

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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The Jasper County Commissioners met this date at 8:30 A.M. C.S.T at 910 S Sparling Ave., Rensselaer, Indiana with the following members present: Rein Bontreger, Craig Standish and Ryan Hilton. Also present were Auditor, Diana Boersma, Deputy Auditor, Cynthia Slaughter and Eric Beaver, the Attorney that represents the Commissioners. Those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Bontreger. There was a brief moment of silence following the Pledge.

CHIEF BRANDON NAPIER: Mr. Napier stated they received confirmation from one of their canine handlers that in September he is going to retire his dog. He stated they are starting the canine process now to replace the dog that is retiring in September. He stated this can be a long process, because the handler does raise the funds for the dog. He stated the canine training will take place in Valparaiso. He stated they have decided that they want to add a 4th canine to the department and they currently have 3 and they will raise the funds for that dog also. He stated they have a new car coming in and they did a quarter cage in it so they could have the K9 in there as well. He stated they wanted to let the Commissioners know that they are adding on a 4th dog, and they do feel that their budget is able to support that fourth position. He stated they will also talk to the County Council about this as well. Mr. Bontreger asked how will it work with 4. Mr. Napier stated in the summertime when it is hot out you can burn a dog out quickly and so they will rotate dogs in. He stated essentially what they want to have is a canine on each shift. Mr. Bontreger asked how do they engage in the fundraising effort. Mr. Napier stated the officer that is selected to be the canine unit, puts together a fundraiser flyer for the funds that they need and what the funds are going towards and they go around to local businesses and individuals that live in the county and seek out donations. He stated this does include things via social media. Mr. Bontreger stated when the officer gets to that point and has that information, please come back to a meeting to let the Commissioners and the public know. He asked in general what is the cost for a new canine. Mr. Napier stated when they purchase the dog it is typically trained. He stated the dog and the handler will go to training together so they can learn to work together and become a team. He stated the cost is around \$15,000 for purchase and training and since they are looking at 2 canines it will be \$30,000. He stated they have already been through the interview process and have selected 2 deputies, and they are already out seeking funds and he will get the fundraising letter to the Commissioners. He stated they would like to have the canines purchased before September so they can attend training in Valparaiso. He stated the training in Valparaiso will be an 8-week course and is vigorous. He stated they train at night and during the day with some of the of the days being 16 hour days.

Mr. Napier stated he received an email from Corri Myers, EMS Director, and he gave the Commissioners and Attorney Beaver a copy as well. He stated they are looking for an opinion from them on this email. Mr. Bontreger asked if they have an opinion on the request. He stated it is basically on refusal calls; can the sheriff's officers be used as a witness to the refusal. He asked if there was a written policy that would prevent them from doing that. Mr. Napier stated currently they have their policies through Lexipol, and they do not want them to sign off on these refusals. He stated he does not understand why they cannot sign off on it. He stated they are not stating the EMS gave appropriate care they are just saying that they were there and the person refused care. Mr. Beaver stated Lexipol is the company that has put together standard operating procedures and that is updating your existing procedures. Mr. Napier stated yes. Mr. Beaver stated he would have to take a look to see exactly what they are getting it, but he does not see any harm in an officer recording their impression of events as it occurred because it is an incident report more or less. Mr. Napier stated typically their guys have body-worn cameras on and they are going to see that they are just signing off, stating that yeah, the medics were here, they tried to treat him, he refused care, and they witnessed that. Mr. Bontreger stated would you and the Sheriff consider that if Mr. Beaver is able to determine either with or from Lexipol, if a hold harmless component could be developed so that you guys would feel comfortable to allow them to do that because Lexipol is just giving advice they are not telling you what you can or cant do but what their suggestion is. He stated if Mr. Beaver is able to determine that they would be free of any liability would you guys

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CHIEF BRANDON NAPIER CONT'D: consider allowing them to serve as that sign-off, so to speak, on refusals. Mr. Napier stated they are getting ready to part ways with Lexipol and go with the Indiana Sheriff's Associations Policy 360. Mr. Bontreger asked if he knows their opinion on it. Mr. Napier stated he has not had time to look at their opinion, and they should be launching with Sheriff's Association mid-April. Mr. Bontreger stated they need to find out what the Sheriff's Association opinion is since Lexipol will be discarded in a month or so.

CORONER BOERSMA: Mr. Bontreger stated Mr. Boersma is out today.

EXTENSION OFFICE: Mr. Bontreger stated they have received a request from the Extension Office to approve Crystal and Kelly to attend a grant writing class from Purdue and the total of that is \$450. He stated they did ask them that once they get this skill set in place how can they make sure that they are available for other needs within the county as a grant needs to be written. He stated the grant writing class includes 15 hours of training covered over 2 days of class and for both of them it is \$450, \$225 each. Mr. Hilton made a motion to approve Crystal and Kelly to attend the grant writing class as presented. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion carried.

JASPER COUNTY EMS: Mr. Corrie Myers stated things are going well, employee satisfaction is high, equipment is being taken care of, they are getting positive feedback from the community and patients, and good feedback from the facilities. He stated the new truck is set to be delivered tomorrow. Mr. Bontreger stated Corrie has had conversations with Wheatfield and he has asked if it is okay that he does engage in conversations with other leadership from time to time. He stated he agrees that it would be and if any ideas or needs for decisions come up then bring that to them. He stated that they are having a fire service study done for the county and that it runs closely with EMS services as well. He stated it will be interesting to find out what our needs are and how we need to prepare to cover those daytime shifts when it is tough to get volunteers. Mr. Stanish stated he would encourage him to include the trustees when speaking with the other EMS units.

Mr. Bontreger stated they have an invoice for the new ambulance unit, \$339,974.34. He stated talking with Council leadership they have money in the LIT EMS fund that they will be able to appropriate out of to cover the cost of that. Mr. Standish made a motion to approve the invoice as presented. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Standish asked what the plans are with the retired ambulance. Mr. Myers stated he is going to present it to their board later this week, asking them for consideration to donate it to KV High School. He stated they have multiple projects that they can utilize it for. He stated it is not in any shape that he feels comfortable with for another ambulance service to purchase it and use it for its intended purpose. He stated if donated to KV, their shop students will be able to work on it mechanically and structurally. He stated they want to take the box off of the ambulance, dismantle it and put it in their EMT classroom and use it as a training aid so they will get a lot of use out of it for years to come. Mr. Standish stated that is better than running it through the county auction.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT KATE BARRETT: Ms. Barrett stated she has their agreements that they have signed off on every year, it is for renewal and needs to be approved in order to get invoices paid. Mr. Beaver asked if that is for postal. Ms. Barrett stated yes. Mr. Beaver stated he looked at it last night and it was a 2-year agreement originally and this is a 3-year extension. He stated it is going from \$26-some-odd dollars a month to \$29 or so a month and it locks in that rate for 3 years and it includes maintenance. He stated he did review the portal and the billing information, and the address should be the auditor's office and not the health department so the invoices would go that way. He stated he thought Shannon Kellner previously, and maybe still is, the auditor's person who handles the postal agreements. He stated the Commissioner could approve Kate doing an online signature because it is a portal with a quote. Mr. Hilton made a motion to approve the contract and authorize Kate to sign it electronically. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion carried.

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT KATE BARRETT CONT'D: Mr. Beaver stated the Health Department Board has approved a request to increase certain user fees, which has not been done for a number of years, and it is his job to write the ordinance for the Commissioner's consideration, and he will get to that as soon as he can.

ATTORNEY BEAVER: Mr. Beaver stated he needs additional time on both the Soil & Water MOU and the EDP invoice. He stated he has a template for the MOU for Soil & Water and he needs more information as to the position as it is already presently defined and funded by the Council. He stated there is another annual MOU that has been signed for 2025 for another position that has not come his way yet this year and he does not know if that is still intended for the conservation specialist that has been approved for many years. Mr. Bontreger stated the MOU being initiated was for the weed board, a new position. Mr. Standish stated it is a 1099 position. Mr. Beaver stated it will be a little different than what they have been using with the other one.

Mr. Beaver stated concerning the EDP invoice he did get an email from Jake Dammarell last week and there is a lot more information in it than expected. He stated he needs to talk to Jake to ascertain exactly what they need for this particular construction compliance reimbursement request. Mr. Bontreger stated he had Mr. Beaver coordinating with Sara and Diana for the second Dunn's Bridge 2 invoice. Mr. Beaver stated Sara said she would pick that up and he has not heard from her since that. Mr. Bontreger stated he thinks the first EDA payment from EDP will come in June. He stated he does not know if we have to invoice it but probably should. Mr. Standish stated Sara said we did not. Mr. Bontreger stated it wouldn't hurt to just start a formal process to make sure that the mechanism of collecting the money for the county would be clear and repeatable.

Mr. Beaver stated he had an engagement letter with Barnes & Thornburg. He stated it is their standard form agreement so there would be nothing unique with it, and it is with regard to discussions, representation of the county for the data center developer and negotiations in that. Mr. Hilton stated he is going to take a couple of weeks to look at this and would like to discuss it in March.

K2M FIRE SERVICE STUDY: Mr. Bontreger stated they had approved the contract last meeting with K2M for the fire service study. He stated they have the first invoice, and it includes a schedule of what the draws are going to be. He stated the first invoice is \$11,000 which allows for data collection. He stated the next phase will be operations assessment/coverage analysis and that will be \$11,000, then develop services delivery options is another \$11,000, and reporting and presentations will be \$6,000. Mr. Standish made a motion to approve the invoice for \$11,000 for project commencement and data collection. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion carried.

REMINGTON EMS: Mr. Bontreger stated he reached out to Mike Coty, Coty Construction, from the Remington area to do a walkthrough and assessment based on the layout and parameters that are needed to upgrade for the improvements inside the Remington EMS building. He stated it is already being used in this capacity, and this would segregate the living quarters more appropriately and separate air handling from the garage area and be able to funnel that outside. He stated this would also add central air along with a furnace upgrade, put in a second shower to be able to have male and female showers separated, and put in the kitchen appropriately with all plumbing and fixtures. He stated the total would be \$75,380. He stated the separate air handling part, which would be for the garage, would be about another \$10,000-\$15,000 so it would be around \$90,380 total. He stated the \$10,000-\$15,000 would be from Ziese, that is where Mike had reached out to get a quote from. Mr. Hilton stated before anybody gets the misconception, this building is a Jasper County Building. He asked what year was this building donated from Remington EMS. Mr. Bontreger stated he thinks it was '24. He stated it was the old town fire station and then between Remington and Carpenter Township they donated it to the County with the stipulation that if we stop using it for this purpose it would revert back to their needs. He stated since then they did upgrade the roof. He stated there were already some interior upgrades, and this is going to make

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REMINGTON EMS CONT'D: the bedrooms better, the kitchen area better, and living quarters in general. Mr. Hilton stated they walked though that building in October or September last year and it is in dire need of being updated. Mr. Standish stated structurally it is solid. Mr. Bontreger stated Mike said he should be able to get it completed in the next couple of months. He stated the EMS personnel in the south have been feeling like they are camping on the side of the street. He stated there will also be EMA storage. He stated he has talked with the Town of Remington and they are ok with the plans. Mr. Standish asked where would they ask the Council to pay for this from. Mr. Bontreger stated they had talked about the possibility of the same LIT EMS fund where the ambulance is coming from but they will let the Council decide that. He stated they could use buildings and grounds money, but he knows they are going to have some issues with the courthouse, and they might not want to draw on that fund right now. He stated a third option would be EDA fund, but he does not have a particular preference. He stated he thinks it is definitely a need. He stated he would be willing to go to the Council meeting tonight and present this to them and let them weigh in on where they would like to fund it from. Mr. Standish made a motion to approve the quote from Mike Coty with Council input as to the funding line. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion carried.

PROBATION MIKE SPANGLER: Mr. Spangler stated this is supported by the Sheriff, he had to leave and it is also Community Correction and Probation. Mr. Bontreger stated this is for a peer recovery specialist. Mr. Spangler stated Valley Oaks has hired a peer recovery coach and they are in the process of wanting to do 3 or 4. He stated this has become a big program throughout the State of Indiana, it assists individuals who, whether mental health or substance abuse, basically substance abuse, it is working with people that need help and life qualities and things like that. He stated Valley Oaks has their first hire and he will let her be introduced by Autumn. He stated they have asked for us to help support them and they are looking for opioid money to assist them with running their program. He stated Autumn Smolenski is here today and she is heading the program. Ms. Autumn Smolenski stated Kathy is their first peer recovery specialist that they have. She stated Valley Oaks covers a lot of counties. She stated they are the second county to flight this program within their organization- Valley Oaks. She stated Crawfordsville is the only other county that is flighting it right now through them, they have had great success and have a ton of support from their community stakeholders as well. She stated they are coming to give them a rundown on what the program will look like, what their helicopter dreams are, and to see if they would support them in helping them access some of the monies and funds because they are just navigating this. She stated Kathy comes with experience, lived experience and background in the position itself. She stated she comes to them from another company. She stated overall a peer recovery specialist is somebody who meets the needs and the overall well-being of a person, whereas mental health, they are just treating mental health. She stated when they have a peer recovery person, Kathy will explain it maybe a little bit more because this is her expertise, but she is going to bridge gaps as being an overall well-being person. She stated they, as Valley Oaks, treat the overall mental health of people and she will tap into that with her own background, but she can provide more services, whether it is mobile crises that they are navigating, how they would use that, that is a big need here in the county. She stated they are trying to navigate how to serve both the jail population and the corrections facility which they already have that ball rolling and meetings set and some of them have already commenced and concluded. Mr. Bontreger stated so to his understanding it is a less clinical relationship. Ms. Smolenski stated it is clinical but is very informal as well. Kathy stated people feel a bit more connected with her because she has kind of walked in their shoes, so they open up a little bit more and she is able to bridge that gap and help find resources and keep them in treatment. Mr. Bontreger stated do they feel you are more accessible when a crisis hits or they are at a critical decision point and they are willing to reach out to you. He stated are you accessible that way or how does that work. Ms. Smolenski stated yes, logistically, that will be her role, she will be more accessible to the community. She stated when people come in that say that they have relapsed or they have OD'd and they don't want to call law enforcement and stuff because they are nervous of what is to come after that, they have a person, hopefully like Kathy, to reach out to

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PROBATION MIKE SPANGLER CONT'D: and say they are struggling and are going to relapse or have relapsed and need help. She stated Kathy is filling those shoes of just sit by them, listen to them, help them navigate and that will be the most critical role for a lot of these people and like she has said she has the lived experience. She stated prior to trailblazing this program with her and going on maternity leave, she was actually navigating and really liaisoning all the IOP treatment that they have at their facility and she could connect with a lot of them based on her own upbringing but she does not have lived experience of addiction and a lot of people interpret that into how are you going to tell me what to do, you have never lived this. She stated Kathy is going to be the backbone of that, she is going to be able to explain I know what you are going through, I have been there, I have done it, and I have overcome it, that is her role. Mr. Spangler stated Kathy is trained, she has to go through classes and training and take certified tests in the State of Indiana and she has done that. He stated she will be going to their houses; it's not like she just sits in an office; she will be doing home visits. He stated if they are in a crisis need at home, she is going to go to their home. Mr. Bontreger asked if this is more than just a pilot program are they looking to make this a permanent fixture. Mr. Spangler stated yes, they are. He stated they are looking for funding through the opioid fund. Mr. Bontreger asked what kind of commitment has Crawfordsville pledge. Ms. Smolenski stated they get \$20,000 a year and they also have JCAP out in Crawfordsville so they get a lot of their funding from the jail itself to be able to push into the jail. She stated they won't be able to do, from her understanding, they can't house a JCAP, so they won't be able to tap into that money. She stated when they go to the jails, they will be utilizing all the money that they ask from the Commissioners. She stated they thought that \$20,000 for the first year would hopefully meet the need that they need. She stated they have a meeting on Thursday to see how they can push in services. She stated they are trying to model and mimic a program. She stated their JCAP program is a 3 days a week program, 3 hours long and the inmates and the officers that service that will be the people that pick who can be a part of that program. She stated same thing out with corrections, if they feel like they are safe enough to meet with Kathy and things like that. She stated they already have 5 people out at Corrections that are going to start engaging with Kathy, so they already have been rolling this ball. She stated they are doing the best they can to meet the need with no dollars because some people, like those in jail, can't get insurance. Mr. Bontreger asked if she can put a 2- or 3-year plan of what their funding request might be. He stated there is a fair amount of money in there, but he does not know if JRAC was going to want some money out of it also or if what they want was going to go towards this. Mr. Spangler stated he is not going to speak for JRAC, but he does think it does meet what they are looking for through JRAC. He stated they have talked about peer coaches in the past with JRAC and this does meet that need. Mr. Bontreger stated he does not think there will be a problem with the money they are asking for but to help them plan strategically long term, is for them to let them know what their total budget is and what their request from Jasper County is, and how that fits into there. He stated in other words, \$20,000 is your total budget, it seems like you are going to be stretched and need more than that. Mr. Spangler stated this will supplement, she is an employee of Valley Oaks, and this is a supplement to assist them with whatever needs they need when dealing with community corrections, the jail, or probation people. Mr. Bontreger stated \$20,000 is a reasonable ask but does that actually help get you what you needed or are you going to need more down the line. Ms. Smolenski stated Crawfordsville had \$0 in their first year and so because of that they could only take Medicaid clients, there is only a certain population that are willing to pay out of pocket. She stated the second year is when they requested \$20,000 and they have been moving forward and have been doing the program now for 4 years. She stated starting their second year they asked for that money, but they were behind the eight ball and could not serve a whole population. She stated as of last year and this year they had served 67 clients, both mixed pay, so it was Medicaid and commercial insurance out of their whole JCAP. She stated it is a whole different thing because they serve 17 different inmates over 19 weeks across the calendar year that are picked. She stated those aren't in the total numbers that you will see on that back pages those are just the numbers that their C&E, Consultation and Education fund, pay for. She stated overall, last year, just with their county dollars and then the Medicaid reimbursement that they get that they

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PROBATION MIKE SPANGLER CONT'D: can use, they were able to serve 42 clients as a whole and had 3-4 peers. She stated \$20,000 was feasible for them and that is why they asked for it initially, for the first 2 years and they only had 2 peers up until last year. She stated that is kind of the plan they are going with here and their 5-year plan would be to have 5 different peers. She stated right now they have one and they expect this program to blow up especially with the mobile crisis and crisis alleviation that they are trying to use to intervene. She stated they have a second one that they are looking at for Jasper County as well already. Mr. Bontreger stated what they need, and they can get them on the March agenda, is for them to give the Commissioners a formal request for the amount of money they are wanting with their letterhead on it that way they have something to specifically move on. Mr. Standish stated are you just covering Jasper County and Jasper County jail or other counties around from the Valley Oaks standpoint. Ms. Smolenski stated from a Valley Oaks standpoint they service a large population. She stated Kathy will just be covering Jasper and Newton because that is their catchment area. She stated they are taking this same exact conversation to Newton County as well, but currently the population that they are focused on with these dollars is Jasper County jail, probation, community corrections. Mr. Bontreger stated he thinks what they need is a formal request letter on their letterhead so they can move on that, he thinks it is a worthy effort to support. Mr. Spangler stated they are on the agenda for the Council tonight and asked if they should hold off on that until next month. Mr. Hilton stated that it would probably be the best option unless they wanted to decide what line it would come from. Mr. Bontreger stated he would think it would come from restricted and is comfortable with approving it and they could still give them their letter. He stated this is another piece of the puzzle of the solution of trying to help with addiction. He stated they have granted some other small grants to other projects in the county. Mr. Standish stated it is focused on rehabilitation. Mr. Bontreger stated he would be in favor of it if they are willing to do it. Mr. Standish made a motion to approve \$20,000 from the Opioid Restricted Fund to be given to Valley Oaks for a peer coach. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Bontreger stated to go ahead and give them a letter and to get on the agenda every couple of months, every 3 months to give them an update because they want word of these types of programs to get out to people, that there is hope and there are options in our county. Ms. Smolenski stated they do quarterly fiscal updates with all of their C&E programs from their Chief Financial Advisor, so they can send those over and get on the agenda and be in person as well. Mr. Standish stated everyone sees them spending money, so it is nice to see what they are getting for it. Mr. Spangler stated as they know he is appointed by the Commissioners for the Board of Directors for Valley Oaks and they are remodeling the building and putting primary care out here in Valley Oaks. He stated this is a good thing because a lot of people, you can't get them to a doctor or counseling so they will have a doctor out there and they will treat the people out there as well so they can get a doctor's appointment plus their mental health or substance abuse. He stated they are looking at 90 to 180 days and there will be a doctor out there, part-time to start, they are still working on it, but it will be 3 days a week and go to 5 days a week down the line. He stated they, Valley Oaks, is in the process of getting mobile care to assist police and ambulance with assistance for when there are calls. He stated probation has gone with Holland Health, they don't sign a contract, but they refer people to Holland Health and all they do is set up doctor's appointments, medical, mental health, anything for the individual and this does not cost the individual a thing. He stated it is a grant through the government paid by Indianapolis and Valley Oaks is on their list because it is a local area. He stated this seems to be going well to assist people. He stated transportation is a big thing, but they are working on that also.

OTHER BUSINESS

COMMISSIONER STANDISH: Mr. Standish stated they talked about, and he believes a letter has been sent, at least one if not two, to the landowner of the old BP gas station at the 205 exit. He stated nothing has happened yet and there has been no response from the property owner and they need to discuss the next steps. Mr. Bontreger stated this is an old gas station that needs to come

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COMMISSIONER STANDISH CONT'D: down. He stated people set fires in it then Remington has to respond to it and it is a waste of their resources and time. He stated is this the type of thing where they have to pay to get it torn down and then put a lien on their property or how would that work. Mr. Beaver stated this can end up on the property tax bill, whatever the cost would be. He stated it would probably be under the unsafe building law, and he is not sure if that would be under the Plan Commission or the Commissioners directly, he would have to see. Mr. Standish stated the Plan Commission has taken action on it. Mr. Hilton stated 2 letters have been sent. Mr. Standish stated last time he checked the taxes were being paid on the property and it is everybody's belief that the fuel tanks are still there also. Mr. Beaver stated that could be an IDEM issue. Mr. Standish stated getting the structure down is one thing. Mr. Hilton stated proper removal of the fuel tank is another. Mr. Beaver stated that it could end up with IDEM remediation. Mr. Bontreger stated they wouldn't have to take care of that, that is something for whoever buys the property. Mr. Standish stated or if they end up with it because somebody stops paying taxes on it because of the extra fee that they are putting on it for tearing the building down is where he is going with it. Mr. Beaver stated the City of Rensselaer had a similar thing with the Grandmas and would not be a bad place to look. There was additional discussion regarding Grandmas. Mr. Bontreger stated they need to make sure they have the authority, make sure the authority is properly dispensed and then get quotes to get it torn down. Mr. Standish stated he can get 3 or 4 people to look at it and get costs.

Mr. Bontreger stated they had a drone recently flown up on the edge of the courthouse and they have some tuck point issues that have been identified as well as some drafts around a couple of windows. He stated they really only looked at the north and a little bit of the east side of the building. Mr. Bontreger stated that he mentioned, potentially, the vendor could fix that and the retaining wall as well. He stated they would need to get this fixed before they power wash the courthouse. Mr. Standish stated he noticed that both of the flagpoles out there could use a coat of paint and maybe they could get that done at the same time. Mr. Bontreger stated they also need to get the basement taken care of and asked if they are still doing the outside bentonite clay. Mr. Haberlin stated they were put in for first thing in the spring, it is weather oriented so they can't do it when it is frozen, but it is going to happen. Mr. Bontreger stated they also need to get quotes for the lawn to get it fixed from all the construction last year. There was additional discussion regarding what would need to be done with the space between the courthouse and the sidewalk.

Mr. Hilton asked Mr. Beaver what they need to do about the magnet issue with the highway department and the accident that happened up north. He stated they seem to be getting a lot of letters and phone calls and how do they navigate that away from the highway department. Mr. Beaver stated he needs to look at it and give a certification about the documents. He stated what they want is a certification that the documents that have been produced by the highway department are complete. He stated his opinion is that they can come look themselves and make that decision. Mr. Hilton asked Mr. Cain what is the frequency of those phone calls and letters that are going to the department, from his understanding it is definitely once a week. Mr. Cain stated yes and he has sent the documents over numerous times. Mr. Beaver stated it is on his to-do list. Mr. Hilton stated just a reaffirmation of a conversation they had last week, is there any way he can get the Commissioners and the Council updated on the building spectrum and what that looks like out at NIPSCO, what their building plans/proposals are as far as building permits and what that looks like for everybody. Mr. Bontreger stated as far as the building permit fees. Mr. Hilton stated yea. Mr. Beaver stated he has done a lot of background research on that and would like to get something out this week.

COUNTY ENGINEER JACK HABERLIN: Mr. Haberlin stated he had a number of right-of-way permits. He stated the first is for MCC Network and is out at Fair Oaks area, another one is for NIPSCO for their pole replacement project in the Remington area. He stated they do not really have permitting for pole projects, but they always let the surveyor know for regulated drains. He stated the other one is for the City of Rensselaer with only about 10 feet in our area and the last is for Comcast, a simple bore under the road, in the Wheatfield area. Mr. Hilton made a motion to

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COUNTY ENGINEER JACK HABERLIN CONT'D: approve the right-of-way permit for MCC Network Services as presented. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Bontreger stated next is NIPSCO. Mr. Standish stated this is for the transmission, big towers. Mr. Bontreger stated Mr. Standish has said he thought they should talk to NIPSCO and see if they would have a public meeting with farmers/landowners. He stated he reached out to Karen about the landowner that had concerns and they reached back out to land agents to reach out to them but in talking to the landowner there are other people around that that have the same concerns. He stated as we are getting into planting season he is going to reach out to Karen again this afternoon and see if they will organize a landowner meeting somewhere in Remington for those folks. Mr. Hilton made a motion to approve the right-of-way permit for NIPSCO as presented. Mr. Standish seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Bontreger stated next up is the City of Rensselaer, UG directional bore to install 2-inch duct with fiber optic. Mr. Standish made a motion to approve the right-of-way permit for the City of Rensselaer as presented. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Bontreger stated Comcast Cable, is at Jonathan Drive in Wheatfield. Mr. Standish made a motion to approve the right-of-way permit for Comcast as presented. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion carried.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT ED CAIN: Mr. Cain stated the salt barn roof was done yesterday and that was appreciated. He stated he has a couple more items to add to the list of repairs. He stated he has a couple of estimates for all of the overhead doors in the barn, they have one that does not work and needs repaired and others some cables are frayed. He stated he has 2 estimates. He stated they are to get all the seals done underneath, get some cables repaired, and get some actual openers. He stated it would be basically all of their overhead doors. Mr. Bontreger asked Mr. Hilton if they have anything more on the fence, at the north. Mr. Hilton stated no he has not talked to Mr. Cain recently about it. Mr. Cain said they have some work to do to get everything laid down where they want it. Mr. Bontreger stated it is not a huge priority. Mr. Bontreger stated they have 2 quotes to fix hinges, rollers, parts, cables and that is for \$3,471.00. Mr. Cain stated that would be both buildings, they have the big building to the north, they have 3 overhead doors in there, one of them currently does not work, and they have their main garage shop and then the large building north of the salt barn. Mr. Bontreger stated other one was from Steve's Overhead Door Company and that was \$2,914.28 Mr. Cain stated he has not worked with either one of the companies. Mr. Bontreger stated the doors themselves are okay. Mr. Cain stated yes, it is basically the cables, some rollers, and openers that aren't working. He stated he does not know if it is the actual opener itself or the mechanism to open it. Mr. Bontreger stated he would think they could take that out of courthouse, buildings, and grounds. Mr. Standish made the motion to approve Steve's Overhead Door Company, \$2,914.28. Mr. Hilton seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Standish stated are you looking to purchase any trucks this year. Mr. Cain stated yes, they are. Mr. Standish asked if he was aware that, August or September, a 7th tier comes into play on all the new models. He stated he talked to a guy in the trucking business yesterday and he was pre-purchasing another 10 semis to get him in the 6th tier before the 7th tier with more emissions on them to cause more trouble. Mr. Cain stated they are talking with Peterbilt right now. Mr. Bontreger asked if there was a timeline when you have to get those ordered. Mr. Standish stated you could speak for the chassis and guys out there are going to be sucking those chassis up, he imagines.

BRIAN MOORE: Mr. Moore stated he would like to say thank you to the Commissioners for supporting the ambulance and everything they do there and the fire service study. He stated he thinks there are a lot of important things going on in the county and he thanks them for their leadership on it. He stated they know he is very passionate about the EMS, particularly, because he has been on that board since its inception and he thinks they have built a very great service there which they had a very big need for in that area. He stated they all do very good jobs, all 3 services and he is very pleased with what we have.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 17, 2026

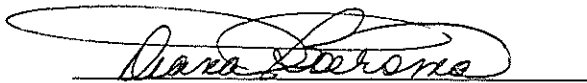
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PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

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

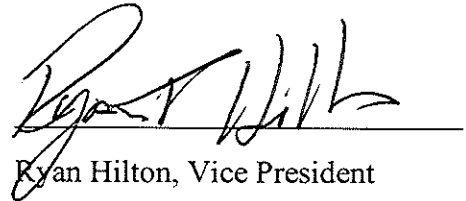
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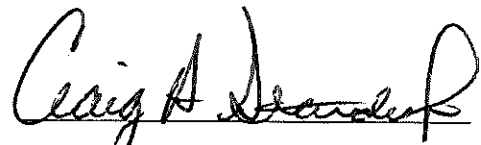
Diana Boersma, Auditor of Jasper County



Rein Bontreger, President



Ryan Hilton, Vice President



Craig Standish, Member