

Randolph County Commissioners

April 1, 2024

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Council's update

Mike said first item on the agenda is the council's update. I think we have one council person here. Missy?

Missy said we haven't met since the last meeting when Bev gave the update.

Chris Shaneyfelt – Grant application

Mike said oh, I'm sorry, Chris. Is Chris here? No. He has a grant application. This is an emergency management grant application, a local request for funds from the Ball Foundation. They're offering \$5,000.00 grant to the EMA office, and Chris wants to apply for that. And it is our policy what when a department applies for a grant that it's approved by the commissioners and by the council prior to the application.

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

Duane Petry – New ambulance change order form

Mike said okay, Duane.

Duane Petry said so the ambulance that we ordered way back when, and they couldn't get a chassis, they finally got a chassis for it. And then we've got the change order for some of the stuff that is not available anymore, or doesn't meet the requirements of the federal specs. So, the total cost of the ambulance is \$218,678.00, compared to the \$212,986 that was what we started out with.

Mike said an increase of \$5,692 is what this says?

Duane Petry said yes.

Mike said it looks like that increase is about \$2,500.00 is the cost of the chassis, and the other is the reduction in the rebate?

Duane Petry said yes.

Mike said everything else pretty well balances out.

Gary Friend said we had that discussion earlier on it could happen. I'll make a motion to approve the change order.

Mike said I have a motion to approve the change order increasing the cost of the ambulance by \$5,692.00 to a total of \$218,678.00. Do I have a second?

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

Gary Girton said do we have a delivery date?

Duane Petry said he said second week of November.

Mike said will you be driving that ambulance?

Duane Petry said no.

Mike said you won't be here, will you?

Duane Petry said no, I won't. Well, I may be part-time status, it's possible, I guess.

Mike said is this your last official act as director?

Duane Petry said yes. Well, as long as nothing comes up the rest of the day.

Mike said 33 years?

Duane Petry said yep.

Mike said how many years as director?

Duane Petry said probably, almost 3, I think, as director.

Mike said how long were you an assistant?

Duane Petry said probably 28.

Mike said on behalf of the county, I'm going to say you'll be missed.

Duane Petry said there're days I'll probably miss it too.

Mike said Brad probably could say the same thing, wouldn't you Brad?

Brad Mullen said yes.

Mike said you'll be missed. So, we thank you for your service. Enjoyed working with you.

Duane Petry said I enjoyed working with the county.

George Caster – Xsoft agreement

Mike said George, county assessor. This is a professional services agreement between the county and Xsoft. And this is the software you were talking about at the last meeting that gives the property owners opportunity to go in and see more information about their property.

George Caster said yes sir.

Mike said and it looks like you have signed it?

George Caster said I've signed it and the president has signed it, and now just waiting for you guys to sign it so we can make it all official.

Mike said well we approved this at the last meeting. So, we're going to pay this fee out of ARPA. So, someone want to make?

Gary Friend made motion to sign this agreement. Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Tammy Pruitt-Use of Old Hwy office at RCFFO

Mike said next item is Tammy Pruitt, use of office at the RCFFO building, Tammy. Morning Tammy.

Tammy Pruitt said good morning. The state highway is not available. SBA is coming in, so there's a little confusion. After, it's not been since the tornado, we've had so much tragedy and mental health issues in this county that Indianapolis, a man by the name of Jason Murray said for us to start thinking outside the box. And we had a meeting with him. He came after the last suicide that we had. And he mentioned like going to the universities. So, that following Monday, after the meeting, I called Ball State and had to pleasure to immediately talk to Dr. Bowman herself. Met with Ball State. Ball State is willing to come and I would like to use the old GRIC office in the office in the basement. They're coming for nothing. And they're going to charge a dollar per session. And even since now that we've had the tornado, we need more, mental issues, you know. They're not using insurance, they're not using Medicaid, it's a permanent thing. They want to be here and help us. It'll be virtual and in person to begin with. And in August, when classes resume and everybody comes back for their masters and doctorates degree, they will come in person and do one on one counselling. And so, I just want approval for them to be here, and I will bring a contract. The contract is just working with the health department to help them like, you know, schedule appointments and things like that.

Mike said they will have their own insurance and things of that nature?

Tammy Pruitt said there will be no insurance involved. It'll be a dollar per session.

Mike said I'm talking about liability insurance.

Tammy Pruitt said yes, they're bringing their own. And their own computers and everything.

Mike said Jake, is the GRIC office available?

Jake Donham said yeah. It's a, the little office down there is available. It's kind of got a central office then around the perimeter, there're three or four offices they can have individual areas.

Mike said sessions.

Jake Donham said individual sessions, one-on-ones or whatever.

Mike said I think the request would be that we offer this to the Ball State counselling team without charge.

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

Mike Haffner – Hwy Department update

Mike said Mike Haffner, highway department update. Morning Mike and Jay, and Jessica.

Mike Haffner said Jessica has probably got a better feel for the numbers for the update, so, I'll just turn it over to her.

Jessica Olson said good morning. Just looking at my sheet that I emailed everyone on Thursday, if anybody has any questions, we are, as you know, continuing to remove debris. So, I'm going to have numbers from last week. We just haven't compiled them all now. We are working very hard on the equipment rates that apply to FEMA. Trying to get all those compiled and get put together for Laura. She and I had a really good meeting with Lacy. And we're going to do that again next week. Those forms are rather daunting, to say the least. And that's where we are on that. If anybody has any questions?

Mike said so, the regular and overtime hours, they total 1,327.75 hours. Are those all I guess, tornado related?

Jessica Olson said yes.

Mike said okay. Does that include your time as well?

Jessica Olson said yes.

Mike said and then the highway fuel use, is that for our trucks, or all trucks, all vehicles?

Jessica Olson said that's just for highway. That doesn't include any other county. So, sheriff, ambulance, everything else is separate from that. That's just highway.

Mike said so we have those separated when they've used our tank out there?

Jessica Olson said yes.

Mike said okay. And then the landfill fees, are these, is this Wayne County's landfill as well? Is that what that means on here?

Jessica Olson said yes.

Mike said did the highway pay those fees?

Jessica Olson said that is the question that I'm going to talk to Laura about. Wayne county came in, did their services in kind, so they're not charging us for their equipment or their man hours. But I do believe that we should pay for their landfill.

Mike said they're the ones that carried this to their landfill?

Jessica Olson said that is correct.

Mike said so, have those ended?

Jay Long said pretty much, yes.

Jessica Olson said and Shanda.

Mike said I think your right. We probably should take responsibility for those. Okay, what did you say about Shanda?

Jessica Olson said Shanda is taking the painstaking task of going through all of those. Instead of giving all the drivers tickets like they normally do when they go to the landfill, because there were so many vehicles going in and out, they just, Niles just gave us like a spread sheet. Shanda now has all the original tickets, which is enabling her to go back and get all of the details. So, that will divide out like the city, like Cobalt, and you know, people were hauling for the city and stuff like that. So, she's going to go through those and let us know.

Mike said okay. Are we, is that all we have? Are we at a position to say when we can get back onto a normal highway department road?

Jay Long said we are back on a normal, yes, yep. Actually, last Wednesday and Thursday we were pretty much back to normal.

Mike said well, I guess I would say that our department, and obviously, Wayne County and a lot of people stepped up and did an excellent job of cleaning things up, so I appreciate the extra time and effort. Do you folks have any questions of Mike, Jay or Jessica?

Gary Girton said you just did a great job, all of you. It was amazing. When I first came up here to start working on our property on Friday, couldn't hardly get down the road because of all the Wayne County trucks and Randolph County trucks, Cobalt trucks and city trucks. It was just amazing.

Mike Haffner said it definitely took a team effort from everybody.

Gary Friend said this is when the highway becomes a form of emergency services. It continues on for quite some time. On the in kind from Wayne County, is that, are we allowed to count that value as our total? Is there a way we can get an estimated value from them on in kind?

Jessica Olson said yeah, they gave us one.

Gary Friend said okay, great.

Jessica Olson said but we went, Laura and I met with Matt from the public assistance, we are not allowed to claim that. Wayne County would have to do it, if they wanted to get reimbursed.

Gary Friend said but they can turn it into the state.

Jessica Olson said right.

Mike said go to the total state wide.

Jessica Olson said right.

Mike said are they going to do that?

Jessica Olson said according to the superintendent there, no, he does not want to get reimbursed for those services. Upwards of about, between equipment costs for FEMA and man hours, \$50,000.00.

Gary Friend said what do you think hours will be when the final comment comes through? What range? 75, 80, 100, somewhere there?

Jessica Olson said at least.

Jay Long said at least, yeah.

Gary Friend said like Mike said, I just thank you, you all made quite an effort.

Mike said I suppose 50 is not going to make or break us is it?

Jessica Olson said not at this point, no.

Mike said okay. Well, you are retiring Friday, April 12th.

Mike Haffner said yes.

Mike said so, again, I guess I never would have thought I'd do this twice in one meeting, but this is your last official meeting as highway superintendent.

Mike Haffner said this is my last one.

Mike said I'm not sure how I'd say it, but you went out pretty loudly, as the way it was.

Mike Haffner said it wasn't planned. But I was proud to help the community when it needed this.

Mike said and you've done a good job for us Mike. You've done a good job for us. You've worked well with Jessica. You've worked well with Jay, and the department, and our engineer, Joe Copeland. Joe's not here today, I don't think. But, so, I appreciate your service.

Mike Haffner said I would like to stay on at least the time center in case we need help snow plowing or if we need help driving. I am a CDL, so, my services are available in any capacity that the highway department needs.

Mike said okay. Well I appreciate that. That, we'll pass that on to the next superintendent. I see we are going to talk about EMS and highway superintendent position today. Okay. Thank you.

Ed Thornburg - AEP Permit for cross-country wire

Mike said surveyor, Ed Thornburg, AEP permit for cross-country wire. Morning Ed.

Ed Thornburg said morning.

Ed Thornburg said if you want to see what the wire looks like, there's the map, the yellow line. We've been looking at this wire for 50 years, same place. They have overhauled this entire line from one end to the other. Here's the agreement. The same agreement we use for everything. The individual route sheets are right here available if anybody would like to see them, 70 pages of them.

Mike said these are the individual routes that are attached to this agreement?

Ed Thornburg said yes.

Mike said okay. Do you recommend us approving this utility agreement?

Ed Thornburg said especially since it's over half done, yes.

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

Mike said are you going to stick around Ed?

Ed Thornburg said yeah.

Mike said okay, good.

Dani Sibert and Cathy Shull – Veterans office copier

Mike said Dani Sibert and Cathy Shull, Veterans office copier. Morning.

Dani Sibert said we're here because our lease expired on our copy machine. We were contacted about getting a new one. We looked at LEAP Management, and then also, Weber. And Weber, from what we saw and compared, they have the better price overall. On the backside, for the pricing, the 60-month value lease would be \$106.08. Right now, we're paying \$126 a month. The other ones, they were upwards of about the same price as what we're paying now. So, we're just trying to get a deal for best price for a new copy machine for our office.

Mike said do you have a buy-out on yours now?

Dani Sibert said no.

Mike said and are you paying that \$120 out of your budget now?

Cathy Shull said Danita pays it, so I'm not really sure how that's coming out.

Laura said no, this comes out of commissioners budget.

Mike said so, we're paying for it.

Cathy Shull said well then, you want the better deal.

Mike said do we have a Weber machine now? Is it through Weber?

Dani Sibert said no. We have it through LEAP Management.

Mike said oh, it's through LEAP now?

Dani Sibert said yeah. They had a representative come and talk to us and give us a little, a few options, and then we talked to Weber and then we talked to some other offices who have Weber and they said they like Weber. They were pretty good. And since they're the better deal, we figured they might be the best one to go with.

Mike said to own the machine after 60 months is another \$15.00 per month. But the way they change, I'm not sure it would be something you would want to own after 60 months.

Cathy Shull said that's one of the things we discussed.

Dani Sibert said the LEAP guy who talked to us, he said that when they get to a certain point, parts aren't made for them anymore. So, even if we lease to own it, after 7 or 8 years, we'd have to go and buy a brand new one again, because no parts would be made to keep it running if it breaks down.

Mike said okay.

Gary Girton said I move we accept their recommendation and sign an agreement with Weber.

Mike said I have a motion to sign the 60-month agreement at \$106.08 with Weber. Do I have a second?

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

Mike said very good. Thank you.

Cathy Stephens-Miller – Randolph County Promise

Mike said Cathy Stephens-Miller, Randolph County Promise. And Lisa Jennings, Community Foundation. Is Tom with you?

Cathy Stephens said yeah. I'll talk about Tom.

Mike said Tom Osborn.

Cathy Stephens said yes.

Mike said have a seat at the table, Tom.

Cathy Stephens said first of all, I want, we are here to thank you for the \$10,000.00 pledge that you approved last month, and to give you an update about what's happened with Promise. We're changing the program back to Randolph County Promise calling it an early scholarship program. Why, it's been a long year and a half. Indiana Youth Institute took over the Promise program for the state of Indiana, and we thought that would be a great thing. They're a great organization and I'm certainly not here to say that they aren't anymore. They're very good at what they do. But, the way they wanted to change the Promise program, really made it difficult for us. They shut our ability to enroll students and monitor accounts down as they did all of the Promise counties in Indiana, until we signed a new agreement with them, which we found very unworkable. They wanted all of our local funds that we raised and that we have at the community foundation to go to the state of Indiana for them to have control over that. At first, they didn't want community foundations involved. Then the agreement essentially, was saying that schools and Promise were a wraparound program for all kinds of services for kids, which

would be great, but we do not have the capacity to do that. The schools did not want to sign the agreement. We tried to re-negotiate, got nowhere. But well, we got some concessions, but it just won't work. And most of the counties that are in Promise are pulling away from Indiana Youth Institute. We spent a lot of time talking with other counties, talking with the community foundation and we think we can make this work much better by making it a fully local program. Community foundation will still be the fiscal agent. We will still have a coordinator but we will allow parents, kindergarten through 8th grade because the schools wanted us to start at kindergarten rather than third grade, wanted us to continue through middle school, because that really fits with their college-going and internship, ideas, all the things that they're working on. And parents, we will encourage parents to help them to enroll in a college choice 529. This change allows it to be either a direct or they could do it through a financial advisor, which before, we were limited to they had to do a direct one, which, like my grandkids have three 529 accounts because of that. But, we're going to ask the parents to help them to get this done. Once they provide documentation that they have opened an account, we will put \$25.00 in their early scholarship fund, which will be held at the community foundation. We've developed with the schools a list of incentives that kids can do that make them successfully in school to earn money for that scholarship. And we also listened to you, because very often, when we'd come here, you'd say okay, what do parents have in this, what's their skin in the game, how much are they contributing. So, every year, we will have a champions week where we encourage either the kids, the parents, or friends to contribute to the child's account. And if they do, again, we will deposit some money into their early scholarship program. Those scholarships will be in that child's name. They will access them just like they do any other scholarship at the community foundation, once they have received a tuition bill, if they bring that in, that money goes directly to the college, the trade school, the accredited school that they're going to. They will have up to age 22 to claim that money. If they do not, it goes right back into the community fund that will go back into other Randolph County kids' scholarship programs. And again, we're trying to give parents much more opportunity and reason to have skin in the game, and make deposits every year. So, why are we here? We're here, of course, to bring you up-to-date on it, because you've been very generous with funding our operations fund. We reduced requesting money from you. You were giving us \$25,000.00 a year because of the shutdown. We reduced that to 10. And our expenses did go down, because we weren't able to do what we were supposed to do. But today, as Gary, you said to us, if you need the \$25,000.00, come back. We're coming back, because we're expanding the program. We're going to need more liaisons, so we're asking you for another 5-year commitment of \$25,000.00 a year. We really are going to need more people involved. It's going to be a catch-up time because we had COVID, where we really couldn't get into the schools. Then IYI shut us down. So, we are going to need that money. Community foundation is already giving yearly contribution for the match for what the parents put in. We're asking you to fund our operating fund of \$20,000.00 and \$5,000.00 for the community fund for the students. Any questions?

Gary Friend said is it Randolph county specific students that we're dealing with here?

Cathy Stephens said yes.

Gary Friend said not just those going to a school from out of county? It's Randolph County?

Cathy Stephens said oh, okay. If they are, it's Randolph County students, yes, with the five Randolph County schools. With Union, it is only their resident students, not their on-line students.

Gary Friend said okay. So, there are students, I guess to verify the question, it's Randolph County addresses people that live in this county?

Cathy Stephens said not necessarily. Some of them, because Union is a dual county, it's a Henry County. We're just going by the public-school population. We also have had to work with the community foundation about, and all the Promise counties do this, what do you do about a student who moves away? That money that is in their 529 account, of course, is theirs. That money that's in the early college scholarship fund at the community foundation would still be theirs to access, because they earned it. So, we won't take it away, I mean, it would be a nightmare to keep track of that anyway. But, we don't want to take it away from kids who have earned it.

Gary Friend said well I guess at the end of my last question, one question, when they do sign up, they need to be enrolled in one of our county schools?

Cathy Stephens said yes, absolutely.

Gary Friend said thank you.

Cathy Stephens said and again, with Union, they have to be a resident student, not an on-line student. And really with any of the other schools if they would go to that.

Gary Friend said that's all on that.

Gary Girton said I think it's a great program. I thought it was great to start with. I knew you were having issues.

Cathy Stephens said it's been a long year.

Gary Girton said I just, a little bit on the safe side, well maybe I don't want to give anymore right now, until they get it resolved because it sounded like it was a total mess.

Cathy Stephens said it was. The lady from IYI that was put in charge of this actually lived in Florida, and didn't communicate very well. But I'm not sure we have a final count Lisa, but most of the counties have decided to pull away from that. Some of them are still working to actually meet with the Indiana Education Savings Authority, and get things changed. We wanted to get started right away. So, we modeled our program after Wabash, and this is exactly what they do, and we think we can serve our people better by keeping it just local.

Gary Girton said I think that's a great idea. In fact, I'll move that we take your recommendation and move forward with this, and take the money from EDIT.

Mike said I've got a couple questions. Go ahead. Want to second that?

Gary Friend seconded the motion.

Mike said I'm a little unsure of the \$500.00 scholarship. So, if my child, I open a direct account with the community foundation early scholarship.

Cathy Stephens said no. You open an account with college choice 529.

Mike said that would be my personal account?

Cathy Stephens said that's your personal account. You own that. We, then, if you provide us documentation, we will deposit \$25.00 into the early scholarship at the community foundation. Then we've given the schools or worked with the schools a whole list of things that kids can do, like attendance, like participation in extra curricular activities, things that we know make kids successful anyway. And when they do those, they have ways of earning money to go into that community foundation scholarship.

Mike said and that money comes from our 20?

Cathy Stephens said it comes from, 20 goes for operating for our liaisons, our coordinator, our expenses. \$5,000.00 would go toward the early scholarship, into what's called the community fund. Then we move it into that child's name.

Mike said and how do you anticipate funding that?

Cathy Stephens said fundraising.

Mike said fundraising.

Cathy Stephens said we've been doing that all along. Yours is you know, a small amount, it's a large amount but it's a small amount of what we're going to have to raise to fund.

Mike said how much is in there now? Can you share that?

Cathy Stephens said how much is in the community fund? A 117.

Mike said so it's a good-sized fund?

Cathy Stephens said right. We've had wonderful backing with this. We're have agencies, people, businesses that have committed to 5-year pledges and have made good on those. That's what our coordinator has continued to do, even when we couldn't access the kids' account. Karen has done a great job of going out and fundraising, and that's what the coordinator will need to do.

Mike said so, do you have a budget? Is that something you could share with us?

Cathy Stephens said yes. And I can tell you we normally spend around 20-some thousand dollars, our budget is I think, 25, \$30,000.00 that we have. We normally spend about 20 of that but it's been less since we've had COVID, since we had IYI, like in 2023, we only spent about \$15,000 because we weren't able to do the things we normally do.

Mike said and most of that operating goes to your director?

Cathy Stephens said around \$9,000.00 goes to a contracted employee and then we have liaisons at each school. We will have to add more liaisons since we're going down to kindergarten and going up to 8th grade. And they make \$500.00 a year to run the programs. We've had a lot of expenses with, we had to rebrand when IYI took it over, and we had to call ourselves something different and had to do everything over, and now we get to do it now. But, advertising, travel.

Mike said well we have a motion to approve your request for \$25,000.00 a year for the calendar years 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29. And it's been properly seconded. All

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Cathy Stephens said now I will introduce Tom.

Meeks said may I ask, is that in lieu of the 10,000? So, that 25,000, total? That's not?

Mike said did we commit 10,000 in 25?

Cathy Stephens said you committed 10,000 last month, right?

Mike said well that would have been committed a few, I think, I'd look.

Laura said it was for so many years, and I don't.

Meeks said it was like 10,000 for three years or something like that. So, that's not 25 plus 10. It's 25, total.

Cathy Stephens said in lieu of.

Mike said I'm not, I think the 10 may have run out this year.

Gary Friend said runs out next year.

Mike said yeah, it would be in lieu of the 10.

Meeks said just wanted to make sure. I'm the one writing it so I want to make sure it's written right.

Cathy Stephens said thank you for clarifying that, because I wasn't sure about that either. Now, to introduce Tom. I am retiring, backing down.

Mike said quitting?

Cathy Stephens said no, no. I'm still going to be here, old buddy, old pal for Tom.

Tom Osborn said she'll be here for the 10 years, then she's retiring.

Cathy Stephens said no, no, no, no. But Tom is taking over as the coordinator, the contact, and Karen Dillow is also going to retire. So, our coordinator, so we are looking for a new coordinator. If you have anybody that you think would be good at that, please let us know.

Mike said okay. Well thanks for stepping up, Tom and I'd say Cathy, you're leaving it in good hands.

Joe Batt and Kevin Nelson-Watch Communications Proposal

Mike said Joe Batt and Kevin Nelson, Watch Communications proposal. Well lots has happened since we last talked.

Kevin Nelson said yes sir.

Mike said one of the things with regards to this proposal is I think we ask you about use of our communication towers, and you sent us a lease template, and I've shared that with Joe at the technology committee, and I'm not sure if you guys have.

Joe Batt said yeah, the rest of the committee, we all looked at it. Nothing jumped out at us as a problem. We do think that we should put some sort of value on that even if it's, because I don't know what else is going on, the discussions, but it's consideration for other things. We still want to make sure we put a value on it, so we don't set a precedent of giving away, you know, county space on towers. We don't have those numbers yet. We're still looking into that. We expect to get more details later this week.

Mike said well I guess the question to Watch would be is if we offered our towers, would that reduce your current request for a grant, I guess.

Kevin Nelson said I think, just based on propagation maps that we have, the Winchester tower and the one south, I can't remember exactly what area that's in. Those would be kind of overlapping what we already have in place. So, those two, well, the Ridgeville tower, there's a very keen interest in that, but that's kind of outside the scope of the proposal that we put in front of you. So, we're evaluating that one, kind of looking forward to the response for what the lease would look like and stuff. But that would be outside the proposal we put in front of you.

Mike said so, the answer would be no.

Kevin Nelson said qualified no. Yeah, Ridgeville is definitely of interest.

Mike said say that again?

Kevin Nelson said Ridgeville, the Ridgeville tower that you have is definitely of interest.

Mike said okay. But if it's not part of this process, then it would be at a market value lease that we would negotiate and maybe get some return on. So, I guess that's kind of what you're saying.

Kevin Nelson said correct.

Joe Batt said yeah, I think that's what it sounds like. And I think we'd would want to approach it anyway. We wanted to know what the market value is for giving it away anyway.

Mike said and really, your proposal, as I read through it, is kind of divided into two main parts. One is to expand broadband, high speed broadband to the county, in those areas of Farmland and Winchester, and then also supplying high speed to the 4-H grounds and Winchester Speedway. I'm not sure my, has your position changed on it? You were pretty adamant.

Gary Friend said yeah, and I still am. Joe, I appreciate questions coming from the technology committee. I don't understand yet where the \$88,000.00 come in for a microwave for the 4-H grounds and for the race track, when we haven't had any input from those folks other than yeah it would be great if we bought it. I tend to believe that we have several internet providers in Randolph County. And we've listened to, you're the second one that's been in here, it's almost like we need to get an RFP out and have everybody come in and quote if we're going to spend this kind of money. But my big hang up with it all, and this is no disrespect to anybody, is the federal government and the state government are driving hard to get this done at their expense, not Randolph County's expense. If Randolph County spends this kind of money, we're never going to get it back. And they're going to take that money, and they're going to use it in another county, other than ours to help them get where they're going to get. And for Watch, you know, if we're going to spend this money and you're going to overlap into Delaware County quite a way from the Farmland tower, yet Selma, all the Delaware County community, they're not, I see, they're not providing any funding. And there're towers up in Redkey that if we spend this money here and allow you more money to spend in Redkey, to send, this is just my thought, I'm not saying I'm right or wrong. All said and done, this is too big for Randolph County to get in and decide who gets internet and who doesn't. I don't understand the race track part of it, because they have internet at the race track. They have internet in the community behind it. They have very good internet in the community behind it. They've dropped their satellite. I shouldn't say, they, I know a person back there that has dropped their satellite tv because they have good enough internet back in, The Timbers, I think that's the name of it back there, now. Why would we need this kind of internet at the racetrack at the cost of Randolph County? Why wouldn't the track throw out some money if it's that important to them? Or, 4-H, why would we put this kind of money out at the 4-H so they can have auctions without some kind of plan there to show us why. So, that's why I'm against it. I don't believe it should be a use of EDIT funds for Randolph County to pick a winner and a loser. There're several of you out there. Comcast is a big company too. They might want to throw some towers up. I don't know.

Joe Batt said so the committee has tried to talk to these other companies, and we're only getting cooperation from the two.

Gary Friend said I understand that.

Joe Batt said and that's why you're not going to have Comcast come in here and make an offer like this.

Gary Friend said I didn't know that we were. I was just saying they're not the only ones out there. There are a lot of them out there.

Joe Batt said there're two that are cooperating with us.

Gary Friend said two, right now?

Joe Batt said right. New Lisbon and Watch are the two that came and talked to us fairly early.

Gary Friend said and my final part is we'll be taking tax dollars from some people who will not receive internet. And what your report says is all the addresses, 10,000 and some addresses in Randolph County from the census, and you can cover 8,000 of them, of which in the city is only a very small amount will have faster internet than what's already available to them. Out in the country, we're just basically, adding some on there and getting a little more speed to it. So, for me, it's a hard sale, but it's nothing to do with you guys' effort and your professionalism. It's not the hard sale, no.

Joe Batt said instead of thinking of it as it's there or not, is it going to be faster because we spent money sooner, right. Eventually, you'll get it, but it's always going to get faster. We're not near the top. Well, maybe not always, but the next 50 years it's going to keep getting better and faster. Do we want to be out in front of that, or do we want to always be trailing? We will always have the slower internet because we're a smaller rural area. So, that was a question that was asked. But, just what can we do about that?

Gary Friend said that's a fair question.

Joe Batt said well to get out in front of it, we have to spend some money.

Gary Friend said but when it goes past us on the next speed, we're out of money, we can't get there and back, where do we go? We can't keep up. We don't have the funds to keep up with this technology. We just don't. And we have a lot of things that you know, social, you know, emergency services, and we found out how important they are. I mean, I think we ought to be spending money in education and emergency services and let the free market be the free market. And there's internet out there, people just sometimes don't want to pay for what it takes to get the higher speed.

Joe Batt said I agree with you on that, yeah.

Gary Friend said I mean, I don't, they just don't want to pay for it when it's there. That's not our concern honestly. Our concern is.

Joe Batt said but economic development is part of our concern.

Gary Friend said I agree with that. I do. I just disagree with this.

Joe Batt said realtors told us some people, that's one of the questions they ask when they buy a house, what kind of internet do we have here?

Gary Friend said yeah, I know.

Joe Batt said so we miss out on home sales.

Gary Friend said yeah, but we're not any different than smaller counties. We can't keep up with this. Once we reach a plateau today, we don't have the funds to reach the plateau in five years. We have to rely on the bigger parties out there to do it. It's why we don't pay for I&M and all the electrical companies to come in and do their franchise work that they have.

Joe Batt said well, if the water company billed water out to the new development out by the golf course.

Gary Friend said well that was an economic development fund that we put in, and there was a lot of debate on that too. And you're right.

Joe Batt said yeah, we do pay for utilities, but, and I understand where you, I completely understand all your arguments.

Gary Friend said okay. Well, I guess that's where I'm at Mike. I haven't changed. And thank you very much.

Mike said the other, I guess the impression I was left with at our last meeting was that the private side of this would be done through the federal contract, it's just that we're going to get it sooner than that federal contract is going to give us an opportunity to get it. Is that a fair statement?

Kevin Nelson said the federal contract was to cover 100 addresses, right, a select portion. That's what the federal contract is for.

Mike said and the state, the state opportunity. Are you going to bid in the state opportunity, or is that?

Kevin Nelson said I'm not sure, to be honest with you. I would say that you know, so, if you separate out the microwave for the 4-H and the track, which are kind of the optional thing, the bigger picture here is providing the internet service, higher speed internet service. That would cover maybe 300 something addresses. Two thousand, twenty-four hundred, something like that, would receive a higher speed service than what they have now, right, which is a very significant

portion of those addresses, especially given the cost. It's roughly, 25 to \$35.00 per covered household, which is something that you can never do with another technology. It's just cost prohibited, as you guys are probably well aware. But, especially when you think of things that, you know, I had a tornado hit across from me in 1999. Ripped out the, actually, everything across the street from me. And I used to be on the firehouse, at the firehouse at that time. So, I went and helped all those people and did all that. The psychological toll that it took for the next couple of months, is that the debris got cleaned up, as the national guard left, start letting us in and out and stuff, was very significant. And like I think, Tammy was up here earlier talking about the need for mental health care and stuff, one portion of that is video calls being able to access your healthcare provider when people might not be willing to go drive somewhere and do it. With higher speed internet having those kinds of opportunities in front of them, goes a true benefit to the community. And then, like I said, with the microwave side being more on the optional side, if more damage were done and you needed a place to turn up in a network, people could drive there, you know, be able to hit WIFI, stuff like that, be able to communicate with their family, those options would be available.

Gary Friend said what happens if the tornado hits your tower?

Kevin Nelson said do what?

Gary Friend said if the tornado hit your tower, it would be down too.

Kevin Nelson said it could. It might knock out one of the APs or it might not touch the microwave, right. I mean, there's and then, you know, lastly on that, I think one of the questions I feel that since our last meeting, was really about will this benefit commercial as well. And it does. It provides that competitive option for commercial. If they already have fiber but their internet connection is very important to them, this would be a diverse circuit that they would be able to rely on. If their primary goes down, it fields over to the secondary. This gives them an option for something like that. And it gives them also a more competitive environment to be able to choose from.

Mike said Gary, what are your thoughts?

Gary Girton said well I understand where Gary Friend is coming from, but I'm still leaning towards a committee's thought, I think their total thought process is this is a now situation, and we're trying to get it now, rather than rely on what will come in another three or four years. And that's kind of where I'm at is to get this up and going for these people. We don't even know what ten years in the future is going to be as far as communication. If we did, if I did, I wouldn't be here. I'd be somewhere advising all these. So, that's another issue that I've had for years, the last several years anyway, with technology issues. Where we go wisely, I don't know what wisely is because I don't know what the future is going to be as far as. Maybe, you know, it's going to be available in the next four years, but after that.

Joe Batt said when this committee was asked to look into this, Star Link wasn't up. It was, we weren't sure that it was even going to work. So, yeah, things have changed a lot in about three years?

Kevin Nelson said I think that's when Star Link went up.

Joe Batt said so yeah, it's a very quick thing. It's not like most of our governmental things work around the courthouse for twenty years, we talk about it for twenty years. This is something where you kind of need to make a decision and go get it done. So, we tried to build those towers what, about two years ago, and the market moved quicker than we could get those built. So, that is a problem with this process.

Gary Friend said you are absolutely right. That's one of my bigger concerns. Star Link is viable and does work very well. It's not like people are stranded, they and businesses can get Star Link too. And they're prioritizing heavy residential. It just, cost a little more money. Once you get it in, then it's, I can tell you, mine is \$120.00 a month, flat rate period, unlimited. I think it's a terabyte. I don't even know what a terabyte is. It's a lot compared to, you know, I jumped off of hot spots to Star Link. And it gives you some thought too, you know, a lot of these folks that have homes out in the country, they could put Star Link in, we can pay to have Star Link put in for a lot less than this.

Joe Batt said really? What was your per house estimate was what?

Kevin Nelson said 25 to \$35.00 per house.

Joe Batt said well that's the monthly, but I mean the county pay. For the, the total cost of this project divided by the number of houses that it'll serve, what's, only a couple hundred bucks, right?

Kevin Nelson said \$100, \$200 bucks, right.

Mike said we've not, I'm not sure this is, I'm not sure that's part of this proposal. That was the question I was going to ask is, I understand what our commitment would be, I understand what you've indicated it would service, and you've got a cost of \$25.00 I think in here. What are you spending on this project, and what do you anticipate to get in return for this project. So, I guess the question is if we're going to invest \$240,000.00 in putting out high speed internet to 8300 customers?

Kevin Nelson said making it available to, yes.

Mike said making available to, I'm sure you have a record of out of 8300, we're going to sign up 50% of them, and they're going to pay us X number of dollars over the next ten years, what, surely, you've got that as a return, and.

Kevin Nelson said well we look for a minimum return. Every market that we're in, we have roughly a thousand towers. Every market we're in, you see different numbers, right. So, that's kind of hard to predict. For these two, yeah, what we would still have is the construction cost for the electric, the fiber, which is significant I think, and most likely, that would benefit New Lisbon. And then the operation maintenance and installation of every residence and stuff that

signs up for it, right. And the equipment does support that. Typically, we're offering, I don't want to over commit, but, yeah, usually, we're installing it at no cost to the resident. We're also offering this on a no contract basis, right. So, the, we're absorbing the cost of the equipment, the back haul, the installation and everything else, and the outgoing maintenance. As you know, things break, and we have to fix them. This is just to get the equipment up on the tower, active, ready to service the community.

Mike said and what's that going to cost? Is it the 120 per tower?

Kevin Nelson said yeah, correct.

Mike said and that's what it cost. We're doing all of that?

Kevin Nelson said correct. That's just the hardware, yeah.

Mike said we're doing all of that?

Kevin Nelson said that's just the hardware. We're doing you know, labor for the installs.

Mike said beyond that.

Kevin Nelson said to do everything else.

Mike said once the tower's up, we're doing the rest of it?

Kevin Nelson said we're doing all of it. You're basically, buying the equipment.

Joe Batt said that's significantly less than the \$600.00 for each for Star Link.

Gary Friend said it is. I said that was an incorrect statement already for the record.

Joe Batt said yeah, okay. But personally, that's what I keep thinking about, is you know, that's the alternative, to building local infrastructure, is to buy, to subsidize. Everybody who needs it.

Gary Friend said there're certainly people under this that have no choice but to find something else. I mean, it is quite broad, what's going on, but you say there're up to 83 people serviceable, but you're counting the people in the towns that have pretty good internet with their Comcast. How many customers do you have within the city of Winchester and Farmland, Randolph County towns right now? I don't see them jumping over to Watch. Why would they jump off of their Comcast internet?

Kevin Nelson said we have inside, well. We have some legacy equipment on the Winchester tower now, right.

Gary Friend said but I mean the residents, find the people using them, because what I really see is 2,312 rural people will have the possibility to get better internet if they choose to.

Kevin Nelson said uh huh.

Gary Friend said but to say there's 8,000 available, that means that we're thinking that everybody in these cities are going to drop what they're doing and go over to Watch, and they are not. So, it's really not going to serve no where near 8,000. It's going to, what do you think the real ticket service is going to be for our investment if we were to get it? How many, a 1,000, 1,500?

Kevin Nelson said I would say we're, it's probably between 500, 800, something like that, initially. It depends on what options are sitting there. Now, I have three different fiber providers available to me at my house, and I play them off of each other for pricing. When one makes me mad for lack of service, I switch and go to another one, right. So, there's absolute benefit to having a competitive environment inside of Randolph County.

Gary Friend said I don't disagree with that. That's why I don't think we have any business in that competition. We'll help somebody compete, you, against somebody that's already invested their money for internet. I mean, that's one of my bigger hang ups. We will help you compete, we will help you by allowing them to switch and get a half price subscription or a discounted subscription for a year.

Joe Batt said but Gary, we're talking to them.

Gary Friend said huh?

Joe Batt said we're talking to them and they're not talking back.

Gary Friend said well I get that.

Joe Batt said we told them we.

Gary Friend said I get it. I just think we need to stay out.

Joe Batt said this whole project started.

Gary Friend said a long time ago.

Joe Batt said Greg said we have two million dollars to spend, what do you want to spend it on Joe? Since then, he's talked to me way, the project can wait, yeah. But yeah, so that's kind of how we approach them, what can we do to improve internet here? We're looking for good ideas, so we don't tell them Gary only wants to spend \$20,000.00, right.

Gary Friend said Gary don't want to spend anything.

Joe Batt said oh, sorry.

Gary Friend said free market should be the free market.

Joe Batt said okay, I mis-spoke. But yeah, them, they're not coming to us either.

Gary Friend said well the State of Indiana is broadband connected. They're required to get to us in four years, required.

Joe Batt said right. We're hoping we can get something done before four years from now.

Gary Friend said in four years, if we were to not do anything and get along like we are, the State of Indiana is required to get us in, even the last mile microwave, if that's what it takes. They're required to do it.

Joe Batt said but everybody else is going to be four years better.

Gary Friend said not really, not really.

Mike said only those that do this, is your argument.

Joe Batt said but there're places, well there're places for the demand is causing it. So, in Fishers, they're going to be four years better.

Mike said well yeah, they're probably four years ahead of us now. I don't have three fiber providers at my house, and I don't know where you live but.

Joe Batt said right. They are four years ahead of us now, and what we're saying is we need, if we want to compete with these other places where the demand causes the market, we've got to throw some money in.

Gary Friend said I mean no disrespect to any of you guys.

Mike said I tend to agree with Gary Friend. I think it's too large of an investment for the return. I think we're picking and choosing who gets it and I don't know if Union City has improved any or not. I guess I just can't see spending \$240,000.00, and I guess part of it is, I don't know, I don't know what I don't know. And that's how much Watch is spending for this project, how much Watch anticipates receiving from this in revenue over the next 10 years, and whether this is a good investment for us or not. So, and I don't know if you can provide that to us or not. The tower lease would be a benefit. I don't know what that's going to return for us. And you said that the Deerfield Tower would not help this project at all, but it might help in the Ridgeville area. That's the one up north.

Kevin Nelson said that's one of them, correct.

Mike said and the one down south.

Kevin Nelson said we already have active service on south, I think that's our T&T tower. We have Union City set up already. We have Redkey, I think you mentioned, which is, that's Jay County.

Gary Friend said yes, Jay County.

Kevin Nelson said reaching at the very top, that Ridgeville would fill in a small circle of a coverage gap in the northern part of the county. And then you have, you know, pretty heavy fiber presence in the southern part of your county as well, right. So, yeah, these two towers really close a big gap across the central part of your county.

Mike said and that's the Winchester tower is going to be about where old 27 joins new 27?

Kevin Nelson said the address is listed in there. I'm sorry, I'm not familiar with.

Mike said I don't know where 996 North Highway old 27 is, I'm not sure how far out that is.

Kevin Nelson said I think it's on the northern side of Winchester though, right, and I think your tower is down on the southern side. And I think propagation maps kind of make that a little less attractive.

Mike said so, the existing tower in Winchester, there's no room for you there. Because there is one downtown, near the north side.

Kevin Nelson said whichever tower we're at currently is where we're going because it's not just the height. It's the fiber availability and stuff like that. So, just for reliability purposes, we're focused on commercial towers, and it gets stronger you know, fewer power outages and things like that.

Mike said so I guess what I don't, I don't fully understand is, Watch will deploy NFWA technology on a tower located at 8163 West 100 North. Proceeds from the grant of \$120,000.00 will be used for this build. What is that, what is this build? And it says an estimated cost of \$35.00 per location cover.

Kevin Nelson said that's the equipment. So, that's what I'm asking for funding.

Mike said we're going to buy the equipment that goes on that existing tower?

Kevin Nelson said correct, absolutely correct. We're not building a tower so to speak. Mike said and you're going to absorb the cost to running that to all the households that sign up or are you going to charge to run that?

Kevin Nelson said we're going to charge to run that, yes. All the cost to operate the tower with the, you know, the electric with the back haul, with maintenance, everything else and the equipment that goes at the base of the tower, we would be responsible for all of that. Yes, this would be offered to residents at a monthly cost.

Mike said and evidently, the market is not worth you investing your own money for the equipment on that tower, because we're subsidizing your investment?

Kevin Nelson said we have, and we might have talked about this in the last meeting if I remember, we are for our CAF 2 funding, we are at 80%. The FCC is requiring us or whoever is managing that fund, requires us to be at 70% this year I believe. So, we're 10% ahead of that. But we have to be strategic and you know, where we spend capital, and where we're building one. So, that's where this funding would help accelerate that for the community, for Winchester area and Farmland area. You know, a year, year and a half probably, before it's hitting our build schedule. This would be up and active in probably 90 days.

Gary Friend said is it fair to say it's \$30.00 per address.

Kevin Nelson said address.

Gary Friend said address when you know good and well you're only going to get about a 1,000 of them? I mean, are you just dividing by total coverage area?

Kevin Nelson said total coverage area, correct.

Gary Friend said yeah. I mean it's the truth, but it's not reality. I mean, that's not what the pay back is going to be unless everybody signs up and all 8000 is not going to sign everybody.

Kevin Nelson said well no, but then compared to like a fiber build, where that cost per address covered is going to be dramatically higher. And that's where the benefits to fix wireless access, especially in rural communities, make a lot of fiscal sense.

Gary Friend said is a microwave line of site?

Kevin Nelson said microwave is, yes.

Gary Friend said and you got back haul fiber at Deerfield Elementary?

Kevin Nelson said the Deerfield Elementary, I'm not familiar.

Gary Friend said that's where the tower is at.

Kevin Nelson said yes, so the tower we're on has fiber. It's through New Lisbon.

Gary Friend said no, I mean the one that you're looking at of ours.

Kevin Nelson said Ridgeville?

Joe Batt said yeah, the Ridgeville tower.

Kevin Nelson said the Ridgeville, we'd microwave it back if there wasn't.

Gary Friend said you'd microwave it to where there is?

Kevin Nelson said yeah, correct.

Gary Friend said okay.

Kevin Nelson said yeah, preference is always fiber but in speed and cost and availability factor into all that. That goes a little beyond the sales guy here.

Mike said anything else, Gary? Okay. I don't think we're going to move for approval of this. I'm not hearing anything, so.

Joe Batt said alright. We'll go back to work.

Mike said well I, yeah.

Joe Batt said try to come back with some other ideas.

Mike said maybe I'm missing something, but I'm lacking a lot with this. So, maybe there's something that.

Joe Batt said seems like it all comes down to money, how much money do we want to spend to make the internet how much faster here? I mean, that's it.

Mike said thank you.

Joe Batt said come up with some other ideas.

Brian Hill, Carol Weaver and Greg Beumer, Town of Losantville – Sewage connection funding

Mike said Brian, Carol and Greg, town of Losantville sewage connection funding.

Greg Beumer said good morning. Brian and Carol here from the town of Losantville. First of all, before we make our request to the commissioners, let me give you a quick update on the status of the project, well both Losantville and Modoc's projects. This past Thursday, there was a joint meeting held, Craig McGowan, state director of USDA Rural Development was there. All the funding, grant and loan funding for both Modoc and Losantville were officially approved and signed this past Thursday. And Carol, I think you have a check for the county?

Carol Weaver said a check, uh huh. This is the portion that we were to pay back. This details what we've spent.

Mike said okay. Give that to Laura.

Gary Friend said how much is it?

Carol Weaver said our portion of the pay back.

Laura said original amount was \$750,000.

Mike said oh, that's the invoices paid to date?

Carol Weaver said those invoices paid to date.

Laura said remaining amount of loan, \$67,650.

Carol Weaver said that's what we have in our account.

Laura said that's how much the check is for. So, the balance will come in the mail?

Mike said \$682,349.

Carol Weaver said we just closed on it on the 27th.

Mike said okay. Well thank you.

Greg Beumer said so the remainder of the funds that the county graciously loaned to the town for engineering saved them a tremendous amount of money. They did not have to issue what would be called a bond anticipation note. Saved them the legal fees, the interest and so on. So, we're very appreciative. We're here today now to take this to the next step. Construction on the collection system in Losantville, is going to begin in about the next two weeks if we get some dry weather. It's anticipated that that will be completed if everything goes well, by November of this year. We had residents that would need to connect to the sewer line. And at there expense, run a line from the public sewer line in the street or alley, to their home. They also have to cap off their septic tank, which is an additional expense. We have multiple residents that have said look, we have a new sewer bill coming up and now we need to spend what might be thousands of dollars to connect. We need them to connect so that we can make that utility viable. So, we're here to ask the county if you will consider being a part of the program, not just in the sense of a loan, which was very appreciated, but in this case, providing some grant funding that could be used to help people connect to the sewer line. And with that, I'll either, you may have questions, I can turn it over to Brian and Carol. But again, we're here today, we're not under the gun. We have time. We're just here to kind of plant the seed and see what your thoughts and questions are.

Carol Weaver said well we have about 116 residents within our town at this point that will be connecting, and with the possibility of 22 more non-resident users. And we are a very low income community, as you're aware of. And we're just trying to seek some help with our residents with this expense, not only with an additional payment each month, but an expense, and we fill it is a, you know, we're very encouraged that we're doing something for our community that's going to make it better for everybody, every homeowner, every resident in the area, and

our surrounding community. And so, we're just wondering if you would be, consider to help with that hookup for these individuals that it's going to create a hardship for, but a benefit also.

Mike said so the 138, is that, I guess, existing septic tanks now?

Brian Hill said yes.

Mike said and that's how you come up with that count so?

Carol Weaver said yes.

Mike said so if the county offered to pay for the hookups, there wouldn't be a lot more coming in saying we want to hook up?

Carol Weaver said right.

Mike said do you know how many of those are owner occupied?

Carol Weaver said do you know many are unoccupied? I'm going to say the majority are owner/occupied. We don't have that many rentals in our community.

Brian Hill said yeah, we don't, we probably got about, approximately about 15 rentals in town.

Carol Weaver said yeah, very few rentals.

Gary Girton said do you have an estimated cost of hookup per, I know it's going to depend on the distance

Carol Weaver said right, it's a guestimate for sure at this point, depending whether they hook up beside their house or back of the house. We've just been given a few numbers. We're not expert in that, as you know, but it could cost close to \$2,000.00 I think.

Brian Hill said for approximately about close to a 100-foot hook up going from the septic to the street. Now they're going to run a connection up to the border or onto the property line. So, if you've got a sidewalk between your house and the street, then it's going to go up to that sidewalk, on your side of your property, and they're going to stop right there. So, I'd say of houses are going to be probably less than a hundred feet. It also depends on who puts it in. If you've got a contractor that's got you know, high waged workers, then it's probably going to cost you a lot more.

Gary Friend said the 22, explain those to me. What are these 22 you're talking about, they're non-Losantville residents?

Carol Weaver said well we had the area from Losantville to the wastewater plant, right.

Gary Friend said between Modoc and Losantville?

Greg said between Modoc and Losantville, we are taking in additional customers.

Gary Friend said so, I want to ask you a question. What would it look like if the commissioners were to, let's just say, say we would be in favor of doing this for those with a homestead residents, which basically is your homeowner, but yet those who rent homes and those who have businesses pay for their own. Is that a doable thing? Is there something wrong with doing it that way?

Brian Hill said no.

Gary Friend said they pay for theirs and whoever, landlords pay for theirs, but homestead residents.

Meeks said I think you're going to have to make it residential or commercial use.

Gary Friend said do you?

Meeks said I just don't know you, no, I don't have, you.

Gary Friend said that's why I'm asking you.

Meeks said yeah. I mean if you were going to do it, I would make a distinction because I think commercial use is easier to know, compared to residential use. And if you only have 10 or 15 anyway. You're going to charge on residential or you're going to charge them at a commercial rate. So, you're going to mail that. And it's going to be easy for them to mail that. Instead of going to each door, do you live here, do you own this property?

Gary Friend said you can do that by the tax bill.

Meeks said well I'm just saying it's going to be easier for her.

Carol Weaver said and I'm happy to monitor whatever we need to monitor. I wouldn't just give a blank check, say here, you know. I could be a guideline, if someone didn't require \$2,000.00, I mean, I would be willing to say, okay, your distance is not as great as this person over here.

Gary Friend said are you going to have a singular contractor that's going to give Losantville a group discount?

Brian Hill said multiple. I've got a couple people looking to help out, and make some money on putting in a sewer system from the houses, to the main system. So, you know, free market, but somebody is going to be doing my own. And there's a couple others going to do their own because they work in construction.

Carol Weaver said we have several local people that are qualified, and that will be, you know, of course, their work will be inspected to make sure that it's done accordingly.

Brian Hill said oh, yeah.

Gary Friend said I'm appreciative of where we're at. I mean, we have to get our small cities and towns on sewers. And, where the steps you guys have taken, I'm comfortable with helping to, I don't know, would \$250,000.00 of a grant satisfy this project?

Brian Hill said absolutely.

Carol Weaver said yes.

Gary Friend said it absolutely would?

Carol Weaver said it would be tremendously appreciated.

Gary Friend said okay.

Brian Hill said we're not done after that. We're still going to get our annexation done and completed.

Carol Weaver said yeah, we're planning to grow.

Brian Hill said we're going to make something of Losantville, more residences or businesses, see what we can get going. Better tax revenue for the town.

Gary Girton said well with your sewage system coming in, your annexation is definitely positive and that is encouraging. Without the sewage system coming in, there would not be hardly any takers on your annexation, I don't think.

Brian Hill said there's some property around Losantville that is prime pickings.

Carol Weaver said yeah, we definitely have a second phase project looking down the line here.

Mike said well I guess, what do you folks think, should the property have a buy in on this?

Brian Hill said oh, yeah, to a certain degree, yeah.

Carol Weaver said well, I think, you know.

Mike said if it's \$2,000.00 a household, a 138 households, that's \$276,000.00 and 90% of that is just a little less than 250. Would that, if you establish a 10% buy in, but then, I'm not, you don't want somebody not signing up.

Brian Hill said exactly. Well we got 3 months, Jason said 3 months after the system is completed, we've got 3 months before we take them to court. But, this incentive helping them

hook up, they might change their mind. Hopefully, they will. We don't really want to take anybody to court.

Gary Friend said this is a genuine infrastructure project. It has to be done. We've got another city, or town, that's probably on the horizon, you know, if we can get the county to put some assistance in, we want you to do it. I want you to do it. Yeah, I mean, I would even be in favor of the 275 and say it's covered, but it would be residential, not business. That's my thought. Just so the gentlemen up here, I'm not making a deal, we've got to go through the process here.

Mike said what do you think, Gary?

Gary Girton said I could agree with that particularly, taking the funding from Renewable Energy Account. Losantville and Modoc are the ones that have basically footed that foot print for most of this material and project. If Gary's making that in the form of a motion, I second it.

Gary Friend said yeah, I didn't want, just take it out of the Renewable Energy, we're going to pay back so we'll have to set a joint meeting?

Meeks said no.

Mike said let's let the council decide. If we decide today, council can decide tomorrow.

Gary Friend said I'll make a motion that we afford \$275,000.00 for Losantville's grant to be used to connect Losantville's residential properties to the new sewage system out of the Renewable Energy funding.

Gary Girton seconded the motion.

Mike said do you guys have anything else?

Carol Weaver said not at this time.

Brian Hill said no.

Greg Beumer said I'm assuming we work with Meeks for the development of the document that says it's a grant and so forth?

Meeks said the council has to approve this too.

Mike said we pass it today and the council passes it, then.

Meeks said we'll get, I have it written down here. 275 for residential grant to Losantville.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Meeks said you'll probably want to be here tomorrow for the council meeting.

Carol Weaver said okay. What time?

Meeks said 9:00 o'clock.

Carol Weaver said thank you so much.

Mike said very good. Thank you.

Chris Peacock – County farm drainage

Mike said Chris Peacock. Morning Chris, morning Ed.

Chris Peacock said did everybody receive a copy of the plans?

Mike said yes, we did.

Chris Peacock said anybody need copies?

Gary Friend said I do not. Meeks might.

Meeks said I did not see it. If you have an extra one.

Chris Peacock said I do. So, one of the tasks that we were asked to consider for the county, is tiling the county lands that has not been tiled yet. So, I talked to Ed Thornburg to try to learn where the worst areas were. And probably the worst area that we determined is the northeast corner of the field east of the fairgrounds. As far as the worst area, that being the field that really needed tiled the most, it had been considered at one time, but had not been completed. So, in staying in communication with Mr. Thornburg as well as Proficient Drainage, and we have a plan, a tile drainage plan here to work with that. The estimated cost on that is between \$58,000 and \$60,000.00 to systematically tile the entire field. And that would be, we remove the one acre in the northwest corner for the new county, for the new restrooms there at the Randolph County fairgrounds. So, it should be under that number a little bit, the estimate, but right in that ballpark. And this is using the main tiles on this, 8-inch dual wall, smooth bore, four flats that they can install with a tile plow, and be very efficient with the installation. It would be a project that would benefit the county land for well past our lifetime, for generations to come. So, Proficient Drainage is about two years out on their scheduling. They are working in the area. They can work us in. I've spoken with the farm tenant, even though we are in April now, he's still agreeable for us to go ahead and complete this project before he crops this spring. So, we have all the ducks in a row to work this out. Amazingly, in a short period of time here.

Mike said so, if this, obviously, going to improve the field well past our lifetime, what would you say the pay back on this would be?

Chris Peacock said I figured you would ask that. So, the pay back would be an increase of roughly, when we bid that, usually \$50.00 per acre, base cash rent per year plus the benefits of

increased yield improving, that improves the cash flex payment, or the flex payment each year. So, it's not a quick pay back, but it is a positive cash flow.

Mike said how many acres is this field?

Chris Peacock said about 49, 50, total.

Mike said it's not a quick pay back. It'll be past our lifetime too.

Chris Peacock said that would be, correct.

Mike said what do you think, Ed?

Ed Thornburg said well, we had started working this direction. We drained the ground at the airport about 5 or 6 years ago.

Chris Peacock said all except for 7 acres. That coming up in a little bit.

Ed Thornburg said yeah, but 7 acres across the road that we didn't do. But we did that 5 or 6 years ago. And the game plan was that we continue with that about \$25,000.00 a year worth. We didn't do anything and I neglected to find out for sure how many years it had been since we've done this. I didn't get that worked out this last week. But, this is, we get this field done, then besides the 7 acres he's about to bring up, we have one field left to do. Then we'll have gotten over all the county ground. The field behind the county home, the crop field behind the pasture is the only one that we haven't addressed at this point.

Chris Peacock said a consideration would be, we could two-stage this. We could address the very worst areas, yet this spring. Be roughly, I measured out, roughly 24, 25 acres would drain to the northeast immediately off of this main tile off to the east, and then we'd come back when the funds are available to tile the west part of the farm, roughly 50/50 on this.

Gary Girton said we're here now April 1st, according to the weatherman, 3 plus inches of rain coming in. What's, the point at which you pull the plug and say we'll wait until fall on this?

Chris Peacock said the risk of waiting until fall is, will they be back in the area?

Gary Girton said I understand that. I'm just saying that at what point is it not fair to the tenant? At what point in time do you say well this is too late?

Chris Peacock said probably if we don't do this project the next, if we're not able to complete the project in the next three weeks or something like that. We get close to the first of May, then it becomes much more challenging for the tenant. That's a good question. Good point. The tenant did bid a little higher on this because he knew that you had, we discussed how you had asked me to consider this project to bring this before you, so he bid where he did, anticipating this project to be installed at some future point here while he's leasing the land.

Gary Girton said well I'm in favor of moving forward with it. I'm just concerned about the affect we could have on the tenant if we, if we get the rain they're talking about. Right now, you could almost go out and plant tomorrow in some of these fields around here. If we get 3 to 4 inches of rain, they're not going to do that for a while.

Chris Peacock said I agree a 100%.

Gary Girton said especially the ground that you're talking about.

Chris Peacock said I agree a 100% with you Gary, and that's why I called Mr. Alka to get his feedback, because he is paying a pretty hefty cash rent on this land. And he was all for us going ahead especially that northeast corner, the northeast area.

Gary Girton said well I think we need to move forward with this. And we've talked about that, as Ed said, for some time, and we can take the funding from the income, turn around and put that back into the land to make it better. That's been one of our objectives when we first started. So, I'll make this, I'll move that we go ahead and move forward with this project, based on the weather for this spring.

Mike said where are we going to get the money?

Gary Friend said farm grants is probably pretty close to exhausted.

Laura said it is. We can do an additional.

Gary Friend said yeah, but is it exhausted?

Laura said yes.

Gary Friend said so Gary, let's make a motion for additional appropriation from County General? That's where it's got to come from?

Gary Girton said yeah, I suppose we could.

Gary Friend said or Cum Cap.

Gary Girton said we get part of the money in the spring and the rest of it in the fall, the cash rent.

Chris Peacock said for cash rent? I'm sorry, I don't have that number in front of me.

Meeks said yeah, you two wouldn't get the flex until after you know what the price is going to be.

Chris Peacock said right, I understand that. Flex will be in December.

Mike said it'll just go into General.

Laura said correct.

Mike said well if we're going to pay for it out of our line or General, we're going to have to do an additional appropriation.

Gary Girton said right.

Mike said or we could take it out of ARPA and just do an ARPA appropriation.

Gary Friend said that is an ARPA allowable cost?

Laura said yes.

Gary Friend said it is?

Mike said so do you want an additional appropriation out of General Fund? That's the motion.

Gary Friend seconded the motion.

Mike said I have a motion and a second to proceed with the farm drainage project at a total cost of \$56,731.48, up to that total cost. It may be a little less than that. And it's been, take that out of additional appropriation out of General Fund and it's been properly seconded.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said now what about this 7 acres?

Chris Peacock said okay, east of the airport, the 7 acres that Ben Brumfield farms, he plans to be in the field around the 7 acres tiling this fall. So, while he's there, would be an excellent time to address that 7 acres. He could just extend the tile runs right through the 7 acres.

Mike said it makes sense.

Chris Peacock said his estimate on that is probably around 900 to \$1,000.00 an acre as he's running through. So, in that 6500 to \$7,000.00 range is what we're looking at estimated-wise.

Mike said so he'll bring us a project quote?

Chris Peacock said excuse me?

Mike said quote and all later, or how's that going to work? Or is he going to close that?

Chris Peacock said no, he would not close that off, even if he's not leasing the land anymore.

The tiles there, Indiana drainage law.

Meeks said no, I think he's asking will there be an estimate, a cost estimate, written.

Chris Peacock said yes, we can get.

Mike said something written so we can act on it.

Chris Peacock said yes. We can put that together.

Mike said okay. I'd say that you want to do that. You okay with that Gary? Okay.

Meeks said for us to pay the bill, Chris, we'll need an estimate so we can pay it.

Chris Peacock said okay. Will do.

Mike said thank you gentlemen.

Chris Peacock said thank you very much.

Brad Dilger, EDPR – Riverstart Solar Park Road Use Agreements

Brad Dilger, EDPR, Riverstart Solar Park Road Use Agreements.

Brad Dilger said morning. How are you guys doing?

Mike said okay.

Brad Dilger said so I looped in or locked in three different topics. But first, just a quick update on Riverstart 3, the project that's currently under way. We're about 80% installed on the panels. They just got the substation activated on Thursday and today. And those Riverstart 1 and Headwaters are back operational. They're back and connected. And we're looking at a summer completion. So, with that summer completion and all major deliveries have been received, wanted to touch base on the road upgrades, or at least you know, surrounding that site. So, it totaled 3.6 miles around that project site on Indiana Trail and then 700. So, we just wanted to get some thoughts or approval to go ahead and get that work scheduled so we can get those roads taken care of, you know, as soon as we can get it scheduled really. We had talked to you, Gary, and Mike about the method we would be using, so a double layer chip and seal through there.

Gary Friend said right. This is what it is taking it back, right?

Brad Dilger said uh huh. So, bringing those roads back up to a double layer chip and seal, and trying to bring those roads to a better condition than what we found them. So, just some thoughts.

Gary Friend said you're referring to the meeting we had like last year in May, something like that, a meeting?

Brad Dilger said no, it was, I'd have to go back and look.

Gary Friend said you had the other two gentlemen that were with you?

Brad Dilger said yeah, it was this fall, I think, or this past fall.

Gary Friend said right, yeah.

Brad Dilger said so thoughts on that process.

Gary Friend said well I was going to go with to go with our road superintendent today and take a look. Are you saying, because the email that I've read is, you've already started the road work or have not?

Brad Dilger said have not. We wanted to get your approval so we could do it before we got anything scheduled. But just, our approach is what we're hoping to get approved, just the double layer chip and seal, and those roads, as indicated on the map. Did you guys receive the map? Sorry, should have asked.

Mike said I'm not sure if I did or not.

Brad Dilger said I've got some copies here if you. Roads marked in red.

Gary Friend said I believe the discussion we talked about, we're going to bring the roads back to new, in the same aggregate that it was in, to double layer chip and seal, right?

Brad Dilger said correct.

Gary Friend said so when you are all done, you are going to go re-chip and seal those roads?

Brad Dilger said correct.

Gary Friend said double layer.

Brad Dilger said yep.

Gary Friend said I thought was okay.

Brad Dilger said okay.

Gary Friend said but I don't believe it's been in front of the commissioners for an actual approval.

Gary Girton said right.

Brad Dilger said so that's what we're looking for, is just approval on that method and then once.

Mike said so you and Mike are recommending this?

Gary Friend said yes.

Mike said do you have any questions, Gary?

Gary Girton said no. I haven't looked at it. I'm basically, taking their recommendation.

Gary Friend said in the meeting they wanted, they proposed, the other two gentlemen that were with you, that we just take the money in lieu of new roads, and I said I'd rather you put the roads back a 100%.

Brad Dilger said for sure. Yep. And that's the approach, after that conversation.

Gary Friend said we have plenty to do. You can do yours and we can do ours.

Brad Dilger said right.

Gary Friend said right.

Brad Dilger said and that's the approach that we're now using on the, you know, what we're going to talk about next. It's just using that approach of us fixing the roads with contractors that we find that are approved by the county.

Gary Friend said so yes, Mike, Mike and I had said that would be.

Mike said based on that recommendation I would agree with that. Are you okay with it?

Gary Girton said yes.

Mike said is that good enough for you?

Brad Dilger said that sounds good. So, after you, Gary, and whoever.

Gary Friend said well Mike and I were going to be going to inspect them. Actually, I'd set an appointment up with him around 2:30 today to go out and take another look. And then if there's anything more we need to add, we can right then and there.

Brad Dilger said absolutely.

Gary Friend said I haven't heard anything back at all that there's an issue other than what we talked about.

Brad Dilger said okay. Yeah, just from the construction site, 700 was the biggest question mark, and it's held up pretty well, but still, we want to bring that back.

Gary Friend said still going to do it.

Brad Dilger said yep. So, that's Riverstart 3. On this next page, Riverstart 4, we are looking at a summer or late summer start of construction. Work has been started on the sub-station and switch yard. I have maps for you. I'll hand these out. So, we have started work on the sub-station switch yard, just north of 300, and that work will start to pick up in possibly this month, but definitely in May. So, civil work has begun there to support both our work and work being done by AEP, the transmission line owner. So, we've been working with landowners to, you know, make sure that we are not impacting them in a significant way with such a late start of construction. So, we are working with them to plant a cover crop instead of their standard cash crop, and compensating them appropriately. And we'll be going through the process of exercising leases in this next month to then support permitting later, I guess beginning of summertime. So, what I've handed out was just you know, potential improvements here so we can amend our existing RUA. So, again, using double layer chip and seal method by a contractor that we find locally, that's approved by the county and then making those improvements as needed. And during that, go ahead.

Gary Friend said I haven't looked at these roads. Are these currently chip and seal roads?

Brad Dilger said a lot of these have been upgraded because of the proximity in the Headwaters site. So, some of them are chip and seal. Some of them are more heavily upgraded like 900, that was one that.

Gary Friend said I'm referring to what you're calling double layer chip and seal. Are those chip and seal roads or are they paving?

Brad Dilger said my understanding, they are chip and seal.

Gary Friend said okay.

Brad Dilger said but we can take a further look if this needs to be amended and, we can.

Mike Haffner said there's a lot of paved roads in that project.

Brad Dilger said okay.

Mike said so we're going to have to look at those.

Brad Dilger said yes.

Gary Friend said I wouldn't want to be taking the chip and seal over the top of paved, getting it back to it's real.

Mike said do you anticipate any issues with the waterway crossings on there?

Brad Dilger said regarding improvements to the roads?

Mike said yeah.

Brad Dilger said I mean, we'll take the necessary steps to make sure we're not impacting those crossings.

Mike said okay. It looks like they cross waterways in 5 areas.

Brad Dilger said yeah. They're, we can share the road study that has been done to support these recommendations. AET completed those, I think it was in the fall of last year.

Gary Friend said what's the yellow about in the middle of 400 South on here?

Brad Dilger said between 800 and 900?

Gary Friend said uh huh.

Brad Dilger said I think that's just one area that doesn't need to be improved. So, the yellow is like the roads are fine. I'd have to go back and look at the report or actually just drive the road. This came from AET so. But I'll check the current status of the roads that are indicated need to be improved, and if they are chip and seal, or if they are paved, just to confirm that we're going down the right path.

Gary Friend said okay.

Brad Dilger said so we need to do some more work on this one. So, more updates on that project. And then on this last topic here, this is a future phase which you don't have a RUA on yet. But we want to complete a road study, so what you see on the map is yellow is the study area. And it's my understanding that before we complete a road study, we need to get approval from the commission. So, that's what I'm here to address any questions or give any additional information that you guys may need.

Gary Friend said I sent this to our engineer, Joe.

Brad Dilger said okay.

Gary Friend said and one of the thoughts he had was one-way routes in and out.

Brad Dilger said okay.

Gary Friend said the road use. I would imagine he will be calling you.

Brad Dilger said and we'll figure out the one-way pattern I think once we get further into it. But to allow AET to get out and just check condition of road and do their, you know, their borings on the county roads and leaving the state alone, because that's our understanding is like the state

roads are not to be, not to have destructive testing on them, and then the county roads, we need to use our standard approach with their borings.

Mike said well I think you're going to need a road study before you start.

Brad Dilger said right.

Mike said does someone want to move approval to authorize EDPR to do a road study on the, that's red outlined area of this exhibit?

Brad Dilger said it would be the yellow area would be the road study.

Mike said okay. It's the yellow marked roads then?

Brad Dilger said yeah, those would be for the construction crews to get in and out and get deliveries in and out.

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

Brad Dilger said thanks commissioners and I'll do a little more work on the Riverstart 4 project area on the road part. Thank you very much.

Other Business:

Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff

Mike said other business. Art Moystner, sheriff.

Art Moystner said morning. Chris Shaneyfelt wanted me to relay to you, he had sent me a message earlier, he was going to make the meeting today, but does not have the staffing to leave the dispatch center. So, he's not able to make it today. The only thing I would like to do today is just give you guys kind of an update on the sheriff's office and positions that we have there. Currently, we have three open jail positions. With what we have, two of those we've had since the first of January. We just hired a new road officer today to replace one that had resigned. We've done a hiring process. With that process, we had one qualified person. So, we've already eliminated anybody else that would be on that list. So, we're going to have to have another process. We have another officer leaving May 10th. So, I wanted to update you guys with that. Beyond that, I don't think I have anything today, unless you guys have questions for me.

Gary Friend said I don't.

Mike said I don't have any questions.

Art Moystner said okay. Thank you.

Payroll Claims \$340,012.75

Mike said next item, our payroll claims, in the amount of \$340,012.75.

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

Regular Claims \$748,785.12

Mike said next item, our regular claims, which we received a copy of via email, and they're in the amount of \$748,785.12. I'd entertain a motion to approve those claims.

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

Emergency Declaration 2024-01

Mike said next item is emergency declaration 2024-01. This has to do with yard waste. Basically, it declares that a local disaster emergency has existed in Randolph County and that I, the president of the county commissioners hereby, waive the yard waste disposal band for up to 90 days, due to tornado emergency which caused wide spread, severe damage in Winchester and Randolph County. This emergency order is effective on this date and shall end June 24th 2024. This emergency declaration allows the landfill to accept yard waste and be waived of any violation of Indiana Department of Emergency Management rules.

Meeks said there's a resolution that went with that. The yard waste one. So, the declaration is what.

Mike said the resolution.

Gary Friend said you affirm it then.

Meeks said yeah, then you affirm it. The resolution is for you guys to affirm.

Declaration 2024-01

Disaster Emergency Declaration

Randolph County, Indiana

WHEREAS, Governor Eric Holcomb of the State of Indiana signed an executive order declaring Randolph County a disaster area due to the tornado event which occurred on March 14, 2024;

WHEREAS, Mayor Bob McCoy of Winchester, Indiana declared Winchester a disaster area due to the tornado event;

WHEREAS, pursuant to I.C. 10-14-3-29(a), the President of the Randolph County Board of Commissioners, Michael Wickersham hereby declares a local disaster emergency for Randolph County, Indiana.

NOW THEREFORE MICHAEL WICKERSHAM, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF RANDOLPH COUNTY, INDIANA HEREBY DECLARES THAT:

1. A local disaster emergency exists in Randolph County.
2. The President of the Randolph County Commissioners, Michael Wickersham hereby waives the yard waste disposal ban for up to 90 days due to the tornado emergency which caused widespread and severe damage in Winchester and Randolph County, Indiana. This Emergency Order is effective on this date and shall end of business June 24, 2024.

Gary Friend said I'll make a motion to affirm.

Mike said so, anyway, I was going to say Shanda has been in contact with IDEM and this is allowed and it's allowed to be back-dated to the date of the emergency, which was March 14th. So, I'm going to go ahead and sign this. Do I sign it today, Meeks?

Meeks said they're backdating it, yes, I would sign it today, and then let them. So, in an emergency like that, the president of the commissioners may declare an emergency declaration, but that is only valid for 7 days. After that's done, the commissioners have to have a meeting to affirm. That's, our meeting is here to affirm today.

Resolution 2024-04 Disaster Emergency Resolution

Mike said so, I have a resolution 2024-04, which as Meeks just explained confirms what we just did. So, I'd entertain a motion to approve the resolution 2024-04.

Resolution 2024-04

Disaster Emergency Declaration

Randolph County, Indiana

WHEREAS, Governor Eric Holcomb of the State of Indiana signed an executive order declaring Randolph County a disaster area due to the tornado event which occurred on March 14, 2024;

WHEREAS, Mayor Bob McCoy of Winchester, Indiana declared Winchester a disaster area due to the tornado event;

WHEREAS, pursuant to I. C. 10-14-3-29(a), the President of the Randolph County Board of Commissioners, Michael Wickersham hereby declares a local disaster emergency for Randolph County, Indiana.

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners of Randolph County Indiana affirm the disaster emergency declaration declared by President Michael Wickersham.

NOW THEREFORE WE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF RANDOLPH COUNTY, INDIANA HEREBY DECLARE THAT:

1. A local disaster emergency exists in Randolph County.
2. The Randolph County Commissioners hereby waives the yard waste disposal ban for up to 90 days due to the tornado emergency which caused widespread and severe damage in Winchester and Randolph County, Indiana. This Emergency Order is effective on this date and shall end of business June 24, 2024.
3. The Randolph County Commissioners affirms the disaster emergency declaration declared by President Michael Wickersham.

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

Meeks said now Laura, did you get the 2nd emergency declaration too? Okay, it wasn't on my calendar. It wasn't on my agenda.

Laura said yes, I have it. Thank you.

Resolution 2024-05 Disaster Emergency Resolution

Mike said this is a resolution with regards to the Unified Zoning Ordinance. And basically, it says that if we pass this resolution, we are suspending enforcement of the Unified Zoning ordinance with respect to set back and lot sizes on all structures and properties affected by the tornado event that occurred on March 14th, 2024, so long as any new structure is build on the same foundation or same foundation footprint as the previous structure and has not expanded beyond the original dimensions of the previous structure. If a new structure does expand beyond those dimensions, then property owner must follow the requirements of the Unified Zoning ordinance and obtain a variance. A property owner must locate any new structures solely upon the original parcel. All other requirements of the state fire code shall be met with respect to any new construction. In addition, the Randolph County Commissioners hereby waive all permit fees for construction on all structures affected by the tornado event that occurred on March 14th, 2024. Although the permit fees are waived, all property owners shall still be required to apply

and obtain building permit as required by the Randolph County Building Commission. This emergency declaration shall remain in effect for a period of one year from its effective date.

Meeks said so, just so the newspaper, when they're writing the paper, we still want everybody to get a permit. So, if you want to do it, get a permit. You're just not going to be charged for that permit. So, we want to know what you guys are doing, but, so we can make sure you're up to the fire codes.

Mike said and building codes.

Meeks said and building codes.

Mike said and we waived those permit fees last meeting.

Meeks said right, because it's very important that people understand you still have to get a permit. So, if anybody asks anybody, still got to get a permit. We're just not going to charge you for it.

Mike said so, does someone want to move approval?

Resolution 2024-05

Disaster Emergency Resolution Randolph County, Indiana

WHEREAS, Governor Eric Holcomb of the State of Indiana signed an executive order declaring Randolph County a disaster area due to the tornado event which occurred on March 14, 2024;

WHEREAS, Mayor Bob McCoy of Winchester, Indiana declared Winchester a disaster area due to the tornado event;

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners of Randolph County Indiana declares Winchester and Randolph County a disaster area due to the tornado event.

NOW THEREFORE WE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF RANDOLPH COUNTY, INDIANA HEREBY DECLARE THAT:

1. A local disaster emergency exists in Randolph County.
2. The Randolph County Commissioners hereby suspends the enforcement of the Unified Zoning Ordinance ("UZO") with respect to setbacks and lot sizes on all structures and properties affected by the Tornado event that occurred on March 14, 2024, so long as any new structure is built on the same foundation, or same foundation footprint as the previous structure and has not expanded beyond the original dimensions of the previous structure. If the new structure does expand beyond those dimensions, then the property owner must follow the requirements of

the UZO and obtain a variance. A property owner must locate any new structure solely upon the original parcel. All other requirements of the state fire code shall be met with respect to any new construction.

3. The Randolph County Commissioners hereby waives all permit fees for construction on all structures affected by the Tornado event that occurred on March 14, 2024. Although the permit fees are waived, all property owners shall still be required to apply for, and obtain, building permits, as required by the Randolph County Building Commission.
4. This emergency declaration shall remain in effect for a period of One year from its effective date.

Gary Girton made motion to approve Resolution 2024-05 as presented. Gary Friend seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Meeks said and just to say, we can't waive the fire code anyway and we can't waive the public code.

Highway Superintendent Position

Mike said next item on the agenda is the highway superintendent position. As I indicated earlier, our highway superintendent is retiring as of Friday, April 12th will be his last day. We've received applications. We've narrowed those down and we held interviews. And I don't know if any of the commissioners are ready to act on the replacement today or not?

Gary Girton said I am, and I'll move, based on our interviews, my recommendation is that we hire Jay Long for this position.

Mike said Jay Long, the assistant superintendent.

Gary Friend said I'll second that.

Mike said have a motion and a second to hire Jay Long as the Randolph County highway superintendent, and I presume as part of that motion, it would be with the pay that the current highway superintendent receives?

Gary Friend said yes.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said Congratulations Jay.

Jay Long said thank you. Appreciate it.

Mike said look forward to working with you.

Jay Long said thank you.

Mike said do you have any questions of us?

Jay Long said no. Thanks.

Mike said thank you.

EMS Director Position

Mike said next item is the EMS Director position. As with the highway superintendent, we did receive several applications and we did hold interviews and we're here today because we're without an EMS director at this point in time, or as of tomorrow, to appoint a new EMS director. So, what's your thoughts of the commissioners?

Gary Friend said I'll make a motion that we promote Brad Mullen to be our new EMS director at the current pay of today's EMS director.

Gary Girton seconded the motion.

Mike said all in favor of that motion to appoint Brad Mullen as the new Emergency Services Director, effective tomorrow, signify by saying aye.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said congratulations, Brad.

Brad Mullen said thank you.

Mike said do you have any questions for us?

Brad Mullen said not yet.

Mike said okay. I look forward to working with you.

Additional Appropriation

Commissioner's

Overtime/Comp payout	\$30,000.00
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Employment separation payout	\$15,000.00
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Mike said that brings us to our additional appropriations. There're additional appropriations in the Commissioner's for overtime in the amount of \$30,000.00 and employment separation in the amount of \$15,000.00.

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

Commissioner's

Computer Maintenance Contracts	\$156,473.00
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Mike said next one is the Commissioner's computer maintenance contracts and this is for the J&K Communications at the E911 center, and it's for the hardware and it's the annual contract with J&K.

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

Mike said the next group of additional appropriations is for the Children's Advocacy, and it's for the coordinator fee, the part time employees, training/schooling, postage, travel, volunteer recruitment, printing and advertising.

Children's Advocacy

Coordinator Fee	\$26,700.00
Part time employees	\$1000.00
Training/Schooling	\$1000.00
Postage	\$400.00
Travel/mileage	\$1297.21
Volunteer recruitment	\$5200.00
Printing	\$374.00
Advertising	\$1500.00

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

Mike said I believe that brings us to the end of our agenda. Laura, do you have anything for us this morning?

Laura said I do not.

Mike said Meeks, do you have anything else for us this morning?

Meeks said only that I did not get the RFP completed. We've been doing emergency resolutions. So, I should have something to you in two weeks. Just wanted to let you guys know.

Mike said okay. Very good. Gary Friend, do you have anything for us?

Gary Friend said no sir.

Mike said Gary Girton, do you have anything for us?

Gary Girton said no.

Mike said I have a couple of things. In the last week, we've been approached by the Department of Homeland Security, and through Chris, and the small business administration has signed an emergency disaster declaration, and as part of that, they want to set up office space in Randolph County where they can field requests for small business administration loans to residences that don't have insurance or are short on insurance to help them rebuild. These would be long-term loans at discounted interest rates and they would like to have office space free of charge from Randolph County to do that. And Chris and Jake and I have discussed it. And with Jake and Chris' recommendation, we've offered them the old highway office in the RCFFO building at no cost. And they would like to take that, and would like to open on Wednesday, April the 3rd at 9:00 a.m. to start fielding these applications, and will be here initially, from Monday through Friday, with a short shift on Saturday. And I don't know how long they're going to be here. I guess to quote somebody, they'll be here as long as it takes I guess. So, I would recommend we offer this. We have a brief lease agreement to sign with them. A no-cost space agreement is what they call that and probably, if we're going to do it, we need to get it signed today.

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

Mike said and that is all I have for this meeting. Do we have any citizens here that would have a comment? Yes, if you would, step forward and state your name.

Citizen Comments (3 minutes)

Beth Moland said Beth Moland, tornado survivor. And I was coming first of all, to say thank you to Randolph County, from the top to the bottom. Those that stepped up and lent their support to all the victims and the community as a whole, efficiency and the professionalism from the get-go was absolutely top notch. Very much appreciated. I was going to ask about the variances, so I was pleased to hear that you guys already have addressed that. But, our specific concern and I know a couple of the others, if we decide to move, do we have to stay exactly on the blue print of our home in the Gaslight Addition? Is it, or will we not be grandfathered in, say we wanted to go back through the back yard.

Meeks said the rear setbacks, so you'll have to talk to Randy, you would have to go talk to the Area Plan. As of today, the side setbacks, if it's on the same foundation, you're fine. Now if you have space in the back yard.

Beth Moland said yeah, we do.

Meeks said and if there's no setback problems with your back yard, you can go back, yeah. That's only if you're going to get closer.

Beth Moland said to the neighbor.

Meeks said so, hypothetically, the rear setback is 20 feet. I don't know what it is. And if you're now going to go 10 feet, putting a new construction that wasn't on the footprint, you'd have to get a variance for that. But, if you're within that, if you're not in violation, you'll be fine.

Mike said or if you had an addition that is closer in the rear that is closer to the rear yard setback than what it is today, that addition exists so you can build on that same footprint?

Meeks said correct. Only if the new footprint didn't become in violation of the rear setback would you be required to get a variance.

Beth Moland said right.

Meeks said if that new addition is well within the variance, you would not have to do that.

Beth Moland said but mainly, it's side-by-side?

Meeks said really, you guys' problem are your side setbacks.

Beth Moland said yeah. My neighbor, she's on a pie shape, so, that puts us, we're right beside her.

Meeks said you don't really have a problem with.

Meeks said well that's, you guys really have side setback problems, not necessarily rear setback problems.

Mike said and we waived those.

Meeks said yeah, yeah, just side setbacks.

Beth Moland said okay. And it wouldn't matter if we went up, as well?

Meeks said oh, we don't care. We don't have any up setbacks.

Beth Moland said okay. Anyway, thank you all so much, the county as a whole, everybody. It was amazing how quickly they were there.

Mike said well it's amazing that no one was more seriously injured.

Beth Moland said it's a miracle. Thank you.

Mike said thank you. Any other citizens here this morning that would like to share? Jim Nunez, yes. Come forward please.

Jim Nunez said as a citizen and also, been on the 14th, it just makes my heart full of happiness and everything with all the stories that's been happening in our town, that so much help from everywhere, from our surrounding counties and our neighbors ourselves, from everything that's happened during the tornado. That how we all worked together from all aspects and how we all pulled together. The stories that I've heard from church from everywhere. You know, you go

to gas stations, you go to restaurants and stuff, how we all just managed to, like we've never seen before, and hopefully, never see again. That the friendships that we've gained together by this kind of devastation, that we learn from this. And now, with the eclipse coming, just days away, on April the 8th with new visitors coming to us, that this doesn't shy away Randolph County, that we have tried to do some stuff. But now, with something coming to us that's with the eclipse coming, that, with visitors that we, you know, reach out and welcome these visitors coming to us. That we take the opportunity to say the same thing to them as visitors. I'm just so proud to be a Randolph County, just wanted to say that in public. Thank you.

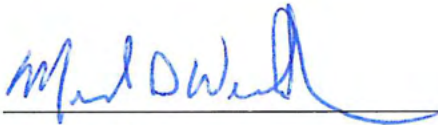
Mike said thank you. Any other citizen comments this morning? Hearing none, I'd entertain a motion to adjourn.

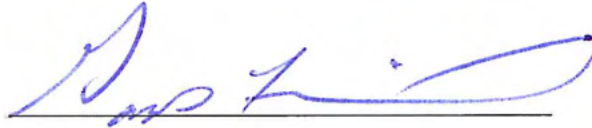
Adjournment

Gary Friend made motion to adjourn. Gary Girton seconded the motion. All aye votes. Meeting adjourned.

Reviewed and signed this 20 day of May, 2024.

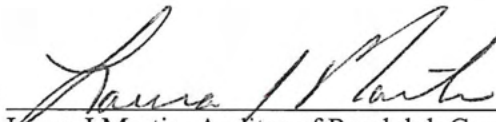
RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS







ATTEST:



Laura J Martin, Auditor of Randolph County