

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 7, 2021**

The Jasper County Commissioners met this date at 8:15 A.M. C.S.T. at 910 S. Sparling, Rensselaer with a Zoom option with the following members present: Kendell Culp, Richard Maxwell and James Walstra. Also present were Auditor Donya Jordan, Deputy Auditor Tina Porter and the Attorney that represents the Commissioners, Eric Beaver. The meeting was called to order and everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Donnelly.

Mr. Donnelly gave details of an upcoming fundraiser / car show at the Wheatfield American Legion on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.

CLAIMS: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the claims, as presented. Mr. Walstra 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 dates equal to May 14, 2021 and May 28, 2021, as presented. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

MINUTES: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular May 3, 2021 meeting and the Continued meeting on May 17, 2021. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

BURIED CABLE: Mr. Haberlin presented the Commissioners with two buried cable requests from Jasper County REMC. The first request was for 1,075 feet and three bores that was amended to 1,345 feet and four bores. The second request was for 3,845 feet and four bores. Mr. Lyons stated that there is only one request since the 1,345 feet cable request was amended to 3,845 feet and four bores. Mr. Culp confirmed with Mr. Lyons that they are connecting their sub-stations around the county. He asked what the time table is and Mr. Lyons replied that it will be in the next month or two. Mr. Culp stated that he would prefer to see a large table top map. He further stated that it sounds like there needs to be more discussion about the boring. Mr. Culp explained to Mr. Lyons that he is in favor of the project; however, since they are asking for an exception on the boring someone really needs to appear in person before the Commissioners.

COVID GUIDELINES: Mr. Culp stated that he reached out to Kristin Louck and Dr. Nelson regarding new guidance from the CDC in regards to masks and social distancing. Ms. Louck sent Mr. Culp the new executive orders stating that a vaccinated person does not have to wear a mask and does not have to social distance but it is suggested that unvaccinated individuals still wear a mask, still social distance and not be in large social gatherings. What is currently in place with county employees is that everyone is supposed to wear a mask unless you are in your own private office. He said that there is currently a situation where an employee in an office has tested positive so that employee is being paid by the County because the Commissioners extended the requirement from the federal government that ended December 31, 2020. The two individuals in that office that were vaccinated must report to work and the rest of them are being paid to work from home under quarantine. He stated that he thinks the rules are very unfair to those that have been vaccinated and that should all be rescinded to not allow being paid to work from home and to not allow the unvaccinated to be paid to be quarantined at home. Any quarantine would be on the employees' own time and they would have to use sick, personal or vacation time. It is a recommendation of the Health Department to follow CDC guidelines. If an employee has been vaccinated, masks and social distancing are not required but they are still recommended. If an employee has not been vaccinated, they are recommending that those employees continue to social distance and wear masks. He said that the Health Department has made it clear that they do not intend to police that and that they don't have the manpower to enforce that. It will be the employee's own self will to follow the recommendations of the CDC. He further explained that vaccinated employees have a high chance of not acquiring the disease and stated that it's a personal choice but the County should not be responsible for paying them if they chose not to get the vaccine. Auditor Jordan asked about the employee that got the vaccine but still caught COVID one month later. Mr. Culp replied that he does not know specifics on that. He said that the County has gone way above and beyond giving employees paid time off way beyond what the federal government has required and, at some point in time, the employee needs to use their own time. Mr. Maxwell stated that he agrees because they have a choice whether they want to be vaccinated.

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COVID GUIDELINES CONT'D: Mr. Culp stated that Dr. Nelson made the recommendation about protocols. Schools will be on their own to make their own decisions starting on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to adhere to CDC guidelines as described by the Jasper County Health Department and to no longer allow employees to be paid to work from home or to work from home due to quarantine from exposure or from acquiring COVID-19. The employee would be required to use their own sick, personal or vacation time. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Culp stated that these new protocols are effective immediately and that those that received their vaccine do not have to wear a mask.

PUBLIC HEARING / CHRIS CAPPELLETTI / REQUEST TO VACATE ALLEY IN KNIMAN: Attorney Beaver explained that there are two separate documents for two separate hearings. One ordinance is for Mr. Cappelletti as the Petitioner and one is for the remainder of the alleys with the Commissioners as the Petitioner. Mr. Culp stated that this public hearing is for the vacation of a public right of way for an alley running east and west between Schmidt's Addition to Kniman Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Block 2 and Kniman-Hogan Lots 5, 6, 7 and 8 in Block 2. Mr. Culp asked if there is anyone from the public that would like to speak in regards to this public right of way vacation in Kniman. Mr. Andrew Patton stated that he owns a house at 4814 Hogan and the garage is accessed from the alley. By vacating the alley, the access to his garage will be cut off. He said that there is no gravel on the alley, but they do keep the grass cut. He provided the Commissioners with pictures. It was determined that the alley Mr. Patton is speaking of is included in the next public hearing. Mr. Culp stated that this public hearing is for an alley that runs east and west between Ernestine and Heilscher Streets, the first alley north of Kniman Road.

Mr. Richard McKernan stated that he is concerned with Mr. Cappelletti's usage of the property. There is a vacant lot to the north of the alley Mr. Cappelletti is requesting to vacate. It is zoned residential and had a house on it until it was torn down. Mr. McKernan said that his bedroom is right across the street from the vacant lot and he would prefer the lot stay zoned residential. Mr. Culp stated that he believes that vacating the alley does not change the use. Mr. McKernan wanted assurance that Mr. Cappelletti would not be able to use the lot to store equipment. Mr. Culp stated that vacating an alley would make the two parcels Mr. Cappelletti owns one parcel. Mr. McKernan stated that Mr. Cappelletti is doing this because he's operating a landscape service out of that property. He said that he's woken up at 4:00 in the morning to the sound of their dumpster being dumped and at 5:00 in the morning to the sound of them pressure washing their equipment. This is all taking place on the main lot on County Road 900 North. Mrs. Scheurich stated that vacating an alley does not change the zoning. She said that some of the property in Kniman is zoned commercial. Mr. Culp stated that he understands Mr. McKernan's concern that if one lot is zoned residential and one is zoned commercial, what would it be zoned if they were combined. Mr. McKernan stated that they are already using the property to store dirt and mulch. Mrs. Scheurich stated that the zoning for the vacated portion of the alley would be zoned the same as the parcel it's being added to. Mr. Culp asked Mrs. Scheurich if the lots are zoned differently, if the vacated alley would be the only thing in question as to the zoning and she replied that she would say yes to that. Mr. Culp stated that the Planning and Development Office would need to investigate if the lot is being used as a storage lot.

Mr. Cappelletti stated that he's spoken with everyone except a couple people in the area. He said that he's moved the dumpster to County Road 900 because the garbage company will not adjust their schedule. It is emptied at 4:30 in the morning but there is nothing else he can do about it. He denied any pressure washing taking place at 5:00 in the morning. He said that any activities at the location do not begin until 7:15. He said he currently has five yards of mulch that will be used at the property and that anything they are doing there is to improve the property. Mr. Culp asked Mr. Cappelletti what his business is and Mr. Cappelletti replied that they just started up a small landscaping business. Mr. Culp asked him if he understands the difference in zoning and he replied that he thought maybe in the future the zoning in the back could be changed. The neighbors he spoke with only requested that Mr. Cappelletti possibly fence in the back lot later on. He said they could either put slats in a chain link fence or plant arborvitae trees around it. Mr. Culp asked Mrs. Scheurich if she knows if the same owner owns the property to the north and south of the alley on the east side of Heilscher Street. Mrs. Porter stated that both of those properties are owned by Sheila Risner. Sheila Risner was not present at the meeting or on the Zoom call. Mrs. Porter stated that the signed certified did not come back.

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**PUBLIC HEARING / CHRIS CAPPELLETTI / REQUEST TO VACATE ALLEY IN KNIMAN**

**CONT'D:** Mr. Maxwell stated that he's not ready to approve this without a visual. Mr. Walstra stated that he did stop there before the meeting and there's not much there. Mr. Cappelletti stated that he spoke with Ms. Risner and told her he would leave the north and south alley open since she accesses her garage from the alley. Mr. Walstra stated that the north and south alley has some gravel and is being used, but some of the other alleys are grass and aren't being used. Mr. Cappelletti stated that he would never close the north and south alley and may even put fresh gravel on it. Mrs. Porter stated that an east and west alley that intersects a north and south alley can't be vacated unless both of the alleys are vacated, otherwise a survey would need to be done to obtain a legal description. Mr. Culp stated that, since Ms. Risner's garage and access to her garage is in the alley and if what Mrs. Porter said was an accurate statement, he's not sure how the Commissioners can approve this. Attorney Beaver stated that he agrees with what Mrs. Porter said. Attorney Beaver suggested possibly only vacating the west half of the east and west alley. Mr. Cappelletti suggested vacating the north and south but they would keep it open as if it weren't vacated. Attorney Beaver then suggested that there could be a private easement agreement between Mr. Cappelletti and Ms. Risner. Mr. Culp told Mr. Cappelletti that he thinks his request needs to be to vacate half the alley. He also agrees with Attorney Beaver that the Commissioners need something in writing from the neighbors that they are going to be accepting of this. Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Walstra agreed. Mr. Walstra made a motion to table this request with the request that, if the parties wish to pursue this, they need to come up with some written agreements between the neighbors. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Walstra will be in contact with Mr. Cappelletti to look at the property.

**PUBLIC HEARING / VACATION OF THE REMAINDER OF THE ALLEYS IN KNIMAN:**

Mr. Culp explained that the Commissioners' intent was, if they were going to vacate one alley, they would vacate all of them if they were not being used; however, the Commissioners are hearing that the alleys are being used. Mr. Culp asked for any public comment from anyone in person or on the Zoom call. Mr. Richard McKernan stated that he lives at 4798 Hogan and has an alley that runs along the west side of his property. The individual that lives on the west side of the alley has a garage that can only be accessed through the alley. He said that the alley is used all the time and they maintain it. There is also an alley that runs east and west on the north side of his property which is how REMC accesses all the power lines and transformers. Without the alley, REMC would have to cross private property. He said that there is one resident that parks his equipment in the east / west alley to the north of him. He would like the alleys kept open.

Mr. Ronald Adcock stated that there is an alley that runs east and west on the north side of his property. It is his understanding that the alley cannot be closed because it has power lines running through it. He said that he is the individual that parks a trailer in the alley. This is to deter people from coming up and down the alley and stealing items from people's back yards. He said that he's spoken with REMC about his trailer being parked in the alley and they are ok with it. He thinks the alleys should be open to the property owners but not to the public due to thefts.

There were no other public comments. Mr. Walstra stated that he doesn't have a problem closing the alley as long as there's an agreement between the property owner and REMC so they can still have access to the lines and transformers. Mr. Culp asked Attorney Beaver if this hearing covers all alleys as one unit and Attorney Beaver replied that, according to the notice that was advertised, if there are any changes to be made that would deviate from vacating all the alleys, there would need to be another hearing. Mr. Walstra stated that, until they know for sure about the REMC lines, this cannot go through. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to deny the request to vacate the alleys in Kniman. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

**BRANDON SCHREEG / 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE COURTHOUSE:** Mr. Culp stated that Mr. Schreeg has previously been before the Council and Commissioners to present a plan for the Rensselaer Downtown Revitalization that he has been working on with the City of Rensselaer. 2021 is the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Courthouse. The Commissioners have discussed possibly doing some updates to the Courthouse square and thought they could use some of the recommendations that were presented by Mr. Schreeg. Mr. Schreeg was joined by Mr. Dru Wolford from Kimley-Horn's Indianapolis office.

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BRANDON SCHREEG / 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE COURTHOUSE CONT'D: Mr. Schreeg gave some background on what planning has been done in regards to the Downtown Revitalization as well as what funding requests have been submitted. Mr. Wolford and Mr. Schreeg presented a slideshow showing the plans for the Courthouse square. Mr. Culp stated that the sign on the northeast corner of the Courthouse square has been installed. He said that some of the sidewalks around the Courthouse are in poor shape and need replaced. They could be done with the brick inlay as was recommended by the Downtown Revitalization committee. There was a brief discussion regarding brick vs. brick stamped. Mr. Schreeg stated that stamping fades over time and their preference is to use more lasting materials such as pavers but it can be done with a stamping material.

Mr. Culp stated that Mr. Norwine is representing the Council and the northwest part of the county on the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. Mr. Norwine stated that the things discussed at the meeting were that the gazebo needs some work done to it due to deterioration, the west side sidewalk definitely needs some work as well as possibly the north side. He would consider that the Halleck Park project is extreme for county costs. Mr. Culp stated that the committee did express interest in some signage that would give history of the county either along the pathway or on the outside of the coping. Mr. Culp stated that the bids will need to be opened at the July meeting if the committee would like to proceed with this. That will leave approximately sixty days to get the work done.

Mayor Wood stated that the City applied for the EDA grant in 2020 for Van Rensselaer and Harrison Street, which is what they consider Phase 1. It was an 80/20 match; however, they did not get awarded the grant. They re-applied for it this year. Phase 2 will be Washington Street.

Mr. Culp stated that he is on the anniversary committee along with Judy Kanne, Clerk Fishburn, Cassie Misch, Paul Norwine and Dana Pampel. They met recently and discussed landscaping the new digital sign, repairing the gazebo, replacing the sidewalks with the brick inlay, street lights or benches on the Washington Street side, directional signage along the square that would need to be coordinated with the City, informational or historical signs that would be placed along the sidewalk that would talk about the history of the Courthouse, light pole banners talking about the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary and possibly Christmas decorations. He said they also talked about the event and gifts for the attendees. Pat Fox informed him that they would like the event to be held in conjunction with Little Cousin Jasper but he does not think all of the work will be done by then but they could possibly have part of the event at that time. The main event would be in October where there would be a luncheon for past elected officials. In November, there would be public tours including the school children around the county and possibly a live re-enactment with people in costumes from 125 years ago. He said that he's sent the minutes from the meeting to the committee and his fellow Commissioners. He asked Mr. Schreeg how much of these plans his firm would be able to help the County with and Mr. Schreeg replied that they could help with the all of the work around the square that Mr. Culp listed. Mr. Culp will talk with Mayor Wood to coordinate plans. He said they will also need to make allowances for street lighting when the sidewalks are being poured and work with the electric department. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to allow the committee to move forward with the plans while working with Mr. Schreeg's firm and the City of Rensselaer. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Culp stated that Little Cousin Jasper will be held September 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> and the anniversary committee is looking at Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> for the main event and Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> for tours.

BID OPENING: Mr. Damarrell stated that INDOT is no longer allowing the awarding of individual roads. Bids were opened and read aloud.

Town and Country

Project 1 - \$207,130.67  
Project 2 - \$57,267.05  
Project 3 - \$232,903.10  
Project 4 - \$15,725.86  
Project 5 - \$157,175.95  
Project 6 - \$17,779.73

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BID OPENING CONT'D:

Project 7 - \$92,580.38  
Project 8 - \$8,769.19  
Project 9 - \$20,893.66  
Project 10 - \$13,671.97  
Project 11 - \$6,847.83  
Project 12 - \$11,750.62  
Project 13 - \$15,328.33  
Project 14 - \$47,063.95

Grand Total \$904,888.29

Milestone

Project 1 - \$224,197.20  
Project 2 - \$62,352.00  
Project 3 - \$228,846.00  
Project 4 - \$17,080.00  
Project 5 - \$162,882.50  
Project 6 - \$19,496.00  
Project 7 - \$96,851.00  
Project 8 - \$9,830.00  
Project 9 - \$21,828.00  
Project 10 - \$14,844.00  
Project 11 - \$6,306.00  
Project 12 - \$12,830.00  
Project 13 - \$16,704.00  
Project 14 - \$52,638.00

Grand Total \$946,684.70

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the bids in the amount of \$904,888.29 from the low bidder, Town and Country, subject to Attorney Beaver's approval and pending receipt of funding from INDOT. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

CRAIG STANDISH / 4H SHOOTING RANGE: Mr. Standish was present and stated that he emailed the Commissioners aerial views with explanations to support his request for a shooting range at the Airport. Mr. Maxwell stated that he's not in favor of this being located at the Airport. Mr. Standish stated that they were hopeful that they would be out of the way shooting east to west and being located in the woods north of where they assumed the new airstrip would be. They would build retention areas around the range to mitigate any stray bullets. The original intent was for Purdue to buy a piece of property through contributions but Purdue will not own property. Mr. Standish stated that the Airport's only concern was shooting clay pigeons. He further stated that they could shoot clay pigeons elsewhere and only have archery, rifle and air rifle at the Airport. He stated that the disciplines are archery, pistol, rifle, shotgun and muzzle loader.

Mr. Culp stated that Mr. Seif sent the Commissioners information regarding swapping land. The Airport would like to own the north end of the runway. Mr. Maxwell stated that the County uses that property quite a bit to dump brush and debris. Mr. Standish stated that they can use the debris for the barricades. He further stated that the Fair Board has a lot of clay that they would like to get out of the infield that could also be used for the barricades. Mr. Culp asked Mr. Standish if they've talked to the Fair Board about being on site and he replied that he has a little bit; however, there is no good location for a shooting range to be located on the fairgrounds. Mr. Culp asked Sheriff Williamson what they use for their shooting range and if it's a possibility for the 4-H to practice there as well. Sheriff Williamson replied that they use the Rensselaer Range; however, he doesn't think it would be good for 4-H'ers since it's a small range. Mr. Standish acknowledged that there is a small waterway going through the area they wish to have the range at the Airport. He explained how they would make sure that it doesn't get blocked. They could use the south end of the range for their archery shooting and the north end for the rifle shooting.

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CRAIG STANDISH / 4H SHOOTING RANGE CONT'D: He said that there's an area that has some concrete that's not being used that they may be able to put a few bleachers on for spectators. Mr. Maxwell stated that the County still needs a place to dump concrete. Mr. Standish stated that there would be room to dump concrete. When asked about building a pavilion, he replied that they would like to build one that's twelve feet high by sixteen feet long and sixteen feet wide. This would be for the rifle range where they would also be shooting pistols.

Mr. Seif stated that he has not had a chance to discuss this with the Airport Board; however, they do have a board meeting coming up. He said that he has several concerns. Shooting anything aerial is the biggest concern and is incompatible with aircraft. The traffic pattern for the current runway would mean there are planes flying over the proposed range area and is a safety concern for those aircraft. Even with removing clay pigeons, the noise is still a concern. He said that they are doing a lot to build up traffic at the Airport and don't want there to be an issue with people seeing or hearing firing in the background and being scared for their safety. He suggested an enclosed structure as a possible alternative but stated that it may be cost prohibitive. He said that he will discuss this with the Airport Board at the next meeting. Mr. Culp stated that he would be interested to hear how the Airport Board weighs in.

BOB BRYAN / KEENER TOWNSHIP CEMETERY DEED: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the Quit-Claim Deed from Jasper County to Keener Township for the part of the cemetery that is titled in the name of the Commissioners. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

BOB BRYAN / KEENER TOWNSHIP AMBULANCE: Mr. Bryan presented the Commissioners with a proposed budget for 2022. He said that he was hoping they could get some CARES money to pay for three heart monitors. The township typically puts the budget together after they find out what the subsidy is from the County. He explained that the increase in the request is because they are looking to bring back full-time employees. He asked if the Commissioners could let him know by the end of July how much their subsidy will be. Mr. Bryan stated that the monitors will last for ten years. All EMS monitors went obsolete so every ambulance service will be having to replace them if they haven't already.

RACHEL MYERS / WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP AMBULANCE: Mrs. Meyers stated that Wheatfield Township Ambulance would like to request \$115,000.00 of the COVID Recovery Funding to purchase two powerload cots with the system for the powerload, one stair chair and one Lucas CPR machine with back-up batteries. She listed the pros of each item that they would like to purchase. She provided documentation from Stryker along with Stryker's quote. She stated that this has been a need for a while but they have not been able to fund it. They are in dire need of a new ambulance so that is what they are currently saving for. They are being subsidized out of the CUM Fire funds by the townships of Kankakee, Walker and Wheatfield. Mr. Culp asked if they try to get more than one quote or if they work with Stryker exclusively and Mrs. Myers replied that they could get multiple quotes; however, Stryker is the leader in this technology. Their Director has worked with Stryker in the past and is really comfortable with them. Mr. Hayworth agreed that Stryker is the best. Mr. Culp stated that the County is working with Dain Hayworth from Marion Township to start an ambulance service in Marion Township. There would be support from the County to get them up and running. Mr. Culp stated that he hopes the Commissioners can make a decision on Mrs. Myers' request once they get more information from the State.

KRISTIN LOUCK / HEALTH DEPARTMENT / FOOD INSPECTOR: Ms. Louck stated that, around this time every year, they are having to replace the part-time Food Sanitarian. She said that she and Dr. Nelson came up with a plan to make the Part-time Food Sanitarian a full-time position temporarily for one to two years and then make the receptionist a part-time position when the receptionist retires.

Mr. Culp gave a re-cap. The Commissioners made the food inspector a part-time position approximately five years ago. The Sanitarian has been covering for the Food Inspector, in addition to covering for the receptionist.

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KRISTIN LOUCK / HEALTH DEPARTMENT / FOOD INSPECTOR CONT'D: Ms. Louck and Dr. Nelson have come up with a plan to make the Part-time Food Sanitarian a full-time position and either at a date certain or upon retirement of the receptionist, they would make the receptionist a part-time position and the Health Inspector and Food Inspector could cover for the receptionist when needed. The only concern is that it will still be a part-time position they will have to try to fill; however, Ms. Louck and Dr. Nelson think a part-time receptionist position will be easier to fill than a part-time inspector. There may be a one or two year overlap before the current receptionist retires but the Commissioners are ok with funding both during that time. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to allow the Health Department to hire a full-time Food Inspector with the understanding that the receptionist in the near future would go to part-time, subject to the Council's approval. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

PROSECUTOR TAULMAN / REQUEST TO MAKE PART-TIME INVESTIGATOR FULL-TIME / CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH: Auditor Jordan stated that she's reviewed the Prosecutor's Title IV-D Incentive Funds. She said that the Prosecutor has \$167,000.00 in that fund and is not using it for anything. Prosecutor Taulman stated that he can only use the funds for child support enforcement. The fund can supplement salaries but cannot supplant them. He said that he would like the Investigator to work ten percent of the time on child support orders so they can be partially paid from the Incentive Fund. Mr. Culp asked if benefits could also be paid out of that fund and Prosecutor Taulman replied that he's unsure of that but assumes that they can. Auditor Jordan stated that she may have to check with SBOA because it's not stated that it can only by ten percent that is used. Mr. Culp asked Prosecutor Taulman if he can pay the full benefits out of the IV-D fund and the salary can be paid out of County General. Prosecutor Taulman stated that his understanding of Title IV-D funds is that things can be paid for out of the fund one of two ways – either based on the percentage of use by child support if, for example, a copier is purchased or the percentage of child support staff. He said that it's easier for his office to calculate the percentage of use. He's unsure if he would be able to pay benefits out of the fund without seeing what the whole salary and benefit package would be. Auditor Jordan stated that she will check with State Board of Accounts. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve Prosecutor Taulman's request to make his part-time Investigator position full-time with the understanding that he needs to contribute a percentage of the salary and benefit package from his funding. It was confirmed with Mr. Bontreger that the Council approved the funding of the position, subject to the Commissioners approval of the position. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Prosecutor Taulman stated that August is Child Support Awareness month. The Prosecutor's Office would like to have a tent with cotton candy, face painting and balloons on the Courthouse lawn on the afternoon of Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup> for Child Support Awareness Day. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

KEN WRIGHT / COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS / REQUEST TO REPLACE CORRECTIONAL OFFICER: Mr. Wright requested permission to either use the part-time employee to replace a full-time Corrections Officer whose last day was June 2<sup>nd</sup> and hire a new part-time employee or hire a new full-time Corrections Officer. Neither of these are new positions. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

SHERIFF WILLIAMSON / CATASTROPHIC INMATE INSURANCE / REQUEST TO REPLACE THREE POSITIONS / UPDATES: Sheriff Williamson stated that this coverage is for inmates and is above the parameters that are currently in place. The current company is canceling the policy so a quote was obtained with another company. The deductible will remain \$20,000.00. The policy covers the person from the initial arrest until the time they leave the facility. The current policy only covers sentenced inmates. The current policy covers \$480,000.00 per incident with an annual premium of approximately \$26,000. The new company will cover \$250,000.00 per incident with an annual premium of \$11,856.00. He said that they searched back pretty far and were unable to find a claim that went above the deductible. Their highest claim in 2018 was \$5,300.00, 2019 was \$6,800.00, 2020 was \$5,400.00 and the highest claim so far for 2021 is \$310. Their total yearly claims in 2018 were \$49,484.00, 2019 were \$34,964.00, 2020 were \$31,092.00, and 2021 so far are \$2,400. He said that he approved the quote to start the policy since the other policy expired June 1<sup>st</sup> and the insurance company was unable to get a quote to him until the middle of May. He presented the Commissioners with the application to sign.

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SHERIFF WILLIAMSON / CATASTROPHIC INMATE INSURANCE / REQUEST TO REPLACE THREE POSITIONS / UPDATES CONT'D: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the insurance policy with a \$20,000.00 deductible at a cost of \$13.00 per inmate per month. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Walstra made a motion to replace a full-time Correctional Officer. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to replace a part-time Controller. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Walstra made a motion to replace a full-time Dispatcher. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Sheriff Williamson stated that, starting July 1, 2021, the lifetime firearms permit will no longer require a fee. The permits generate approximately \$30,000.00 per year for the Sheriff's Department that they use for the purchase of ammunition and replacement of weapons. They may lose this funding in the next two or three years.

They've issued sixteen golf cart permits as of May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Sheriff Williamson stated that they have a 2012 Tahoe with 179,000 miles on it that they would like to put on the auction.

The speed limit was reduced on County Road 1100 North to 35 m.p.h. He still has individuals complaining about people speeding and disregarding stop signs. He suggested that it might be a good idea to invest in about four or five speed boxes. Mr. Haberlin stated that they received a letter from an individual wanting the speed limit to be 35 m.p.h. on County Road 1000 North from State Road 10 all the way to State Road 231.

BRIDGES: Mr. Dammarell stated that Bridge 191 is recommended for a full replacement. It is located on County Road 900 North, west of State Road 49 with an ADT of 775. The cost estimate is \$1,205,306.00. Bridge 195 is recommended for rehabilitation. The cost estimate is \$805,067.00. Bridge 297 is recommended for a deck replacement. The cost estimate is \$887,921.00. This bridge has an ADT of 93 per day. Bridge 68 carries County Road 400 over the Iroquois. This bridge is recommended for an overlay. The cost estimate is \$680,379.00. These were listed in order of greatest need. Mr. Walstra made a motion to move forward with replacing Bridge 191 and rehabbing Bridge 195. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

There was a brief discussion regarding road funding and projects. The unit bid tab request for bids will be advertised for July. Ms. Witherington stated that the maximum amount of money the Commissioners have to chip and seal and pave is \$2,000,000.00.

STACE PICKERING / INSURANCE UPDATE: Mr. Pickering stated that he received the numbers for the insurance renewals. There will be an overall two percent increase. The renewal date is July 1, 2021.

BURIED CABLE CONT'D: Mr. Lyons stated that they will proceed with boring as opposed to trenching. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the buried cable request of 3,845 feet and four bores under roads. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

CONFERENCE REQUESTS: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the Recorder and her Deputy to attend the Northeast / Northwest County Recorder's District Meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup> in Plymouth and the Treasurer and her Deputy to attend the State Called Treasurer's Conference in Fort Wayne August 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 7, 2021**

BANK OF AMERICA / FINAL ACCEPATANCE CERTIFICATE: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the Final Acceptance Certificate for the Equipment Lease / Purchase Agreement dated as of November 22, 2019 by and between Bank of America, National Association, as Lessor, and Jasper County, Indiana, as Lessee. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

GUARANTEED ENERGY SAVINGS CONTRACT / EMCOR / JAIL: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

ABSENTEE VOTING: Mrs. Fishburn stated that the Indiana Election Code states that voting must occur in the Clerk's Office. She said she was informed that it could be held anywhere in the Courthouse. She suggested removing the Board table from the Commissioners Room for voting to take place there. She would like to have a plan to Indianapolis by September or October.

MINUTES: Mr. Culp stated that Mrs. Porter has received requests for copies of the minutes before they are approved. When she sends them out, she documents that they have not been approved; however, the distribution of the minutes has caused a problem between employees and a Department Head regarding a comment made in the meeting. The Commissioners decided that meeting minutes are not to be sent out prior to approval.

IROQUOIS CONSERVANCY BOARD APPOINTMENT: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to appoint Kim DeWees to the Iroquois Conservancy Board. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: The Commissioners signed the yearly report that has to be given to Purdue.

There will be an Employee meeting this afternoon via Zoom to update everyone on the new COVID protocols. There being no further business and no public comment, this meeting is continued to June 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:30, if needed.

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Kendell Culp, President

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James A. Walstra, Vice President

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Richard E. Maxwell, Member

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Donya G. Jordan, Auditor of Jasper County

