

## **Randolph County Commissioners**

**March 2, 2026**

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

Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance

### **Council's update**

Gary said good morning everybody. We'll open up this morning's commissioners meeting. First on our agenda, council updates. Larry, good morning.

Larry Preston said Larry Preston, Randolph County Council. Since you met after we met last month, there's not much to report. Tomorrow, I believe that Julie Wilson from the Purdue Extension is coming to our meeting, and that's all we have.

Gary said okay. I don't have anything further, Larry. Thank you. Tom?

Tom said thank you, Larry.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said nope.

Gary said thank you.

### **Chris Shaneyfelt – follow up on staffing issues**

Gary said next, Chris Shaneyfelt. Morning Chris.

Chris Shaneyfelt said good morning. Chris Shaneyfelt, Randolph County 911.

Gary said thank you for getting all this together for us.

Chris Shaneyfelt said no problem. I didn't do all the work, by the way.

Gary said you don't have to.

Chris Shaneyfelt said it was delegated out, but it was done.

Gary said okay, first I guess, you could start out what's the readiness level that we're, that we have over there right now?

Chris Shaneyfelt said same as it was the last time I was here, other than we have hired two people and they start training this week. One starts today and one starts Wednesday. We have one person that we've hired part time from Henry County. We have a few others that have applied that we're waiting to interview, along with a couple of other applications. Nothing has changed other than we've got people that's getting ready to start some training, and hopefully they stay.

Gary said yeah, I can see some of the parity problems that we have in our wages compared to neighboring counties.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yes.

Gary said some significant, some pretty close.

Chris Shaneyfelt said well and the ones that are pretty close, depending on what you're looking at, is okay until you start getting up into the upper levels. You know, I knew the other counties made some more money, but I didn't realize how much more that they were making, especially when you get, you know, most of the, if you look at the medium salaries where we have it, I mean, our initial entry level and PST staff, I mean, we're not too far off there. But once you get further up into the food chain, that's where we're starting to have some disparities. And one of the staff that applied out is a supervisor, so, and she applied with Delaware. So, you can kind of see why she's looking at leaving.

Gary said right. What's PST staff stand for exactly?

Chris Shaneyfelt said it's Public Safety Telecommunicator. That's a, it's the certification we get from APCO.

Gary said and what is CTO?

Chris Shaneyfelt said Communications Training Officer.

Gary said and OIC?

Chris Shaneyfelt said huh?

Gary said OIC?

Chris Shaneyfelt said Officer in Charge.

Gary said okay. The whole thing makes more sense when you know what the acronyms exactly are.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah. They teach us in you know, emergency management don't use acronyms, but then they've got a bible that's about like that thick full of acronyms. So, it's hard to get away from.

Gary said sure, everybody's got them.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah.

Gary said I guess it's when you use them that matters.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yes.

Gary said well, you've got this information for the council?

Chris Shaneyfelt said they were sent it as well, yes.

Gary said if we were to work on the part time pay, right away, a lot of this is going to have to go through the salary committees and ordinances and such, and I do believe we need to work on them. Can the part time pay increasing draw people for you to get through these training periods? Are there people out there is my question, if you had the part time?

Chris Shaneyfelt said well, we've got the one. And then there are, you know, like I say, we've got a couple of others. I mean some of them that, like the one we hired, she's just in it because she's bored, and she wants some extra money. So, it just depends on what you're looking at, because if you've got staff or the people that have kids and they're coming from other agencies, or, you know, even if they don't have kids, but is the drive and the gas and everything to get over here, worth it? Once they start paying that and then they have their taxes taken out and everything else, you have to kind of figure that out. But, obviously, they can go, to any other county besides ours and make that 23 that we've got listed.

Gary said you've got part time at 18.03.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah, that's what council set it at.

Gary said right. Would dollars fix all these problems or do we have a scheduling problem?

Chris Shaneyfelt said I don't think dollars is going to fix it all. I mean, you still, people are human and you know, if they don't, if they perceive that something is greener somewhere else, they're going to go somewhere else. It's definitely going to help, because I mean, you know, in the case of my supervisor, that's really the only reason that she's considering leaving is because it's just more money for her and she's young and she's trying to get a house. And you know, when you're looking at my deputy director, and she's got a lot on her plate and you know, she's barely making above the supervisor. I mean, and totally honest with you, I mean, I can sit here and look at if I were to leave today and go to, let's say Wayne County, I'm only losing a thousand dollars, and then I have no stress. I'm not a manager, I'm not a supervisor, I just go to work. I'm losing a thousand dollars compared to what I'm making now. And trust me, that's something to look at, especially when you're just tired of dealing with employees. It's, and I'm not saying it to be negative of the employees. I'm just saying when you're in the leadership position, you get tired of that after a while. I've only got one employee that I'm aware of that doesn't like our schedule.

Gary said okay, I was going to get to that. Does our schedule need looked at or?

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah, you had mentioned that. I mean, you gave us the ability to flex now, but I've got to get enough staff that I can flex.

Gary said right, okay.

Chris Shaneyfelt said so, I'm not at that point. I mean if we were full staffed, then I would have that one employee that doesn't like the 12-hour shift, I would put her on an 8-hour shift and we would use it as a flex or somewhere in between so we could try to have 3 people on it at all times or as much as possible. So, you know, I, the schedule is the schedule and with us being able to flex, I don't feel that that's an issue. It's just we don't have the people, so we're stuck at 12s. And we don't have the part time, so we're

working overtime all the time. And people are just tired, and you know, if they go somewhere else, there's, Wayne County's full, Delaware County, to my knowledge, is full. I don't even, I don't know if Jay County is full or not.

Gary said are there many counties that do what you do as far as EMS and Homeland Security as one director?

Chris Shaneyfelt said Wayne County is the closest one. Everybody else is just a single director. Now, at one point in time, Tipton.

Gary said what do you mean by that? I don't want to misunderstand you. Wayne County has one person doing both?

Chris Shaneyfelt said yes.

Gary said the other counties have two positions?

Chris Shaneyfelt said yes. Yes. Wayne County, their 911 director is an emergency manager. And then there's me, and that's just the surrounding counties. At one point in time, Tipton County used to do it, but I think they've gone back to just one leader in each role.

Gary said in each role?

Chris Shaneyfelt said uh huh.

Gary said okay. Alright, before I, the other commissioners, are you going to be available to present to the council if they have time for you tomorrow, so they can ask questions? I think we have some, yeah, I hear you on the scanner, Chris, I know you've got a schedule.

Chris Shaneyfelt said I think that, matter of fact, I know I can because.

Gary said you can?

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah, I can be here tomorrow.

Gary said Greg Cheesman, the council president is here. Maybe you can talk to him and get on the agenda.

Chris Shaneyfelt said okay. Laura's sitting there, she can probably.

Gary said Greg, you're here. Will that be okay?

Greg Cheesman said yeah, that would be great.

Chris Shaneyfelt said okay.

Gary said Tom?

Tom said I don't have a lot to add. I think we do need to address the rates. I don't think we should, maybe individually, we can give recommendations to the council, but I don't know that we can discuss

that. That's kind of their lane to where to go, and see where we go from there. I think everything else has been pretty much.

Gary said anything else?

Tom said no.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said do you think there's any other reason why people leave other than just the money and?

Chris Shaneyfelt said I mean, it could be.

Missy said and is insurance enough?

Chris Shaneyfelt said I don't know that you.

Missy said the environment, what is it?

Chris Shaneyfelt said I think if you get into those kinds of benefits, if you've got a family plan, it's expensive to them. You know, considering where I came from before, I mean, I was paying a dollar for family plan, but that's a long time ago.

Missy said that's a long time ago.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah. I think you know, the big thing is you're going to need to look at longevity, and then maybe some other things like pay separation, you know, different shifts or something that keeps them comparable to the outside world. I don't really see the insurance as being an issue. At least nobody's ever complained about that. I personally, and I think most of the other ones like the wellness bus that comes along. I think that's a good benefit. I think there are some concerns when it comes to our mental health in emergency services. Yes, we have the insurance that can help pay for it, but we need to look at some other things and try to figure out how we can have something that's immediately available or available as soon as possible, just because of the different traumas that we experience, where you know, I mean, we're not going out in the field, but you know, when you're listening to a woman cry about her child being.

Missy said or a man cry.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah. It wears on you. And so, I think, I think there're some mental health issues we need to look at as well.

Missy said thanks.

Chris Shaneyfelt said uh huh.

Gary said anything else, Missy?

Gary said anything else, Missy?

Missy said no.

Gary said alright Chris. I appreciate all this information. Of course, we've got like dual lanes going on here, the money's in the council purview.

Chris Shaneyfelt said well, and I understand it. That's why when we started down this road, I, we were talking about rehashing things, I knew this is what would have to go because I mean, you guys make recommendations, they make the money and disburse it and all that, so, yeah, we're aware of that.

Gary said report's good. It does show some of the things that hopefully, we choose to work on.

Chris Shaneyfelt said okay. And you know, if you need other information like what we're required to have as far as certification at the state level and stuff like that, I can provide you all that as well.

Gary said yeah and I understand this is plenty. I appreciate it.

Chris Shaneyfelt said okay.

Gary said anything of anybody else for Chris? Alright. Thank you and I will speak to Greg after you guys meet sometimes through the week and see which way we're trending, okay?

Chris Shaneyfelt said okay.

Gary said thank you.

**Debra Johnting – Ordinance 2026-04 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading and adoption**

Gary said Debra Johnting. First thing we have here is ordinance 2026-04 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading and adoption. Have you received anything at all in your office on this?

Debra Johnting said no, no questions.

Gary said is there anybody in the audience today that would like to address ordinance 2026-04? Okay. We have ordinance 2026-04 an ordinance to amend the zoning map of Randolph County, and we're on the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading. Would somebody like to make a motion to approve this ordinance on the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading?

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

Gary said and would somebody like to make a motion to adopt ordinance 2026-04?

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

Gary said anything else for us, Debra?

Debra Johnting said nope.

Missy said I've got a question for you.

Debra Johnting said yes ma'am?

Missy said so, if some of the, there're 2 more bills that could change how counties are able to control their own, I want to call it destiny on things like this, how big a mess is that going to be?

Debra Johnting said do you need a

Missy said yeah, I just.

Debra Johnting said I don't understand.

Gary said you mean 1333?

Debra Johnting said I don't understand why.

Missy said yeah, well 1004 too.

Debra Johnting said there's another one, yeah. I don't know why.

Missy said 1004 is going to be a big change if that goes, and it.

Debra Johnting said I don't understand the push. Generally, for the reaction, there's had to have been an action, someone is stopping things.

Missy said builders. Builders want to be able to build and do whatever they want.

Debra Johnting said have we stopped them?

Missy said no, but.

Debra Johnting said to the point.

Missy said bigger counties, bigger cities have tried to control it so they couldn't put.

Debra Johnting said they are, so, it affects all of us.

Missy said yeah, so it affects all of us. So, you know, the Op-out did get pushed, so that helps small counties a little bit.

Debra Johnting said uh huh.

Missy said when we have ordinances, I just, it's going to make.

Debra Johnting said we just don't have as much land to work with.

Missy said right, yeah. I mean.

Debra Johnting said and we have a lot of flood plain to deal with and other issues.

Missy said yeah, local control. Where's local, that's what my question was, where's the local control?

Debra Johnting said I agree. I don't know.

Missy said bigger counties who want to build apartment buildings all over the place, let them make their own decisions, let us make our own decisions. Yeah, okay.

Debra Johnting said well, we keep following that.

Gary said they can't make us pay for their infrastructure though. So, I think if that were to happen.

Debra Johnting said they would like to.

Gary said huh?

Debra Johnting said they would like to.

Missy said they would like to.

Gary said they would like to, but that's not part of that bill. Okay. Anything else, Missy?

Missy said nope, that's it.

Gary said Tom?

Tom said no.

Gary said thanks, Debra.

Debra Johnting said you're welcome.

Gary said ready for next, in two weeks you'll be here, right, for public hearing?

Debra Johnting said yes. We're all set.

Gary said thank you.

**Mindy Peed – Check for Spring Clerks Conference**

Gary said Mindy Peed.

Missy said I got it. Missy is unable to be here today, but she has a request that her staff, there would be three of them, she'd like a check to be cut so she can take that with her. Three rooms at \$145.00 each for a one-night stay at the Hilton Garden Inn at Terra Haute for her conference update.

Gary said okay. Do you have a total?

Missy said \$435.00. It has total taxes on there, but of course, we don't pay taxes.

Gary said \$435.00 and?

Missy said zero cents.

Gary said she has a training account for that?

Missy said yes. I assume so. She has in the past.

Gary said yeah.

Missy said that would be March the 9<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Gary said okay. This pretty ordinary, so, somebody like to make a motion to pass the request for \$435.00?

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

Gary said anything else?

Missy said that's it.

**Joe Copeland – Bridge 29, Task Order 12**

Gary said Joe Copeland. Morning Joe.

Joe Copeland said morning. Joe Copeland, Randolph County engineer.

Jaycie Bergman said Jaycie Bergman, Randolph County highway.

Joe Copeland said the first thing is task order 12. Last meeting you approved the bid for bridge 29. It went to a contractor out of Franklin, Indiana. Now, I need somebody to part-time inspect that particular bridge. So, that's what this is. This is part-time inspection for bridge 29, which is 200 West over a branch of Fettig Creek. Total, not to exceed is \$44,615.12.

Gary said one thing, when you say part-time inspection, but that's total inspection for the bridge, right?

Joe Copeland said right.

Gary said all phases of the bridge?

Joe Copeland said right.

Gary said it's just the wording, okay.

Joe Copeland said when they need to be there, they'll be there.

Gary said do you have the fund?

Joe Copeland said this was, I believe, coming out of, yeah, that's Community Crossings, but we'll match it with probably either Cum Bridge or what's the other one for Landfill?

Jaycie Bergman said Landfill.

Joe Copeland said yeah.

Gary said which one do you think so, we can approve it for?

Jaycie Bergman said Landfill.

Gary said Landfill with Host fees?

Jaycie Bergman said yes.

Joe Copeland said there's enough money in there. Most of it will be paid with Community Crossings of course, 80%.

Gary said right. Okay. Anybody have any questions on task order number 12? If nobody has a question on it, make a motion that we approve task order number 12 for bridge inspection? And that's bridge 29?

Joe Copeland said yes.

Gary said on bridge 29 using Host fees as the funding source.

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

Joe Copeland said this next information is a map I put together for the bridges that we've either completed or we're on schedule to work on, and the fund that we want to take it out of.

Gary said okay.

Joe Copeland said alright. It's hard to get everything on one single map.

Gary said it's not bad.

Joe Copeland said I used stars and rectangles to distribute which was, or differentiate which was reconstruction or major maintenance and the other is replacement. So, and we just received approval for bridge 303 here in the city, and bridge number 5.

Gary said where's 5 at?

Joe Copeland said 5 is on 800 East up at 500 North.

Gary said which one is 303?

Joe Copeland said 303 is the one on Orange.

Gary said Orange.

Joe Copeland said Orange Street. And they're both, they're both higher dollar and the reason for 303 is it's in the city, and we've got a lot of utilities to contend with. And it seems like it never fails, you open that, you start demolishing the bridge and you're going to find something you had no idea was in there or the location of a utility. And bridge 5 is so, it's right at the intersection. So, we're going to have to move the stream away from the other road, 800, and in doing so, we've got to coordinate that with the DNR and that's not going to be an easy thing, trying to keep the erosion control down or in place, and working on it. So, we got some more money. I was very surprised they gave us both. They gave several counties what they asked for. And that was a good thing. So, but I wanted to make sure you got this map.

Gary said I like this map.

Joe Copeland said you like that one?

Gary said I do like it. It's easy to follow, for me.

Joe Copeland said it gives you an idea of where we're at now. I've got to put a list together of what I'm going to need in Wind and Solar. I've got to get that list to you guys and the council. So, I'll be working on it. I think that's it.

Gary said okay. Tom, you have anything?

Tom said all the bridges you have on here with where we're at, does this represent like 5-year period?

Joe Copeland said since I came?

Tom said since you came.

Joe Copeland said yeah, which is.

Tom said going into the future though, how are these scheduled out?

Joe Copeland said through, I believe that's through 2030.

Tom said okay.

Joe Copeland said we have one bridge, I don't understand why but the INDOT has made, most of the projects that they approved are for fiscal year 2030. But for some reason, they took the two from Randolph, made one 2029 and one 2031. I don't know why, but, so, we're taking the one that we think we're going to have the most trouble with and it'll be in 31, and the one that hopefully will be easier, in 29. So, which is 5, okay. 303 will be later because of all the utilities. I wish the city owned the water company.

Gary said I bet they do too sometimes. Alright. One thing maybe somebody could do is on this margin, there's a lot of room here, number the bridges and locate them just so we know when you talk number.

Joe Copeland said and list, or list down there?

Gary said just list down here that represents what's on here.

Joe Copeland said okay. Yeah, we can do that.

Gary said Missy, anything?

Missy said nope.

Gary said anybody?

Joe Copeland said we can do that. I will be adding some bridges probably for the future and pushing it on out another year or two.

Gary said that would be good.

Joe Copeland said just to make sure we're on track to keep moving.

Gary said well we'd like to take 5 years out I think. What do you think?

Tom said I agree.

Gary said Missy, you think?

Tom said or farther than that, yeah.

Gary said 5 years, yeah, okay.

Joe Copeland said long range.

Missy said Joe.

Joe Copeland said the long-range plan, I've got from the last time I updated it, I'll update it more and add, I'd like to add 2 years to that so we can.

Gary said okay. Missy had a question, Joe.

Joe Copeland said yes ma'am.

Missy said Joe, what is, what are those little ones like the pink ones and blue ones, you know, 206?

Joe Copeland said bridge numbers.

Missy said yeah, that's what I thought.

Joe Copeland said yeah. Those are the bridge numbers. And I'm going to be moving a little slower. I had a little fall last Monday.

Gary said on our parking lot?

Joe Copeland said yeah. There's a video.

Gary said did you report it to personnel?

Joe Copeland said yes.

Gary said thank you Joe. Jaycie, thank you.

Joe Copeland said alright. Thank you.

### **Ed Thornburg- Utility Agreements**

Gary said alright. Ed Thornburg, utility agreements, four of them. How many do we have here, three?

Ed Thornburg said three.

Gary said do you see any issues with any of the three?

Ed Thornburg said no. They are, two of them are just basic maintenance and the other is pretty well laid out.

Gary said so we have utility work orders. 26-07, 26-08 and 26-09. Somebody like to make a motion to pass all three at once?

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

Gary said anything else on these? Nothing else, Ed?

Ed Thornburg said no, that's it.

Gary said thank you.

**Ava Reichard and the Playground Paradise presentation group**

Gary said while this is being signed, we have Ava Reichard and the Playground Paradise presentation group. Are you ready?

Ava Reichard said yep. Good morning and thank you for taking time out of your day to listen to our Playground Paradise project proposal. My name is Ava Reichard. I'm a sophomore at Union City Junior Senior High School. And the reason I joined this project was to enhance Union City's quality of life.

Novalie Kennedy said I'm a freshman at Union City Junior Senior High School. I joined this project to better enhance the children's play.

Sophia Kobus said my name is Sophia Covich I'm a freshman at Union City Junior Senior High. The reason I joined this was because I wanted to make our part safer for children to play on.

Novalie said I'm sure many of you in this room have kids, grand kids, siblings or younger family members you have taken to a park. Have you taken them to a park you thought was unsafe? This is why my family, along with many others, don't like to take their kids to the park. The equipment we currently have in the park is damaged, moldy and unsafe for the children to play on. This is a problem that needs to be solved.

Sophia said that's why we created this workforce Wednesday group Playground Paradise. This is a collaborative effort between students and the city to revitalize Harter Park. Our goal is to create inclusive safe and ADA accessible park in Union City.

Ava Reichard said so, for this project, it will bring a better physical and mental health to the residents of Union City by providing them with a better physical and mental health. This will also enhance our economic growth by bringing other people into our community to shop at our local businesses. We will also create stronger community bonds and better our social skills.

Sophia said this project is necessary because the equipment in the park currently is not safe for children to play on. For example, we have broken swings, off balance merry-go-round. We have chipped paint, which leads to rust, and on top of all that, everything is built underneath a tree canopy which fosters the growth of mold and bacteria.

Ava Reichard said our phase one of our project is our 2 to 5 structure which also includes a swing set and sensory items. We have ordered all of the parts for our phase one, and it will be getting putting into the ground spring of 2026.

Novalie said for our phase two, this is our 5 by 12 structure. While our phase one focuses on ADA accessible equipment for children under the age of 5, our phase two will focus on sensory items for school age children.

Sophia said the location of the new equipment will be behind the Union City pool. We will also be creating pathways for easy access.

Novalie said on the pathways, we'll have sensory items as in jump on one foot and spending your wheelchair 3 times. Under all the equipment we'll have a rubber pull and play. The rubber pull and play will have an 8 foot drop so the children don't get hurt so easily.

Ava Reichard said so, what we have completed and what we plan on doing in the future, as I mentioned earlier, we ordered all the parts for our phase one. Our phase one cost \$321,000.00. So, while we are working on finishing that, we are going to be starting on our phase two which cost \$183,000.00. Last time we were here, we had received \$10,000.00 from you guys, which we are extremely grateful for, and we also wanted to check in on our, we wanted to check in, what you guys had mentioned last time that you would give us an additional \$40,000.00 if the city put in \$80,000.00. So, our total project cost is a little over a million dollars. This includes our 2 to 5 structure, our 5 to 12 structure, the double trolley, the swing set, benches, along with some sensory items.

Sophia said this is just a start. In the future, we plan on redoing our basketball court, redoing our soccer field and hopefully adding a splash pad.

Ava Reichard said so, for our project, we are split up into 4 different groups. We have the marketing group who creates flyers and does all of our social media posts. We have a grant writing group that applies for grants that we're eligible for. We have a fundraising group who brainstorms different ways for us to fundraise, such as a chicken dinner fundraiser or raffle basket fundraiser. And then we're the presentation group with the voice of the project, and we go around to local businesses to ask for their support. Throughout all these groups, we also have several students working on our groundbreaking ceremony and our ribbon cutting ceremony. So, overall, we have raised \$110,000.00 plus in-kind donations. If you'd like to donate personally, we take cash or checks, make payable to the City of Union City with a memo of playground paradise. If you'd like to donate virtually, you can scan the QR code for more information. We're always looking for in-kind donations, so businesses to donate their services to us, and we truly want this to be a community project. So, any feedback or ideas will be greatly appreciated. So, once again, we'd just like to say thank you for taking time out of your day to listen to our playground paradise project proposal.

All three said lead the laughter, be a playmaker for playground paradise.

Gary said okay. Great job by-the-way. I can tell you guys are involved in this project. So, are you requesting funding from the commissioners today?

Ava Reichard said I don't believe so.

Gary said the 40,000?

Ava Reichard said yes.

Sarah Black said we're following up on, so we're following up on the 40,000 match. If you look at the back, the second page of the packet would be the funding for the phase one. So, the equipment for phase one has been ordered. The second page, the second packet, part of that packet is the funding for phase one. That part of the equipment has been ordered. That is actually currently sitting at the city and it will be installed once the weather breaks. They have to have a certain weather trend in order to be able to install that equipment. So, last time that the students were here, you guys had mentioned a possible match as far as if the city would contribute \$80,000.00 so, they were just wanting to follow up on that possible consideration.

Gary said and the city has agreed?

Sarah Black said the city has agreed. So, this group has raised \$110,000.00. The group of students has raised \$110,000.00. So, the reason that we included that is because the cost of the phase one is \$321,000.00. So, the city is responsible for whatever amount that the group does not raise. So, that is the, we put that in there so that you can see that the city is responsible for that invoice beyond that \$110,000.00 that the group has raised.

Gary said so, are you helping these ladies in any advice on stuff?

Sarah Black said I am the mentor. So, I'm kind of advising them, but they have, as you can see, taken a great deal of initiative on this.

Gary said they did well, yes. Tom?

Tom said I don't have anything. Great job. I think we pretty much already approved the 40,000 did we not?

Missy said yeah, I thought so.

Gary said if the city matches.

Tom said as long as it matches, yeah.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said yeah, I'm the same way, with the 40,000, glad to match that.

Gary said okay. Would somebody like to make a motion to include the \$40,000.00 to our EDIT plan?

Missy said I'd make that recommendation.

Gary said we have a motion to add \$40,000.00 for this project to our EDIT plan. As you know, this will take a little bit of process to go through.

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

Gary said anything else?

Sarah Black said would you like for them to go ahead and schedule a time then to present at the county council meeting as well?

Gary said that would be the county councils' decision.

Sarah Black said okay.

Gary said however, the county council president is here. You could speak with him.

Sarah Black said yes. Awesome.

Gary said okay.

Sarah Black said okay.

Gary said anybody have anything else? Once again, I think that was a wonderful presentation of knowing what you were talking about, not just reading it. Tom?

Tom said no.

Gary said Missy? Thank you.

**James Strong & Paul Kirkpatrick – Camp Trinity**

Gary said next up, we have James Strong, Camp Trinity.

James Strong said James Strong, Camp Trinity.

Gary said good morning.

Paul Kirkpatrick said Paul Kirkpatrick, Camp Trinity.

James Strong said I'd like to start y saying I really was impressed with those young ladies. I'd like to get them on the staff over at Camp Trinity. We need them. I trust you all got my survey papers? Did you get them?

Gary said I don't think I've seen them.

Laura said they're in your, we laid a copy.

Gary said oh, it's up here? I haven't looked at it.

James Strong said we got the property surveyed. I don't know what, I don't know if you guys have had time to think things over any, but my thought today is when I walk out these doors, if at all possible, I'm on my way to Florida to speak to people about money. And if it looks like we can make some kind of a deal on this property, I'd like to commence to digging pretty quick if the farmer would let us in there.

Missy said so, you're wanting to kind of move this forward a little bit quicker than what we anticipated in the last meeting? I mean, I just want to know.

James Strong said yeah. I'm ready now. I know that there's a lot of red tape and you have to deal with the farmer who has already signed a 3-year contract if I understand right, so, I don't know where he's going to come in on this.

Missy said yeah, that's my question.

James Strong said I don't know how he's going to feel. He may say let's wait my 3 years out and we won't have no choice but to go with him on that.

Missy said yeah.

James Strong said and I wouldn't be mad at him over it. But I'm thinking our first point of business there would be a pond and I'd like to start on that if I could, this year. If you guys can figure out a way that we can get this property purchased.

Gary said purchased?

James Strong said and we'd be glad to go along with you.

Gary said I don't think there was a purchase vote.

James Strong said well no, but we'd like to acquire it in some way and I realize there may be some costs and I don't know where you guys are on that. But, we're willing to do whatever we need to. We're not asking for something for nothing, you know. We just would like to acquire it.

Gary said this is part of what we asked you to do, was get the survey?

James Strong said yes.

Gary said yeah. As far as 3-year contract, I would have to give our legal counsel on what we'd have to do there. I don't even, I don't.

Meeks said I'm not sure how far we are on that contract. But, you'd have to talk to the farmer, see if he'd give it up. If he's not going to give it up, I don't think we'd want to buy him out.

Gary said right. We should probably talk to Halderman.

Meeks said I would think that you would want to, if you're going to do it now, to ask Chris to appraise the property, so then you'd know what we are talking about. Now that we have a legal description, he can get an appraisal. So, that's the next step on our end.

James Strong said okay.

Meeks said I would ask, whoever you want, first off, there's plenty of people that appraise real estate, but you know, Chris is already managing it, so I wouldn't have any idea why we wouldn't use Chris.

Gary said okay, yeah.

Meeks said and if I had the legal, I could send it to Chris this afternoon.

Gary said that'll work.

Meeks said and if you give me the authority, I could hire him to get an appraisal.

Gary said would somebody like to make a motion to give our attorney authority to hire Chris to take the next phase of this?

Missy said I make a motion that we allow our attorney to contact Chris Peacock and hire him.

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

Gary said I think my, the answer to your question is we have to get these legal issues worked out for you first.

James Strong said yeah, yeah.

Gary said I think the property is going to go in control of Camp Trinity, though we can't jump any steps.

James Strong said just a matter of when. I understand that. Good. Appreciate it.

Gary said Tom?

Tom said step by step.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said yeah, agree.

Gary said so, you've done your part here, now we're going to

James Strong said alright. I'm going to head to Florida.

Missy said you're rubbing that in.

James Strong said I'm going to get out of this snow. Hey, I've got business.

Missy said sure.

James Strong said it's going to take a month, I can tell you right now.

Missy said take your suntan lotion with you.

Gary said I don't think you have anything to worry about personally. I think it's just procedural that has to take place first before any kind of commitments or nods from the commissioners, or nods or any kind of commitment until we get the procedures done. Okay?

James Strong said awesome. Okay.

Gary said alright. Missy, any final?

Missy said the farmer who's doing that farming right now still has the option to say no, I'm going to keep it for the next 3 years and not.

Meeks said well, we can, we can sell it, but he has an option. They would have to.

Missy said okay.

Meeks said yeah, you would get this, if we, however we, either that 8 acres or 6 acres gets.

Gary said 6.5.

Meeks said 6.5 gets paid to Camp Trinity. He is under a contract and I'm, yeah.

Missy said okay.

Meeks said I don't know if it's still 3 years because we didn't sign that last year. So, it might only be 2 years. I don't know, but it was a 3-year deal at the beginning.

Gary said I think there was also discussion on, probably should read the minutes back up on it, but, we didn't want to give this over to you then you guys collect cash rent that we should be getting.

James Strong said no, right.

Paul Kirkpatrick said yeah, right, and last year we had a thought about that because that kind of come up and I don't know, I don't know how that lease works. The county doesn't need to lose money that's being paid by the farmer, you know, that he's going to do. If it would help, and I don't know that it would, if somehow that would work out, we would be just willing to pay the rent to the county that you would lose from that.

Gary said until expiration of the contract.

Paul Kirkpatrick said right, yeah, because I'm not sure how that works, but it would keep, somehow, it would work out, keep you from losing.

Gary said our attorney will give us good advice on the steps we need to take.

Paul Kirkpatrick said I believe he will.

Gary said anything Tom?

Tom said no.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said nope.

Gary said thank you folks.

James Strong said thank you.

**Deputy Chief Barndollar - Encryption of radios for Winchester Police dept and public scanner Applications**

Gary said Mayor McCoy and Chief Barndollar.

Gary said did the mayor strand you?

Brandon Barndollar said he did. He had a family emergency he had to take care of this morning. So, I'm your guy.

Gary said good morning. Please identify yourself.

Brandon Barndollar, deputy chief of police with Winchester Police Department. First, thank you guys for having me and taking a moment out of your time today. Greatly appreciate it. I wanted to come to you guys today as a first step, more of a second step really. Already done a bunch of first steps I guess. As you all know, radios for emergency services are incredibly complex and ever changing. But unfortunately for us at the police department, we just found out after two years of going back and forth with Motorola that our radios for our officers, the ones they carry on their persons, their portable radios are at end of life, which means that I cannot get any software or parts for them other than batteries that are shipped from China. And with the ever-increasing technology we'll say, there's an app specifically called crime radar that's out there. And it will transcribe every bit of radio traffic that we are putting out, the dispatch is putting out, in a log form. People are posting that on social media, whether it's their name, their date of birth and address of a deceased person. Our radios unfortunately cannot download or put the software for encryption in. I've spoken with, I believe you all have received the packet that I've provided. The initial is pretty much my request and what I've found with our radios and a price and the quote and what I'm asking, and I'm not asking the county to help with all the cost. The city is more than willing to do half, but I'm in a situation where I need to get this done for my officers and for the people of Winchester to protect their information. The next part of that packet is letters and an overview of justification provided by Director Shaneyfelt. And then the last part of that is a quote from Tech Electronics and Gary out of Richmond. He's been fantastic to work with and by far the most financially responsible one that I've been able to find, pricewise. The goal is to be able to update my guys' radios so we are encryption capable and have radios that are going to be able for the next 10 years to be programmed, updated, fixed, if needed, and provide the abilities that we're going to need. The encryption is imperative because we already have some channels that are encrypted in our, what we call our banks, our channel banks. My guys don't have those. One of those, I'm currently on the sheriff's ERT. We have a channel we can't use right now because we are a multi-jurisdictional team and four of my guys that are on that team, we can't talk on that channel because I don't have the ability. Wayne County and Richmond are encrypted. We have been on occasion down there to assist them. We had to borrow two radios that they had that were able to be used to give us so we could talk to them. What I'm asking is just some help from the county. The city is more than prepared to meet halfway if I can get the county to meet me halfway. And we can

get this purchase done, get us updated and get my guys upfitted, and start protecting information and get us where we need to be.

Gary said okay. The mayor's not here, so I'll be light on what he would be answering, but why does Winchester not pay for it all? And I ask you this question for one reason. We have police officers across the county in several towns. If we do this for you, why wouldn't we do it for every single one of them?

Brandon Barndollar said to my knowledge and from what I understand, we are the only agency that is not updated.

Missy said I think that's true.

Brandon Barndollar said and that's not at my fault. That would be previous administration. When the radio infrastructure and everything changed, there were multiple radio meetings. I was a sergeant at the time. I was not in the position I'm in. I can't account for that. I wish I could. I don't know why it wasn't done then. I wish I had an answer. I know Missy is familiar with that, but I wish I had an answer. But now I'm in a spot where I have to clean it up and get it fixed. As far as why the city isn't, we're just asking for some help with other, you know, we've got a million things going on and this is a big cost that I'm just reaching out for a little bit. I'm the type of guy that if I needed the stuff for the officers, I'm going to find it, you know. We do often go into the county and help the county. It's not just the city thing. This is a countywide thing.

Gary said well and \$16,000.00 isn't a lot of money.

Missy said and those other cities and towns maybe have, they have one, maybe two guys who need that, so it's not like they have a, an employment roster like the bigger.

Gary said but they have.

Missy said we're still bigger. Yeah, oh, I get it.

Gary said correct but they also have a levy representative of the percentages.

Missy said yeah.

Gary said so, you know, \$16,000.00 to you would be the same as \$4,000.00 for a small town.

Brandon Barndollar said correct. I understand.

Gary said as far as their levy and other expenses.

Missy said and this isn't a problem just with, the firefighters are running into that same issue being able to update and get on the right frequency.

Brandon Barndollar said we've actually had some people that have beat us to our scenes.

Missy said yeah, I know.

Brandon Barndollar said because of these scanner apps and things like that. And that's a safety issue to them. It's a safety issue to the officers, you know, scene containment, evidence, I mean, you name it. But again, we can only work with what we've got. And I'm working with what I've been given at the time.

Gary said how much, I mean, how imminent is the issue? Do we have time to reach out to all of our cities and towns and say you know, and I don't have any problem helping emergency services, at all. I do have

a problem helping one and not the other, percentage-wise, by population, whatever it takes. I personally wouldn't just single out Winchester and then not the Union City, Farmland, Parker, Ridgeville, Saratoga, Lynn, Modoc, Losantville. All of them have police services. All of them probably have the same problem, maybe worse, they just give up on getting money. I would, before I would do it, I would like maybe see if you can lead to get all the cities and towns involved in this in one time only. Now, we did it once before. Let's just talk police right now, because last time we did it, it was an extraordinary amount of money.

Brandon Barndollar said correct.

Gary said but we can get it down to the police in do it one category at a time. But I would have to have all the information for all the counties to be equally treated by their commissioners personally.

Brandon Barndollar said uh huh. I understand.

Gary said Tom?

Tom said I agree. You say the rest of the county has already updated though?

Brandon Barndollar said I spoke with Deputy Marshal Bertram from Farmland. I know that they have upgraded to the Kenwood's. I believe the sheriff's department is already on Kenwood radios, portables that have the ability. I cannot speak for Union City. I know Lynn is on Kenwood radios that have the ability for the encryption and the other one that I cannot speak for is Ridgeville. So, Union City and Ridgeville, I can't speak for.

Tom said now when you speak with, when your communications back and forth with like EMS, would that be encrypted or is there encryption capabilities on the other side like with our EMS and fire department?

Brandon Barndollar said typically, we just talk to dispatch and then they will relay what we need to, to the fire or EMS services. The other channels such as you know, if we're doing operations of SWAT or whatever, that's between officers. And some of those channels are encrypted with, between officers. The others you know, with Wayne County and things like that, I believe, it's my understanding that there's already an mou with the county that they have those encrypted channels.

Gary said yeah, I'm looking for fairness in dollars first, and so if they're already there, I'd still award emergency services grant to the towns to make it all equal across the board for me. Missy?

Missy said I agree with you.

Gary said so, can you take upon yourself to get the commissioners a more rounded list of how we could handle this across the county? Is that something you're willing to do or could?

Brandon Barndollar said yeah.

Gary said you don't have to do their work, but maybe you could reach out to them all?

Brandon Barndollar said are you wanting to know if they're already updated or are you wanting to know if they need reimbursed or how are you wanting that?

Gary said well one feeds the other I think. I want them all to be updated equally and if they've already updated, then I want to know what the reimbursement is they could use on other emergency services. So, the commissioners could have the opportunity to make vote on a one time.

Missy said Union City is already updated.

Brandon Barndollar said okay.

Gary said because it's really hard to ask a city to upgrade out of their funds and not ask Winchester to do the same thing. Those that already have, maybe they could go into the fire sector, you know.

Missy said that's my question. Is there any way that your old radios could go to, would they be usable in firefighting, because that's the next issue

Brandon Barndollar said that's the other thing. So, we have 7 and 800 UHF abilities in those radios. And I will tell you that during the tornado, I didn't have enough radios to go around for all the 154 officers that I had show up at my command. What I would plan to do with those radios is put those into storage with the 800 still working on those. We can bounce to an 800 channel and run off of them at what they call FEMA Ops channel. We would be able to then deploy those out to volunteers and things that are coming to help as far as outside law enforcement agencies and things of that nature. As far as the firefighters and stuff, I'm not real familiar with what they're operating and if they're encrypted, if they're running off VHF, UHF, what they're on.

Missy said I think Lynn.

Brandon Barndollar said that would be a question for Chris.

Missy said I think Lynn is. I think the Lynn fire department is, of the small ones, for sure, I know they've updated. They get a lot, there write a lot of grants, and are awarded.

Gary said okay. I think if we do something, we focus on the police departments not how many radios they can have, how many police officers they have, and, well you or the chief to do the reach out so we can have some information to help all at one time?

Brandon Barndollar said yeah, absolutely.

Gary said I'm not against helping, I just want to be fair.

Brandon Barndollar said uh huh. Yeah, I have no problem, what I'm asking for and see what their half would be.

Gary said I don't think your ask is too big honestly, at all. It's well within what we can do. I think we can probably help the whole county's police force at one whack, then be done with it for 10 years. Get about the same playing field, because you do help each other back and forth all the time.

Brandon Barndollar said oh yeah, absolutely. The sheriff's office helps us as much as we help them. I know we've had Farmland over here taking calls when we've been too busy and the sheriff's office helping us. So, yeah, I agree. We all work together there.

Gary said it's one of the important things that we're required to do.

Brandon Barndollar said uh huh.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said when you mentioned working together, I've heard from other counties, when you go to a conference or something, you guys do work together, police and firefighters. And the training facility out there helps a lot of that doesn't it? You guys get together. That's really great.

Brandon Barndollar said yeah, it is a unique environment when we get to work that well together.

Gary said Tom, anything else?

Tom said I do not.

Gary said I guess, how long do you need, see you in a month?

Brandon Barndollar said I can make that happen.

Gary said okay.

Brandon Barndollar said alright, thank you.

Gary said thank you.

**Other Business:**

**Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff**

Gary said alright, on to other business. Sheriff.

Art Moystner said I don't have anything today.

Gary said can you come up real quick? I want to, that Zultys, I'll wait until you get up here. Morning.

Art Moystner said hi. Art Moystner, sheriff.

Gary said thank you. The Zultys software subscription that's on our agenda for today.

Laura said I asked you about that remember, the other day, and you said you didn't really have anything in it, just go ahead, there's a year or 3-year to upgrade your phone maintenance.

Art Moystner said yeah. I think all that was done the, this company was done by the commissioners before. So, I don't have any information on that.

Laura said it's just the sheriff's department needs theirs upgraded, but it's all the same as ours.

Gary said that's what I wanted to know.

Art Moystner said yeah, I have no information on that.

Gary said I asked the wrong person, didn't I?

Art Moystner said yes.

Gary said okay. Anybody have anything for the sheriff while he's up here? Thank you.

Art Moystner said thanks.

**Minutes of February 17, 2026**

Gary said next on our agenda is the minutes of February 17, 2026. Everybody should have those via email, anybody have any, I have one question. Are those being typed or is that a software speaking software?

Laura said typed.

Gary said okay. Do I speak that broken all the time?

Laura said we type them exactly how you speak it.

Gary said I need to work on my language, or my grammar. How about that? I was kind of appalled that it was broken like that, stop in mid-sentence I guess, is what I'm talking about. Alright.

Meeks said you should read a transcript from my court case, think those are bad. Trust me.

Gary said alright the minutes of February 17, 2026, everybody's had them, somebody like to make a motion to accept those minutes?

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

**Payroll Claims \$ 376,824.46**

Gary said alright, payroll claims \$376,824.46.

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

**Regular Claims \$ 507,459.01**

Gary said regular claims, \$507,459.01. Somebody like to make a motion to approve the regular claims?

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

**Randolph County United Claim \$20,134.34**

Gary said Randolph County United claim. Is this out of order? The reason I'm asking, I think we passed one 2 weeks ago and the Tourism at the same time.

Laura said no, we didn't have Tourism.

Gary said okay. So, this is for March?

Laura said oh yeah, we don't normally do Randolph County United until the second meeting.

Gary said alright, Randolph County United claim. Somebody like to make a motion to approve?

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

Gary said and that claim was \$20,134.34.

**Jay County Drug Prevention Co. \$ 1,666.67**

Gary said Jay County Drug Prevention, \$1,666.67.

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

**Coblentz Construction- \$ 39,702.90**

Gary said Coblentz Construction. I trust everybody got their email on this? This is the final and the whole back is out of this is what I understand? On the ten unit T hanger at the airport. \$39,702.90. Somebody like to make a motion to approve?

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

### **County closure policy**

Gary said okay, before we get into the courthouse security, because that might take a few minutes, County closure policy is up for a vote this morning. My final discussion is we have flex time, vacation time and everybody I think that was affected was on a 35-hour week, and their department heads could have flexed to the time, or they could have took vacation time or they could PTO time. So, saying that I'm not in favor of doing it. Tom?

Tom said I'm not in favor of doing it right now.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said I am in favor of doing it. I think those are times that the employees well deserve, get that, and I'd hate to see them have to lose vacation time or whatever other time that they're looking forward to.

Gary said okay, noted. We don't have a, you can make a motion, I don't think it would get to second right now, so you will just have your opinion and.

Missy said my opinion is fine. I know where it's going.

Gary said you can comment for the record.

Tom said one thing I'll say to tie into that is we just got a study on the overtime, maybe we look at changing to a modified schedule potential next year if that could help address all on the same thing with comp time or something. But I think we still need to have that discussion in the future.

Missy said I just think it affects people with younger children or even somebody who has caretaking that they have to.

Gary said well yeah, I just think we have plenty of mechanisms to take care of it. But, we have a private sector that pays for the public sector, that a lot of them don't have that privilege at all like we do have in county services. There're no questions asked. You either don't get paid or take your personal time.

### **Zultys Software Subscription**

Gary said okay, now we're going to go to Zultys Software subscription.

Tom made a motion to approve.

Gary said we have a motion to approve. We have a one year or three?

Laura said one year or three? Which one? We've got a copy of each, so which one would you want?

Tom said what was it, I don't have it in front of me?

Gary said yeah, one is the renewal is \$4675.50 cents. That's a 3-year and 1 year is \$1766.39. So, that would be 5300, it's like 6, 700 dollars savings to go 3 years.

Tom said let's do that. I'll make a motion to we approve the 3-year contract.

Gary said 3 years. We have a motion for 3 years.

Missy said I'll second that.

Gary said Missy, did you second that?

Missy said yes.

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

All aye votes. Motion carried.

### Courthouse Security

Gary said okay, courthouse security. So, I didn't get any, Jake, are you here?

Jake Donham said yeah.

Gary said would you come up please? Art, do you want to come up and fill anything or just, is he still here?

Tom said yes.

Gary said because no matter what we do, the sheriff's of course, in charge of the courts. The sheriff can keep us corrected on what's right and wrong. Thank you, Art.

Art Moystner said you're welcome.

Gary said okay, we met with Security Plus in the courthouse, and by the way, it doesn't mean they have to be the winning service. The preliminary numbers that they told me was \$65.00 per hour for an armed security guard with arrest powers, and \$35.00 per hour for a civilian non-armed, and employee of theirs basically, in there. And they recommend that there's both at all times. They quoted, without backing it up, he made that clear, the walk through scanners in the 16 probably to \$20,000.00 range and a baggage scanner was 35 to \$40,000.00. And, or, they could provide it themselves. The thing that made it appealing to me there is, this is not rocket science, this is simply, you can get started very quickly. The commissioners then, I've spoke to the sheriff, would have to decide how our entrances are, what we do, who comes through what door, who's allowed to come through what door? We did have a discussion that the 2, not the main doors, the other 2 doors are just locked, there egress only.

Jake Donham said correct.

Gary said we have to discuss about the basement door because the sheriff needs to take his inmates or the court's inmates, however you put it, in and out the bottom door to the elevator. And of course, you would have maintenance issues at the bottom door. Some discussion the commissioners will have to have is who gets to pass by and who don't? And do we want to start early? June 1<sup>st</sup> was discussed, about starting June 1<sup>st</sup>, after the primary so it would not get in the way of the early building set up for this year. That's what's going on right now. Jake had had, gave me a piece of paper, I couldn't find, but I spoke to him this morning, there was a company that had equipment abilities to sell equipment to us. We have to discuss if we're going to do it, if we want to buy the equipment or let the company that's doing it own the equipment and just be a part of their lease to us.

Jake Donham said yeah, so, on that, this is just a cold call, I'm not sure how he got my name and number and email address, but he reached out. Entry Shield is the name of the company. They are an equipment, they supply the equipment that's going to be required for this, metal detectors, scanners and all that, so, he actually came in and kind of looked at the facility. The metal detector that they were proposing could be run man-less metal detector and it sends notification via text or email, however it works to that security guard, or whatever. I don't think that's the direction we're looking at. I think it's going to be a manned all the time, somebody's going to be on site is my understanding. But he wanted to show us his equipment and what they offered. Then he also had baggage scanners and so forth. Just in a nutshell, pricewise, the baggage scanner is going to be in the higher 30,000 range for the baggage scanner and then their walk-through metal detector they propose is like around 45 to 46,000 for their device to a different entryway. So, that's kind of nice to get some different pricing on what's out there. This equipment, you can get just a basic walk-through metal detector or you can get one with all the bells and whistles and the more you spend, the more gadgets that's on it, and detection, and so forth. So, we just kind of need an idea what we want to pursue.

Gary said yeah, and we have a security committee.

Missy said uh huh.

Gary said do you think this is something that you can call the committee together and bring it so we have some more information for the next meeting?

Missy said sure, yeah. Yeah.

Gary said and I would like to call in at least Protection Plus in the April meeting.

Meeks said I, I mean, I'm on that committee. I'm not sure what the committee is going to talk about.

Jake Donham said we've already decided.

Meeks said do we want security, yeah, we want security.

Jake Donham said we've already decided in the committee.

Meeks said do we want, do we want you to have bells and, I mean I think that's.

Gary said who gets passed and who don't now.

Meeks said I think, I think we just get that stuff in now and then we worry about who's passing later.

Gary said okay.

Meeks said we'll pass everybody until we make it.

Missy said I think we should keep them informed on it though, because they have, that whole group has been working on it for a while.

Meeks said I think that's an email.

Missy said but we wouldn't have to be.

Meeks said I literally think that's an email. Hey, we're looking at you know, hiring security to go. You guys have any thoughts?

Tom said well I think we're going to hire security. I really like the idea of them supplying the equipment. If something goes down, they have the maintenance people that's, you know, and the whole staff to do that, and it would be, it's just something that, based on the price, you know, I assume we don't have those prices back. And I think in hiring, I don't think we can match with our own people, these prices, time you pay benefits and everything else, and then we have, they have the full staff to cover vacations, sick days and all that where they can bring people in and out where it would take us more than 2 people to cover those positions.

Gary said yeah, and the commissioners will have to look at it, would we want to have them in on an EDIT meeting where there's nobody here but basically, and elected officials and town representatives? We don't have to. We will decide when they come. We've got a joint meeting with commissioners and council to decide, because they could be a 4-hour minimum, but they also may work out 2-hour minimums of time on site, because this particular company hires a lot of officers out of Randolph County.

Meeks said I'm not sure what the EDIT board has to do with it.

Gary said because it, the courthouse will be open.

Meeks said oh, you're talking, I thought you meant a meeting with, alright, okay.

Tom said security during the evening meetings.

Meeks said I'm sorry. Well, I've read your, I've been at your meetings over the minutes so I know how sometimes it gets.

Missy said my question was on some of that, could you have, the Health Department meets over in the old hospital. Could some of it, like the EDIT meeting, could they meet there instead of meeting here?

Meeks said we used to meet there.

Missy said yeah, that's what I found out.

Meeks said the EDIT meetings used to be over there.

Gary said yeah, they can, if that's what we want to do. Either way, you don't have any security. So, you can just meet here, because you know, you'll definitely have security when the courts are open, no matter what.

Missy said EDIT meetings are open to the public though, correct?

Gary said huh?

Tom said but we don't have the video set up and everything over there to record the meetings.

Gary said right.

Meeks said I would think that you know, to get the quotes to go out to see if you know, the people, you know, and get a quote from them for the equipment and without the equipment, to kind of, then see where that's at, and then the day-to-day mechanics of it will get worked out.

Gary said right.

Meeks said with them, I mean with them. We would probably kind of rely on the experts there.

Missy said well, we, and I think they'll use, end up using some of our local people. We could have them pay them overtime to be in for 2 hours or what.

Gary said there's no overtime on that. This is an hourly rate. They just switch out people to fill them.

Missy said yeah, but I'm talking of the evening, from, if you had a 6 o'clock meeting.

Gary said but it may not be overtime. It just may be a straight time. Our charges right now, unless it comes to.

Missy said if they agree to that, but.

Gary said right. It's how much they charge per man hour. Overtime is not our concern.

Tom said is there any conflict with having a full-time county employee that works part time for this company, working for the county?

Meeks said unless we have anything in our rules, in our handbook that says they can't work part time. I don't think there's anything in the sheriff's handbook that says you can't work part time. You can work part time.

Art Moystner said they an out, we have an outside employment policy. A lot of them do it to make ends meet.

Meeks said yeah, as long as they have, they comply with ours.

Tom said but since they're working with the county also here, technically.

Meeks said they're not working for the county. They're not working for us, they're working for Protection Plus or whoever, yeah. So, I do not see a problem with that.

Gary said today's briefing on this too, is there any reason not to pursue?

Missy said I think we should pursue.

Gary said okay. So, I will reach out to Protection Plus to set them up for our April meeting. Plus, we want to do some background check, make sure.

Art Moystner said my question, Meeks, just to make sure we're covering this right, is that something that has to bid out?

Meeks said that's a personal service. I mean, I think you're going, if we're going to buy the equipment, we're bidding that out, but personal services, you don't have to do that.

Art Moystner said so, as far as contracting a company at that amount, there is no?

Meeks said well I mean it might be better policy to.

Art Moystner said issue with looking at more than one company?

Meeks said it might be better policy to bid it out. I mean, I'm not going to say it's not a good idea to bid it out.

Art Moystner said okay. Yeah, I just want to make sure if we're doing it, let's get it right.

Gary said yeah, and I'm all for that. I don't have a problem with, it's finding who does it, is more the difficult part. So, yeah, I'm sure word of mouth gets out, we'll get some more people that want to do it.

Tom said do you know some additional companies that we can reach out to?

Art Moystner said I do not, off the top of my head, no. The other thing that I would like to bring to your attention just to make sure, and I will put it in the budget for this year, is statutorily, under statute, sheriffs to attend to preserve the peace in the courts, so we might look at getting a position on the third floor that can be staffed by sheriff's office personnel for the courts. But I'll put that in the budget.

Gary said okay. Is that necessary with two bailiffs that are armed?

Art Moystner said bailiffs don't work for me. So, they don't count for that.

Gary said okay, got you. Okay. Yeah, if there are any other players anybody hears about, be sure to let the commissioners know. We'll look into it. But, and we want to make sure there's due diligence on it, check them out, make sure this company's been around a while, so. I think it's, all three of our sheriff's candidates work for them part time.

Art Moystner said possibly, yeah.

Gary said they have pretty good presence in Randolph County, so it doesn't either, when people get to know people in the courthouse through the lobby though. What was encouraging about the meeting, this is not hard to get started right away. So, anything further on this, Tom?

Tom said no.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said no.

Gary said and like I said, the plan is getting in April, the first meeting in April, into the council and the very next day. That's what I'll be asking them to do. And anybody else that we find out can. Okay. Thank you, gentlemen.

Art Moystner said you're welcome.

Gary said I don't think I've skipped anything.

**Citizen Comments (3 minutes)**

Gary said anybody in attendance today have anything to bring forth to the commissioners? Alright, Missy, do you have anything?

Missy said yeah, any update on the EMS building over at, you know, the, where are we at on that and what do we look like?

Tom said waiting for the weather.

Missy said okay.

Tom said all the contracts have been awarded. They're just waiting for the weather.

Missy said okay, great.

Tom said so, it should be soon.

Gary said should be, soon as the frost gets out of it. Anything else?

Missy said nope, I can't think of anything.

Gary said Laura?

Laura said no, I don't have anything.

Gary said Nikola?

Nicola Clevenger said nope.

Gary said I do not.

Tom said we do have preliminary drawings for the courthouse here for the Community Corrections and Probation. We have preliminary drawings for the highway department. So, we're step-by-step, I think Jakes been working with the architect engineer, and I think they've been through 3 sets of drawings or something like that on this building and that would all involve, so it's moving along.

Gary said it's starting to level back down to something we can work with too.

Tom said yes.

Missy said I do have one more thing. I apologize. The chimney on the old county barns, weren't we going to have that removed?

Gary said after investigation, it's pretty rock solid all the way down into the basement I think.

Missy said okay. I hadn't been told that, so.

Tom said I think that's still one, as a project potentially.

Gary said the whole thing.

Tom said the whole facility we talk, discuss this year.

Gary said yeah. Anything else, Tom?

Tom said no.

Gary said Meeks?

Meeks said do not have anything.

Gary said alright. Anybody else? Somebody like to make a motion to adjourn?

**Adjournment**

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

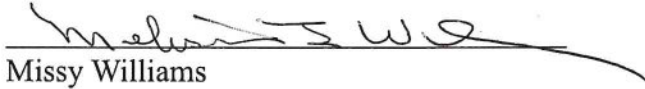
Reviewed and accepted this 16 day of March, 2026



Gary Friend

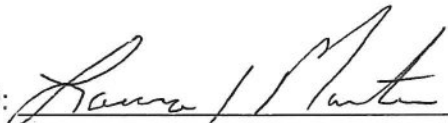


Tom Kerns



Missy Williams

ATTESTED:

  
Laura J Martin, Auditor

