

Randolph County Commissioners

February 17, 2026

The Randolph County Commissioners met at their regular meeting at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners and Council Room in the Courthouse with the following members present: Board President Gary Friend, Tom Kerns and Missy Williams. Also present was Randolph County Auditor Laura Martin, Sheriff Art Moystner and County Attorney Meeks Cockerill.

Pledge of Allegiance

Gary said alright good morning everybody. We'll open up today's commissioners' meeting and we'll move the schedule just a little bit. Judge Dowling, I would like to have you come up first if you don't mind.

Judge Dowling – Court Administrator

Gary said alright good morning everybody. Good morning Judge.

Judge Dowling said good morning. So, I've been here almost a year. Our time flies when you're having fun. And one of the things that I've noticed just about the operation of the courts is that I think you could benefit greatly from a court administrator. And a court administrator's job is basically to help the courts run efficiently, to make sure that all the reports are done accurately, they can assist in getting grant money for the courts. There are plans that are supposed to be filed with the Indiana Supreme Court. Randolph County has not complied with that. And I would say that most of that is because your people here are so busy and they don't have someone overseeing and assisting the court staff in doing those things. When I first started, there were, there were a lot of things in Superior Court obviously, that were problematic, and so, because I had been in Delaware County, I asked the Court Administrator there if she could be of some assistance. So, she took several days and came over, brought a couple of the court staff members to help me so that we could do training of our staff. She assisted Circuit Court too in some of the things that we were working on in Superior Court, but things that Circuit Court wasn't necessarily aware of, in ways that they could save time, be more efficient, some of the things that they were supposed to be doing that they weren't necessarily doing properly throughout Odyssey and that sort of thing. So, I know that this county is small and I know that you really can't afford a court administrator. But one of the things that the Indiana Supreme Court has encouraged us to do is to develop what we call district plans. So, working with other counties to try and alleviate some of these problems. So, as I thought about it, I thought maybe Randolph County might be willing to work with a couple of the other small counties who don't have court administrators, to collaborate and work together. And I talked to the Delaware County Court Administrator about

it. She thinks it's an excellent idea. And I think the Indiana Supreme Court would be proud of you know, the smaller counties coming together and work together to kind of come up with these district plans. So, I can, you know, I can go through maybe some of the details and I don't want to take that much time. Some of the things that Randolph doesn't have that I think would be a benefit to you if you did have that a court administrator could assist you with but my thought was, and I've already talked with Judge Bade in Blackford County, he's interested. And so, he was going to talk with his commissioners about the thought. I emailed Judge Witham in Henry County and I'm just awaiting word back from him on what he thinks maybe about Henry County collaborating as well. But you could, if each county kicked in \$30,000.00, you could get somebody really good, who then would be able to travel between the 3 counties, set schedule hours in each of the counties and help your staff come up with ways to save time and save money, even by you know, streamlining your budget for the courts. And you know, I've not worked in a county before where the courts had separate budgets. And I think you could probably find ways to you know, for the courts to work together to save money there, but those are just some ideas and thoughts that I had and so I thought I would come and talk with you about it. Happy to answer questions about it if you have questions. But, I would encourage you to do that.

Gary said I have a couple Judge.

Judge Dowling said sure.

Gary said I think, for me, we'll look into this and get, I'll probably rely a lot on our attorney too, to help us you know, what would be best for Randolph County. How many counties would you perceive being the maximum one person should handle, three, four, because we have like Jay County, small counties.

Judge Dowling said I talked to Judge Hutchinson and he's not interested.

Gary said okay.

Judge Dowling said so, in my opinion, I don't think you should do more than three.

Gary said three?

Judge Dowling said yeah, because you're asking your court administrator to travel between those counties, so three probably would be the max.

Gary said and is there any matching funds that comes from the state?

Judge Dowling said no. I mean, Emily from Delaware County and I've had numerous conversations about how you know, we think that court administrators should be in every county,

and that sort of thing, but the state's not paying for those. But I think this district plan is kind of the best solution for that.

Gary said okay. I think it's worthy and notable, Tom?

Tom said I agree. Yeah, I still wonder if 30,000 would be enough with, I think the cost with benefits and such to go with the three counties.

Judge Dowling said if you do 30 from each of the counties, right, so then you'd have a \$90,000.00 salary, and probably you know, just mileage and benefits. And you'd have to figure out the benefits part, you know, which county is going to be responsible for the benefits. Maybe the other two counties kick in extra for the benefits, something along those lines, yeah.

Meeks said well we have, we've done that with Henry County. We have an interlocal agreement with Henry County for the engineer.

Judge Dowling said okay, so.

Meeks said so, we have that template.

Judge Dowling said easy enough to do.

Meeks said yeah, I mean it's not. We figured out the calculation, I mean.

Gary said it was extraordinary helpful when we did such a thing and got an engineer working through Henry County and Randolph County for our bridge and roads.

Judge Dowling said yeah, right, yeah. I mean it just makes sense for your smaller counties to work together on those things.

Tom said we share a prosecutor and deputy prosecutor.

Meeks said yeah, well, we don't actually share. He works two days here and they work two days in Jay. But that's like, we have a separate, well, it's Kristen. There're two separate contracts. So, we don't share.

Judge Dowling said okay, okay.

Gary said I asked the question on funding is because I think when we did it on the bridge engineer, the state granted some money to do that. They want to see that interlocal.

Judge Dowling said yeah, no, none that I'm aware of.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said I think it's a good idea. I think working the logistics out of it between the three, I'm sure we can find a way to do that. I talked to you earlier. I know that it's needed.

Judge Dowling said I mean, it's interesting, you know, just having Emily over here for just a few days and being able to talk with the court staff and helping them with things that they didn't even know was possible, you know, because they didn't have those resources. And when you have the resource available, it just makes all the difference in the world and the court staff really appreciates it. So, but you know, like right now, you don't have what's called a coop plan which is a continuation operating of services kind of plan where if something like COVID were to happen again, if you already have the plan in place and you know, Delaware has their plan and they have what they call the football. And it's located at presiding judge's home and so that it, if something were to happen to your courthouse, if you were to have a bombing or something, and everything here was destroyed, that football is somewhere else. And so, the plan then can, you know, the judges can get together and implement the plan. Randolph County doesn't have one of those right now. You didn't have a language access plan when I started, but I wrote that for you so that we could get that grant. You don't have a security plan in place right now. And I know that you're going to get an update today on kind of what we're doing with the security. So, those are just things that a court administrator can help you with that the judges and the staff really just don't have time to sit down and work on.

Gary said final question, so, it sounds we're all in agreement with, yes, you're right, what would be our next step to help this move on down?

Judge Dowling said I can let Judge Bade know that you all are in favor of it and to see if he's talked with his commissioners yet. And in the meantime, I'll see what Judge Witham says, and I can update you on that as soon as I know that. And then I think it's having conversations with the other two counties' commissioners to see if it's something that they're interested in collaborating on.

Gary said once the commissioners, let's say they were all three agreed, then we'd have to get the county councils on board, as well.

Judge Dowling said yes, absolutely. And I mean, I think talking about it now and planning makes sense because then we can put it in the budget and hopefully, we can work towards you know, trying to get somebody hired for January 1st.

Gary said yeah, yeah.

Judge Dowling said because you know, I mean, as much as it would be great to have somebody sooner, I don't think it's an emergency. I just think it's something that you can plan for.

Gary said good. Thank you.

Judge Dowling said yeah, absolutely.

Gary said Tom, anything else?

Tom said only thing, is there where these are already in place, is there a job description that somebody, that we could see it?

Judge Dowling said I can get Delaware County's job description for you, yeah, absolutely.

Tom said that way we'll have a general idea of it.

Judge Dowling said yeah, yep.

Gary said okay. Anything else?

Judge Dowling said I have one more question that really isn't related to this, but the computers in our courtroom are set to like go to sleep, rest after 10 minutes and my court staff would really like to have permission to get IT to set those so that the court reporter computer stays on all day so that they don't have to continue to log in?

Gary said I believe.

Meeks said we've talked about this. We've talked about this, yeah. I think, I thought the Circuit Court we did that.

Judge Dowling said Circuit Court is done that way. Ours was not, but IT told us that we had to get your permission.

Gary said I thought the IT, I thought the judges have full control over it.

Judge Dowling said we weren't told that.

Meeks said just give them permission, you're fine.

Laura said it was a different company. So, this company, I've told them.

Meeks said we've had this, I'm certain Rhonda Detweiler when she was here, we had this discussion and we told Rhonda that Judge Haviza could do whatever he wanted to do. So, I am almost positive there's a conversation to that effect.

Gary said I'm pretty certain the Judge would, do you need a motion from us just so they know?

Judge Dowling said sure.

Gary said do we have a motion to allow the judge to let IT, not even allow the judge, that's not even right, however it needs to be worded, we have a motion to allow to change the computers at your discretion.

Judge Dowling said thank you.

Tom made a motion to approve. Missy seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Judge Dowling said okay. Thank you. Alright, have a good day.

Opening of Highway Bids for bridge 29

Gary said alright. Highway bids.

Meeks said highway bids.

Gary said open highway bids.

Meeks said we have Randolph County bridge replacement, bridge number 29 from Brumbaugh Construction. Okay, that's \$580,000.00 it looks like. We have one from Milestone for bridge 29. \$750,400. Then Duncan Robertson, Inc. That's \$646,765.12. Let me look at that first one. Yep, still 580. Usually take these under advisement.

Gary said yeah. Somebody from the highway to come and get these?

Meeks said let them look at it.

Gary said okay. Later on, you'll be able to give us your recommendation?

Jay Long said yes.

Council's update

Gary said next, council update. We have several. Morning, Larry.

Larry Preston said good morning. Larry Preston, Randolph County Council. Since your last meeting, the courthouse security committee had met and we had different individuals and talked about proceeding with the project without the grant. We've got several individuals doing things and I talked to Jake and I think he's emailed you guys some things, and Judge Dowling is doing some different things. So, we'll be trying to get the ball rolling on that in the near future. Another thing, at our last council meeting, we table the claim for the Jay County Drug Ascension Suicide. It just seemed like an odd figure. I think it was \$15,333. Is that maybe correct, Laura?

Laura said I don't remember.

Larry Preston said I think that's what it was.

Laura said it wasn't a claim. It was an additional appropriation.

Larry Preston said yeah, so, I, we just tabled that and I got with Nikki Clevenger and she showed me the original contract and it's valid. I mean, it's a valid figure, so we'll probably go ahead and pass that. The contract was for 20,000 the first year and 12 the second, and 12 the third. And since the year, you know, rolls over, it was kind of an odd figure. And then I don't know who all got the letter from the Purdue 4-H extension about them maybe combining.

Gary said I think we all did.

Larry Preston said okay. One of the council members had a little concern about that, if it matched our original contract with them. So, we were going to reach out with Julie Wilson and make sure that we're still under, you know, our contractual manpower and money for that. So, and then Dave Lenkensdofer and I know Todd Holaday was in on it, created some spreadsheets, and you all might have got them to track the 8 major projects we have going on. It has different like Excel spreadsheets and so, that was a nice spreadsheet, especially for the council.

Gary said I have a question on that. I was filling in some information. How's that become interactive? I put some information in there on the tracking of it, how does that end up for everybody else to see?

Larry Preston said I'm not sure. Do you know, Todd?

Todd Holaday said David said he would manage it. David's managing it, so send your updates to him and he'll redistribute it.

Gary said so, just, I'll put some information on it, send the spreadsheet back to him and he'll, okay.

Todd Holaday said yeah.

Gary said so, it's not really interactive?

Todd Holaday said no it's not, a shared thing.

Larry Preston said it's just, we had the thought of you know, don't let some of the timelines get out of balance, don't let some money get out of balance. And obviously, for us, we only meet once a month, so we didn't want to get too far behind. And I believe that's all. Any questions?

Gary said I do not. Tom?

Tom said do not.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said nope. Thanks for the report.

Gary said thank you.

Larry Preston said thank you.

Chris Shaneyfelt - 9-1-1 staffing & donation of outdated, surplus radio equipment

Gary said Chris.

Chris Shaneyfelt said good morning. Chris Shaneyfelt, Randolph County 911 director, emergency manager.

Gary said I think everybody got some of the information that I sent to Chris that he's going to address today. Our state of readiness always seems to be a little bit at risk with manpower.

Chris Shaneyfelt said it's a lot of risk right now.

Gary said okay, well, that's what I feel, but, so, how can we get, how can we get beyond this, is kind of a crutch for me. I know we've been dealing with this for it seems like a year maybe.

Chris Shaneyfelt said we've been shorthanded off and on since COVID, but there's a couple different times it's got to this point and this is, I think this is the 2nd one. So, just to bring you up, I don't know if you've looked at the sheet I've given you yet, but, we're supposed to have ten telecommunicators. That's not counting Mindy and I. Mindy and I are, I have now as admin so, that would give us 12 full time staff members. I currently have six telecommunicators, which means four openings. And then Mindy and I running the consoles. We only have two telecommunicators working the floor for 12-hour periods. Obviously, it's 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. So, at a minimum you know, we're looking at 378 hours that needs to be covered. We have already spent 300 and, I'm sorry, we had over 300 hours. But, currently, our overtime just with us 8, we've accumulated 378 hours, costing \$12,733, and that's in the first four pay periods. Since we talked via email, I created a leaflet, or an advertisement, and added it to social media seeking part time employees, but those employees had to be already certified. We have some interest. I've received a couple from Delaware County, a couple from Henry County. So, we have an interview process this week on Thursday, just to interview them. If we can get some of those part time folks, that would bring us up to roughly six part time. But, you know, they're part time and they've got full time jobs at other comp centers. So, hopefully, they'll be able to help us out quite a bit. But, I'm not going to guarantee it. I've had some previous employees

reach out to me, interested in coming back and helping us because they don't want to see us in this crunch. One, her name's Patty, she was my deputy director previously, but she currently works for the county highway. So, if she were to come back and help us out, I'm going to have to pay her overtime. And I don't know how that works, because she's already a full-time employee with the county highway. I just assume that.

Gary said you're right. You can't set two different lines of timing.

Chris Shaneyfelt said right, right. I mean, so, she's, she would be getting her overtime pay, but I just don't know how that works out on our end, and with the budgets. So, I'm not for sure if we can do that or not.

Gary said I'd have to confer with Meeks on how if we were, I think we probably could, it's do we want to?

Chris Shaneyfelt said well and that's the issue. I mean, and she doesn't want to do it long term. She's willing to do it for three or four months. She's already been certified and everything, so I'm not worried about her training or her skills obviously. But, that's our hiccup with her. And then I have one other employee, former employee that's going to come back. We've just got to get her set up with HR and get her back on the books. But, beyond that, we've got, Mindy told me this morning, we have three people interested in full time, but I mean, even if they get hired at full time, it's going to take four months to get them on the radio and that's if they stay. And our ability to keep, get people to stay has been crap, just to be honest.

Gary said are we different than other PSAP centers?

Chris Shaneyfelt said no, it's a nationwide issue. That's why I sent you both of those documents. The carbine document goes into great detail on why things are the way they are. The one from IAED, which is International Association of Emergency Dispatchers, like I told you in the email, their top five things are basically our top four things. We have problems with the work hours and the schedule because people can't get off. There are better opportunities, which we've lost one employee definitely for better opportunity in the private sector with an immediate \$5,000.00 pay raise. And then there's the pay, the stress and then the overtime, which they all just kind of piggyback off each other. But that's the top five things that we've got going on. All of our staff is stressed burnout, just because we, we're getting paid the overtime money. That's not the issue. It's we can't do anything because we're so short staffed. With those six that I told you, we have one that's critically ill, and she, she's fine today, but who know how it'll be when she has her next round of medications and stuff. And then I have that definitely is looking to leave. She was offered another job but she is feeling guilty right now about taking it because of what we're going through. So, with those two, I mean, I don't know what to. So.

Gary said are we losing people, Chris, to other counties' PSAP centers?

Chris Shaneyfelt said well the one that's getting ready to leave would go to Delaware County.

Gary said and what does Delaware County have that we don't that would draw them?

Chris Shaneyfelt said more money, more telecommunicators. They don't, they get a lunch hour off. They don't have to sit at the console, so they can leave the building and that kind of thing.

Gary said if quality of life in the PSAP center is part of our biggest problem, can we change that? Can we go to around the clock 8-hour shifts? Can we just bite the bullet?

Chris Shaneyfelt said we can't do around the clock 8-hour shifts right now, not with our staffing.

Gary said I know that. I mean, if you had the opportunity, I'm just.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah, I'm willing to go 8s, because I know with the one's that sick, she does not like the 12-hour shifts. So, we were looking at doing Hybrids where we would have the 12-hour shifts and then we'd have a couple people that were doing tax shifts and whether they were 8 hours or 10 hours, you know, we'd work that out. But yeah, we were looking at doing different things to try to make people happy.

Gary said it's a difficult environment after time and time of overtime, because you're down inside a room. It's not like you're out working in the open fields.

Chris Shaneyfelt said no, we're in, most of the times, depending on the dispatchers you have working the floor, they sit in the dark, just because that's the way they like to work. The bright lights with everything else going on bothers them. You know, you've got 8 monitors we're watching, a 911-line, admin line, the sheriff's door alarm, and that's just a few. And then you've got to deal with all the officers and emergency services and all the radio traffic that's going on. But, with us being short, they can't even get away to go outside for ten minutes to decompress. We've got to figure some of that out. But I don't know how to do it being short staffed like we are. I've entered into AI, the top five things, and asked them to try to help create a plan. And some of it is things that we can do. One the first ones in the first couple of weeks, we we're talking about optimizing an AI call taker, which I just had installed. It went live active, we're in February, January 29th. We, that AI call taker is already initiated contact with over fifteen hundred people. And then a lot of those are the spam calls. And those are the ones that usually show up and says of the line, there was nobody there, nothing was said. And they disconnected, which I would say is about half of them. But then the others we've got set now so people don't have to go through a whole bunch. They can just, I need to speak to a dispatcher, and it rolls over to us. And so, that's helping out some. It's, we're not constantly picking up the phone just to hear nothing. It's saying we need to take micro breaks every few hours. Want to look at that. If we can get the part-time people in and help them with like, be a third person, they can come in and work you know, 6 hours during our peak times and stuff like that, that should have.

Gary said what's our part-time rate over there?

Chris Shaneyfelt said it's 18.

Gary said 18.

Chris Shaneyfelt said 18.03, I believe is what it is. It's the same as everybody else.

Gary said it's \$32.00 an hour for regular rate?

Chris Shaneyfelt said excuse me?

Gary said 32 for regular rate?

Chris Shaneyfelt said no, 32's the part time, or the over-time rate.

Gary said over time rate?

Chris Shaneyfelt said uh huh.

Gary said oh, you don't have

Missy said where it says hourly rate here it has 32.11 all the way up and then 34.

Chris Shaneyfelt said that's the overtime hourly rate.

Gary said yeah, I got it.

Missy said okay.

Chris Shaneyfelt said so, you'd have to take half of that off there, about 21 or \$22.00 an hour, somewhere in there.

Missy said so, before, you wanted to go to 12 hours. You thought that was going to really help out. So, are we saying that's probably not what?

Chris Shaneyfelt said I don't think the 12 hours is the issue. I just think it's the people that we've got, that we've had, most of them have left for what they felt was better. We lost one for the \$5,000.00. We lost another one because she just, she wanted to do something in a different career field, and she's working with social services now. But it's a Monday through Friday gig. And then let's see, I'd have to think who else we lost after that that was full time. So, I don't think the 12 hours is the issues. Most of the staff are okay with it. The only, like I say, I've only got one that I know truly hates it. So, it's, it's, people not really wanting to work, or they get in

there and they realize that this job is not the cakewalk that they thought it was going to be, and they get into all the training and they start getting overburdened, just by the last two of the three were stressed out about the policies. And they left because they were stressed out about the policies in taking the test.

Missy said what's the policies that they were stressed over?

Chris Shaneyfelt said simple ones like you know, coming to work on time, just initial ones. We're not even getting into the ones that are machine specific or discipline specific where you know, how many fire trucks go out on a fire alarm and that kind of stuff. This is just your basic entry level reading the courthouse guidelines that they have to sit there and read because I break it down, when you get into power DMS, it breaks it down by the seven different chapters that are in the county handbook and they have to read it and they have to sign off on it and they just get stressed out about it. And I do simple testing with it just to show that there's comprehension. I don't let them just look at it and sign it and then them not knowing what's in the policy because quite honestly, that happens way too much that people don't know what's in their county policies and then they complain. So, they're stressed out about that kind of stuff or it takes too much time and they want to dedicate the time in the evening to maybe do some review because they you know, they just don't want to do it. I've had two that had new born children or young children that got into it and then they couldn't either get the daycare that they needed or the children just didn't do well with the separation. So, they chose to go back home. And then we had one new hire that went to Union City after she did a ride along over there and decided that she'd rather be an EMT than a 911 dispatcher.

Missy said well that's what I brought up at the meeting that we had last week or the week before. I can't remember when it was, when you said you know, they don't want to go 12 hours. Well, if you have a new baby or a young baby, you don't want to go 12 hours. So, I think the flexibility, that's what I was trying to tell you that night. I think the flexibility.

Chris Shaneyfelt said and we switched that for her.

Missy said yeah, yeah, good.

Chris Shaneyfelt said we're knocked it down to 8 hours. But we just wanted her to do it Monday through Friday then, to get her through that initial portion. That didn't work either, because she, she worked like 2 and a half days out of the week long that she was there. She worked one shift, had a couple days off because of the rotation.

Gary said if you don't mind, we shouldn't really get too particular on the individuals.

Missy said yeah.

Chris Shaneyfelt said I'm not. I'm just.

Gary said okay, let's stay under the policy

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah, she worked 2 and a half days.

Missy said so what do you think is the solution to this thing? What's?

Chris Shaneyfelt said I don't know what the solution is. I think with the current staff, we're going to have to come up with some better benefits and slightly better pay. I know we've been paid raises and we're somewhat comparable to the others, and I know that the.

Gary said are we in front of the other ones or behind other ones?

Chris Shaneyfelt said we're behind.

Gary said all of them around us?

Chris Shaneyfelt said I won't say all of them. I don't know what Jay County is paying.

Gary said okay, that's fair.

Chris Shaneyfelt said I know that Henry County is making more than us.

Tom said with our part-time rate, quite a bit lower, would that help with getting it closer, because we are, the full time can get benefits.

Gary said raise it up.

Tom said we should raise it close to the full time pay?

Chris Shaneyfelt said well I know one part-time person that we were looking at said she couldn't come here for that.

Tom said that's the question, I mean, if they're coming here for a 3, 4 5 dollar pay cut, you know, for a side job that's, doing the same job.

Chris Shaneyfelt said right, right. So, I, but we're going to have to raise that for even my part-timers are here in the county, because I don't want to lose them. But, I think that would help some, yes. It might make some of the others upset, but you know, I understand that you know, they're not getting benefits, part of them. But, you know, I think as long as we stay in this mindset and I know the talk about Senate Bill 1 and all that, we're going to have to think out of the box on that kind of stuff because if we continue to sink with that, we're not going to get any better.

Gary said I agree with your mindset there. We have to deal with what's happening right now.

Chris Shaneyfelt said I agree.

Gary said and we'll deal with Senate Bill 1 when it becomes an issue with Randolph County. Nobody's saying it's not going to be. But the readiness of Randolph County's 911 is at risk right now.

Chris Shaneyfelt said it is.

Gary said and I'd ask you I think.

Chris Shaneyfelt said all it's going to take is to lose that one.

Gary said I'd ask you if you had a vote, what would you do right now, Chris Shaneyfelt, what would you do to begin to turn this tide? What's the number one thing that we can do today?

Chris Shaneyfelt said probably up the pay.

Gary said up the pay. How much?

Chris Shaneyfelt said can you give me a while to think on that one, until the next one?

Gary said can you come back in two weeks?

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah.

Gary said okay. Second of all, can you get us a part-time pay that matters to somebody, because you know, the EMS services bring in part-time people all the time, as part of the way work.

Chris Shaneyfelt said right.

Gary said but it's got to be worthwhile to people to do it.

Chris Shaneyfelt said right. I mean, you're not, I mean, time you figure in the gas money to drive from Henry County, Muncie, wherever in Delaware County. Those are the two counties that we've gotten applications from. You know, it's got to be good enough to get them here.

Gary said where I'm at, I think we have enough warning bells in front of us. If we don't pay attention to it, there's nobody to blame but Randolph County.

Chris Shaneyfelt said I agree with you 100%.

Gary said and I feel it pretty deeply. I mean I don't get wound up quickly on a lot of stuff, but the state of readiness is a big deal.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah. And you know, like the judge said, you know, you guys, there are other things we need to worry about too, but, you know, that state of readiness is a big thing. And you know, I've had in the last two weeks, I mean, two of the dispatchers have been sick, one with Covid and one with influenza, and they worked, which puts our other one at risk.

Gary said for me, in two weeks, if you can come to us with what amount of hourly payrate puts us in front.

Chris Shaneyfelt said of the surrounding counties?

Gary said of the surrounding counties.

Chris Shaneyfelt said alright.

Gary said what part-time money, and I don't just mean for individual, but across the board, puts us attractive to people wanting to throw in some part-time time.

Chris Shaneyfelt said alright. Yeah, because we need to do that and then we need just to figure out some of the break stuff.

Gary said well that too. You know, the quality of life over there has got to be difficult. But I don't want to over, I hear you on the scanner a lot.

Chris Shaneyfelt said I'm there a lot.

Gary said yeah. Tom, anything you'd like to see them bring to the next meeting?

Tom said I think the only thing you know, I'd asked you about that before, is the availability of the contract labor, if you'd lose two people tomorrow, as emergency backup.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah, and I did an internet search with that as well. And a lot of the ones that were, that were listed in the internet by the AI were part time organizations that were just using 911 as part of their business name. They weren't actually 911 organizations. So, that left one and that company has a lot of problems. I was reached out by two different EMS, or not EMS, EMA 911 directors and they said don't deal with that company because they're not paying their employees, there's a lot of lawsuits going on. So, I haven't been able to find any other that does the travelling stuff. So, but if I find some, I'll let you know.

Gary said Missy, what would you like to see him bring before us?

Missy said I just question, when somebody leaves, would it be beneficial to us and you that they quickly could fill out a form and it went to like Laura's office and then Gary or somebody could take a look and say you know, what was the, why did you leave, working conditions, you know, whatever, too long of hours or not enough pay?

Chris Shaneyfelt said okay.

Missy said so we could kind of hear from some of those people and what do they, what's our top priority to be able to keep those people?

Chris Shaneyfelt said okay. And that would probably be beneficial the along the longer-term staff because the ones that were training, and they don't even show up, you know. I've gotten text messages from them, I quit.

Gary said I've dealt with those particular forms Missy, before. They can become pretty skewed over.

Missy said oh, yeah, but.

Chris Shaneyfelt said depending on attitudes and stuff.

Gary said yeah, yeah, you can get bumps on that, just.

Chris Shaneyfelt said you know, there's, there's stay interviews, you know, why are you staying, what is keeping you here? I do want to do that with them. But I need to do it with them one-on-one instead of just sending out a mass one because then it becomes group work. And they'll all do group work, but we can look at that as well, Missy, and just try to capture some sort of idea.

Missy said yeah, I'm just trying to find.

Chris Shaneyfelt said beyond the normal kind of stuff.

Gary said okay, well, I hope you, I appreciate you getting through this.

Chris Shaneyfelt said we're not through it yet, but I'm trying.

Gary said well, to where we're at, yeah. I'm committed, and I feel the commissioners are committed to get you, that department where it needs to be. I'm not blaming you. I know you're up against many factors that are tough. I'm just glad you're hanging in there and getting it done for us.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah. Well, I've got a countdown going on so. I've been it for, the emergency service for 41 years and I can hang it up at the end of the year. And it's, it's not going

to take much, you know, not to be, I'm not being rude or anything. I'm just saying that's, you know, the reality of it. So, but I'm, I've lived here all my life. I've got a project going on that I want to see to fruition before I leave, because I want this place to be better than when I found it. And while a lot of the things are better than when I found it, I couldn't leave it like this, because it's, then that would not be better than when I found it.

Gary said well I'd be real happy if you were part of the solution and not watching it from the outside.

Missy said yeah.

Chris Shaneyfelt said okay.

Gary said we have to solve it as commissioners, no matter what.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yes.

Gary said anybody else for Chris?

Chris Shaneyfelt said and then the other thing that was on the budget, or the agenda, was donation of, how did she have that, surplus radio equipment outdated. We have, down in the basement, our old Motorola equipment. It's been sitting on the floor since it was taken out and the new stuff was put in. And we still have some old Motorola equipment that's in the racks. None of it is useable to us. And we have an amateur radio guy that is wanting to know if he can get that equipment. And I told him I don't, at first, I cared, because I wanted it to go to our local Races group. But since one of their Races members had a massive stroke, they don't have the people to program those radios and do what they need for their stuff. And this guy says he can do it, but he's with Henry County in their Races group and stuff like that.

Gary said what's the Races group?

Chris Shaneyfelt said it is amateur radio folks but they do volunteer work for us in case we lose all communications. So, they use amateur radio waves and they can reach around the world through various networks and it's not really tied to anything like us. It's old radio technology that still works. So, they're just wanting to know if they can have it and at this point, I would just rather get it off the floor and out of the room. But, it doesn't have any monetary value to us.

Gary said let me just ask Meeks what we legally could do with it.

Meeks said well, if it's surplus equipment, we've, discard surplus equipment all the time.

Gary said just a resolution?

Meeks said yeah. Can do a resolution for surplus equipment.

Chris Shaneyfelt said do I have to list it by piece of equipment or just?

Meeks said I think you'd say radio equipment. I don't know what it is. I don't know what it is.

Chris Shaneyfelt said just vague radio equipment? Okay.

Missy said if you had a local group who wanted it, could you split it between the two?

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah, yeah.

Meeks said is it less, is it worth less than \$5,000.00?

Chris Shaneyfelt said I would think so now, yeah.

Meeks said well then you just get, send to Laura a, what you want done and she'll forward it to me and we'll get a resolution together.

Gary said thank you.

Chris Shaneyfelt said okay. I can check and see if they want half of it. I think that this guy, if I remember our email conversations right, he was willing to work with them.

Missy said you're talking, are you talking the radio club that's at the school or are you talking of somebody different?

Chris Shaneyfelt said it's the Randolph County's radio club. I don't know if they do things with the school or not.

Missy said I think they have some kids involved in it.

Chris Shaneyfelt said well, yeah, it's, it's a fairly, kind of used to be like the old CB radio stuff but it goes a lot further and there's a lot of people that enjoy it and you've got to have Federal licenses to do it, and stuff like that, so. But I just assume, it'll give us some rack space and stuff like that.

Gary said yeah, just go ahead and do what Meeks suggested there and then we'll get a resolution up for it and take it from there.

Chris Shaneyfelt said okay. Alright. Thank you.

Gary said thank you.

Sherri Thompson – Health Board Appointment, Change of hours

Gary said next up, Sherri Thompson. Health Board Appointment, Change of hours.

Sherri Thompson said yes. Sherri Thompson, Health Department coordinator. Jimmy Tharp had resigned at the beginning of the year and we did speak with Scott Patterson, the fire chief, and he is definitely willing to come on the Board of Health to help us out, so we're here to ask you to appoint him to the Board of Health.

Gary said this is a commissioners' appointment?

Laura said yes.

Gary said okay. And a fire chief for which department?

Sherri Thompson said Winchester.

Gary said Winchester?

Sherri Thompson said uh huh.

Gary said I don't have a problem. Does anybody have a problem?

Missy said no.

Tom said no.

Gary said somebody like to make a motion to appoint?

Missy said does he have to leave, are those by district, you have to have so many from each district or anything?

Sherri Thompson said yeah.

Missy said does he meet that criteria?

Sherri Thompson said yes, he does.

Gary said each political party?

Missy said no, they, usually it's from, it's almost like a district like we are.

Meeks said there's a whole statute that says so many nurse practitioners, so many.

Missy said and he's not related to anybody on the board or employees?

Sherri Thompson said no.

Missy said I make a motion we accept that recommendation.

Gary said we have a motion to accept the recommendation of Scott Patterson, correct?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Tom seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Gary said change of hours. What are you talking about there?

Sherri Thompson said in the past, when we had our full HFI money, part of our KPIs were to do extended hours, and we had two days that we did extended hours. But with the staff being cut, we're not able to do those extended hours. So, we ask that we can just go back to the 8 to 4 hours Monday through Friday, and the reason is because the extended hours are in the employee handbook, so that would have to be changed.

Gary said okay. Explain these extended hours again, those acronyms you used are what?

Sherri Thompson said they are for the state. We have certain goals that they like us to meet, and it's key performance indicators is what KPI stands for. And with cutting back to part-time staff, we're not able to meet all those hours. So, and I have spoke with our Board and with the State, and they are both fine with it, if you are fine with it.

Missy said and how many?

Gary said what if we don't?

Sherri Thompson said then we're going to have some overtime.

Gary said is it a service that's needed?

Sherri Thompson said it has not been utilized. It seems like after the 4 o'clock hour, we don't have a lot of the public coming in and we would do by appointment anyway. So, if they couldn't come at those times, we can make an appointment for them to come in after hours and someone will take care of that.

Gary said okay, because if it is important, we have a flex schedule ability for everybody, if you could flex into that.

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Gary said why doesn't that work?

Sherri Thompson said because we only have three full-time employees and one of those is a nurse. The other two are not nurses.

Gary said okay. Tom?

Tom said well you think by the appointment, that covers, you're still going to do by appointment?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Tom said and that'll cover then, after hours?

Sherri Thompson said yes. That way if somebody can't come in until 7 o'clock, the nurse can come in at that point then, and cover that part of it and we wouldn't have to have all the extra hours.

Tom said and you will advertise that or how do you, how do you?

Sherri Thompson said yes. It says that we will do by appointment if necessary, after hours.

Gary said already, that's already in the handbook?

Sherri Thompson said you know, I'm not sure about that.

Meeks said it doesn't need to be. I mean, by appointment.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said I know some days you've had people come in, but not on a regular basis, I don't think, but, it warrants it. You probably get more people who come in early in the, like right at 8 o'clock to get their kids vaccinated so they can get them back into school.

Sherri Thompson said yes. That and on vacation days when the kids are on vacation.

Gary said does your Health Board make recommendation? Have they voted on it?

Sherri Thompson said yes, they have.

Gary said and they voted the affirmative?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Gary said okay. Meeks do you see any issues?

Meeks said whatever they want to do.

Gary said yeah.

Missy said and as much as you tried to advertise that you will open late, I don't know how many people really, I mean, how do you get it out to people to find out? So, I think most people didn't even, weren't aware that you were going until 6 at night on some days.

Sherri Thompson said well we had it on our social media.

Missy said well, you had it over everywhere.

Sherri Thompson said yeah.

Gary said okay. Before we make the motion for this, explain what hours we're reducing?

Sherri Thompson said on Tuesdays we were there until 6 o'clock, so it was 8 to 6, and then every other Thursday it was 8 to 6.

Missy said did you flex that? Did they come in late and then stay?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Missy said yeah, okay. So, it's really the same hours, you're just moving, everybody's going to be coming at the same time?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Gary said okay. Tom?

Tom said I'll make a motion we approve them switching hours just 8 to 4, Monday through Friday.

Missy seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Sherri Thompson said thank you.

Debra Johnting - APC Zoning Change for Stephen Stoltzfus 2nd reading, Notification of a Proposed Solar project

Due notice letter for solar project, # of parcels affected

Overview of requested Amendment to UZO to rebuild non-conforming residences

Report on CAV visit from Doug Wagner, DNR

Gary said Debra Johnting. Good morning.

Debra Johnting said good morning.

Gary said before we started with you, we have an ordinance here for the second reading. And that's Ordinance number 2026-04, ordinance to amend the zoning map of Randolph County, Indiana, and has passed on the first reading. Somebody like to make a motion to pass it, the ordinance on the second reading, Ordinance 2026-04? And this ordinance is to change a property to C3 in Lynn, Stephen Stoltzfus property.

Tom made a motion to approve.

Gary said we have a motion to approve ordinance 2026-04 the second reading. Do we have a second?

Missy seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Gary said we will read the third and final in two weeks. Is there anybody here today to speak to this ordinance 2026-04? Okay.

Debra Johnting said Debra Johnting, Area Planning Director. We, EDP sent their letter of intent to build a commercial solar system to me and to Laura that they have chosen a location for the new CSS. I notified the commissioners and requested a date. It should be no longer than 45 days after notification, which would be March 16th, for a hearing to decide if the location is approved. The commissioners will notify Area Planning Director of that decision afterward, after the hearing, 5 days after the decision. So, I didn't know if you had any questions. We're working on the due notice letter. Where did Brad go? We've made some edits that they sent to us.

Gary said one second, Brad to identify, he sat down.

Brad Dilger said Brad Dilger, EDP Renewables.

Gary said okay, go ahead Debra.

Debra Johnting said thank you. So, we didn't have a letter to start with because this is new, since we changed the soil ordinance. So, we started with one that we used for the APC. You'll get a copy of the final. We're still working on what to put in. I think they'll just, we've decided they'll just get a copy of the GIS overlay that you received that picture. I worked with LEAP and Darrin at the GIS WTH to get, they actually took our overlay into their system, created an

address list for the location plus a thousand feet around. And now, EDP has all those lists and is working on.

Brad Dilger said and it's a list of about a hundred and twenty addresses that we'll send out.

Debra Johnting said we started with about 360, but we have a lot of duplicates.

Brad Dilger said yeah, of course, there are some duplicates and so, working on narrowing down that list and then a couple of other things that Deb has pointed out is with the typical notices that public notices that are sent out, although it's not specified, we are going to plan to put a notice in the newspaper as well, just to kind of cover basis because of the public nature of the meeting. So, I'll work with Deb on that and get that you know, ready for publication. I think that needs to go out this Friday to meet the timelines. I guess that's all depending on a date that the public meeting will be scheduled for. So, I think that's ultimately what we're trying to figure out today.

Deb Johnting said yeah. We need a date for the hearing to be set.

Gary said you need a date for a hearing today?

Brad Dilger said to meet our 45-day requirement, I think we do need to figure that out today, because I believe we have to send out notices 20 days prior to that.

Gary said we meet every two weeks so, we generally do public hearings before we open commissioners meeting.

Brad Dilger said okay.

Meeks said did you want to do it, did you want to do it?

Gary said I was getting ready to ask that. Our meeting at the same time?

Meeks said well that's, I think that's the question.

Laura said we have March 2nd or the 16th.

Meeks said March 2nd is going to be too quick. You're not going to have 20 days.

Missy said I thought at that meeting that you guys mentioned March the 16th. I don't know why I thought that.

Debra Johnting said well because of the 45 days. We received this the day after the commissioners' hearing, the last commissioners' hearing. So, even though.

Meeks said I'm just saying if you're going to do it, maybe do it 11 o'clock.

Debra Johnting said you guys received the information, their request to count the days, there's only two potential hearings.

Gary said okay, that's a good idea, in the middle of the month, not the first of the month?

Meeks said well if you're doing it on March 16th.

Gary said yeah.

Missy said so, would the 16th work?

Meeks said or I don't know. No one ever shows up those things, public hearings.

Debra Johnting said it would be the last potential hearing to meet the criteria. I don't know that we did the math exactly on you know.

Meek said but I feel like this one might.

Debra Johnting said 45 days sounded like plenty of time, but it depends on when the request comes in.

Gary said does March 16th work at 11 a.m.?

Brad Dilger said yeah, I mean, that's totally fine.

Meeks said now you have a drainage board meeting.

Gary said no, that's on the first.

Meeks said oh, that's on the first.

Gary said that's why I want to go to the middle of the month.

Meeks said so what you would do is if you did that and you're still going through the commissioner meeting, you would recess the commissioner meeting. Have the public hearing.

Gary said then go back and into session.

Meeks said then go back.

Gary said yeah.

Brad Dilger said should it be pushed to 11:30 just to accommodate? I don't know.

Meeks said I don't know.

Tom said I don't think we hit 11 this year.

Meeks said we haven't really hit 11.

Gary said not in the middle of the month.

Meeks said not in the middle of the month.

Gary said we're in the middle of the month right now. We might get there, but.

Meeks said yeah.

Gary said it usually picks up towards the bottom of the agenda. We will just go into recess.

Meeks said yeah, we can go recess. When I started, whether, we had commissioner meetings all day. Like I didn't get out of there until 2 or 3 o'clock. So, it's not like you can't break for lunch and come back.

Brad Dilger said March 16th at 11 a.m.

Meeks said and I'm not advocating to go through to 2 or 3 o'clock.

Gary said yes, Brad, yes.

Debra Johnting said and Meeks, will the comments be limited to 3 minutes like?

Meeks said that would be up to the commissioners, but that's what I would think that it would be 3 minutes.

Gary said yes. 3 minutes.

Debra Johnting said okay. We actually, when we do the APC hearings in the rules of procedure and the, for BZA and APC we have written that in. So, we don't have to put that in the letter. This doesn't really have rules of procedure.

Brad Dilger said yeah, I think we're figuring out the specifics right now.

Meeks said well when we do a public hearing, you have 3 minutes. That's our general, now sometimes, at the discussion of the commissioners, they can go longer, but.

Debra Johnting said obviously, if you have questions for the person, then it takes longer. We do that as well.

Gary said they have 3 minutes. We have whatever time we want to take, but they have 3 minutes.

Debra Johnting said yes, exactly, right. The other question was we were, APC was getting written letters from neighbors on the day of the hearing, which leaves no time for the petitioner or in this case, the commissioners to read that over. So, for the APC and the BZA, we, if they wish to make a statement and they cannot be present, we require 7 days ahead of time for them to turn that in.

Gary said I think that's fair.

Debra Johnting said when it's turned into us then I'll send it to both of you right away.

Gary said anything further Tom?

Tom said no.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said no.

Debra Johnting said and you can make that and set your discretion.

Gary said 7 days works for me.

Debra Johnting said if one comes in, I explained to Brad, if one comes in a couple of days ahead and you decide you can, you want to read it, you can, you don't have to.

Gary said the problem, if you open for one, you open for all.

Debra Johnting said right, correct.

Gary said so, if we decide that we let one in, then we decide they're all coming in at the very same time.

Debra Johnting said they will have, this goes out 20 days prior and that's a longer time period than the APC and BZA do, so they should be able to make a statement within 7 days.

Gary said okay.

Meeks said and that statement's going to go to your office, is that?

Debra Johnting said yes. That's how I have it right now.

Meeks said okay, that's fine. I just want to make sure it's not coming to Laura's.

Debra Johnting said no. No, I thought it would do just as easy to send it to us.

Meeks said I think it would be more appropriate for that, yeah.

Debra Johnting said we'll make sure that you all get it.

Meeks said I think that's appropriate.

Gary said okay. Anything else on this matter?

Debra Johnting said were there any questions on the addresses, how that's being done?

Gary said Missy?

Tom said no.

Gary said Tom?

Tom said no.

Gary said no, good.

Debra Johnting said I think we've covered it to find everyone as good as we can.

Gary said yep. If someone falls through, they fall through and we'll deal with it. But, when you're doing all the due diligence, then you are.

Brad Dilger said we are over notifying. Like, the area is very large, just making sure that everyone in that area is notified. So, that was one thing that we took from the comments from the previous projects, people can feel like they knew what was going on. So, that's why we're sending out so many letters.

Gary said I appreciate it.

Missy said does that have to be in publication like a newspaper or anything, is that required?

Brad Dilger said it's not required, but, well, it's not required within the ordinance.

Debra Johnting said right.

Brad Dilger said but I think public hearings are required.

Gary said yes.

Missy said yeah, because I didn't see that in that, because usually used to be.

Meeks said there has to be a 10 day. It says 10 days, but they're going to put that in the.

Brad Dilger said so, to meet that, we need to get it in by Friday, this Friday.

Missy said yeah, since the newspaper is only published twice a week.

Gary said alright. The other business is the ordinance you're working on?

Brad Dilger said thank you.

Debra Johnting said yes.

Gary said thank you, Brad.

Debra Johnting said the ordinance, the first request was to work on the variance.

Gary said yeah.

Debra Johnting said the second request was to make changes so that existing structures, past structures, anything prior to 2017 could be rebuilt. That's going to require a change to Article 2 which is much cleaner, easier to manage and at this time, if they meet the criteria, they will not have to have a variance at all. They won't even have to come to a hearing. If they say there was a building there 50 years ago, a residence, the burden of proof is on them. I'm not going to go back through the deeds and try and figure that out. Most of the time it's not that old. Everything goes to July of 2017, which is when we took over looking over the parcel splits. The reason that that is the best date is because these situations haven't happened since then. Anything prior to that could be.

Gary said okay. Alright. So, this one that started all this will be, won't be voted on in the?

Debra Johnting said it will not.

Gary said tomorrow night.

Debra Johnting said they haven't had a chance to look it over.

Gary said when I asked you a question what the timing is, are we in a timing frame now that the vote will come in March?

Debra Johnting said yes.

Gary said and then they will come back to the commissioners first of April?

Debra Johnting said April.

Gary said so the best that these people can rely on is the first of April?

Debra Johnting said if we think this is going the way I think it is, they could demo it right now, because this, I mean, I can't say they're going to approve it, however.

Gary said well he's personally asked me if I felt comfortable in demo and I said I don't feel comfortable letting do anything that's not ordinance yet.

Meeks said it's on, it's a risk but I think they can. I mean, I'd demo it if it was me, but, we can't tell them that.

Debra Johnting said I can't tell them that either. So, that's kind of, I tell folks you are kind of working at your own risk, however, a few of these.

Gary said I think this particular situation, that thing's coming down regardless.

Debra Johnting said yeah. That's true.

Gary said but I guess, back to my question on the timeline, right now we're on the track where the first meeting in April the commissioners can approve, right?

Debra Johnting said yes.

Gary said you going to send a recommendation at the March meeting?

Debra Johnting said yes, yes. We'll discuss it Wednesday night, tomorrow night. And I just, this doesn't bring in anyone who doesn't qualify.

Gary said right.

Debra Johnting said it's not going to create a lot of variance hearings. It will only restore someone that's had a residence out there.

Gary said yeah, okay. Thank you.

Debra Johnting said I think it's the best compromise.

Gary said I think we all agree on that.

Debra Johnting said good compromise.

Gary said yeah.

Debra Johnting said we did change a couple things in there. I've had a lot of questions about the 60 percent.

Gary said I know, I read that.

Debra Johnting said I believe one of the reasons that that was in there was because consider yourself with your home 60% destroyed by fire, and the insurance company comes in and says well hey you know, you have to rebuild on what you've got, and you're looking, it just depends

on what's happened and I just, I think it's a protection. However, we removed it, but we had to add the flood plain language because now, with the new flood plain ordinance, no matter what happens to that house, fire, tornado, anything, if it's damaged beyond, they have 50%, you might have to raise it up. And we have no control over that.

Gary said I didn't care for the 60% on somebody's lot.

Debra Johnting said I agree. It depends.

Gary said because the insurance company makes you build it back or then they, they will take the price down they're going to pay you if you don't get it just the way it was.

Debra Johnting said right.

Gary said it's arbitrary.

Debra Johnting said and it depends on what the destruction is.

Gary said right.

Debra Johnting said half the house might be perfectly fine.

Gary said well I never liked if it was wiped clear off by a tornado you have the right to build it back. The ordinance right now says you don't.

Debra Johnting said you don't if it was nonconforming.

Missy said right.

Gary said right.

Debra Johnting said only nonconforming. So, we just, we took it out.

Gary said I don't want to go too deep in it. Nonconforming or not, if a person's house gets blown down, and that's their house. I don't care what an ordinance says, it needs fixed, so that's not a loophole in my opinion.

Debra Johnting said yep. So, we've removed that. We added the flood plain language that if a structure is damaged, and not just by flood. When the tornado happened, I called Randy and he said well it's not a flood. I said it doesn't make any difference. Damage is damage. They don't care. If it gets damaged, they come in. So, kind of put a light bulb on that we have to kind of watch those kinds of things. We have to meet NFIP standards to be remodeled or rebuilt. That's all I have on that.

Gary said okay.

Debra Johnting said so, think we'll have a good discussion tomorrow night. We'll definitely vote in March.

Gary said okay. Tom, you're our liaison there, anything?

Tom said I do not.

Gary said okay. Missy?

Missy said no.

Gary said okay.

Debra Johnting said quickly on the CAV visit, the Community Assistance visit from DNR, we had about a dozen flood plain permits. A notable one is the water company, had to get a variance from them, because they're in the flood plain. And part of what they were doing, they had to get a variance to our current ordinance at that time. So, that drew the attention of FEMA and because of some mis-communication on their part, FEMA did not get our individual signed ordinances when we accepted the flood plain ordinance. And so, they said well Winchester never accepted their new flood plain ordinance, and DNR is going on our behalf to deal with FEMA and explain, I have notification to, at that time, President Mike Wickersham to me, signed by all of them, that we had adopted the flood plain ordinance. So, the reason this is important is because if FEMA decides that we were not and we didn't accept it, we could be taken out of the national flood plain insurance program. And we don't want to do that. So, I just wanted you to know in case you get a letter saying that they're considering that.

Meeks said I read the email, so, these smaller towns like Ridgeville, Parker, they accepted it too?

Debra Johnting said some of them signed the ordinance but however, we're going by Indiana Statute says that you either sign it and accept it, or in 90 days, that is your ordinance.

Meeks said that's what I thought. So, it doesn't matter.

Debra Johnting said Jason said that it does matter.

Meeks said oh, okay. That's what I read. That's why I, I was confused on the e-mail

Debra Johnting said Doug was formerly an Area Planning director. He knew the ordinance. I sent him the statute and I said I don't know how they can override this.

Meeks said okay, I was.

Debra Johnting but, since 2020, they have been, they have seemed to have more staff, money, but they're getting very involved in individual communities.

Gary said so, you don't have a choice.

Meeks said so, when the Area Plan, hypothetically, you get an ordinance, and if you don't, if you don't act on it within 90 days, you've accepted it.

Gary said okay.

Debra Johnting said exactly.

Meeks said and that's for the commissioners. That's for Parker. That's for Farmland.

Debra Johnting said it is.

Meeks said that's for Winchester. I mean it's.

Debra Johnting said whether it's on the zoning ordinance or a piece of property being rezoned.

Meeks said okay. Doesn't matter.

Debra Johnting said right.

Meeks said you, if you don't, if you don't want to do it, well you better reject it or it's going to, then you have then accepted it.

Debra Johnting said we have actually had a town that thought they could put it off long enough that they wouldn't have to accept it, and after 90 days, they were very upset because it was, the zoning was changed.

Meeks said right, it's just how it works.

Gary said yeah.

Meeks said and so, this, that's why I was very confused with the email. That's why I was asking, because like hold on, it doesn't really matter does it, because, of course, I looked at all the cities I represented first, they're not on that list, so it's good. But like, hold on, you know.

Debra Johnting said FEMA apparently.

Meeks said can't read the State Statute, is what you're saying?

Debra Johnting said apparently. And we would have sent all the ordinances that were signed to FEMA.

Meeks said and I think they would have signed it. And I think they would have signed it, yeah.

Debra Johnting said had they told us to do that. I think one of the emails that I sent, Doug says well, our representative mis-spoke, telling you that everything was okay. Well, I think that's on them, but FEMA doesn't work that way, so.

Meeks said so, there's nothing for us to do on that now?

Debra Johnting said not right now.

Gary said okay.

Meeks said thank you.

Debra Johnting said thank you.

Gary said thank you, Debra.

Ed Thornburg – Utility agreement

Gary said okay, we've got a utility agreement next, and it's work order 26-06, Indiana Michigan Power Company, various locations along Frank Miller road, re-doing poles. Somebody like to make a motion to accept this work order?

Missy said motion to accept.

Gary said we have a motion to accept. Do we have a second?

Tom said second.

Gary said a motion and a second. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

All aye votes.

Gary said I guess we should have said approved. Missy, would you amend that to approve?

Missy said yes.

Gary said and Tom, your second, amend to approve?

Tom said yes.

Motion carried.

Gary said thank you.

Joe Copeland – Bridge 29

Gary said alright. Joe Copeland, Bridge 29. You also have, this is for the recommendations that we open today?

Joe Copeland said morning, Joe Copeland, Randolph County Engineer. After reviewing the bids, low bid from Brumbaugh is missing at least one item. In the bid, it says list 7 items that are to be

included with the bid. One of those, one is kind of, they put a special form for non-inclusion affidavit in the bid specifications, alright. It's, they didn't submit it, but they submitted form 96, which has a non-inclusion affidavit. So, that's covered. But under B, they were supposed to submit the contract, signed contract with the bid. They did not. The next lowest bidder, Duncan Robertson did. Do you want to look at the requirements?

Meeks said yeah. If they didn't follow the requirements they didn't follow requirements.

Gary said right.

Joe Copeland said it's under the letter B.

Meeks said yes, that's pretty clear.

Joe Copeland said it's a 2-page contract, real simple. You know, you're going to construct the bridge, but INDOT wants to see that contract.

Gary said well we can't accept that without following the.

Joe Copeland said well, yeah. They needed to follow directions.

Gary said and the second, the next closest bidder was?

Joe Copeland said Duncan Robertson.

Gary said Duncan Robertson.

Joe Copeland said and they did submit all the requirements, the 7 items. So, I would, after Meeks reviews it.

Gary said which bridge is 29?

Joe Copeland said it's on 200 West up right there at 700 North.

Meeks said well, if they, you can't accept it if they hadn't follow the procedure, so I think you're going to have to do the next one.

Joe Copeland said well it's not fair to the other bidders.

Meeks said nope.

Gary said okay.

Joe Copeland said so I would, I would recommend to accept the second low bid from Duncan Robertson of \$646,765.12.

Meeks said for the reason that the other bid should not follow the bid specs.

Gary said okay. Would somebody like to make a motion to accept the bid from Duncan Robertson, \$646,765.12 because the lowest bidder did not follow the specs.

Missy made a motion to approve. Tom seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Joe Copeland said I need you to sign two places in the bid, and then I'm going to send this off to INDOT today, because we're required to have all this to them by the end of the month.

Gary said all the Community Corrections paperwork that we needed for the unemployment clearance all taken care of?

Joe Copeland said yes. Yes, they got that paid. So, that's, that is the contract.

Gary said right here?

Joe Copeland said yes.

Laura said can you send me a copy of that please?

Joe Copeland said huh?

Laura said send me a copy of that?

Joe Copeland said okay, or if you want to just send me a scanned copy?

Laura said yeah, I can do that if that's okay with you.

Joe Copeland said yeah, I'm fine, need it pretty quick.

Gary said where else do we sign? What else is going on Joe, while we're getting this document taken care of?

Joe Copeland said we're working on the asset inventory information update.

Gary said Duncan Robertson, they're doing that one out on the River Road?

Joe Copeland said that's a real small one.

Gary said I stopped by and looked at it yesterday.

Joe Copeland said and then I've got to put together a list of, start getting a list of the bridges going out and large culverts. On the large culverts, we've got to get moving. We have a lot of them in the works.

Laura said I'll just scan it to you as soon as I get downstairs.

Joe Copeland said here's all the bids. I need you to scan all of this, scan that, scan this, scan this.

The State wants it all.

Laura said okay, so scan all this in and send it to you, just this bid?

Joe Copeland said yeah, you can keep it separate if you want.

Laura said well I have to keep them anyway. I have to scan them anyway.

Joe Copeland said and the full form 96, which includes financial statements.

Laura said okay, got it.

Gary said okay, well ladies and gentlemen, we'll get back onto the business. Joe, is that all you have?

Joe Copeland said yes sir.

Gary said anybody have anything for Joe?

Missy said no.

Tom said no.

Gary said alright, thank you.

Other Business:

Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff

Gary said other business, Sheriff.

Art Moystner said Art Moystner here, sheriff of Randolph County, for a little while longer. I wanted to come up. I don't really have anything for you today, but I wanted to come up and kind of build off of what you guys were taking about with Chris Shaneyfelt before with emergency services. I guess I have a suggestion or a request.

Gary said okay.

Art Moystner said maybe we put something together where we have a commissioner and a couple council members that would be able to talk informally with emergency services, that would include Gary Moore, myself and Chris Shaneyfelt. We have, I have two open road positions. One of those positions has been open for a year and a half. I would share with you at the end of this year, I'm leaving. So, they're going to be down three. There's a good chance somebody else is leaving, which puts them down four on the road for Randolph County. You're going to have a lot of experience walking out. I know Chris Shaneyfelt can be done at the end of the year. That's 40 years in emergency services. Myself have, I have almost 40. Ken Hendrickson has almost 40. And there's an opportunity there to talk and see what those changes are and we can share that with commissioners or, and, or council, moving forward, because if you have a lot of new people in positions going into next year and a lot of openings, you don't have the other employees in emergency services aren't sitting with the same number of years. I mean, you're talking they have less than half the time some of us have. And I just think it's something that, and I've been saying it for a while, that we need to make some changes in some of the places for emergency services because it's not attractive to come here right now. And I've said that off the record. I'm saying it on the record today. And I guess I'm asking you know to get the county leaders that are in these positions to come together with us so that we can sit down in more of an informal setting and just have some blunt discussions, back and forth, of things that we see we could do. To check with you guys, you guys are the ones that have the finger on the financials and some of the other stuff in the county. I keep track too, but to have some of those discussions. I mean, we're talking about courthouse security, where you're going to add 3 new employees. I know the comment was made in our security meeting the other day by the president of our council, that he would like to have some of this in place by the end of the year. I don't think you're going to get employees. And that scares me to death, because I'm trying to get people out on the road and I'm going to try to get 3 into the courthouse. I think we need to start having some really candid conversations informally with the leaders that are involved in the offices. You can do the same thing with the courthouse. If there are concerns in the courthouse in some of those, they want somebody, then that's fine. But I think we need to start having some of these conversations, or you guys are going to end up in dire straits. Like I said, I'm done in 10 months.

Gary said I think the conversations are good. I'm not real keen on the informal part. I don't mind setting another meeting.

Art Moystner said no, what I'm saying is if we set something up and we have those informal conversations.

Meeks said don't you have a liaison? I mean, literally, from the council and the commissioners, can't you talk to the liaisons and have a meeting?

Art Moystner said Meeks, do you know how many times in the last 7 years I've had a councilor or commissioner in my office to talk to me about how the office runs?

Meeks said well, you tell them, don't talk to me. Call the liaison. I'm not.

Art Moystner said so, I'm not, I'm not trying to be rude, but I said it in a meeting the other day is we started a project at the jail because the systems are failing. I still don't have that project moving.

Gary said it's moving. It's just not over there. It is. I mean, I told Jake because he's talking, he's got some vendors right now. That's got to happen first.

Art Moystner said I understand. I don't disagree with that.

Gary said okay.

Art Moystner said but when we started down this road, this project was going to start last year. I'm 2 months into this year and we still haven't started the project. I don't know if my system is going to last this summer.

Gary said we can't go any faster.

Art Moystner said and I understand that.

Gary said I talked to Jake, because I thought maybe, there is maybe a month lull there.

Art Moystner said but my point being.

Gary said but that's all.

Art Moystner said and I'm not, I'm not trying to argue Gary, I'm really not.

Gary said I'm not arguing either, but in defense of Randolph County government.

Art Moystner said I'm just saying if we can do some things informally, it's easier sometimes to have those conversations when you're not sitting in front of a microphone.

Gary said right, the only thing you can't make any policy then.

Art Moystner said and in a public forum. And I don't think they should, but if you have those meetings, then that's recommendations that we can bring back to the whole body.

Gary said and I think Meeks is right. We have liaisons and in two weeks when Chris comes back, we'll have time think about it and start setting something up.

Art Moystner said and I don't know who those liaisons are? I'm not sure who it is from council for me. I've seen my, well, yeah, I do know who council is. I've seen that liaison maybe once.

Gary said okay. Well, let us all have a chance to respond. We'll revisit this situation in 2 weeks.

Art Moystner said and that's fine.

Gary said and you're probably, I mean, you're right, we all need to care about emergency services.

Art Moystner said buy you're going to see, and you're going to have a lot of experience leave.

Gary said no doubt about it.

Art Moystner said and I can tell you personally, I'm not coming back after I'm gone, to fix it.

Missy said I don't mean, I don't mean this sarcastically, but you know that I visit you every year, sometimes two.

Art Moystner said and I don't disagree with that.

Missy said yeah, but I think some other, I think council and commissioners, maybe they don't feel like they should pop in, and I try to set appointments.

Art Moystner said oh, I welcome it.

Missy said but I never do. I just always pop in on you. But I think it's, I've learned a lot by going to every department and, except the highway and I don't understand a lot of the big trucks, they're always good.

Art Moystner said I welcome wholeheartedly because you can make better decisions when you're informed.

Missy said yeah.

Art Moystner said and you know. So, that's all I'm asking. That's all I'm suggesting.

Gary said sure.

Missy said I think it's a good suggestion.

Art Moystner said whether you do it or not is entirely up to you.

Gary said well hold on please. Tom, do you have anything for the sheriff?

Tom said I do not.

Gary said Meeks?

Meeks said no.

Gary said I don't either. Have a nice day.

Art Moystner said thanks.

Gary said thanks, Art.

Minutes of February 2, 2026

Gary said alright. Minutes, February 2nd, 2026. Somebody like to make a motion to accept the minutes? Everybody's had them emailed to them.

Tom made a motion to accept the minutes. Missy seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Payroll Claims \$378,844.02

Gary said payroll claims, \$378,844.02.

Tom made a motion to approve. Missy seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Regular Claims \$1,581,334.97

Gary said regular claims, \$1,581,334.97.

Tom made a motion to approve. Missy seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Randolph County United Claim \$20,134.34

Gary said next Randolph County United claim, \$20,134.34. Somebody like to make a motion to approve?

Missy made a motion to approve. Tom seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Saratoga blight demo claim \$10,000.00

Gary said Saratoga's blight claim, \$10,000.00. They have met all the requirements, correct?

Laura said yes.

Gary said they have met all the requirements. Somebody like to make a motion to approve?

Missy made a motion to approve. Tom seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Ertel wellness agreement

Gary said Ertel wellness agreement. We need to approve the date for the health bus, April 28th to the 30th, correct? That's the correct date?

Laura said yes.

Gary said April 28th to the 30th. Somebody like to make a motion to approve?

Missy made a motion to approve. Tom seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Community Correction letter of support

Gary said Community Correction's letter of support, the equipment contract. What is equipment contract?

Laura said that's for new ankle bracelets, I think.

Missy said yeah.

Laura said did you see that Meeks.

Meeks said yeah. Sounded like they needed it, but, yeah.

Missy said and it's a lower bid then what they're running on right now.

Laura said I sent that to our insurance agent who sent back what they needed to change in this.

Meeks said yeah, and then they sent it to me and I said as long as the insurance is okay with it, it looked fine to me.

Gary said okay, the first order of business with Community Corrections is approval of the letter of support. Somebody like to make a motion to approve the letter of support?

Missy made a motion to approve. Tom seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Gary said and equipment lease and service agreement.

Tom made a motion to approve.

Missy said second. And again, that's using a different company that I believe that she said used to be in California, now it's in Indiana and it's cheaper also.

Gary said okay. Alright, we have a motion, we have a second, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Probation's Atlas Collections agreement

Gary said Probation's Atlas Collections agreement. We've already approved this.

Laura said yeah, we just didn't have the completed contract to sign.

Meeks said it's 35%, which is normal. That's why I said, that's the blank they filled in. I looked at it this weekend.

Gary said okay. So, do we need a motion just to sign the contract?

Meeks said yep.

Gary said somebody like to make a motion to sign this contract with Atlas?

Missy made a motion to approve. Tom seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's monthly report

Gary said Treasurer's monthly report. Somebody like to make a motion to approve the treasurer's, basically, we're just accepting. It says approve though.

Tom made a motion to approve. Missy seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Emergency Closing policy discussion

Gary said okay, emergency closing policy discussion. Meeks sent out the changes we so desired to change from Irwin for the emergency handbook, the employees' handbook. I, I don't want to do much discussion. I stand pat that we really don't need to change our handbook. We have flex time, we have personal time, we have vacation time. People could have come in and worked, departments can open up, they can close, however, that's where I'm at. I don't want to change it, but, I'm one. Tom?

Tom said I don't want close it right now. I still want to look at it, but I'm not ready to make a decision today on what we're doing.

Gary said okay, so you're making a motion to table?

Tom said I would make a motion to table.

Gary said Missy, and your thoughts?

Missy said my thoughts are that we set a, I think we should allow them to. There are family situations. There are single parent situations. And I think to show support for our staff, I am in support of coming up with an emergency closing policy where they do not have to use, to a certain amount of days, they do not have to use their vacation or time off days.

Gary said okay.

Tom said I'd like to see us to meet and figure out what our policy is and then have the council see what the cost of it is going to be before we vote on it.

Missy said yeah.

Laura said how would you know the cost because you don't know how many days you're.

Tom said well potential cost, yeah, I agree.

Gary said you have to do cost per day.

Laura said for instance, we closed on the day after the tornado, and then two years later we closed one snow day, so, one day per year for every couple of years?

Tom said well I guess just the cost per day and how it's going to affect us.

Gary said okay. You know, I was on the fence you know, I'm just, we also have flex time. People don't have to lose time.

Meeks said I guess you could figure that out by just figuring out what your per day, how much you pay the employee. Although, you're getting time and a half on the other, so, you'll get a pretty good rough idea of what your daily payroll, whatever your daily payroll is.

Gary said yeah, because emergency services will be the ones in.

Meeks said well, you're still paying them, so that's going to be that. But you're ending up paying time and a half or whatever.

Tom said talking about payroll, how difficult would it be to get a report on overtime for last year since that was the first year, no comp time to, know whatever department, and where we were at, what was spent?

Laura said for 2025, overtime amount?

Gary said you probably can break that right down to the payroll department, right?

Laura said right.

Gary said you want departments, right?

Tom said yes, by departments.

Meeks said I will say when we originally did it, we did have a, everybody had a crap ton of comp time. So, I went back and looked at my notes and that's why I think the policy was like it then.

Tom said didn't affect anybody.

Meeks said because it didn't affect anybody. And so, that's just what they did. Now I don't think there was a whole lot of discussion back then about it, but I remember and I looked back in my notes, good thing I keep notes. And that's, I just wanted to let everybody know. Beforehand, you did pay for it and then, but we were dealing with 400 and, some people have, I mean, we were paying out comp time because they were over the limit and we didn't know. And we didn't know. So, just to let everybody know that.

Gary said yeah. The first time we paid down a significant.

Meeks said significant. Several times we paid significant monies down to get that under control.

Gary said we were even out of what was allowable per person.

Meeks said yes, we were outside the.

Gary said outside the guidelines, law, actually. Okay. Any more discussion on emergency closing? We'll look at it and in two weeks we'll.

Meeks said well I think you have a motion, and you need a second to table it.

Tom said to table it.

Laura said to table it.

Gary said oh, a motion to table it. Thank you.

Missy seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

RCU Discussion

Gary said alright, RCU discussion. So, at the end of the last meeting, I had this put on so that it just wouldn't sit there and go away, because it needs discussion of where we're going to go with the Randolph County, not necessarily Randolph County United, they stand alone. It's what do the commissioners want for the money we're paying for Economic Development, because Randolph County United does not answer to the commissioners, however, our dollars speak quite loudly. And the commissioners will be coming up on a contract this year for what we want to do and what we want to see continuing. And we have a meeting tonight and we have representatives from RCU here right now. If they would like to come up, maybe would be a good time to come up and talk to the commissioners, or not, you don't have to.

Clyde Shaffer said I can always talk.

Gary said come on up.

Missy said can I point out something real quick?

Gary said yes.

Missy said and I don't have these numbers exact, so feel free to correct me if you need to.

Gary said let them identify as soon as he gets down before you say it, answer a question.

Sydnee Cseresznye said Sydnee Cseresznye, Randolph County United Executive Director.

Clyde Shaffer said Clyde Shaffer, RCU president.

Gary said Missy, go ahead.

Missy said okay, thanks. So, I've been asked to serve on some of the committees and was glad to do so you know, when I have time, not all the time. And I also don't spend a lot of time, but I try at least once a month while they're in session, to get to the capital so can kind of listen and see what's going on. And the READI grant that was awarded to Randolph County through Randolph County United, 1.2 million dollars for a project in Union City to continue what they're building there, and then the daycare that Monroe Central Schools, go ahead.

Sydnee Cseresznye said so, it was 1.2 million. There actually, was total it was 2 million because you had \$800,000 in the Brave Little Learners. And that never, that project never fell through. The Winchester project was the million dollars that if we did not find a home for it was going to go to a different county in the region and Randolph County United, our team was able to find a home for that million dollars by way of three projects, one being Vision Corner, Phase Two of their project. That was about three hundred something thousand. Cardinal Greenway Trail, the bridge that operates in Randolph County was thirteen thousand. And then you have Monroe Central's childcare facility, which was about six hundred and fifty thousand we were awarded, or we awarded to them.

Missy said I guess my concern is don't throw the baby out with the bath water. If you have some concerns, I think you feel like, I feel like when you work through those concerns, because by talking to a few, two senators, I think to have, to say that if you do away with this completely, that it won't look, it won't look like we're trying or attempting to do economic development within our county. We know that we are at all times, and also, all the small cities and towns, they're always working and trying on that. But number one, you've really given a good face and I think I've mentioned this before, and you and I have had our disagreements, haven't we?

Sydnee Cseresznye said uh huh.

Missy said so, it's not like we always agree on everything. But I'd say I'm always right and going to say you're more right than I am, but we'll see on that.

Sydnee Cseresznye said no, I don't think.

Missy said but I think there's a lot that people look at when you're speaking at conferences, big conferences, and they pack the place, to say that we have you on a program here or an organization here that helps us, I think has been a big advantage. And I'm going to admit that I have questions, not about the chamber, just sometimes some organization, is it involving everybody? The pay to play bothers me. But if I'm not a business who when you ask for five hundred dollars or whatever, it's their own, their own check that they're writing for personally, to pay those utilities sometimes. So, I guess I would hope that we have more, and it's my fault too, communication on you know, this is a new start up or this is a single parent or this is a grandparent who's doing this, that do they really have to pay five hundred dollars to join the chamber, or whatever else it might be. I just want to communicate more and that's probably been my fault in not letting you know, although, I have called you and let you know.

Clyde Shaffer said sure.

Missy said okay. So, I just don't want to completely say we're going to go away from this and do something else. I think we need to get together and see what we're going to be doing.

Sydnee Cseresznye said if I could address that portion, Missy?

Missy said absolutely.

Sydnee Cseresznye said so, obviously Randolph County United, I, myself, answer to about a 15-member board and then 10 elected officials with all their own passion points. And so, one of the consistent themes I heard when I was hired was that the chamber was, for lack of a better term, a social club, and that it was very much you know, you get access if you're a member. And I took that very seriously. Our organization takes that very seriously. Now, when you are a chamber member, you do have discounted access. But that is the notion that you cannot attend any of our events or things like that is not true anymore. It is open to the public. All inquiries for Randolph County United come through me now. I mean they might, they'll start in our form stack and our website, but they come through me. And I have a running list of people who have inquired with Randolph County United, and I have never once checked if they were a member. That's not, that's not my role. The things that they're asking about are not chamber benefits. It's hey, I'm looking at expanding my business, you know, does Randolph County United offer any of these resources. Hey, my church is dilapidated, you know, does Randolph County help with any of these things. And being a member is not at all, a criteria.

Clyde Shaffer said not a contingent, no. But there does have to be a reason that you know if Tom's going to put in his company and pay 250 bucks to be a member and he says what do I get, and you say nothing.

Sydnee Cseresznye said a lot of it is advertisement.

Clyde Shaffer said exactly. But he's going to get something out of it otherwise, we can never get to the self-sufficiency where taxpayer dollars aren't paying for the chamber. The chamber, I mean our whole focus is chamber needs to become self-sufficient and not on the taxpayer roles. And we're very focused on that. We have been, me and Gary have talked about this numerous times. And that's a goal that we're heading for because we know money is going to get tight. There's no secret there. And we need to be prepared for that, which means if we can get chamber completely self-sufficient, then we also don't have this fairness issue that taxpayer dollars is allowing Tom's business to get advertisement that my business is not getting because I'm not a chamber member. So, you know, that's, but there has to be a benefit to be a chamber member or no one's going to sign up and we're never going to get self-sufficient.

Tom said that comment right there is kind of what I had the problem of chamber joining Economic Development to begin with.

Clyde Shaffer said in the beginning, when they consolidated.

Tom said and I still think they should be two separate organizations, because Economic Development is something that every single business should have access to equally.

Clyde Shaffer said right.

Tom said just that when we did these, you're talking about the grants last meeting for 25,000 dollars going out potential grants, does the chamber send them a letter to all its members about the availability of all those grants?

Clyde Shaffer said they'll go out to every business in the whole county, not just chamber members.

Tom said and that's the question, the certain notifications, do they get certain notifications with every other business?

Sydnee Cseresznye said no, not for that grant program.

Clyde Shaffer said when we do something, we send it to every single business that we have an address.

Tom said that you have an address.

Clyde Shaffer said or a capability, which we have a master list that's really been updated to this point by Ruthie.

Tom said it's just hard to separate those two things. The chamber membership, as a member by definition, a member you get special treatment compared to non-members. And how does that as part of economic development is what I've always struggled with.

Clyde Shaffer said right. It's like, you know, the diner down at Modoc reached out. They had some issues and we reached out, actually, one of our members went and visited with them. They're not a member of the chamber or anything that we're aware of.

Tom said sure.

Clyde Shaffer said but any time a business has a need, we don't care if they're chamber or not chamber, period. It doesn't matter. Or, if they just need information, we provide information. The last thing Sydnee would ever do or I would ever do is go uh, you're not a chamber member, I'm sorry, we can't help you because at the end of the day, the only thing I care about is Randolph County growing, period. I want us to have success. Now, the chamber and chamber membership helps us do certain things, okay, that need to be accomplished. But economic development is outside of what the chamber does. I mean, Sydnee's last question would be are you a chamber member, because it has literally nothing to do with us reaching out and helping you be successful. I mean, it would have nothing to do with it, zero, at all.

Gary said okay. Anything else, Tom?

Tom said I don't, not right now.

Gary said I personally think, myself, the economic development should work in the Randolph Commissioners as a department and as good as Sydnee is and a lot of everything she does, she's not full time at Randolph County. We've provided funds when we put our contract together, to have a full-time in office economic director. And that's not what the selection committees did. And how long are we going to stay that way? Is that the way it's going to be forever and ever? To me, it's not acceptable, because one, that the boss is not in to monitor the crew all the time. To say that everybody's perfect, employees perfectly all the time, is not, is not true. So, I don't like the structure. I don't like the way it is. I don't think Sydnee did a thing wrong. I agree with you, Missy, she has a good reputation. That's not the issue that I'm dealing with. I'm dealing with we don't have an in-house person. And the fact is, I think the Randolph County Commissioners who are the face of the tax dollars, should be the ones making the decision on what gets done economic development. Doesn't mean RCU goes away. It just means you have to fund yourself in a different manner. Doesn't mean there's not a stipend that comes from Randolph County to help a little bit, like the Tourism and like maybe the Chamber. But I don't think we're getting pure economic development with the EDIT dollars that we, that I need to see. That's where I'm at. It's not personal to any one person. I just don't like the structure at all. And you know, and when we get on to the Chamber of Commerce I agree you say the right things, everybody does. I would too. But I don't know if that's a 100 percent what happens.

Clyde Shaffer said right.

Gary said nobody does. The other part is, is I can't get over this trip thing either. I just can't get behind that when tax dollars are supporting that over there, that somebody doing their job gets a gratuity of the trip instead of just taking the value of that trip and adding it to the profit to help get self-sustainable. It's my understanding, is it correct that not only did the trip, that employee get to go on the trip, somebody covered that for you while you were gone? That was a cost.

Clyde Shaffer said uh.

Gary said the trip was done by.

Clyde Shaffer said no, we didn't bring in any extra staff.

Gary said the extra staff that was there had to.

Sydnee Cseresznye said took PTO.

Gary said the staff that was there had to do the work that that person wasn't there to do.

Sydnee Cseresznye said yes, she took PTO for it, so, she didn't get that time off unilaterally.

Gary said so, was the person paid to be on the trip by the hour?

Sydnee Cseresznye said I don't.

Clyde Shaffer said she's salaried, so yeah. I mean, technically, yes.

Sydnee Cseresznye said well she, right, she can use her PTO how.

Gary said did she have to use PTO to go on the trip or did she use?

Sydnee Cseresznye said no, she used PTO to go on the trip.

Gary said so, her vacation?

Sydnee Cseresznye said her personal, her vacation time, her PTO.

Gary said so was there a per diem paid?

Sydnee Cseresznye said per diem pay, I don't think that's how ours.

Clyde Shaffer said we don't do per diem pay.

Gary said you do per diem. Per diem is in the manual.

Sydney Cseresznye said it's just 8 hours a day.

Gary said but did you pay per diem for meals while this person was on the trip?

Sydnee Cseresznye said no, no.

Clyde Shaffer said oh, no. No, I'm sorry, I didn't understand what you mean on per diem.

Gary said okay. Why didn't we just instead of giving gratuity to one employee that the taxpayers really funded, why didn't we just take that to profit to help get self-sustainable, sell one more trip? But anyway, these things are.

Clyde Shaffer said well they invite as many people as they can on the trip.

Gary said I know, but the very last trip went to an employee. It could have gone to another payer. I'll move on from this.

Clyde Shaffer said yeah, because we have to send somebody that helps keep it organized. I mean there's a travel.

Gary said why? Then it's a function of.

Clyde Shaffer said the travel agency manages, organizes it, boom.

Gary said okay.

Clyde Shaffer said but I think having someone on, from the chamber there, maybe it's the president of the chamber, I don't know. You know what I mean? But, but there needs to be somebody there that is representative.

Gary said okay. That's just my difference in opinion. We won't get hung up on that.

Clyde Shaffer said sure.

Gary said these things, by the way, I'm not the only one with that opinion in the community who don't get this privilege by the, you know, the tax dollar.

Clyde Shaffer said well I.

Gary said the tax dollar backs it up.

Clyde Shaffer said I was going to say, tax dollar backs it up, but it's also.

Gary said without the tax dollar, you couldn't have this service over there.

Clyde Shaffer said exactly, but, our goal is to get to where it's not tax payer dollars, okay? And this is a fundraiser, and it does raise funds which help us put on different programs that we do, plus help self-sustain the organization. And the goal is, me and Gary have had these conversations, so it's nothing new between me and Gary. Only difference is where you say you guys disagree and sometimes, I'm always right, Gary's questionable at times, but, anyway, on a serious note, our goal is to get chamber self-sufficient, period, because there are gray areas. And we're never going to eliminate the gray areas until chamber is self-sufficient, because there will always be, well chamber director is on a trip that's raising 9,000 dollars-worth of profit for the organization. But how much tax.

Gary said I've never seen a run sheet either.

Clyde Shaffer said huh?

Gary said I've never seen the run sheet on how the 9,000 is justifiable.

Clyde Shaffer said okay. Well, we will get there.

Sydnee Cseresznye said it's in our budget.

Clyde Shaffer said is it?

Sydnee Cseresznye said uh huh.

Gary said no, I mean I want to see the layout.

Clyde Shaffer said the layout of the trip, like how many dollars did it cost to do the trip, what was brought in and what was left over?

Gary said employee cost to do it.

Clyde Shaffer said yes, yes.

Sydnee Cseresznye said I hear you, okay.

Gary said yeah.

Clyde Shaffer said and one of the things we are doing right now is we re compiling exactly what this chamber cost, because you can't just go oh, this is Carrie's salary. You can't say that, you've got to say what does the office space cost? Boom.

Gary said correct.

Clyde Shaffer said and we are starting to put that together because for us to be self-sufficient, we definitely got to know what the expense column is, what the income column is. Then we can start to project when can we get this thing balanced up, because that's where we need to be, period.

Gary said well this is all good and fair conversation and what we're on. I don't like the structure and not because of the people, because I don't like the structure. And I think we have, the commissioners need an office of commissioner affairs and we're taking care of economic development and we work with RCU. But RCU cannot even exist without our funding.

Clyde Shaffer said correct.

Gary said so, you know, we give funding.

Clyde Shaffer said and no one objects to that.

Gary said we give funding to all the towns \$10,000. They also get economic development funding of their own, just like we do. Only, we're the only payers.

Clyde Shaffer said right.

Gary said and I think we miss out by not having people who are working directly for us doing what we, the commissioners want done, without a board telling us yes or no.

Clyde Shaffer said yeah.

Gary said we have the constituents, we have our own. So, that's kind of my difference of opinion. Now people can take that as, I don't like anybody, that's not the truth. I just have a difference of opinion of structure.

Clyde Shaffer said and our goal is to be very, I mean, I think we're, we listen extremely well to the commissioners and what their needs are. We listen to county council. You know, Scott Fisher represents county council. Scott definitely speaks up. Gary represents you guys. Gary's not shy. Gary speaks up, and so we do hear what you guys say. And we're trying I mean, to make things happen. You know, one of the things me and Sydnee were just talking about is at the end of the day, whether somebody is sitting in that seat 8 hours a day 5 days a week, to me is not the most important thing. Whether we're moving the county forward is the most important thing, results. The results of what we do is more important in my opinion, okay. And it is how many grant dollars are we bringing back to the county? Does that justify? And someone can say well, if we had our own person, we could get those same grants. Probably could, okay. But, we can't do on what might be. We can only tell you what is. So, for us, it's about the amount of money that we're bringing back, you know, half a million dollars for the Brownfield grant that's, is it complete yet or is it done?

Sydnee Cseresznye said it's submitted. We won't find out for a few months.

Clyde Shaffer said those things, and then we've started to develop this dashboard. And you know, Gary has harped about this since I can remember, medium value homes in Randolph County is 113,000 dollars. The only county that's lower than us is Blackford. Jay's, every other county is higher, which means our housing stock has slipped extremely low and this building of new housing is just something that has to happen, okay. And it doesn't always have to be all high-end housing. It can be middle income housing too. But our housing stock has dropped, period. And we know that from the data that we look at from the state of Indiana. A positive is Randolph County, when you look at the per capita personal income, now this is a 23 data because that's all that we could access at this point, we rank number 43 in the state of Indiana. And we're higher than Delaware County. We're higher than every county around us on per capita. But when you go to the household, we drop, and we aren't higher than everybody. We go to number 77, which goes back to this childcare thing. What that tells me when I look at the data, and I'm no professional, but when you've got personal income that is the highest in the area, then when we look at household, we drop, that tells me we've only got one person in the household probably working, because we don't have proper daycare. I mean, we're working on it. It's not there hasn't been efforts to make this happen, but it needs to be doubled down on, because we've got to get the other person in that household working, period. Or, they're going to continue to be in the poverty levels. And those are all the things that we're kind of focused on, we're trying to work on. You know, we look at this dashboard, pre-owned homes in other words, owned by the people that are living in them, we're one of the highest. We're at 70.2%. The state, the state average is 64. So, that's a positive for us. That means even though we gripe about rentals, in this county, we've got a lot of home ownership, okay. And that's a string. But Gary, for me, as we look at these numbers, what you guys need to gauge us on is the amount of money we bring back and how we drive these numbers up, so that we are ranking in the state, continues to climb, because that's going to mean success for our people. And it also means funding for you guys, because income tax is what you guys have to have. You're already at the top of the scale. You can't raise it any more. So, the only way to generate more money so you can have a 911 that's running full staff, you can get your sheriff's department full, you guys got to have more money. It's not like you're sitting on a pile of cash you just don't want to give it out. It's just not, it's not sustainable to do. Only way you can sustain it is we have to increase

the number of homes that have income levels that are high in this county, period. It's, we just have to do that, because with assessed valuations, I don't understand it as clear as Gary does, but we can keep adding properties but that's not going to increase a tremendous amount of income because of all the caps that are in place. So, income is our most likely place. That means we have put people in homes inside this county. And we've got to have them make good income in order to help you guys fund.

Gary said right. Local income tax is not restricted by max tax levy.

Clyde Shaffer said exactly. So, that's where I think we ought to be gauged from, okay?

Sydnee Cseresznye said well.

Gary said fair point.

Clyde Shaffer said go ahead.

Sydnee Cseresznye said just real quick, because I think this data is very important, that data doesn't change in one or five years.

Clyde Shaffer said yeah, it takes time.

Sydnee Cseresznye said and so I think some of the examples that I can give you that Randolph County United is doing right now to help those data points, help set up the county for success, as it relates to those data points, is the Brownfield Grant. I mean, we'll be so blessed if we get awarded that because you know, I, because of, and this is I think because partially why I was hired, because of my background, I do know the home builders. I do know the commercial developers. I mean, these people are people I work with all the time. And they can't build if there's no infrastructure or land available. And I think that in order for us to get the housing, to get the people who are working, we need to have land that's environmentally able to be built on. So, you guys have your blight program. I think this Brownfield Program would complement that very well so that we can start re-working land that could potentially be used for housing projects in the future. I'm pretty passionate about, pretty passionate about our infrastructure committee. I think before you get the vertical, you get the, under the ground, right? And Scott Fisher has been really good with educating me on a lot of those dynamics. And so, I think Randolph County United's place in that, because I don't think that's a Randolph County United effort, I think it's an entire county effort, is to make sure that we're bringing in the income that allows the county to not have to spend the money like on Brownfield, so that you can put up money for infrastructure so that the taxpayers don't have to back that right, and us be a support system in that way. But it's definitely an all hands-on deck effort that I think that we're pretty self-aware about.

Gary said okay. These discussions needed to start. They need to start right now. There's a contract coming. I think there's going to have to be more discussions to get the contract through and where we're going, how we're doing it. But I appreciate you coming in, both of you. Anybody, before you go, anybody have anything else for them?

Missy said yeah, I mean, what do you think on House Bill 1001? I mean is it?

Sydnee Cseresznye said so, I want to say something really quick before, I get asked about legislation a lot here and that's fine. I think that me, I'm looking at the attorney when I say this, me saying that I'm not your lobbyist, I have to say. I know that it can seem like maybe a little frustrating, but I'm bound by legal obligations when it comes to being a lobbyist. And so, I need to say that because there's been some inquiries about my representation of Randolph County United, and if I was your lobbyist. And so, I have to maintain a very, there are strict ethical boundaries in law about this. Now, I cannot provide you advise. I can provide you with information. And my information about House Bill 1001 is that a lot of the county stakeholders, the commissioners' association, AIC, Aim, have been at the table. Farm Bureau is involved and heavily working on this. I know that pretty much every senator has heard about this. The bill is being heard tomorrow, and it'll be voted out of committee anticipating a rather large amendment. It's a pretty large bill with a lot of provisions, a lot of pre-emption of local authority as it relates to what you can do with your land, and the permitted uses around that. And so, time will tell. I think the advocates have been at the table offering solutions. And we have a senator here who represents Randolph County who sits on that committee. So, I imagine you've all talked to him and so, you know, we'll see. I think there's, we're expecting a lot of changes for that bill. It's a pretty wide sweep of local government autonomy.

Missy said well I mean, I've read that and I've talked to Scott Alexander on his way in, you know. And I understand some of the positives about it, but I also am concerned about.

Clyde Shaffer said local control. It's that's simple.

Missy said right. I mean so, right now, you know.

Clyde Shaffer said the people elect you guys to run our county. I, as a citizen don't have to like the way you run the county, so I go to the voting booth and I vote accordingly. But, I'm a firm believer we don't need the state dictating our policies to us.

Missy said yeah, yeah. Yeah, so basically, Boone County wants to be able to put about anything anywhere in the entire county. So, if some cheap manufacturing homes or whatever else comes in there or, less than, even, it could be a 1,000 square feet, and they can just put them in row houses wherever. We just had a, Tom is on that and he was working on a per acre in the county, you could only have one dwelling, one household on it. Well, I've read this and unless it changes it from what went through yesterday, it's just scary to me that you could have a bunch of housing flying up and they'd be 12 feet apart like the old houses were before you had any of those guidelines. I'm just wondering.

Sydnee Cseresznye said I think the permitted use.

Gary said it's on

Clyde Shaffer said it's some rule.

Missy said yeah, the permitted use will, yeah.

Sydnee Cseresznye said the permitted use I think is the biggest concern. Then you have your impact fees that you're capped at, and then limited to where you can use, which is a problem. I think the message to legislatures has been from the statewide associations that you know, counties across the board are supportive of affordable housing. We want our teachers to live in our community, our fire fighters, etc.

Missy said yeah, absolutely.

Sydnee Cseresznye said but this bill has no provision in it or word in it whatsoever, that requires the developer to pass down their savings to the homebuyer.

Missy said right.

Sydnee Cseresznye said and that's kind of been the consistent message.

Missy said well right now it's more profit for the builder.

Sydnee Cseresznye said I imagine you've heard from Tyler Warman from the Commissioners' Association and so, he's done a great job communicating with you guys locally. He's a fantastic person and you know, like I said, I'm always willing to provide information on that. And it's, we have two more weeks, so, this has to be done. So, we're hopeful for tomorrow.

Gary said okay. Anybody else? Thanks for your candid response.

Clyde Shaffer said thanks, Gary.

Laura said we have three transfers. The only reason you guys are being asked to approve these is because it's going back into renewables. So, we went ahead and included you guys on those three. You can do them all three at the same time. Just sign that 3 pages.

<u>Transfer</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
\$191,078.74	CCMG Bridge 250	Headwater's I
\$163,015.00	CCMG Bridge 304	Headwater's I
\$10,421.42	CCMG Local Roads	MVH Restricted

Gary said we have transfer from bridge 250, 2023-2, 4915 Windfarm Headwater's I, \$191,078.74. This is transferring back into the fund?

Laura said yes.

Gary said and then we have 2024-1, 4915 Windfarm Headwater's I, \$163,015.00 back into the fund, and transfer 2024-2 from 1173 Highway Motor Vehicle Restricted transferring \$10,421.42 back into the fund. Somebody like to make a motion to approve all three of these transfers at the same time?

Tom made a motion to approve. Missy seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Citizen Comments (3 minutes)

Gary said alright, now we at citizen comments. Anybody in attendance today, you have 3 minutes if you'd like to come up?

Brad Dilger said hello again. Brad Dilger, EDP Renewables. I just have more of a question than a comment, but I guess I could have asked this earlier during the portion when Deb was up, but do you have a specific, do you want general information? Do you have any specific questions for the presentation for the public hearing? I just, since this is a new step, I just want to give you.

Gary said I don't understand.

Brad Dilger said I mean we'll go over, yeah.

Meeks said I think at public hearing, it's just to listen to anybody that wants to come up and make their opinions heard. So, whatever you like probably normally present, would be just perfectly appropriate and you can talk to the people if they have concerns.

Brad Dilger said sure. Is there like a 10-minute presentation?

Meeks said usually 3 minutes, everybody gets 3 minutes. You'll get 3 minutes.

Brad Dilger said so, we'll have 3 minutes to present and then.

Meeks said everybody gets 3 minutes. Everybody gets 3 minutes.

Brad Dilger said okay, sounds good.

Meeks said if we give you more then we give everybody else more.

Brad Dilger said no, that's totally fair, just, again, I wanted to make sure that I understood.

Meeks said you don't have to speak if you don't want, just anybody.

Brad Dilger said yeah, we'll have some.

Meeks said or you might wait until the end of it and say well you know, I heard the concerns and here's what, you know, whatever you want to do.

Brad Dilger said yeah, we'll have like a map that can be discussed and looked at and I just again.

Meeks said that would be great. That would be probably something you'd want, just like what you normally would do with it, with the project.

Brad Dilger said sure, and it's been a minute since we've been at BZA, so.

Meeks said usually you bring a map and you tell them what you want to do.

Brad Dilger said but I thought there was like a 10-minute period but knowing that there's 3 minutes.

Meeks said not at these public hearings.

Brad Dilger said sounds good.

Meeks said public hearings, everybody gets a certain amount of time, whatever that would be.

Brad Dilger said good. I'm glad I asked the question.

Gary said for or against.

Meeks said usually we would then go into a normal meeting. In a normal meeting the Commissioner's if they had follow up questions. So, probably what I envision would happen, we would recess the normal meeting at that time. Have the public hearing and then if we don't have any questions then we would adjourn that public hearing. Reopen the next meeting and then close it if there are no questions. Or if there is further business.....

Brad said we will follow your lead on that one. I'll come prepared for 3 minutes. Sounds good.

Gary asked anything else Brad?

Brad said that's it.

Gary asked anyone else in attendance?

Jake Donham said like they had mentioned before the security committee met. I'm Jake Donham Randolph County Building Coordinator. I sent you all a highlighted list of things we deemed necessary to get this project started. Entry points on the first floor. Some additional security camera's, emergency contact system for the entire courthouse facility. Every office. The last thing is maybe some ballistic materials for the Judges benches, explore that option as well. I talked with Argo, Tony Jacobs he and I'd went back and forth. A lot of these things we think we can do in house. Just start getting some pricing and just get a yes or no is this what you want to do. So, I'd like you guys blessing to go ahead and start getting some calls out, get some vendors in here. Seeing what options are available. I want to use, as many contractors we've use in the past that are familiar with the facility. We've got some that are under contractual now with our phone, internet. That's going to be a large portion of a lot of this stuff too. Start feeling everybody out and see what our options are and getting some pricing and getting some of this stuff going. Try to be more aggressive with it. One of the council members would like to see some action taken and some of this stuff start wrapping up at the end of the year. I think we can do that on the mechanical side of the things. The personnel, that's you guys deal and I can work on some of this stuff and see if we can start getting some of it nailed down and get it in place.

Gary said I agree. I think the personnel will be more in the Sheriff's purview and the county council.

Meeks said the Sheriff sent out to Laura what the pay range is and that will go in front of the County Council at the next meeting. So, they need to fund it and we'll see how many they fund and depending on how many they fund that's how we'll proceed. I think doing the portico thing and putting the doors when you walk in on the east and west. Do the sally port. Those we can start getting numbers, literally if we can, if they did hire three people, we can hire them and even though we don't have all the, we can start security.

Gary said I spoke with Jake about this and he's willing to take on the project manager of this. I think we let him get started.

Tom said I agree.

Gary said I agree with what you are coming up with too.

Meeks said I think he wants a vote from you guys to proceed.

Gary said does someone want to make a motion to allow the Building Administrator Coordinator to proceed with getting our quotes.

Missy said I agree with that motion as stated. Tom seconded.

Gary said we have a motion and a second. Any further discussion? Jake anything before we vote on that needs added in?

Jake said I don't believe so.

Gary said all those in favor signify by saying aye.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Missy said are we going to talk about a stipend for Jake to do this?

Gary said not right now.

Jake said it's just part of the gig, I'm just doing my job. Just need permission to do it. It's the way the system works unfortunately.

Gary said he deals with contractors on all the buildings all the time.

Jake said I'll reach out to the Sheriff and the Judge and some of the committee. I know they put some of this pricing together before and their ideas on where some of the additional cameras and some of that stuff. I'll get that information and then we'll start getting some calls made and hopefully be back in the near future with pricing and some ideas.

Gary said I have zero doubt in my mind that we are going to get this done this year.

Jake said we'll push on it pretty hard. We'll be aggressive with it.

Gary said I appreciate it. Anything else? Anybody else have anything else for Jake?

Missy said I can't think of anything.

Gary said anyone else?

Todd Holiday county council. I saw an email this week with some proposed ideas for salaries for these three positions to staff the new security at the building. I know over the last couple years we talked about the ongoing cost of the, not the cost of getting it established there's about \$200,000 we've decided it's going to cost to get the building set up in a certain way. But as I think through this on going cost and Art mentioned today the difficulty in staffing. Other concerns about staffing positions, the EMS, now we're adding three more positions that somebody's got to manage the staffing on. When I look at public buildings in Randolph County that have security. I think mostly about the schools and I don't see that level of staffing at schools. I realize it's a different sort of environment there but I would think they would even be as much or even more concerned at those places about security and yet they don't have that level of staffing in place to handle their security. I don't know, but why we're thinking through the precedent that we are about to set up. I would like for the committee that's designing the security to take a look at what the schools do. Is there something that we could copy there that would result in a secure environment that costs a lot less per year to maintain.

Gary said okay. Thank you

Meeks said I would only say this. We are on the committee. I think the committee is about done at this point and now the council is just going to have to decide what they feel is appropriate staffing. I think that is the consensus of the committee. Now, I'm not going to say that the committee doesn't need to get procedures once those things are set. Who's going to be scanned, how we're going to deal with those things. But, I think the committee is at that point to say we've done what we can do to design and present that. I don't want to be speaking on behalf of the whole committee. There are two or three members here. But I kind of think that was the consensus at the end of the last meeting. So, now we need to know what, just to say this, if your going to fund one position, that's going to change things. Fund two positions, now we know, fund all three.

Missy said do we have to do three?

Meeks said I think that's going to be a decision that the council is going to have to make.

Todd said it sort of gets difficult though if the only proposition that we have in front of us is.

Meeks said I think you decide what you need to do and then you say we are going to fund this and then okay. Well maybe we just not put a scanner out there and just a walk through metal detector and I don't know.

Missy said I think the problem gets to be and I talked to Sheriff Moystner about this last week I think it was. He's short staffed the way it is. So, taking some of his people and putting them over here I think puts him in the future in a real bind as to what to do. I went to three courthouses last week. I started out at Portland and went to some others up there. There was a wide variety of them. Portland, just like it would be here. The employee's just have a badge just like we did at school where you just take it off and swipe it on a little pad on any door. Almost any door and you can get in. And he told me that there's two of them that handle the whole thing. One was armed, the other wasn't armed at least the day I was there. I'm remembering right now, I get the three confused a little bit. I said well don't you need? He said no, if we need a restroom break the other one is here. He admitted, I know its only one person but. He said if we had three people here two of us would be setting the whole time. And when you go in that door. It's the one that you enter from the south. That's where everyone who's a visitor has to come through. There was a little thing, you just walk through it and then they had a wand they could use if they wanted to. His opinion was the simple fact that it says you could not bring no phones, they didn't allow phones in two of the three. They had to stay in the car. I've been to another one in southern Indiana that does not let you bring phones. They don't have locker's to put them in, they don't have anything. It's just no phones. I know I'm talking about expense here and that's really worth looking at but the other way is how are you going to get people that can do it. They we're retired deputy sheriff's from Jay County.

Todd said Art could speak to this better than myself but I just looked at the dollars that was set on those positions and I'm sure he's basing that off of experience. I could see where he's going to, if I were in the field, I might want to take a position in the building and you may lose three more road people when you add three more in house security positions and you may be right back to, you know on the road spots. If we don't have to fill three positions, I think it's a benefit of not having you know the cost but also the head ache of trying to keep these positions staffed.

Missy said these guys were older and they did not make the same. They were not on, they were employed by the county, not through the Sheriff's department. And they didn't get paid, they were like \$40,000.00, \$41,000.00 something like that.

Gary said Council has a lot of work to do Todd. Anybody else. Seeing nobody coming forward Meeks do you have anything.

Meeks said the only thing I have to add to the discussion about the RCU is that the EDIT funds will be eliminated next year. So, any negotiations, multiyear negotiations will have to have to have the county council because the only thing I can think of is using general funds.

Laura said I have asked the state and there is no guidance yet on where that pot of money is going to go.

Meeks said I asked Jason just to see like if we had \$500,000.00 sitting around what would be allowable. First of all, no guidance. But, he thinks we are probably going to keep that fund and pay it all out.

Laura said so the Commissioner's would still have control of that fund.

Meeks said yes. Just any multiyear deal.

Gary said be careful.

Meeks said you are going to have to fund it through general funds. Just to let you know.

Gary said anything else?

Meeks said no.

Gary asked Tom?

Tom said just for your information. I'm meeting with the architect for the Community Corrections and Probation and Clerks office renovations today. That's moving on. We'll obviously talk about the Highway and the Coroner's office.

Gary said I reached out to SJCA to get some timing on the 800 North project. Laura?

Laura said I have nothing.

Gary said Missy?

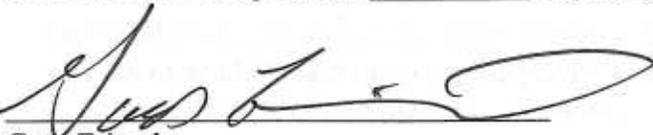
Missy said no.

Gary said with that would somebody like to make a motion to adjourn?

Adjournment

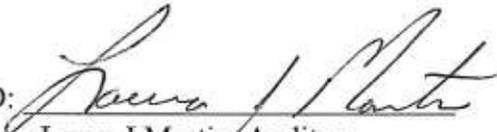
Tom made a motion to adjourn. Missy seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Reviewed and accepted this 2 day of March, 2026


Gary Friend


Tom Kerns


Missy Williams

ATTESTED: 
Laura J Martin, Auditor

