

Randolph County Commissioners

March 18, 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 Dave Lenkensdofer giving a council update, Dave.

Dave Lenkensdofer said due to the situation, I'll make it brief today. We had a short agenda at our last meeting, but we did approve the J&K Communication maintenance contracts. So, they're all ready to go. Will Greer was in from Parker City and brought us up to date on their project, which was a nice project over there. And the final thing I have today is what I call a Randolph County financial. I'm putting this together because of, for use for the county council, and I want to give you guys a copy to just review. This was still temporary, which not in stone yet. But there's an item right there, for the payroll committee, I don't know if it's six and seven, that will be helpful for.

Mike said we get that on our agenda, so, we'll find an appointment for that today.

Dave Lenkensdofer said okay.

Mike said okay, any questions of Dave?

Gary Girton said no.

Mike said okay. You're going to stick around for the next item, I trust. Missy, Tom, either one of you have anything to share this morning. Okay.

Chris Shaneyfelt – VHS usage end date, shift updates

Mike said Chris, do you want to step up?

Chris Shaneyfelt said morning

Mike said morning Chris. So, the first VHS usage and end date and shift updates, I think we're going to push back until April 1st. I think the first item that we probably should address is the emergency declaration.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yes sir. I typed up a continuing declaration, or continuation for the declaration. When the tornado struck, I got ahold of commissioner Wickersham and had him sign an initial declaration of a disaster, and that was done Friday morning at 12:15 in the

morning. And then, had it continued until today's meeting where it has to be in an open meeting and signed, and it'll extend the declaration for 30 days. And then we take that to the clerk of the courts and file with the clerk of the courts, and then we'll send it to IDHS, and follow the normal routes from there. But that's just part of the continuing process of the tornado. And we'll update as we need to each 30 days.

Mike said did you get a copy of it? Gary, did you see a copy of it? Do you have any questions for Chris about it?

Gary Friend said no.

Mike said you okay with it? I'd entertain a motion to approve the continuation of local disaster emergency declaration.

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

Mike said you just need one?

Chris Shaneyfelt said all three and then attest by Laura.

Mike said no, I mean one copy?

Chris Shaneyfelt said yes.

Mike said okay.

Chris Shaneyfelt and I'll get that stamped by the clerk of the Courts and then I will scan and send it to Laura.

Mike said so, what else do you need from us? Can we offer you, and I guess, our attorney and how do we get there?

Chris Shaneyfelt said at this point, as you are aware, the next morning I had a, they sent a management team, mobilized and brought to the county, and with it, they brought an incident commander, planning chiefs, logistics staging, we have people here from IPSIC. So, those folks are all here. They're helping us run the incident, as it is right now. Commissioner Wickersham signed the delegation of authority to allow that team to manage, Commission Wickersham and Mayor McCoy, to manage the incident. And that's what we're currently doing. The only thing that's changed in that process is we've changed out incident commanders. So, we have a new incident commander at this point. And, coming into the IMT team today is folks from long-term recovery and they're going to help us start meeting with the auditor's office, the clerk's office, so we can start capturing everything we need to for the financial side. At some point, IPSIC is demobilizing today. They're going back to Indy because we no longer need their services. And throughout the week, we'll start getting smaller on the incident management because we're getting to a point now, most of the stuff is winding down. But they may be here for another day

of two. And then, we'll be dealing more long-term with Larry Cassagne and his long-term recovery folks. So, at this point, I think we're okay. Were just on the attendance for the daily meetings at 7 for as long as the IMT team is here, so, we can keep you guys informed. And then, just watch your emails regularly so, if we have to send things to you.

Mike said okay.

Chris Shaneyfelt said just wanted to brief you a little bit. When the tornado struck, we had two people in the 911 center. One was a fully vetted one, one was a trainee that's been there six weeks. In that first hour and a half, they took 2,900 radio calls. And between 7:30 and midnight, there were 150 - 911 calls. Now they did not answer all that. As the tornado left the area, I had three other people came in so we had 5 people working up until about 2:30 in the morning. But 5 people handled those calls and some of those 911 calls did roll over to Wayne County, because you can only answer so many. So, Wayne County, I know of for sure, answered 16 - 911 calls for us. I have the logs of those as well. So, two people, when that hit, getting the tornado sirens sent, and then dealing with every first responder talking and yelling at the same time, they did very well, very well. And actually, all the first responders did incredibly well, getting everybody to a hospital basically, by midnight, and then having over 21 ambulances in the county to transport those folks out.

Mike said for what I've seen, a job well done by everybody.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yes, everybody's done real well.

Mike said and Amire is here, and he's with the incident management team. If you want to introduce yourself Amire, I don't know if you have anything to say going forward?

Amire said I have been assigned as a deputy incident commander since it started. I've stepped up to the incident commander now, until at least, we demobilize. Our job is here to serve the community in any way we can, and identify your needs and try to manage those working with the EMA, the sheriff's office, the mayor's office, the county officials. So, while we are here, our job is just to assist the locals in getting to the recovery point, and then having a smooth recovery period. So, these initial steps are important. I have the same feeling as the EMA director just pointed out, the county and the city and all the officials have done a great job. It is going to be a long road, but I think you are on the right path and you have the right people here to do it. That's all I have. Any questions?

Mike said I don't have any. I don't know your ladies name, but I do know Gavin's name. I didn't know if he wanted to say anything or not. Gavin, I know you lead those meetings in the morning.

Gavin said I try to lead them. But, we just appreciate the hospitality. It's been fantastic support and get you all back into the recovery process, and if any needs come up in the next couple of days, please let us know.

Mike said thank you.

Chris Shaneyfelt said this is Cassie Parker. She is the district 6 liaison. She is usually the one that talks to me on a regular basis, and she's assigned to our county, as the liaison.

Cassie Parker said so, I'll still be here to support Chris and the community once the IMP team leaves, to help with the state coordination.

Chris Shaneyfelt said and then, this is Amy Lindsay. She is with Franklin County EMA. She is a former member of IDHS. She went to the emergency management side. And I've had a couple other EMs up here assisting us. And she's kind of here now just trying to help do some of the things that I can't do and take some of the burden off of me. So, she's here in a mutual aid capacity. So, you may see her face instead of mine at some things. Okay?

Mike said okay. With regard to the disaster, the highway department has been pretty involved and I thought we might get a report from them now. If you don't need anything else from us?

Chris Shaneyfelt said the only thing I would say is the concern during the Ops meeting this morning about 211 rolling over into Ohio for the state line residents, we've addressed that issue. We're going to publish another number that'll go directly to Indiana. That's just the thing about the state line, people close to an Ohio cell tower, that's what happens. And they don't know about it.

Mike said you might just share what 211 is for the record.

Chris Shaneyfelt said okay. What 211 is, it's a reporting number where things like this tornado, it registers people that have tornado damage, they're registering as a victim, and then let's us know that they've got some sort of damage to their property, whatever, and we can go and do an inspection of the property. But then it also, like if we have volunteer groups that need to come and help clean up, we can have that address now, and we have it captured. And we can start working with them on getting individual assistance, and stuff like that as the process goes forward. So, it just kind of brings us all these groups that we know that need the information, we will have that information, then we can push it out to you know, spread sheets and stuff like that.

Mike said okay. And before I ask Jay and Mike to come up, I guess Mayor, Mayor Bob, do you have anything you want to share with us this morning? I know you've been awfully since this thing hit and a lot busier than I have been, that's for sure. I didn't know if you had any needs of us or want to share anything?

Mayor McCoy said no, I mean, as a whole, this community, this county, this state, has pulled together, the governor was in right away, lieutenant governor. Just a great collaboration of everybody at this point. Kind of overwhelming trying to, the whole volunteer thing is over, I mean, I can't get involved in that, so, anybody can help to keep that somewhat organized, that is a nightmare. Field house has got a lot of supplies. I don't know who is being served, but there're a lot of people being served that probably weren't even involved, that, I'm sure that happens everywhere where there's a bunch of free stuff. But overall, the highway department, everybody, ISP has been great. They are slowly pulling back. And I've had concerns about

people possibly looting and stuff still, so, we are basically, working overtime as a city to patrol areas that may be difficult as ISP pulls back more. So, hopefully though, the residents will be able to take their belongings out. Gas Light addition is actually, in my opinion, probably ready for the insurance companies to basically say, hey, it's a total disaster, start hiring your contractors. We talked about building permits. But, I explained to the residents we may try to stage a little bit of that as far as the building permits goes, so, we don't have total chaos down there with everybody down there at one time, because we've had enough of that as it is. But, things are, basically, I'm explaining to my people, let's slow it down. There's not a rush, we don't have anybody buried, trapped or whatever, we just need to slow it down and start hauling debris to the landfill. That's something, you guys got connections to the landfill, we are going to be hitting them really heavy. I couldn't tell you how much stuff we've got. I don't even, I can't even imagine how many semi loads we have, or dump trucks.

Mike said have you not taken anything out there?

Mayor McCoy said I think some has been taken out there. Mike, I don't know, do you know whether stuff has been taken out there?

Mike said we have been.

Mike Haffner said yeah, yeah. We're taking all loads

Mayor McCoy said so, we have not, as far as the private contractors and our guys, we've been taking everything to the street department and kind of had a little bump with IDEM, so, we took it someplace else, but it's staged and it's going to be moved within ten days. I mean, and I don't think that's a, it shouldn't be a problem for IDEM. Now if it is, it is. But, I mean we can't just pick up a load of brush and take it to the landfill. That's just not, it's not feasible. But everything, like I said, I'm feeling a little bit more at ease today and I've got a lot still going on, lots of phone calls, but we're slowly working with people. I asked I&M for a list of all the houses affected, that way we can start basically, filing paperwork that the sewage bills stop. They don't need bills coming to them. They don't even have a house, so, things like that.

Mike said okay.

Mayor McCoy said I appreciate it.

Mike said we do have a meeting, or hope to have a meeting with Danny Tinsman from Best Way tomorrow afternoon to talk about the dumps out there.

Mayor McCoy said let me know and I'll try to be there.

Mike said we'll keep you on that. And then, from a volunteer standpoint, it's my understanding that Dan Baker from, the president of Randolph United is coordinating the volunteer effort at the high school. That's the people I presume.

Chris Shaneyfelt said I don't know the name. I just know we have somebody from the community that is doing that. And he's being assisted by some of the, like the county fire department chiefs and stuff like that to help control that. Then we have another emergency, today, it's Brad Fisher, that's going to be doing staging managing. So, when we need equipment to go to a certain neighborhood, then we can send them that way and move from there.

Mike said okay.

Chris Shaneyfelt said to clarify the items that are at the field house, it is a tornado relief center, but Randolph County is a food disparaged county, so, it doesn't, to us, matter whether they're a tornado victim or they need diapers and whatever, because once this tornado is over, we're still going to have a bunch of stuff. And what we get rid of now, we can get rid of now and that's great because then we don't have to try to find someplace to store it. So, if people are in need, just go get the stuff.

Mike said I think a young lady this morning said something about they're going to try to coordinate some of that down at the field house.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yes, at some point, we've got to start coordinating that.

Mike said somebody's taking over charge of that. And then, I guess we have offered the Red Cross space at the Randolph County Community Family Opportunity Center and Jake is going to meet with them at 10:00 this morning to see if it's appropriate. So, told them they could use that.

Chris Shaneyfelt said and the only other thing is after, immediately after this, if Mayor, his clerk and then Laura and Mike and Dave can come over to meet with Larry Cassagne so, that you guys could get up to speed on the financial side. Okay?

Mike said right. Okay.

Chris Shaneyfelt said any other questions?

Mike said I don't have any right now.

Chris Shaneyfelt said alright, thank you.

Mike said Sheriff Moystner, do you have anything for us?

Art Moystner said the only thing I would say is, I guess I would like to go on record, and compliment that the team from the state, they've been a definite asset. Any of the first responders, state police, local law enforcement with the county, city, I can tell you within 20 minutes of the initial touchdown, I think I heard from surrounding sheriffs, everyone of them that touched this county, for help. I'm not sure Chris, did we even send out a message for first responders to start in?

Chris Shaneyfelt said we didn't have time.

Art Moystner said and it just, we were just completely you know, overwhelmed with support. I don't know what the furthest agencies were that came in from, but it just goes to show that the first responders, whether it's fire, EMS, law enforcement in the area, were out by the time I got into town that night. The volunteers just from the community so, the community really came together. And I guess as the sheriff, I would thank everyone involved in this. I don't think you could have had a better response from the community. I think we were truly blessed.

Mike said appreciate your input.

Art Moystner said absolutely. Thank you.

Mike said any questions of the sheriff? Gary? Okay. Mike and Jay, do you want to come up and tell us, kind of give us a report on what you guys been doing?

Jay Long said first off I made some packets for all of you.

Mike said we opened that up for everybody.

Jay Long said yes, yes, and this started from the 14th on into the 17th and some of the 18th. As you know, we still have more data to collect on that. We'll be able to get that to you today. Basically, we have three groups out. We've got one out on Greenville Pike, east of 27. We also have one in town, and we also have Wayne County that is here today helping us out, and they brought a lot of personal.

Mike Haffner said they brought two grade all's. They've got special attachments with grapples on their grade all that just makes work a lot smoother. We've got dirt buckets. We want to preserve the yards and their property the best we can, so, I sent that group there. And then we're actually, they're going to loan us one of the grapples that we can attach to ours for weeks on down the road. And then we're looking into purchasing one ourselves. It's a specialized piece of equipment, but it, we've got a lot of our water systems in creeks that's got a tremendous amount of debris and to save manpower and getting somebody hurt, the grapples really make nice work. So, that's what we're doing.

Mike said so, are you going on private property to clear those ditches and waterways, or is it just off the right-of-way?

Mike Haffner said initially, we've been working right-of-way to right-of-way.

Mike said okay, probably the best thing to do.

Mike Haffner said we are not now, of course, the city is not our right-of-way, but we've been sitting on the road grabbing materials.

Mike said so, have we done any culvert inspection out east of town?

Jay Long said actually, I have drove Base Road and I was going to concentrate on Greenville Pike today. Base Road had a bridge out by 200, had a guard rail that got smashed down, but we also had some people that were burning trash, so, it was making it hard for us to get to it. So, hopefully, there isn't a fire going on today and we can revisit it.

Mike said and it's kind of one of the things, that I know Dave has raised concern about Base Road east all the way basically, to the county line.

Jay Long said yes.

Mike Haffner said yeah.

Mike said it's a disaster of blown trash and torn buildings and the whole works, and I understand that Amy Alka at the Extension office is having a meeting with the farmers pretty much as we speak, and according to my source, they're probably going to try to organize their own private property cleanup team. And he assured me that he thought they could do it, and asked me if they did that and brought that debris to the right-of-way, if the county could pick it up and haul it away?

Jay Long said yes.

Mike said and I think it's appropriate that we do that. So, that would be when, I guess when the incident management says you're released from what you're assigned by them at this point in time, which is priority, then we go out east of town and we start taking care of that. I would suggest we just move west to east on that, and do it that way.

Mike Haffner said that's pretty much the operation we're at. We're doing the emergency first, and then when they release me then, but, yeah, right now, we're just basically, trying to stay the best in our right-of-way. Sometimes they can't quite get it close in the right-of-way, but if I can reach out there and get it, I get it. And it's kind of amazing how you clean the pile up and then a few hours later, a new pile appears. So, it's going to take multiple trips. You all know we've been within a quarter of a mile of your place for several days.

Mike said okay, Dave, do you have any thoughts for us on that?

Dave Lenkensdofer said no, not on that particular, but the drainage, we're going to have to address going forward.

Mike said and I think, I was advised this morning that one of the things we would want to look at is the culverts across the road, underneath to make sure those are clear and to keep those clear. I'm sure there's debris beyond that, but that's going to have to be a situation I think that, beyond that, I think we want to include the surveyor and maybe even water and soil or Amy Alka at Extension. Yes, Amire?

Amire said we're going to go right after this meeting, take a drone out to comb the area to identify needs that are hard to reach by vehicle and get some pictures and footage. So, that hopefully, will help us identify any. We'll share that information.

Mike said that'll be good. And Amire has a drone. He recommended that it would be a good thing for the county to invest in. I told him we could invest in that but I'm not sure we have a county personnel that could run a drone. I know I can't.

Laura said Amy Alka can.

Mike said Amy Alka can. So, that might be something we'd want to consider after we get through this. Any questions of Mike or Jay?

Gary Friend said the only, I mean this is all priority, there's nothing else, we need to get this all cleaned up, we don't have any other. Are you suspending any projects, because I would, to keep on this?

Mike Haffner said well, we suspended pretty much all of our road projects.

Gary Friend said which I think we should.

Mike Haffner said and we've got highway still shut down, but we're going to have to get back on those roads pretty quick, because of all the traffic that has occurred, that's just even over loaded the rural roads even more, than we've had a lot of roads shut down so, you know, then I'm just, we're going to have to make time to inspect those roads to make sure they're safe. As far as I know, we have not had any calls otherwise.

Gary Friend said Jay, how's, your family got hit pretty hard too, didn't they?

Jay Long said yeah, my father has passed, but we actually lost his place. So, I've not, I've not really had time to deal with that. I've been focusing here.

Mike Haffner said I just want to personally thank Jay. We've been here like everybody else, you know, working long hours, and I basically, had one of the last commands I'll ever give, I made him go home for 2 hours out of like 48, so, to check on his family. So, I do appreciate his dedication and I, you know, I can't coordinate everything, the emergency control and task force if he wasn't out running the crews and we're in a transition point now, that I'm letting him do the more manager part, and then I'm running the crews. So, that's kind of where we're at.

Mike said any other questions? Do you guys have anything else to share with us or need anything with us?

Jay Long said I just want to give special thanks to all the personnel and everybody, the emergency crew that's helped, Kevin Cook, Sean Bosworth, everybody we've been meeting every day to make sure that we're not running on top of each other, you know, and everybody knows where everybody's at, and it's been a good group effort.

Mike said good.

Meeks said I will say that Kevin told me you are doing an excellent job.

Jay Long said you know, I wish I would have, you know, I bumped into him and I wish I would have met him. He has a lot of knowledge and I like working hand-to-hand with him.

Meeks said he couldn't say enough about you.

Jay Long said thank you. Appreciate it.

Mike said okay. That's all I have on my list for emergency response and we're moving into recovery.

Mike Haffner said now the fuel, and I think everybody knows, but I'll just, you know, as of Thursday, with power and everything, we did service, you know, just like the mayor said, we had people with almost empty tanks before they had got here, so, we did fuel whoever needed fuel, and that's all been logged and tracked.

Mike said all been tracked and logged. So, it all amounts to disaster relief, wherever that might come from, and if it comes. I presume the county has got responsibility for matching and all that.

Mike Haffner said it's a tremendous amount of paperwork too. We're actually ahead of the game.

Jay Long said and like I said, we had our secretary there for, you know, the whole time, but their main focus today is to get you guys a better report than the one I gave you, a little follow up, so, I'll have her email that out to you.

Mike said okay. Thank you. Anything else? I guess we'll move on down the agenda and wait on the next report. So, thanks for coming.

Debra Johnting – Ordinance 2024-03 Amendment to zoning map – third/final reading

Mike said next item is Debra Johnting. I don't think Debra is here. But this is ordinance number 2024-03, an ordinance to amend the zoning map of Randolph County, Indiana. Relates to the Shawn and Brooke Patterson property at 552 East 400 South. And I believe this is our third reading on that ordinance, and I would entertain a motion. I've not heard anything about any negative, so, I'd entertain a motion to approve and adopt this ordinance on the third and final reading in name only.

ORDINANCE NO.2024-03

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP OF RANDOLPH COUNTY, INDIANA

WHEREAS, Shawn & Brooke Patterson, Property Tax Key #009-00738-01, State Key #68-13-09-700-022.000-016, 552 E 400 S, Winchester, Indiana, 47394, Randolph County, Indiana, having heretofore filed a petition with the Area Planning Commission requesting an amendment to the Zoning Map of Randolph County, Indiana;

WHEREAS, the Area Planning Commission of Randolph County, Indiana held on January 17, 2024, pursuant to notice, a public hearing on said petition, as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of Randolph County, Indiana have received the Area Planning Commission's report of a Favorable Recommendation of said petition to amend said Zoning Map;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that said Zoning Map (APC2024-2-Z) be, and the same is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. The following describes real estate located in Randolph County, Indiana, which is now zoned R-1 (Residential, Medium Density) shall hereafter be zoned A-I (Agricultural, Intensive). Legal description is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit "A".

Section 3. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon passage by the RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

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

Mike said Ordinance 2024-03 is hereby adopted.

Brad Mullen – EMS Training

Mike said I don't see Duane, but I think Brad is here. Are you here representing Duane, Brad?

Brad Mullen said yes.

Mike said and this is on the EMS training.

Brad Mullen said I apologize. I don't have all the stuff done because of the stuff we were doing last week, but we have a, we have the funding for it, and we just wanted to let you guys know and get you guys' approval of getting this for all the employees at the EMS. It's a two-year plan

and it will give them all their education hours that they need to keep certified. It's all internet based. It'll be sent to an email each month and you do a certain amount of training to get your hours in. And that's going to make everybody stay certified and you don't have to worry about missing a re-certification date, stuff like that. We do have the funding for it. But we just wanted to let you guys know and make sure you guys were okay on board for it.

Mike said and you don't miss any training by doing it on line as opposed to?

Brad Mullen said no, the only thing they're required to do is the audit and reviews, and they're in person or on line. And our medical director sets them up each month. So, this will give them the exact amount of hours they have for state and registry certifications to keep them active.

Mike said well if you've got the money, and you shared it with us, I'm not sure we need to approve it, but I think we can if you want us to.

Brad Mullen said I mean, I just want to let you guys know that this is our plan. It renews every two years, and it will start as soon as we sign the papers with them and stuff like that, and get it rolling.

Gary Friend said this is for current employees?

Brad Mullen said yes.

Gary Friend said I know we've talked some time back, maybe a couple of years of getting some funding out of the budget into where, as the sheriff does, there's money in training people so, we can get more people involved in EMS, young people that want to get involved. Maybe you and Duane can talk about that and, I'm all for this of getting our own people receiving their hours and training up to date. But, I'm not opposed at all, to funding set up to where if you take someone out there for training. So, something to think about.

Brad Mullen said yeah, we have kind of a modified system of that. I mean, I would like to upgrade it a lot. There're a couple classes out there that we're looking into sending people to being certified field training officers, so they can have that training, and then we have stuff in writing on what exactly, you have to get this done before you get released. And there're certain steps you have to go through.

Mike said okay. Thank you.

George Caster – Proposal for department upgrades, request for ARPA funds

Mike said George.

George Caster said how are you guys doing today? Well sort of seems like a moot point after what happened Thursday, but I've got two things I need to address. One, came up because of Thursday, and one was already set up before I come up here. One is we do, I do require the commissioners to order a re-assessment of the damaged area. And, part of this is because Mr. Shaneyfelt is going to be needing valuations from me to turn into FEMA for FEMA funds. And,

it also affects the people who were affected by this disaster, is that they get to apply, if they apply, they get a portion of their taxes this year to pay. And of course, going forward, I mean, they don't have anything there to pay on anyway. But, to do that, I've got to have an order reassessment of the damaged area. And though, I could do it, does it satisfy IC that, I could order one, but it's not really, doesn't satisfy the IC code. I need the commissioners to order for the damaged areas identified by Mr. Shaneyfelt and his staff for me to do the assessment so I can get accurate valuations to him and you guys so you know where your financials are. And I've, I spent this weekend, I did not go really west of Winchester because the time I was spending from the state line to Winchester was pretty massive. Finding places where it had, just getting an eyeball of where we're at. But I'm going to go over today and get more data from him. I've got three teams. That'll leave one person in my office to answer questions, but I've got three teams we're going to put out on the road to start doing these valuations. We have the forms already done up for the individuals to sign, that they're saying yep, we agree with this, and we will be submitting that to the auditor for reduction of the tax bill for this year. And then of course, their assessment for going forward will be as it is. But, to do that, I just need an order for reassessment. And that just came up. It wasn't really quick enough to get it on your agenda so you would know what was going on with this. My main purpose here was, have you got any questions on that? I mean, I just, is it unclear what I'm asking or?

Mike said a little bit for me.

Gary Friend said me too.

Mike said so, why don't we look at your request here, and go by what it relates to. That might be the better thing to do.

George Caster said okay. This request was what I had done up prior to Thursday's activities. This is a request for ARPA funds. It says first, you know, the taxpayer and such, I believe, any reduction we can make while giving the best service possible is paramount, is in a requesting \$265,300.00 ARPA fund request, facilitate various improvements and offset three to five years of budgetary value to help lower tax rates. Now you've got questions, so.

Gary Friend said I don't think, I mean, I don't think we should use an ARPA fund to offset the General fund. I just don't, I don't think you should try to relieve the general fund who has a tax base to take care of this, switches to ARPA funds.

George Caster said okay.

Gary Friend said I just personally don't think that's the right spot.

Mike said I trust it's going to be an ongoing expense for the county.

George Caster said it is going to be an ongoing expense if you approve any of the stuff. If you don't, then it's a moot point.

Mike said but if we approve it out of ARPA, then once ARPA is gone, it's, we either have to do it all over again, or, and it's not approved, or, we find it in the General fund. So, if we can find it in the General fund today, we skip all that.

George Caster said right. But if you also look at some of this.

Gary Friend said the General fund is there and can handle it, and has handled all of this, because you also have an assessor's fund that the council adjusts tax rates to, to help with your assessments. So, some of this is, I read the other report all the way through, and this is brand new, it doesn't even match up to it.

George Caster said well no, I reduced the value, because I thought it would be better to do that. My major concern was there are things in there that if we pay it off, we don't have to budget it, or mess with the general, or mess with anything later on. We're going to be paying, every time I come to a council meeting, every year, I get a, for the budget meeting, when are we going to stop paying these contracts? Well, I'm trying to figure out a way to pay these contracts that we don't have to pay for them anymore. That relieves that budget. I would also like to have a vehicle for the county assessor to go out and do these things, because we're tearing up our own cars and we don't get any benefit back from it.

Gary Friend said do you get mileage?

George Caster said yeah, but that doesn't fix tires, it doesn't fix.

Gary Friend said well I'm not trying to be argumentative.

George Caster said I mean, I'm just saying is we're just trying to use our own.

Gary Friend said can you make a new report, at least for me and the commissioners that eliminates County General's support year-to-year operations, which is about every single year, to what would be an ARPA specific thing that we could help the assessor's office with, and not include your budget in it?

Mike said and the example of that would be the purchase of a vehicle.

Gary Friend said yes.

George Caster said well then, I guess the section two, right there in the middle.

Mike said starting with \$40,000?

George Caster said yes. That's for the vehicle. \$5,000 a year, I guess that would be a budgetary thing.

Mike said I think so.

George Caster said and then, there is a \$140,000.00 to pay out the current CAMA system that we would be budgeting every year. But, we can take that off of there.

Gary Friend said is that in your assessor's tax rated fund?

George Caster said yeah, that's what we're part, we're budgeting that.

Gary Friend said but we're taxing to pay it. We're putting a rate to it, right?

George Caster said each year, yes.

Gary Friend said then that's out of place right here on this, because there's a rate established to pay this expense for the assessor's office, the tax rate, the property tax rate. Am I right?

George Caster said yes, but, and every year I get a question, when are you going to stop paying this? I'm trying to alleviate that problem. But there's also some issues where I would like to extend our current system with a user friendly add on, and that's pretty much the first part.

Mike said is that outside your budget right now?

George Caster said it's outside the budget right now. It doesn't even, it's not included in the budget.

Mike said and you don't have any assessor funds to do that or?

George Caster said well it's \$13,000.00 to purchase.

Mike said I know.

George Caster said and \$9,000.00 a year to maintain it. That's pushing out of the budget because I don't have that in there right now.

Gary Friend said and once he agrees on doing this way a little bit on your tax rated funds, would this be restrictive? So, you're going to collect the tax, if you don't spend it, it builds, it can't be used in another area of the county. ARPA funds is a pretty non-restrictive. And you could tie up funds that go into an account that's now restricted to only assessor's use, because you've already taxed for it. It's in the rate.

George Caster said okay, because every year you budget it, so therefore, that's when the tax rate gets set, right? If I don't have to budget it, then the tax rate is not set for that. That's my logic. Okay, that's why I was trying to get it so it's not being forced to do that, because we're going to lose money for the next few years, which all this damage has taken away. You're going to have businesses not paying any taxes as they rebuild. There's nothing to tax, except their land. You've got homeowners who it's going to take awhile until they get homes rebuilt, if they do. Not going to be tax money from that. So, I was just sort of thinking outside the box, to try to

alleviate the county's responsibility on some of this, and use some of the funds that we have to get what we need. Then we don't have to budget it later on. That's what my concern was.

Mike said and so, your request then, to narrow that focus down, would be a \$13,000.00 purchase to add onto your current CAMA system?

George Caster said correct. It's a user-friendly thing, allows them to do stuff on line. They can file forms. They can get data that right now we do not have the ability to get.

Mike said so, and then, you also don't have any assessor funds that would be able to pay for that maintenance?

George Caster said currently, no, because it's a new thing. I would have to then try to budget that in for this coming budget. And I'd just like to use it just paid for through the next three, four years, while the county is losing, don't have the funds until people get rebuilt.

Mike said okay. And then I guess how many miles are you putting on your personal vehicles?

George Caster said well, we're, a year, we're probably putting in anywhere from 5 to 6,000, you know. I don't spend a lot of time on the road like my contractor does, who we pay to be on the road. But when I go out, I just, and I know, Gary has told me this before, I just don't feel, I don't feel right charging somebody for me to go out to their house to check it out and then come back. I don't do mileage like that. Now when I go to classes, because I have a mileage rate, if I travel outside the county, or go some places, yes, I'll do a mileage thing.

Gary Friend said are you referring to what I said it was your driving for business, you have the right to charge mileage?

George Caster said yeah.

Gary Friend said and you do.

George Caster said I know I do, I just don't feel that, to me, I don't feel right doing it.

Meeks said what does the county on mileage? Is it the federal?

Mike said state rate.

George Caster said yeah, the state rate.

Laura said I think it's 49 right now.

George Caster said right. You know, when you go out to some of these places like for new construction, stuff like that, you're in mud, you're in areas that really cars can't go into, and you have to stop in the road then walk in, and then you're carrying about 50 pounds of stuff back with you off your feet that you've got to get off. I just don't have any vehicle that lets me go out

there and do these things. And I'm not even asking for anything major. I just want a vehicle that will get me just to point A and point B around, and let me do our jobs. But if that's not feasible, that's fine. You know.

Mike said sounds like you're talking about a 4-wheel drive truck.

George Caster said or an SUV. I don't care. Anything that will get me from point A to point B and I can get out there without getting stuck and do all that or doing damage to personal vehicles, I just thought it would be legitimate since, with the other vehicles that are sitting around here. But, if it's not, the commissioners don't find it feasible, I'm okay with that.

Mike said what is the state mileage rate?

Meeks said about 50 cents 49.5. I think the fed's 65.5.

Gary Friend said it's 15-year payback.

Meeks said yeah, and the mileage rate includes wear and tear. That's why they do it, not just gas.

George Caster said right. But if you, the amount of miles you put on and the payment you get aren't going to pay for certain things that. It just, I was just understanding that you know, I wanted a vehicle for the county to go out and do their job like other offices have, but if it's not feasible, then that's fine. I'll just deal with it.

Mike said and really, it's not going to pay for your wear and tear if you don't turn it in every time you get in it for the county.

George Caster said well, I understand that.

Mike said I agree with Gary on that, and it, the other county highway vehicles, they're putting a lot more mileage on them than 6,000 miles a year, George. And it makes it, well I shouldn't say it, other than the airport. The airport does not. We bought a car for them, I don't know how many, it was before Tom Chalfant, so, that tells you how long ago that was. And they still have that car. So, I don't know, do you have any questions Gary Girton?

Gary Girton said no, I agree that the big thing is from what I'm hearing is every mile that he drives, he needs to log in, because the commissioners or none of us expects somebody to donate their vehicle for nothing when they're out on business for the county. So, I think that needs to be paid as it occurs, but no, I don't think in my opinion, we can't justify a vehicle for the 5, 6,000 miles to drive in a year.

George Caster said well that's what it's being used now. I didn't say that's all we're going to have.

Gary Girton said I understand that.

George Caster said because I know there's been also concern about getting rid of the contractor. Well that means, because we could do the work, we don't have to have a contractor, if I have staff.

Gary Friend said well I think we were talking, and council I guess, but we were talking about using the contractor, go all contractor and keep the small staff. That was the direction we were going, not the reverse.

George Caster said right but it cost more for a contractor than to put us in there doing it.

Gary Friend said when council looked at it, at that time, it didn't.

George Caster said I understand, right. I know we've had this discussion.

Gary Friend said yes.

George Caster said and there is a agree, disagreeing part of that.

Gary Friend said yes, there is.

George Caster said okay. But I know what I'm paying a contractor for one person, and it's a lot more than what I asked for free. But we would be doing the work ourselves, instead of having other people doing it for us and paying them to do it. So, you know, I guess I just pretty much am sorry that I have pretty much wasted the commissioners' time on this.

Gary Friend said you're not wasting time, George. That's not what we're talking about.

Mike said and I think, I'm not necessarily opposed to the add-on of the system.

Gary Friend said I'd do that right away.

Gary Girton said oh yes, I agree.

Mike said the ability to file on line and you make a good point that as our tax receipts drop, it's going to be harder for you to find money in your budget to maintain this. So, I would authorize the payment of the maintenance of that equipment for the next three years. And that would, I come up with \$40,300.00.

George Caster said correct.

Mike said and I would be, I think that's appropriate and I'm not saying the car is not appropriate, but I think you're going to have to show us that it makes more sense for us to buy a car for the assessor's office, to just to pay you for your mileage coming out of it.

George Caster said oh, I understand. Okay.

Gary Friend said I agree completely. This is something that can be brought forth at the budget when there's more input to it, more taking a look at it. One of the things that has us blind a little bit on it is getting two different reports to study off of. I agree with Mike, the \$40,300, that's what we've done to a lot of other departments, is enhance, not cover their budgetary needs, just enhance their able to serve the public, if that make sense.

George Caster said yep. I get it.

Mike said so, someone want to make a motion to that effect, that we authorize the assessor to upgrade?

George Caster said yeah, and the only thing that changed was the last, the only thing that changed in the report is the last bullet point, because when I went over my calculations, I actually, for some reason, got an extra zero in there that I didn't account for. Well, I came up with \$300,000 instead of \$30,000. Because there're also classes that, not only myself, but the future assessor and other people are going to have to have that are not offered by the state, and they're not on line. And they have to travel. We have no way of budgeting that.

Gary Friend said like Mike said on the vehicle, we do see, I do see assessor vehicles in other counties. I'm not saying prove it, but give us information that justifies. You're saying you're not even taking the allowability now. What I was meaning, you take it, that's why we budget it, so you can do it. Don't feel guilty about it.

Mike said I'd entertain a motion to approve from ARPA funds to the assessor in the amount of \$13,000 to purchase an add-on to the current CAMA system, and for \$27,300.00 to provide the yearly maintenance for that system for the next three years.

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

George Caster said alright, thank you very much.

Mike said well thank you, George.

George Caster said and what do I need to explain about the declaration?

Gary Friend said the declaration?

George Caster said yeah. The reassessment order.

Meeks said I think you go and do it, right?

Gary Friend said yeah.

George Caster said I just need an order stating an order to reassess damaged areas.

Meeks said is it good enough for, if they put in the minutes, have a motion and approved?

George Caster said I don't have to have an ordinance. I just got to make sure it's approved.

Meeks said is it okay to have a motion and they approve it, and then.

George Caster said yes sir.

Meeks said okay.

Gary Girton said so moved.

Gary Friend said okay, real quick, I just want to understand what does it do?

George Caster said what this does is allows the individuals who are having damage to file for relief so they don't have to pay taxes this year and next year. If we do not have that.

Gary Friend said any damage, all damage or total damage?

George Caster said disaster related damage period.

Gary Friend said disaster related.

George Caster said that's why I asked for the damaged area.

Meeks said but you don't need a resolution or an ordinance?

George Caster said no, I just need an order, an order of the re-assessment.

Meeks said why don't you guys make the motion and then, if you need anything else, George, for now, then we'll get a resolution, because I think you're going to need a resolution, but I don't know.

Gary Friend said I mean, I will second the motion to reassess the damaged area.

Mike said so a motion to authorize the request to reduce or eliminate taxes on tornado damages property, is that what we're looking for?

George Caster said well you are ordering the re-assessment of the damaged areas. Is that what I'm hearing?

Mike said yes.

Gary Friend said that is what I seconded, re-assessment.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

George Caster said I'll contact you today with the specifics.

Meeks said oh, I'm certain you're going to need a resolution. So, just talk to the state.

George Caster said based on the IC Code I read, all it says is an order.

Meeks said okay. Talk to the state. The order will be in a resolution.

Mike said can you send Laura that IC Code that you read? I'd like to see that.

George Caster said yeah, I'll send you the whole thing that comes with it.

Meeks said send it to Laura and send it to me. We'll be good.

George Caster said alright.

Meeks said I'll make sure you guys get it.

Mike said okay. Thanks George.

Mike Straley, Lynn Town Clerk – Keeping \$150,000 for water tower project

Mike said Mike Straley, Lynn Town Clerk. Okay.

Mike Stults – Scale server agreement

Mike said Mike Stults, Scale server agreement. This is a continuation from our last meeting? Got any news, good news for us?

Mike Stults said yep. So, we discussed internally, looking at the additional costs that were pushed on from scale about the recertification fees, and LEAP is willing to take on half of those costs. So, \$1,200.00 of that would be our responsibility, \$1,200.00 would be the county's responsibility to take that on. Once that's signed, moving forward, no down time, no issues with Scale. We'll take care of it on our side and make sure that everything is up and licenses are done.

Gary Friend said do we have a fund for this?

Laura said I don't know how much is in there. We have to do an additional appropriation to do it, but we do have a line, but we've taken other stuff out of that line, so I don't think we have enough. If not, we need to do an additional to cover.

Gary Friend said I make a motion to pay the \$1200 out of the current fund.

Mike said well it's \$21,792.03 is the total, because we have to get up to speed on our base.

Gary Friend said yeah, okay.

Mike said the \$1200 is because we have to have a recertification. So, you're going to approve it all?

Gary Friend said yes.

Gary Girton said so what's the total then?

Mike said \$21,792.03.

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

Mike said anything else for us?

Mike Stults said yeah, a couple other things just to kind of give you guys a network update situation through the incidents of last week. When everything, service never went down, internet stayed up at the jail, and the courthouse, both had power. Buildings that didn't have power, when the power came back up, network came back up right away with the new switches. So, internet was available to them right away.

Gary Friend said one question, didn't we lose phone service for a matter of a minute or two? I know we have a constant supply center.

Mike Stults said there was a 911 issue. I didn't get a chance to talk to Joey about that, but he did have the ability.

Gary Friend said just one question, if we have the ability to make that not happen by a constant power supply, could you tell us why we lost phone service for a minute or two?

Mike Stults said was it all of the county that?

Gary Friend said I don't know.

Mike Stults said I'll have to look into it. I'm not sure if that was all the county or just 911, because 911 phone services are separate outside of us. That's something that they have direct support with.

Mike said Joey was in the jail.

Mike Stults said he was. He was there that morning for a while. He got here Friday morning, was making sure that everybody had what they needed taken care of.

Mike said and I got word that your firm was bringing over food. I don't know if it ever got here or not.

Mike Stults said it did.

Mike said I didn't get a sandwich, I know that.

Mike Stults said Chic Filet actually donated like 200 sandwiches to us. Gary brought a van with some tarps and electrical cords and just other things, 20 cases of water, but it sounds like everyone is inundated with cases of water. We can't get rid of it. They got water for years. So, we, yeah, we came over tried to help out as much as we could. And with that being stated, if you guys do hear of anyone that is having any technical issues, or anything like that, companies, businesses, non-profits, we're willing to assist you know, and work with them if it's affected from the disaster.

Mike said we appreciate your effort on the recertification. Thank you. Any questions of Mike?

Gary Girton said no. Thank you.

Mike Stults said thank you.

Gary Friend said I'll ask Chris about the one or two minutes.

Mike Stults said yeah, I'll try to get more information as well.

Mike said town of Losantville is off the agenda for this month.

Jackie Welch, Randolph County United – Stellar Pathway Program

Mike said Jackie Welch, Randolph County United, Stellar Pathway Program. Andy Fahl, Randolph United chairman of the board is here with her. Morning Jackie.

Jackie Welch said morning. So, I'm just here today to kind of tell you guys about an opportunity that we have as a county to apply for the stellar pathway grant program. They have offered this in the past from OCRA, heads that up. And there are 16 other communities that have won this. So, I don't really need anything I guess today, just to kind of bring you in the loop on that. And I sent that program out to you guys so you can see the funding and things that will be available. So, essentially, we will apply with a letter of intent. That's due May 1st, and then from that, they select four communities that then get to move forward and put together a plan for the community to receive this funding. And then, out of those four, they'll choose two. So, I'm just here asking if we have your support for Randolph County United to move forward to apply and submit that letter of intent?

Mike said I think so. And you're a county-wide entity, so I would say that we would authorize you to represent the county of Randolph to make application for the stellar program.

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

Jackie Welch said and then we'll come back and keep you guys updated on how we do on that.

Gary Friend said yeah it looks like it's about a 9-month long journey.

Jackie Welch said yeah, uh huh.

Andy Fahl said and Jackie and Dan have already gone to 2-day training on this, and we already have a format. We have a plan moving forward. We didn't want to be presumptuous, but we thought it would be appropriate to get this implemented. There is a May 1st deadline for a letter of intent. So, we kind of had to get something going.

Mike said I kind of told them I didn't want to do it, so I didn't know if you guys wanted to, I kind of give you a heads up, but I didn't know if either one of you wanted to serve on that committee to represent the county or not. They kind of got me by default on that committee, but I don't need to be there.

Gary Girton said you will be a good one.

Mike said well thanks, Gary. End that conversation.

Gary Friend said I agree with Gary.

Mike said anything else for us?

Andy Fahl said I think that's it.

Mike said okay. Thank you. I mentioned earlier Dan Baker is running that high school volunteer center and I think he's doing a pretty good job there.

Andy Fahl said I'm going to go find him before I leave town, check in with him. Thank you.

Jim Nunez – Permission for Courthouse lawn (WCCPC and Wicks car show)

Mike said Jim Nunez, permission for courthouse lawn, WCCPC and the Wicks car show.

Gary Friend made motion to approve.

I have a motion to approve both of those. Do I have a second?

Gary Girton said do what?

Mike said I have a motion to approve the courthouse lawn being used for WCCPC and a Wicks car show on May the 25th, I believe. Do I have a second?

Gary Girton seconded the motion. Two aye votes. Mike Wickersham abstained. Motion carried.

Meeks said I did have a question, Jim. I did walk the cemetery, and Jim is big on the cemetery, do they need any help, or how do you help the cemetery? You might tell people so they can help. Grandma and grandpa are still there, so we're okay, Jim.

Jim Nunez said yes, we've been getting some church groups out there. And I've been getting a lot of phone calls and stuff, and my main purpose is to get all the streets, the help out there, and then there's been some over to the cemetery. And been having a lot of trees that came down, and we're having groups that have been cutting and sorting so we can have some veins open, some of what I say veins is streets, some of the roads open so we can get traffic going through there for, to movement, and try to get some of the head stones and stuff, and debris.

Meeks said who do they need to call? Who do people need to call? I've been asked.

Mike said well really, if they're going to go out there and volunteer and help, I would advise them to go to the high school and register, and then if they want to particularly help the cemetery, just say can I go help the cemetery, and I'm sure they're not going to say no, he need you at Meeks Cockerill's office. So, the reason for that is when they get registered, that volunteer credits our contribution to any FEMA or disaster.

Meeks said it's a real mess down there. I walked it yesterday.

Jim Nunez said that's what I was going to say is, and that's what they asked me to make sure that they are registered there at that fieldhouse. First, I was telling them at the high school. Now, since it's moved from the high school to the fieldhouse.

Mike said no, it's at the high school.

Jim Nunez said oh, it's at the high school? Okay.

Mike said the volunteer people are at the high school. The food is at the fieldhouse, food and clothing and, I guess they have furniture down there as well.

Gary Friend said this just happened yesterday, the transitioning?

Mike said yeah, they just transitioned all that out of the high school to the field house.

Jim Nunez said I've been busy in my district, so I just been in my district and at the cemetery and trying to just, try to balance both sides at the same time. So, yeah, that's the way I'm doing, but people are just floating in, and of course, I just let them help us out. And it's going good, going good. But, yeah, that's been handled by both.

Gary Girton said how much damage, other than trees is there?

Jim Nunez said head stones.

Meeks said there're a lot of head stones, Gary. There are a lot of head stones.

Gary Girton said did it destroy or just knocked over?

Meeks said a tree fell on them.

Jim Nunez said yeah, it's destroyed. It's destroyed. We're no different from the Gas Light Addition. We're no different.

Gary Girton said well I know that, but I mean, the head stones.

Meeks said anyone a tree hit, now if the tree didn't hit, it's probably okay.

Jim Nunez said yes. If it didn't hit it, it moved it.

Mike said and some probably, depending on the tree and how it hit it.

Gary Girton said so, what's going to, said some of those, probably there are no relatives or people that remain here?

Meeks said some of the ones I saw were 1800s.

Gary Girton said I know. So, what's the plans to handle that situation?

Jim Nunez said well we're looking at insurance and stuff, but some of them just can't be, you know, they're so old, and just shattered. They shattered. And they were, they were, all we're going to do is just.

Mike said have you called 211?

Jim Nunez said not yet. We're just trying to just.

Mike said because they'll come out and assess it for you.

Jim Nunez said yeah, we're just trying to, trying to put, we're just trying to get everybody organized and just try and get removal. We're trying to get removal. Just trying to do that right now and back to business. So, that was for we did the car show. Now the other one is for the Marti Gras.

Mike said we did both at the same time.

Jim Nunez said okay. I wasn't paying attention. Okay. So, I think my job's done.

Mike said okay. Very good.

Jim Nunez said thank you guys for everything.

Gary Friend said thank you. I would take Mike's advice and get ahold of 211 right now.

Jim Nunez said okay. Thank you.

Other Business:

Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff

Mike said Art, you've already reported once. Do you have anything else?

Art Moystner said I do not, sir.

Mike said okay. Thank you.

Minutes of March 4, 2024

Mike said we've all received a copy of our minutes of our last meeting of March 4th, 2024, via email. Do we have any additions, corrections or variations to those minutes?

Gary Friend said the only correction I seen, and I can't tell you what page it's on, I'll find it for you. It said Joe Batt was here to interview. He was here to introduce the people.

Laura said okay, I can correct that.

Mike said okay. We have that one correction. Gary Girton, do you have any corrections?

Gary Girton said no.

Gary Friend said I'll make a motion to accept the minutes with correction.

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

Payroll Claims \$321,881.56

Mike said payroll claims at our place in the amount of \$321,881.56.

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

Regular Claims \$1,514,780.18

Mike said we received a copy of our regular claims in the amount of \$1,514,780.18.

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

Randolph County United claim \$20,134.34

Randolph County United Tourism Claim \$2,365.66

Mike said the next two claims are Randolph United claims, our regular monthly claim in the amount of \$20,134.34, and the Tourism claim in the amount of \$2,365.66.

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

Mike said I will say that Scottie Harvey has now retired as the Randolph County Tourism director. There was a reception for her at the hotel conference room on Thursday evening from 6 to 8. It was well attended by the community. Yvonne Shepherd has been named our new tourism director. She's a Randolph County United employee and the Tourism commission approved her appointment and hiring at their last meeting. So, a new lead there.

Housing Resource Hub Claim \$2,000.00

Mike said next item is s Housing Resource Hub claim of \$2,000.00 and I'd entertain a motion to approve that claim.

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

Mike said I have been involved two or three meetings at the Housing Resource Hub of late, and they told us that they've not been as attentive to our needs for housing in the county as they should have been the last six months, and through the efforts of Randolph United and Jamie Meadows, a developer who's on the steering committee, and Paul Faddis who is on the steering committee, and both mayors, they've agreed to step up and give a stronger effort to meet with the employers, look for and find some developers that might want to come in and help those developers we have now to market their products. So, I think, there's going to be a better effort in that, and obviously, there's going to need to be a better effort. The housing inventory has shrunk quite a bit.

Gary Friend said wasn't one of the things they were going to do is see to it that we got a development as part of their sale of this.

Mike said and part of that is, we already had existing development. That's kind of where it got a little gray. We had the Grey's development over in Union City. MK Construction had developed north of town, and there're a couple of others going on. But then, one of the projects the mayor discussed is the Waltz building here. The rainbow room has been taken down, and the corner building over there, there's a group that's kind of interested in doing that. So, that is one of the things that they're going to step up and do. And I think it kind of got a little sideways because we were so far along in that early picking catalyst projects that, I guess there's one in Farmland that they're considering too. So, that's the western part of the county. And they indicated that even though our contract will run out in the next 9 months I believe, they would stay here as long as they are needed, at what I would consider, the offer was at no expense, additional expense.

Salary Study Committee

Mike said next item is a salary study committee, and since I'm on that stellar pathway committee, I thought Gary would be interested in that salary study.

Gary Friend said I'll do it. I did talk to a couple of people that's on there, if I was allowed to be on there, to coordinate those meetings in the evening. And I know Mike Stine said he needs the same thing. If we do that, there're a lot of things I can do in the evenings, meetings and stuff.

Mike said are you okay with Gary doing it?

Gary Girton said yes.

Mike said well good. So, Gary Friend is our salary study committee appointment.

New flags (4) for courthouse

Mike said and then a request here, we need 4 new flags for the courthouse. And that would be two on the north side, two on the south side. So, I'd entertain a motion to approve the purchase of those.

Gary Friend made motion to approve. Gary Girton seconded the motion.

Mike said can we take that out of the commissioner's fund?

Gary Friend said yes.

Laura said yes.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Additional Appropriation (Tabled from 3/4/2024)

Health Department	
Mobile Phone	\$440.00
Contracted Work	\$37,440.00
Other	\$72,120.00

Mike said brings us to Additional Appropriations tabled from 3/4/24, a mobile phone, this is for the Health department.

Gary Friend said I knew you tabled for \$72,000.0 for other with no.

Laura said okay. So, I handed you something that had that, but she put the account numbers on there and I'm sure you guys don't know what those are. I asked Sherri if she could share with you what those are, because without looking them up, I couldn't tell you.

Mike said morning Sherri.

Sherri Thompson said good morning.

Mike said saw a lot of Wendy this weekend.

Sherri Thompson said yeah. Been pretty busy since Thursday. The first line, that is social security for the phone line. That's the social security amount. The second one is Medicare for the mobile phone.

Mike said those are taxes?

Sherri Thompson said yeah.

Mike said for the stipend for the phone?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Mike said okay.

Sherri Thompson said I don't have the numbers completely memorized. So, the \$37,000, line 5, that is contracted employees.

Gary Friend said didn't you hire employees?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Gary Friend said so, what's the contractors with that?

Sherri Thompson said that is for the assistant to the school liaison, the admin person. We've had that since the beginning. It's not a new position. And then, I've split the rest into supplies, clinic supplies and office supplies. The 39 is the clinic supplies. That is to purchase things like hygiene products for the school. This is all to do with the school and that grant.

Gary Friend said this is all for the school?

Mike said so the clinic supplies is line 8, what, line 6 and line 7?

Sherri Thompson said yeah. They're all, I've just split them between the amounts.

Mike said so, there's clinic supplies, there're admin supplies and then there's a third?

Sherri Thompson said there're office supplies.

Mike said office supplies, and then the third one would be?

Sherri Thompson said let's see. It might have been maintenance, travel, training, that type of thing.

Gary Friend said line 3 and 4?

Sherri Thompson said yeah, line 3 was the travel I believe.

Mike said okay.

Gary Friend said line 4?

Sherri Thompson said training.

Mike said and then line 7 or 6, one of them is office, I don't know what the other one is.

Sherri Thompson said I can't think of that off the top of my head.

Mike said well I think with an explanation of the majority of them, I think we probably could go ahead and approve the additional appropriation. I would recommend that, I don't know, do you guys, do you know all these numbers?

Sherri Thompson said me?

Mike said no, I'm talking to Dave and Tom. Do you know 8910, 39104, do you know what that is?

Dave said not the numbers themselves.

Tom Kerns said we went over it at the council meeting.

Mike said oh, you did?

Tom Kerns said uh huh.

Mike said you've already been, have you approved them?

Tom Kerns said we did.

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

Mike said I think that brings us to the end of our agenda. Thank you, Sherri.

Sherri Thompson said thank you.

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

Laura said I do not.

Mike said Meeks, do you have anything for us?

Meeks said no, just tell people a lot of people need help. A lot of people don't have insurance. I know the Community Foundation has a fund. Missy might know of other people.

Mike said tornado relief fund at the, and I really would, I don't know if anybody's been down to the field house, but I do know I saw a sign out in front asking for donations. I'm not, I don't want to say don't do that, but I don't think they need anymore water. I don't think they need anymore food at this point in time. I would encourage people if they want to help, give cash to the Community Foundation.

Meeks said and Missy does a really good job putting things out and John Brutchen on his face book, he does a pretty good job of telling people.

Gary Friend said I think the Community Foundation for cash.

Mike said yeah. Made that clear to.

Meeks said there's already been two, I think Missy told me there was two fake go fund me pages.

Mike said yeah. I'm sure there are.

Missy said well not here, not here.

Meeks said not here.

Missy said they told me that the mayor in Sullivan County contacted Bob and said we got scammed.

Meeks said and you know they'll give us the right people, the Community Foundation.

Mike said Gary?

Gary Friend said I mean as president, you've got a lot going on, if you need help with any of that stuff, I'll be glad to, just let me know.

Mike said Gary Girton?

Gary Girton said no.

Mike said I've got a couple things. One is, Randy Abel and the mayor kind of mentioned it, he's going to be potentially slammed with building permits, and we do have a demolition permit process in the county as well. And I'm not sure anybody's applying for those.

Meeks said the tornado took care of that.

Mike said I didn't know if we should maybe waive that or not. IDEM was concerned about the demolition taking care of asbestos and household hazardous waste. Asbestos, IDEM is only concerned if it's a commercial building or if it's a residence with more than 4 people in it. So, I don't think we have the enforcement out there to stop anybody from hauling away a home if they

don't come and get a demolition, so I'm not sure. I think that's probably going to answer itself. I don't know if we want to make statement that we don't have them. I would say that if somebody wants to take the time and come and get one, then we'll give them one, and then advise them about household hazardous waste, because the permit, the other problem with the permit is that it, the asbestos has to be signed off by IDEM before it's released. But, I don't know how that balances with a household with three people in it.

Meeks said I'm telling you, it, I know what they did on Richmond Street, and you're not going to, make whatever motion you want, they're going to clean it up.

Mike said so then, the other matter is getting Randy help should he need it. And I don't know where he's going to find that help other than maybe, I know, Pierce Mangas contracting helped us before in that office, but he may be pretty busy. And I told him if need be, maybe reach out to the neighboring county, and if they have extra help, maybe he could bring him in under a part-time situation to help him.

Gary Friend said that would probably be a good idea too.

Mike said so, he's going to look into that. And then the other thing I had is that IDEM recommended that we might want to develop our own county burn ordinance. And the state has a burn ordinance, which is pretty inclusive. And I left the meeting with them, I don't know, Friday, Saturday or Sunday morning, I don't know which, thinking we might want to do that. But I read theirs and theirs is subject to a \$500.00 fine if somebody turns them in and somebody goes out and investigates. And they basically said we have people, but we don't have a lot of people, and we have people, but we don't have a lot of people. If we put a burn ordinance in place, it's going to take, with a \$500.00 fine, it's going to take a minimum of 6 weeks to get it implemented, plus 30 days after that I would guess, unless we declared an emergency. And we've got people burning stuff out there already.

Gary Friend said I'd declare it an emergency.

Mike said huh?

Gary Friend said I think it's an emergency.

Mike said do you think we ought to have a burn ordinance?

Gary Friend said no, not right now.

Mike said okay, so, then I would say that we just let IDEM's burn ordinance cover the county at this point in time. Most of it is going to take place in the city, most of the debris, they're not going to burn because they have a burn ordinance.

Gary Friend said most issue with asbestos is when you burn the tiles and you release the bonding agent and you let it go.

Mike said so, I guess I would, unless you guys have a real sense that we need a burn order, I'm not sure we do.

Gary Friend said I do not. I'm not.

Mike said and then I don't know, I don't think we want to burden somebody with the responsibility to enforce that burn order. So, that's all I have.

Gary Friend said maybe the possibility of waiving new building permits?

Mike said the cost of them?

Gary Friend said cost of them,

Mike said Randy mentioned that.

Gary Friend said I'm in favor of waiving the cost.

Mike said I would be in favor of that.

Gary Girton said I don't have a problem with that at all.

Mike said do you want to make that a motion?

Gary Friend said yes, I'll make that motion, waive the cost of new building permits, any building permit from damage.

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

Meeks said I'll get a resolution for that. I'm certain.

Missy said you'd still have to get the permit though, right?

Mike said yeah, you just don't have to pay for it.

Gary Friend said that's where Randy's going to need help too, because a lot of codes that will need to be reinspected. There will be a massive amount of new homes being built.

Mike said yeah, he's aware of that, so. Which I guess it's fair to talk to this morning, I should bring it up as well, and it has nothing to do, but it's going to have an effect on, it has nothing to do with the tornado, but Debra Johnting in the Area plan commission has been pretty well over loaded over the last 2, 3 or 4 weeks, months, I guess, and Gary knows, because he's on that committee. And Randy had come to me and said that we're going to need to get her some more help or we're going to end up losing her. And we've got a highway superintendent position to fill, and we've got an EMS position to fill. As much as I've tried them both to stick around a little longer, they're not willing to do that. And I don't want to have a third position to be filled

right away. I do know that when I was on the area planning commission, which goes back 15 years and beyond that, we had a full-time reporting secretary in that office. And I think, you could speak to it, because you know better than I, but Randy thinks we're at that position again.

Gary Friend said we are, and you can tell, even from her demeanor in the meetings, that it's pretty stressed out, trying to keep up, and we had a full slate Wednesday night. There's a lot going on, which is good for the county, it's good to have but it's also beginning to over run their building codes.

Mike said so, I guess we need to find that old job description for that was a part-time, we're up to full-time. I don't know if we still have that or not. We'd have to create the position and then council, I would hope they would fund that.

Gary Friend said but to what you're saying, yes, I think we're on the verge of we better take care of it soon.

Mike said yes. Which brings up, we've got two pressing issues. April 1st our EMS director is retiring. And right now, to my knowledge, we have two applications. And April 12th, the highway superintendent is retiring. And I don't know if you've reviewed your twenty-some applications, and I know you've reviewed yours and I've reviewed mine, and I have two that I would recommend interviewing. And obviously, they were supposed to meet last Friday in executive session, and I guess I'll ask the question, do we have time to meet this Friday and then interview the following week, and then be in a position to hire April, to bring them in probably April 1st so that here he could work with Mike through the 12th. So, could we establish an executive session for Friday morning?

Gary Girton said I can.

Gary Friend said I can too.

Mike said 9 o'clock. Oh, I can't Friday morning. I have a trails meeting Friday morning. I could meet earlier.

Gary Friend said I could meet in the evening.

Mike said I could meet Thursday, I could meet Thursday evening.

Gary Friend said I could do that.

Mike said does Thursday evening work for you?

Gary Girton said I think so. I'm not positive yet.

Mike said when you say evening, how early is evening?

Gary Friend said six. Anything before that it's pushing on getting back.

Mike said I can't meet at 7. So, do you want to try Thursday evening at 6? Do you think you could do that Gary? That would be the 21st, for executive session. Is that okay with you Laura?

Laura said yes.

Mike said Meeks, is that okay with you?

Meeks said yep. Do you need me?

Mike said I don't think so.

Meeks said good, then I won't be here unless you guys call me. How about that? I'll be available by telephone.

Mike said you don't need Meeks do you, Gary?

Gary Girton said no.

Mike said well we're not going to interview. We're going to talk about who we want to interview.

Meeks said not sure you need me for either of those. You can call me.

Gary Girton said oh, that's right. I may not be here.

Mike said okay, that's all I have.

Citizen Comments (3 minutes)

Mike said have any citizens here that would like to make a comment, question, share? Well I'll share something as a citizen. Nature's wonder, my sister's house was destroyed and a man found a picture of my nephew unscathed in Versailles, Ohio, and returned it to him, Saturday morning. So, nature's wonder.

Adjournment

Mike said hearing nothing else, I'd entertain a motion to adjourn.

Sherri Thompson said can I add something? I'm sorry. I just want to let everybody know that today at 3:00, they're going to have Second Harvest food bank out at the park until 5:00, so, they'll be doing that. Also, the state is going to bring in a vaccination bus, and they'll be doing vaccinations and tetanus shots, that type of stuff.

Mike said okay. Not I presume that's out there on social media, so everybody knows.

Sherrie said yeah, they'll put it all out there.

Missy said the field house needs some volunteers.

Mike said say that again.

Missy said the field house, they need some volunteers, particularly from 11 to 12 they think.

Mike said and do you know if they're sending people that go to the field house, to the, excuse me, go to the high school, to the field house?

Missy said I assume they'll tell them if they haven't got, because it's all, it's been both places before. So, I assume if they go to the high school, they'll say, go to the field house.

Mike said I hope so, yeah.

Missy said they have been doing that.

Mike said well I also know that, and I guess, I'm not sure, Mercy Chef is here at the Compass Church, east of town and they need volunteers all day to day, and all day tomorrow and the rest of the week.

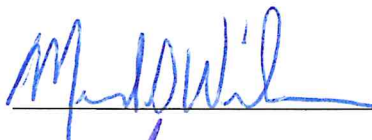
Missy said it's too bad. I wish they could move that in town because that way people whose cars were destroyed, they can't get out there.

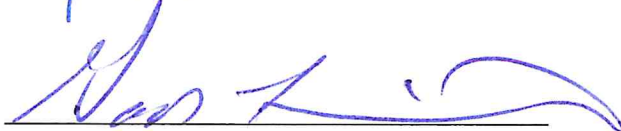
Mike said yeah. Well, they were delivering meals yesterday. Okay. Anything else?

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

Reviewed and signed this 6 day of May, 2024.

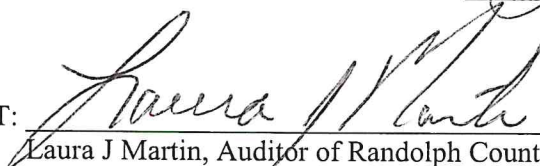
RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS







ATTEST:



Laura J Martin, Auditor of Randolph County