were advised they were selected after a review of that. He stated the next steps would be a scoping meeting, which identifies what they are going to do, including public meetings and outreach and things of that that are required by the grant and then provide an agreement for those services moving forward. Mr. Bontreger asked when that scoping meeting would occur. Mr. Dammarell stated he would like to see that fit in by the end of the month if possible. He stated Mr. Haberlin has been pressured by Federal Highway to provide quarterly reports, even monthly reports to the Federal Highway for the last few months and they are wanting to see that move forward and get completed as quickly as possible.

SOIL & WATER LANA ZIMMER: Ms. Zimmer stated last summer they had vacancies for both of their staff positions, one was for 2 months the other for 1 month and so they had a lot of catch up to do this fall. She stated they had 2 major grants that were applied for and so a lot of comp hours were accumulated by their staff because of those demands. She stated they each have around 30 hours of comp time that they were unable to use in December with year-end deadlines. She stated she is requesting compensation for that, either financially or to allow them to carry over those hours of comp time. Mr. Standish made a motion to allow them to carry over comp time house from 2025 to 2026 to be used by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion carried.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**January 6, 2026**

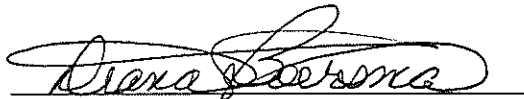
**PAGE 163**

PUBLIC COMMENT

REBECCA DEARDORF 13951 N 500 E, San Pierre: Ms. Deardorf stated at the bottom of the agendas you have a little asterisk that there is a link to the website for live transmissions and archived copies of live transmissions can be found by visiting a link. She stated she clicks on the link, it goes back to the Commissioners page and she has looked in several categories trying to find the link. Mr. Bontreger stated you just need to click on the YouTube link at the top of the page.

There being no further business Mr. Hilton made a motion to continue the meeting to January 21, 2026. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion carried.

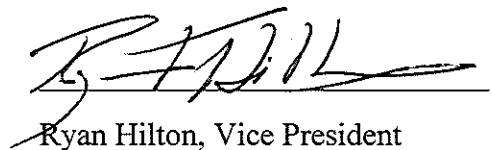
ATTEST:



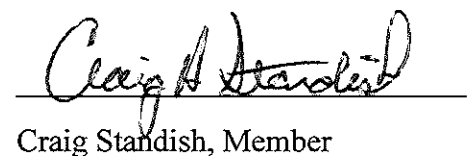
Diana Boersma, Auditor of Jasper County



Rein Bontreger, President



Ryan Hilton, Vice President



Craig Standish, Member