

## **Randolph County Commissioners/Council Joint Meeting**

**December 11, 2025**

The Randolph County Commissioners and Council met for a joint meeting at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners and Council Room in the Courthouse with the following members present: Commissioner Board President Gary Friend, Tom Kerns and Missy Williams. Council Board President David Lenkensdofer, Beverly Fields, Todd Holaday, Greg Cheesman, Scott Fisher and Larry Preston. Also present was Randolph County Auditor Laura Martin, Sheriff Art Moystner and County Attorney Meeks Cockerill.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Gary said alright ladies and gentlemen, welcome to this joint session of the Randolph County Commissioners and the council. We'll start off first, I will call the commissioners to order. Dave, are you going to call the council to order?

David said yes, we'll call the county council to order at this meeting.

Gary said alright, now we'll get started. We have the pledge of allegiance on the agenda, which we didn't do, so we might as well stand and do the pledge of allegiance.

### **Airport Terminal**

Gary said first on the agenda, airport terminal. Jim Michael is here representing the airport and I believe you told both the commissioners and the council, or at least the commissioners, that you might have a preliminary cost

Jim Michael said yes. When I was here for the commissioners meeting last week, I had the kind of a concept design. I got some more for you guys, all to look at. I don't know, I think I probably couldn't print off so enough so you might have to share a little bit. This is just kind of a rough idea of what we're looking at right now. This is a pretty quick put-together sketch, so, you know, if you have questions on what this is or what that is, not really going to have answers on that per se. But when we had, when I was up here, I was asked to bring in a cost. You got yours?

Gary said yeah.

Jim Michael said okay. I was asked to bring in an estimate. I got a couple of those based off of what you have there in front of you, that you can look over, and some of the things on here. There's, you know, a lot of things that will be changed. I think that's all I've got. So, this is

from the company who actually put together this concept for us. Then I have another one from Corey Hunt with APEX.

Gary said 3 million?

Jim Michael said yeah. That's was a surprise to me too.

Gary said okay.

Jim Michael said so, there're 2 different ones there. One's like a little over 3 and the other one is over 2. But there're a lot of things on here that is fluff, in my opinion, and cost on things that is just, I don't understand. If you guys are familiar with the building and stuff, I mean they've got thing on here like the, you know, the interior doors of being 18 hundred dollars or 2 thousand dollars apiece. And that's just, I don't understand that. So, again, this is all just a rough idea on pricing, I think. I think one of them had a septic system of you know, over a hundred thousand dollars, because we're going to have to upgrade that out there. So, there's a lot of things on here that just definitely is going to be worked on, and you know, that price is kind of a.

Gary said did that price take in consideration all that glass that was on there that we'd already talked about?

Jim Michael said yes it does, yah.

Gary said okay. And is it necessary to have a terminal, not a terminal, but a hanger, or is that a shop?

Jim Michael said it's going to be a hanger, shop, a lot of things like you know, for instance, we had a guy come in Saturday that I'd met with out there who just bought a new airplane and we don't have a hanger big enough for him to put it in. So, with that, we would you know, be able to rent that, you know, a corner out to him for his hanger.

Gary said if they were separated, would it be less, to keep down the square footage?

Jim Michael said I don't know if it would be or not. I mean, technically, they're going to be separated anyway, but just you know, together, I don't know, if it would be separated or not, that it would be less. I can't see what would be less about it. So, you're still going to have the same square footage, same amount of concrete in so forth.

Gary said before we head around the table, is it possible to get a terminal built for a million dollars? I don't think anybody of this side of the room was expecting anywhere near 3 1/2 million.

Jim Michael said I, yeah, I agree with you. I wasn't really either. And again, I mean, you can look at the 2 different prices. I think there's about a million dollars difference.

Gary said I understand it was rushed too. So, nobody's going to take a

Jim Michael said yeah, I mean if, get some more time and get some more detailed pricing and stuff like that, I look for it to be a lot cheaper than this, but a million dollars I think, would probably be pretty, pretty tight. And that's not to say like, you know, like we talked before, this is, the pricing on this, I can't say if it's FAA pricing or non-FAA pricing, because as we said, FAA requires a whole lot of different, you know, it's got to meet certain criteria. So, if we, and that's probably why they have 2 thousand-dollar doors in here.

Gary said would it be something that maybe the commissioners could fund for an actual print? If we could reach out somewhere and say we want to build a terminal, we've got a million dollars to spend, can you design one?

Jim Michael said yeah.

Gary said if we were to pay for it without getting through the FAA, because you could leave the FAA funds that are committed out coming back to pay off the loan, run this one through the county alone?

Jim Michael said right, yeah.

Gary said it could come in less expensive?

Jim Michael said right. And like I said, we could also do a FAA pays for you know, one part of it and local funds pay for the other part of it.

Gary said right.

Jim Michael said so, even though they're joined together, we could still separate it out that way.

Gary said so, my thought on this, if you could maybe have the board of directors get an architect that'll give you a quote to make a design, and bring that proposal, so we can possibly fund that to get to a closer cost.

Jim Michael said right, yeah. What we have here is something that was just done, well like Smarrelli construction, which is Torey Hunt, he did it free, no cost.

Gary said okay.

Jim Michael said so, to actually have somebody draw one up, give us an actual full estimate, you know, you're going to be looking at 20 to 25 thousand dollars is what I was told.

Gary said but that, if, yeah, that's pretty good money spent because you can take that and take it to bid.

Jim Michael said exactly. It's ours then.

Gary said yeah.

Jim Michael said so, we can do that, but you know, what I got here from LWC, which is that printout, I think they charged us only like 2 thousand dollars to do that.

Gary said okay. I personally wouldn't be opposed to spending good money on getting a good architectural print so we can.

Jim Michael said yeah, and if we want to do that, if we've got your guys' blessing, then we will do that.

Gary said well, let's go around the room here then we'll probably.

Jim Michael said yep, absolutely, yeah. So, we'll farm that out of.

Gary said Tom?

Tom said I agree. We need a print. I would like to see the potential of just doing a terminal and doing the hanger separate. If we can't spend the, that much money now getting the terminal part built, and then putting a separate hanger, even if they're not connected down the road. So, maybe within our budget, we can get the terminal built.

Jim Michael said right.

Gary said that might be easier.

Tom said yeah. We could do that under the money and use your yearly money for the hanger down the road.

Gary said anything, Tom?

Tom said nope.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said where's the, do you have any square footage on here, or on this other page?

Jim Michal said it's probably not on that. It's probably on the price sheet. Like I say, I didn't, I could email all these all of you guys.

Missy said that would help, because I'm still looking at this and saying you know, we're still talking double or 3 stacks of windows, which from the south, that's going to, you're going to get so hot in there and have a high temperature.

Jim Michael said oh, absolutely, yeah.

Missy said it's going to be, so, I think, where you're going, this isn't what it's going to look like. Let's get something that's really

Jim Michael said right. One of these pricing sheets says store front system, which I assume is all that glass, it was \$121,000.00.

Missy said yeah.

Jim Michael said that to me, and the other one I think was even way more than that.

Gary said I don't know, but I expect any windows near an airport is like 3 times the crash rate than anything else.

Missy said sure.

Jim Michael said yeah.

Scott said this quote, Missy, is right at, one of them is right at \$300.00 a square foot.

Missy said okay.

Scott said one of the options was 270 a square foot, the other is 297.

Jim Michael said I have the email on what Richmond is doing and they're doing just a terminal, FAA funded just a terminal, no hanger, and theirs is still over 3 million dollars.

Gary said okay.

Jim Michael said so that just kind of tells you an idea of. But I think they're paying 7 or 800 hundred dollars a square foot, where as ours was 3, between 250 and 350 I think, on both bidders.

Gary said Missy, do you have anything else?

Missy said I mean finishes on the inside might make a little difference but shouldn't make that much difference on this.

Jim Michael said and like I said, the inside is just, there's a lot of changes we still want to make to that, because I don't know if I mentioned when I was in here last week, we've talked with a couple local doctors. Doc Downy being one of them, to get set up to be able to do FAA physicals. And the plan is for us to have an office at that, in that building where a doctor could do that in, because there's not very many people in the state to do it, not very many people, good places to go. I go to Lafayette for mine. And about everybody in Winchester goes to Lafayette to get theirs. So, and we fly over and buy fuel over there. So, if we had a doctor here doing it, that would bring more revenue in for us. So. that's just, wise, you know, there're extra offices and stuff in there, is just where I was going with that.

Gary said okay. Missy, is that it for the moment?

Missy said that's it, thanks.

Gary said Dave, want to take over for the council?

David said yeah. Larry, have you got any questions?

Larry said I don't have any questions. I like Tom and Gary's idea of together, terminal only and architectural and try to keep it under control so it's not way out there, for now.

Scott said I'm kind of in agreement. I think they'll probably have to be separated. I think the terminal is needed. I don't think he'll get it, I know you won't get it any 200 dollars a square foot. It'll probably be closer to 250, especially when you take the hanger on this quote here, when you take the hanger on it, the hanger is cheaper square footage.

Jim Michael said right.

Scott said so, the square footage is probably going to go up when you take the hanger off.

Jim Michael said yeah, yeah, you're probably right.

Scott said so, I don't know.

Jim said like I say, you know, I can show you on my email, and I can send it to you what Richmond is paying for just their terminal with no hanger and it's, yeah, it's like 7 or 800 dollars a square foot.

Todd said is it, if we're going to do both, we should do it at the same time? Common walls, common roof structure. You're going to get into doubling up on a lot of cost if you don't do it at the same time. There's no intention to ever do the terminal part, then I wouldn't do it, but I think we should just set a target number and say we have to hit that number.

David said okay. Anything else, Todd?

Todd said no.

David said Bev?

Bev said this is the first I've heard anything on the pricing at all, and I tend to go with what Tom is talking about, and, you definitely have to cut it down, the pricing down. That's where I'm at on it, for what little I know at this time.

David said Greg?

Greg said I want to be a little more clear first on this FAA funding. You already are using FAA funds to pay for the previous debt?

Jim Michael said correct. Yep.

Greg said are you talking new funding from FAA?

Jim Michael said yeah, we get, well we're guaranteed 150 thousand dollars of year in FAA funds and they typically open up it for, you know, even more than that so.

Greg said okay.

Jim Michael said so having FAA you know, funding, is kind of a given. But we have to meet their standards if we're going to use their funds.

Greg said right. I remember you talking that in the commissioner meeting.

Jim Michael said yeah, and that's where things get expensive because you know, the concrete's going to meet their threshold and just everything, you know, walls, insulate, it can get pretty, pretty crazy.

Greg said I didn't know how you we're going to service the older debt with all this FAA funding with, that you can get new funding to help with this?

Jim Michael said right. Yeah, which I think, I mean, I think what we looked at, we're at a 178 thousand is what our loan is with the county right now, and we're due to get 150 I think, over the next few months. I don't remember if it's at the end of the year, or the beginning of the year where that comes out. So, you know, paying off what that is not a big.

Greg said but the total, I'm you know, it's, agree with both sides here, it's, for the money end of it, it probably needs to be 2 separate buildings, but like Todd stated, it's, if you don't do it, if you put it all together, it would save a bunch of cost, at least one big wall wouldn't have to be used.

Jim Michael said and again, this price here, I wouldn't necessarily think that this price is anything worth really considering, to me. You know, because like I said, you guys have been around buildings you know, when we built the county barn out here, you probably had a better idea. I know Gary and Todd, you guys have been around commercial buildings your whole lives paying, you know, you can see right here, one of them is 18 hundred dollars per interior door and the other one is 2 thousand dollars per interior door. Well, you can go to Lowes and buy them all day for a hundred dollars. So, why are they charging 2 thousand dollars.

Scott said they're probably steel doors. They're probably steel fireproof doors.

Jim Michael said they should, the entrance doors, they should be, but I don't believe these, I don't think so, because I thought one of the quotes just said hollow.

Scott said they've probably got the safety latches on them and those are going to, that's going to drive it up 7 or 800 dollars there.

Tom said the steel frame interior commercial doors are 15 hundred to 2 thousand dollars.

Jim Michael said okay.

Scott said yeah.

Tom said but whether they're wood or steel, if they're commercial.

Jim Michael said do they have to be?

Tom said I don't know that you have to have.

Jim Michael said the FAA may say you have to.

Gary said it could be the state will require,

Jim Michael said but like you were saying.

Gary said its commercial when you've got open to the public type of things going on.

Jim Michael said so, you know, with your guys' blessing if you say yeah, let's do, let's legit with whatever it's going to cost to get actual plans.

Gary said what we'll do is let Dave get through with the council and we'll come back to the commissioners and address that.

Jim Michael said yep, okay.

David said anything else, Greg?

Greg said no, that's, that's what I had, that's my opinion, since I'm clear on the FAA funding.

David said okay. Jim, the hanger to the east of the terminal now, what's that used for? The one that was renovated.

Jim Michael said it's got planes in it. It's got 2 airplanes in it right now.

David said are they rental, I mean, they're rented?

Jim Michael said yeah, they're rented. Yeah, they rent it.

David said okay. With the new addition, can that be opened up for maybe the hanger for this new project where you attach the terminal to that hanger?

Jim Michael said you're talking about the one that we just put all the new siding and stuff on?

David said right.

Jim Michael said it's, yeah, we can put a terminal, I don't know we would put it at. We'd have to tear out what we've already got before we did it, because of the way the fuel tanks.

David said I figured that's what we were going to do anyhow, is probably tear that old terminal out.

Jim Michael said but yeah, the one that we just put all the new skin and stuff on it, it's a rented hanger. There're people that rent it.

David said but can they move over to the new hanger that you just finished?

Jim Michael said probably, I mean, they could, yeah.

David said so that may save us some cost there if we could somehow use that existing hanger and attach the terminal to that. That's something for the architects and engineers to figure out.

Jim Michael said I'm just trying to think what that would look like because of where the fuel, you know, the fuel pumps and stuff over there for the jet fuel. I don't know how, I'd just have to see how that would look.

David said okay. That's all I have.

Gary said okay. I would, for me, and we could take a vote for the commissioners here, I gave you the authority to go forward and find an architect and come back with a cost to the commissioners, at which time, we can decide whether we're going to pay it through Commissioners Cum Cap, which is a good spot for it, and get this a legitimate plan for us all to look at.

Jim Michael said and I know, I mean, if there's.

Gary said I know there's margin in here that you gave us.

Jim Michael said yeah. And I know that you know, there's that 750 that you already have earmarked, I know we can, you know, take out of that for the architect.

Gary said well I probably, me personally, wouldn't do that because let's just say it hits the wall and doesn't go anywhere, then we just paid for it out of Cum Cap, which is allowable funds.

Jim Michael said yeah, I don't know. You guys got the checkbook so.

Gary said what do you think, Tom?

Tom said I agree.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said yeah, I agree.

Tom said I've got a question on that. On the FAA funding, how many years can you accumulate that?

Jim Michael said it's 3.

Tom said 3?

Jim Michael said 3 years, it's either 3 or 4.

Tom said so, you go 3, it's 450 or 600 thousand, and then, how many years after that are you allowed to use that money to pay back for a project? Is there a limited?

Jim Michael said I don't think there's a limit on that.

Tom said on that?

Jim Michael said yeah.

Tom said if we built the hanger separate you know, which is what you basically been doing with that money over the last so many years?

Jim Michael said yeah, right.

Tom said the last couple of hangers where you build it up, build a hanger.

Jim Michael said a way before my time, but yeah, I know what you're saying. And the FAA, I don't remember what the match is per, between what they, I think it's 20% or maybe 5, I don't remember. Laura may know off the top of her head, but I don't remember what it is versus the local match.

David said used to be 5% state, 5% county and 90% FAA.

Jim Michael that's, yeah, that sounds right.

Meeks said they changed that total.

David said did they?

Gary said it's 10 to us, isn't it?

Meeks said yeah, I think it's 10 to us.

Jim Michael said 10 and 5?

Meeks said yeah.

Jim Michael said okay.

David said used to be 2 1/2, 2 1/2.

Meeks said it used to be 2 1/2.

David said 95, but.

Meeks said I don't know.

Gary said okay.

Missy said I've got a question. So, where, are you planning on adding that close to the existing terminal now and the other will be torn down, is there any?

Jim Michael said that would be the plan because you know, to move everything west so the new one would go where the cars are parked at now, so then we would have to have a place for parking.

Missy said yeah.

Gary said okay, somebody like to make a motion to ask the airport board if they would reach out to an architect to take a conceptual drawing on this and bring us back a price?

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

Gary said okay, that's commissioner, guess we don't, council doesn't need to weigh in on that right now. They've got to weigh on the big money when it comes in.

Jim Michael said oh, okay. I mean, if I'm right, am I right that that should be around 20 to 30 thousand?

Gary said yes. Or, a lot of times, there will be a, contingency or initial fee to do it, and then to follow the project through could be up to like what 8 to 12% of the project cost.

Jim Michael said yeah, because I know in here it said design fees were \$284,000.00 and that's.

Gary said yeah, that's 10% of the cost of

Jim Michael said that's insane to me to pay, yeah.

Missy said so do you think you can find a local architect that could build this?

Jim Michael said the LWC that did the drawing, they're out of Richmond.

Missy said okay.

Jim Michael said and I know, you know, I talked with Torey, they can do it. They can do it too.

Missy said do the whole thing?

Jim Michael said yeah, because I mean, Smarrelli they're the ones building the church out by Walmart and they're doing the fairground project.

Missy said yeah.

Jim Michael said yeah, I'd love to be able to use a local contractor. I mean, I know they do a lot of stuff for the community anyway.

Gary said okay. Do you have anything else? You've kind of got an understanding where the council and commissioners are at?

Jim Michael said yeah.

Gary said we're all committed to wanting to build a terminal, but we all have funding limitations in our mind.

Jim Michael said I completely understand that. I'm a frugal person too. So, these prices irritate me.

Missy said your board is with you?

Jim Michael said yeah, yep. They're all in support and yep, so, we have a meeting next week, but I won't be there. I don't know if you're going to be there or not, but I'll address everything with all the members of the board, let them know ahead of time, so.

Tom said when is the meeting next week?

Jim Michael said what's that?

Tom said when is the meeting next week?

Jim Michael said Tuesday at 8:30.

Bev said Tuesday, 8:30 in the morning.

Jim Michael said yep.

Jim Michael said so, we can probably go ahead and talk about the hanger that we have now?

Gary said well you could go ahead and give us an update where we're at on the hanger.

Jim Michael said okay. Had some issues. The building inspector came out, well the builder called the building inspection to come out and do an inspection on the building. Inspector came out and said I can't do anything because the plans were never approved by the state. So, technically, there's no permit. The permit was issued and approved for the ground work and the foundation and the cement. So, nothing above that. The builder, his architect sent the paperwork to the state and they denied the plans, you know, forgive me for my terminology. But they denied it for one reason or another, and so they resubmitted a different way. They denied it again. And verbatim, the builder said I knew that but I built it anyways, just thinking it would be okay. Kind of his, his thought process was Randy is a good guy, he'll approve it. That's kind of the way it was. You know, the builder flat admitted. We had a meeting out there on Monday, Monday or Tuesday, I don't remember. And the builder flat admitted it's you know, it's my fault, I built it, I knew they weren't approved, but I was kind of hoping after it would be built that it would be okay. So, the problem is that it's over 12,000 square foot. It's 12,617 square foot to be exact, and anything that big has to have a firewall in it. And typically, firewalls have to go 3 feet above the roof line. You know, some of you guys may be aware of that. However, with a T hanger like this, the walls do you know, do this, so, to have it above the roof line, you're going to have one wall going crossways, so it's going to be a rain catch, you know, it's kind of, be hard to do, and almost impossible. So, the builder, which I told him my issue, main issue is he didn't put a firewall of any kind in there. He just kind of said the heck with it, I'm not putting one period, instead of even putting one up to the roofline. So, that was when the inspector came out, he said well there's no permit, no approved plans, I'm going to go out and take a look at it anyways. And first thing, that's what he said, there's no firewall, whereas, if he would have at least put a firewall in, the inspector at that point may have said we'll approve this if you do it right. So, things are being changed to, they stopped working on everything. They haven't done anything since the first week of November because they're waiting to get plans finally approved. So, that being said, they're way overdue on their deadline of when they were supposed to have it done. They didn't meet it once. We gave them a grace period. They agreed to do a few extra things for free and not charge us for it. But they, you know, they're still way overdue. So, by contract, we can charge them a certain amount per day for being over their deadline. As a board, we've got to decide what we want to do. If we want to hold them accountable for that, it would be quite a bit of money. I don't know if really, we want to be the type of county that does that or you guys may be familiar with that.

Scott said I'm very disturbed that they built this building and never got a state release or state permit.

Jim Michael said and knew it, yes, and knew it.

Scott said I mean.

Jim Michael said it's not like he missed, at first, we were under the impression that the architect just didn't translate to the builder the hey, but no, the builder knew it. So, you know, we've also got the lost revenue because we've, you know, should have been done 3 months ago. So, that's lost revenue for 3 months. So, we could hold him accountable to that. And talking with Meeks, you know, we could even, the county, whether it be the inspector or who, could even fine him 25 hundred dollars a day?

Meeks said well yeah, up to.

Jim Michael said up to. Yeah, it's either, 50, in between 50 and 25 hundred dollars.

Meeks said yeah, I think the 5 hundred dollar per day clause in the contract is where you're going to go with.

Jim Michael said okay.

Meeks said I mean, if I was going to.

Jim Michael said so, we haven't talked about it as a board.

Meeks said but the board needs to discuss it. The board needs to decide what they're going to do.

Jim Michael said yes. Yeah, so.

Meeks said you guys don't really, at this point, independent board.

Jim Michael said yes, this is kind of information for you guys to know what's going on and you know, what we're addressed with. Yes, we are all very unhappy with it too, that he you know, did this, and admittedly said he knew it wouldn't you know, it wasn't approved, but he did it anyways. Again, you know, you guys being the voice and the face of the county, as well as us for the airport, do we want to.

Scott said you need to play hardball.

Jim Michael said okay.

Scott said I think he needs to be charged to liquidated damages and I think the funds, any funds ought to be, any payments ought to be stopped.

Jim Michael said I don't think the, yeah, the funds are, the payments are stopped. And nothing else will be paid to him.

Missy said how much has been paid out percentage-wise, half of it or?

Jim Michael said well it's well, I think we've got our 10% that were holding.

Missy said okay.

Scott said I mean, it's, any contractor knows if it's commercial, the county's not going to do anything, the state's got to approve the prints and issue the permit.

Jim Michael said right, yeah. I mean, that's.

Scott said so, I don't know what he was thinking.

Meeks said he wasn't.

Jim Michael said well, he was thinking, like I said, Randy is a nice guy, he was just assuming that he would Randy.

Scott said well, I've known Randy.

Jim Michael said I've known Randy since I was 5 years old.

Scott said way, 20 years before he got the job, and he wouldn't touch it being commercial work. It had to be submitted to the state.

Meeks said I can't believe it, that's just, yeah, Randy would not have.

Scott said Randy wouldn't even have considered it.

Jim Michael said I don't believe it. I, I mean, yeah, I've known, Randy's out to you know, make sure things are done right, and he's not going to put his name on something that would have come back and bit him later. I know that for a fact.

Tom said so, is there a new set of prints yet?

Jim Michael said not, there's not approved prints. There's nothing approved yet.

Tom said well I know there's none approved, but is there a new set worked on?

Jim Michael said yeah, there is a new set at Indianapolis.

Tom said okay.

Gary said which has a 25% of fire door in that wall?

Jim Michael said correct.

Gary said which equates to a 5-foot overhead door?

Jim Michael said yeah, well, it's not going to be, we're not going to put an overhead door. We're just going to put like doors like that, steel with you know, closing structure and mechanisms and everything on them, so, yeah.

Gary said, "which means a 3-hour burn rate, which is required.

Jim Michael said yep. We had a meeting out there with the architect, with the builder and with Bob, the inspector?

Gary said Bob Jessee, building inspector.

Jim Michael said yeah, yep. So, you know, he's good with what the proposal is now. As soon as we get that approval back from the state, then they'll come back in and get it finished, but, yeah, so that's where we're at with it. And, like I say, we have a meeting Tuesday as a board. I'm going to give, since I can't be there, I'm going to give my recommendations of this is what we need to charge them and they can.

David said was Butler Fairman and Seufert part of this?

Jim Michael said yes, yep. And I don't know, I mean.

Gary said were they the architect?

Meeks said yep.

Jim Michael said no, they're the engineers.

Gary said engineers?

Jim Michael said yeah, they were the ones who like manage all of our grants, and yeah, all that kind of stuff, so. I don't know if they're the ones who's supposed to double check the plans and permits?

Gary said the bottom line is the builder should have known better.

Jim Michael said 100% yeah.

Tom said well the engineers oversee the project manager?

Gary said well I think the architect was the overseer, right?

Jim Michael said yeah.

Gary said that's not Butler Fairman?

Jim Michael said no. No, it's PDM out of Ft. Wayne.

Gary said that's where the, I think, that's the breakdown.

Jim Michael said yeah. Well, I mean, I don't know that there was really a breakdown with him because he told the builder. The builder just shrugged it off.

Scott said actually, the engineers are usually the ones that pull the permits.

Jim Michael said I don't know.

Scott said the engineer is the one that submits it to the state, always.

Jim Michael said not in this case. It's the architect.

Meeks said no one did it in this case.

Jim Michael said well yeah, well I mean they did, but they just got.

Gary said denied.

Jim Michael said yeah.

Meeks said there's a contract.

Jim Michael said yeah, PDM is the one, yeah.

Meeks said the architect will say in their contract what they do. The engineer had a contract and they'll said what they did and none of those contracts say that they have done everything, or the builder. It could say all 3 of them. I don't know, but I will tell you for sure that's what those contracts say.

Jim Michael said yeah, BF&S are, you know, they're the ones who make sure that it meets the FAA standards and everything's applied through the FAA grants. As far as the local state, that is from the architect.

Gary said well I appreciate everybody now being on the same page of what's going on.

Jim Michael said yeah, I'm glad, glad we had to move the meeting like this, yeah.

Gary said I thank you for that, and I'm glad you're on top of it. And the county is on top of it too. So, I know our inspector will not let them any wiggle room whatsoever. And I'm with.

Jim Michael said no, no problem with the inspector. He did a 100% what he's supposed to do. I'm glad that he did.

Gary said I recommend myself, personally, I'm with Scott, maybe you don't hit him a 100% with

Liquified damages, but I'd start there.

Jim Michael said yeah, that's, yeah.

Gary said because they, that's a pretty big foul.

Jim Michael said yep and it's, it wasn't an accident. That's my thing.

Gary said yeah. Anything else for the commissioners and council or for the commissioners, Dave can take care of.

Jim Michael said no, I don't think so.

Gary said okay well, I think the commissioners will rest. Dave? Good?

Dave said yeah.

Gary said alright. Thank you.

Jim Michael said so we're good to get an actual full-blown architect?

Gary said yeah. Get a proposal from one, bring it to the commissioners and let us review it and then, get the monetary commitment.

Jim Michael said okay.

Tom said try to send it to us before the meeting so we.

Gary said yeah that would help, an email ahead of time would be nice.

Jim Michael said okay. Well, like this, I didn't want to send the pricing out because I didn't like what it looked like.

Gary said you did exactly what you told us, you would have it with you when you got here. You're fine. Thank you. I know that was pushing pretty quick anyway.

Jim Michael said yeah, okay.

Gary said thank you, Jim.

Jim Michael said is there a time frame that you guys expect? I don't know how long it takes for an architect to do things. I'm just asking.

Well, it's really mainly for the airport because we're not going to, the whole, both boards probably won't even react until.

Jim Michael said I don't want it to take you know, a month, if you guys think it should be 2 weeks and then you think we're dragging our feet.

Gary said I want to take the professional amount of time it needs.

Jim Michael said yeah again, I've never designed a house or anything, so I don't know how long it'll take an architect to do stuff. So, I'm just kind of.

Gary said well it's going to take a bit of time. They're going to want some commitments of funding first. It's going to take time. You're going to get a preliminary permit, you're going to bring the preliminary here, we're going to approve it if we all agree on it, and then it'll start the actual work. And they'll know, they'll be able to tell you.

Jim Michael said okay. Alright.

Missy said what's the, I'm sorry, what's the plan on if the original builder of the hanger doesn't end up doing the list of things that we want him to do? When do we dismiss them, or?

Gary said well, their board will be first to charge him all this.

Jim Michael said I don't see an issue with that, from our meeting we had with him this week with the inspector being there. I don't see an issue of that, but as far as what we have for a plan, I'm not sure you know, like I say right now, what that plan would be.

Missy said okay. Just curious.

Gary said and the airport board won't submit anymore invoices or anymore claims. They would be stopped.

Jim Michael said yeah, yep. Okay. I'm going to hang out a little bit if that's okay.

Gary said yeah.

### **Courthouse security**

Gary said next up on our agenda is Courthouse security. This is on the agenda. What would be the discussion? Where are we at with it? Missy, you've been in a lot of those meetings. Can you go ahead and start this off?

Missy said well, yeah, we've been in meetings. As of right now, we haven't made any major decisions on how it was going to move. Judge Dowling is working on that. Dave, you throw something in here if you know anything.

David said I don't know anything on it.

Missy said they're getting, they're waiting to see if the grant is going to be approved. Meeks said we're waiting on the grant.

Missy said yeah, so, we need to wait on that, see if we can move forward. And then, based on how much we're awarded, what can we do from, as she says, entry point and working forward, what we're going to do with that. So, we have, no, she hasn't heard, well she hasn't let me know that she's heard. She would have. She hasn't gotten numbers.

Meeks said no, she hasn't.

Gary said I think we can just reinforce then, we're all here committed to continue to get courthouse security.

Scott said do we have an estimated cost on the changes?

Meeks said well we think it's. I want to say \$100,000.00. We asked for the whole amount for the security portion of it. It was \$20,000.00 for the remodel.

Missy said yeah.

Meeks said they have to do something with that, you know, that entrance down there.

Scott said and then are we looking at 2 additional or 3 additional personnel?

Meeks said that's up to.

Gary said that's up to the council and the sheriff.

Meeks said I think that's going to be the next conversation to see if we get the approval first for the funds and then I think.

Larry said unless you check with her Meeks, the approval was supposed to have been like mid-December, wasn't it?

Missy said yeah.

Meeks said I suspect it'll be by the end of the year. I don't know, right. Seems like the state's been pretty busy this week so, at least the state legislature has.

Gary said okay, well I guess would be a good place to jump in, one of the parts of the courthouse security is bringing Community Corrections and Probation into the courthouse in the room below us with a little bit of remodeling done on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor room below this room, and the clerk of courts in converting all that over, to bring Probation and Community Corrections in as a project. So, Tom, you've been.

Missy said clarify that. Are you meaning you're going to bring, who are you bringing in below us?

Greg said yeah, that's where.

Gary said Community Corrections Department, Probation Department.

Missy said okay.

Tom said right now, we're not sure. We're talking about using the clerk's office, the room below us and we're not sure what combination of who will go where.

Missy said right, okay.

Greg said yeah, see, I was under the impression that the probation thing was going to be on this floor and then the clerk was going to be new.

Missy said not on this floor, but below us.

Tom said we're going to do everything down below, because it takes so much to move this room.

Gary said we actually have an architect, Maze Design, looking at a cost inputting information to us. The first thought was just move them and then move Probation and Community Corrections where the Clerk of Courts is. When you start getting building design, now you're getting into the HVAC system, which is a technical system and the electrical and fire, and all that is going on in there. So, then some discussion, a little bit of blend between the two.

Greg said okay.

Gary said get a partition wall down theirs, because they don't need all of it. That would get the meeting room isolated from everybody if they needed to interview people. And then use this room, well this is just all conceptual. We don't have a price on it yet, coming in. But we do know that the building they're in is going to take a significant amount of money to upkeep.

Greg said yeah, I'm all for moving.

Gary said Tom, do you want to jump in? You were talking to them all.

Tom said yeah, once again, we're waiting for the, architect has met with all department heads. He's went to Clerk of Courts, he's been over to Community Corrections and Probation. Has met with everybody. And we want him to get their input, because we don't exactly know what they need in each department. The original thought was to go ahead and move, do the room underneath us first, move the Clerk of Courts over here and then split the other space for Community Corrections stuff so then everything would be, well the one thing, where the clerk is now, they have a safe room that's all lined, and a files room. That file room is separate, then we wouldn't have to put down here. So, now the thought is potentially, maybe leaving them and half of that, using half of that for one of the apartments, or office space potentially, and then the other down below us. So, we're waiting really, for an architect and talking to those to see which makes the most sense, since they already have that safe room and everything set up where

they're at for the clerk, because some of them files have to be in the safe room. And I'm not sure what.

Missy said and they take money in too. Both of them do actually.

Tom said yeah. But, so there are requirements for those rooms. Original discussion, we were talking about pricing, maybe 200 to 300 thousand, and after talking to the architect and talking, and Jake met with the architect too, went through with them, whether that would be half enough, because of the mechanicals and everything that would have to be moved. And it might save a little bit if we left them there, but the one problem with if we leave the clerk where they're at, the construction is going to have to be done at night because they're using that office space, so it's going, which adds quite a bit to the cost of the construction on there where we thought maybe we could, but even if we do move them over, whether some of the construction because of the noise and dust and stuff will have to be done at night, or whether it can all be done while the courthouse is operating. So, that's, all those things are questions right now.

Gary said did you get a possible what it would cost to upgrade the building they're in?

Tom said I did not. I know within the last 5 years or so, it needs a complete new roof system, which is, I don't know. Do you remember the cost Jake talked about on that.

Gary said I thought to bring that building up to par would be over \$200,000.00.

Tom said yeah, I thought it was about double that.

Missy said I do too.

Gary said the one, over there?

Tom said yes.

Gary said it may be.

Larry said you need an elevator.

Missy said you need an elevator.

Gary said well that would blow it out of the sky.

Missy said the other thing is doing security here, you've got to have them under security.

Tom said that's the biggest concern there. If we're having security here and we don't put security and lock that building down and we have an incident, it just doesn't make any sense.

Greg said right. It needs to come here.

Tom said no matter what the cost.

Greg said right.

Gary said and the net cost over the top of it all is not going to be that expensive.

Tom said no.

Gary said because we could part with that building for a little bit, I'd think.

Greg said yeah.

Tom said well and we're doing away with the maintenance, utilities, upkeep of the building, correct? We're consolidating.

Greg said right. Long term, it's a no brainer to bring it all here.

Tom said yes. And now is the time while we're doing security to get it in.

Greg said yes, yes.

Gary said so, everybody okay with their we're at on security? Dave?

Missy said well there's been some discussion between, do we need 2 people downstairs or 3 people downstairs, at the entrance, the north entrance, so that's going to have some to do with it.

Gary said right. And then the council and the sheriff will have to come up with the solution.

Missy said right and are you going to let anybody enter in from the east and west doors, or the basement door? My opinion.

Meeks said that answer has it be no.

Missy said it has to be no.

Gary said the answer has to be no.

Missy said has to be no for everybody. You can't let people in and out. Everybody's got to enter in the front door.

Meeks said I think at that point, it's going to be a commissioner decision, how you're going to.

Gary said right, the flow.

Meeks said are you going to have every employee go through the metal detector? That's an employee thing. Are you going to have every attorney? When I go through the metal detector in

Richmond, I show them my attorney, and they let me go and it buzzes and they let me go right on through. If you go to Ft. Wayne, you get an almost body searched. They don't let you walk through. I shouldn't say that. Delaware County, I show them my you know, and I think you let the employees, I mean, my personal feeling is you probably kind of model it after Delaware or Richmond and let the employees, people that show up here every day.

Greg said they go through with a badge at Delaware.

Meeks said and we probably need to issue everybody a badge, and that's going to be a commissioner decision. Everybody's going to probably get a badge and attorneys, and whoever frequently comes here will get a badge too. I know they have badges over in Delaware County.

Missy said and I think that's okay, but you could have a disgruntled employee who brings a gun in. I mean, I'm not saying that could happen.

Meeks said that's going to be you guys' decision. A lot to think about.

Gary said well yeah, one bite at a time. Okay. Now on, when we hired Maze Design, we also hired them to look at a 100 by 100 building out at the new highway facility so we can get all of our equipment out of the old one and into the new facility, and then the commissioners will decide what they will do with the building from there. That particular price, Jake did some back work on that and we went with an architect though, so we didn't get into the problems of not having proper state prints and whatnot. So, but Jake had come up with some quoting on that. It was like 254 to 309 thousand. It depended on whether we had a concrete floor in there or not. It doesn't even have to have a concrete floor, is the definition of cold storage. I did ask Maze Design if it's less expensive to go with a longer, narrower building to get out of a 100 by 100 lift truss system and he said the roof trusses do cost a little bit more, but that square footage of extra wall space to accomplish that would offset. With that being the case, Jay would prefer a 100 by 100 out there with the right overhead door so he can get in and maneuver in. So, we're looking at that too, as part of these other projects that we're looking at for expenses. So, I would say we're probably going to be, hopefully, prices have mellowed down a little bit, but we'll probably be looking between 350 thousand dollars probably, for that building when it comes up. We'll have to come to the council and get it funded. We have the means to fund it. How we do it, of course, is up for debate, and of course, it's the council's decision. Tom, you see any more on these two items that we've got going?

Tom said the only other thing is, if we, well, it's depending on what we do with the highway, the old highway barn, and the price we had on that and, I think is a pretty soft price, but was roughly 50 thousand dollars to tear everything down and retrieve the other funding we'd have to come up with if that's the way we went.

Gary said right.

Tom said otherwise, to remodel it, mechanicals and stuff up there, everything would need updated and for as old a building as that is, probably not feasible.

Gary said right.

Tom said so, we will have that additional as far as that whole project. But no, beyond that.

Gary said Missy, anything on projects that we've got going with Maze for the council to hear?

Missy said no.

Gary said okay, Dave, anything on this particular project you want to?

David said not those. I think that's, it's good discussion tonight. The morgue, where are we at on the morgue?

Gary said the morgue, we just found out that we have to use a little bit of the contingency funds. The sewer line to the morgue is deeper than the sewer line to the EMS. That's going to be dug up and redone. However, it's not going to change the total price, because we had enough contingency, and it was discussed the possibility once we dug into the ground, where it may or may not be there. As far as that, we're still on the price for, I think 443 is what we got on it, I believe.

David said that's just the building, right. That's not.

Gary said that's the whole thing.

David said architecture, engineering fees and everything?

Gary said no, the 443 is the quote on the building. The architect, engineering fees could be around 10% of that 443 thousand.

David said so, we're talking around 500 thousand?

Gary said around 500 thousand.

David said okay, just for council's knowledge.

Tom said there's a 30 thousand contingency in there. The plumbing issue is going to take a little over 5 of it to begin with. And the architect did mention to that. We knew that was talked about ahead of time, that we did not know the depth of the sewer. That wasn't a surprise.

Gary said no. The surprise would have been a benefit.

Tom said right.

David said okay. That's all I have.

Gary said anybody else from the council have anything on these?

Todd said I like the idea of not having concrete in there.

Gary said of not?

Todd said it's going to be a storage building.

Gary said yeah. It is pure cold storage. I guess is they ever come to need concrete, that could be another issue, but right we're.

Scott said if we're going to do this, I mean, is a 100 by 100 big enough?

Gary said I think so. Jay thinks so. I hope so.

Tom said if they do not do concrete do they still, I mean, I don't know what type of building, whether it's a steel frame or whether they're doing just a wood frame building, but do they still put some type of footer so there's a wrap barrier all the way around, I mean, where you'd have to have something to bring the overhead doors down.

Scott said if it's a steel building, it's going to have piers and you don't have a perimeter foundation, and you can do that without concrete in the floor.

Tom said right. So, you'd want wrap guard.

Scott said I assume, I assume they're talking.

Gary said well just to be clear, Maze design didn't come up with these numbers here. Jake called around to contractors he knows to get a quote on that. So, that number I gave you on the 254 and 309 is not a professional architectural number. So, I don't know what you're talking about as far as the wrap, I would think.

Scott said you know, that can be a pre with no plumbing in there, no concrete or drains in there, that can be a pre-engineered building, and you know, Smarrelli, you know, have a dealership there where they can, you know, they can sell you a pre-engineered building with the, including the foundation plans. It's still got to be submitted to the state.

Gary said Maze Design works for Smarrelli already, so they're well known. But, I think those numbers will be close, personally.

Missy said with the number of machinery that he's taking out to the old county barns, can you figure out how much, is a 100 by 100 going to be enough, because I mean, they were going down there.

Gary said relying on him telling me, he said that's enough, that'll do. I'll ask him again, are you sure a 100 by 100 is enough? And go from there.

Missy said I mean if, what about a, how about a 100 by 120 and in the future, you can grow into it if you have to? Seems like that's a little bit of the issue out there now.

Gary said yeah, well I mean, yeah.

Missy said what's the difference on going another, you know?

Gary said let's just make sure that an 80 by 100 wouldn't have done it, he's already done that.

Missy said I get that, but.

David said that's 10,000 square feet. That's a pretty good-sized building.

Missy said yeah, it is, except if you run out of room, which you have now out there.

Gary said I will ask him to be quite certain this will last for the next 10 years as far as room. You can't go past ten.

Missy said they've taken a lot of equipment to that old county barn.

Gary said yeah, yep. But I think we pretty much got the amount of equipment that we're going to use at Randolph County. It's just whether we have an old piece left over in transition or not that would get in the way I think, but I think those questions are best answered by Jay right now. I don't know.

Missy said and the only other thing I'd question is, do we definitely want to tear it down instead of see if anybody else can use it and rehab it?

Gary said I think as time goes on, it will be another discussion we have to have on shall we sell it or tear it down? I'd like to tear it down. I have heard from plenty of people that would like to keep it, sell, not keep it.

Missy said I've heard both ways.

Gary said me, I would like to tear it down. And I even spoke to the Mayor of Winchester and asked if they'd like to have it for a green space so we could just totally be out from under it. And they said they would. But, I've also spoke to people that said that's ridiculous, sell it and get your money back.

Missy said yeah.

Gary said so, I think that decision is not yet made and won't be made until we get this other building, in my opinion. Tom?

Tom said yep, I agree.

Gary said anything else, Missy?

Missy said nope, that's it.

**Other projects/funding**

Gary said okay, on other projects that's on here, the road to the stone quarry. We're supposed to be getting something back on that task order, like soon. I can reach out to Perry Knox because he was trying to get it right after Thanksgiving.

Tom said I asked him this week. It's not ready yet, or last week when we went to Indianapolis. Probably by the end of the year.

Gary said okay. Does he have a contingent number for it, do you know, did he say?

Tom said he did.

Gary said I think we're the range of 2 million dollars weren't we?

Tom said yeah.

Gary said, of course, we had already been in contact with the council on all that right there talking and that was going to be a Renewable Energy funded project, which, on other projects, anybody else have anything else on another project that's going on for us to?

Greg said on this road project, is that still on schedule to start this spring, or is that going to be too soon?

Gary said I don't know. I mean.

Greg said I mean, has the land even been acquired?

Gary said no. Haven't even started that process yet.

Tom said yeah, until they.

Greg said are we still, is a county still going to be the ones that use eminent domain so to speak, to get our part of it?

Gary said I don't know any other way, but I leave that to our attorney.

Meeks said yeah well, I think the, I'm not going to do, the, Joe got the lady from Indy and I don't know what, I haven't talked to Joe since then. I forgot the name.

Tom said there's a firm that'll go through that process for us, of trying to acquire the land without, hopefully, without that. They'll start with just trying to acquire the land first.

Meeks said yeah, I think that's how they start it, the firm. There's a firm in Indy that, literally, all they do, well INDOT, INDOT uses them.

Greg said and the stone quarry is still on line to bring their road out to that?

Gary said oh, that's part of it, yeah, to move their driveway to their weigh station to the S curves.

Greg said yes.

Tom said and they're supplying the gravel for the road we're building.

Greg said yes. So, that's all going to be done about the same time, it looks like then?

Gary said the stone quarry might be a little behind us as we're building the road.

Greg said okay.

Gary said but they had said, I'm trying to remember, up to a year, we said no, that's way too long. I think they said they could be in there within 3 to 6 months by the time the road's built.

Greg said okay.

Gary said this is a significant undertaking for them too.

Greg said yes, yes. Do they have to purchase ground, or do they own the ground?

Gary said they own the ground.

Greg said they own the ground to the S curve.

Gary said yeah.

Greg said okay. I was, I didn't know who owned that part of the dirt.

Gary said yep. So, hopefully we get that done. I have seen the traffic going down 700 and entering Highway 1 at 700 down 1,000.

Greg said yes, the roads black there on Road 1 from all the traffic going out there now.

Gary said you know hindsight is, we probably should have made that a one-way road on 800 years and years ago and not allowed any traffic to 800 out bound. That's where we're at now. I haven't seen truck one pull out on Highway 1 from that stone quarry. I'm not there every day, but.

Tom said want to say one thing we need to make clear, we're not doing this for the stone quarry.

Gary said

Tom said but we're not doing it for the stone quarry.

Greg said well no.

Tom said I've been asked that a couple times, why do you spend.

Greg said it's a safety.

Tom said it's a safety issue for the roads.

Greg said absolutely. That's, I was adamant.

Tom said it's not the stone quarry that's driving those trucks out of there.

Gary said right. They don't really need it actually.

Tom said they're going to, they're going to produce stone no matter what.

Greg said right. And the figure that they gave us, preliminary, like 12,000 trucks a year, you could probably add another 2 to 3,000 trucks to that just maintenance trucks going in, on and on and on I guess.

Gary said and part of the safety is more than just entering Highway 1, it's that truck on truck going down 1000. It's just rough on that road. We're going to rebuild the road. You've got a lot of houses on that road. This basically makes that an industrial drive that we're going to be.

Tom said yeah, it takes the entrance less than a half mile from the highway, with the safety.

Greg said yeah, it's just, yeah, it's a no brainer.

Gary said you know, one thing to remember, we were actually, and discussed for this, and we had a truck get turned over out on 700 by the railroad tracks. And there was a fatality there and we don't need that. Nobody needs that anywhere, ever, but that risk out there on 1000 with those trucks going back and forth is pretty high I think.

Greg said and it'll be higher whenever it gets soft again.

Gary said yeah. And like Tom said, it's a good thing to make sure it's verbally spoken publicly, it's not for the stone quarry, it's for the safety of the residents and all persons to use the highway.

Greg said and had they closed Ridgeville yet, or are they still using it?

Gary said they're still using it, but it's really ramped down, it looks like to me.

Greg said okay.

Gary said I don't know, but I know they said it would take some time to crush all the boulders that made all the driveways and all the safety fences and all that. They'll re-sod it, re-seed it and turn it back over to the family that it was leased off of when they're all set and done. Alright. Any other projects on the mind of anybody?

Tom said one thing I want to bring up is in, well it's not really a project, but it's a future expense that might be coming either way, is the part of the old hospital where the Journey Home, that they're there occupying right now. Whether they stay, there's some stuff that's going to have to be done in there eventually for maintenance. It's going to be flooring, there's a lot of update that's going to have to be done. And if they go, if they end up moving somewhere else, then we also are going to have to, there's going to be a lot of work to be clean up in there.

Gary said they did sign their lease. Everybody get that information? But that doesn't mean they're going to stay. They can bring the lease in 30 days.

Tom said just to know we have expenses that's going to come up there is all I just wanted to bring up.

Gary said yeah, with the new lease payments being more equitable to the county, I think we can probably save some of that and start on the floor and the walls, I mean, get the painting done. If they were to leave right away, we're just going to have to expense taking care of that facility and then see if we want to make changes inside. Me, personally, would like to take the dormitory effect out of it completely so it's more, it can't be considered, but that's just me on that one right there. Speaking of that, it was on my mind when I was doing some prep work for this, do we have the handrails in yet out there?

Greg said I've not been there. I don't know.

Missy said I haven't been there.

Gary said I don't know. I was going to ask Jake.

Tom said we approved them.

Gary said yeah, we approved them, so, I'll find out.

Missy said I will tell you one thing. Journey Home is looking for, they've gone and visited a couple of places to see about moving.

Gary said have they?

Missy said uh huh. Doesn't mean they'll do it, but.

Gary said no, but they, they're going to do what the county has requested of them. They have 2 years now, you know, to either stay or continue on. I think they'll move. I think they'll look for something that's, they're missing mass-transportation here. That's a big thing for those folks getting back into society when they need to, is a way to get to and from, and it just doesn't exist here. Anyway, any other questions on projects coming. The jail, we just signed all the documents tonight for the bonding. Sheriff's going, everything going alright, Sheriff?

Art Moystner said for now.

Gary said want to come up here real quick so we can introduce you to the world?

Art Moystner said sure.

Gary said and talk about the jail.

Art Moystner said sure. Art Moystner, sheriff of Randolph County.

Gary said so, where are you at in your feelings of the jail project, I mean, as you know, the bonding just got, we just signed the bonding documents tonight so it's time to go.

Art Moystner said I'm at the point you can't get it done fast enough. So, I will be extremely happy when this is done. So, we've been, we've had to have maintenance in a few times. Salyer Taylor has been in just keeping the system going. So, I look forward to this project, not only getting started but getting finished.

Gary said yeah.

Larry said is there a timeline Art, from like start to finish?

Art Moystner said that's outside of my realm of expertise.

Larry said okay. I didn't know whether they had told you.

Art Moystner said I don't know enough about that to give you.

Gary said we hired, we hired project management through Argo.

Art Moystner said we did.

Gary said because it is above, it's highly expertise stuff about HVAC system.

Art Moystner said and my understanding is they're going to try to do it seasonally. So, when we're needing heat, they're going to work on the central air system and then when we switch to air, they'll work on the heat. And in the meantime, I think they're going to work on the domestic all through that whole thing for the water supply stuff. So, yes, I'm glad we have an expert for that because I am not it.

Gary said well, I think we're to the step now we've been waiting to get to and that's funded and ready to go.

Art Moystner said so, I assume the next step is it'll go out for bids?

Meeks said yep, we're going to get money on Wednesday.

Art Moystner said okay.

Gary said Tony, Jake is from Argo, he'll be taking care of all that.

Art Moystner said okay. And I'll make sure I'm contacting or communicating with him, so that when, any of the contractors are wanting to come in, I'll make sure that the maintenance person is available so that we can answer questions if we can and make sure we can take them through the building.

Gary said I can send him a message that we'll be funded on Wednesday and then I'll copy you on it so we can get the communication chain going.

Meeks said probably should tell him maybe like this week, because I don't know when.

Gary said this week, don't pin it down to one day, yeah.

Laura said she told me we'll have the money Wednesday.

Meeks said yeah, I just.

Gary said I'll just tell them next week.

Laura said she said for me to let her know.

Meeks said I would say this. I'm just not, I've done these too many times.

Gary said okay, sounds good.

Art Moystner said at the speed of government.

Gary said while we have you up here Sheriff, we went through courthouse security, which is going to be in your domain.

Art Moystner said yes sir.

Gary said so, do you have anything to bring forth on your thoughts?

Art Moystner said I don't. I know, Dave and I've had some conversations and we will continue to do so along with the rest of the council and I will keep talking with the commissioners. We're kind of waiting to see where this grant is going to go. I know Judge Dowling and myself have communicated several times. We make it a point to talk at least once a week about some of this to see where things are at. So, I think it's a positive step. We're moving forward and I'd like to see that at least far enough along that whoever takes over for me at the end of next year, is well on their way with a lot of this.

Gary said okay. Anybody got anything for the sheriff? Tom?

Tom said no.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said no.

Gary said Dave?

David said no.

Gary said council? Thank you.

Art Moystner said thank you.

#### **Renewable Energy funding**

Gary said Renewable energy funding. Anything to talk about on renewable energy funding?

David said I do have one question about the solar farm north of Union City. Is that a go project still or do we know?

Scott said I can tell you they moved it from October start to April, and I, next April, and I'm not so sure it isn't going to be moved back another 3 or 4 months possibly.

David said okay. That's what I heard.

Scott said and that's coming from EDP and the contractor. But I do know it's been moved back to at least April and probably later than that.

Meeks said of 2026 or 2027?

Scott said well, 2026. I'm not saying it can't go back to 27, but I know it's not going to start before April of 26.

Meeks said okay.

Tom said I think there're some infrastructure issues tied to that or connected at least.

David said there is.

Scott said yes, yeah.

Gary said anything else on renewable energy funding?

Greg said what about the, since of our joint meeting, I thought when it was originally set up that the commissioners that set it up then, I mean, that doesn't mean it's got to be that way now, was wanting to separate the amount of money that could be spent for roads, bridges and drainage versus what is spent otherwise, and have it separated.

Gary said well, the commissioners and council have never made that a mandatory, fixed barrier. It's always thought, you know, but, actually as a plan, this is our plan as we get together and make decisions as the two bodies, because we really don't have a plan.

Greg said so, there's no intention of every splitting it or making a plan to have it set where this.

Gary said I don't intend to make a joint, myself, a joint resolution to set benchmarks or hurdles or barriers on what can be used and when. I think I know where we need to go and it can follow that way, but we do not know what could face us where we would have to scrap it anyway and revert back to renewable energy to go take care of an account we can't even see right now. So, if we make a joint resolution, it carries a pretty good force and minus a joint resolution, we could, either body could make a change without consultation with the other one, say I'm not going to do that, or the council could say I'm not going to do that. So, I think we're okay the way we're going right now, just funneling forward with the projects that we're committing to. By the fact that we're committing out, I think up to 5 years now on roads and bridges, and using renewable energy, we're basically doing the same thing. But particularly, Greg, I really don't want to just say we're going to set a hard line, you can't go over that on a different type of project. That would almost be like we couldn't do the 4-H grounds because of that. We put over a million dollars I believe. I know that.

Greg said yeah, yeah.

Gary said so you've got to leave it fluid, I think, for it to do the most good. That's where I'm at, but that's just me. Tom?

Tom said I guess I kind of agree and we are forcing a lot of progress in bridges. They're, what we've been pushing ahead on the bridges and gone out 5 years now and added an extra bridge here and there in between. So, step by step. But infrastructure, infrastructure is what we've said all along on that money.

Gary said which that's what's been. There's not been anything other than some sort of style of infrastructure.

Tom said well there's been a few things. We bought an ambulance with it and a couple of things like that.

Gary said ambulance is part infrastructure of the county.

Tom said okay.

Gary said I mean, it's on the border. It's not operational costs or wages or anything like that. But yeah, I mean.

David said okay. Let me weigh in on this.

Gary said I was going to go right to you, we'll let Missy weigh in for the commissioners, then I'll just go right to you.

David said okay. Go ahead.

Missy said yeah, I don't see ambulances in there, but we've, I talked to Joe just a little bit on, before our last meeting, and he was, we were going over the number of bridges that have been replaced or repaired and it's greatly an increase over what we had in the previous 5 years. And just because kind of him, has really been a great help.

Gary said yeah, in fairness on the ambulance, just so everybody knows, when we did that, we didn't have the money to buy the ambulance.

Tom said right.

Missy said yeah.

Gary said we just didn't have the money to buy the ambulance.

Tom said and that's the reason, just what you were saying, I know that locking up the funds, if we have an emergency, we, our budget leads to that point.

Gary said we've bought two after that, we haven't had to do that because revenue has increased in Randolph County. So, I never really was wishing that was how we spent the money, but it was that or go to 3 ambulances, not 4. We just didn't have the funding at the time, and circuit breakers were really coming on board causing us a lot of grief on the council side.

Missy said I think there's going to be a lot of changes in the next year or two also.

Gary said may be.

Greg said that's the reason I brought this up is because the money is going to get tight.

Gary said yep.

Missy said really tight.

Greg said in 27, 28, and the peoples going to be coming after money from any which way they can find it.

Gary said well, right, and that's why, yeah. Well let me get through, then Dave will start.

Greg said okay, go ahead.

Gary said Missy, anything else on the commissioners on that?

Missy said nope, that's it.

Gary said Dave.

Dave said yeah. You know, I've been on this renewable energy project since day one and I'm going to go back. The original intent of those monies were to be used for roads, bridges and drainage. This county has over, well not over, but right at 500 million dollars in assets we're controlling. Bridges and roads are the biggest two ticket items in that, those dollars. And every year, we keep going backwards. We're not going forwards any, even by spending more money, like you guys said. It was my intention to originally, to use 100% towards those 3 items. But, I'm willing to compromise a little and you know, go with 75/25. I just think we're going to have to look out for the county going forward like you guys said, 26 we'll be okay, 27, 28, we have no clue right now where we're going. But from a financial end, especially for county council's purpose, we're going to have to look at it pretty close. And I know we support a lot of different things out of that, those dollars, and I just feel that we have to be very cautious. And if we don't dedicate a percentage, it could get out of hand going forward because most of us won't be here then.

Scott said I'm in total agreement. It can't be used for operation use. But I also don't, I like keeping it all in one fund, so if the commissioners need to use some funds or a community needs 2 or 3 hundred thousand to secure a million dollar grant or something like that, you know, that's a good investment.

David said that's where the 25% comes in, we can.

Scott said right. Right. But I think we're on track using it for the infrastructure.

David said it's more so now than it was a few years back.

Scott said but we definitely have to make sure we don't start using it to cover shortfalls.

David said of anybody's shortfalls, not only county's, but other shortfalls.

Scott said yeah.

Gary said the rest of the council?

David said Larry, you got any comment on that?

Larry said no.

David said Scott?

Larry said I like what I'm hearing.

David said Todd?

Todd said if such a plan were to be put in place, what would prevent it from being thrown out by future councils and commissioners?

David said that's anything you do can be done that way.

Todd said so it's kind of a, I don't know if there's a way to protect, you know.

Gary said a joint resolution would take then a joint, both bodies would have to go ahead and undo it. A joint resolution carries a lot of force on law, which, I personally don't want to do that myself. And if you just do a resolution by the council, a resolution by the commissioners, then the next set of commissioners or council could undo it. It's just a resolution. Right now, we're pretty well self-governed by both bodies having to be on board.

Todd said I guess we, sorry, I got one thing I can't think is by making long term commitments, you could insure that future. So, you've got a 5 year, you're out there 5 years on a lot of these.

Gary said well I've asked the highway and everybody will get that, what our commitments are because we've had probably 3 different bridge state commitments or federal commitments come through, and I couldn't tell you the actual total. I mean, we're okay, but I don't know how much of the funds have been percentage-wise, captured in that. They're going to give us a report. I'll reach out to Jay before the next commissioners meeting.

Todd said one thing, I mean, you know, if you think that direction, instead of a joint commission-type decision, you, if it's the will of the bodies that this money be long term infrastructure, then make a long term infrastructure plan and tie the money to it, you could do that, because there were be no way to, well, I don't think you could undo that.

Meeks said well if you wanted to do a joint resolution, perfectly able to do that, the only ties to the money is what's in that contract. And the contract with the EDP and all those other ones, it's an economic development for economic development in Randolph County. So, that's what the agreement says. The council, the council's approval dependent on the appropriation of those funds. So, that's why they need council approval. If they didn't need the appropriation of funds, then they didn't need council. You need commissioner approval because that's who the contract, I mean that's who the funding mechanism goes through. So, you can have those sorts of things,

but that is nothing, absolutely nothing would allow for a new council to change that. What they can't change is the appropriation. What they can change is needing the commissioners' approval to make those fundings. So, that's kind of how it's all set up and it's all from the state, unless there's some sort of state change on those. And we've been doing these appropriations and thing for, I don't know 100 years, I don't know, for a long, long, long, long time. So, if you have such as, I knew there was floating, floated around years ago, well we need a commission like they do up in Ft. Wayne, and then they award these grants every year and use the interest or whatever, I'm like well you can absolutely do that. But those requests would have to go front of the council for the appropriation, and on from the commissioners for approval. So, whatever you do, you just have to understand that's the.

Gary said right so, the process is the plan.

Meeks said you're not going to, I mean, you can do joint resolutions all you want. I just say if somebody comes in with a heck of a great project, well like, we have this resolution, well we're going to change it, and you can change it.

Missy said just a system of checks and balances and you can't do away with that. I mean, new bodies can make different decisions for it.

Meeks said yeah, and there's no, I mean, yes, I mean, it's a good idea to have a plan, which you're going to want to use it for, a long-term plan, that's fine. But just understanding that hey, this money is not going to be there forever.

Missy said and with the way renew, it's interesting the way renewable energy has been talked about in the state house yesterday and today, it's going to, there're no answers on any of that. I mean, Tom and I.

Scott said well no, because.

Meeks said you can put nuclear reactors in now.

Tom said that's coming.

David said it's coming.

Meeks said it's in the legislature now.

Scott said those turbines and panels is personal property.

Missy said yeah.

Scott said and after the 10 years, you know, we don't know what kind of revenue.

Missy said well, there're some other things if you listened a little bit today, what was discussed at the state house and some decision, and whether that'll pass through on, I think next Monday or

Tuesday, there's going to be some more committee hearings on them. But renewable energy may not be paying us what we have been getting from them. It's, there's some committee talk about that. Be interesting.

Gary said our contract protects us.

Missy said our contract does, but future projects don't.

Scott said EDP's been pretty good to us, but there's been sometimes I question did we sell ourselves short, you know, could we have, I think, I feel like we should be getting more towards the roads.

Gary said you mean the road use agreement?

Scott said road use agreement needs to be a little tougher. My opinion, you know, when they first started, first project, they cement stabilized the roads and then they paved them all. And now the road use agreement reads they can get by with chip and seal them. So, I just wonder.

Gary said I don't think it reads that way. I think it reads you've got to put it back to the state the condition it was in, minimum.

Meeks said correct. That's how it reads.

Scott said well I can tell you when they did Headwaters II, because I dealt with them, and their intentions was to chip and seal everything. And I said well, that's not going to go over very well. If you want to build anymore projects, you better buy some pavement, and we went from about 1.5 million for chip and seal and up to 4.5 million.

David said yes, something like that, yeah.

Scott said yeah, and we got that by just saying hey, you need to do more for the community. Now, you know their money is probably getting tight too.

Gary said yeah. One of the things we found out too, between 1 and 2, was they went back on the first one when we did all the cement stabilization paving, to the original plot of the road, not where the road expanded out, the roads got narrower. So, that had to be handled in number 2.

David said Bev, do you have anything on what we're talking about?

Bev said no.

David said Greg, you have anything else?

Greg said no, I've said my piece.

David said okay. I have too.

Gary said commissioners, anybody else on the renewable energy funding? I think the fact that it takes both bodies is pretty self-governing. I just do, and the process itself, requires the plan, particular one of the day to be a good one, or it won't make it through, nor should it.

Tom said all a resolution would really do with, tell future council and commissioners what we wanted to do with the money, because they could change it.

Gary said what we wanted, right.

Tom said right, what we wanted, but they wouldn't have to abide by it.

Meeks said well the council can make a resolution, the commissioners can. It doesn't have to be joint if you guys, deliberate in your body and say well this is what we want to do and we'll make a resolution of that. Then you don't have to have the, council doesn't have the commissioners, commissioners don't have to have the council.

Gary said vice versa, right. We both need each other to get a project funded so, that brings it to the table. Anything else on this particular item?

#### **Progress on Blighted Properties**

Gary said alright. We'll move into progress on blighted properties. I found out today that Saratoga's got one going down. Winchester has two and they're working on the third one, and possibly a fourth one, getting close. I don't believe Union City has capitalized on any of them yet.

Missy said haven't heard of any. And he gave me a list that he had.

Gary said I wonder if they owned all those and didn't realize that they did.

Meeks said I think they're working on it.

Missy said they're working on it.

Gary said they're working on it?

David said they only own I think 3.

Gary said and Modoc has got one down, which was good to hear. We funded that out of EDIT, but the council's input was greatly appreciated. If we go through the 140 thousand dollars, I think we fund it again and keep tearing houses down.

Missy said I do too. I hope so.

Meeks said it costs about 15 to 17 thousand dollars to tear a house down.

Gary said Saratoga's was 17.

Meeks said and asbestos, the one in Winchester, the recent one I was talking to Bob before, is 6 thousand dollars just for the asbestos. That's the problem.

Todd said is there a rollover period on that with, for example, a town says we want to do that, is there a certain date where there's a cut off on the prior funding and the new one begins, or if you?

Meeks said no.

Todd said it's only been done for one year, right?

Meeks said right.

Todd said so if you're talking about doing it again, would you cut off and start again?

Gary said I don't know. It's a good point.

Todd said I'm thinking you're going to get double if you don't.

Tom said we didn't really set a time for a year did we?

Meeks said there's not, there's no time on it.

Todd said no time on it?

Missy said I hope we look at it and continue with it, with cities that have really stepped up and tried to do it.

Meeks said I know Parker is looking to do it.

Missy said they have a house they want to have torn down, but the owner is long gone.

Meeks said they're having trouble getting.

Missy said and they're having trouble because.

Meeks said they will get it.

Missy said yeah.

Meeks said I don't know about Farmland.

Missy said yeah, I haven't heard. I tell you, they have done a pretty good job in the past and really keep, I mean one there on the corner, 32 and 1, it's, you could say it's a blighted property

because it's that big old house, but it really isn't dangerous. It has been unoccupied forever, but it's kind of one of those.

Todd said Losantville is a little town I live near and they had 3 in mind, but they're trying to get ownership on it. My question was basically for them, at what point do they hit a deadline, but there is no deadline.

Meeks said well I think what would happen is we if the commissioners want to review that, they would then either say Losantville, you can have 2 because you didn't use your funding or too bad. But I assume, I assume what will happen is they would have 2, and they'd probably put a time limit on that one, say hey, if you don't use it by this, it's going to go away.

Gary said yeah, you're right. There's no intent to punish anybody, because it takes time. So, yeah, actually is Losantville had 3, it's going well and it's working well, you could probably come back and get the third one funded.

Laura said actually, they only get one right now.

Meeks said yep, up to 10 thousand dollars.

Gary said yeah, we were talking about it, yeah.

Scott said well I think getting the ownership is going to take some time.

Meeks said probably take every bit of 6 months.

Scott said yeah.

Meeks said we only started it, couple months ago?

Gary said 3 months ago?

Missy said couple, yeah.

Gary said it'd one of the projects that's shown pretty good progress. Anybody else on the blighted properties? Missy, you got any more on it? You were pushing on this.

Missy said no.

Greg said is there any, has there been any solution or anything to we, someone talked about it the last meeting, about maybe, can't think of it, the committee you're on, to buying some of these houses so they.

Scott said RCU, yeah.

Greg said to get control by people here in the county. RCU.

Scott said maybe RCU start working with the clerk's office before the things go up for sale or when they're going up for sale.

Greg said get them bought before at least the other people would.

Scott said getting them involved.

Gary said I wouldn't get them involved with it at all, it goes to the governments of the cities and towns.

Meeks said well we get, how it would work, I don't know, I haven't talked to the council, maybe talked about it with the commissioners. It must go to the first tax sale. So, the first tax sale, that property has to go through. And then the next one if the commissioners' sale. And at that point, we can put a bid on it that says you have to come with the taxes again. We usually have a minimum bid of like 50 or a 100. Probably should rethink that and then once that goes through the second tax sale, you can get that, you can do a resolution and that's how we get rid of these. I have gotten rid of several, a bunch of them to the city of Winchester and a bunch to Union City. But Union City and Winchester has always come up and said hey, here's a list of houses we would like from that list, to the commissioners and the commissioners would, at that point, give them, pass a resolution. They get the tax certificate. They then go and get, send notices out to the property owner and get the deed, and that's how they get these properties for relatively cheaply, if you think about it. I mean it does cost to get the search done and everything else. You're picking these properties up for 6, 7, 8 hundred bucks. And then they can do with whatever they think is appropriate with it.

Scott said we just got to get the communities, the towns involved.

Meeks said most towns know about this. Parker City has done it. I know.

Missy said go out and talk to them. Some of them don't know. So, go out and talk to them, because Parker didn't know it when I was over there when you were over there.

Meeks said yeah, I've talked to them about it. I talked to one council and then there's a new council and, you have to keep telling people. I told them, and that was 5 years ago and that person is not on the council now it's like aww whoops.

Scott said does Lynn, does Lynn have any properties or any discussion?

Gary said I haven't heard anything from Lynn.

Missy said I met, I went to their town council meeting and they do. They just don't know, I mean, they've got a, I said you've got to go find out who owns the property and can you get control of it to get it town down. Believe it or not, you walk around there, I've walked up and down their streets a lot and they don't have near as many as a lot of other towns do. I was surprised. Now, one I saw or two I saw, it probably was two, they're outside the city limits, out of their town limits. So, they're in the county. And that's the other question, I had people who

came to me and said, how about this house that's up on 27 North on the left hand side, the county, shouldn't the county take care of that? That's one thing we'll have to think about a little bit.

Gary said we have to own it.

Missy said yeah.

Tom said my opinion only, but I don't think RCU should be involved at all. Well, the problem is, once you get them torn down, sometimes they're properties that aren't sellable. So, who's going to maintain it if RCU owns it, if we get them turned over to the city or the community or whoever is involved, they have the assets to mow them or take care of them or sometimes neighbors do not want them. You know, they don't want to add to their yard just to mow certain areas.

Scott said I agree with you. The town needs to have the ownership on it.

Tom said right.

Gary said right. You have elected governing bodies on these towns that take care of them.

Scott said just got to make sure these towns are.

Gary said right.

Larry said I asked a couple months ago Tom, when the gal was here, was if the commissioners or council puts up a 100,000, would RCU match that?

Gary said their money comes from us.

Larry said pardon?

Gary said their money comes from us, mainly.

Larry said okay, yeah, that killed that.

Missy said but they have money they could.

Gary said their budget is net zero right now. Every dime they've got including the county contribution is wrapped up in their budget. They don't have any extra funding. They would come to us to get it out of EDIT to do something like this. We might as well just keep control here.

Meeks said I will say the county has torn down houses before.

Missy said yeah, they have.

Meeks said Lickskillet was one and usually.

Missy said Losantville tore one down I think too.

Meeks said yeah. And I don't think we owned those. We didn't want to. We sent the notices out to the property owners. We told them they were going to get abated. Then they abated them and then basically buried it because you can bury them in the.

Larry said I haven't kept up the process. I did a little bit when my wife was here. Has there been anything to prevent the LLCs from buying them and leaving them trash?

Missy said that's the problem.

Larry said okay, I didn't know if there.

Meeks said that has to be a state thing.

Gary said yeah, that would be a discrimination if we decide who could and who couldn't.

Meeks said we can't tell people what they can own.

Gary said we can give them to the cities and towns or we can make it where they don't want it by the cost, and then give it away, but then we're going to have properties that nobody wants including them or the cities. Then we've got to do something with those too. So, there's a balance in there. As far as all the cities and towns not knowing, it kind of proves, it kind of shows that they don't attend their EDIT board meetings.

Missy said yeah, I know.

Gary said so, that in itself is a problem.

Tom said I think changing the certificate sales is going to take care of the LLC issues. They have to pay the property taxes on them instead of buying them for a 100 dollars. I think that's going to take care of that issue.

Larry said a lot of some of the percentages of the blight properties are owned by LLCs.

Scott said I think you're right about that, yes.

Gary said okay. Anybody have anything else on the blighted properties? Glad to see they're going down, one by one.

#### **Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission**

Gary said Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission. Missy, you were going to do some fact finding for us.

Missy said yeah, we, after one of our commissioner meetings, I asked Jeff Plasterer from Wayne County. I said what do you think, and I expressed that I attended several of those meetings and I'm not going to do that again, because it's lunch and talk about a few odds and ends and then see you the next meeting. And he agreed. And he said it had been at one time, a very productive organization, but the attendance at Union City I think were 6 people there. And of course, it's all the way down to Connersville, Rushville, driving a lot. I asked him, Laura I'm glad you mentioned that to me, do we have to belong in this to be able to apply for grants, and he said no, that is not in any guidelines any longer. I mentioned to Jeff about getting together and talking about some things, but Richmond and Wayne county is a little bit, they have a lot of small cities like we do, but it's a little bit different with Richmond being a municipality, because an awful lot of stuff is done in Richmond and surrounding Richmond, but not in those other little towns.

David said now was Jeff, wasn't he the head of that at one time?

Missy said he was.

Gary said he was.

Missy said he was.

David said so he would know.

Missy said he would know, yeah. I mean, it's just disappointing. It's just, the attendance has gone down. The first one that you and I went to was pretty well attended, what we accomplished, what we discussed, what we were talking.

Greg said yeah, nothing was accomplished that I could tell and couldn't hear anything anyway.

Missy said yeah, yeah.

Greg said the acoustics were terrible.

Missy said and I went to Connersville and they talked about Brownfields. Well, we'd already been on a call here, or at least I had over RCU, starting with the Brownfield process with Sidney. And then she delegated, which is fine, she delated that out to each one of us to find those. So, we did the work on them, and now she, I mean now, you know, we know people, she wants us to contact those owners. Well, I've got to get more information on that. I, you got to go searching these people and find out, do you want to sell these or would you give them to us, or, you know, I need more information on what we're going to be doing. And I know she's busy at the state house now.

Tom said what's the annual dues for that?

Gary said it's so much per population.

Laura said hang on, I have it right here. \$9,676.40.

Larry said how much, Laura?

Laura said \$9,676.40.

Larry said is that annual?

Laura said yes.

Tom said is that a council decision basically, whether it's funded or not. Whether we're members or not?

Laura said commissioners and if you are not going to do it, I think maybe you should have a vote so that I can reach out to them and let them know, because right now, I've got an invoice that they're expecting us to pay in January.

Gary said I would prefer you put it on the agenda for the 15<sup>th</sup>, personally. So, we can think about it.

Laura said okay. Well, we tabled it from 11/17 to today.

Gary said yep.

Laura said so, now we're going to table it to 12/15.

Gary said I'm going back in my mind, why we even did it.

Laura said I don't know. That's why Missy was going to do some research.

Missy said I did. And we talked a little bit about that.

Laura said I know Mike was all about it when he was on the commissioners, but I don't know why. You know, I just thought it was because of grant funding.

Missy said that's what I think originally it was.

Gary said the READI grand almost demanded you were in that region to even be considered grouped.

Missy said yeah. Jeff Plasterer said it is not a requirement anymore.

Gary said so when we signed up you feel like it was, or was it just a heavy impression?

Missy said I'd heard it was.

Gary said well, I feel like it was, but I'm not, thinking maybe it was just an impression.

Laura said our region is Fayette, Henry, Randolph, Rush, Union and Wayne.

Tom said so, how's it work with the READI grant if we're not part of that?

Laura said that's why I said reach out to Greg Beumer but I don't know if you did that or not.

Missy said no, I didn't. I saw him this weekend, but.

Laura said Greg would probably know that.

Missy said but I think he's going to tell you I'm not involved with that anymore, so I don't know if.

Laura said he does grants all the time.

Missy said he does grants.

Laura said he works for Kleinpeter Consultants.

Missy said yeah, I know that.

David said I think he retired from that.

Missy said no, he's still doing it.

David said does he?

Missy said he's doing.

Laura said last I knew, he was still doing it.

Missy said the ones he wants to do. Yeah, he's doing it. He just got a grant for Parker City.

Tom said well, Sydney should have some issues in that.

Scott said Sydney. That's what I was getting ready to say. Sydney ought to be able to shed some light on this.

David said and find out, at least.

Missy said I'll call her.

Laura said I don't care one way or the other. I just think we should reach out to them if we're not going to pay this because they're going to be dunning us for it.

Gary said I'm at the point they need to prove why we need them.

Greg said there you go. Exactly.

Gary said I just want to hear them prove why we need you.

Greg said what are you doing for us.

Gary said you know, we've got to pay our director, that's not enough.

Tom said but if we have to have them for the READI grant, that's the amount of money we brought in for the READI grants, more than the 9,000 we're going to spend the year coming up. With the one that was just awarded, what'd we get 300 and some thousand. Well, it was a million total.

Gary said in a way, that may not be a requirement, but if that particular office is doing the push, then we're not going to get pushed.

Tom said no, we're not.

Gary said even though, we can't be discriminated on, but nobody's putting our name up front.

Missy said I'll message her.

Gary said okay. Like I said, I'm on the edge of saying let's drop it because what the cause and effect may be. Anything else on the Indiana Regional Planning Commission Eastern Indiana. Okay. Well Dave, it looks like you've got a little bit of council business here.

David said yeah, it looks like.

Laura said it's actually something that my office did not get to you guys at your last meeting. It's been advertised, everything.

#### **Council Transfer of funds for 911**

#### **\$16,080.00 From Supervisor to Equipment**

David said okay. What we have here is a council transfer of funds for 911. It's \$16,080.00. It's from supervision to equipment. It doesn't say what kind of equipment.

Todd said money from wages to equipment?

Missy said who was the?

David said supervision, supervisor to equipment.

Laura said 911.

Missy said okay.

Bev said it just didn't make it to the last meeting. So, we just need an approval.

Todd said how does that happen when we don't spend our budgeted amount of wages?

Gary said especially supervision.

Todd said when we ended up paying extra for overtime in April, I mean.

David said it's a budgetary item. I mean.

Laura said if the money wasn't there to do this, Danita would not have pushed it through. She's the one that gave it to me and said this got missed at the last one.

Scott said they've got to have extra funds. He was down several, he was down a lot of personnel, so even though we were paying overtime.

David said entertain a motion.

Greg made a motion to approve. Bev seconded the motion. 5aye votes. 1 nay vote (Todd Holaday). Motion carried.

David said that's all we have Gary.

Gary said okay. That is the end of the agenda.

Missy said Gary, I've got one more thing, I'm sorry, to add on. Fire departments, as I've been going to some of the towns, they are having issues because the radios have to be updated to 700 to 900-megahertz radio.

Gary said 9 or 8?

Missy said huh?

Gary said 800 or 900?

Missy said 900.

Gary said I thought we were on 800.

Laura said we were. That's what our, when we did the communications, it was 7 to 800 megahertz.

Greg said yeah, that's what I thought, it was 7 to 8.

Laura said Art might know more about it than I do. I just know the numbers.

Art said it's the 7 to 800-megahertz system is what we're.

Gary said okay.

Missy said okay. So, some of them don't have them. So, is there any help to you know, could we hire Greg Beumer to write a grant for those who don't have them. As an example, Ridgeville has one fire fighter and he doesn't have a radio that's going to work at some point, and they can't afford them because they're pretty, they're about 5,000 dollars a radio from what they told me.

Gary said could be more.

Missy said yeah, could be more. Saratoga's is the same boat. They need new radios.

Gary said I thought Saratoga just got a grant from the DNR for.

Missy said if they did it recently, I don't.

David said they have the fire territory, Saratoga

Greg said yeah, they're a separate taxing entity.

David said they should be able to afford it.

Missy said yeah, so, they're one too. Lynn's in really good shape. That gentleman who's their chief down there, he's full time, makes a pretty good salary to be there. But he writes a lot of grants and he gets them. And he doesn't want to go around and start writing, he's willing to help with some, but he doesn't. He doesn't want to start saying yeah, I'll come and be your grant writer. So, it's going to be something in the future we're going to have to think about.

Gary said did he prove that with the grant writer, you can get the money and get it taken care of?

Missy said he has got.

Gary said did he prove that?

Missy said yeah. He got turn out here. He's got all his radios by doing that. Got some improvements on some other equipment on the truck itself. He's full time there.

Greg said he's full time for White River?

Missy said yeah.

Greg said but he's fire chief at Lynn?

Missy said yes, right, yeah. That's what I meant, yeah.

David said yeah, I know who he is.

Greg said it's Charlie Nicholson's boy.

David said his boy, yeah, Charlie's boy.

Greg said yeah.

Gary said I don't have an answer on that other. We sent it out in a meeting some time ago and the numbers they come back that everybody said they had to have was astronomical.

Missy said oh, yeah, it is.

Gary said it was like 120 thousand dollars' worth of radios. And then, it gets hard to buy for one and not the other.

Missy said I know.

Scott said well it seems like it was just 4 or 5 years ago that they went to the 700s, right?

Missy said I don't have any idea.

Laura said it was 19 or 20 when we did the communication system, because we bonded for it.

Greg said yeah, it's 5 or 6 years ago.

Gary said the last big discussion we had on it, they were in here, Union City was in and they wanted to kind of force everybody to 800. Union City and Winchester have more funds available to get there. And the discussion was these small towns don't have the same funding that you have. And they can't get there right now. And we've been, everybody, and that was because they wanted to get across to Ohio. Ohio, I think it's there period.

Tom said that was the whole conversation that, yeah we communicate with mutual aid.

Gary said I don't know. Somewhere, there's a breakdown, a gap or, these volunteer fire departments that don't have full time people don't have the resources or the actual expertise to get in to the grant system and get this stuff taken care of.

Missy said like one of them doesn't even have their SAMS number.

Gary said pardon me?

Missy said one, a couple, well, at least one of them doesn't even have their SAMS number. You have to have that to apply for grants. And it's not a hard process. You just have to get on the computer and be able to go through it.

Laura said you have to do it every year.

Missy said yeah.

Gary said just be careful which one you pick, because there are people who'll charge you to get it.

Laura said exactly.

Missy said yeah, I know. Yeah.

Gary said if you work in grants, you have to have to have a SAMS number too.

Missy said right, yeah, because we did over there. I did it over there.

Gary said it takes a password about that long to do it. I don't have an answer, other than I think each one of these departments, I don't know what it takes to get a grant writer to help all of them. We tried it at RCU. It was when it was Economic Development. It didn't work. The problem with that working there is you end up getting it for one community, the other community fails and then they say well it's favoritism, and it's not. I think they have to do their own. They just have to have the right encouragement or the right coach.

Missy said yeah. I think you need to get one person who's going to say give me the information, I'll sit down. I don't know if Greg would do it or not, or we could get somebody to do it or not, or one of those gals over at RCU could get onto it and.

Gary said it's not, I don't have any, I don't trust that will happen.

Missy said yeah. Do you mind if I ask them if they would take that on?

Gary said not at all. Not at all, but then I would hope that, saying one thing and following it through is two different things.

Missy said yeah. But town clerks, that's asking a lot of them with everything else they've got to do sometimes to, they're running the whole thing by, the whole town by themselves.

Scott said I agree with you.

Gary said we could cut their funding 120 thousand dollars and hire somebody to work directly for the commissioners.

Missy said and be a grant writer?

Gary said and then take care of our small communities. But we're not there yet. But it's just, there's a lot of things to do.

Missy said so, do you mind, do I have your permission to call Greg Beumer and ask him?

Gary said well you don't need it, but yeah.

Missy said ask him to see what are his ideas on it?

Gary said yeah, yeah. Alright. So, I was going to go around the room to get everybody's final thoughts. So, you, I'll come to you one more time around. We'll start final thoughts. Are you alright with that Dave?

David said yep, let's do it.

Gary said Larry, we'll go around the room, you're up.

Larry said I don't have any final thoughts. I like the discussion tonight and when we talk about turning over to the next bodies, they're going to have to use caution just like, just like we do. And I don't know Missy, when we talked to the gentleman from Trinity, does he want on the agenda?

Gary said he's on.

Laura said he's on.

Missy said yeah, he's on for tomorrow.

Larry said okay. That's all I have.

Gary said Scott?

Scott said my only comment is we've got a lot of pretty good sized projects going on.

Gary said yes, we do.

Scott said I mean, between security at the courthouse and the morgue. I mean, we've got more going on than Randolph County's done at one time in a long time, I believe. Between the jail project, now we're talking about the highway garage and the airport.

Gary said the morgue and the road.

Scott said yeah.

Gary said and the remodel

Scott said and all the commitments on the bridges. I think we've got to keep pushing ahead on all of these. I mean, we need the morgue, but we're going to have to be cautious, because we

don't know what 28 and 29 is going to bring. And hopefully, the state will make some changes and it won't be as bad as what it looks like it's going to be.

Gary said anything else?

Scott said I just, the only other thing is I want to make sure that we're able to stick to that using those renewable funds for future infrastructure projects and not covering shortfalls.

Gary said I think the solace to that would be is we haven't yet. And I don't intend to, personally.

Scott said it's, I would never vote for it.

Gary said I guess one could say buying an ambulance was because we had a shortfall, but we could have run on 3. We just didn't want to.

Scott said well, it's close to being infrastructure. And you know, using, helping communities get grants, I don't have a problem with that. I think that's a great investment. You know, if you can spot them 2 or 3 hundred thousand and they can get a million or two.

Gary said we got it all back from Losantville.

Scott said yeah, yeah.

Gary said so then we spent 300 thousand of it helping getting all the hookups, but that was well worth it.

Scott said it was, they're all hooked up now. And without the county's help, I don't think they would all be hooked up 3 years from now.

Gary said right. And that would defeat the whole purpose.

Scott said exactly. So, that's all I got.

Gary said great, Todd.

Todd said I enjoy these joint meetings. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

Gary said Dave.

David said yeah, I thought it was a good meeting. Like everybody else, we have a lot of projects. So, I think we have the funding for most of them in place, but we've just got to be cautious. That's all I got.

Gary said I don't have anything. Tom?

Tom said only one thing I will say, we keep talking about renewables and using only for infrastructure, we have using it to build up the Rainy Day.

Gary said Rainy Day.

Tom said Rainy Day, and I think that's good for our financial stability in the future and I want to keep doing that, but that would be one place that we could truly haven't used it for infrastructure is Rainy Day. Then the other thing, RCU funding was mentioned. With the new structure the next couple of years, that shifts from the commissioners to the council pretty much, so, just so that thoughts out there. We won't have EDIT dollars to fund that.

Gary said yeah. The commissioners will still have the contract to approve and send it off for appropriations. And even right now, it's still subject to the annual appropriation by the council.

Tom said it is.

Gary said the council approved that a couple years ago. Anything else?

Tom said nope.

Gary said Bev.

Bev said I thought it was a good meeting and I, as well, that we do this periodically, is a good thing. It just really helps support everything that we do. And it lets me keep up on everything you know, as best you can, of things going on. I try to attend the meetings I can attend, but physical problems have prevented me from doing so. But, I try to do what I can, so. I really enjoyed the meeting. Thank you.

Gary said great. Greg?

Greg said same thing. I think these meetings are very necessary and it keeps everybody on the same page.

Gary said it does.

Greg said more so than what we think it does. I mean, yeah, I watch your commissioners meeting now that we're televised and try to keep up. But, sitting here and having a discussion amongst all of us, gets us a lot tighter circle.

Gary said it's different, there's no doubt.

Greg said yes.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said I think these meetings are extremely valuable. And Tom and I went to the commissioners' workshop last week, and there were some kind of scary information coming out of there. And the senate did vote down the redistricting. I don't know if you heard that or not. So, that's going to be interesting to see who's mad and who's not going to play ball anymore. State funding is really a big issue. So, the dirt and the details on that if we're ever going to get details to figure out here pretty soon, a lot of appropriations are going to be dwindling away, the top brass up there make some of the decisions they say they're going to, so.

Gary said none of that had to happen.

Missy said no. But it's going to get.

Gary said for years, they've left us out here to fight our own battles. None of that had to happen.

Missy said right, exactly.

Gary said I don't think the governor should have done it so quickly in his first term.

Missy said no. Well, I'm not sure they know what they're, do they have an answer on what they're doing? We asked that several times you know, well, doe's anybody know what, you know, what they're trying to accomplish, putting that politely, right Tom?

Tom said yeah.

Missy said but, to get an answer from anybody, the answer was yeah, we don't really know the details yet. Really don't know, you know, the levels of things that they're going to be working on. The fact that the senate voted down with all the pressure that was put on then from the governor, sends an interesting message, I think.

Gary said yeah, it went clear to the president.

Missy said yeah. Oh, absolutely, yeah.

Gary said I mean, they'll regret that when they lose the House by one person, republicans, if you're republican. If you're a democrat, you'll be happy.

Missy said yeah. A lot of phone calling on some of that stuff. But our funding and state funding is going to be a real, it's going to be a real challenge. They went through a lot of numbers with us on that. That was the best conference I've ever been to. And I, one, for the county, down in French Lick, I thought was excellent this summer, late summer. But this one was really, really good.

Tom said I'll say one other thing I'll say for that, but I don't want to get into any of the details right now, but they are still pushing and pushing and pushing of more consolidation of county government.

**Citizen Comments (3 minutes)**

None

**Adjournment**

Gary said a lot of general conversation, but we could adjourn. Would somebody like to make a motion to, on the commissioners' side would the commissioners like, somebody make a motion to adjourn?

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

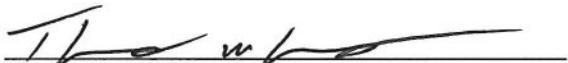
Gary said the commissioners are adjourned. Dave?

David said council, entertain a motion to adjourn.

Greg made a motion to adjourn. Todd seconded the motion. All aye votes. Meeting adjourned.

Reviewed and accepted this 5 day of January, 2026

  
Gary Friend

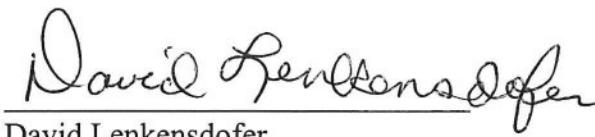
  
Tom Kerns

  
Missy Williams

ATTESTED:

  
Laura J Martin, Auditor

Reviewed and accepted this 6 day of January, 2026

  
David Lenkensdofer

  
Larry Preston

Missy said yes.

Tom said that was the biggest push, and you can take whatever that means right now.

Gary said was that the Kernan report or?

David said Kernan Sheppard

Tom said yep. Yep. And they're going to start over with that again, basically.

Greg said they're kind of forcing that with this SB1 and all that anyway by forcing, a lot more stuff is going to come through council.

Tom said well, they want a lot more central control of everything.

Greg said yeah.

Missy said yeah.

Tom said it is a lot different. And then they want to take that control away from us, unfortunately.

Bev said every county executive.

Missy said I think Tom and I'll both, but, go ahead Bev. I'm sorry.

Bev said I was just going to say, yeah, they're talking about.

Gary said before we get into a real general conversation, let's get on around the room. Were you done?

Missy said yeah, well, I would say, I'll you what, if you listen to Sydney, whatever her last name is, you listen to her when she's doing presentations, tell you what, she's impressive. Tom and I both sat there and said that's.

Tom said very much so.

Gary said Meeks?

Meeks said I do not have anything.

Gary said Laura?

Laura said no.

Beverly Fields  
Beverly Fields

Greg Cheesman  
Greg Cheesman

Mike Stine  
Mike Stine

Todd Holaday  
Todd Holaday

Scott Fisher  
Scott Fisher

ATTESTED: Laura J. Martin  
Laura J. Martin, Auditor

