

## Randolph County Commissioners

January 2, 2024

The Randolph County Commissioners met at their regular meeting at 9:00AM in the Commissioners and Council Room in the Courthouse with the following members present: Board President Michael Wickersham, Gary Friend and Gary Girton. Also present was Randolph County Auditor Laura J Martin and County Attorney Meeks Cockerill.

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Pledge of Allegiance

### Selection of Officers

Mike said the first item on the agenda is the selection of officers for the Board of Commissioner's. The first officer to select is the president of the Board of Commissioners.

Gary Girton said I nominate Mike Wickersham for President. Gary Friend seconded.

Mike said we will take all officers at the same time. The next officer is the Vice President of the Board of Commissioner's.

Gary Girton said I nominate Gary Friend. Mike seconded.

Mike said does someone want to close nominations?

Gary Girton made a motion to close nominations. Gary Friend seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said all in favor of the slate of officers signify by saying aye. All aye votes. Motion carried.

### Council's update

Mike said the next item is the Council update. We have two people here from Council, Dave and Missy.

Dave said thanks for having us here. A quick observation, I was looking at the rainy-day fund on a recent spreadsheet that Sherrie gave us. I see we are up to \$1.6 million. I want to thank the Commissioner's and all the Council for getting to that point. It looks like we're on the right track moving forward and hopefully next few years we can continue that effort. Dave said we were talking about state road 32 being closed and 36, both within the next week for about 6-months. I'm sure Joe and Mike will have to work with the state to get an alternate route and let our people know what's going on. I found out last week that Community Crossings grants are going from \$1 million to \$1.5 million affective this year. Except there may be some expected changes in that. They are trying to get more of the money around the donut counties and Marion county for population growth. Our legislative group is fighting that. We did meet last Friday, the legislative group for the state of Indiana for County Council's. A lot of things are coming up.

For 2024 it's going to be a very short session. I think the last day is March 14<sup>th</sup>. They are going to try and get out before that time. Some of the things they are looking at is 13<sup>th</sup> check for retired people, there was a 13<sup>th</sup> check annually. Somehow that got negotiated out a couple years ago. They are trying to get that back into the mix because a lot of people depended on that.

Mike asked is that what is says it is? It's a 13<sup>th</sup> check annually?

Dave said yes, it sure was.

Gary Friend said every year?

Dave said yes, every year.

Gary Friend said it's different then when we had our 27<sup>th</sup> payroll.

Dave said right, this was automatic every year. There are a couple bills out there, senate bill 33 and senate bill 38. One deals with LOIT and public safety funds, the other deals with local fiscal responsibility. There are two others, senate bill 32 and 37, that's to deal with binding reviews. They are either going to put more teeth into it or do away with it. I don't know which way it's going to go.

Mike asked is that for County government?

Dave said yes, county government.

Mike said what' the Council organization's position on those bills?

Dave said they've not made a stand yet on them. They want to see how it goes through this session and then after this session they will make a stand.

Gary Friend said the binding versus non-binding is ridiculous.

Dave said it is right now the way it's set up. The last thing I have is I see where you guys approved the airport hangar. Do we know where that funding is coming from yet?

Mike said we are going to ask you guys to approve windfarm as a loan.

Dave asked is that going to be a special meeting?

Mike said they are going to present it to you tomorrow.

Gary Friend said I will be there to represent the Commissioner's tomorrow.

Dave said they don't come to you first?

Mike said we approved a loan out of windfarm for the T-ten hangar. Their intention is to pay it back with their grant money from federal aviation, then next two years they will pay it back.

Dave said yes, they did their presentation to Council and that's why I recommended them to Commissioner's. You really need to commit first.

Mike said you think so.

Dave said I do on buildings.

Mike said your right.

Dave said that's all I have unless you have something for me.

Gary Friend asked do you believe the Council is in favor.

Dave said I think they are.

Mike said if it's like the last hangar, it will be a money maker for the airport. It will improve the airport. Some of those are original hangers out there.

Dave said I've seen the plans for the new terminal. I don't know if you guys have seen those yet.

Mike said if their different then the old plans, I've not seen them. It is one of the county projects for the READI grant.

#### **Deb McGriff-Tharp – Touch the Truck**

Deb said I'm here to use the Courthouse lawn on April 6<sup>th</sup> for Touch the Truck. We know that is the Get Mooned in Randolph County weekend, but however we want to continue to kick off prevent child abuse month in the manner that we have done for the last 5-years. We would ask to have the lawn from 8 am until 1:00 pm and then we would be finished. I've talked to the Mayor about shutting off Franklin Street so that the trucks can be out there. We ok'd that at the end of last year, just because we knew all of the commotion that was happening with getting the Getting Mooned in Randolph County. Also, if we could get the porta potty, then we would also ask for permission to put the porta potty out there where we've had it in the past. I think that's it, we would set up at 8:30 am, the event would run from 10:00 until 1:00 and by 1:00 you really can't even tell that anyone has been out there. And that's rain or shine.

Gary Friend made a motion to approve the use of the Courthouse lawn for the Touch the Truck event on April 6, 2024 from 8 am to 1:00 pm. Gary Girton seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

#### **Ed Thornburg – Utility agreement**

Mike said you have another utility agreement from Charter Communications?

Ed said yes.

Mike said this is taking place on and under South 500 W, W 300 S, S 300 W, S 200 W, S 400 W, S 500 W, W 400 S, South Bloomingsport Road, Huntsville Road, W 600 S, East 600 S, Base Road, W 500 S, E 500 S, S 100 E, S 200 E, 400 S and E 300 S. Approximately 8.209 miles.

Gary Friend asked is this all underground?

Ed said no, most all of it is overhead. These maps are the individual pages to the plan, that's where I checked them all off and shows where it all goes. Ninety percent of this is overhead, their tying to existing light poles. The rest of it is bored. I only seen one or two county ditch interactions.

Gary Friend asked do you see a problem at all.

Ed said no.

Mike said you have reviewed it and are recommending us sign this.

Ed said yes.

Gary made a motion to approve the utility agreement. Gary Girton seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

### **Joe Copeland**

Joe said this month is the application for Community Crossing Matching grant funding. It closes here toward the end of the month. I need letter's signed from both the Commissioner's and the Council, a financial commitment letter, to go along with the application. The project is bridge 304 which is on Carl Street in the City of Winchester. The final numbers are not in my hands yet. I through some numbers together just to get an idea. I think we're looking in the neighborhood, depends on how bad things have gone up as far as construction. I'm hoping \$420,000.00 for the counties share should cover it. If I need more I'll be back but that includes the construction cost of \$1.4 million and some right a way work, there's some right a way that's going to have to be acquired. One parcel is the cities, is my understanding. And there's an inspection that's going to have to be done on that project and I've put in \$40,000 for that.

Mike asked how much did you put in for the right a way?

Joe said \$30,000.00. Since it's in the city, it could be a little saltier.

Mike asked when do you need our commitment?

Joe said probably at your next meeting. I want your approval to move forward to the Council and I will go before the Council tomorrow and ask for their approval for the signatures and then I will be back at your meeting for the final commitment if that's okay.

Gary Friend said what's your funding source?

Joe said it's going to have to be wind. The state's share of that would be \$1,050,000.00. Ours would be \$420,000.00.

Mike said and that bridge has been closed for two years.

Joe said before I came.

Mike said I think it's been closed for two years.

Joe said we're working out the details. What I need from the engineering company is an estimate. Once I get that estimate, I can put the rest of it together. It's a valid project.

Mike said it needs to be replaced, we've talked about using this Community Crossing cycle to replace this bridge for a while.

Joe said and it's now \$1.5 million for Community Crossings. We're not going to get the full \$1.5 million but we'll be over the \$1 million.

Gary Friend said the none of the Cum Bridge appropriations that's coming up for us has to do with that bridge.

Joe said no. I put in my cheat sheet.

Mike said you have \$480,000 in here for bridge 304.

Joe said yes, I'm going to try and get it for under that. I'm hoping we can come in under that.

Mike said do you want us to authorize \$480,000.

Joe said you can go ahead and authorize \$480,000 and then we'll give it back.

Mike said I'm a little confuse, you've got to have that application in, you need our decision this month and that decision has got to have a number tied to it.

Joe said yes, what I am going to go to the Council for tomorrow is their approval for a signature once I get the estimate finalized. Our share should not exceed the \$480,000.00. If it does then we need to take a step back.

Mike said my point is, if it does exceed \$480,000 then your not going to be in the time frame to get it done.

Joe said right.

Mike said because Council only meets once this month and that's tomorrow.

Joe said \$480,000 is another \$60,000 from what I was throwing together. I think we can do it for \$480,000. It all boils down to what the construction costs are going to be. They keep going up.

Mike said I think we should give the Council our commitment before tomorrow. I think we should authorize up to \$480,000 of wind/solar funding today. Let council know that tomorrow and hopefully they will agree to it.

Joe said it could start this year. It should start this year. Because I have a certain time limit on Community Crossings to get the projects done. As soon as we get notification that we get the money then I want to get the bids out and get moving.

Gary Friend said I will make a motion to approve up to \$480,000.00 out of renewable funding for this project. Gary Girton seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike asked anything else for us.

Joe said I've been spending a lot of my time working on large culvert replacements. We're finding more and more. I just got an email late last week, 3 more that are in pretty bad shape.

Meeks said Joe on the acquisition for the right a way. Can you submit that to me when ever you get a chance? I know the people that live around there and one of the ladies just passed and I want to see if it's that one. That will take a little longer to get the consents.

Joe said now that we have an appraiser under contract, it will be easier, I can just call him and get things started. When I get some drawings that shows that right away, I'll send it to you.

Gary Friend said why do we have a right a way issue with a standing bridge now. I don't understand we already have a right away.

Joe said we need more right away.

Gary Friend said because of?

Joe said we've got utilities we have to relocate. The sanitary sewer has to be relocated and probably water may have to be relocated. We're driving piling on both sides, so we have to have everything out of the way to drive, we don't want to drive a pile through the sanitary sewer. The City has already said that the sanitary sewer has to be relocated.

Gary Friend said how much extra right away are we talking about?

Joe said not that much. When I get the drawing, I will bring it up and show you or send it to you. It's not like a full lot or anything like that.

Gary said I just wondered how we could have a bridge already there and not have the right away.

Mike asked who is moving the utilities?

Joe said that's an interesting discussion. The City has given us a plan showing where they would want the sanitary sewer to go and we ask for an estimate, they've given us an estimate. Here's the problem I foresee. I'm going to try and include it in the Community Crossings matching grant funding. They say no utilities, but this is a direct conflict with the bridge construction. We have to move it we do not have a choice. So, I want it in our construction, I want our general contractor to have full control over it. Because I don't want him to get down the road and start building this bridge and get to the point where he needs that sanitary sewer relocated, he calls and they say we'll be there in a couple days and it takes 3 weeks to get there. He's going to be coming back to us for money. I want our general contractor to have full control over that sanitary sewer relocation. Same way with water, now power, I think power's okay.

Mike said so, we're moving a private water line?

Joe said there's a water line there and we're going to have to deal with it too. The preliminary field check, no one showed up that owns the water line. If it's off enough that we can miss it with the piling, we'll try to keep it there. Hopefully the casing or the pipe is not in too bad of shape and the piling cracks or breaks it. I think there's a lot of vibration.

#### **Other Business:**

#### **Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff**

#### **Compensation agreement**

Mike said the sheriff is not here but we do have the Randolph County Sheriff's compensation agreement. Did you review this Meeks?

Meeks said it's the same as previous years, it hasn't really changed much, change the dates and the amounts. I assume the monies right.

Laura said it is from the salary ordinance.

Mike said \$109,200.00. Does someone want to move approval of the compensation agreement.

Gary Girton made a motion to approve the Sheriff's compensation agreement. Gary Friend seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

#### **Minutes of December 18, 2023 and December 28, 2023**

Mike said the next item is the minutes of our December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting and December 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. This completes the minutes for 2023.

Gary Friend made a motion to accept both sets of minutes. Gary Girton seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

#### **2024 Appointments**

Mike said this brings us to our 2024 appointments. We received a copy of our appointment list. Typically, we go through and discuss all these and make one motion to approve all the appointments for those that we can approve today. We will just start at the top. The first five are

airport board appointments and we have two that expired. One is Greg Sickels and the other is Jim Michaels. I've not heard anything from the airport board regarding whether they want to continue to serve or not. Knowing both gentlemen I believe they do. I would recommend to reappoint them for another term to the airport board. If we do that today, I will confirm with both of them.

Gary Friend said I agree.

Mike said next is the airport manager, Eric Livingston. Next is the Alcohol Beverage Commission Board and I was contacted by Chris Lay and Chris indicated that he no longer wants to serve on the Alcohol Beverage Commission Board. I think he served six to eight years on that board and I asked him about serving on the board and he shared with me that Paul Faddis would be a good candidate for that board and I reached out to Paul Faddis and Paul is willing to serve on the board and I indicated that I would nominate him to replace Chris this morning but it would be subject to any other potential nominations.

Gary Friend said I'm fine with it.

Mike said I think Paul will be a dedicated volunteer. I think he would attend the meetings. So, I would nominate Paul Faddis to replace Chris.

Gary Friend said I second.

Mike said all in favor of that motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said Area Planning Board, our Commissioner member expires 12/31/2024. Area planning board citizen, Don Calhoun's term expired 12/31/2023. I did confirm with Debra Johnting that Don does not want to retire, she was just recognizing him for serving as long as had, he does want to continue to serve. Don is a good member, I would recommend keeping Don.

Gary Friend said I agree.

Mike said the Area Planning Director, Debra Johnting. Building maintenance supervisor Jake Donham, Building Commissioner, Randy Able. BZA Board members, their terms do not expire. Community Corrections Board, myself. Community and Family Service expires 12/31/2021, I'm not sure what that is.

Laura said we have not had anybody there since that expired.

Mike said Computer Committee is the President of the Commissioner's and Council, IT Personnel, Auditor and Treasurer.

#### **County Attorney compensation agreement**

Mike said County Attorney, I'd entertain a motion to accept the appointment agreement with our attorney Meeks Cockerill and reappoint him for another year.



Gary Girton made a motion to reappoint Meeks Cockerill as our county attorney for another year. Gary Friend seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said Economic Development Board which is really the Randolph County United Board. I am serving on that board now. Does anyone else have a desire to serve on that board.

Gary Friend said I think you do a wonderful job.

Mike asked Gary (Girton) are you okay with a that?

Gary Girton said yes.

Mike said Emergency management director, 911 director is Chris Shaneyfelt. Emergency management advisory board is Gary Girton. Emergency management district 6 planning council, Jennifer Hendrickson. Emergency management planning oversight committee, Gary Girton. Emergency medical service director, Duane Petry. 4-H Inc and extension, Gary Friend. Grievance complaints, president of the Commissioner's. The Health Board has, first is the Health Department Director, Kenneth Sowinski MD. It is my understanding that he is willing and desires to serve again as that director. We have three health board members, Kelly Campbell, Phillip Howell and Samantha Morris, their terms expire this year but we have been advised by the health department that they all three want to serve again. So, unless somebody has any recommendations to make changes we will leave those there. Our Highway supervisor, Michael Haffner. Our Highway Office administrator, Jessica Olson. Insurance committee is Gary Girton. Internal Controls oversight committee is the Commissioner president, Council president plus one member from council, the Auditor, Clerk and Treasurer. Right now, it's myself, Dave, Todd Holaday, Laura Martin, Mindy Peed, Brenda Tharp. L&M Regional Water Board, Lorra Dee Jessup. We've not heard from the as to whether she want to server another year. Do we want to make the presumption that she does and then reach out to her and see if she does want to serve?

Gary Friend said I will call her if I can get a number.

Mike said Local emergency planning committee, Gary Girton. Personnel committee, Gary Girton. Randolph County Central dispatch, Gary Girton. Randolph County Redevelopment Commission are annual appointments and we've not heard anybody wanting to resign, so I would recommend that we leave that the same, Brody Tarter, Rolland Abraham and Jentry Flesher. Regional 6 executive Council, which is replacement of Work One, that would be myself. Solid Waste, is the three Commissioner's. Tourism Board, we have four members expiring this year, Jennette Sickels, Jim Nunez, Owen Griffith and Anita Amspaugh. I have reached out to Scottie Harvey; the Tourism Director and I have not heard back from her. We can make the presumption that those four want to continue to serve as we have done with others and I will wait on Scottie's reply to me to see if anyone wants to be replaced. Veterans officer, that's an annual appointment, Bethany Siebert. Then we have Ridgeville Public Library, Janice Mocks term expired in June two years ago and Union City Library expired in June of 2022. Caitlin Newton of Farmland expired in April of 2023. We need to reach out to those boards to find out what they want to do.

Gary Friend said I'll reach out to Ridgeville.

Mike asked Laura, can you do Farmland and Union City?

Laura said yes.

Mike said then we have our liaisons, the airport, jail, 911 and the health department is Michael Wickersham. Highway Department and EMS is Gary Friend. Courthouse and Community Corrections Building is Michael Wickersham. RCFFO Building is Gary Girton. Soil and Water is Gary Friend. I'm the liaison for Winchester, Gary Girton is the liaison for Union City and I'm the liaison for Farmland, Gary Girton is the liaison for Lynn and Saratoga, Gary Friend is the liaison Parker City, Modoc and Losantville. I am for Ridgeville and Gary Friend is for Albany. I think we should make some changes there. I think one is Gary Friend should be the liaison for Ridgeville, I can be the liaison for Modoc and Losantville. Those would be the changes I would recommend unless there are other changes to be made. Gary Girton do you have any thoughts.

Gary Girton said no.

Mike said the only other thought I would have is that since Gary Girton you are the Local Emergency Planning Committee and Randolph County Central dispatch and the Emergency management advisory board and oversight committee. I wonder if you wouldn't be best to serve the jail and 911 liaison.

Gary Girton said I can.

Mike said okay, so that's another change. That ends our appointments.

Gary Friend made a motion to make the appointments as discussed.

Mike said I have a motion to approve the appointments subject to confirmation in which we are going to confirm, the only ones really that are outstanding the airport board, the tourism commission and the libraries.

Gary Girton seconded. All aye votes. Motion carries.

#### **Discussion on Farmland EMS Building**

Mike said the next item is the discussion of the Farmland EMS building.

Gary Friend said I reached out to the company.

Meeks said he did email back and said to answer your question Gary, pricing will not be the professional services agreement. That will only cover scope and pricing will be a separate document and will be supplied shortly after it is agreed to move forward.

Mike said pricing for the build?

Meeks said that's what I'm assuming.

Gary Friend said I ask him for the cost.

Mike said it seems like using this firm is the least expensive way to go on this build.

Gary said right. Then their job is to make sure we are always legal through all avenues of the law. Not that we wouldn't be.

Meeks their make sure your building is right.

Mike said probably what they need from us is some sort of intent to consider their agreement when it comes through and consider using their services. We need official action.

Meeks said I don't think so until they bring an agreement.

Mike said I think it's worth looking at, that's for sure. Any other comments.

Gary said they're also going to be putting a scope on the jail. He asked me about security services. The Sheriff's not here, I was going to ask him. The Sheriff takes care of everything at the jail to my knowledge, other than camera video and that's Automated Security Systems.

Laura said I don't know of any other security services; the Sheriff just does his own.

Gary said I would suspect at some larger venues, they have third party vendors to deal with on security.

**Additional Appropriations:**

**LIT – Jail**

**Meals/food**

**\$40,000.00**

Mike said our first additional appropriation is LIT for Jail, meals and food.

Gary Friend said the only question I have on that. Why does that have to be an emergency additional appropriation?

Laura said all of these appropriations that we have today are changes that were made during the budget hearing so they were not advertised. So, we have to do it this way to get the money in the correct lines.

Gary Friend said good enough.

Mike said I'd entertain a motion to approve.

Gary Friend made a motion to approve. Gary Girton seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Commissioner's**

**Overtime/comp payout                      \$20,000.00**

Gary Girton made a motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**CCD – Sheriff**

**Equipment    \$35,000.00**

Gary Girton made a motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**General**

**Animal Shelter Contract                      \$20,000.00**

Mike said this is the increased amount for the animal control contact for the next three years. This is one year's increase.

Gary Friend made a motion to approve. Gary Girton seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**ARPA**

<b>Vest Panels</b>	<b>\$7,107.00</b>
<b>Interior camera upgrade</b>	<b>\$101,950.00</b>
<b>Interior camera additions</b>	<b>\$11,100.00</b>
<b>Locks</b>	<b>\$35,627.80</b>

**ARPA**

<b>Jail pipes Phase 2</b>	<b>\$28,430.00</b>
<b>Jail pipes Phase 3</b>	<b>\$14,595.00</b>

Mike said then next 6 are from ARPA funds. I'd entertain a motion to approve.

Gary Girton made a motion to approve all of the ARPA as presented. Gary Friend seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Cum Bridge**

**Highway    \$1,378,000.00**

Mike said is Cum Bridge for the Highway Department \$1,378,000.00.

Gary Girton made a motion to approve. Gary Friend seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**ARPA**

**Airport    \$5,000.00**

Mike said next is another one for ARPA and it's for \$5,000.00 to finish the taxi lane expense that was over budget because of the delay in the building of the taxi lane.

Gary Friend made a motion to approve. Gary Girton seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said that brings us to the end of our agenda. The only other thing I have is I want to alert the Board of Commissioner's that I will not be here for either meeting in February. That will be February 5 and February 20.

Meeks said we probably need to set an EDIT meeting for sometime after your next meeting.

Mike said we need to approve a new EDIT plan at our next meeting and set an EDIT board meeting.

Meeks said I know Parker City, I sent out an EDIT plan for them, so they are going to be wanting an EDIT meeting also.

Mike said we meet on January 15, so we could review the EDIT plan on that date. We would have three Wednesday's that we could have an EDIT meeting. We will set the EDIT meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Citizen Comments (3 minutes)**

Mike asked do we have any citizens here that would like to make a comment this morning. Yes, Mindy.

Mindy Peed said I have a couple things I need to make you aware of. Jake and I last month moved the last of my filing cabinets out of the storage room on the second floor. We just have one piece of equipment in there that we can move whenever you want to take possession of the room back. Then also at the last budget meeting, I asked for an increase of close to \$10,000.00 to upgrade our poll pads and I was just made aware that I was awarded a grant that I applied for through the secretary of state's office to pay for the upgrade of all of our poll pads. He is going to be presenting that to us month sometime.

Mike asked what does an upgrade of poll pads do?

Mindy said it is all new poll pads.

Mike said what does it do for the voters?

Mindy said right now our poll pads can't be updated by Apple or Microvote because they are outdated. This allows for Apple updates, for Microvote to be able to connect to it again and provide upgrades. I was awarded the grant based on security updates, being the most secure. So, now we'll be able to keep our poll pad safe and keep them upgraded.

Mike asked are there any other citizens this morning?

### **Adjournment**

Mike said hearing none, I'd entertain a motion to adjourn.

Gary Friend made a motion to adjourn. Gary Girton seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Reviewed and signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Meredith W. [Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

ATTEST: Laura J. Martin  
Laura J Martin, Auditor of Randolph County