

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JULY 6, 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. Culp.

CLAIMS: Mr. Culp questioned the Quadient Finance USA, Inc. prepaid claim in the amount of \$4,000.00. Auditor Jordan stated that the claim is paid every month. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the claims as presented, subject to an explanation for the Quadient claim. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried. Auditor Jordan contacted Deputy Auditor Kate Moore and was informed that Quadient is for the postage machine. The Commissioners are satisfied with this explanation. Attorney Beaver stated that he uses the same company and they have changed their name.

PAYROLL CLAIM AND ALLOWANCE DOCKET: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the payroll claim and allowance docket for check dates equal to June 15, 2021 and June 30, 2021, as presented. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

MINUTES: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular June 7, 2021 meeting. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

BURIED CABLE: Mr. Haberlin presented five buried cable requests. The first request was from NITCO to upgrade internet service on County Road 1450 North between County Roads 500 and 700 West in Wheatfield and Keener Townships. They will be boring along the road. Mr. Culp stated that NITCO needs to provide schematics. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

The second request was from KV Electric for two new homes being constructed on County Road 950 North, approximately one mile east of State Road 49. They would like to bore. The request is actually from Jasper County REMC, but KV Electric does their boring.

The third request was from Precision (Centurylink) to bore under Hendricks Street in Fair Oaks to make a repair.

Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the request on County Road 950 North. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

The fourth request is from Ozinga for the gas line. They've made changes from the original request and will be putting some of the pipeline on private property. Mr. Haberlin provided the Commissioners with updated plans.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the request in Fair Oaks. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

The fifth request was from Jasper County REMC for the county-wide upgraded internet project. There was no action taken since Phase 1 and Phase 2 have already been approved. REMC will still need to provide the Commissioners with prints.

Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the request from Ozinga. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

MARSHA CONLEY / CONCERNS ABOUT COUNTY ROAD 400 EAST: Mrs. Conley was present and stated that she resides at 7283 N 400 E. County Road 400 E. is a gravel road. She said that it has never been an issue until Belstra's moved in. Belstra's goes up and down the road every fifteen to twenty minutes when they are bringing hogs out of their facility. She said that they drive so fast she can't even open the windows in the house because of the dust. There's also increased traffic due to FedEx, UPS, etc. Mr. Culp stated that dust-aid is applied every other year. It is not due to be done until 2022. Mrs. Conley stated that she called last year to request dust-aid and she said in front of her house was the only spot that didn't get it.

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MARSHA CONLEY / CONCERNS ABOUT COUNTY ROAD 400 EAST CONT'D: Mr. Culp replied that the application of the dust-aid is contracted out and had they known that last year, they could've had the contractor go back out to apply the dust-aid in front of her house. He explained that they normally only apply it in front of residences and intersections. Mr. Haberlin suggested that Mr. Culp call and talk to Belstra's about possibly watering the road. Mrs. Conley stated that she did speak with Belstra's who suggested that she call the Commissioners.

PUBLIC HEARING / REQUEST TO VACATE ALLEYS IN GIFFORD: Mr. Culp stated that this was approved by the Commissioners in 1991, but there was never an ordinance drafted and signed. Mr. Fraley, who resides at 351 W 400 N, Rensselaer, requested an explanation on what alleys these are. Mr. Culp showed him on the GIS map. Mrs. Fraley stated that they asked for the alleys to be vacated several years ago. Mr. Culp read the part of the minutes from 1991 where the Commissioners approved the alley vacations. He explained that, after the Commissioners pass the ordinance today, it will be official. Mr. and Mrs. Fraley support the alley vacations. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve ordinance 7-6-2021A. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

BRIAN AND KATRINA KAWCZYNSKI / CONCERNS ABOUT COUNTY ROAD 980 NORTH: Mrs. Kawczynski was present and stated that she resides at 7523 W 980 N. She said that she and her husband are requesting a cul-de-sac or a forty-foot road extension at the end of 980 N. She explained that USPS has nowhere to turn around. She said that their neighbor directly across the street complains if anyone uses his driveway to turn around so USPS uses the Kawczynski's driveway; however, four-wheel drive is needed in the winter due to the conditions of the Kawczynski's driveway. Mr. Culp asked if the road is plowed all the way to the end and Mrs. Kawczynski replied that it is. She further stated that the neighbor plows all of his snow up at the end of his driveway so no one can turn around in it. She said that she and her husband allow USPS to turn around in their driveway in the summer but the driver doesn't like to do that because the Kawczynski's have little children. The garbage company can only back up down the road because they have nowhere to turn around. In the winter, the hill has gotten icy and he's gotten stuck. He also broke tree limbs in the easement and has hit the power pole trying to use the Kawczynski's driveway to turn around. Mrs. Kawczynski further stated that when Amazon, FedEx and USPS have tried to use the neighbor's driveway directly across the street from the Kawczynski's, they've been threatened with physical violence. She said that this neighbor has also planted trees in the easement to prevent anyone from backing in to the easement. She informed the Commissioners that they have emailed the Highway Department a few times regarding this but never received a response. They've also called Planning and Development but were informed it's not their jurisdiction. She showed the Commissioners photographs of the street and easement. She provided Mr. Walstra with her and her husband's contact information. He will take a look at it and get back to her.

BID OPENING:

Milestone

\$85.00/ton surface approach placed by the contractor

\$65.00/ton asphalt surface placed by the contractor

Town and Country

\$75.00/ton surface approach placed by the contractor

\$62.95/ton asphalt surface placed by the contractor

Mr. Haberlin stated that he would like the Commissioners to accept all bids. Mr. Walstra made a motion to accept all bids. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

EDWIN BUSWELL / KIRPC / HISTORIC RENOVATION GRANT: Mr. Buswell was present and stated that this grant cannot be used on property that is owned by a local unit of government. He said that he can try to look for some other grants that the County may be able to apply for. The Economic Development Administration is giving KIRPC money to do a resiliency plan for the region. He gave the Commissioners some information regarding this. He said there will be opportunities to provide input on what priorities will be. He told the Commissioners that traffic counts are done every three years. They will be done in Jasper County this year.

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EDWIN BUSWELL / KIRPC / HISTORIC RENOVATION GRANT CONT'D: They are waiting on the go-ahead to start. They did receive some extra funding so they may be able to add some sites. He will touch base with Mr. Haberlin regarding this. He said that INDOT is now having them upload the information to the INDOT site so the counts can be accessed from the INDOT website.

KEN WRIGHT / COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Mr. Wright presented the Commissioners with an approval letter for the state grant that needs signed. This year, he was required to write two grant applications – one for Work Release and one for Electronic Monitoring. Under advice of the former Director, Bill Wakeland, he is requesting to remove three full-time Correctional Officers from Project Income and put them on a state grant. Since March 2020, Project Income has been losing approximately \$15,000.00 per month. To date, they've lost between \$117,000.00 and \$118,000.00 in that fund. He said that he requested an additional \$25,000.00 in the Electronic Monitoring grant application to help offset the shortfalls. They have individuals lose their jobs and then are unable to pay the leasing fee but they have to remain in the program. Also, anyone that receives disability payments pays a reduced rate. Mr. Culp asked if the State has appropriated more dollars for work release and Mr. Wright replied that every conversation he's had with the District Manager has been prefaced with "you're probably not going to receive any additional funding." Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the letter for the grant. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

CCMG GRANT APPLICATION: Mr. Haberlin stated that they received money for the CCMG grant for 2021. He presented the agreements to be signed.

Mr. Mang stated that, since 2016, the County has spent approximately \$10,000,000.00 on road work, \$6,000,000.00 being from INDOT match and \$4,000,000.00 being from the County match. This does not include any work the County did that did not involve Community Crossings.

DEB NAGEL / REQUEST TO REPLACE VITAL RECORDS DIRECTOR: Mrs. Nagel stated that Cheryl Ekstrom retired so they would like to replace her with a part-time employee with no benefits. The position would be no more than twenty-eight hours per week. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Mrs. Nagel stated that 40.8% of the county has been vaccinated. Starting today, they will be giving vaccines at the Health Department from 9:00-12:00. They have the Pfizer vaccine for children ages twelve to seventeen. Registration is required either online or by calling 211.

AARON KNEZEVIC / KANKAKEE RIVER LOAN: Mr. Knezevic presented the Commisisoners with the revised promissory note from DeMotte State Bank. He said that Attorney Beaver has reviewed it and did not find any issues with it. He said that it is one month longer than statute allows. He asked that the Commissioners sign the promissory note. Attorney Beaver stated that the term of the note is five years and one month. If it is one month longer than five years, it makes it a bond subject to a bond issuance with extra steps and procedures but if it's kept at five years or less, there would not need to be those extra steps. He's spoken with Attorney Ahler and it's been corrected to five years. This is an unsecured loan. Mr. Culp asked if this loan is a line of credit and Mr. Walstra replied that it is. Mr. Knezevic stated that there is a one year draw period and a four-year repayment period. He believes the payments are due in July and November. The work must be completed by April, 2022 so there will be no reason to draw money after that date. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the promissory note document from DeMotte State Bank for the purpose of repairing the Kankakee River. The loan can only be used for the Kankakee River. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

ADAM / SURVEYOR'S OFFICE / DATA REQUEST: Dave Tiemens Land Surveying is requesting one layer of contour data near DeMotte. There is a wooded parcel that Mr. Tiemens is having a hard time getting topographical information on. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

MARK SINCLAIR / REPAIRS TO SHELTER BUILDING: Mr. Sinclair provided the Commissioners with estimates for repairs to the shelter building. He said that he hasn't heard anything from the insurance company regarding the accident.

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MARK SINCLAIR / REPAIRS TO SHELTER BUILDING CONT'D: One of the estimates he has is for repairs that were needed prior to the accident. One of the companies are able to complete all of the repairs, but the other two are not. There was a brief discussion regarding the repairs that are needed. Some of the things that needed repaired prior to the accident were damaged further as a result of the accident. The Commissioners would like to wait until the accident claim is settled with the insurance company before making a decision on the estimates. Auditor Jordan will contact Mr. Pickering at Consolidated Insurance.

ANIMAL CONTROL TRAINING REQUEST: Mr. Sinclair requested permission for a one day training for one of his employees on July 22nd in Corydon, Indiana. The costs are \$150.00 for the course and \$80.00 for the hotel. The costs will come out of his budget Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

SHARON COLEE / COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATE: Mrs. Colee gave the Commissioners an update on Community Services. She said that they are asking for an additional \$5,000.00 in their budget request.

Mrs. Colee asked the Commissioners for an update regarding the lighting and the flooding in the parking lot at the Fase Center. Mr. Culp replied that the Commissioners have not heard back from Kevin Moore regarding the lighting so Mrs. Colee is free to move forward with the quote that she has. Mr. Culp told Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Walstra that there had been thefts of catalytic converters from under busses in the parking lot at the Fase Center. He said that he also received a request from the Coroner to light their sign. He asked Mrs. Colee to mention it to the contractor that if there is power at the sign to go ahead and install lighting on it, but if there's not, then disregard the request. Mr. Walstra made a motion to accept the \$5,620.00 'not to exceed' estimate from Northwest Geothermal. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Walstra informed Mrs. Colee that they are working on the water situation.

Mr. Culp stated that the individuals that take care of the recycling behind the Fase Center have resigned with no notice due to health reasons. He said that the Commissioners need a replacement quickly. He's spoken with someone from Wheatfield that may know of someone. The replacement will be operating a forklift and will be running two balers. He said it was a husband and wife team that worked three days a week, four to six hours per day. The pay is \$15.00 per hour. Mr. Culp stated that there are additional responsibilities such as loading a trailer. He told Mrs. Colee that she can have anyone that's interested call him. Auditor Jordan stated that there is still someone working there and asked if they should be offered the position first. Mr. Culp replied that he was not aware someone else was working there and based on the photos from this morning there is not anyone doing anything there. There was a brief discussion about the wage. There was only one turning in a time sheet, but three people split the pay. Mrs. Colee asked how many individuals they would like her to find and Mr. Culp replied that it will take two employees. This is a part-time permanent position.

QUOTES FOR RE-SEALING SPARLING PARKING LOT AND RE-STRIPING COURTHOUSE PARKING LOT:

Town and Country: Sparling - \$1,800.00
Courthouse - \$3,800.00

Kaufman Seal Coating: Sparling - \$1,800.00
Courthouse - \$4,000.00

The County will sweep the parking lots prior to the work being started. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the quotes from the low bidder, Town and Country. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

NEXTERA / ROAD USE AGREEMENT: Attorney Beaver presented a road use agreement between Dunns Bridge Solar LLC and Jasper County. This pertains to Phase 1 of the solar farm that's going in on the north side of the county.

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NEXTERA / ROAD USE AGREEMENT CONT'D: There is also a bond that goes along with the agreement. Mr. Haberlin has reviewed the agreement and is ok with it. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the road use agreement, as presented, between Dunns Bridge Solar LLC and Jasper County and the bond that goes along with it. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

BRYAN OVERSTREET / REQUEST TO USE FORKLIFT: Mr. Overstreet was present to request permission to use the County's forklift for the fair. He said that Wade Schultz has volunteered to operate it. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to allow Purdue Extension to use a forklift operated by a county employee. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

REZONE REQEUST / PERKINS / 007-00431-00: Mrs. Scheurich stated that the Perkins' requested a rezone from an A2 to an A4. A4 is business agriculture. She believes this is so the Perkins' produce stand can become a little more than what it currently is. It was unanimously recommended for approval. Mr. Walstra stated that it's an excellent business and made a motion to approve. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

REZONE REQUEST / VOO / 007-1903-00: Mrs. Scheurich stated that this request to rezone is for a lot in an existing subdivision to go from A1 to R1 so it can be divided to conform with what's existing. It's approximately one-half mile east of Castognia's off Hensley Drive. This request received a unanimous favorable recommendation from the Plan Commission. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

REZONE REQUEST / LAKE COUNTY TRUST / HUBERS / ROOSMA / GREEN / 012-00290-00: Mrs. Scheurich stated that this rezone request is to go from A1 to A2 for an approximate six-acre parcel on County Road 200 North and 620 West. The applicants would like to develop three lots for single family dwellings. Each lot would be two acre parcels. This also adjoins a much larger tract of sixty-one acres after parceling the six acres out that they would like to rezone to PR, which is Parks and Recreation so they can develop the lake and build some cabins around it for weekend and vacation rentals. Both of these requests received favorable recommendations from the Plan Commission. Mr. Walstra asked the applicants if they would still want the sixty-one acres rezoned to PR if the six-acre rezone does not get approved and Mr. Roosma and Mr. Hubers replied that they would not. Mr. Culp asked the applicants to explain because he understands that this will be done in phases. Mr. Eric Roosma stated that they are looking to develop the sixty-one acre parcel with a number of cabins around the lake that would be offered as short-term vacation rentals using the lake for the scenery. This will be done in three phases over a number of years since they will be doing as much of the work themselves as possible. Mr. Culp asked if, for the first phase, they will enter off the gravel road and Mr. Roosma replied that, after the first phase, they would like to transition the entrance over to the paved County Road 200 North.

There being no questions from the Commissioners, Mr. Culp opened it up to questions from the audience. Mr. Garrett Dobson stated that he is an adjoining land owner and that he would like to see this request denied as he does not believe this is a good fit for the area. There is a lot of agriculture that takes place in the area and County Road 200 is a busy road. There is a mining company that will soon be digging across the street again. He thinks that this type of use could interfere with agriculture and mining that goes on in the area. The entrance for the mining will be directly in line with the entrance that the applicants want to use. The mining on the property has already been approved. Mr. Culp asked Mr. Roosma if they are aware of activity that might be happening across the street and Mr. Roosma replied that they have no objection to anything occurring in the neighborhood and are well aware of the properties surrounding the property they are wishing to rezone and don't believe it will cause an issue. Once their guests are on site, they are mostly on site so traffic on the roadway will not be a bother. He said that they are hoping to re-use an old gravel pit and turn it in to a benefit to the county. Mr. Hubers stated that the company doing the mining requested a variance a month after he and the other applicants discussed their plans at a meeting so he doesn't see it being an issue for them either. Mr. Culp asked Mrs. Scheurich what discussion took place at the Plan Commission meeting and what the recommendation was from the Plan Commission. Mrs. Scheurich replied there were two or three citizens that were opposed to it and that it was a unanimous recommendation from the Plan Commission with two members absent. Mr. Culp stated that this is a unique project, one that we don't have in Jasper County.

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REZONE REQUEST / LAKE COUNTY TRUST / HUBERS / ROOSMA / GREEN / 012-00290-00 CONT'D: He assumes that the gravel pit doesn't have potential to be dug anymore and Mr. Dobson replied that it could still be dug as it was never finished. Mr. Walstra stated that he knows the previous owners of the property and he thinks the quarry fizzled out. He said that there is another quarry on County Road 400 with permanent homes around it. He doesn't see any value to this property in the current state. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the rezone request for six acres from A1 to A2 and sixty-one acres from A1 to PR. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

SHERIFF WILLIAMSON / REQUEST TO REPLACE DEPUTIES: Sheriff Williamson requested permission to replace four deputies that have left for other employment. One deputy was hired by DeMotte Police Department and the other three are no longer in law enforcement. He said that the Sheriff's Department did replace the four deputies already so they could start getting them trained. There was discussion regarding expenses to train, equip and outfit a new deputy. Mr. Maxwell asked if they could have an agreement that would require the deputy to stay with the department for a certain amount of time. Sheriff Williamson replied that they could do that. There are other jurisdictions that do that; however, it would not apply to most of the deputies leaving the department since most of them leaving have been here for at least five years. He said their biggest problem is keeping Correctional Officers. They've had sixteen leave since last year. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the replacement of the four deputies. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

Sheriff Williamson requested permission to replace one Correctional Officer that has resigned. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Sheriff Williamson requested approval to apply for a grant for Dr. Pulver in the amount of \$60,000.00. It is for addiction therapy and would be paid to Dr. Pulver. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the request. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried. Auditor Jordan informed Sheriff Williamson that her office will need all supporting documents.

Sheriff Williamson publicly thanked the Commissioners and the Highway Department. They recently recovered thousands and thousands of dollars in construction materials in a shed in the Town of Wheatfield. The Highway Department brought eight trucks to help load up the materials.

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ZONE ORDINANCE: Attorney Beaver presented the Commissioners with a broadband infrastructure development zone ordinance. Jasper County REMC reviewed the ordinance and did not have any issues with it. The ordinance creates a personal property tax exemption period for five years. He said that the hearing has been held and there is nothing that needs done except moving forward with the ordinance. Assessor Dawn Hoffman is also satisfied with the verbiage. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the ordinance. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried. **Ordinance No. 7-6-2021F**

RIGHT OF WAY FEES ORDINANCE: Mr. Culp read off the fees on the ordinance. There were no questions or comments from the public. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the ordinance. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried. **Ordinance No. 7-6-2021G**

LINE OF CREDIT: Attorney Beaver stated that the County has a line of credit with Lafayette Bank and Trust that was put in to place in 2018. It was a two-year renewal with a \$1,000,000.00 line of credit. This is secured by a \$1,000,000.00 CD. The County is able to proceed under the prior resolutions. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve a two-year renewal with First Merchants Bank for the line of credit. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

BUTLER, FAIRMAN & SEUFERT, INC. / BRIDGES: Mr. Dammarell was present and stated that a decision was made to move forward with the replacement of Bridge number 191 and the rehabilitation of Bridge number 195. He presented the Commissioners with two professional service agreements to perform the services necessary to complete those projects. He read off what the agreements include. He said that these agreements are approximately \$57,000.00 less than what they had originally estimated. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the agreements for Bridges 191 and 195. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

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COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS / REPLACEMENT OF BILL WAKELAND: Mr. Culp stated that they received a letter from the Community Corrections Board recommending that the Commissioners hire Ken Wright to replace Bill Wakeland, who retired June 30th. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Wakeland for his service. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to hire Mr. Wright. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

REQUEST TO CARRY OVER VACATION TIME: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the carryover of six full vacation days and six vacation hours for Tina Porter for ninety days. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

ABSENTEE VOTING: Mr. Culp stated that Clerk Kara Fishburn needs to have a place in the Courthouse to hold early voting. It used to take place in the hallway on the second floor. The Clerk will need two voting machines. If it is to be held in the hallway, the Commissioners will need to have more electric ran. He said that he suggested to her that the Commissioners Room could be used. The board table can be moved forward against the railing and the two voting machines could be set in front of the heater / air conditioning unit. The voter could walk in on one side and out the other. Mr. Maxwell asked about running an extension cord to have the machines in the hallway. Mr. Culp replied that he's not sure if Mrs. Fishburn considers that a trip hazard. There was a brief discussion regarding handicap accessibility. Auditor Jordan suggested one machine in the hallway for handicap accessibility. Further discussion took place. Mrs. Fishburn stated that they do have to have handicap accessibility and will have to measure the openings in the Commissioners Room.

CONFERENCE REQUEST: Auditor Donya Jordan requested permission for her and one deputy to attend a one-day conference in Plymouth on July 15th. There is no registration fee. The only cost will be mileage. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

CLAIM / CLERK'S OFFICE: Mr. Culp stated that there was a claim for a coffee pot for voter training that was not in the Commissioners claims. He said that Auditor Donya Jordan wanted to bring it to the Commissioners' attention for discussion. He further stated that most coffee pots in offices are purchased by the offices out of their personal funds.

125TH ANNIVERSARY: Mr. Culp showed Mr. Walstra and Mr. Maxwell the minutes from the last committee meeting. He said that Little Cousin Jasper will be incorporating some of the events in to their festival September 10th through the 12th. He said that some of the improvement projects are to repair the gazebo, landscape around the gazebo, get the digital sign up and running and landscape around that as well. They will both be dedicated. He said that Pat Fox mentioned that the Courthouse would be the grand marshal of the parade. The main event will be October 15th with a program on the north steps that the public will be invited to. They are hoping to have a luncheon afterward. November 12th will be an educational event where they will ask the office holders to have the offices open for tours. There will also be art and photo contests. The sidewalk project will be on hold since the estimate was more than anticipated. Mr. Eastridge will be applying for funding using the plans for Halleck Park. The committee will be getting bids from local landscapers for around the gazebo and the digital sign.

CLAIM / CLERK'S OFFICE CONT'D: Auditor Donya Jordan asked the Commissioners if she could have a motion on the Keurig coffee pot. Mr. Culp stated that the coffee pot was purchased from Quill for \$179.99. He said that he can't hear Mrs. Fishburn on Zoom but she said that it is for Election Board Training. Mr. Culp stated that it is a very expensive coffee pot and was withheld from claims. He said that he told Auditor Jordan that he would bring it up at a Commissioners meeting since the Commissioners are the ones that have to either approve or deny the claims. He said that he's spoken with Auditor Jordan and Clerk Fishburn about this. If the Commissioners agree to pay this, it would have to be paid through pre-pay or it will be delinquent. Mr. Culp stated that he told Mrs. Fishburn to re-submit the claim if she has election funds to pay it from. He said that it's in the supplies budget for next year. He further stated that Clerk Fishburn has stated that she doesn't need the coffee pot for training until next year but wanted to buy it this year since she has funds available. He said that the coffee pot was out being used by office staff but it is now boxed up.

He said that he told Clerk Fishburn that he would support paying it as it is not up to him to question why it was so expensive or why it's a single cup maker but the understanding is that if it's perceived as being an extravagant purchase, the County Council controls the budget and if they want to weigh in and cut next years' budget because of an extravagant purchase, it's their decision to do that. It's up to the office holder to make expenses but it is up to the Commissioners to approve or deny every expenditure. If the Commissioners think it was an inappropriate expense, they have the ability to deny the claim. Mr. Maxwell expressed concern about how this will affect all the other offices. Mr. Culp stated that he assumes the Courts already have Keurigs. Auditor Jordan stated that she knows that one of the judges buys his office everything personal that they need. Mr. Culp said that Clerk Fishburn is going to say that this is for the Election Board, not for the office. Mr. Walstra asked how often they need it for the Election Board and Mr. Culp replied that they have two trainings a year, during election years only. Auditor Jordan pointed out that, with a Keurig, you can't make a pot of coffee. She also pointed out that they had the coffee pot out in their coffee nook, using it. Mr. Culp stated that Clerk Fishburn was trying to speak over Zoom but the volume was not working to be able to hear her. There was discussion regarding how many would be at the training and it was determined that there will be workers from nine or ten polling locations. Mr. Maxwell stated that it was a bad choice to choose a single cup maker if it's for a group of people. Mr. Walstra made a motion to deny the claim. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

JOINT SESSION / JULY 13: Mr. Culp stated that the Joint Session will begin at 5:00 at the meeting room, followed by the Regular Council meeting.

There being no further business and no public comment, this meeting is continued to Monday, July 19, 2021 at 8:30 A.M., if needed. This meeting stands in recess.

Kendell Culp, President

James A. Walstra, Vice President

Richard E. Maxwell, Member

Donya G. Jordan, Auditor of Jasper County