

Randolph County Commissioners

November 6, 2023

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

Council's update

Mike said morning everyone. First item is council update. I see Missy back there. Do we have any other council persons here? Missy do you want to come up? You're second on the agenda and you might as well bring Jake with you. And I don't know if you have an update for us or not.

Missy Williams said I do not have much of an update.

Missy Williams and Jake Donham – Opening of Courthouse

Missy Williams said just here to ask on behalf of Winchester Main Street, which I'm just a little tiny part down there at the bottom. But Jim's here so he's our speaker. But on Friday evening, to invite everybody, and Gary, I apologize, I'm getting kickbacks on your email, so I need to talk to you to make sure you get all that stuff. But Jim can explain it really quickly, but asking for your blessing and approval to use the first floor of the courthouse. We'll set up after hours. Jake and I have already worked all that out with information about the courthouse. They enter in through the north door, and then a display of Randolph County military uniforms in the hallway. And then Elizabeth Barnes will be at her grandfather's mural, explaining the mural and the history behind it. Then, forty-five minutes, 5:30 to 6:15, we'll lock the building back up. They'll be able to use the restrooms during that time too, as they are walking around outside. And then Jimmy, you can take over from there. So, anyway, I need your approval to use the courthouse during that time on Friday.

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

Mike said we've already approved the courthouse lawn.

Jake Donham said on that, Missy's got some stuff she'd like to bring in Thursday evening, possibly maybe even Friday morning, so I just gave her an entry door to the courthouse. That way, she can kind of plan on bringing that stuff in and getting set up ahead of time.

Missy Williams said want me to update you on?

Gary Friend said I do. Do you have an estimate of the times?

Missy Williams said I emailed it to you.

Jake Donham said actually, what time are you planning on everything starting, just to re-cap real quick.

Jim Martin said basically, we'll start at 6:30. We have a presenter speaker, a couple of kids doing the presentations, or I think it's just the school system?

Missy Williams said just Randolph Central Schools, two elementary students and a Driver Middle school student.

Jim Martin said okay. And then we have a couple of the band members from the chorus doing some musical numbers and then I talked to Cecil Cantrell, he's able to shut off all the lights around the city, the streets. They're going to turn all those off and have a countdown, and turn on the lights for the monuments.

Mike said are you going to test them ahead of time.

Jim Martin said we have tested them, yes.

Mike said okay. Any other questions?

Gary Girton said looks good.

Mike said looking forward to it.

Missy Williams said we've got some artifacts that are coming in. Wayne had cleaned at a relative's and found a reprint of the newspaper that ran after the memorial was opened and dedicated way back when. Kind of interesting so, it'll be down in that entryway. So, if you want to see it, I'm not going to show it to you, you have to come down there on Friday at 5:30.

Mike said okay.

Missy Williams said thanks a lot. Appreciate it.

Darin James – Morgue

Mike said Darin James, County Coroner.

Darin James said I'm just here to see if anybody has any updates on the morgue situation, anymore ideas, anymore, or are we just at a standstill?

Mike said we have had a discussion, about possibly sharing the EMS building.

Darin James said sure.

Mike said but that's contingent on the building of an EMS facility in Farmland. Beyond that, I don't think, I don't have any additional update.

Gary Friend said yeah, I don't either. It's not like we've stopped, the timeframes and the things that have to happen just to get Farmland going, at least the government side, it takes longer than private property.

Darin James said sure.

Gary Friend said we're moving forward.

Darin James said okay. Anything I need to do?

Gary Friend said not yet, I don't think.

Mike said no, other than stay in communication with St. Vincent, which I think you do.

Darin James said I do. I do know they have not hired anybody as far as the CNO or CEO or whatever they plan on doing in the future. They do have an interim in there. I don't know that, they did send me a quote, which I didn't ask for of some monitoring system for the coolers that they have. I do have the quote. They're asking that we pay for that. I don't know that we should or not. I don't know.

Mike said they're their coolers.

Darin James said yes.

Mike said do they use them as well?

Darin James said the only time that they would use them is if they have somebody that's passed their and it's not a coroner's case, and it's going to be a donor's case. Then, we may, we usually go in and take them and put them out there for them. If they have anything to go out there, we usually do it for them.

Mike said do you feel the monitor system is necessary for you?

Darin James said I do. I think if we ever find a place for us, I do believe there definitely needs to be a monitoring system on it. If they would go down and we wouldn't know, it could be three or four days. If it's mid-summer, we would have trouble.

Mike said yeah. So, do you have that quote with you?

Darin James said I do.

Mike said can you share that?

Darin James said sure.

Gary Friend said does that monitoring system, if we were to go elsewhere, go with us?

Darin James said well I would assume if we, it doesn't say in here about that part, but I assume if we would pay for it, it would go with us. This just came to me out of the blue. I didn't ask for it. And I assume, it'll connect you, you know, their internet and then it would go to a cell phone for an alert. I'm not sure where it all takes to put something like that in, but I know it's not cheap.

Gary Friend said what's your thoughts about, I know you and I conversed a little bit, what's your thoughts about, there's two bays opened up at the EMS building, can you get that to satisfactory work?

Darin James said I could. But like I told you, we talked about unloading and loading, it's going to have to be out in the front of the parking lot unless you would add on to the rear of that building. There's not enough room to get that truck in there and close the door and unload it. If that's not a problem, then, sure, I think it'll work.

Gary Friend said you would have a viewing area, possibly a viewing area?

Darin James said yes, yeah. There'll be a window in place where the cooler would be for a viewing area. And then if we made it big enough where the coolers would set that you could do your lab draws and things of that nature as well. It would be tight, but it would work.

Mike said well I think that probably is something we might want to pursue.

Darin James said okay.

Mike said can you reach out to St. Vincent and find out if we can take this with us if we build our own?

Darin James said yes, I can.

Mike said just find that out. But I just think that investment ought to be a good thing for \$7500.00.

Darin James said I think it came from Mike from there, so I'll talk to him, and we'll see what they say.

Mike said \$7500.00?

Darin James said yeah.

Mike said okay. And if you, after you've talked to them, if you want to send us an email or send Laura an email, she'll get us, along with that quote to us, that would great. Okay?

Darin James said yep. Any other questions?

Gary Friend said I just want to say, your needs as a coroner, aren't being overlooked.

Darin James said okay, yeah. Sure.

Gary Friend said it takes time to get it done. We want to get it right the first time.

Darin James said I just didn't know if there was anything I needed to be doing in the meantime. Just kind of waiting on you guys to, we'll figure it all out, right?

Mike said eventually.

Darin James said eventually.

Gary Girton said do we have a sketch then, of how we think that's going to work of those two bays?

Gary Friend said I don't think I have a sketch.

Darin James said I do and you can have it.

Mike said that's the existing EMS building?

Darin James said yes.

Gary Friend said you discussed the possibility maybe we would, some kind of makeshift canopy

Darin James said you could, if that's something we wanted to put out in front, if we can make it look nice enough for it. You know, I don't want to you know, make it look, you know, because it's going to be seen from Greenville Avenue.

Gary Friend said I mean I don't even know if it would be practical, it could move out and then retract.

Darin James said yeah, that could be a possibility. I'd have to look into that. I don't know what they make. But, I'm sure there can be something made up where we can have it hidden. That's kind of my main concern is being on Greenville Avenue.

Mike said very good. We'll wait to hear back from you.

Darin James said okay. Thanks.

Mike said thanks for coming in Darin.

Chris Shaneyfelt – Hyper-Reach agreement and Grant application

Mike said Chris Shaneyfelt.

Art Moystner said Mike, he had sent me a text. He's running a little behind this morning. He intended on being here.

Mike said okay. We'll skip over him for now.

Joe Copeland – proposal for the superstructure for Bridge 165, Financial Commitment letter for Federal Aid application for Bridges 212, 114 and 284, Engineer going to part time in 2024

Mike said Joe Copeland, proposal for the superstructure for Bridge 165, and financial commitment letter for Federal Aid application for Bridge 212, 114 and 284, and Engineer going to part time in 2024.

Joe Copeland said first, bridge 165. I've put together a size for the structure and got a proposal from E&H Bridge and Grating.

Gary Friend said the all steel bridge?

Joe Copeland said yes.

Mike said \$99,238?

Joe Copeland said yes.

Mike said yep, we have a copy. We got a copy via email.

Joe Copeland said okay. We'll probably start that as soon as the crew gets done with the last bridge deck repair and overlay.

Gary Friend said will this be similar to the style of bridge that's on 700?

Joe Copeland said yeah. Steel grid deck, low volume.

Mike said where is 165?

Joe Copeland said 200 East, north of 400 South, just north.

Gary Friend said what do you consider low volume in order to go to a steel grid?

Joe Copeland said well, first thing I look at is what kind of heavy traffic you have. If you've got a fair amount of heavy traffic, I'd rather pour a deck. Let the bridge, the concrete and steel work composite to help hold the load.

Gary Friend heavy, you don't mean number of cars, you mean the loads going over them?

Joe Copeland said yes.

Joe Copeland said yeah. And if you have major traffic, I mean, a lot of these roads, some of them, you're lucky probably, to get a hundred vehicles a day. You get up around a 1000, that's a fair amount of traffic.

Gary Friend said per day?

Joe Copeland said per day.

Gary Friend said I like the steel bridge. Maintenance free?

Joe Copeland said oh yeah.

Gary Friend said lasing a long time.

Joe Copeland said and it's weathering steel, so, you get what they call atina in coating and it won't rust.

Mike said so the cost of this one, 38-foot length, 24-foot wide, is \$99,238.00?

Joe Copeland said yeah, that's for the superstructure.

Mike said and you're recommending we do this?

Joe Copeland said yes sir.

Mike said any other question of Joe on this matter?

Gary Girton said I'll move we accept that recommendation.

Mike said I have a motion to approve. Do I have a second?

Gary Friend said I will have one question. Where do intend to fund it from?

Joe Copeland said Mike can answer that.

Mike Haffner said we're budgeted in the MVH.

Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Joe Copeland that's bridge 212, Union City, the one by the park and the cemetery. It's going to be a lovely bridge to be done. Estimated total construction is 2 ½ million. That's in 2030.

Mike said is this the same timeline?

Joe Copeland said yes. The application for federal aid is, what they call the NOFA come out, as long as it's available, they put fiscal year 28. The last call was for 28. Perry has asked INDOT

for an update. We think that's wrong. They moved all of what was supposed to have been the last one from 28 to 29, fiscal year 29. So, we figured this is 30. So, these prices are based on the year 2030. This is bridge 284. Now 114 and 284 are historic, non-select. You have to go through the steps.

Mike said what county road north south road on 114, what's it between?

Joe Copeland said 300 South, over 1000 West.

Mike said 1000 West, okay.

Joe Copeland said yeah, just east. And this, we're going to try to cover it because they'll throw it out if you don't have something approved. All that has been taken care of, Title VI, and the ADA transition plan has been updated. So, we'll attach a copy so they'll have it.

Mike said our financial commitment for the three federal aid projects will be about 2 million dollars?

Joe Copeland said I think we'll get 212. I think 114 is borderline, and I'm not sure we'll get 284 to be honest, but we're going to apply.

Mike said does INDOT determine that order?

Joe Copeland said no. When I submit it, I submit priorities. Priority will be 212, 114, and then 284. Bridge 212 is getting in pretty rough shape.

Mike said well I think by 2030, this county ought to be able to afford the 2-million-dollar commitment to improve our bridges.

Joe Copeland said it'll be the, the design of course, will be a little bit at a time, 25, 26, 27. And then, we'll pay the bill, and then of course, I have to get receipts that we paid it, and then I can ask the state for reimbursement.

Mike said we may get that or we may not get that?

Joe Copeland said no I've asked for design reimbursement on all of them.

Mike said So, if they approve it, then we will get the reimbursement?

Joe Copeland said yes, yes, 80%.

Mike said okay. Any other questions from Joe on these matters?

Gary Girton said I'm just glad we're moving forward with it.

Gary Friend said what kind of commitment do you need today? Do you just need a motion of commitment, or is a verbal commitment?

Joe Copeland said I need the signed letters for all three, and when I submit the application, I have to submit this letter with it. I plan on going to the council on Wednesday and getting a, have them sign a letter of support for these projects. I want them fully aware of what's going on.

Mike said well they need to commit the Windfarm money.

Joe Copeland said yeah. So, they need to be on board. The state put it in their call, that the fiduciary body of the county government is supposed to sign the loan. That's kind of my reaction, but. So, I'm going to have them both.

Mike said so we've got three financial commitment letters before us committing \$693,600.00 to bridge 212, committing \$675,800.00 to bridge 114, and committing \$616,200.00 to bridge 284 over the next 7 or 8 years, and probably subject to the grant monies being approved by the Federal Government. I'd entertain a motion to make these commitments on behalf of the county.

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

Gary Girton said how long does it take for them to reply whether or not these have been approved.

Joe Copeland said probably won't be until, I'm thinking March maybe.

Gary Girton said that soon?

Joe Copeland said yeah. They don't give you a date. They won't give you a date. And it's at their discretion.

Mike said we also have a letter of, indicating we have an ADA transition plan in place and a Title VI Implementation plan in place, and that we don't have any deficiencies to those. That we're going to share with the Indiana Department of Transportation, and this letter, I believe, needs to be approved with my signature. Those are the plans we approved.

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

Mike said and before we go to the next matter, I guess I received a Community Crossing resolution and signing authority document from INDOT. And it's a resolution, as near as I can tell, is that we named who has the signing authority, and typically, I think all three of us could probably have signing authority. I'm reading through the signing authority document, it sounds like that's the best way to do it.

Joe Copeland said now, do all three of you have to sign it, or can one, each individual?

Mike said we can, but it, it complicates matters if we do, I believe.

Joe Copeland said yes.

Mike said that's the grant letter would show approve. We approved for the grant. So, the resolution, well let me go to my email.

Joe Copeland said usually the president of the board usually signs. If you have all three, you'll need all three signatures.

Mike said well, and I guess, so we need to pass an ordinance showing one official signature is sufficient.

Joe Copeland said they want an ordinance now instead of a resolution?

Mike said well that's what it says. Legal binding authority, a legal binding authority is a mayor or designee, that's for that, or multiple signatures from a quorum of county commissioners, public works or councils.

Gary said you only need two.

Joe Copeland said Henry did a resolution naming the president of the board, and all I have to do is update who the president of the board is, or did last time.

Mike said well maybe I'll just have the attorney review this and let him tell me what to do. So, he'll be back.

Joe Copeland said okay.

Mike said now when do I have to have that back? Do you know? It doesn't say.

Joe Copeland said no, I don't know. I didn't receive.

Mike said did you, you did receive the grant approval haven't you?

Joe Copeland said no. For the newest community crossings?

Mike said yes.

Joe Copeland said no, I have not. I got the list. \$971,250.00. That's for bridge 250.

Mike said and it indicates that we need to be under contract within four months of the receipt of that letter.

Joe Copeland said yeah. So, what we have to do is hurry up and get the bids out, advertise, get the bids in, and have a contract signed.

Mike said that's clear in here. The other matter is needing authority to sign those things is not clear as to when that has to be, so, we'll get right on that.

Joe Copeland said okay. If you could forward that letter.

Mike said I can do that.

Joe Copeland said alright. Then I'll have the letter in hand, we can begin getting ready to bid.

Mike said okay. That's all I have at this time.

Joe Copeland said the only other thing I had was going part-time for next year. I'll be 67 this month, and it's time to pull back the reins a little bit, and cut my hours a little bit. I'm feeling it. Alright, I talked with Henry about the idea, and I had two commissioners, I haven't had a chance to talk to Joe Wiley, but I talked to Bobbi Plummer and I talked to Steve Dellinger. They were both okay with it. So, I thought I would spend a day here, a day there, and then the third day on whatever I need to catch up on. I'd be a part-time employee, so I'd be paid by the hour for whatever I worked, and if I didn't work, I don't get paid. Real simple. No more health insurance. I'll get that through a supplement. Pretty simple.

Mike said and you want to start that when?

Joe Copeland said the first of the year if possible.

Mike said first of the year. We'll lose our match?

Joe Copeland said yes.

Mike said and I presume we can set him up on a time clock?

Laura said will you be in where you can clock in and out at the highway department.

Joe Copeland said can I, I've been clocking in Henry through my phone.

Laura said yeah, I don't know if we have that option. We can check into it.

Joe Copeland said well, with Right Stuff software, yeah, I've been clocking in on it.

Laura said well we can check into that. I just don't have anyone that does that. But I told him we could get him set up on payroll here if we have approval, to start in January.

Mike said okay.

Joe Copeland said it would be at the same hourly rate I make now, \$62.50. If you go out and try to hire an engineer today, it would be well over a hundred for a PE.

Gary Friend said the only question I have on this is we talked about a vehicle from Randolph County, how is Henry County going to supplement a vehicle for you.

Joe Copeland said I don't know. I live so close. I'll be within a quarter mile of the highway department.

Gary Friend said I guess my question is, would you be using our vehicle to do Henry County business?

Joe Copeland said that's a possibility, if that's agreeable.

Gary Friend said it would be agreeable with me if they shared in it.

Mike said I guess in the plan, you using our vehicle, you would use it for all of your engineering work for both Randolph and Henry County, would you not?

Joe Copeland said yes.

Mike said okay. So, then we need to approach, somehow approach Henry County to share some vehicle expense.

Joe Copeland said I think they're paying, they're paying half the insurance right now. So, I don't think they'd have a problem with that, I wouldn't think.

Gary Friend said could you ask them that?

Joe Copeland said sure.

Mike said and I guess it goes beyond, wouldn't it go beyond the insurance?

Joe Copeland said oh sure. You'd have to pay so much a year.

Mike said so much a mile.

Joe Copeland said or a mile or something.

Mike said we'll have to figure out how to do that.

Joe Copeland said I keep track of my mileage now.

Mike said okay. Well I'm not opposed to it. I can't say I'm in favor of it, but if that's what you want to do, then that's what you need to do because of your age. You're really kind of a young

man, frankly. But I understand fully, your desire and you're valuable, and I think you'll continue to be valuable for the 8 to 16 hours a week, or 10 to 20 hours a week.

Joe Copeland said I first attended the University of Evansville as a freshman, and low and behold, there was a senior there that I was unaware of that was, I believe, president of the student council.

Mike said student body president.

Joe Copeland said yes.

Mike said that was my first election victory, 1975. 440 students voted for me that day. That was a pretty good job too. I got a private office, a parking place and \$60.00 a quarter.

Gary Girton said the parking place would be important.

Mike said okay. Well we need a motion to accept that recommendation.

Gary Girton said I'll move we accept that recommendation from Joe on reducing his hours and sharing in the truck use for the Henry County.

Mike said and paying him \$62.50 per hour.

Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Joe Copeland said thank you.

Gary Friend said as you go to the next phase of retirement Joe, probably get endorsement off you for the next engineer.

Joe Copeland say, if, I mean, if you guys decide to hire one and I help train him, that would work for me.

Mike said okay.

Joe Copeland said thank you.

Gary Girton said thanks for your hard work.

Mike Haffner – Highway business

Mike said Mike Haffner. Mike has some highway business for us.

Mike Haffner said I'd just give you a little update. Annual bids are coming up and we've got them factored in for your second meeting in December. So, we'll get them advertised and we'll run the highway and the engineering stuff both the same time, what the game plan is.

Gary Friend said now a new business in Modoc wants to be able to bid too.

Mike Haffner said yeah, I'm waiting on that information so I can get them a packet and be able to talk to them about their requirements and everything. And then in lieu of what Mr. Copeland had to say, I just wanted to kind of, advise you what my long-term plans. I'm planning on retiring in about April to May of next year. I've just got other family opportunities and just something I've been contemplating doing. And I haven't got the exact day figured out just yet, but it would be pretty sure, some time in April to May area of next year.

Mike said in that window.

Mike Haffner said in that window.

Mike said okay.

Gary Friend said not before. You mean the window between April and May?

Mike Haffner said no, it won't be before.

Mike said well I'm sorry to hear that. But you've got to make choices, you've got to make choices.

Mike Haffner said you've got to make choices.

Mike said you're a young man too.

Mike Haffner said I'm young, but I've got a lot of things going on, and I've really, enjoyed working with Joe. I'm going to miss that. I'm going to miss a lot of details about the highway work. We're getting a lot of stuff done, both bridges and structures. And, but, it takes somebody ramrodding all of those projects, after hours, weekends, and talking to his vendors. That's part of it too. And, you know, that's, I feel we're a good team, talking about what areas can go to what bridges, what bridges can be steel grate. I'm very appreciative of him involving my opinion, and making the right decisions for the county, and priorities and everything.

Mike said I always appreciate your cooperation with Joe.

Mike Haffner said I don't want to leave the county hanging either. And if, you know, we've got the wind and solar and a lot of other projects going on. And, theoretically, I would be available for part-time or any services that the commissioners would need of me. You know, I'm not just hanging my hat up and not doing anything. So, but, you know, certainly, in the transition of, I think Jay Long, my assistant, is doing a wonderful job. He's picking up speed. We've been getting him involved in a lot of finance part of the highway, so, hopefully, he'll have the opportunity, which brings us up to an overwhelming part of my job is the utility permits. I made a pretty bad mistake in worrying on an email that after re-reading, I do want to apologize to all you guys. We're getting three-year old lawsuits still from Frontier for mowing off pedestals, which definitely wasn't the county mowing it. And then, Spectrum is putting above ground

structures that weren't part of their blueprints originally, on their permit. So, that was the topic of that discussion.

Mike said is it in that email?

Mike Haffner said yeah. That, their blueprints need to match what the commissioners approve.

Mike said so they're on the agenda today.

Mike Haffner said yeah. So, I've had several farmers, even you know, Mr. Chalfant, a former commissioner, address me, what can we do about getting utilities that's been abandoned removed out of our right-of-way, because it's a hindrance of their trying to mow the roadsides or trying to farm, just the agriculture. We've got a lot of abandoned phone poles in the county. We're starting to put a lot of structures in the right-of-way's, becoming a hindrance to be able to maneuver and operate around so.

Mike said there's probably going to be more before they get less.

Mike Haffner said sounds like we're going to get more. And like I said, you know, I think the most of our fiber companies just using below ground boxes and getting along just fine, and they don't seem to create quite the heartburn because you could mow over them and everything. But, I understand if the need is there, I'm in an area myself that doesn't really have high speed internet, and I would welcome them with lesser of two evils, just to be able to get internet, so I'd get it. But I guess my recommendation, we really need to be thinking about turning permit, certainly utility permit, over to an agency, because I'm concerned of the volume we're getting in the county, and also liability, you know. We don't really have a county ordinance specifying structures or you have to be so many feet out of a right-of-way, you know. Liability-wise, I think as many as what's going in, in the county, it might be something, I know other counties outsource that to legal people that can you know. I think even Henry County's got a different process in their utility agreements. And I guess if there was one major headache I've got as a county commissioner, is the utilities. I'm overwhelmed, and I don't understand. And certainly, when there's damage, who is responsible. So, I guess I'm making a recommendation to you guys to try to come up with a game plan to either jointly, highway versus somebody else, or we're turning that completely over to somebody else that maybe have better understanding liability-wise.

Mike said well there's going to be more of them.

Mike Haffner said yes.

Mike said no doubt about that. And like you wanting internet service, I imagine there're many farmers in the community that would accept a better internet service and deal with a box in the right-of-way as you would do that.

Mike Haffner said and just, there're a lot more individuals that are working at home. We need that. Business owners need high speed internet, you know, we definitely want it in the county.

Mike said okay. Any questions of Mike? Appreciate you sharing with us this morning. Thank you, Mike.

Mike Haffner said okay.

Chris Shaneyfelt – Hyper-Reach agreement and Grant application

Mike said we'll go back up the agenda a little bit and ask Chris Shaneyfelt to come up. Chris.

Chris Shaneyfelt said sorry I'm a little late. Where would you like to start?

Mike said well first thing on the agenda is the Hyper-Reach agreement.

Chris Shaneyfelt said okay. I'm not sure where Meeks went, but we currently use Code Red as an alerting service within the county. Our contract's up with Code Red or OnSolve, and we've been contacted by various vendors, and I've looked at their products. And asking you guys to consider moving to Hyper-Reach. Hyper-Reach is a nationally known emergency alerting software platform. The biggest reason I'm moving or asking you guys to consider the movement is the cost savings. I'm paying \$8,800.00 a year for OnSolve, and will bump down to 5 thousand and I think it's like 53 hundred or something like that.

Mike said \$5900 per year for two years?

Chris Shaneyfelt said well I added on a tip line, I believe. That's why it went up that little bit.

Mike said and then there's an inbound hot line mentioned.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yes, that's the tip line.

Mike said so that would add, would that add \$800 per year to it, with this?

Chris Shaneyfelt said it should be that \$5,900.00. So, what, I'm pretty sure, if I remember right, I didn't bring the contract with me, but it was running, they're about \$3,000.00 cheaper than OnSolve. And we're getting more products out of it. OnSolve was charging me \$800.00 a year to do language interpretation for messages we sent out. That's included in the Hyper-Reach package. The Hyper-Reach package will also allow us to do computer alerting for our county employees. So, if there's some sort of incident going on within the county system, the alerts will go to their computers if they're working. And then, people that use home, like telematics, such as Alexa or Siri or google, they can choose to select that, and it would go to their devices as well and indicate that there's a message pushed out from us, besides going to the phones. It would still include the weather platform as well. So, it's far cheaper, even adding the tip line and the original charge of 5 thousand, whatever it was, we're still going to be saving money.

Gary Friend said you said tip line?

Chris Shaneyfelt said yes sir.

Gary Friend said the hot line, is that the same thing?

Chris Shaneyfelt said yes.

Gary Friend said that is an extra charge?

Chris Shaneyfelt said yes, it is an extra charge, but is one that I was willing to go ahead and pay for.

Mike said it's over and above the \$5900 though.

Chris Shaneyfelt said okay.

Mike said so your cost would be \$6700.

Chris Shaneyfelt said I mean, still, that's a \$2,000.00 savings.

Mike said and the same and better service?

Chris Shaneyfelt said yes. We didn't have the hot line or a tip line before where people could, we could use it for like the detectives for crime investigations or missing persons or whatever.

Mike said are you okay with the down time being on the weekend? Is that the preferred down time for scheduled maintenance?

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah. I mean, we don't push out many messages.

Mike said as I read this contract, I'm okay with it, but I think our attorney is going to object to, he typically does, object to the governing law and arbitration.

Chris Shaneyfelt said okay.

Mike said he usually X's out arbitration and likes the governing law to be the state of Indiana, so, I'm not sure, I'm not sure whether Asher is willing to modify their agreement to accept that.

Chris Shaneyfelt said I'm sure that they would.

Mike said if we could ask them to remove the arbitration and make it governed by the law of Indiana, then I would be willing to accept the contract as presented. And I guess we could let Meeks look at it and make sure that's the way he feels.

Chris Shaneyfelt said well it was sent to him.

Mike said oh, it was?

Chris Shaneyfelt said yes. And I just had not heard back from him.

Mike said okay. So, I think it's a good idea and you're recommending it, someone want to move approval.

Gary Friend said I'll make a motion that we will providing the arbitration is removed.

Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said I'll wait and sign this after Meek's has looked at it.

Chris Shaneyfelt said sure.

Mike said okay. When is that effective?

Chris Shaneyfelt said it'll start the first of the year.

Mike said first of the year, okay.

Chris Shaneyfelt said I believe the next thing was the grants.

Mike said yes. Salary grant?

Chris Shaneyfelt said yes sir. It's the same one we typically get. The grant amount is \$18,000. We are maxing out now on what the state will reimburse. Used to, they would do it 50% or up to 50%, regardless of what the pay was. But they've, over the last few years, under their current leadership, they have just gone by county population size. So, based upon our population, the most that we can obtain is \$18,000. So, that's where we're maxed at. I've already completed the grant application and it's been sent in.

Mike said okay. Someone want to move approval of this request?

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

Mike said okay. Anything else for us?

Chris Shaneyfelt said I just wanted to kind of update you on our ongoing employees. I have one open position as of this morning. We've hired two new employees. One started on this past Friday, and then the other one is a couple weeks into the pay period, so she's there.

Mike said working out well?

Chris Shaneyfelt said so far. We've had a couple that we offered jobs to, and then one called 57 minutes before she was supposed to begin, and declined the offer. Another one we had, she worked four or five days and then never showed up again and didn't answer any messages. So,

that's where we're at with those. And then, I do have one employee, which one is it, 803. She's not been able to take vacation time, and she's wanting to know, instead of losing her vacation time, if it could be paid out because we haven't been able to get her out of the room. I think she has 80 hours. We just haven't been able to get people out.

Gary Friend said she wants paid out?

Chris Shaneyfelt said she wants paid out, yes.

Gary Friend said all of it?

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah.

Gary Friend said is our vacation due on the anniversary date or on the calendar?

Chris Shaneyfelt said it's on the anniversary date. And her anniversary date was 11/4, I believe.

Mike said I don't have a problem paying it.

Gary Friend said I don't either.

Gary Girton said I don't.

Mike said you want to make that motion and he can take it to council. Is that the way, that's the way it would have to work.

Gary Girton made motion to approve the recommendation to pay out vacation for employee number 803. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Chris Shaneyfelt said and I believe that's it.

Gary Friend asked have we paid any down at all?

Chris Shaneyfelt said no.

Laura Martin said we had to wait for the appropriation.

Gary Friend said we are still waiting for that to pay you down?

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah, we haven't done anything yet because she has, you guys had to do the appropriation, it had to be advertised, and then this is the first meeting.

Gary Friend said but it's still standing what we decided.

Mike said the appropriation is on our agenda.

Laura Martin said so, if they appropriate it, did you want to pay these down at all at this point? Do we want to approve those to be paid down based off of that appropriation being approved today?

Mike said we might as well be current.

Gary Friend said yes.

Mike said so as of today we would pay these down.

Laura Martin said to what? I guess that's what I'm asking, I just need to know what?

Gary Friend said pay it down to a 100?

Chris Shaneyfelt said we had discussed whether you were going to do half or pay it down to the 150. I think what you guys talked about was paying down half.

Gary Friend said we did half, regardless of where they were at.

Chris Shaneyfelt said right.

Laura Martin said take these down to half of what they are now?

Mike said half what they are.

Gary Friend said I'll make the motion that we have the appropriation approved.

Mike said we want to do both pages too, not stop on the first page.

Gary Friend said it depends on the appropriation being approved.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yes sir.

Gary Friend said I'd like to make a motion to pay it down to half.

Mike said have a motion to pay down to half to the balance as of 11/06/2023. Do I have a second?

Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff – Quote for update to Spillman, Axon regarding our contract for body cameras, dash cameras, and tasers

Mike said Sheriff Moystner, you're next on the agenda.

Art Moystner said morning.

Mike said let's move this around. I've added this to your little thing, the extra shift coverage.

Art Moystner said yes sir.

Mike said the employees involved in the shooting incident.

Art Moystner said yes sir.

Mike said probably start there.

Art Moystner said perfect.

Mike said so, how are they?

Art Moystner said physically, they're good. Uh, mentally, I think they've got a little bit of a road to go down. I think they're on the right path. And we just want to make sure we get them taken care of and give them the time they need to come back mentally healthy. So, we have put them in contact with an individual that deals with this around the state. And he's met with that individual, so they're getting the help that they need to keep moving forward.

Mike said and those expenses are covered?

Art Moystner said those, I'm going to the auditor's office after this meeting to discuss what that is with HR to see how much of that falls under the Workman's Comp and things of that nature. So, yes, we're putting all that in place as we go.

Mike said okay. So, to cover that situation, you need what from us?

Art Moystner said what I'm asking for is something similar with what we did with the dispatch center for the open shifts. What I would like to do is put out the open shifts that are created by these individuals being off, and have guys volunteer to work those. And for those coverages, I would like to do it as a scheduled overtime shift, which would generate 12 hours in the lead banks, and then I would like to come back and give them those hours back in the form of pay. Yes, so, for the 8 hours they volunteer for, they would get time and a half for those 8 hours, or 12 hours of pay for those.

Gary Friend said provided they're over 35 hours, provided they get to the 40-hour window.

Art Moystner said it would be additional shifts. They're going to get to that window.

Gary Friend said but in your, I'm not, in your 4/2 cycle, there are many pay periods that you don't use that that 80 hours. The overtime has to take that 80 hour shift. Straight time would be paid, but, straight, you've got to get to 40 hours.

Art Moystner said I guess what I would share is you're asking the guy to give his day off.

Gary Friend said no, I'm.

Art Moystner said then he get's those two days off in that rotation.

Gary Friend said we've got to keep consistent in how we do things. And even if you are in the courthouse working, I'm not downplaying the situation, it's a different era.

Art Moystner said sure.

Gary Friend said if you're at 35 hours, you've got to get to 40 to collect time and a half. Not that we wouldn't pay straight time to 40. We would, but you've got to get to 40 to get paid time and a half.

Art Moystner said and I guess one of the things that I would share is I allow my officers to work extra security details, and I'm not sure why they would sign up to work for me at a straight time when they could make \$10.00 an hour working someplace else security, so, we have an open shift. And we only have one on the road.

Gary Friend said I don't know why we should be paying time and a half before they get to 40?

Art Moystner said we don't in normal overtime situations. I don't think this is a normal overtime situation. And I guess the reason I'm asking for it here, is I'm asking them volunteer to cover holes that are created, that if I don't have a person, I have an officer out by himself.

Gary Friend said I understand that, but.

Art Moystner said and I understand your points. And I don't know how it's going to hit. There're also times that we're going to have three officers on a different shift, that we're going to move that officer to fill these holes where we can move officers. I just think it gets to be a very unique situation in asking them to give up the two days off they have in, you know, in the six days. And then we're not going to cover it, because you still get into the same situation. And if a guy takes comp time on Monday and I'm asking him to fill a shift on Wednesday, and he's got 40 hours scheduled, but he took comp, now he's back under that. He's not getting time and a half for that shift he's covering. He's getting straight time, because comp time takes 8 hours out of his overtime hit, if that makes sense.

Gary Friend said I know what you're saying, but I just, countywide, we have to stay with, I believe we need to stay with timing law. Overtime is at 40. We pay for the hours, but then we pay at 40.

Mike said so, it's a difference of what they're going to be paid for those volunteer shifts. And you're saying this presumption we'll use \$10 an hour, and you'd like to bonus them an extra \$5 an hour because there's been a day off?

Art Moystner said correct.

Gary Friend said but we would have to do that throughout the county if somebody were needed to cover, I think it's a precedent to talk about.

Mike said I understand what you're saying. I guess you started this thing similar to what we did with E911.

Art Moystner said correct.

Mike said and I'm not sure it's apples to apples in a sense that if they worked over 40, they got overtime, but if they didn't, they didn't.

Art Moystner said sure.

Mike said so.

Art Moystner said and I think every department is set up differently, if you're going apples to apples. I know my department gets comp time. EMS gets overtime. County highway gets overtime monetarily, where mine's normally a comp. So, I think it's difficult to compare department to department. I don't disagree necessarily with what you're saying, but I also know we get into a situation, and I'm understanding your point that they are scheduled for a short week that week. I don't disagree with that. I do disagree with asking them to work their day off when they've taken and had a couple days' vacation, and then they're going to come in on the back side of when they return and work a shift. And they're still only going to get straight time for that shift they work. I think that's difficult. I don't think I'll have guys sign up to work those shifts.

Gary Friend said I don't think we should be jumping out of the 40-hour line for overtime versus straight time personally. I think we should work with you but you got to make 40 in my mind, to start overtime. And I don't know why you were set up on comp time? I know the manager or the superintendent and his assistant are also comp time at the highway.

Art Moystner said and they're supervisors.

Gary Friend said I believe that EMS was in a lawsuit that was settled, statewide. It's not Randolph County.

Art Moystner said it was under federal law.

Gary Friend said and also, the same for the highway. So, these were laws were following, not just county policy.

Art Moystner said sure. I understand. And under federal law, which has been, the specific law that governs that has been in existence for decades, and exempted fire and EMS.

Gary Friend said it should be known in different setups of Randolph County, aren't our doing as county government.

Art Moystner said I agree. I agree.

Mike said what I'm hearing is Art doesn't have to necessarily desire to pay them overtime, he'd like to create a situation to have them work that extra shift.

Art Moystner said and we're talking a 30 day or, 30 or 60-day situation here, until I get back to full staff.

Mike said is there someway else that we can incentivize the deputy to come in and cover those shifts for the employee that was off on workman's comp because of this incident? Not paying them overtime, but yet, incentive to come in. I know that's all about semantics but I think Gary makes a really good point, and I think you recognize that point.

Art Moystner said I do.

Mike said but I also have a sense that we need deputies out there.

Art Moystner said we do.

Mike said if we can't incentivize them to come in, then we don't necessarily have coverage.

Art Moystner said I guess I would share too, with the deputies we have, they've already been covering some of those shifts, and will probably continue to cover those shifts. I just think we should stand behind them as they're covering those shifts and give some type of a recognition for doing so, because they're doing it now.

Gary Friend said but not you currently, your comp time selection rules of the HR now are you don't get time and a half on comp until you reach 40.

Art Moystner said correct.

Gary Friend said so there's nothing, you're just going to change the current situation.

Art Moystner said temporarily.

Gary Friend said temporarily, for one instance. But are we going to have to, I just don't agree with that. I think like Mike says, I think, I don't know what else we can do to say hey, you know, we need you and want you. If we change the timing rules for a 30-day window, that leaves us open for a lot I believe.

Art Moystner said I think it leaves you open to less than if you only have one officer out there, or I have no coverage at all.

Gary Friend said well I get that, Art, I do. I don't want us uncovered. I don't think you should go down that line. That's not what I'm arguing. I'm arguing the paying whether.

Art Moystner said I don't disagree with you.

Gary Friend said you have reserves, don't you?

Art Moystner said we have two.

Gary Friend said you have two?

Art Moystner said yes sir.

Gary Friend said won't the reserves pick up the time if they got more compensation?

Art Moystner said I can't compensate them. I'm not allowed to pay reserves. That's also the law.

Gary Friend said I did not know that.

Art Moystner said yeah, we're not allowed to pay.

Gary Friend said reserves work for free?

Art Moystner said they receive a clothing allowance.

Gary Friend said period?

Art Moystner said period.

Gary Friend said I didn't know that.

Art Moystner said yes. The law doesn't allow them to be paid.

Gary Friend said the difference also on, you're wanting full pay and on 911 said we're only paying down to half.

Art Moystner said I don't want full pay out of their leave banks. I only want them paid for the specific shift that they worked. If they work this day, they get paid that day. If they get comp time the day before and its part of their regular shift, they're not getting paid that comp time, only the volunteer shifts, only for that day they're covering.

Mike said Gary, what do you think?

Gary Girton said well they definitely need to be compensated.

Mike said they will be compensated.

Gary Girton said I know, but I mean, uh, I just think, I don't have a problem with this is a unique situation.

Art Moystner said it is. It's first time.

Gary Girton said the situation is that we're short of staff anyway. We can't use the reserves and pay them. We've got to have the road protected in my opinion. I think we're jeopardizing ourselves more by not having, because we don't know when another situation is going to happen. And that's what concerns me. To me, I agree with Gary, I don't like to go over this, but I know we establish precedent when we do that, but I think this is so unique that it's got to be a rarity.

Art Moystner said I hope.

Gary Girton said well, I agree a 100%, but I don't know what's the best way to do it.

Gary Friend said I guess if we had a car wreck, hope we don't, the officer is injured, would that be unique and we'd pay this for that? I know that we had an officer involved shooting, that's unique, but that's not the only time you lose officers to comp situations.

Art Moystner said and I don't disagree with you. And the thing I could, the only thing I can.

Gary Friend said the 4/2 schedule leaves you several pay periods where you don't get 80 hours in.

Art Moystner said it's one every 3.

Gary Friend said thank you.

Art Moystner said for those that are scheduled.

Gary Friend said how many times, it's actually 1/3 of the total would be impacted by staying at a 40-hour window.

Art Moystner said I would share depending on how it is, it's either one every three or two every three, depending on how the rotation hits.

Gary Friend said I mean, I looked at it awhile back, on your schedule there are a lot of times that you don't get 80 hours.

Art Moystner said correct.

Gary Friend said that's why you're on salary.

Art Moystner said correct.

Gary Friend said correct?

Art Moystner said correct. And I would also share that the 4 and 2 shift is a money saving shift for the county because without the 4 and 2 shift, I would have to hire a minimum of three more deputies to cover all the holes on a 5 and 2.

Gary Friend said that's a different.

Art Moystner said sure.

Gary Friend said I'm just saying if we were to do this for this officer related shooting, would you ask us and think about asking us to do this if you had an injured officer otherwise. If we open this up for this, because what we're talking about with the situation, a very bad one at that, but do we just say okay, this is the only time we're going to do it, for this officer involved shooting? Is it the only time you'll come to the commissioners and say this is a unique circumstance, are, you don't know.

Art Moystner said no, I, I wouldn't say that because we have 17 officers to cover the county with a minimum staffing of two at all times, because anything less than that, I feel, would be dangerous for the officers and the citizens, because they're not going to get the response.

Gary Friend said I won't stop it. I don't like it. I don't think it's really the right way to go, but I don't want us in a situation where we're not covered.

Art Moystner said well I've never been in a situation where I'm looking at a schedule that I'm looking at right now, where I actually have a couple of shifts that those are the two officers that are scheduled on 2nds, and I don't have anyone else scheduled at that time. So, I can move, and I can move one, but it means, and we've already had to cancel one officer's comp day to cover a shift, which I don't like to do. If they've earned the time, I think they should be able to take it. And I've also got two officers that are in training currently that we've already paid for, that I couldn't stop the training.

Gary Friend said yeah. I'm just trying to break it down. It's a workman's comp scenario we're trying to work with here.

Art Moystner said I agree.

Gary Friend said I know it's an emotional one, but it's a workman's comp scenario that comes otherwise, too. It comes with injuries, injury and sickness all the same time, you still have to cover. The only thing it really absent is the 30-day stream probably.

Art Moystner said and the other issue is we don't know what's going to happen in the future, if we have officers leave. This is a scheduling issue. I'm not looking at it as the incident itself. I'm looking at the fact that I've got holes in my schedule that I need to fix, and this is the solution I thought was the easiest to fix those holes on a short term. And it might not be the only time I ever come to you guys.

Mike said I was going to say, it sounds like it's going to be broader than just this incident. If you, I mean, what happens if you're down two officers for any reason?

Art Moystner said then we're going to have to have a discussion of how to fill those the best we can. But that's one of the reasons we fought to bring pay up so that we don't end up losing officers other than some type of an incident or event.

Mike said so your plan to do this would begin when?

Art Moystner said it would begin immediately. If you guys are going to back me and I get council approval on Wednesday to fund it.

Mike said and when would it end?

Art Moystner said I, I guess that's a trick question because as I emailed you, they were taken off for a specific time for re-evaluation. If that individual feels like they need a little bit more time, then they're going to give that to them. I'm going to give that to them. So, I can't see is going past the first of the year. I'm actually not sure it's going to go past the time they've set initially for this. But I can't give you a solid answer at this point in time, because I think it's fluid.

Mike said what's the time they set initially?

Art Moystner said they were taken at 30 days and then re-evaluation will be done.

Mike said 30 days from the incident or 30 days?

Art Moystner said it was 30 days from a week ago, so you're talking three weeks from now, I believe.

Mike said I guess I wouldn't be opposed to doing this with this situation that would assuming you get the council buy in, that it would begin Thursday, or Wednesday the 8th and end the last day of November. So, we would have to, if it goes beyond that, then we would have to re-evaluate what we've done and what we do then.

Art Moystner said when do you meet in December?

Mike said I'm just going to look.

Art Moystner said then could we do it from November 8th to that specific date, so I can bring it back to you.

Mike said so that would be Friday the, Saturday, Sunday the 3rd would be the last day before we meet.

Art Moystner said okay. Can we do it till then? If we even need that. We might not need that full time.

Mike said I think we need a beginning and an ending, so I would say, 12/3 and I'll make that motion that if Art's recommendation to pay time and a half for those officers that are covering the two officers that are out because of the incident beginning subject to council's approval beginning on Wednesday November 8th and ending on December 3rd, 2023. That's my motion.

Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Art Moystner said and I would love to have a discussion if we would like to have a discussion that if something were to happen in the future, how we could address this situation.

Gary Friend said well that's going to be a discussion we need to get the council involved because we should be setting up an overtime account in the county budget to pay overtime. This should be a one on, because we don't have the experience on how to deal with this. But I don't want it to be a stepping stone into a broader range avoidance of the budget.

Art Moystner said I agree. I agree, absolutely. I agree. But you and I both agree about the overtime issue too. If it was paid, this wouldn't be an issue.

Gary Friend said might have to look into the salary, how your office and the salary, and how that really works.

Art Moystner said sure.

Laura said I've got one more thing while Art's up here.

Mike said well he's not done talking.

Laura Martin said okay. Sorry. I won't interrupt. It was about that telephone line.

Art Moystner said sure.

Mike said did you see this?

Meeks said I did.

Mike said I told them you wouldn't like the arbitration.

Meeks said I didn't.

Mike said Chris said they'll probably change it.

Meeks said I didn't. I had notes on mine. I can send my notes to Chris if you'd like.

Mike said so, this telephone line for fax in the intake area of the sheriff's department.

Laura Martin said yeah, NLBC installs those fax lines and they contacted me and they need something in writing before they would do that. I haven't got a cost or anything on it. Have you?

Art Moystner said I have not. Have you seen the email this morning from IT?

Laura Martin said no.

Art Moystner said apparently there's an existing fax line that's there that's not in use.

Laura Martin said so do we want to hold off?

Art Moystner said so there may be an adjustment to that quote anyway. So, we might hold off on this until we figure out exactly what we have had.

Mike said okay.

Art Moystner said because they said there's a fax line there currently. I got that email this morning.

Laura Martin said maybe we'll hold that until Art lets us know otherwise?

Art Moystner said and part of this is to make things easier for the video court, because right now, we're having to run to the front office to get faxes and send faxes to the courts back and forth when they're having hearings. This will just help that.

Mike said okay. So, we got a quote for update to Spillman.

Art Moystner said more of an update, it's an upgrade.

Mike said upgrade.

Art Moystner said to Spillman. And what this would do is this would give us the ability to have mobile cad in the cars. This is something we started looking at probably 15 years ago. It was about 10 times as expensive then. That cost has come down. It gives the ability of the officers out in the car to do a lot more with regard to driver's license checks, warrant checks, things of that nature, that they can run in the car. This is also the initial step of the officers in having the ability to build more technology in the cars. Currently, we have the Axon camera system which has a license plate reader in the front camera. We're not able to use that right now because one, we don't have the program to run it in the computer, and two, we don't have mobile cad in the cars. We don't have the mobile data terminals. So, we can't use that right now. This would be the first step in that, in putting some of that into place. I think it's also an officer safety thing that if someone's out doing a traffic ticket with E ticket, they scan that information, it's automatically ran. And if that person is wanted on a warrant, whether it be locally, in another state, regardless of the crime, it sends an alert to everybody on the system that that person is out with a wanted subject.

Mike said so, this is a desired upgrade?

Art Moystner said this is a desired upgrade.

Mike said not a required upgrade?

Art Moystner said it is not a required upgrade. But it will help keep officers safe. I will also have to go to council because it will up our yearly maintenance with Spillman by about \$2,800.00 I believe. And I included quotes for Winchester and Union City also because they would be paying for their own access to some of this.

Mike said so, this is not, is this the upgrade, the mobile cad for Spillman?

Art Moystner said it is.

Mike said so that's the first bullet point on your secondary list?

Art Moystner said it is. And you were the only one I'd shared the secondary list with at this point. I'll send it to the others today.

Mike said okay. So, how long have we had this Spillman system in the cars now?

Art Moystner said in the cars, probably, we put those in under the Harris administration, under Jay Harris, when he was sheriff.

Mike said okay. So, those have some age on them?

Art Moystner said probably, well the computers are new, but the system itself, being in the car, we've had about 15 years. The tablets we're currently using, we've had maybe four.

Mike said and you don't have an equipment line to pay for this do you?

Art Moystner said I do not. I would also share the system itself, we've had since 1997.

Mike said any questions of Art?

Gary Friend said how much will this add to your budget next year for maintenance in County General budget?

Art Moystner said the maintenance portion would be in the contract line. It would be about \$2,800.00 in addition.

Mike said do you think we ought to look at the cost of your priority list at the jail prior to making this decision?

Art Moystner said we can.

Mike said how important this is to do at this point.

Art Moystner said I think this would be a nice building block on what we have. And I know I had initially asked them for the quote expecting it to be much higher. So, that price has come down substantially.

Mike said it was \$3,005.29, and this maintenance says \$1730.56.

Art Moystner said correct, but there's a maintenance that's in the line itself, they talked about a one-year service.

Mike said it's \$1152?

Art Moystner said and there were a couple different ones, so I had contacted Spillman.

Gary Girton said I have \$832.

Art Moystner said and asked them what it would be combined. And what they said was the \$2,800.00.

Gary Friend said Art, do you remember when you sent that to? I'm struggling to find it.

Art Moystner said which is that?

Gary Friend said from Spillman.

Art Moystner said I do not remember when it was sent. I have a copy here if you want to look at it, Gary.

Mike said here, you can have this one. I'm sorry.

Gary Friend said that's okay.

Mike said I thought you'd seen it.

Gary Friend said it doesn't ring a bell.

Mike said I have 10/30, Mike, Gary and Gary and 8 more. While he's looking at that, why don't we talk about the Axon.

Art Moystner said sure.

Mike said and what is that?

Art Moystner said this is the Axon dash cameras, body cameras and taser package that we purchased 2, 2 ½ years ago, I believe.

Mike said right.

Art Moystner said and this would be a 5-year extension of that. And with just the sheer cost of it, with the ARPA funding we had, I wasn't sure this would be, I thought this would be a good expenditure to come out of that to extend an additional 5 years, which would take this county to 2031, of having that technology. Given the events two weeks ago, all of that is captured on video.

Mike said so that would be, that savings would be if we paid that up front, is that what you're?

Art Moystner said correct, and I would share since the last contract we had about 2, 2 ½ years ago, the cost has gone up 25%. And I don't think that trend is going to change. So, we have another 2, 2 ½ years and I think it would go up at least another 25% by the time we would look at it in 2026. And there's two different quotes that were sent. One is for the body camera and taser, and the other one would be the dash camera.

Mike said so this is really just a continuation of what we have?

Art Moystner said correct.

Mike said and you're looking to, instead of spending 43, 43 and 21, January 2024, which we'd spend \$237 and \$115 now, we're 5 years out then?

Art Moystner said we would have 2 ½ years left on our current contract, and then this would extend us to the year 2031.

Mike said so what are we going, if we don't do this, what are we going to pay in January of 2024 in our current contract?

Art Moystner said we paid.

Mike said so this is just, additional funds, we're going to have to pay out.

Art Moystner said this is the 5-year extension.

Mike said okay.

Art Moystner said we have already paid everything fully until 2026.

Mike said so, this, and I see that the lower amount, the 115, which is for the, it's for the cameras?

Art Moystner said I believe the 115 is your fleet three. So, that would be your dash cameras in the cars.

Mike said and it starts in 2027? The other one starts in 2024. Why does it do that?

Art Moystner said I think one of the things they did was they are extending, instead of extending it out as a fresh 5-year contract, they have re-written it as a tenure, with some of our time already spent. There were some benefits with regards to equipment upgrades and software upgrades. I know we're currently due for the next generation of body cameras to come out. When they come out, we'll trade ours in and get the next gen. In 2 ½ years, they will upgrade and replace the in-car cameras, 2 ½ or 3. I think the in-car cameras went in behind the body cameras by about 6 months.

Mike said and is that all included in this?

Art Moystner said that is all included. We get any software and hardware upgrades that they have. That includes the dash cameras, the body cameras and the taser.

Mike said I'm struggling with what the, I guess, is that the only benefit of doing this at this time?

Art Moystner said it's to get, you would have the cost now, which I think will go up at least 25% by the year 2026. I also know that we had about 1.5 million unaccounted for in the current ARPA funds. And I'm not sure what the county, I'm not sure what our finances are going to look like in 2026, when we get to the point that this needs renewed. And if we don't renew it, then the officers won't have dash cameras or body cameras.

Mike said so we have to commit so much of the ARPA fund for 2024.

Gary Friend said should this be a budget item for you, for the council to be budgeted? I understand where we're going here, but.

Art Moystner said the original, we did through ARPA funds, so it wasn't a yearly budgeted thing.

Gary Friend said yeah but there's going to be a point in time this is all going to shift over to County General.

Art Moystner said and I don't disagree with you. When I originally brought this to council, 2 ½ years ago, I had asked the council at that point in time, whether we wanted to set this up on a yearly payment, which they have here listed, to where you could do year 1 through year 5 of what it cost each year, or whether we wanted to pay this in full at the onset. And I believe council and commissioners jointly wanted to pay the initial 5-year contract up front. And we paid it out of the original ARPA fund. So, this is one of those situations that, of the primary list that I brought you guys either the last meeting or the meeting before, this was one of the items I said that I think would be worthwhile looking at. Whether we do it or not, to be honest, it's irrelevant to me because in 2026, I'm on my last year. But, I think for the benefit of the department, I think it would be a good thing to have it continual, for the officers.

Gary Friend said we're not going to ignore. We know these officer's need their videos.

Art Moystner said correct.

Gary Friend said and this ought to be, when we did the 5-year initial, I was in the mindset that we ought to then make it part of the General Fund budget, not just use up ARPA funds because there are ARPA funds to use up.

Art Moystner said and I don't disagree with that. But, when asked, I was told to pay it off all at once.

Gary Friend said the 5-year. This is the extension of that.

Art Moystner said and this is an extended 5-year that we wouldn't have to start paying until 2024. And I don't know why, I think they have the dates on some of this, are wrong, because we should go to 2026 on everything.

Gary Friend said right.

Mike said well this one does.

Art Moystner said sure.

Mike said this one does not. I guess that's got us a little confused.

Art Moystner said I hadn't caught that date, but I will talk to them today, because I think they have the dates incorrect.

Mike said this one, the bigger one looks like it interrupts our 5-year plan which we paid off.

Art Moystner said sure.

Mike said this one doesn't look that way. So, and this can wait until December?

Art Moystner said if you would like to wait, sure.

Mike said well I was just going to say if we don't act on it today, and we don't know what these dates are, then council is not going to be able to act. I guess that council just approves our appropriation of the ARPA. I guess I'd like some clarity on why one is starting in, aimed at somewhere starting in January 2024, if we've got a 5-year plan, why the other one waits until March of 2027, if we have a 5-year plan?

Art Moystner said and I think these are just payments for the extension.

Mike said but the extension shouldn't start until 2027 should it?

Art Moystner said correct. But I told them we were going to want to start paying that out of the ARPA funds. I think that's why they did the payment dates the way they did.

Gary Friend said that's kind of where I'm hung up at. I'm not so sure why we shouldn't be paying extensions out of County General. That's part of operations. And the County General fund can afford it.

Art Moystner said and we can do that. This was just one of the items on that list.

Gary Friend said nothing against ARPA, but I'm kind of a little, I don't want to just use it because it's there, just to use it because it's there. We have other projects that are more important.

Art Moystner said this was just one of the items that was on that list I'd provided you, and you guys had told me you wanted to pursue.

Gary Friend said I wonder where the council would be about getting this rolled into the new year's budget, which is what it would be, or could be.

Mike said and then the larger one for the cameras and all, again I think, if we paid to 2026, I'm not sure why we would pay again in 2024.

Art Moystner said I think it was just so the ARPA funds could be used the way I explained it to them. If we were looking at it, it was for ARPA funds. Had I explained that we had to have that spent by a certain time, so I think they were setting that into motion.

Gary Friend said we can spend it with one stroke of the pen.

Art Moystner said sure.

Mike said but the difference is though, the, there's no identity on the front, but the \$237,000.00 only extends to January 2028.

Art Moystner said sure. The payment plan is what they have for payment summary. The contract and service would go beyond that.

Mike said I guess I don't see where it says that. I guess that's why I don't understand. I mean, I presume what we're looking at, if we're going to use ARPA, we would just pay out the total and pre-pay, just like we did last time.

Art Moystner said sure.

Mike said and that pre-pay on the smaller amount would get us to March of 2031.

Art Moystner said sure.

Mike said pre-pay on the larger one, only gives us to January 2028. So, we're missing 3 years on this one.

Art Moystner said correct. I think they've typed some years. But I will get that fixed.

Mike said okay. So, that, I think we would want to table until our first meeting in December.

Art Moystner said sure.

Mike said we can table it until our next meeting. We'll table it for two weeks. That work?

Art Moystner said and I will reach out to them and get that fixed.

Mike said and Spillman, I guess, I'm kind of, I mean this looks pretty valuable. I would say that.

Art Moystner said I think it does.

Mike said I'd like to see your other, the structure expenses that we're going to have at the jail, that we're going to need to spend.

Art Moystner said well, has Jake updated you when the air conditioner people came in?

Mike said no.

Art Moystner said we're waiting on some information from them. I don't think that's going to be something that you're going to be able to do out of ARPA. I think that's going to be a bonding issue, when they started talking figures.

Gary Friend said what's your, what figures? You've got to have some kind of.

Art Moystner said minimal, ballpark figure they gave me without typing everything up was you are looking at about 5 million.

Gary Friend said for the jail? We did the whole courthouse for one.

Art Moystner said I'm just telling you what they told me. I don't, they said once you get into it, it was going to require replacing parts, pipes and that's well beyond my expertise.

Gary Friend said that's one thing that's not an ARPA fund.

Art Moystner said nope, that's a bond issue. They're supposed to be giving us a report.

Mike said well that would be good to have.

Gary Friend said yeah.

Mike said we'll table this as well for two weeks and then we'll have that report.

Art Moystner said okay.

Mike said anything else for us, Art?

Art Moystner said that's all I have. Thank you.

Sherri Thompson – Health Department new nurse's position

Mike said Health Department is off the agenda.

Ed Thornburg – Tower drainage

Mike said Ed Thornburg, tower drainage.

Ed Thornburg said alright, what we're looking at here, I believe it's been a couple years now, we were discussing the drainage problem around the Deerfield cell tower. And the picture in front of you is what, that we came up with a plan to drain the water out of that area. Water drains into that area from the private field to the south and beyond, a little ways. I've got a watershed map if you care to see it. Anyway, we got a quote at that time, and the guys said they're still good with this quote. At the end of the list, basically, we're looking at \$19,198.85 to fix that. We didn't know where to come up with the money.

Mike said so, what's it do with the water?

Ed Thornburg said it takes it to an outlet on the Edmonds, there's a main tile that comes off of Dave Levy's farm that goes to the river. This ties into that main. It's a private main. It's not a county main. We're talking about bringing it along the Edmonds' south line through, basically, through a gate down that long narrow field. And the one drain goes to drain the actual tower. The other drain goes to drain the field, which is the Edmonds family is offering to share that expense with us. That accomplishes two things. It dries out their field and catches that water before it gets there. And they'll share on that expense. And if they decide they can't for some reason, I mean, like I say, it's been two years now, if we put in half as much, it'll still make it work.

Mike said okay.

Gary Friend said they share half, I guess I don't. To drain their fields, this will have us help them pay to drain their field?

Ed Thornburg said that's part of the deal to get an outlet.

Mike said to get through their property.

Ed Thornburg said to get through their property to get, that's the buy.

Gary Friend said what would this cost in lieu of that?

Ed Thornburg said the main tile, is looking at \$5700, surface inlet, \$4000 and, around \$6,500.00, \$7,000.00 if this was on property.

Gary Friend said so, it's going to cost us 12,000 to get an easement across that property, is what you're saying?

Ed Thornburg said \$12,000, no. We're only looking at 19 for the whole project.

Gary Friend said you said 7 though.

Ed Thornburg said well I didn't think about breaking that down that far. This whole thing is running together. But if we didn't do any of the field tiling, that takes \$10,000.00 off of it, so it takes half.

Mike said so, the cost of the project is \$19,198?

Ed Thornburg said yes.

Mike said and we're paying half of that?

Ed Thornburg said no, we are paying \$19,198. They are paying an additional \$6,600.00 to drain half of their field.

Mike said okay. And you're saying, and I presume that this is the best way to do it?

Ed Thornburg said it's real close to the only way.

Mike said the only way.

Ed Thornburg said it is the best way. The other direction requires a lot more depth in crossing like three properties instead of one.

Gary Friend said who maintains this if it has a problem? Do we have any liability on it?

Ed Thornburg said I'm going to maintain, I'm going to say that we should maintain the main and the drain to the tower itself. The rest of it will be on the landowner.

Gary Friend said the main goes up across. The red line dead ends?

Ed Thornburg said the red like dead ends at a tile.

Gary Friend said at a tile?

Ed Thornburg said yes.

Gary Friend said so, that's the main?

Ed Thornburg said right.

Gary Friend said so, okay. We can't cross over the school property and go straight down, along that fence line?

Ed Thornburg said that field is uphill. Elevation pretty much dictates we go where we do. There's a hump there at that fence line to go out, and Levy's farm has been totally system drained. And they, of course they didn't drain it with the idea of draining property off of them so that, you know, everything over there is 4-inch.

Mike said so, we're building a new drain for \$19,198, and Edmonds are tying into our new drain, draining their field for \$6,640?

Ed Thornburg said yeah, basically. That's the short version.

Mike said so if we didn't, if we had access to that strip of ground where the drain goes, then we're still at \$19,198?

Ed Thornburg said yeah.

Gary Friend said well, I thought you said if we had access, minus the field drain, we'd have \$7,000.00 in it. If we just build our drain, it would be \$7,000. By helping them tile out their field, it goes up to 19, correct? Ten grand of this is to help them tile their field?

Meeks said the tile has to go through there.

Gary Friend said the whole thing has to be approved, but it's not just 19 for the main drain, it's \$19,000.

Ed Thornburg said including draining half of the field.

Gary Friend said draining half of the field?

Ed Thornburg said yeah.

Gary Friend said right. We have to drain half the field to get the easement through?

Ed Thornburg said basically.

Gary Friend said I just want to get it clear.

Ed Thornburg said yeah, I don't, no, that's, that's what, sort of.

Gary Friend said that's why we can't walk over into the school property.

Mike said I didn't hear that. So, okay.

Ed Thornburg said well the problem is the school property doesn't have a decent outlet. We're still, we're still dealing with that. I looked real serious at taking it up and running it through the school's property, and, to get it up to where it would work, I'm just not in the mood to put a tile across their parking lot. I mean, that's, I've studied the life out of this thing for about half the summer.

Gary Girton said yeah, when you and I were out there, we talked about going through the school property, but then we eliminated that because of all the issues.

Gary Friend said yeah, I mean, I get it, maybe our only choice to get it out.

Ed Thornburg said I'd say, it's not a great deal, but I think, to be honest, I think it's fair to everybody.

Gary Friend said how would you want to fund it?

Ed Thornburg said that's why I'm talking to you. My original, my original thought was ARPA money, and when we talked about this at the last drainage board meeting, somebody mentioned that they think that was a great way to go on it. I'm open, but I don't have any funding that will do it.

Gary Friend said didn't we, didn't the council approve the revolving, but then that's for reconstruction.

Ed Thornburg said that's for reconstruction of county drains.

Gary Friend said how swampy is it back there?

Ed Thornburg said well the water gets up on the generator set.

Mike said I think it needs to be done.

Ed Thornburg said I found it amazing we built a tower on top of a hill and found a hole. But I'm not throwing any rocks at anybody. That stuff happens.

Gary Girton said maybe you could put the generator high enough to compensate. How much money do we have in the farm maintenance.

Mike said we were talking about doing some work on our ground.

Ed Thornburg said we were talking about doing more ditching on the farm ground. Chris called me and asked me for money to drain another field.

Gary Girton said I know, but I just wondered how much is in there?

Laura Martin said we usually only appropriate like 25 in there.

Mike said I think we ought to reserve that for the farm.

Gary Girton said right if you've only got that much. It'll take that.

Mike said I don't think it's inappropriate to use ARPA. It's for the emergency tower, cell tower. I guess, before we go on, I'm trying to add these numbers up, Ed, and come up with the same total you said. I got \$5713, plus \$10,624, minus \$6640?

Ed Thornburg said yep.

Mike said plus, \$4,000, plus \$100, plus \$1,000, plus \$214375. I get \$16,947.50. And you've got \$23,581 here, and \$19,198.85.

Ed Thornburg said okay, the \$23,581 is wheeling it all in, and the \$19,198 is installing the tile with a plow.

Mike said okay.

Ed Thornburg said we're still \$3,000 off.

Mike said yeah, well we're \$2,500 off, 26, 2700. I don't know where those, where that money is on this estimate. How soon do you plan on starting this?

Ed Thornburg said I can come back in two weeks.

Mike said I'd say we wait two weeks just to get these numbers to add up. They don't add up to me.

Ed Thornburg said I may just have one of the guys come in and have the guy that done the bid come in and explain it to you. I'm not going to tell you, you are wrong, because it's not that.

Mike said and not having any tape record of it to say it's correct, but it doesn't add up to me. So, I recommend we table this for two weeks.

Gary Girton said I don't disagree.

Ed Thornburg said okay. On the fiber permitting.

Mike said yeah, that's next on the agenda.

Ed Thornburg said I know. I originally was supposed to be seeing all that, and that hasn't, just hasn't happened. Frontier is the only one that actually sends me their stuff. It would be a big

help if both companies that's doing this would CC me on that. I would look at handling that on a short-term basis.

Gary Friend said so moved.

Mike said do I have second on that? The surveyor is volunteering on a short-term basis.

Ed Thornburg said short term, just to help get through the way.

Mike said okay. All in favor say aye.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Gary Friend said thanks, Ed.

Ed Thornburg said that probably went sideways.

Josh Vermilyer with Spectrum – Installation issues

Mike said Josh Vermilyer. Morning. Just set that on the floor. Thank you.

Josh Vermilyer said good morning. I've spoken to a couple of you on the phone about this. This is what we are having to put into the ground. It sets on top of the ground. It's plastic. The only metal in it is the post that attaches to. The reason we do that is because of the pre-connectorized drop, so that our installers, literally, it takes them about 20, 25 minutes to do an install at customer's house. Initially, when we started doing this, we didn't know those were even going to be an issue. Wayne County, Union County, Franklin County, Marion County, Hendricks County, that's all we're putting in, as part of this RDOF get to the rural people so they can have internet. Two weeks ago, maybe a month ago, I had our engineering company do a print and a design for these pedestals so that they could be presented with every single permit. And that's where the e-mail transpired that was spoken about earlier. We would just like to keep building in Randolph County, because right now, it's been on hold pending the decision of those, which is no different than somebody mowing around a telephone pole, versus mowing around something that's already there, feeding somebody's telephone at this point out there. What was spoken about with who would be responsible for the damage if it was done, if the farmer, somebody mows it over, they could be held responsible for it, if it wasn't marked. That sticks quite a way up, so somebody should be able to see it. Plus, we have markers that have orange on the top of them so it shows where things are throughout the county. The reason why we like to use those, is because they don't freeze in the winter. If we put everything underground, moisture from the ground seeps up into the hand hold, and then the technician is stuck out there for 4 to 6 hours with a blow torch, trying to melt that ice so that they can get somebody hooked up, which would make it for maybe one to two people get serviced a day.

Mike said we have these and similar ones all over the county. I guess part of the confusion came, as I understand it, is that the permit which was granted didn't call for these, they called for something else.

Josh Vermilyer said yes. We noticed that none of our permits showed it.

Mike said you noticed that?

John Vermilyer said we noticed that after it was brought up to my attention. The permits we had in Wayne County, in Hendricks County, Union and Franklin County, none of it had that last page that showed it. And so that's when we paid the engineers to put those dimensions on the last page. And that's what I presented almost a month ago.

Mike said well, I don't have a problem with it.

Gary Friend said I do not.

Mike said so, I guess, if we need to modify our decision, and I don't have a copy of that permit in front of me.

Josh Vermilyer said okay. I can email you one.

Mike said but one we signed. We signed a permit giving them access, did we not, Mike?

Mike Haffner said yes.

Mike said I'm talking to Mike Haffner. And Mike's saying that permit that we signed had the ground level station handhelds. Is that true, Mike?

Mike Haffner said yes. The permit you signed was for the below ground.

Mike said so, we need to modify that today if we want to.

Josh Vermilyer said okay.

Mike said and I'm willing to say that I want to.

Josh Vermilyer said okay.

Mike said so, that we can have, and you sent us a new, I think somebody sent me, and I don't know, did you send that to me? I'm not sure where I got it, but.

Josh Vermilyer said I sent, I know I sent an image three weeks ago, or about.

Mike said I received a pedestal specification that looked just like that, except it's in black and white, via email.

Josh Vermilyer said yes, it would have been the actual engineering prints for it, sir.

Mike said I'm not sure.

Ed Thornburg said I sent it to you.

Mike said Ed sent it to me. Thank you, Ed. So, I guess I would entertain a motion to modify our decision of the Spectrum permit to allow the use of this style, the specified style of handholds that they want to install.

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

Mike said yes, Joe.

Joe Copeland said the only thing that I'd ask, is that those pedestals be placed at the back side of the right-of-way. I, in the past, I've had even handholds set in the middle of the ditch blocking drainage. All of them need to be set back.

Mike said yep.

Gary Girton said most of them I've seen in my area where you're putting them down in the south east corner are at the back.

Josh Vermilyer said yes.

Mike said do you want to modify your motion to say that they need to be set in the back side of the right-of-way?

Gary Friend said I can do that, yes.

Mike said a modify and a second? Motion has been modified. All in favor of the modified motion, signify by saying aye.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Gary Friend said when can you start building in Randolph County again?

Josh Vermilyer said today. Who do I submit a permit to?

Gary Friend said Mr. Thornburg.

Josh Vermilyer said okay.

Gary Friend said I think you've already got a permit. You don't have one filled out do you?

Josh Vermilyer said not yet. Thank you, sir.

Mike said thank you. Sorry for the confusion.

Linda Campbell – Ferrell Cats

Mike said a very interesting agenda today, we have Ferrell cats between two internet companies. So, Linda Campbell and Ferrell cats.

Linda Campbell said both microphones work. Good morning. This has been interesting. And I apologize. I did not bring a printout. I've got lots of papers, but you guys don't have access to a copier, so I can't give you my copies. I attended the cultivating community workshop September 21st, down at the 4-H grounds. And, as part of that, I was in a small group that addressed a Ferrell stray cat population on North West Street. But from that one neighborhood, I've contacted Parker, Farmland, Lynn, Ridgeville, Saratoga. All of them have Ferrell cat, roaming cat, stray cat populations. But they're not getting any medical care because no one can afford to go to the vet and pay the cost for a stray spay and neuter surgery. So, one of my things that I found out in this month is that Randolph County no longer has a humane society. And that would be a 501C3. And with that in place, Randolph County can submit requests to the community foundation and EDP renewables, for funding, but you have to be a 501C3. And all I've come up with is my little group called all things cat. And I can go to the Lynn veterinary hospital for a reduced price, and get some of these cats on North West Street spayed and neutered for under \$50.00. Snap has a program for \$25.00 for a cat, it's not dogs, it's cats, sorry. But there's no vet in Randolph County that's accepting those vouchers. Farmland does if the client is an existing client. They're not accepting any new clients. We can go to Jay County, Dr. Bader there will accept the vouchers. So, we have multi-problems. We don't have low cost spay and neuter clinics. We don't have humane society, and we can't get funding.

Mike said so, is the Winchester animal shelter, it can't get funding?

Linda Campbell said I don't, well I think, from what I've found out, it's municipal, the animal shelter. Maybe the mayor can answer that more specifically. I don't know what those guidelines, it ties their hands in some form or another.

Mike said what about PAWS in Union City?

Linda Campbell said they have a very closed program for the cats and dogs that they address in Union City. I did find out from them that the Lynn vet is the one that helped them with their trap, neuter and return program.

Mike said when you say closed, do they have a limited number they accept or, I mean, if you're 501C3, and funding was available through EDPR or any other charitable would they not accept more Ferrell cats to do that?

Linda Campbell said I'm saying in terms of communication with me. I've had trouble trying to get through to find out information so I didn't have to reinvent the wheel here in Winchester. And it's a great program. They have you know, as I said, they've helped me in the past, but I'm just not getting off the ground with the cats. And it would, the humane society would service all of Randolph County. That's, you know, we just don't have one. Dawn Mullin had one, I would say six years ago, and I need to contact her and see if she's got some paperwork. To reinstate

would be a lesser cost. Susan Dillon-Meyer said it could be over \$600.00 to re-establish a humane society. I don't have anyway of coming up with that kind of money. So, I don't know whether reinstating or establishing a humane society is under your jurisdiction, and if it's not, if you've got suggestions on where I could go, or if there is, how do I request funding from the Commissioners to cover these start up cost of \$300 to \$600.

Mike said well I would think that starting a humane society, obtaining a 501C3 certificate would be just a drop in the bucket of what you're thinking would be.

Linda Campbell said right.

Mike said now whether you can find supporters out there that would fund that, I guess my thought would be, two things. One is, I'm not sure it's in our bailiwick to establish a humane society.

Linda Campbell said okay. That's what I didn't know.

Mike said and two is, I think, some way of another, and I think, since we have one, PAWS in Union City, that would not be reinventing the wheel if we could get them to share the responsibility or share their ideas, or how they got started in Winchester, and then secondly, we have a contract with the Winchester Animal Shelter. And I don't know what the requirements are for anybody. I know they take contributions out there. So, the contributions are deductible. I would think they might be able to pursue a grant from the community foundation or any other organization to help with the Ferrell cats. And if those two avenues are exhausted, then I think we might revisit what it would take. I think, and I don't want to put the entire burden on you. To create a humane society is bigger than just getting a 501C3. So, there needs to be an organized plan, and how it's going to be funded. And I'm not sure if the county can help with that or not. But if it were developed in such a way that we knew it was going to exist beyond just getting the 501C3.

Linda Campbell said okay.

Mike said and then that society would be in a better position to seek funding, the community foundation or EDPR or any other foundation in the county. It is a problem, and I guess, I don't know, I know the city in the past has taken care of the cat situation.

Linda Campbell said how did they do that?

Mike said well you'll have to talk to the animal shelter out there. It's a pretty good shelter. And they're definitely responsible for Winchester.

Linda Campbell said yeah, I've volunteered out there in the past.

Mike said I think that's where I would start Linda to see what they can do for us as far as helping to create a more humane situation for Ferrell cats.

Linda Campbell said well I've explored that and not gotten very far either. So, that's why I'm coming, and as the cultivating community wanted it to be countywide. So, that's why I've come and approached you.

Mike said well, then I would suspect, I would go back and talk to the Randolph County United. That's kind of theirs, that and the Community Foundation. Cultivating community is there project. And it affects that priority, then I know, I would say that the forum of funders, which is the organization that we're a part of, the city is a part of, and several different groups are a part of, they have funds. And they have a grant cycle that's just starting. And those grants are kind of earmarked for projects that are coming out of the cultivating community situation.

Linda Campbell said right.

Mike said so if you have the backing of that organization, that it be a priority, I know at a minimum you could get your, I would think, at a minimum, you could get your 501C3.

Linda Campbell said okay.

Mike said for that, I would talk to Lisa Jennings.

Linda Campbell said right. I've been to their office.

Mike said you've been in there too. So, okay, well.

Linda Campbell said yeah, I've tried to cover all the bases.

Mike said at this point in time, I don't see where we can really help you in this situation. We're paying the city of Winchester \$60,000.00 for our share of the animal shelter.

Linda Campbell said okay. I knew that you had, and I just didn't know if it just covers dogs, or I it covers.

Mike said it covers dogs and cats. It's covered pets. It doesn't cover horses. We know that.

Linda Campbell said okay.

Mike said okay?

Linda Campbell said alright, thank you.

Mike said thank you Linda.

Gary Girton said but she has done, she's done quite a bit. But she's definitely true in her statement that the whole county, every time I go to different towns and city meetings, that's one thing that's brought up is the Ferrell cats. And it's getting worse. And the issues been brought

up by some, it could become a health problem, without doing something about it. So, I don't know.

Mike said well if it becomes a health problem, it becomes the county government's problem.

Gary Girton said right. And that's why I think.

Linda Campbell said what constitutes the, I mean, it's a nuisance with peoples back yards and front yards.

Gary Girton said well if the population increases to the point it becomes a health problem.

Mike said well even if it's a nuisance, but not a health problem, if it's in the city, the city has nuisance ordinances to take care of that. And that is not generated by the city. It's generated by complaint. Somebody has to complain that it's a nuisance. And the same for the county. If it's in the county, and it's a nuisance, and again, we don't have somebody out there looking for them, but somebody has to be a complainant to say this is a nuisance, go investigate it. And that would be at the area planning office.

Linda Campbell said okay, a couple more places. Thank you.

Mike said thank you, Linda.

John Greene, NLBC – proposal for US-27 and SR-32 fiber network projects

Mike said John Greene and Sam from NLBC.

John Greene said morning folks. This is a follow up from the last meeting where we had been asked to put together a proposal for the two fiber projects, one going out west on State Route 32 to the Speedway and then one going south down towards the 4-H fairgrounds and the county barn. So, this is what we put together. I think there were supposed to be some folks here from the technology committee.

Mike said Jim Byrd's here and Daniel Baker is here. You guys want to come forward? Anybody else here for the technology committee?

John Greene said so what we've got on the first sheet is the two different projects, total costs. What we're asking for from the county is a 40% grant. New Lisbon would cover the other 60%. And then what the total combined project cost would be the New Lisbon portion as well as the county portion. And then the second and third pages are the actual maps where the fiber cable is proposed. I know, Gary, you had some questions earlier about areas that were unserved. We did an approximate house count. So, out State Route 32, right now comcast stops their network at about Amanda Street, which is not very far. I think that's pretty much the edge of the city limits. But, from there out to the speedway, and including the little subdivision area behind the speedway, there's about 21 or 22 homes, that currently would be considered either unserved or under served.

Gary Friend said are they in your federal grant district?

John Greene said they are not.

Gary Friend said whose federal grant district are they in?

John Greene said that area wasn't included in the original RDOF area. And part of that is because of the way the mapping was done at the time.

Gary Friend said they're going to review that though. Am I correct? They're going to come out for the grant.

John Greene said well it'll be a couple of years, yeah. Right now, it looks like it's probably going to be late 24, early 25 before any of those applications are being accepted. And then the same thing going down US 27. There are about 21 homes between where comcast network stops on, I think, it's county road 100 South and the 4-H fairgrounds. And then there's 7 other homes on Lakeview Drive. And those 7 are unserved, as well as the 21. So, in both cases, you're talking about probably close to 30 homes that would be affected by this, plus the businesses, obviously.

Gary Friend said and you guys won't do it without, why?

John Greene said well we ran the projections on the payback times without any grant money. We're looking at about a 14-year payback on the State Route 32, and about a 12-year payback on the US 27. With the grant, that drops that down to 8 to 9 years. I think it was 8 years for the 27 and 9 years for the other one. Typically, my board likes to see something down in the 5 to 7-year payback, but 8 to 9 years is considered acceptable. But 12 to 14 years, we've got other areas we can invest money that we're going to get a quicker payback than that. The other thing I'd point out is all the state programs, to date, and this program, you're looking at somewhere in the neighborhood of 60 to 80% in grant. And the remainder would be matching funds. We're actually flipping that to try to stay within the amount of money that the county's got available. So, we're only asking for 40% from the county.

Gary Friend said well I guess you're not looking at it like I do. I'm not disagreeing, with the dollars that's coming in and I know there's \$400,000.00 earmarked for broadband support. But I personally don't think just to put it in Winchester, and use more than half of it up, while we have 24,000 other citizens in Randolph County. I think we should use the money, but I think we need to use the money to help us help people. But, for us just to start choosing who gets this internet and who don't, I mean, I know that if you could afford to buy it, then get it. But I don't think it's fair to the bulk of Randolph County to spend more than half of this money on two little lines that services the Winchester community. And I know that that housing out there at the race track, just like the race track, they're going to get it too. But, why aren't they paying some of the out there? I've been to Eldora, they've got a big tower sitting outside theirs. What I'm saying is the \$400,000.00. I don't think should be used to get 50 or 60 people, internet in a local area here. We should find a way to use it, maybe to hire a consultant for the county to show us how to properly get internet served into this county. But not just pick winners and

losers. That's what I have a problem with. If we would spend over half of this, I think that's what, 40 or 50 people? Plus, then that would give you guys the opportunity. You're just showing what we're going to grant here. But you'll immediately pick up off these lines and take off. So, there's more to it if you have to. There's more, there's less of a payback than what you really, I believe presented. On this line, that's what the payback is. But what about the spur lines that come off of it as you go on down the community. And then, let's just say you get into Winchester, and you get this, are we going to help you take customers away from Comcast? Are we going to help you take customers away from the people who already run this area? I mean, that's all fair, when you're paying for it. But I don't think it's fair when taxpayers are paying for it. I think that \$400,000.00, we need to use it to find out how to get everybody in Randolph County served, not just very few people. And that is very few people for that amount of money.

John Greene said well a couple of points I'd made, number one, I think the county has already done an in-depth consulting service. And I believe that resulted in the recommendation that the county build a number of wireless towers around the county. And I don't think that went very far. I don't know how much money, Mike, was spent on that, but I think it was a considerable amount.

Mike said \$12,000.00.

John Greene said yeah, for a consultant that gave you a plan that wouldn't work.

Gary Friend said we had the wrong consultant.

John Greene said well, consultants are everywhere and you don't know until you got the wrong one, until after you've paid the bill. The other thing I'd point out is that with the existing grants, with RDOF, with the area that we're building, with the areas that Spectrum are building, those areas are not available for any other grants unless it's somebody that had given you money. So, to say that there would be spurs that we would be able to build off of that, not really true, because the areas around are going to be either ties up in existing RDOF grants. So, somebody is already going to build fiber, or they're going to be coming around potentially, with availability for the bead grants. But that doesn't mean that we're going to get it. It could be somebody else.

Gary Friend said but if we wait on that, then the county wouldn't have to pay for that.

John Greene said well because those areas may or may not get included in that.

Gary Friend said okay.

John Greene said but if you want to wait another five years, then that's up to you. I mean, we're just presenting a proposal here.

Gary Friend said I want everybody to have internet tomorrow, okay. So, do I want to wait, do I want to get 50 or 60 better internet, than 24,000 lesser internet. I know that's not the right number. This doesn't serve the whole community. It serves one locale that takes most of the money, or half of it anyway.

Dan Baker said if I may fill in here., excuse me. So, part of this, the \$400,000.00 you talked about, we have been looking at ways to fill the gaps from RDOF, the grant money, the different things like that. We have talked to individuals over in Union City and others. We've also started talking with people in the community on how to fill these different gaps. So, this wasn't something that we had asked them to give up quotes on. Hey, how do we start filling the gaps that may not actually be funded by RDOF or BEAD money, right? Yes, it serves as a little bit, I can't remember the number, but what, 69, 70,000 people. We are also working, trying, with Watch Communications. I brought that up to you guys as well, how do we service more. In my opinion, going east or westbound, right, that's more than just servicing the homes. There're also economic development potentials right in that area as well, which would help. So, we have done a lot of research. Jim here has some letters of supports for this as well from the community I believe. So, we're just trying to identify how to fill the gap. So, I understand where you're coming from. I do. And I 100% agree that the consultant is needed for the entire county.

Gary Friend said before we spend money, in my opinion, especially, I just, I can't, I just can't do it this way, myself. I can't. It's not, it's special interest. It has special interest in it. And by that, I mean, especially interested in a few people in a Winchester market, which maybe that's where I'll be, but even economic development we had businesses everywhere, everywhere that needs good service.

Dan Baker said yeah, and that's what we.

Gary Friend said we're going to take their tax dollars and pay for somebody else's, is what you're asking.

Mike said yes, Jim. Jim Byrd.

Jim Byrd said, I will address, I'm on the technology committee. I think commissioner Friend, you're looking at a little short-sighted in the fact that you're saying it's just serving those communities, or those houses. The one is going to the fairgrounds. We're building a new event center out there. And the county fairgrounds is used by everybody in the county. So, it is serving. This money has been spent for everybody in the county. And when you go out to the race track, that's our attraction for people coming in, and they're out there like when they have the 400, you can't use your cell phone or anything out there, because there's not, so it's not the, the houses are not the focus. The focus is the race track and the fairgrounds. And the houses, that's what is going to help them get it's 8-year payback and so forth. And the other thing is, we're looking at the gaps. Just like when the Andersons bought Mote Fertilizer, I went over and talked to them to see what they needed as far as internet. And they put in their own fiber and so forth. So, they were taken care of. We still have to look at, we're looking at the gaps. And we have to look at the economics, and like this company or any other company is going to look at, and say where's our payback going to be on this, and who are we got service. So, it was the feeling of the technology committee that this gap going to the race track and going to the fairgrounds was serving the most people we could possibly serve, because it's far more than 60 houses. That's not even, that's just supplemental. They're just getting the advantage of being in the path of the race track and the fairgrounds, because again, the future needs group of the 4-H

board, they raised 2 million dollars to build this event center. So, it's going to make that far better out there, and a much more used facility. And again, that's putting a 2 million dollar building on the property that the county owns, that the fair board leases off of them. But that's where, we're looking at much more. You're just too narrow looking at that. And I understand, we understand completely, like, I mean, I know where Mike lives, and out there, there's very little internet. So, the other way I'd looked at this too, or another issue I've looked at is the fact that, you know, we looked at putting one of the towers at, on the Purdue Farm on State Road 1, and I think unfortunately, we looked at that backwards. We looked at putting a tower up and then paying them rent. Well that is looking at Lafayette and Indianapolis rent, so that rent was unfeasible. But, I've been talking to Jeff, and we're seeing who we need to talk to at Purdue, and make that center, make that farm the technology center of Eastern Indiana for Purdue University. The fiber already runs down the line. And so, we're talking then about Purdue putting up the tower and then we get an access to it and so forth, and maybe, when that comes along, we might have to supplement it, and pay for the connection from their fiber that goes down One there. But that would be another thing. But I think you know, here we have somebody willing to invest and put in here that we can do now, and as Mr. Greene just said, we're waiting five years. And we all want it today. We want, this is, and will always be, and since we started working on the technology, we started in Winchester and expanded it out in the county, the core group that's worked on this, you know, we know we're never going to get an interstate in Randolph County. And this is our best means of economic development is getting the most internet, and most, at this point, fiber, put in. And you see, the cost of fiber is not cheap. And we, if we could run it down every mile of the county highway, that would be great. But we're not going to be able to do that. And like I said, we've got consultants and so forth, and have a person come in there, we know that the big pool is Monroe, Green and Franklin township. We know that. And Purdue is doing this, you know, do all this survey and tell you that, well we know where that is, I mean, we know where the problems are. But we don't have a solution, and there's not a solution to get to everybody. So, we've got to, we've got to fill the gaps that we can. And there's economic development and tourism dollars going out to the race track, same as the fairgrounds. I mean, those are the two big things that this project is serving.

Gary Friend said well thank you. I understand all that. I'm not narrow minded on all that. I am a lot broadly minded on we don't put infrastructure in for the power companies, for the gas companies. This is a utility that's being built out there. By the way, it's a 30-year, because when we did the contract down there for the Windfarm, we spoke, you and I, that we extended your lease for 30 years. And that's how long it goes, a 12-year payback is not doable for a 30-year life expectancy is it? I know you don't want to do that. What I'm saying, when do the citizens start having to pay for utilities they can't have? We don't pay for AEP to come in here and put out utilities. We don't even do it for Ohio Valley Gas, we don't even do it for Comcast. Why do we now have to do it for internet? It's like we're being held hostage to internet. I know we're not there yet. The federal government is going to be building it out, bringing money in. Years ago, when the Rural Education Acts come in, people got electricity to their houses. They didn't have to pay for it. Neither did the taxpayers. I think we're being asked to supplement a utility. And by the way, you get the bill, you collect the bills. We're going to take some of those tax dollars and we're going to pay for it, and it's not fair to most of the county. That's where I'm stuck at. I know Jim, we need it. I know economic development but I don't see a grant coming from the racetrack. They can help pay for this.

Mike said have they been asked?

Jim Byrd said we have asked them, but they're going to be paying, they're going to be billed, just like the house will be billed and the 4-H grounds. They'll be billed. They'll be paying for as long as they're using the service.

Gary Friend said that's what I mean. It's the build out that I'm stuck on. It's like having us pay for the build outs. People can have whatever they want to and pay for it. If the race track wants fiber optic and they want to pay for it, they want to put a tower up, they want to pay for it, do we want to pay Comcast to get three times the coverage? I don't know what all that is. Are we better off paying Comcast to get 7, 800 megabytes down? There're people out in the country that get 3 or 4 down. You know, are we getting the best way. Fiber optic is great, but fiber optics from a tower to service more aerial, could be the better way to go in a county setting. That's how college campuses do it. They're all wireless and more internet than they need. Now how they do that, I don't know. How do we do that in Randolph County, I don't know. But to start paying for little bits and pieces of utility companies' expenses, I won't agree. But I'll stop here.

John Greene said so, Mike, if I can point out a couple of things. If you look at Green, Franklin, Monroe county, by the way, those areas fall into what Watch Communications won in their Cast II award from the federal government about five years ago. So, if it's. What I'm saying is, if those are the areas of the county that are underserved today, then I think you need to address that with Watch Communications and find out why they have not served those areas at this time.

Gary Friend said I have asked the question, they have until December of next year. I struggle with it. But they're not asking Randolph County to put one tax dollar up.

John Greene said the other thing I would point out, is all your grant programs are tax dollars, whether it's federal, state or local.

Mike said there's more than just that area that's underserved.

John Greene said oh, I agree.

Mike said there's 2147 households listed as underserved, and there's a lot more than that that aren't listed. And that's why they've got that survey going out. That's why we're having listening session so, we can find out who's underserved.

John Greene said right.

Gary Friend said my hang up is paying for utilities with county tax dollars.

Mike said well I think, where the problem is at.

John Greene said and by the way Mike, we did ask the race track initially and they said we don't have the money.

Mike said I guess, I'm not opposed to paying for the infrastructure. My difficulty is, as Gary says, if it serves a limited area, it's, and right now, it serves two economic development projects, the race track and the 4-H grounds, I've not heard the 4-H, and maybe you're representing the 4-H grounds too, Jim.

Jim Byrd said I have a letter from the fairgrounds.

Mike said I've not heard them say that they, and I've not heard anybody complain about that they need internet service out there during the fair or any other time.

Jim Byrd said one thing is like when, and we had Mr. Wagner come in, but when they have auctions out there, they're not able to have the online auctions. And I know Metzger ran into the same problem when they had an auction out there. It's just the thing where again, part of it is the potential. And when we have the event center, we're going to have more things there that we haven't had, and so we have the opportunity to get that there, and again I have, like I said, the letter from Juie, which I'll leave with you on there too, or I can read it. It doesn't matter. But it's wanted out there and is desired. So, I'll tell you that. And basically, I am on the 4-H board also.

Mike said and you're here on behalf of the technology, so they voted that this is the way they want to spend their money?

Jim Byrd said well, we were charged with or we were told, when the towers went, our job was to figure out how to fill in the gaps. And so, we were looking at gaps and who we could serve the most people, and so forth. And with the race track and the fairgrounds, again, the fairgrounds is the county project. That serves everybody in the county. And that facility out there, and there could be probably more learning sessions or education too that could be used, once we had the fiber out there. So, it's going to serve the most. I went to Cardinal Ethanol and asked them if they were fine. And they just told me they had IT people who took care of that, not to worry about it. And again, a lot of these places that are underserved, you know, and figuring out the economics to support any company, whether it's NLBC or anybody else, and how they're going to do this, and they're going to look at the same thing. I mean, we can't run fiber up and down the roads of those three townships either, just because, I mean, we could spend, and I forget what the cost of fiber is for mile, but I'm sure Mr. Greene could address that, but to take that per mile, how much fiber, how many people that would serve, it's not going to serve very many.

John Greene said it's about, for burying, we're looking at about \$60,000.00 a mile.

Mike said correct me, the Davis farm location, or that part of the county that we were talking about putting the tower on, we couldn't get anybody that wanted to lease off of it.

Jim Byrd said well they, Purdue came up with an astronomical figure for what they wanted for the lease. I mean, they want us to pay a tremendous amount of rent for property we're not even

getting property taxes off of. That's why I said I'm talking to them about going the other way. They put up the tower.

Mike said what I'm saying, no providers wanted to put their, there wasn't enough payback to put their, and pay to use that.

Jim Byrd said right. But, well, this would be, Purdue using it for them and them being to, right now, Jeff told me that that farm, they get their internet service off the antenna or whatever they call them, that set up on top of the Stone station elevator. It goes all the way over there. So, you can have the reach, I mean that shows, that's a pretty good reach that they get. I was surprised that's where they got it from.

Mike said we have three emergency towers that are 350-foot high, and we can't find anybody to lease space off those. We were promised that we would have leased space off that.

Jim Byrd said we understand that.

Mike said Gary, what do you have to say about all this?

Gary Girton said well, the issue is, just like Jim said, we've got these needs throughout the county. We know all that. And the technology committee has spent a lot of time discussing the issues. And these are the two areas that they came up with that they thought would serve and utilized, the funding to serve the most people. And they were looking at the end points. So, that's basically, what Jim's already said based on his and Dan's conversations, and the other member's conversations during the week.

Dan Baker said if I may add, in answer to this, I also believe Winchester is only fed by one fiber line that goes to the hospital right now. So, sending fiber out this way would get us closer. That's what I'm being told, now Mr. Greene, you can correct me if I'm wrong.

Mike said I don't know. I have Comcast.

John Greene said that's correct, but I think if you look at Comcast and Frontier, they're in similar situations as well.

Gary Friend said \$50,000 a person basically. It's not fair. That's where I'm at.

Mike said well I think we ought to sit on this for a couple weeks. Again, it's a big percentage of our earmarked, at least our beginning earmarked, to do that. And I don't know if the technology committee had thoughts of seeking another consultant for the county.

Jim Byrd said well that's what I wanted to ask Mr. Friend what his suggestion was to the technology committee. What do you, what do you think we ought to be doing? What are we not doing, or what are we not figuring out?

Gary Friend said I think the technology committee, and I don't know, I haven't been in any meetings, I don't know, the solution has to be global for the county, border to border, what will best do the borders, what can we do? It can be far-fetched. I don't have the answer, and that's a problem. We're spending money, nobody has the answer. Do we just do it until we run out of money and half this county will be unserved, if we do it. The federal government is involved in this. If we spend money, they won't. If we don't, they will.

Mike said but this area is not in the bid area?

John Greene said correct.

Mike said no provider has said, or federal government has said who wants this area. They've not done that.

Gary Friend said then maybe the technology committee can get together and go after our lawmakers and start pounding the drum, how are we not served, why are we not served, why are we being stiffed.

Jim Byrd said Gary, we've done that and we had the guy from the state in on our meetings and so forth. We've come up with the best solution there is. When you say you want global for the whole county, then you need, how many miles of fiber that is, and that's not going to happen. And the towers didn't work out either. I mean that, we thought that was the solution at one time. But again, that, the, we've looked at the different things. That's what I, I mean, if one thing, it's just like anything else, it's just like somebody saying well I don't like the landfill, it's okay if you don't like the landfill, but what's your solution? And the thing is, this is a solution to take care of a couple economic things and I agree, it's just a few residents, but that's what makes it feasible for the company to be able to do that. Otherwise, they wouldn't even be interested in the project, because they're not going to get the money back.

Gary Friend said well I think it's been the free market out there will eventually, build up internet.

Jim Byrd said and again you want it today, that's all I'm saying.

Gary Friend said well I want it today if somebody else get it today. I don't want 50 people to get it and the rest of the county don't get it, when we're involved. If the free market is in there, I don't care where it goes. It's when we're spending our county money is what I'm talking about. We're spending our peoples' taxpayers' money. We're going to tell them about this county, because where you live, you can't have it.

Jim Byrd said no we're not. That's not true. We're going to tell them that it is not economically feasible for where you live that we're going to be able to put it in. Just like, again, the Purdue farm, they have Frontier fiber running right down past them. But they cannot justify the cost of hooking it up.

Gary Friend said it'll work out, but we could just say that about all the county resident, every house. The thing's going to work itself out. But if we run out of money too quick like, then nobody's going to get paid. I just don't think that we should be in the utility building business.

Jim Byrd said okay. I understand your opinion.

Gary Friend said I put a house down the road a half mile from no power lines. I didn't pay anything to get that power line down with a transformer because it's a utility. And internet is another utility. It's just there're several of them competing in the same area.

John Greene said well that in essence is, that's the difference, Gary, your electric, your water and your gas, all have areas that they're required to serve by law. They are non-competitive. Broadband is competitive, and there are no areas that you're required to serve except very small.

Mike said except those you've accepted.

John Greene said correct.

Mike said except in certain areas. They're not exclusive in those areas either.

John Greene said that's exactly correct.

Gary Friend said does technology community today, do you know what it cost per mile to run, to get Comcast? Comcast is good internet. I mean, I understand fiber is the best internet there is, I get that. But everybody needs fiber. What about Comcast?

John Greene said Comcast would run fiber as well Gary. They won't run coax that far out.

Jim Byrd said everybody is going to be fiber now.

John Greene said if you ask Spectrum, they're not running coax, they're running fiber.

Gary Friend said I don't see how we can afford to just help a few and not the rest. I don't know how we're going to afford that kind of thing.

Jim Byrd said well we can't afford to help, we can't afford to help everybody.

Mike said it's a good point, but we do have a technology committee that we relied on to lead us in technology, and there's others on that committee. And we're hearing that this is what they think is best for us. But I don't, I'm not ready to make-a-decision today. So, you're not going to start digging this week, are you, or next?

John Greene said no.

Mike said so are you okay to table this a couple of weeks?

Gary Friend said sure.

Mike said okay. So, we'll do that.

John Greene said alright. Thank you, folks. Appreciate it.

Bob McCoy, Ferrell cats

Mike said Mayor Bob McCoy.

Bob McCoy said I was hoping that Linda would still be here. But the whole issue with Ferrell cats, Ferrell cats are wild animals, and we need to get, separate that from Ferrell cats and domesticated cats. So, yes, we handle domesticated cats at the animal shelter, not Ferrell cats. And I understand where her heart is at. But the people that live down there, they don't want the cats fixed and then returned to their neighborhood. That's a solution that would take 20 years to resolve. I mean, yes, they'll eventually quit breeding, but I mean, it's a tough situation. But, I just want to kind of touch on that.

Daniel Baker, Technology, Open Pitch Competition, READI 2.0

Mike said okay. Daniel do you have something?

Dan Baker said yeah.

Mike said come on up.

Dan Baker said just to add a little bit to the technology committee one, we are looking at much more than what we just talked about, in terms of digital literacy, the underserved areas, and things like that. I just wanted to make sure that's very clear.

Mike said you're taking half our money.

Dan Baker said do what?

Mike said you're taking half our money.

Dan Baker said yes, I do understand that. And we're going to go back. I agree with the consultant. I was going to talk about that to the technology committee during our next meeting. But I do understand where you're coming from. So, outside of that, I just wanted to give a report about the open pitch competition. We had a very successful competition. We had five pitches. And we had 117 people that showed up, which is a lot bigger than what they had in Jay county and other areas, so we had a very good showing. We do wish we had some more people there, but I think for the first year, that was really good. Abigail from Salt Creek Floral, ended up winning that pitch competition, kind of blew it out of the water. And she won first place prize, the audience prize, and the student prize as well, for a total of \$9,000.00. I think one of the biggest things that I was happy to see were the students and actually engaging with the contestants from all the school districts. And it was actually, they were asking very valid questions. I think it was really well attended. And then Modoc Gardens won second, and then

the third was Main Street Assemblies, there in Lynn. Jackie did want to give this, but she's sick today, so I gave it. She probably would have done it way better than I could have. Then, excuse me, I've got to open up my notes. I did have some notes. Alright, then each one of you should have received an email from me about the READI 2.0 calling for projects, so if you could, if you have anybody that you think might have a project that can go into that project tracker for the region, please forward that on. If you have any questions, let me know. But that is something that we have talked about a little bit in the past, and we are, we're looking at things like the airport terminal, trails, the industry parks, sewer project over in Union City, things like that. So, we're trying to think big and broad on what READI 2.0 can be. Also, childcare, childcare is an issue, not only in the county, but also, kind of in the state and in the nation. So, we're looking at those items as well. I would like to also state that I have hired Dakota Ellis as our new Business Admin. He is here with me today, just in case you walk in the office, we do have a new face. And then, I will be getting in front of you guys during your next meeting to talk about the three-year EDIT plan with Randolph County United. And I'm going to be getting with all three commissioners prior just to kind of gauge where we're at and what questions you may have. And other than that, that's all I have right now. Any questions for me?

Mike said any questions for Daniel?

Gary Friend said no.

Mike said no, okay. Thank you.

Other Business:

Minutes of October 16, 2023

Mike said other business, which is minutes of our last meeting, October the 16th, which we received a copy of those via email. Are there any additions, corrections or deletions to those minutes? Hearing none, I'd entertain a motion to approve them.

Gary Friend made motion to accept the minutes. Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Payroll Claims \$ 286,870.49 & \$12,813.90

Mike said next item are two payroll claims. One is for \$286,870.49 and the other is for \$12,813.90 to pay out a retired employees, for compensatory vacation, sick days, other benefits that we approved. I'd entertain a motion to approve those two payroll claims.

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

Regular Claims \$1,571,745.30

Mike said next item is our regular claims, which received a copy of these via email, and they're in the amount of \$1,571,745.30. I'd entertain a motion to approve the regular claims.

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

Security Automation Claim \$7012.00

Mike said next item is the security automation claim in the amount of \$7,012.00, which is a Randolph County Sheriff's department's, a key pad access to the elevator, I recall that. I'd entertain a motion to approve that claim.

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

Town of Parker City Claim \$51,500.00

Mike said next item is an EDIT claim for the town of Parker City in the amount of \$51,500.00, which shall be used to fund their city parks.

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

BZA/APC attendance report

Mike said that brings us to the end of our claims. Via email, we received a BZA/APC attendance report. I trust everyone has had a chance to review that.

Set Public hearing for transfer of real estate, Extension of Lease Open Arms house of Worship

Mike said next item is we need to set a public hearing for the transfer of real estate.

Meeks said that's the real estate for Camp Slingshot. I have the statute here. And I believe that you guys need to set it for public hearing and then have the county council approve for that transfer.

Mike said okay, so we need to set a date today so they can approve it tomorrow?

Meeks said well, they're not.

Mike said Wednesday.

Meeks said probably need the public hearing before that approval. So, my thought was to have a public hearing the first of December and then have their approval the next day, right, because they're going to meet then.

Mike said so we can have a public hearing in our regular meeting in December?

Meeks said that's what I thought, unless you guys want to have it in two weeks.

Mike said it they can approve it in December. Motion for a public hearing for the transfer of Camp Slingshot to Open Arms Ministry on December 4th.

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

Meeks said and I know this is on council's for Wednesday. Which of you guys are coming?

Gary Girton said I am.

Meeks said okay. So, we might want to mention it to them, this is what we're doing, and have that presentation.

Gary Friend said Farmland will probably will come up.

Meeks said Farmland's, no that's a purchase, so, we're, and that's a transfer between governmental entities and it's less than \$50,000 so there's no reason that. This is my, I can't believe this would not be assessed for more than \$50,000.00. So, that's why we're doing it.

Mike said okay. And along that line is you also need to extend their lease?

Meeks said yes.

Mike said that we entered on June 5th of 2023, to end.

Meeks said I think it ended like 3 or 4 days ago.

Gary Girton said November 1st wasn't it?

Meeks said October 31st I thought.

Gary Girton said November 1st I think.

Mike said we're extending it to the 1st day of January, 2024. So, we need a motion to approve the extension of the lease.

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

Meeks said do you have a copy of that Laura? He's still signing it.

Mike said I wrote over the date, the date line.

Meeks said that's fine. Did you want to talk to them or do you want me to let them know?

Laura said you can.

Meeks said well why don't you keep it and scan it and send it to me. So, I don't want to keep the original.

Laura said and he can stop in and sign it.

Meeks said that's what I'll let them know.

2024 Holiday Schedule

Mike said that brings us to our 2024 Holiday Schedule.

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

Additional Appropriations:

Commissioner's Comp Payout **\$30,000.00**

Mike said that brings us to our additional appropriations. First is the commissioner's appropriation for comp-time payout.

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

Airport fuel	\$20,000.00
Courthouse Utilities	\$10,000.00
RCFFO Utilities	\$15,000.00
R.C. Tourism Professional Svc	\$12,500.00
R.C. Tourism Advertising	\$3,380.00
Building Maintenance	\$10,000.00
Public Safety Gas/Oil	\$30,000.00
Children's Advocate	\$4,300.00
Windfarm	\$51,500.00

Mike said want to just do these altogether?

Gary Friend said yes.

Mike said I've got a request to do these altogether. So, the next additional appropriation is for airport fuel, \$20,000.00. The next additional appropriation is for courthouse utilities, 10,000. The next one is for the Randolph County Family Opportunity Center utilities for 15,000. R.C. Tourism Professional Services for 12,500. R.C. Tourism Advertising for 3,380. Building maintenance for 10,000. Public safety, gas and oil for 30,000. And Child Advocacy for 4,300. Windfarm for \$51,500.00 for the city of Parker City. I'd entertain a motion to approve.

Gary Friend made motion to approve all the additional appropriations. Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said that brings us to the end of our agenda. Meeks, do you have anything for us?

Meeks said yes, I have two easements that need signed. One of them is from Thomas, Perry Michael Thomas and Angela Thomas. These are the fiber optic ones. And a Sylvia Chamberlain. If you could approve those, get these signed, and Laura, I do need them notarized. So, if you would put them in my box then. You've approved these, but we did find some hiccups with some of the leases. I did talk to Andy Fahl about the last one also with the Sickels and he's going to talk to her again.

Mike said we have two easements to approve. One easement is, and we'll approve these together. This is from Chamberlain and Thomas. I'd entertain a motion to approve these two easements for fiber optic.

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

Meeks said the last thing I had Mike, was I did attend a case, the county didn't get sued, but the clerk of the court did get sued. She's been dismissed from that lawsuit on Friday. If you guys have any, want an update, just get with me afterwards.

Mike said okay. That's good news. Okay. Anything else?

Meeks said no.

Mike said Gary Friend, do you have anything?

Gary Friend said no sir.

Mike said Gary Girton, do you have anything?

Gary Girton said not today.

Mike Wickersham – Delaware County, letter of support

Mike said I have one thing, and that is the Delaware County Commissioners have asked us to sign a letter of support with them to build a regional mental health facility, and they're seeking a grant for that. And our letter, I'm a little confused, the letter I received was dated October 13th, and the grant was due October 13th. And I think, and then they gave me the grantor address to send the letter to show. I guess we need to decide if we want to support that project. If we do, then I'll try to get it altogether and I'll sign it and send it back.

Gary Friend said well what do you think? I mean, it serves Randolph County?

Mike said yeah, it would serve Randolph County. It's probably not a bad thing. They're not, to my knowledge, asking for any funds. And Henry County did. I think we probably ought to go ahead and support it.

Gary Friend said I agree.

Gary Girton said it's going to serve us so I think we should.

Mike said is that a motion?

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

Citizen Comments (3 minutes)


Mike said that brings us to the end of our agenda. Do we have any citizens here that have a comment to make? Hearing none, I'd entertain a motion to adjourn.

Adjournment

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

Reviewed and signed this 20 day of November, 2023.

RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS







ATTEST:



Laura J Martin, Auditor of Randolph County