

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 4, 2021**

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The Jasper County Commissioners met this date at 8:15 A.M. C.S.T. via Zoom with the following member online: Kendell Culp, James A. Walstra and Richard E. Maxwell. Attorney Eric Beaver, Auditor Donya Jordan and Deputy Auditor Tina Porter were also online. Mr. Culp called the meeting to order and everyone online stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Culp.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD: Mr. Maxwell made a motion for Kendell Culp to remain President of the Jasper County Commissioners. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion for James Walstra to remain Vice President of the Jasper County Commissioners. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

PAYROLL CLAIM AND ALLOWANCE DOCKET: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the Payroll Claim and Allowance Docket for check date equal to December 30, 2020. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS SIGNATURE STAMPS: The Commissioners gave permission for Auditor Jordan to use their signature stamps on documents that they've approved.

NEXUS ADDENDUM: Mr. Culp stated that he's asked Attorney Beaver to look at the Nexus addendum and has spoken with Assessor Hoffman. He is satisfied with the intention. Attorney Beaver stated that Nexus is ok with the revision. Assessor Hoffman stated that she received the signed document from the Nexus representative. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the addendum. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

WYNN QUOTE / GRANT APPLICATION: Mr. Culp stated that the County has ordered a sign for the northeast corner of the Courthouse to replace the vinyl banners that get put out there. It will be paid for with the Education and Awareness grant money from COVID. The sign would be secured on each end by steel that will be encased in limestone to match the Courthouse. The work will be done by Wynn Masonry of Morocco who have also done work for Parks for People. Mr. Walstra asked if the County has received a quote for the digital sign and Mr. Culp replied that the company is located in Argos. They will install the sign and Mr. Wynn will do the masonry work. He said the quote for the sign was gathered by Ryan King and Jason Wallace at the Sheriff's Department. There is \$108,265.00 available for the grant. The items total \$114,045.92 and the difference will be made up by the larger COVID grant. The list of items are: TV monitors and mounting kits for the waiting room at the Health Department, the mailer about COVID that was sent out by the Health Department last week, ten portable A-frame plastic signs, digital signs for the Fairgrounds and the Courthouse including shipping and three portable digital signs that can be used by the Highway Department or the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Culp stated that he has a spreadsheet detailing each item. This was put together by Mr. King and Ms. Wilson. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the grant application in the amount of \$108,265.00. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

TIM BROWN QUOTE: Mr. Culp stated that Mr. Brown submitted a quote to replace the two overhead doors on the building behind Community Corrections that were damaged during a storm. The quote is \$3,286.08 and is covered by insurance. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the quote. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

DAMAGE TO GAZEBO: Mr. Culp stated that there was damage done to the cupola and the weathervane on the top of the gazebo. He said that the roof is wood-shake and that Mr. Brown asked him if the Commissioners would be interested in making it maintenance free by putting a metal roof on it. Mr. Culp is not convinced it would look the best and thinks it needs to blend in with the Courthouse. To replace the cupola, Mr. Brown will need to take some of the shakes off the roof which will make the job more involved. Mr. Maxwell stated that he believes there are metal roofs that look like shingles. Mr. Culp stated that that is true; however, they are more expensive. Mr. Maxwell will ask Mr. Brown for a quote for a metal roof that looks like shingles.

BLINDS FOR SUPERIOR COURT COURT REPORTER'S ROOM: Mrs. Porter stated that the previous Auditor, Kimberly Grow, told Superior Court to go ahead with the quote for the blinds. The quote is from the lady that all the current blinds in the Courthouse were purchased from. They don't make the blinds with the same fabric anymore so they will be moving a set to the new room and putting the new ones in a room that only has one window. Mr. Culp stated that the quote is \$600.00. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the quote. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

MARY SCHEURICH / REZONE REQUESTS: Mrs. Scheurich stated that the first request is for Ryan Myers. The property is located on State Road 10 west of Castognia's on the south side of the road. They have thirteen acres they would like to rezone from A1 to A2 so that he and his wife and his parents can all build on the same lot. It passed unanimously with seven members present and two absent. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the rezone request. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Mrs. Scheurich stated that the next request is from Eric and Jen Tillema. They are requesting to rezone from A1 to A2 an approximately 3.5 acre tract on County Road 1450 northwest of County Road 500 West so they can build on Mr. Tillema's parents' land next to their house. It was passed unanimously with seven members present and two absent. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Ordinance Nos. 01-04-2021A and 01-04-2021B

Mrs. Scheurich stated that there is a third request on the agenda but they are asking that it not be considered at this time as there seems to be some sort of ownership issue that the petitioner was aware of but did not get taken care of.

Mr. Culp stated that the Commissioners' intention after the comprehensive plan review with Purdue was to look at the UDO as a whole. He asked if there are things they need to be thinking about in 2021 to begin that process. Mrs. Scheurich replied that that would be a great idea as there are a lot of areas in the UDO that need addressed. Mr. Culp asked if the Commissioners will need to approve and adopt the changes that were presented to them by the Purdue consultants before moving on to the UDO. Mrs. Scheurich replied that that would probably be the best course of action. She stated that she got one bid for the comprehensive plan; however it was higher than she anticipated. Mr. Culp asked Mrs. Porter to put this on the agenda for February.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. Walstra made a motion to appoint Pam Nannenga to the Alcohol Beverage Commission. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint Mark Sinclair, Brant Schmid and Tammy Burkett to the Animal Control Board. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Walstra made a motion to appoint Dave Pettet to the Airport Authority Board. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Walstra made a motion to appoint Daryl King, Gerald Grube and Norris Barnett to the Citizens Advisory Committee on Land Application Board. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint Karen Wilson as Civil Defense / Emergency Management Director. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint Harry Carney and Charles Flick as Courthouse and Annex Custodians. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Walstra made a motion to appoint Eric Beaver as County Attorney. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS CONT'D:

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint Lucy Bruce-Whitaker, Anita Reed and Richard A. Davis to the Health Board. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint Jean Witherington as Bookkeeper of the Highway Department and Gail Ackerman as Assistant Supervisor and Clerk of the Highway Department. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint Dale Lehe to the Iroquois Conservancy District. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint Steve Torbet to the Jasper County Economic Development Commission. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Walstra made a motion to appoint Travis Gutwein, Anne Cecile Egan and Timothy Donnelly to the Jasper County Redevelopment Commission. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint Vince Urbano and James Walstra to the Kankakee Iroquois Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint James Walstra to the Kankakee Yellow River Basin Commission. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Walstra made a motion to appoint Kendell Culp, Richard Maxwell, Rein Bontreger and Stephen Jordan to the Northwest Indiana Solid Waste District. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint James Walstra to the Plan Commission. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Walstra made a motion to appoint Mary Scheurich as Director of Planning and Development and Kelli Standish as Secretary of Planning and Development. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint Jacob Misch and Donald Putt to the Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint Merrie Etta Stowers to the Rensselaer Disabilities Commission. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Walstra made a motion to appoint Scott Barton to the Review Board for Common Nuisances. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Walstra made a motion to appoint Julie Davidson to the Town of DeMotte Plan Commission. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint Dan Anaya to the Town of Remington Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint Dan Anaya and Jon Schwab to the Town of Remington Plan Commission. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Walstra made a motion to appoint Mr. Flinn as Veteran's Service Officer. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint Kendell Culp to the Water and Sewer Board. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS CONT'D:

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint Kendell Culp, Kim DeWees and Steve Torbet to the Northwest Indiana Workforce Board. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Maxwell will contact Kim DeWees.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FEES: Mr. Haberlin stated that fees such as right of way fees need to be raised to help their budget. Mr. Culp asked what neighboring counties charge and Mr. Haberlin replied that Jasper County is probably lower than neighboring counties. Mr. Culp said that it would be a good idea to see what neighboring counties similar in size to Jasper are charging. If the fees are going to be reviewed for right of ways, he said they might as well look at all fees.

COVID UPDATE: Kristin Louck stated that the County is still in the red status. The Health Department will be getting another update on Wednesday although she doesn't think it's likely the county will be downgraded to orange. There have been a total of thirty one deaths in the county. Ten of those deaths have been from the nursing home in Rensselaer and the nursing home in DeMotte. She said that every patient in the Rensselaer Care Center has had COVID. They hope to get a vaccine update this week and are hoping to receive the vaccine on Monday, January 11th to be able to start giving it out on Tuesday, January 12th. She doesn't think they will be getting a lot of vaccine due to the state distribution. The first group of people that will be eligible are Fire and police personnel.

Ms. Louck stated that the Health Department moved to their new office on December 23rd. She said that they do not need the furniture that was left at the space they moved out of. She imagines that, in the coming weeks as they unpack, they may realize they need some of it but she doubts it. She said that they need two rugs for the Courthouse entry. She requested permission to add those to the Courthouse account. They would like them changed out twice per month. The Commissioners are ok with the request. Mr. Culp informed all Department Heads that they are welcome to see if there's any furniture at the old Health Department location that they could use. Anything left will be sold at the County Auction. Mr. Maxwell suggested reaching out to the Prosecutor, Probation and Child Services to make sure they don't need any of the furniture. Mr. Culp stated that the Commissioners will schedule a date for the auction. He asked Department Heads to send a list of items that they have for the auction to the Auditor. He said that the annex building is now empty except for the Custodians; however they will be maintaining a presence there through the winter or until the building sells. Mr. Walstra made a motion to list the old REMC building / Courthouse annex for sale. Mr. Culp seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Culp asked Mr. Maxwell to list the property.

Ms. Louck stated that the vaccinations will be administered at the Health Department. They are anticipating that vaccinations will be available for the general population around April. The State is discussing who will be included in the next phase. There's been conversation that it will include those aged seventy five and older. She said the mailer regarding quarantine, social distancing and hand washing went out last week. Ms. Louck stated that Jasper County will be getting the Moderna vaccine because the Pfizer vaccine is only going to the five designated hospitals in the state since it has to be kept so cold. She believes all local health departments will be getting Moderna. Two shots are required, with the second shot being given twenty eight days after the first shot.

Ms. Culp stated that the new Health Department office is located at 910 S. Sparling. Their phone number is 219-866-4917. CASA is also located in that building as well as a new county meeting room. Ms. Louck stated that they will let the citizens know either via the Health Department Facebook page, the county website or the radio what the next phase will be. She said that, if an individual tested positive within the last ninety days, they have antibodies and are being asked to wait to get the shot so that those who have not had the virus can get the vaccine first.

CARES ACT: Ms. Wilson stated that the information was submitted to the Indiana Finance Authority on December 29th. It is to be reimbursed by the end of January according to the email they sent her.

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RECORDER'S OFFICE / WATER LEAK: Mr. Culp stated that there's been a water leak issue in the Recorder's Office for some time. B F & S has looked at it and they are suggesting doing work to the gutters. Mr. Haberlin will be getting someone to do the work. The Commissioners are ok with that.

PUBLIC MEETING STANDARDS: Mr. Culp stated that he watched a YouTube video regarding public meeting standards that was put together by David Bottorff. In this video, Mr. Bottorff stated that they had been getting calls from County Commissioners and Council regarding rules and procedures for public meetings. The County Attorney for Delaware County, who is a former Commissioner, was in the video. He has come up with a policy for conducting meetings. Mr. Culp stated that the video was well done. It will be posted on the AIC website. He said that they recommend rules be spelled out and an ordinance passed. One example would be how much time a citizen would be allowed to speak. Attorney Beaver stated that the County Code provides that meetings be handled by a certain procedure. He said that he has never seen the underlying procedure. He does agree that the rules should be spelled out as well. Mr. Culp stated that he will send Attorney Beaver the video.

BITUMINOUS BID OPENING: The bids are at the Highway Garage being opened by Commissioner Maxwell.

Bit-Mat

AE-90 \$1.845 / gallon

PG64-22 \$475.00 / ton

Asphalt Materials

AE-90 \$1.76 / gallon

PG64-22 \$409.00 / ton

Great Lakes Chloride

Calcium Chloride 38% liquidow \$0.945 / gallon

Central Paving

Application of Asphalt \$0.27 / gallon

Mr. Walstra made a motion to accept all bids. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

INDIANA GAMING COMMISSION: Auditor Jordan presented the Commissioners with a letter to the Indiana Gaming Commission. He read the letter aloud. This is for the Fair Board to hold bingo fundraisers. This is something that is done annually. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the letter. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION / COUNCIL: Mr. Bontreger stated that it's been brought to his attention that the Council will need to come up with a Resolution to appropriate CARES ACT funding. He requested permission for Attorney Ahler to speak to Attorney Beaver or Auditor Jordan to find out how it needs to be worded. Mr. Culp replied that the Indiana Finance Authority changed the regulations on submitting refunding requests and informed the counties to submit it through salary reimbursements. Instead of the money coming back in to the individual funds that it was expended from, it will all be coming back to County General. The Council would need to appropriate the money to back-fill those budgets. He is ok with Attorney Ahler speaking to Donya Jordan or, if need be, Kimberly Grow. He said that Ms. Wilson was the one that filled out and submitted the paperwork to the Indiana Finance Authority and may be a resource if need be. He further stated that it would be really helpful if the Council could get that done at their January meeting.

ATTORNEY BEAVER / RECORDER'S OFFICE / SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES: Attorney Beaver stated that the Commissioners passed an ordinance a few years ago that allows for companies to subscribe to receive all recorded documents on a monthly basis. Zillow is trying to get contracts in various counties across the state.

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ATTORNEY BEAVER / RECORDER'S OFFICE / SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES CONT'D: He said that the latest proposal from Zillow has satisfied his questions and explained how they work. He needs to further look in to if the contract the Commissioners previously approved can be used or if they will need a new one. He requested permission to make revisions to the contract to allow Zillow to sign up as a subscriber. Zillow operates using data points, not copies. Mr. Walstra made a motion to allow Attorney Beaver to move forward with Zillow. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

VARIOUS SUPPLIES BID OPENING: The bids are at the Highway Garage being opened by Commissioner Maxwell.

Wonderland Tire
11R22.5 Front \$306.57
11R22.5 Rear \$342.50

Crushed limestone / 73's \$8.00 / ton
 / 53's \$7.75 / ton

Hanson Materials
#11's \$12.25 / ton

Rogers Group
#11's \$13.75
#73's \$7.25
#53's \$7.25

US Aggregates, Francesville
#11's \$13.25
#73's \$7.35
#53's \$7.35

Beemsterboer, Gary
#11's \$8.50 / ton
#73's \$5.95 / ton
#53's \$4.95 / ton

Sand
Top Line
23 sand \$15.25 / ton including freight and delivery to Highway Garage

Beemsterboer \$4.25 / ton

Hauling
Top Line
Hauling limestone \$6.70 / ton to Jasper County Highway Department north lot from US Aggregates, Francesville or Hanson Material, Francesville

Hauling
Top Line
Hauling limestone \$4.55 / ton to Highway Department from Francesville

Culp Ag Trucking, LLC
Limestone from US Aggregates to Rensselaer \$4.25 / ton
Limestone from US Aggregates to DeMotte \$6.50 / ton
Limestone from Rogers Group to Rensselaer \$5.25 / ton
Sand from US Aggregates to Rensselaer \$8.50 / ton

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VARIOUS SUPPLIES BID OPENING CONT'D:

Beemsterboer
Freight to Highway Garage \$9.95 / ton
Freight to DeMotte \$8.75 / ton

Mr. Walstra made a motion to accept all bids. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried. Ms. Ackerman will bring all bids to Attorney Beaver for review and then to the Courthouse.

CORONER UPDATE: Mr. Boersma stated that they ended the year with eighty eight or eighty nine calls, up from sixty or sixty five.

There being no further business and no public comment, this meeting is continued to January 19th immediately following the 8:15 Board of Finance meeting. If the county is in red, it will be a Zoom meeting. This meeting stands in recess.

Kendell Culp, President

James A. Walstra, Vice President

Richard E. Maxwell, Member

Donya G. Jordan, Auditor of Jasper County