

## Randolph County Council

February 3, 2026

The Randolph County Council met at their regular meeting at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners and Council Room in the Courthouse with the following members present: Board President Greg Cheesman, Beverly Fields, Mike Stine, Todd Holaday, David Lenkensdofer, Scott Fisher and Larry Preston. Also present was Randolph County Auditor Laura Martin, Sheriff Art Moystner and County Attorney Meeks Cockerill.

Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance

### Commissioner's update

Greg said okay, first thing on the agenda is Commissioner's update. Missy, you're the one?

Missy Williams said I know some of you were here yesterday, so this will kind of be a little recap, and if I leave anything out, don't hesitate.

Greg said state your name first and who.

Missy Williams said Missy Williams, county commissioner.

Greg said there you go. Thank you.

Missy Williams said thanks, you're welcome. Just a couple of things on our agenda. Rhoda Davis came and gave us the update on the grant application from the Department of Corrections, which is a \$318,000.00 project and very positive, I went to their meeting once a month. And that last week, and they are very informative meetings, keeping us all up. And they do a good job as a team working together I think, on a lot of those things. You have some things on your agenda, so I'm going to kind of skip over some of this. Gary Moore, our EMS director, came in with a new fee schedule, which we approved. Then we heard from some of the community, Jim Nunez, Angie Martin, on tourism and some things that they have going on, updates. Brad Dilger of EDP was here and has given us the update on the availability and ready to go to movement, I guess, on getting everything going with Solar Park II, Riverstart Solar Park II and IV. I apologize Sydnee if I say your name wrong, Cseresznyes, I'm not saying that right, gave an RCU update, which was very good on the preparedness and a lot of things they're wanting to get done this year. She also was very good about giving us an update on what the Indiana Legislature is doing, which I particularly enjoy and I know several of the rest of you do too, finding out in a condensed form of what's going on. The Main Street Organization came and asked for permission to use the courthouse lawn, which we've always agreed to. And then James Strong of Camp Trinity came and asked for some acreage to allow them to put a sewage system in for Camp Trinity. And we have, basically, approved that, but that won't go into effect for about, at least 18 months or more to give the farmer who is now leasing that ground, an opportunity to at least use it or one more year. It will allow them to have state standard sanitation at that. I would say if you haven't been out there, when the weather clears, go out to Camp Trinity, because I think you're going to be amazed. I was a little not convinced when we gave that to them, but they're doing some really great things out there and it's open to the public. So, if you ever get a

chance, come out. I told them bring a golf cart out there and let people just drive around and see what they're doing, because it was kind of amazing to me. And the rest of it was just, oh, the Community Foundation came and asked, oh, just to thank really, and then to let know that they're going to reapply probably after this time. They have another year to go on the Promise obligation that we made to them, which has been instrumental in them being able to use that to help kids out who go to college. That means they can, we give them money and then they can turn around and apply it into students' accounts, usually elementary, middle school who think they want to go to college, want to plan to go to college, they'll have that, it's a little nest egg if they don't add to it. But it does make it easier for them to kind of think about what they're going to do, not just college, but vocational education, any kind of education, in their post high school years. I think that is about it and the rest of them I think will be updates you're going to get today. Oh, one thing the building commissioner had was a question on how long do we allow people to come in and get a building permit for free to replace the dwelling that they lost during the tornado because it's you know, it's going to be going on 2 years here now. And so, we kind of determined that we are going to slowly bring a stop to that unless they had special circumstances, because at some point. Some building permits are about \$300.00, which sounds like a lot, but it's not really. How long do we want to let that go and why is it taking so long? So, we kind of put a little bit of a limit on that and we'll have them kind of look at that to see what's going on. And it has to go right back on the same foot print. And it can't be moved. It has to go right back there. One last thing, this is it. Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, I did attend a meeting for that and I want to announce it was an extremely productive meeting. Mike Pavey, who is the mayor of Rushville, and if you know him at all, he is a go getter. I know he's a good friend of some of the people in this room. Some good things are going to be happening. I feel very confident. Not to criticize anyone, but it was a little disorganized and I admit I did not continue to go to the meetings last year. I'd went to the last one and there were 6 people there. That was it, when there should have been 30 some. And I feel pretty confident about that and we'll re-evaluate whether we're going to stay with that. So, we can withdraw from it early enough that we're not obligated. So, I'll keep you up on that as I go to those meetings and I think there might be some other people who might want to go. I think that's the biggest thing, courthouse security, we did not get the grant but I think we're going to, I think there is someone who is looking into that to say what was the reasoning on us not getting that as 1 of 5 in the state of Indiana who do not have security? So, hopefully, that will come back with a better resolution, but we'll keep you up on that too as to what's happening. But we are going to move forward with at least securing the building and it might be we have to pay for it out of some funding that we have. But still are looking at that and want to move forward to have security here in the courthouse. Any questions or anybody who was here, I missed anything?

Greg said I just want to clear up the one thing, Missy, back to the where the camp deal used to be. What's that called now?

Missy said Camp Trinity.

Greg said Camp Trinity. You said when you gave it away, we actually, the county just actually gave them use of the land, didn't they?

Missy Williams said yes.

Greg said because they can't use that land for collateral, they can't sell it.

Missy Williams said right, exactly, no.

Greg said they can't, if they go defunct, won't it reverse back to the county?

Missy Williams said we get it back. Yes.

Greg said I just wanted to clear that up for the people.

Missy Williams said thank you. That's a good clarification. I appreciate that. Thanks, Greg. Anything else? Thank you.

David said yeah Missy, I have several things here, and these all deal with the projects of Randolph County going forward. I'd like to keep it on the front burner every month, commissioners and council, to make sure we're moving forward with it. Like the courthouse offices, I'd like to know where we're at.

Missy Williams said yes, okay.

David said and the more the highway storage, the airport terminal, the courthouse security, the road on 800 North, West, and then the jail, because, and maybe in March, late March, maybe we can have a joint meeting.

Missy Williams said I agree.

David said only for those projects, because we have a lot going on. I'd like to see them kept moving forward. It's very important that we get these done as quick as possible.

Missy Williams and we mentioned several of those things, Dave. We were here yesterday, but no decision was made on which way to go. Courthouse security, we're going to have to move forward with that.

David said we've got to move forward on that.

Missy Williams said we have to move forward with that. And that's probably, you correct me if I'm wrong, the decision on that was we're only going to work on securing the courthouse and just a north door, right down there, entrance, and how many police officers will be put down there, deputy sheriffs, and what all is included in that. A lot to be decided on that. We did not get the grant. I know several of us sent emails to our state representatives and state senators saying, explain why, why did we not get this? What was not, what was missing? Was funding to, just tell us why, and I'm still waiting on that information to come back, but I know they have talked to a couple of people because I've gotten emails from some people in the state house on can you clarify this, which I thought was clarified perfectly in the application. So, I'm not sure where that went. But, just to explain, we do have 3 doors and we've never had security and we do have a unique entrance way which is why it may take a little more funding to put a scanner in that front, the north door, and that kind of thing. But the rest of that, I think it would be great. I really, I think everybody really got a lot out of that joint meeting because we could kind of sit down and know what each other was doing, rather than getting my scribbly updates or somebody else's when we come into each other's meetings. I think that, I've done a little, I've been going around looking at airports. And I know one of you in here has been doing a little bit of the same because they said how come you guys are all coming around, and so they told me some other people had come just to look at their airport. And when they said can we help you, they said oh, I'm from Randolph County, just curious as to what it looks like. There's a wide variety of things you can do with airport terminals and it doesn't need to be a two-million-dollar project either. So, just to, and there is grant money out there, so, Richmond spent a lot of time with me, and that was really good. They're getting ready to build a new one and they got a two million dollars to do that. So, I'm just throwing this out there. Personally, I think we need to have somebody who's looking into what grants, federal and state grants are out there, that we can apply for to stay on top, stay ahead of the game, rather than trying to catch up after the game. And I don't know what that looks like. Maybe someone else has an idea. But I think we're missing out on a lot of those. It's great to get a small grant that helps you with this, but I think we have some major projects

coming up that I think we would greatly qualify for, and I'd just like us to kind of keep an eye out on that. And that means you have to hire a grant writer, but some of them will do it for a percentage of what the grant is awarded for, or a minimal of what they have to have just to have done it. So, you've got great things on there Dave. I appreciate it.

David said yeah, what I'd like to see maybe is the spreadsheet with dates and that's the only way you're going to monitor this many different projects that we've got going on.

Missy Williams said yeah, yeah.

David said we just need to be organized and move forward.

Missy Williams said yeah, I agree, yeah.

David said okay.

Missy Williams said anything else?

Larry said correct me, aren't we going to be, courthouse the commission is going to reconvene, committee?

Missy Williams said yeah.

Meeks said I have some dates that we can just maybe set a date, I think you're on it, Larry?

Larry said yeah, I'm on it. Missy's on it.

Meeks said and who else? Council, I forget

Todd said I don't think there was anyone else on it.

Missy Williams said I don't think so.

Meeks said okay. I have some dates. I'll just give it to you and see what's good for you.

Larry said okay.

Missy Williams said okay.

Meeks said then I'll call Missy.

Missy Williams said okay.

Larry said one other question Missy, back to the Trinity. So, if we give them the okay to use the additional acreage for sewage, that still stays in our possession.

Missy said that wasn't exactly spelled out.

Larry said that's what I was questioning.

Greg said the way I understood Gary, that's the way it would be. It would be under the same contract and rules as what the original.

Missy Williams said the question would be if they invest and they create that, that we couldn't, I was just reading a little bit yesterday when I got home, on what, how does that work out if they put a facility there? You would know Meeks.

Meeks said well I wouldn't condition something like that would happen, you'd put it under the same covenants that there is now the exact same thing. And the timeline, that's another thing. But give, grant them the option today to do that. Then if they exercise the option, meaning they're going to put that in there, then they'll be under those restrictions.

Larry said okay.

Meeks said there's no reason to make new restrictions.

Larry said no.

Missy Williams said I will say if you ever get a chance and you know something I going on out there, I was very reluctant to have Camp Trinity taken over by somebody other than the county. I thought we could sell those for building lots. We could do a lot with it. But I've been out there quite a bit. I go out walking sometimes, just by myself, but I also was there when they were holding a big youth camp for a week. If you haven't been out there, you really need to get out there and see what they're doing because it is kind of amazing. They've built, they took the what was an open air like picnic area, it is now a dormitory. They set up a huge circus tent. It is religious. I mean, that's what it is. They've been another huge pole barn facility, which is where they have church in sometime. So, they have invested a lot of money on that. And you can go out there yourself and just kind of look at it or I can give you a number of Mr. Strong, and you can go, he would, I'm sure, take you around in a golf cart. There's a lot of work to be done over those few years that it set idle. A lot of trees had fallen. They've cleaned a lot of that stuff up. The pond needs work because it's become overgrown with algae and all kind of weed in that. But they really do have a plan. I'll eat my words on my criticism to him when I met with him personally that I didn't think the county should give it to a private entity. But, I'll eat my words on that because it's been a great move. And anybody in the community, hopefully, our school corporations, elementaries and high school, will start to use that some, whether it's doing botany in the pond or whether it's having, you know, the 3-day camp over that they used to do with the elementary, 5<sup>th</sup> graders. There's a lot of opportunities I think that are going to be coming. And they've taken great care of that facility. I will give them a lot of credit. Anything else? Greg, anything else I missed on there? I know you.

Greg said no, not that I'm aware of.

Missy Williams said okay. Thank you.

**Rhoda Davis – Community Corrections grant**

Greg said Rhoda Davis.

Rhoda Davis said good morning. I'm Rhoda Davis, the executive director of Randolph County Community Corrections, and I am here for the request for grant application. The amount of the grant is the same as it has been, was last year. It's \$218,700.

Greg said how much again?

Rhoda Davis said \$218,700. And I had an advisory board meeting last week, and that was approved through the advisory board, and I was at the commissioners meeting yesterday. Does anyone have any questions?

Greg said anyone? Do I hear a motion to approve?

David made a motion to approve. Beverly seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Gary Moore - EMS**

Greg said okay, the next one up is Gary Moore, EMS.

Gary Moore said good morning. Gary Moore, EMS director. I just wanted to come and update you a little bit more on what we're doing. I probably better go back and update the commissioners a little bit too, but I talk to them regularly. We are fully staffed currently, as of yesterday. We did have a, one of the three supervisors resigned to go to Ft. Wayne. I think I might have told you that last time, to be closer to family. And I hired Anthony Harless. He was very briefly on our part time ranks and hired him. He came from Winchester and then Reid Hospital. So, we're very fortunate to have got some experience there at the paramedic position. And losing the supervisor, promoted Scott Rifner to supervisor, and three supervisors now. Larry Franklin, Ellie Kerns and now Scott Rifner. And Scott's got over 20 years of experience as a paramedic. So, it's running really well, functionally and operationally with the supervisors in place. John Fisher retired after 39 years of service. We had a party for John and got him a little something. We hired Tim Crawford, started yesterday. Tim brought a wealth of experience with him from Union City through Florida. So, we're fortunate to have Tim on board too, as a seasoned paramedic. We have a great group of EMTs and medics. Fortunate for Randolph County to have the response that we have from personnel. Operationally, you're probably going to see some purchases that we're making to bring. We have two first-out ambulances, one in Winchester, one in Farmland. We're trying to get the backup ambulances to where they're ready to respond also. We had to get some chargers for our monitors so they'll charge with the shore line's when they're, the ambulances are plugged in, or they're mobile and charging through an inverter. So, instead of having to worry about changing batteries out, we've bought some chargers for the ambulances, for the new life pack modems or, life pack monitors. We're also getting some modems. They just, when I came in, they were transitioning to WIFI in the ambulances to transmit our, our monitors transmit 12 EDKG's to the hospitals, and they were going to WIFI. We've ran into a few snags with WIFI and so, it's been recommended from the supplier that we go to modems that run off of a cellular signal. So, we're purchasing some modems. We didn't have any tough books, which has our reporting software on it for the backup ambulances. So, we didn't have a good way if someone would jump in the first out ambulance and say it wouldn't start or something, I don't want to hex anybody for today, but we'd have to take the time to move a few things over to the backup ambulance for it to respond. So, my task is first, to get the backup ambulance fully stocked and ready to go, just like the primary ambulances. So, there's going to be a few purchases coming through that are, we do have the money in the budgeted line items for these purchases, but I just wanted to make you aware. I think I've talked to a few of you that I don't want any surprises to come along. So, I'm going to try to keep you updated on that, either as we go or before if it's possible. Some of them operationally, we just had to get ordered so we had everything.

Beverly said thank you very much.

Gary Moore said you bet.

Beverly said this is good news. It's good news.

Gary Moore said you bet. That's really all I have. Just wanted to update you. Sorry for stuttering around a little bit.

Greg said it's alright. Would it be a big problem for you to tell us, let us know every month, how many runs you guys make?

Gary Moore said no. Absolutely.

Greg said I think that would be interesting to have that information.

Gary Moore said I think, Larry, right around 130 for January?

Larry said January was a 128.

Gary Moore said 128. Right at 128.

David said yeah, we used to get a monthly report years ago. I don't know if they still do?

Gary Moore said no, I don't think so.

David said Duane used to do that, Petry.

Todd said yeah, on that report, it would be good to see the monthly receipts.

Gary Moore said uh huh.

Todd said are we still using the same company that we've used in the past for that?

Gary Moore said we switched last year from A.I.M, I think it was. We switched from A.I.M. to Med Bill for collections.

Todd said that for collections?

Gary Moore said yes. I believe our collections have increased. I can get all that, I'll get the year end for you last year, and then I'll start sending a report out.

Beverly said that would be great.

Gary Moore said and if you want me to, I just came and brought check to the Auditor's office yesterday, I can let you know if you want to know the amount roughly for January, that we brought in I can, do you want me to?

David said yeah.

Gary Moore said \$69,000 is what we brought in for January.

David said good.

Gary Moore said yeah, I think, from what I've seen, and you mentioned Duane Petry, he's still part time employee for us. I have leaned on him a lot. I've made some calls to him. So, yeah, yeah, he's still, he's still working some shifts for us.

David said good.

Gary Moore said but yeah, I'll get the, I'll get that report to you with our number of runs monthly and the revenue.

Larry said would you, going to install new flooring out at the Winchester location?

Gary Moore said yes. I've got one.

Larry said Are you moving on that?

Gary Moore said I've got one estimate and I had a local contractor come a few weeks ago, and I haven't gotten his estimate yet. More extensive than what I thought. I've put some of that type of flooring down in a few of my houses, but you know, with the logistics of the desks and the wiring and, but yeah, he's supposed to be getting me an estimate here shortly.

Greg said anyone else?

Gary Moore said thank you.

Greg said thank you Gary. Appreciate it.

**Sydnee Cseresznyes-RCU update**

Greg said okay, next up, Sydnee.

Sydnee Cseresznyes said good morning everyone. Sydnee Cseresznyes with the Randolph County United. I have our office administrator Ruthie Rhoades sitting with me today. I have a kind of two-birds one-stone presentation for you guys. And Ruthie, especially on the grant portion that I'll present to you, has been a huge factor in getting some of these rolled out. And so, I want her to be here and represent that part of the conversation.

Greg said and who is your assistant? The lady sitting next to you? I didn't catch her name.

Sydnee Cseresznyes said oh, assistant, no, she's the office administrator.

Greg said what's her name?

Sydnee Cseresznyes said Ruthie Rhoades.

Greg said okay. I didn't catch it. Sorry, that was my fault.

Sydnee Cseresznyes said yes, and she oversees a lot of our grant, internal grant reporting, putting together a lot of our overview documents and is going to be a partner in some of the grant opportunities that we're rolling out and currently applying for. So, we'll get to that. I had promised you guys that I would come quarterly and give you guys a presentation. And so, this, the purpose of this presentation, the first half of it at least, is to do a 2025 end of the year report. As you might remember, I came on full time in May of 2025 and since then, we have been able to look under the hood at Randolph County United. There were a lot of changes in a short period of time prior to me joining the organization. Ruthie and Carrie also went through a lot of changes in their first year of employment with the organization. So, we spent the first few months really, like I said, looking under the hood. Operationally, we needed to clean some things up, everything from payroll to job descriptions, solidifying all those and doing annual reviews and things of

that nature, all the way to looking at our by-laws and streamlining, streamlining some of the inconsistencies and outdated provisions in that from the operational side. And then you move into the other side of Randolph County United, which is the plethora of buckets that go into the economic development umbrella. And I touched on that a little bit yesterday in my commissioners' presentation. Economic development is a broad topic. It encompasses everything from small business support to housing and business attraction, talent and workforce development and pretty much everything in between, including quality of life, and other support initiatives. And so, I wanted to go through some of our successes that we were able to accomplish last year, and some of the momentum that we've built since then, and then some of the products that were able to roll out because of that foundational building that we did in the latter months of last year. So, I'll talk about one accomplishment that we've kind of rounded out, I'm really proud of. So, as you may all remember, we had READI 2.0 funding allocated awarded to Randolph County. It was just over two million dollars. But one of those projects fell through and Randolph County United was tasked with finding a home for about a million dollars, and it was a pretty quick turnaround time we were tasked with doing so. So, we put together an internal steering committee that resembled much of what the previous steering committee for READI 2.0 awards looked like. We spoke with a plethora of organizations and entities within the Randolph County boundaries and solicited projects. And from there, we took the applications and we scored them and ultimately, recommended awards to Region 6. And I'll kind of go through that process in a second. But, we were able to find a home, if you will, for the full million dollars. And so, what this means is that all two million of the award that Randolph County received from the state will stay in the county. The projects that we were recommended to the region are now on their way to the IEDC for a final pre-commitment. So, I'll go over those real quick. Monroe Central Schools wants to expand a childcare facility at their campus. And we worked with Angie over there and they had a request of \$750,000.00. They had a match of that. And so, part of the READI program, just for those of you who haven't talked about this in a while, it has to be a one-to-one public match. And there has to be an element of private investment in that as well. And so, we chose, as a steering committee, to award them \$650,000.00 and with the idea that that extra 100,000 was a way to incentivize them to explore private investments to make up for some of that recommendation. It sounds like they found that pretty quickly. I actually just got an email or a cc on an email between Monroe Central Schools and the Region 6 body asking for an updated budget, because the IEDC is ready to review for a final pre-commitment. Vision Corner is a little bit further along in some of their phases in the adjacent building, and so they are in a restoration phase of that building. And they, their project was a lot bigger. Their overall request was their overall project cost is somewhere around 16 million, but they requested 4 million. We, they did have some awards from READI 1.0 and so we recommended an award of \$337,000.00 to cover some of those smaller reconstruction projects that they'll have for the building.

Todd said who was that? I missed that.

Sydnee Cseresznyes said Vision Corner. It's kind of their Vision Corner 2.0 is what I believe a little bit because it's the adjacent building. Cardinal Greenway, that trail goes through actually, all Region 6 counties, but they have a portion that exists in Randolph County, I think it's a part of a trail and a bridge, they received a grant from the Community Foundation and we matched that grant amount and their full request was \$13,000.00. And so, we awarded the full amount there. So, like I said, our job as the local steering committee was to recommend these projects and to present these projects to the region. And then the region approved these projects from there and then these applications and project portfolios are given to the IEDC. The IEDC goes through a final vetting process before they give a pre-commitment letter. So, we expect that all to be worked out on the state agency's end come the end of the first quarter. So, that was one project that was thrown into our laps. We had to kind of scramble quickly, but I do believe that these projects really speak to multiple facets of what the needs are in Randolph County and we were really honored to be a part of that process and find some good projects and keep that money local. I'm going to bounce around a little bit from here. I would like to talk about some other successes at a high level. Had a lot of conversation about what the definition of return on investment is when it comes to

economic development and I can't stress enough that you heard me kind of say that there's a wide breath or a wide net cast when you talk about economic development and what the definition of that is. It relates to housing and business retention and we're talking about the Ardagh's and the hospitals, all the way down to your mom and pop retail and food establishments. And then you know, within that, you have infrastructure conversations, incentive conversations, state relationships, regional relationships that you have to maintain to capitalize on some of that money that the state wants to trickle down. And so, if you are not firing at all cylinders and going after all targets, you can fall short. And everything is inter-related. And so, we'll kind of get into what that look like based on the various buckets and initiatives that we've gone after and approached in the last 8 months. So, what we uncovered from just looking under the hood as I've said, a few times, is that Randolph County United had three grant programs, two tied to the Federal government, one tied to the office of Community and Rural Affairs, which is obviously a state agency under the lieutenant governor's office. We have three RLF programs that pre-date COVID. One was during COVID and the other two, the Federal ones, pre-date COVID, so we're looking at almost a decade of having these RLF program that we've had to report to the Federal government and the State. All of those programs are eligible to be released under our oversight. And so, that requires a process. And I'll start with the one, I'll start with EDA because that's kind of the, not the furthest along, it's the one we're still working on. So, we approached the EDA, it was actually right before the government shut down. And we are in the process of filing an application for those funds to be approved into our oversight. We're not sure if we're going to be tied to strict parameters like we are with the OCRA program, which I'll go over in a second. But, we'll have money released into our care for that. The USDA loan, the Community Development block grant loan that we were awarded many years ago is officially approved to be released into our oversight. That's pretty recent. We have a lot of flexibility with that money. The guidance we were given in short, was that it needs to speak to what the grant originally was for, which was for Community Development block grants and those kinds of projects and eligibility requirements are pretty broad and vague because no two communities are the same, as you know. And so, where we're at with that right now is creating a program overview in an application. And that kind of has to go through our internal leadership committee or finance committee to make sure we're covering all those steps and ultimately, a full board approval to roll out that program. So, I imagine the next 90 days we'll have some of that really hashed out to move forward with. And I'll have a more solid number, because these grants and loans are so old, we really had to do some digging on the bookkeeping end to figure out how much was forgiven, how much are we going to have to give out, how much needs to be paid back still, and things like that. So, that's been taking some time. And the one that we are proud to announce that we're going to roll out, which I'll pause and go over that in a minute, is our OCRA grant. So, our OCRA RLF program, that is turning into a grant. So, with this program, we were approved to have the funds released but they came with a lot of strings. We are not allowed to turn that into an RLF program or any program of our choosing. This OCRA grant was a COVID era RLF program, so it spoke to people sustaining themselves through a pandemic. And now, we're in the preparedness stage. And what that means is that we, the businesses that will be eligible, have to show that they are using this grant money for initiatives that will sustain them through another state emergency like that. And so, we'll go over some of those program requirements in a minute. But we're actually excited to roll that out as of March 1<sup>st</sup>. So, before I kind of dive into the other half of my presentation, I want to talk about some of the other buckets that Randolph County United has been taking intentional steps in. Most recently, we applied for, and a of last week, it is officially in the hands of the agency. But we applied for a \$500,000.00 Brownfield grant. That took a lot of time to gather parcels and you know, talk to property owners, and things of that nature. And we worked with BZA consulting who actually just completed rolling out Union City's former Brownfield grant program. The EPA officially has that application of ours as of last Wednesday or Thursday. It's about a 4-month turn around to figure out if we were awarded. The government shut down. This application was actually due in November. But because of the shutdown, they pushed the deadline back until the end of January and so therefore, the award deadline was pushed back a few months as well. So, we're expecting maybe early June for that award announcement. Another area, and this kind of goes back to the business retention and expansion, both on

a macro and micro level in Randolph County. So, we were approached and developed a relationship with Ardagh in Winchester, which is obviously one of the biggest employers and longest employers in Randolph County. We talked to them for a few months. They are interested in actually moving forward with a 30-million-dollar furnace investment. And what that means is that solidifies their involvement in our community for at least 10 more years. And we developed that relationship and they were really great partners in showing them, showing us the impact in our community. We obviously know that because of the historical relationship. But, over 70% of their employees live in Randolph County. And as you know, local income tax is going to be a big part of county revenue come the next few years with the changes the state has made. And so, it's important to us that we keep that relationship and not only do we keep them here as a present business, but we keep their employees employed there as well. And so, what our role in that was they approached us about a potential abatement. And we worked through them with initial conversations on what that would look like, what their goals were, what they really wanted out of this. And then facilitated conversations with Winchester and Mayor McCoy to figure out, you know, what they wanted as well, right. And they're in the process of working on an economic development agreement and an abatement agreement. And I can let Mayor McCoy speak to that if he desires to. But you know, that's our role to make sure that people are at the right table, at the right times having these conversations, because if they did not support us or if they did not approach us, they could have easily looked at one of their other plants because they are consolidating across the nation. And so, if we could maintain that partnership, you know, the next time they think about consolidation, it will hopefully be consolidating to Randolph County, not outside of Randolph County. Going on the more micro level, I'm really passionate about not just focusing on our largest employers. We have a lot of small businesses in Randolph County, and so, it was my goal to roll out a pretty robust business retention and expansion program. And what this will look like, it's kind of two-fold. We obviously have the chamber that is under us and under our umbrella, and so, Ruthie, myself and Carrie have developed a comprehensive business retention and expansion program. And what that will look like is in person visits to all businesses in Randolph County, both small and medium businesses to start with and then I kind of take on the Ardagh's, the Work Horses, the Frank Miller Lumbers of the world. And we're kind of tag-teaming those efforts. So, Carrie is meeting, having one-on-one relationships with a lot of chamber members and potential chambers. Ruthie has taken on and done a really great job about compiling a list of all businesses that are registered in Randolph County. It's quite a comprehensive list. A lot of people have LLCs, so, we're working through which one of those are still active. But she's already had a lot of success with meeting with businesses and we have a database for keeping because we want to see what their current employment status is like and how long they've been in business and what needs they have as far as workforce or training opportunities, or infrastructure improvements, or funding needs, or goals for their business. And so, we can keep a tracker of this and so we can develop common themes or see what the common themes are in businesses across the community and tailor our programs that we offer to our businesses to meet some of those needs. Outside of that, like I said, we've dealt with READI 2.0 allocations. Another bucket that we need to focus on which you may have heard me say, but 80 to 90% of all economic development happens within a county. Only about 10 to maybe 20% as best is recruiting businesses and those are just the facts and statistics. But we can't leave out that 10 to 20%. And so, we have a relationship with the IEDC where they send us site selection request and they give us project, these project parameters and say hey, if you have a parcel that meets these requirements, submit a property. And we just had contact from Sarah with IEDC who is one of my favorites and I'm glad she represents this community in the region, who informed us of what's called Project Pure. And there is a business who is looking to be located near a rail, Ethanol, an ethanol plant and highway interstate access. And we had not one, but two properties that matched that description. And so, we have submitted that to the IEDC as of yesterday, we submitted both properties. So, again, I don't want to say those are shots in the dark, but those are a lot, those are sent across multiple states, right, not just Indiana. They're sent to everyone in Indiana but you know, I think that the properties we submitted fit all the initial asks and so we still keep our finger on that lever to make sure that when we receive those notices that we are moving forward with trying to participate in the site selection process as well. And that kind of speaks to the statewide initiatives. You know, something I

noticed with Randolph County United, and this is, you guys don't corner the market on this, but a lot of people are so focused on what's happening in their county, it's really overwhelming, and sometimes impossible just to follow along what's going on with the state. And I think that was Randolph County, one of Randolph County United's goals when hiring me, because I do come from state access and the state house and working with these agencies. And, I have a lot of relationships with how you can align resources at the state and regional level to trickle down to the local level. And so, what we've been able to do is put ourselves on the map, not just from a regional perspective, but from a state perspective. Secretary, the Energy office's secretary, Suzie Jaworowski, is actually from my county and we hosted her here in November, I believe. And obviously, you guys are not unaware that there's a big energy push across the state. Five years ago, it was renewables and wind and solar, and now it's data centers and nuclear. And there is a big push for communities who are interested in this to step up. And if you're not interested yet, you know, she's looking for communities who are interested in learning about these opportunities because she believes that there's a really small window to capitalize on some of these opportunities. And well, I know the county has not approached this from a policy perspective as of yet, as a local economic development organization, it is our job to do some of this research and make sure those relationships are started and nurtured, and every time I see her now, she asks about Randolph County, and those are definitely on the map. And she was very impressed by what she saw and everything you've done with a mere energy projects thus far. And so, that relationship is there and again, just with the covering all of the bases, you need to make sure your hands are in these buckets and you're at these tables. And so, some of the opportunities, I'll dial back one more, one more time. You know, some of the opportunities that I have been afforded in my career are great, but I also want to make sure the RCU's staff is developing professionally in the areas that they want to grow in. Ruthie, we sent Ruthie and Carrie to an economic development community development course ran through Ball State. I actually took the week-long course a couple years ago as well. And it just gets local economic development organizations across the state and the region together to learn about the best practices as it relates to community development and how those trends are evolving and what we're seeing across the state. That's something we want to continue to do. And I would like to see, you know, Ruthie has shown a lot of interest and a lot of determination to learn in some of these spaces, and as much as I can lift up the staff, I feel that is a direct reflection of Randolph County United and ultimately, the county. And so that is something I'm pretty passionate about as a leader of that organization. On the chamber side, Carrie did a really good job of cleaning up some of the stones that were left unturned when she took that roll on and we have been able to recapture almost \$11,000.00 in chamber membership. I imagine that number will only increase from here as she's kind of got her ducks in a row and continues the membership recruitment efforts and initiatives that she's creating. And we've been partnering a lot on what kind of, what kind of partnership that economic development and the chamber can have to further our business community and really keep them informed and in front of the opportunities they may be able to capitalize on. So, some of the opportunities looking ahead. I have a lot of goals for this organization. Anyone that is on the board will tell you that I probably mentioned being result oriented in getting tasks completed at every single board meeting because I don't want to delay. You know, there's processes and procedures we have to go through, but having forward momentum and consistent momentum is important to me. And being intentional about it is just as important. And so, what I would like to see is more public/private opportunities in the community. We are working on that with the foundation. Some of our board members and especially some of these opportunities for grants going forward on how we can support the community both in a public and private sense. I would like to explore candidly the energy conversation. I think that commissioner and APC engagement is important. I think that, we, at Randolph County United, we're here to educate. We're not here to write policy but getting everybody in a room and figuring out what direction the county wants to go and whether it's an up or down decision is up to the county. But, starting that process and working through that, is going to be important in 2026, in my opinion. I'd also like to see a strategic plan. I think everybody's definition of results and return on investment are different and I have several people sitting in front of me, and I also have three commissioners that I answer to, and then a whole board of about 17 people. And so, a lot of people look

at economic development differently, and that is not right or wrong, but when we think about where we want to go and the results we want to see, I want everybody to be on the same page so that we can understand what the direction is and what the expectations are moving forward. That will take buy-in from both the county and Randolph County United. I know that we have worked with our budget to be able to support some of those efforts but bringing in an outside consultant to do a 3 to 7-year plan, I think is smart and is important. And as people turn over in the community, you have this document that speaks to what not only the elected officials want, not only what RCU's organization wants, but what the community wants to see, as well. So, that's a conversation for another time. I'm going to stop there because I'll move on to our grant program overview in a second, but does anybody have any questions? Not one? Okay. Well just stop.

Todd said one thing I'll say, you've talked about strategic plans before and they're usually long-term plans. One of the problems we have with those is turnover. You know, we get a plan but then the people who were there when the plan is created leave and you know, knowledge is lost, momentum is lost. So, I guess if, I don't know what your commitment is and what our commitment is to you and so on, but if we're going to have a strategic plan, I think we need to you know, think long term and try to make sure it's sustainable in the event of turnover. You know, it's got to, you look back through my dad's files, my files, you'll see a lot of attempts like that to get a direction, and a lot of them come up with kind of the same information and then it's a lot of statistical, you know, how many people do we have in the county, what's their average income, what's the, you know what flows in what flows out all that sort of thing, but then it's very hard to actually turn that information into action items. I appreciate what you're saying, you're task oriented and you want to see, but I understand the need for a plan, but the, you know, it's so hard to make that plan valuable I guess, is what I'm saying. They usually cost quite a bit of money too.

Sydnee Cseresznyes said yeah, and so, and I've thought about this a lot. I've actually done comprehensive plans. I've spearheaded them and there's a lot of different kinds of plans. And the reason I say a strategic plan is when you talk about a comprehensive plan, which the last time you guys have done one is in 2019, which for funding purposes, is outdated, and where my goal lies is a little bit more narrow. Comprehensive plans are like 25 to 35-year plans and I understand the intention of those, but to your point, so much changes in the zoning goals you had might not be the same in 10 years and so, I know you can update them and things like that. But, what I'm talking about is more like a 3 to maximum 10-years strategic plan. And vary narrowed buckets, not this, you know, wide net, you know, of housing, infrastructure, you know, road studies and everything in between. This is more in a sense of okay, of these 7 economic development buckets that we could move forward, in what top 3 do we want to spend our most time and momentum in? And I think that creates an expectation that at least everyone can reference in saying are we doing these 3 buckets? We might have 7 we want to tackle, but are we tackling these 3? And that's where I think the benefit is because I do hear candidly, a lot of different opinions on where Randolph County should go, Randolph County United should go, and I think I love that everybody is passionate. I think if we could get on the same page about what that means, then we could decrease the amount of, we would have document to reference, to say hey, you know, we haven't seen movement in this area. And so, I think you've raised a fair point and I think you know, that's something I would like to talk about and hash out in the future as we maybe move closer to this.

Scott said I have to totally agree with Todd. I mean, there's been too much change over the last 5 or 6 years, and things have gone different directions. The RCU the last few years has operated as a separate entity. And I do commend Ruthie on the amount of businesses that they have put together for the chamber. It's amazing. Do you have the exact figure of your chamber membership?

Sydnee Cseresznyes said it's 130.

Ruthie Rhoades said we have last years. We don't have this year's quite yet.

Scott said but you're at 100, 145, \$130,000.00 and this has only been going on for 2 years now?

Sydnee Cseresznyes said uh huh.

Scott said so, I commend you and Carrie on that but, I feel that the RCU has to keep in mind they need to serve the council and the commissioners as well as their board. So, we need to make sure all three groups are on the same page. Otherwise, the board of commissioners or the council might feel the RCU is not going in the direction they want to be going in. So, I do think we need to make sure all three groups are on the same page.

Sydnee Cseresznyes said I agree with you, and I think, I think, and this, pre-dates me, I think, from my understanding, there was representation from each body, both cities' council and commissioners added to the board to address some of those concerns. I think there's areas we could improve because again, everybody's goals are different. And I want to be mindful of everybody's goals and if anything, and I think several people in this room can attest to it, is that I am candid and I am honest and I don't mind sharing hard truths, and, but I'm very ambitious and innovative. And I want to make sure that everybody feels heard and we'll talk about you know, the realities of that. And if there's a joint meeting or a group we can host, where we host everybody from these bodies, not just the representatives that sit on our board, maybe that's a good next step for making sure we're all aligned and on the same page. And there's no feelings that RCU's pivoting from a goal that someone has. So, always happy to convene those conversations.

David said yeah, I agree with Scott and Todd on their philosophy in the background. I sat on that board for a lot of years and I don't know how many strategic plans and comprehensive plans we went through, but it's tremendous. We spent a lot of money over there for those plans, and nothing ever materialized. So, I'm like Scott, we need to all work together as individual groups to make sure.

Scott said paying somebody to put a plan together is going to be worthless if it's not on the same page as the commissioners or the council.

Sydnee Cseresznyes said well, and that's why, so, when I say a strategic plan, this is why I need county buy-in because I'm not, I am not going to advocate that RCU takes this on alone or pays for it alone quite frankly, because it's again, we're really good, we have a good board and representative of the community, but I need people here to be a part of the steering committee. I need people here to be engaged in the advisory panel that puts this together because I want to mitigate feelings of not being included, these elected bodies of not being included. And so, if we do go down that route, council and commissioner input is mandatory, in my opinion.

David said one other thing I have concern about is that I know Governor Braun is, has been looking into the IEDC, the one you are mentioning. There's been a lot of conflict interest. There's been transparency issues. There's been excessive spending. He's saying there needs to be a lot of reform in that organization oversight. So, I guess we need to look at that also as counties going forward. Where's that play in with us?

Sydnee Cseresznyes said well I think that's a fair conversation. I actually had this conversation last night with a colleague of mine. There are discussions in the state house right now, it didn't go anywhere, but it does speak to the spirit of what maybe the General Assembly and the Administration want to do. They are two separate layers of government. You have the IEDC who's under scrutiny. You have a new administration who, for better or for worse, every administration has their own goals and tasks they want to create, and so READI 2.0 is a really good example. Before Holcomb, it was Stellar communities.

Holcomb is READI. What is Braun's going to be, because I don't think it's going to be labeled READI, and I don't know what Economic Development goals he's going to have. And then another part of that conversation is you know, I've heard dialogue from legislators saying well if we do have this state money and locals don't have a local economic development organization, then maybe they should not be eligible for that money. And so, those are very real conversations, and restructuring the boundaries of what these regions are is another part of that conversation. And I think it's pretty unknown right now. I think putting your thumb on that is important in making sure that you are at the tables and advocating for yourselves to you know, stay on the map to be eligible for those funds. So, I think to your point, I mean, we're in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the administration right now and I think this year will be really telling what some of those. I know that the governor just announced a 207-million-dollar program. It's called Rural Health Communities, I think. And it's for health care access in rural communities, and I can send you guys the article. I read the flyer and flagged it for later today because it just came out. But think we're starting to see, we're starting to see his priorities. And so, that will impact us whether we like it or not. Well, thank you for your feedback. I'll move on, and for the sake of time. So, I'm excited to announce that Randolph County United is actually getting to roll out their own internal program now and you heard me talk about the work that was done with the state agencies and federal agencies over the last 8 months. And we worked with OCRA to have our funds released. Like I said, that was a little bit more strict on the funds being released, what we were allowed to use them for, etcetera. And so, we had done the math. We are anywhere between, we have to get our final accounting numbers but we have about 90,000, almost a \$100,000.00 that we will be able to award to local businesses. This comes from again, our OCRA RLF program, and when they released it into our oversight, like I said, it came with some more strict parameters that we did not have control over. One being that all of these awards have to speak to COVID preparedness, and I'll go over those eligible expenses in a minute. And it also had to be a grant. We did not have the option to turn it into an RLF program because that's what I would have done. But, so we have no choice but to spend the money down. So, what this is going to look like, I'll go over the program overview and look at some of the details and eligible entities and expenses and then I'll talk about the roll out. So, this program overview, Randolph County United in collaboration with the Indiana office of Community and Rural Affairs has modified its COVID Era revolving loan fund into a grant program designed to support small businesses as a plan for the future. Originally created to assist businesses during the pandemic, the RLF has not been repurposed to help local business owners make targeted investments that would allow them to continue operations or minimize disruption if another public health emergency or shut down were to occur. This grant prioritizes projects that helps businesses adapt their operations, protect their work force, ensure continuity in uncertain circumstances. So, I'm going to flip around here real quick. So, who can apply? Applicants must meet the following criteria: They must be a for profit, physically located in Randolph County. They must have been in operation for at least 12 months. They have to be in good standing with no outstanding taxes or violations, and they cannot have received prior funding through Randolph County's COVID Era RLF program. Grant details, the maximum award is up to \$25,000.00. There is no match required. Funds must be used within 12 months of the award and receipts and a brief impact summary are required at closeout. So, we have to make sure they were able to use that money for the intended purpose. The grant may support multiple qualifying purchases or activities. And so, I have quite a few businesses I have in mind that I imagine will apply who want to restructure some of their business operations and expand some of their reach in where their businesses can go. And so, if there was a software program and you know, some kind of expansion involved with that, that money could be able to go to both. They would have to provide invoices for each. But, we wanted them to be able to capitalize as much as they can if they needed the opportunity. The grant supports practical upgrades that allow businesses to continue operations during a shutdown, adapt to new ways of doing business. Examples are digital, digital commerce websites remote access and contactless payment. And the desire is to retain or support employees in future emergencies. So, examples of eligible expenses, this list is not exhaustive, but remote work tools such as laptops, software, cloud-based systems, secured internet access, creating remote friendly job roles. The caveat to that is the employee must live in Randolph County. E-commerce platforms are online booking and scheduling

systems, contactless payment or curbside pick-up systems, cyber security improvements to protect sensitive data while working, cross training employees for operational flexibility, business continuity training, which they can do that through a consultant or a planning organization, PPE and sanitation equipment to maintain health compliance in future emergencies, and emergency response are continuity-related certifications or training. Ineligible expenses are rent or mortgage, utility payments, legal fees or litigation expenses, taxes or tax payments, travel unrelated to planning and preparedness or personal expenses. So, I'll give you an example because I've had two businesses I've talked to in the last couple of days, not necessarily about this grant, but about what they want to do. I have an individual who contacted us and owns a restaurant in a very small town. And their influx and when they're busy is not sustainable. It's not predictable. And she, we talked to her and she doesn't have a contactless payment. She doesn't have an online ordering system. You see those through google sometimes, you know. And she doesn't have a partner with a delivery service. But in her influx times, she does really well. Well, imagine what she could do with those influx times if someone could just order on line and she contracted with someone who could pick it up and take it to that entity? And then she had more time to work on the internal in person side of her business. That's one of many examples I could give you of the people, the kinds of people that I've talked to. I have retailers who could really use an online website of selling their merchandise and increasing sales. And this is where the, I want to reference the ROY of economic development because I was questioned on this a little bit, and I didn't have the opportunity to answer. Grants like this are temporary. It's going to be spent down and it's going to go away. But when you think about the trajectory of what these grants can do for a business, so, say one of these people that we've talked to was able to have this online software, this contactless payment, or the partner delivery service or online ordering system, that increases their sales volume and increases the income that they have in this county. What it also does is potentially puts them in a position where they can, need to move, maybe they need a bigger kitchen because they're getting so many orders. So, now they need to move into a bigger establishment and now they probably need a couple more employees. Well, there's your town and workforce attraction right there. And where are those employees going to live if they don't already live in the county? Maybe it's a college kid looking for their first home. Well then, you have property taxes and income tax that are staying in your community. So, the linear trajectory of this money is not just a hand out for a temporary fix. That's why rent and utilities are not included in the eligible expenses. This is for someone to build their business so they can stay in Randolph County, so they can grow in Randolph County, and provide more of a long-term tax base benefit to the county. It's mutually beneficial. I see it as a great step forward and when we roll out our USDA program, what I would like that to look like is more of a revolving loan fund so we can have a sustainable program that sustains and supports some of these businesses with a payback program. And so, that is some of my goals. This program, we are going to spend the month of February marketing. We have exhausted a lot of our resources in how we can do that, so we're presenting at all the county meetings, this one being our last one. We have the city, county meetings that we're presenting at, town halls that we're communicating with and email with our flyers, and links will be sent to all clerks in the entire county. We have flyers being posted at this courthouse, library bulletin boards, places, frequent places of businesses. We are going to put together a 101 session in early March for people who have questions or may need help understanding parts of the application and how to apply, and how to create a good narrative for a story. And then, as of March 1<sup>st</sup>, it'll be the application will be released. We'll have paper copies at our office. We'll have an online link they can apply to. All of those applications will go to me. The application will be released for 60 days with an April 30<sup>th</sup> closing date. And May, we will spend the month of May reviewing these applications in an effort to limit unbiasedness, favoritism, nepotism, anything that we may cross. We will be doing blind reviews. I will personally, Ruthie and I are creating a scoring rubric for these projects much like READI had. And we will not put the business name in these review processes so we are reviewing just based on the facts and not who was applying. And then, we will provide recommendations and eventually, awards. So, I believe I would like early June awards to be announced. Depending on where those people are at or in their business planning process we can start releasing some of those grants. So, with that said, we are excited. I believe there is long term benefit to this program. I'm excited that we got to this point. This

was one of my top 3 goals last year and I'm excited I can say in January we've got it all approved and we can start the marketing process in February and roll it out in March. And there is more to come on this avenue, because we have about 3 more buckets that we're working on getting released. So, I know I've been kind of long winded today, but I did have a lot to say. If I haven't already, did I talk about the Brownfield application? We submitted, so we're working on that as well, hopefully get a good result on that, you know, late spring, early summer. But, thank you for allowing me to present. I appreciate the council's support. I think the momentum is there. We had a lot of foundational work to do, and the results are going to be seen in 2026 into 2027. So, we hope to keep that momentum going.

Todd said what do you typically put terms-wise on a revolving loan?

Sydnee Cseresznyes said well I was not here when those original loans, I think Ruthie might be able to speak to this a little bit more, but from my understanding, it was a 100 percent paid back opportunity for some forgiveness. I'm not sure we'll do that part in our loans. With a 1 percent rate.

Todd said over how many years usually?

Sydnee Cseresznyes said do you know the answer?

Todd said it varies basically.

Sydnee Cseresznyes said it varies. And I think we'll figure that out internally. I don't want it to be too long because I want, again, these, I want this to be a long-term sustainable program.

Todd said in any of the buckets that you said that you were still working on, are they, do you know yet if they are eligible to be

Sydnee Cseresznyes said USDA is, we're not sure about EDA yet.

Scott said what's the total figure of the OCRA money that you need to spend down?

Sydnee Cseresznyes said we're getting final numbers. I got some from Heather the RCPA yesterday. It looks to be about \$90,000.00, just over.

Scott said just over 90,000?

Sydnee Cseresznyes said uh huh.

Scott said and it needs to go away?

Sydnee Cseresznyes said it has to, we have to spend it down.

Scott said okay.

Todd said thank you.

Sydnee Cseresznyes said yes, absolutely. Thank you, guys.

**Other Business:**

**Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff**

Greg said okay, other business, Art.

Art Moystner said I don't have anything today unless you guys have questions for me.

Greg said anyone have a question for Art, Sheriff?

Todd said are we on tract, vehicle, I know it's early, but are we going to stay on track with the vehicles this year as far as the number we purchase and all that, do you think?

Art Moystner said I don't think so.

Greg said tell us your name and what's your position.

Art Moystner said Art Moystner. I'm the sheriff. They, at budget time I had asked for 4<sup>th</sup> one. We've had some problems with the Durango's since COVID so we're switching to the Tahoe's. So, we have a couple of those vehicles that we're probably going to have to nurse along and see how they work and see whether or not I'm going to have to come back and ask for another vehicle or not. But, we have a few of them that we've had issues with.

Todd said did Modoc take advantage of that opportunity to?

Art Moystner said I think they ended up going a different direction.

Greg said did they get a vehicle though?

Art Moystner said I believe they did.

Greg said that's what I understood.

Art Moystner said yeah, I believe they did. I think they just went a different direction to get it. The offer was given to them.

Todd said alright. Thank you.

Art Moystner said you're welcome. Any other questions? Thank you.

Greg said thank you, Art.

**Minutes January 6, 2026**

Greg said okay, on to the next. We've got the minutes of the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting to approve.

Todd made a motion to approve. Bev seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Encumbrances for 2026**

Greg said okay, next on the list is encumbrances for 2026. So, for all of the encumbrances for 2026, the total is \$126,219.94. Do I have a motion?

David made a motion to approve. Scott seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

<b><u>Transfers</u></b>	<b><u>From</u></b>	<b><u>To</u></b>
<b>Children's Advocate</b>		
\$499.00	Volunteer Recognition	Coordinator Fee
\$499.00	Dues	Coordinator Fee

\$999.00	Training/Schooling	Coordinator Fee
\$499.00	Cell phone	Coordinator Fee
\$80.00	Postage	Coordinator Fee
\$999.00	Travel/mileage	Coordinator Fee
\$800.00	Office Supplies	Coordinator Fee

Greg said okay, moving on to transfers. Can we do this all at the, all this is children's advocate, isn't it?

Nikki said yes.

Greg said do it all in one swing, okay. For the children's advocate, the total amount for all of that is \$4,375.00.

Mike made a motion to approve. Todd seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Additional Appropriations:**

**Edit**

EIRPC Dues \$9676.40

Greg said okay, additional appropriations. This is for the EIRPC dues, \$9,676.40.

Todd said I have a comment on this one. So, yesterday, I heard at the commissioner's meeting that it takes, we have to give them, we're supposed to give them 12 months advanced notice.

Greg said which they have gotten for the next year.

Todd and so we gave them notice that we are out in 2027, but we are, since we didn't give notice, I think we're basically in for 2026.

Greg said that is correct.

Todd said we heard Missy say the last meeting was productive. When Sydnee was asked about this a couple of commissioner meetings ago and it didn't sound, so, the Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, okay, it sounded like from listening to Sydnee that they don't connect, that there's no, not much is known from Randolph County United side about what Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Committee does, and I would have to think there's some overlap here in, I realize one's a county and one's a region, but I think the intent for both is to deal with economic development. Am I wrong?

Scott said I would have to agree with you, Todd.

Todd said I would like to see some coordination there if we're going to you know, make a decision over the coming months whether or not we should be in this. It would be good to have, I don't know if Sydnee could commit a resource to go to those meetings or what we could do, but I feel like they need to be on the same page. And I think she's gone, but, you're on that board, Scott. I feel like we don't even really, I mean, so they have one good meeting, the meeting before that was terrible.

Greg said and multiple meetings before that was terrible.

Todd said yeah, so, I don't know where to go on, I don't know if there's any value in it. The commissioners would like to know if there's any value in it. I think it would be good to have a, if you know, she's an expert in this area, I think she would want to be connected in some way to what they're

doing. That's my thought on this whole, these two bodies because it feels like they have a lot of overlap in there.

Greg said yeah, there is some overlap, and I don't know to what extent, but I do know one of the things that they had talked about at those meetings is Brownfields.

Todd said sure, things like data centers and things like that are talked about in those meetings. So, I'm sure she would have something to offer to them, they would have some information she might not get otherwise. So, can we coordinate that?

Scott said yeah, I'll reach out to her, because I definitely feel that if we're going to be a part of that, Sydnee ought to be included in that.

Todd said right. It's more valuable information to her than I think it is to us.

Scott said I would have to agree with you, yes.

Todd said anyway, having said all that.

Scott said with that being said, we've given notice that.

Greg said yeah, the notice has been given that this is our last year.

Todd said and at any time during 2026, we can, you know.

Greg said I think we've got, we've got to give them 90 days advance notice if we want back in.

Todd said okay.

Scott said I will reach out to Sydnee and see if maybe she can attend the next meeting they have. Maybe she can attend that with Missy.

Todd said any I think you're still on that, Greg.

Greg said yes, as far as I know, I'm still there.

Todd said I make a motion that we.

Greg said has anybody else got anything to say?

Todd said oh, I'm sorry.

Larry said I agree the conversation, keep our thumb on it, make sure we're going to get our bang for our buck.

Greg said yeah, so far, I've not seen any return on our investment in it, but maybe things will change now that they've got a different leader.

Todd said I make a motion that we make the additional appropriation to the EIRPC dues of \$9,676.40.

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

**Opioid Restricted**  
**Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition \$15,333.35**

Greg said next on the agenda is the Opioid Restricted, Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition for \$15,333.35.

Larry said just a little comment, Greg.

Greg said yeah, go ahead.

Larry said I don't know exactly what the \$15,333 contains. I knew we had the 3-year program that we were going to put up \$10,000.00 a year, maybe, Dave, is this separate from that, or do we know?

David said I think that's something we'll have to get with Laura to see what actually was the.

Greg said right here the letter I've got that we're supposed to sign says from January through May, we were to pay \$1,666.67 per month. June through December we're paying \$1,000.00 per month. And I assume that adds up to the 15,333.35.

Larry said so, that's a whole year?

Greg said that's a whole year, yes, that is correct.

Larry said I thought we only committed 10,000, but I could be wrong.

Greg said well I think that was on something else.

Larry said on a different program?

Greg said yes.

Larry said okay.

Greg said I don't know that that, I don't think that was on the restricted, was it?

David said I can't answer that without Laura.

Greg said but I can't say it for sure. Do you remember, Nikki?

Nikki said I don't.

Larry said I can investigate it.

Nikki said I can look.

Todd said there was one commitment related to suicide prevention.

Larry said yeah, that one, that's the one I was talking about.

Todd said so I think that's what we're getting confused with.

Greg said yeah.

Larry said okay.

Greg said this is drug prevention and yeah, the other one was with the, Stephanie Patterson.

Todd said study of Randolph County.

Greg said and I don't think it was, I think it was the other opioid, not the restricted.

Todd said right.

Beverly said can we postpone this until next month? I don't know.

Greg said I don't know if there's a dead line on it. Do you, Nikki?

Nikki said do you know if there's?

Danita said I mean, you can table it if you want to, but I believe it's in the contract that was started last year and this is just continuing on the appropriation to pay them out their monthly invoices they'll submit.

Missy Williams said didn't we just commit \$10,000.00? I don't know where that's coming from.

Larry said and then another question being why is it a certain amount until one month and then it goes to 1,000 the next?

Greg said that, I cannot answer.

Danita said the first year was a certain amount and then the 2<sup>nd</sup> year was a lesser amount.

Larry said less, right.

Danita said yes. So, I think the 2<sup>nd</sup> contract, the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual contract was for 12,000, which would be a \$1,000.00 a month. It just started like in June and then it will go through May. Then it will start over for the next year, which is a lesser amount.

Larry said June the 26<sup>th</sup>. But that gets into some of the guidelines of the suicide prevention.

Todd said we probably just need to get Laura to clarify at the next meeting. I think probably what we did was approve 2025 expenses and now we're looking at 2026. But I don't know, she can say. I move to table this until the next meeting.

Scott seconded the motion.

Larry said I'll work with Nikki, or get some exact, when Laura gets exact details.

Greg said okay, citizen comments.

Todd said we didn't vote on it. We should probably

Greg said oh, excuse me, excuse me. All in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Citizen comments (3 minutes)**

Greg said okay. Citizens comments. Is there anyone in this citizenry out there that wishes to make a comment? Hearing or seeing none, I'll move on. I'll go around the council table. Scott, do you have anything?

Scott said I do not.

Greg said Todd?

Todd said just a quick question for David. So, the 8 projects that I have that we want to keep top of mind, am I getting them all? Airport terminal, jail, morgue, road for the quarry, bridge commitments, five years' worth, courthouse security, move of corrections to inside the courthouse and highway department building. Did I miss any?

David said nope. Those are it. Well, the airport. Did you have the terminal?

Todd said yeah that was the first one I said, airport terminal, yes.

David said okay. I missed that.

Todd said and then as far as in progress projects, I'm not counting the jail because I don't know if it's started yet, but the airport hangar, I think, is the outstanding project. There may be others, but that's the only one I can think of.

Larry said I think that's a great idea to get a spreadsheet or make sure we stay up with that because like you say, people change, conditions change.

Todd said well I think if we'd have been maybe kept up to date with the airport hangar, we might not have had a surprise you know, late into the project.

David said right. Where does that all end up? I mean, does anybody know for sure?

Todd said at the commissioners meeting yesterday, they verified that we have been, that the plans were approved by the state and that there was a request for payment approved yesterday, to the contractor that had a withhold. So, there's still some money being withheld. But a payout was approved yesterday for that project.

David said so, was there any accountability with anybody out there?

Greg said in what way, David?

David said well here you built a building without a state permit, somebody should have been held accountable.

Scott said you had an engineer on.

David said and an architect and engineer, you have a board of aviation, you have a director of the airport and nothing.

Greg said Missy, you and I were both at the last meeting they had. The way I understood it, you correct me if I'm wrong, the way I understood it, the contractor's taking all the blame?

Missy Williams said yes. That's what they told us.

Greg said that's what I thought.

David said so, is there any monies that are going to be available because we've gone 3 or 4 months without renting those hangars?

Greg said well allegedly, that's some of the money that's being held, withheld to pay all that.

David said I just think it was very poorly done. That's what started me with these 8, or 7 or 8 projects we have that we need to keep a close eye on because.

Scott said we need to manage them better.

David said right, well, we hire people to do that, then they're not doing it, is my problem.

Greg said and I don't know the order, I'm trying to learn that yet, engineer and design and on and on and on, but they were, the claim that I'm hearing from the people at the airport was that they were lied to by the contractor. That's what I was told.

David said well somebody's.

Scott said we should be dealing with the engineer.

David said right.

Scott said the engineer construction manager, not the contractor. And that person should not let something like that happen.

Greg said correct.

Larry said wasn't the claim yesterday for the firewall that they, they put in the firewall and finished it, and I thought that's what the claim was for. And I could be wrong.

Greg said I don't think so.

Missy Williams said I think that's, yeah, that was my understanding.

Todd said I don't know. I thought it was a final payment towards the progress.

Meeks said there's \$50,000.00 retainage on that bill.

Todd said yeah.

Bob McCoy said they're still holding 40,000 according to the president.

Meeks said on that bill was 50, so it could have been 40, I don't know.

Larry said on the total hangar?

Meeks said yeah, for everything, yeah.

Larry said but my understanding the firewall was finished and they may have paid for that, I'm not sure.

Todd said I wouldn't think that they would have paid any additional from the original quote, you know, that's not on any of the, that should be, as you said, if the contractor took the blame, he should have taken the hit from an expense standpoint. So, hopefully, that, I didn't hear that bill clearly explained yesterday.

Greg said I didn't either.

Todd said but I don't believe it was in addition to the original contract. I believe it was part of the original contract with retainage, so that is there are any things that occur within the next several months, there's a, some money to have someone come in and fix or correct.

David said well it's just a concern of mine on these other projects. That's why we need a list and.

Larry said one of us can get clarity on what from yesterday.

Greg said as I said, Missy and I sat at the meeting and I wasn't, I wasn't clear on some things that was talked about in there.

David said that's all I have.

Greg said okay. That's fine. Mike, have anything?

Mike said nothing.

Greg said Niki?

Niki said no.

Greg said Larry?

Larry said I don't believe so.

Greg said Beverly?

Beverly said I'm going to be out of state next meeting. I will not be here.

Greg said okay.

David said I just have 2 things real quick. I think everybody got a letter yesterday from Julie Wilson at the Purdue Extension office. I'm not sure how it's all structured. I think we need to have Julie probably, come in here and explain, because the original intent years ago on the contract with Purdue was for 3 county extension educators and this is saying they will have one, the letter yesterday, one dedicated professional here and the others will go out to different counties. To me.

Greg said we don't need to be paying for.

David said there you go. Why are we paying for, why weren't we called to the table when they decided?

Beverly said I saw the yesterday and then as well.

David said the contract is for 143,000 I think. Let me get it here real quick, so I don't mis-quote. Yeah, \$131,335.00. We spend about almost \$300,000.00 out there in different buckets with the budget is about 204. That's including 131,000, and then there's \$69,000.00 building and grounds maintenance, 4-H fair and mowing. It's such a valuable program to Randolph County to start dicing it up.

Larry said I agree with you. That's a perfect example of how, because Randolph County, then all of a sudden, it's 3 counties.

David said or 4. We don't know.

Larry said when you expand, you obviously, you lose your buying power and your manpower.

David said who's their liaison to 4-H here? Can you contact?

Greg said absolutely, I was going to.

David said okay.

Greg said because I'm, I need clarification on it, myself.

David said I just want to know what we're doing and I gave Meeks a copy of a contract. I have a copy of the contract. It didn't specify, does it, the amount, the individuals? But, I know as.

Meeks said it was weird, it doesn't even say that they can use our facilities.

David said yeah. And we just spent what, 1.8 million dollars out there in monies to develop one of the nicest grounds around for kids and I'm all for it. Don't get me wrong, but I just need clarification. The other thing I have is I'm active with the state legislative, I'm on the legislative committee for the county council, and everything is moving forward. Yesterday was the last day that bills could be heard. For example, in the house side, and or, senate side, then they'll switch over, the bills that get through the house side yesterday, will go to the senate today and vice versa, the senate will go to the house. Senate bill, let me see here, let me get that back out, is to do with townships, it's house bill 1350. It's township reorganization. It looks like it's going to pass. So, I don't know in what extent, what changes are going to be made, but there's going to be some changes made in the townships. There again, there wasn't much input from the counties on this bill, which concerns all of us on that legislative committee. Some of the other things are excise tax and wheel tax. They don't think that'll go anywhere. What it was for stacking. If the county had a wheel tax, the city couldn't do a wheel tax also. And I think we split it out anyhow.

Todd said is there a senate bill version for township reorganization as well?

David said I can't answer that. It wasn't on our list.

Missy Williams said no, I don't think so.

David said I'm guessing they'll use the house bill.

Todd said an attempt to reconcile the two, I didn't know if they've got their own version.

David said health insurance is another eligibility there was concern about. If elected officials must be, if one's offered one, it has to be offered to all of them. For example, you have full-time elected officials, and you have the county council and county commissioners. If it's offered to the elected official full time,

it has to be offered to all the county council and commissioners. And right now, Randolph County does that. So, we're, but that, that's, went for the third reading yesterday. There's going to be a lot of what I'm concerned about, there's going to be a lot of changes going forward. We'll have to keep our eyes and ears open. Some of these will take effect July 1 this year and some of them will be next year. So, whoever's here next year is going to have to really stay on top, and I didn't know if anybody wanted to step up to be on that legislative committee after I'm done this year.

Todd said I would be willing to do that if you could come and show me the ropes.

David said I can. We're having a complete change over there. A lot of us that are on the legislative committee are not running again for next year. But it's a big committee. It's about 50 people, and we do a zoom meeting every other week.

Todd said I guess I need to see what my re-election status is. Let me get back with you on that, if I'm running against anyone, because it would probably be better to have someone preparing for this who's not up for re-election just in case. I mean, I have one thing. You brought one thing that reminded me. Yesterday during the commissioner's meeting there was a fairly lengthy discussion on policy that would affect our budget related to emergency days. And there was a motion to ask Irwin to come back with options I guess, for what to do on an emergency day for people who are not able to work. Obviously, during a snow day, there are certain departments that are working, have to work, especially have to work. Highway department.

Greg aid sheriff's department, EMS.

Todd said sheriff, EMS, so, the problem gets into an issue of fairness and our policy dates back to over 10 years, I believe on.

Greg said 14 I think they said.

Todd said and like, you know, I don't know where that's going to, it's too, it's premature to say where that's going to go. But one of the options that was discussed was adding to PTO banks or, and what that implication would mean if it was like tied to emergency day only. It started just, you know, once, when you get into these things that you start to, you forget all the situations, because you've got some people aren't even scheduled to work that day, you know, because they're part time, and you get into issues of fairness. So, just kind of keep in mind this discussion is going on and Irwin is going to come back with some sort of proposal or at least some options maybe. But it's going to affect us because it'll be a budgetary decision.

Greg said very much so. Meeks, you have anything?

Meeks said I do not have anything.

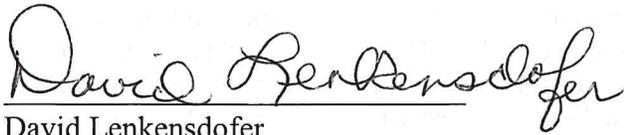
Greg said thank you. Anyone else again?

**Next meeting date: March 3, 2026**

**Adjournment**

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

Reviewed and accepted this 3 day of March, 2026

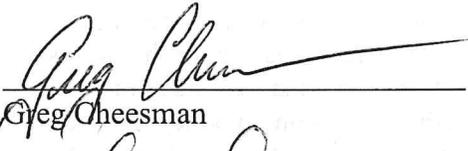


David Lenkensdofer



Larry Preston

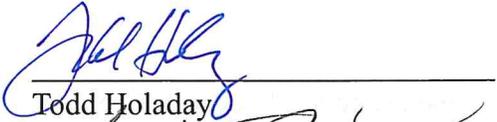
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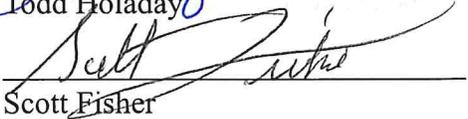
Greg Cheesman



Mike Stine

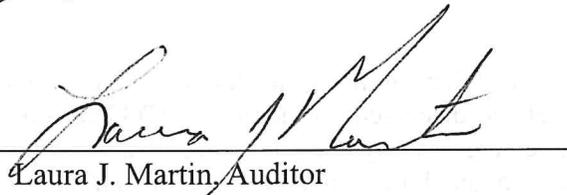


Todd Holaday



Scott Fisher

ATTESTED:

  
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Laura J. Martin, Auditor