

## **Randolph County Commissioners**

**May 5, 2025**

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

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

### **Council's update**

Larry Preston said obviously our meeting is tomorrow so there hasn't been to much happen since your last meeting. Gary, myself and Laura was on the entrance interview of the SBOA Audit and the exit meeting will be next Monday. Talking with certain members they have completed their fraud risk assessment that was sent to us by the state. Talking with Laura and it will probably be mentioned after bit that Vault people will be here tomorrow to discuss the carbon project. That's about it.

### **Chris Shaneyfelt- Grant approval WTH Proposal**

Chris said you should have a copy of a proposal from WTH regarding a grant for \$7,500.00 to update the GIS layers related to 911. They were updated three or four years ago under a different grant to be Next Gen compliant but now Indiana is upgrading again. They want to use SEED grant money to update that. My understanding is that it is a pass through. I don't even do any paperwork with it just seek your approval and then if the state gives us the money then WTH files all the paperwork and does the work.

Missy made a motion for Chris to proceed with the grant. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Chris said that's all I have unless you have any questions for me.

Missy said yes, I have one question for you.

Gary asked how is it going. Is there any activity with the Ridgeville tower and what's going out there.

Chris said not since I heard from Tower King that they were ready to proceed. They ask about the key codes to get into the perimeter but beyond that I haven't heard anything.

Missy said I have got a quick question. On the GIS people can go to that sight and look at it and you can see so many things. How many other layers?

Chris said I don't know how many layers. Each agency that has layers own the layers. When you talk about layers, there is a layer just for our roads, there's a layer for boundaries and addresses, it gets really deep. I don't know but this is just focusing on 911 data. There are a ton of layers.

**Sherri Thompson, Kimbra Reynold, Stephanie Patterson -Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition, Suicide Overdose Fatality Review funding**

Sherri said I respectfully ask if we could come back. One of our presenters is not here yet.

Gary said yes.

**Ed Thornburg – Utility agreement**

Ed said I have a Comcast agreement for a drop.

Gary said I looked at it. I don't have any problems. Tom? Missy?

Missy said I'm not questioning you, I'm just curious and need some information. So, Frontier has come through almost everywhere within the city limits of Winchester, right and have drops all over the place. So, is that inside the city or is that outside the city.

Ed said this is outside the city limits.

Gary said this is a question I'll ask Jay and Joe when they get up here, but I've seen out in the county where people are barricading roads and saying road closed and it's not Randolph County doing it.

Ed said usually it's people doing a road crossing.

Gary said they don't have the right to close the road.

Ed said I know the people that close the road for me, they notify everyone in the food chain. I'm not going to say that everybody does that. But everybody that is working for us does.

Missy said back to my other question. Do you have maps of everywhere that anybody that is doing internet connectivity or networks is going?

Ed said I've got them but I've not got them on the GIS.

Missy said they have to turn them into you first.

Ed said yes, that's the stuff I bring to you. We keep all that. The bigger projects like the New Lisbon project. I've got an overall map. I don't have it on our system.

Missy said it will eventually get on there correct?

Ed said sure.

Gary asked would someone like to make a motion to approve this?

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

**Joe Copeland- 800 N & 1000 W estimate, bridge project funding through 2027**

Joe said I will hand out the two estimates.

Perry Knox said Commissioner's this is Mike Hoy he is our project manager from SJCA.

Joe said I don't know if you've had a chance to look at the numbers. 1000 West and 800 North is total \$4,462,000.00 and 800 North from the curves to State Road 1 is \$2,187,000.00. What he handed out gives more detail information as far as unit prices and quantities and things.

Gary said this shocks me, I'll be quite honest. I didn't expect it to be that for any phase of it.

Joe said it's not cheap. I talked to Milestone about subgrade treatment and the fella from Milestone, the general superintendent is who I talked to. He said the cheapest is probably cement stabilization. Using powder. Cement slurry is more expensive because they have to bring trucks out to haul it from the concrete plant.

Missy asked how thick would that be.

Joe said INDOT standards is usually 14 inches. Right Mike?

Mike said yes.

Gary said now we have to talk about what we want to do. How we want to fund it, how far we want to go.

Missy said who's going to pay it all?

Mike said part of that estimate assumes the quarry is going to provide some of the aggregate. We have that down here as assumptions.

Gary asked do you expect this to be a not to go over price or is this just a close estimate?

Mike said it is a best guess right now based upon the last two year bid prices. HMA cost went up 15% within 60 days.

Gary said I looked it up and it says it takes two million dollars to build a mile of road.

Mike said right. There is some uncertainty in the market, locally, nationally, globally supply chain. We have a contingency in there. They're pretty solid numbers. I will stand by the quantities.

Gary asked Chad do you want to weigh in on this before we start the deliberating it?

Chad said sure. First of all, I need to reiterate our appreciation for the county to consider all this. It doesn't go deaf on our ears when you see these big numbers with all the alternatives we've looked at. So, thank you for that. First and foremost, our desire would be to continue to leave the operations where they are but I also understand that these numbers are significant. In looking at kind of what we can do to try to do things here, we understand from our last meeting that we had the counties concern about keeping truck traffic to the minimal amount of impact on county roads, which we can certainly appreciate. I think that leaned the last Commissioner's meeting to a desire to move toward that S curve to 1 direction. And with these numbers I think that probably reiterates that desire. In speaking with our president just this morning after having heard some of these numbers. We weren't quite prepared to move that entrance as aggressively but I think it's what we can do as part of the participation to make this work. Our commitment and timing would probably be within 24 months post construction to get all that traffic onto that S curve moving off on 1000 and 800. So once the Commission was to approve something like the S curve correction 800 North to State Road 1 we would look to work with the engineers to figure out that drive entrance location after completion of that project we'd look to have the entrance completed and relocated within that 24 month period after completion of the road project.

Missy said have you talked to the stone quarry to see if they are willing to bear more of the burden on this project?

Chad said at this time we haven't done anything more. We've offered to pick up the right of way cost, donation of our cost to the tune of, as well as the stone cost I think our commitment at the last Commissioner's meeting was \$80,000.00 in estimation there based on the S curve plan.

Missy said I'd like to see an itemized list of what the stone quarry is willing to do, what you guys are willing to do and then what our bottom line is going to be.

Gary asked Tom?

Tom said I think it needs done.

Gary said I think it's safe to say at least I'm still looking at the S curves out. I think we need to continue pushing to get it done. I think the county, I mean we have the means to get a significant portion of it done. I think it's time now to get firm commitments with that from US Ag. What is the full commitment. Then for us to decide how we are going to do it. I do believe we have to do something soon.

Chad said with all due respect I think US Ag has been direct with an amount and has been direct with a plan. Does the county want to propose directly what you want as part of this plan? What your expectation is.

Gary said that's fair.

Tom asked what is it going to cost you to move the entrance?

Chad said we would phase it over time because of the plan, just the electrical infrastructure and scale was the initial plan. We're talking about \$150,000.00 initially to get that over there. The stone is all on site, we're talking about probably another \$150,000 just in material because of where the stock yard space is and then we're dealing with additional infrastructure with the scale house, which we are going to delay any of those expenses and then in moving the sale yard all down there as well. All those expenses we're going to delay as long as possible. Which would be probably to the tune of five to ten years out. The total project cost was significant, I would be hazardous to say a number because I can't say intelligently.

Gary said you'd be pushing close to \$500,000 in total.

Chad said very likely.

Joe said let's look at scheduling. Let's say that the final determination is from the curves over to state road 1 then when will the plant begin major production which will have those heavy trucks moving either on 1000 W or 800 North.

Chad said we're already.

Joe said they're already rolling?

Chad said correct. We've shifted all of our 53 stone work out of the new location. So, we've probably got an estimation maybe 3500 to 5000 trucks on an annual basis out of that location by the summer of 2026 I'd estimate we'd be at that full loaded 10,000, unloaded 10,000 plus at that point. So, it is a gradual ramp up. We have shifted all the base stone work out of Ridgeville.

Joe said when is the earliest that entrance can be placed on 800 North over by the curves.

Chad said because this commitment was as recent as a phone call this morning. I was told if we have it engineered, we haven't master planned this. If we could have 24 months post construction of the road way would be ideal. Giving us about a 36 month window to not only engineer but construct and move all facilities. That was at least the quick conversation this morning.

Gary said once you pass the S curves and that property there, then it's just a rural road to the gates.

Chad said correct.

Gary said I think we need to give US Ag some clear direction today.

Missy said yes.

Gary said my clear direction, I believe that we should make a motion today that we are going to go from the s curve location to highway 1. Does somebody want to make a motion today that, that is going to be our decision? That doesn't mean we are going to do it right now, that just what we are going to work on.

Tom said I'll make that motion. Missy said I'll second that. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Gary said the next step is your working on the right of way acquisition, is that going okay?

Chad said there has been no legal descriptions prepared by your engineer of choice to get started on.

Gary said you were going to work it out with the land owner to purchase. Do we have that?

Chad said no, not until we have legal descriptions.

Gary said that's still part of your part of it, is taking care of that?

Chad said correct. Yes.

Meeks said is it our responsibility to get the legal descriptions?

Chad said that was originally the scope of work.

Joe said it's already in the works. That is part of the designing the curves. Correct?

Mike said yes, you gave us the go ahead previously.

Gary said we are actually looking at completing it from the location of the new entrance, wherever that is going to be.

Chad said we did have an initial consultation call with SJCA to determine what that might look like, where that entrance location might be. And that is within the footprint of the current design plan.

Mike said we were on a team's meeting where we discussed where would be the best place to bring that in. There's some potential cost savings using some of the north south of the reverse curve there as the driveway. And then provides some better site distance for them. That way we can minimize the relocation of the s curves.

Gary said okay, might point is if we do the s curves, when we're done with it all the sudden we're a 150 feet short of the driveway. We don't want that.

Mike said correct. We will figure out all those details. Then we'll be back.

Gary said when we say from the s curves to State road 1, we want to make sure we take it from the location near the s curves to 1.

Chad said I understand, yes, that's correct.

Gary asked what do we need to do to keep this moving right now?

Joe said that's where I'm headed. The question in my mind is, when do we give the engineers notice to proceed to begin design of the rest of that road over to state road 1. And they can get out and get the survey done and get things started on paper. That's the key, we've got to have that design done before we can go to bid.

Gary said I think we have to do that now.

Missy said I think the longer we wait the more the prices are going to go up.

Gary said as far as the funding phase, this will have to be brought up at our joint meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Joe said when is that?

Gary said 6:00 pm on the May 19<sup>th</sup>. There is a joint meeting of Commissioner's and Council and on that meeting will be some renewable energy funding to apply to this. There are some other things that may open up a little bit of funding. Shall we make a motion to begin the engineering or do we want to hold off until we get some commitment from the Council on how we're going to pay for it?

Joe said they can have an agreement ready for that meeting if that's alright. Then we can give notice to proceed and get started. Joe said can you have an agreement by the 19<sup>th</sup>?

Perry said when will be the next Commissioner's meeting following that? Can you execute the agreement at the joint meeting or?

Gary said yes.

Perry said so we will need the agreement by the 19<sup>th</sup>. Is that possible Mike?

Mike said it is.

Gary said Chad that will give you some time for US Ag to firm up the commitment. I realize as I'm sure the other Commissioners do that it's quite a commitment to move that way station. In the beginning I was hoping to be able to get to the gates on 1200 but that's not going to happen for \$4 million.

Chad said I understand.

Gary said so what do we need, do we need a motion to proceed with the engineering fees?

Joe said they are going to bring back a contract on the 19<sup>th</sup>. So, you shouldn't need anything today.

Mike said we have a contract for the dollar amount, is this just going to be a supplemental to that or do you want to see that one deleted and a whole new contract with the total amount we have here?

Meeks said an addendum is fine.

Mike said I will just do a supplemental to the original.

Gary said before we move on Joe is there anything else you need to move forward.

Joe said no that culvert under 1000 West, I'm still going to replace it but I need to schedule with US Ag to do that. It's way under sized.

Gary said it get replaced regardless.

Joe said yes, I mean you've got over the road flow.

Gary said this is not their burden to bare, this is ours.

Joe said yes.

Missy said I've got a couple questions. So, we talked about the highway department doing some of this work. With everything going on, I don't imagine your going to have time to try and build a road. Let's visit that and decide what's going to happen with that. You do a wonderful job, your not road builders. Let's back up and talk about that.

Gary said I think this here removes them.

Missy said that's what I wanted to hear.

Joe said I do have some more stuff. First of all, Community Crossing grant funding has changed. There will be no fall proposals accepted in July. There may be a call in September, October or November. That's what their talking maybe. They changed what they call the fiscal year from a calendar year now to their fiscal year which is July 1 to June 30<sup>th</sup>. It was calendar year so now they've changed it. If they do it in September, October, November that will be 2026 fiscal year. They're changing that. I was planning on submitting for two bridges in July, so that's been postponed now to who knows when. I will submit them at that time. I wanted to let you know about that. Then federal aid projects that we submitted in November they're finally supposed to tell us this week whether we got accepted or not. And on this list are two of those structures. Bridge 114 and bridge 303. Bridge 114 is the priority, 303 is the second priority and 303 is in the city.

Gary said that's the next one down from Carl Street isn't it?

Meeks said yes.

Joe said I have some more detail information on those bridges. Bridge 85, I'm asking for additional funding for bridges 85, 212, 114 and 303. Now, 114 and 303 is dependent upon whether they give us approval this week or not. You can see the amount of money that we have to put out and the problem with federal aid is everything except construction you pay for and then you get reimbursed 80% but then you have to have the appropriations to pay it in the first place. So, that's what this spreadsheet. The second spreadsheet shows the amounts and the total appropriation needed and the reimbursement that will come back for a net total needed of around 2.6 million. But you have to have the appropriation of 5.6 million to get it done. These are estimates per year of when those bills come in varies. I'm guessing when they'll come due. As far as the cash flow, we've took some out of land fill host, \$300,000 as you can see on the big spreadsheet. I was going to come up with a very small amount in cum bridge at the very end of 2027. With adding that land fill host money in there, I've brought it back up to almost \$524,000 at the end of 2027.

Gary said that's how much you need extra?

Joe said no, that's how much cash I'll have hopefully at the end of 2027. Now, you know things are going to go up, things are going to change. So that's a reasonable amount, that's not bad. It's going to take a little while for you to look over all this, it included cum bridge, wind, land fill hose and motor vehicle highway. And the reimbursements that we get on each of those per year. Now, there's some in here that require construction paid up front, our full 20% and that's what those big numbers are. You might look at bridge 85 is an example in 2026 your looking at \$741,000. And then bridge 308 in 2027 \$776,000 that included the construction match. Full match of 20% with no reimbursement. I wanted to present this and get this going so you'll have a chance to look at it.

Gary what are you needing from?

Joe said depending on what they give us this week.

Gary said you'll know?

Joe said this smaller spreadsheet is what I'm looking at. I need in total for four bridges, if we get the two almost \$5.6 million, \$5,591,000.00 but there's reimbursement with that.

Gary said that's our total exposure.

Joe said our reimbursement will be close to \$3 million.

Missy said net of \$2.6 million.

Gary said that \$2.6 is needed, that's not part of the spreadsheet for the four bridges.

Joe said that's what we need to put in.

Gary said we need to add to this \$2.6.

Joe said we need to add \$5.6 million for four bridges.

Gary said for how long.

Joe said that's for the entirety of the project. Through 2031. I went through the full project length to come up with these numbers. I don't want to piece meal it. I don't want to come in and ask for PE and design and then come in and ask for right of way and then come in and ask for construction. You don't want to keep seeing my face all the time so I figured I'd do it all at one time.

Gary said my real question is how much commitment do we need for this year's projects.

Joe said right now, you've already committed wind on some of these. Some of this has already been committed. Bridge 308 and bridge 250 have already been committed. That \$220,000 on bridge 250 has already been committed. I need bridge 85, the yellow on the big spreadsheet are the ones I'm asking for money. I need \$325,000 for bridge 85 and I need \$175,000 for bridge 212 and that does not include the two that we ask for money for 303 and 114. 114 will be \$100,000.00 and 303 will be \$120,000.00 more.

Gary said so the total of that, we will go to Council and ask.

Meeks said the total is right here \$720,000.

Gary said that is how much we're short?

Joe said yes.

Gary said of precommitments?

Joe said yes, what we're trying to do, trying to conserve cum bridge. I don't have enough in cum bridge to pay for it all.

Gary said I know.

Joe said I need \$720,000 for this year if we get 114 and 303. They are saying we will know by the end of the week.

Gary said it's going to be hard to commit \$5 million through 2031 right here, right now. But we can commit \$720,000.00. We need this spreadsheet to know what's coming.

Meeks said you don't need to make the commitment until after you get approval for those two bridges. So, you make the commitment for the \$720,000 at your next meeting.

Joe said right. I wanted to stretch it out to give you an idea what it looks like down the road.

Gary said I appreciate that. I don't have a problem making a commitment myself.

Joe said okay.

Gary said we do have the funding available with the help of the council.

Joe said and some of it will come back.

Gary said do you need a commitment today or are you just giving us a heads up?

Joe said I'm giving you a heads up. I'm not on the Council's agenda for tomorrow but I figured once we get this settled down and we figure out what bridges we've got coming for sure then I'd be on next month's agenda.

Tom said we can discuss it on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Missy said just for everybody's clarification, the county is responsible for every bridge in this county whether it's in Union City, Winchester, Losantville, where ever it's at the County is the responsible body.

Joe said that's state law.

Missy said over 20 feet for maintaining. I learned that at road school.

**Samantha Burke – Vacation of Street in Harrisville**

Samantha Burke said you should have received a vacation request for a road between two properties.

Laura said I didn't receive anything.

Gary said we don't have it.

Samantha said you guys weren't given that?

Missy said no, was it a map or a description?

Samantha said an attorney out of Muncie, Indiana should have presented that to you guys for me.

Gary asked who is the Attorney?

Samantha said Beesley and Gilkinson.

Gary asked Meeks did you receive anything from Beesley and Gilkinson?

Meeks said no.

Gary said we don't have anything, so we can't really do anything.

Meeks you'll need to talk to them and make sure Laura gets a petition to vacate that road?

Samantha said alright. Thank you.

**Sherri Thompson, Kimbra Reynold, Stephanie Patterson -Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition, Suicide Overdose Fatality Review funding**

Gary asked Sherri has your group arrived?

Sherri said yes.

Gary said come on up. Before you start please state your names for the record.

Stephanie said good morning my name is Stephanie Patterson and I work with Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition.

Kimbra said I'm Kimbra Reynolds and I'm the Director of the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition. We are here today to talk to you today regarding a suicide and overdose fatality review. We have been in conversations with Sherri and others in Randolph County regarding the issues of Suicide and Overdose fatality reviews. Sherri did you want to share your numbers.

Sherri said actually Stephanie has those.

Stephanie said for the year of 2020 there were 10 overdoses and 3 suicides.

Gary said in Jay County?

Stephanie said no in Randolph County.

Kimbra said these are Randolph County numbers that we are sharing.

Stephanie said in 2021 there were 14 overdoses and 6 suicides. In 2022 there were 13 overdoses and 6 suicides. In 2023 there were 5 overdoses and 3 suicides. In 2024 there were 6 overdoses and 5 suicides and so far in the year of 2025 there has been 1 overdose and 2 suicides.

Kimbra said we bring this to you because these numbers are similar to what Jay County had several years ago and our numbers have dropped drastically. We started an overdose fatality review, applied for funding in 2016 and 2017. We applied in 2028 because of 2016 and 2017 numbers. In 2016 there was only 2 overdose deaths and there were zero alcohol related deaths. In 2017 we jumped to 16 deaths due to overdose and 4 alcohol related deaths. That's 20 deaths

related to substance use disorder. Six of those individuals were under the age of 25. We also ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state for children born with neonatal absence syndrome which is basically mothers that use substances while they were pregnant. In 2016 we jumped to three in the state for new hepatitis C cases. And in 2016 we ranked number 1 in non-fatal emergency department visits due to opioid disorder. Those numbers are startling. However now we have dropped drastically. So, we want to kind of take you on a road trip of why we did this and the purpose of it. Not only to save lives but to help our community heal and become better stewards of dollars. We began our overdose fatality review with very little support in regard to state and national. Then COVID hit and then we had to restart again. We began reviewing cases in 2020 face to face. Since then, we have reviewed 58 cases between September of 2020 and September of 2024. We have come up 438 recommendations made with common themes. Basically, individuals come together community partners, individuals that might have had a conversation, might have had a touch point with an individual that passes away and we created short term, intermediate and long term goals. We used resources and state data to make those changes and those recommendations. If you go to this beautiful colored graph, this shows the different genders, race and minor children and unknown. So, as you can see it touches everyone. Not to mention the families in the community that it devastates in its path. Many children are impacted by suicide and overdose fatalities. What we did is we leveraged dollars from the state and individuals that were concerned citizens across the community and from that we learned quickly that having the right people at the table was very important. If you look back to the next sheet which is our recommendation and team engagement. Some of our short term actions is something that you can accomplish within six months to a year. We were able to accomplish that by having individuals at our table. A nurse that was coming to our SOFR spoke with their department and decide that instead of handing individuals that come in and get an addictive medicine at the ER that you go over that information verbally. So, you have that relationship with the nurse and they share that. That was able to happen within one month just because she was involved in our suicide and overdose fatality review. We also had law enforcement at our table. Law enforcement are doing their job. Yes, they should be arresting people, yes people should go to jail. However, they were getting to the point that it just was a repetitive thing over and over and over again. Same individuals. So, what they started doing was handing out cards and connecting them with peer recovery coaches straight up. Okay, you don't have any substances on you, let me connect you with somebody. Dropping people off where there are people that can work with them. Intermediate goals, we started working with our local school system and our SOR officer has implemented handle with care. Handle with care is a collaboration between first responders and the school system. They enter into a spreadsheet that a child was present. So, if a child was present when an overdose happened, if a domestic battery happened, grandfather lives with them, has a heart attack, he has to go to the emergency room. That information is shared with the school, the SOR officer then gets that information to the teachers so that students that might have been in that home are handled with care. They're not retraumatized about why they don't have their homework done. Why they're tired, those kind of things. Working with them to handle them with care and show love and support and then providing grief support where we worked with different individuals that provide ongoing grief support for individuals that have lost loved ones. And then our long term actions were like a five year out and that was renovating a recovery safe house. That was continually the number one that came up on our 458 themes. Then working within the correctional system, our jail. Since 2020 we have already accomplished and we're moving into our long term actions. Through our

conversations with Randolph County the goal would be to have key take aways like we have, collaborating and leadership to drive the community change, action oriented holistic strategies that work. So, getting people together so that you can individually work on cross collaboration and empowering those in recovery and guiding core values. Building the community for success. And now why is it important for communities to invest in SOFR. SOFR's are not to point figures, oh you should've done this. Well, if that agency would have done that. That's not what the SOFR is. It's identifying missed opportunities for intervention. Could policies change. Could an individual be reached prior to committing suicide or overdosing. Data driven informed decisions. We knew these things were happening but we as a group did not know how to change that individually. So, bringing them all together, looking at the data and determining what could change. Where could we implement things. Reducing adverse childhood experiences, we know that when a child has an adverse experience that they are impacted emotionally and mentally and it can impact them for the rest of their lives. We've definitely increased our community resources and support. Again, community level change. One of the key factors is we're lowering our first responder calls. So, we don't have first responders that are trying to determine, ok we've got an overdose over here, we've got a house fire over here, where do we go. Their lowering their cost by the implementation of the SOFR. Our past commissioner, who is also a first responder, said that their responses to overdoses has dropped drastically since implementation of some the collaborative responses. Also reducing stigma around mental health and substance use disorder and then again improve our systems and prevent future deaths. That is the reason why the health department has, they've come to observe our SOFR and asked us to come and present to you what it is and look at if there is a possibility for funding and how we can help them in implementing an SOFR here in Randolph County similar to what we have in Jay County.

Gary asked how does the collaboration between the two work?

Kimbra said Stephanie is a Randolph County resident and she is an expert in SOFR's. She handles our program now. She's got the training and expertise as well as she is a national presenter. She just was out at the National Overdose and Fatality review presenting. The collaboration would be that we would contract, she would be able to work down here for 15 to 20 hours per week to work here just in Randolph County on pulling an SOFR together. We recommend that you go back at least two years because that data will help you have long term affects by just if you focus on what's going on right now. You don't have any of that back story of what could happen or what could come up. So, we recommend going back at least two years.

Gary asked what's the Health Departments input for Randolph County?

Sherri said of course the health department wants to help Randolph County lower those numbers. So, that our community is healthier, safer, those type of things. We wanted to ask about opioid money. I'm not sure where the county stands with that. But, again on the team we would have a nurse that would help with that. Which Wendy already does the infant review, the infant fatality review board with DCS. She does that now. We are trying to, Ball State's coming in they've started counseling.

Missy said are they coming in or are they doing it virtually?

Sherri said they do both. They can do both. We do have a room where they can come in if needed. So, that would help even with the opioid issue. Which we seem to have here in Randolph County.

Missy said I think we have it in Randolph County, I think every county is dealing with this.

Sherri said our focus here is Randolph County. And it does, it leads into every county unfortunately. Into our homes, into our schools, into every part of our lives. Even if we don't have a person in our family that is going through that, the people that are going through that still touches our lives too. So as the health department of course we would like to help the community to get well. Keep those numbers down.

Gary asked is your health board involved in this?

Sherri said they know about it.

Gary said they know about it. What have they said about it?

Sherri said they've agreed that it is a good idea.

Gary said lets get down to the numbers. What are we asking for? From us?

Kimbra said for the first year it would take about \$20,000.00. Then the second year it would drop to about half of that is our estimation. The reason it drops is because we're going back and taking and developing something new. Stephanie would have to do a lot of recruiting, meeting with the right people. Talking the right individuals to get them at the table. As well as you are going to be reviewing at least two years of data. Moving forward your only going to be reviewing one year of data.

Tom said the \$20,000 is mainly her labor coming down here?

Kimbra said yes.

Tom asked are we contracting with Jay County or are we paying her as an employee?

Kimbra said you would contract with the coalition. We are a 501C3 and we also do other work here in Randolph County. We have peer recovery coaches that come down here and meet with individuals, we have had contracts within the region like Delaware, Jay, Blackford, Randolph where we work and go to.

Gary asked Missy do you have anything else?

Missy said you know we had the VOA and they closed that. So, did you ever attempt to have anybody become a resident?

Kimbra said yes.

Missy said you had people that went through there?

Kimbra said yes. And we had female recover coaches that would work with the individuals that were there.

Gary asked Tom? I think it's probably a use to the opioid funding that would be allowable. Where do you get your funding from now?

Kimbra said right now we get some of the opioid dollars from Jay County and we get dollars from the state through an ECO grant.

Gary asked does your ECO grant go up if you are in a coalition with two counties?

Kimbra said no. ECO grants are specific to each county. That grant is specific for Stephanie to just work in Jay County. Now that is why we are looking for funding out of the opioid settlement for here so that she can wear two hats. She can do Jay County and Randolph County.

Gary asked how do we get our own ECO grant?

Kimbra said we would have to write the grant and move forward with something like that. I don't know if there is any ECO dollars out there right now.

Gary asked Laura do you know how much is in our opioid funding right now?

Laura said I don't but we haven't spent hardly any, so there should be sufficient funding for their ask. It should be on your spreadsheet that Sherrie give you.

Kimbra said the John Hopkins University set the structure for that opioid dollars and how to spend those and this does fall under that.

Missy asked is most of this \$20,000.00 salaries?

Kimbra said yes. It will be primarily salaries and supplies.

Missy asked where would you be located out of? Where would they meet with people at?

Stephanie said we have a meeting at our fire department in Jay County. However, when we first began speaking or talking about this, it was mentioned to have it at the jail basement. I don't know.

Missy asked are you aware that there is a group that currently meets at the Beeson Club House every week.

Stephanie said no, is it for substance use?

Missy said yes. And then there is a group that's meeting over at East Street Church on Wednesday nights.

Kimbra asked is that Brianna's Hope?

Missy said no. I don't know if it has a name, they eat a meal and then.

Stephanie said that is relatively new, the one on East Street, correct?

Missy said yes. I'd like more information.

Meeks asked will you be providing a contract or something.

Kimbra said we can. We've done that before.

Gary said I think it would be prudent for you to get us a contract for us to consider. I personally don't have a problem working with something like this out of our restricted opioid funds.

Meeks said there are rules for that. We will have to make sure this is an allowable use.

Kimbra asked do you have those rules?

Meeks said it's in the statute. The restricted. I know unrestricted we could use. I just don't know the restricted rules. We need a contract. I don't think you can pay salaries out of restricted. I just have to see. I don't know what Jay County does. Do they pay from restricted?

Kimbra said what Jay County Commissioner's and Council decided to do was support the men's recovery home. There was a donation from IU Health.

Gary said I think the next step is for you to get us a proposal with a contract and we can look at it and make sure it lines up.

Missy said and explain to us exactly how is the health department and they need to get involved in this. Who's going to be involved and who's going to assist with this.

Sherri said Stephanie will be in charge of everything. So, we will just have someone sitting on the team. That probably will be Wendy.

Tom asked do you have office space for Stephanie if she comes down here?

Sherri said we do have another office that she could use.

Missy asked would that mean opening the building in the evenings.

Sherri said no.

Kimbra said we usually do most of our overdose fatality review during lunch hour and we feed people because their taking their time and it can be very heavy. Stephanie tries to bring as much lightness to it as she can in regard to how are you taking care of yourself, what's your favorite flower and things like that just to try to help alleviate and the when also have debriefing. Meridian Health is also on board with this and sending an individual. We've already talked with them.

Gary said okay. If you would bring us a proposal of what Randolph County can expect what we're going to get, who's going to be involved and how it's going to work. With a contract, we will review all that, we'll review our funding allowability. When can you have all that ready for us.

Kimbra said I can have that ready by next week.

Gary said you can have that ready for the mid-month meeting?

Laura said the next meeting is on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am and if we could get the information beforehand so Meeks can review it.

Missy asked do you ever go into the schools and work with the students. I mean Winchester has had several.

Stephanie said in Jay County we do prevention work. So, we go into the schools as much as we are allowed. We do work different programs through them. It's why try and catch my breath. As far as going in for anyone specifically for a loved one that has lost someone from suicide or from an overdose. Normally that is a councilor that does that. However, if I could be in anyway helpful to getting them the resources they need, I would be above and beyond happy to do that.

Gary said okay. I don't need anything further. Missy, Tom? Thank you for the presentation.

#### **Brad Dilger and Tom LoTurco – Riverstart Solar Park updates**

Brad said Tom LoTurco is joining me. He is the Executive Vice President of the Eastern Region of EDP Renewables. Tom may add a few bits of information as I give these updates. It's been a little while since we've talked about general progress of the multiple phases of Riverstart Solar Park. I'll start with the original Riverstart I. We are still moving forward with the viewing pavilion right off of the state road there. And you should see some work happening over the next month or two, we're working with a pretty local temper frame contractor to build a nice viewing pavilion out there and they're in the process of moving the fence right now to keep people at a safe distance away from the solar facility. And that is going to be used for any tours that come through or as you well know Randolph County is a pinnacle of renewable energy out here and others come out to see what is going on with it. So, that pavilion has been in the works for a while and is finally getting some traction there. Riverstart III.

Gary asked where is that pavilion going to be?

Brad said it's off of 36 between Modoc and Lynn on the north side of the state road. I can get you a location on that.

Gary said okay.

Brad said Riverstart III which went operational the end of last year. It's all going fine. Operations is taking over there. We still do need to complete our final road repairs. We ran out of warm weather last year. So, we've been working with a local contractor to get the repairs done initially and then we'll do the double layer chip and seal. So, we've been told that summer is needed. The hotter temperatures for that to get its final set. So that's still ongoing and we will keep you guys posted on that progress.

Missy said who do you look to, to do your road repairs?

Brad said we've reached out to Indiana Earth Works. I'm not sure if they do it in house or if they sub that out or not.

Missy said it would be nice to keep it local. I would personally like to see our local people do as much work as they can.

Brad said yes and that's why we've reached out to Indiana Earth Works. Because of the great work they've done for all the projects so far with Headwater's and Riverstart.

Missy said the best job done by Randolph County people if possible.

Brad said yes. Riverstart IV which is currently under construction. The substation off of 300 is substantially complete and they are going through just their checks between both the AEP facility and our facility. Within the solar array itself piling installation is about 75%. Things have moved a little slower because of the wet weather we've had the beginning of this year. Inverter installation is almost at 90% and all major deliveries have been completed to the site. So far because of the wet weather they've got about 8% of the modules installed. They're still looking to complete in this year. Riverstart V which we've talked about most recently. We're working toward permitting this month and that's to meet our interconnection milestone dates. There will be some Geotech work going on over the next couple of weeks to support the final design of the project and we still have ongoing outreach with the community there and the neighbors with the project. So, that's kind of a basic overview of where we are with Riverstart projects and just to kind of give an overall for everybody's information. Currently we have about 700 megawatts operational and that's between both solar and wind and by the end of 2026 we'll have 950 megawatts operational and by 2030 we will actually with the completion of Headwater's III we'll have over a gigawatt of generation here in the county. And that investment totals over \$1.6 billion dollars. With all the associated EDA's, associated with all the Riverstart projects, phases and Headwater's projects that is approximately \$65 million dollars of money going toward the county over that 24 year period. And that's to support any projects that's deemed necessary. In the past these funds have been used for aging infrastructure, road repairs, bridge repairs, emergency vehicles, water tower repair, sewage treatment upgrades and repairs. Improvements at the airport, courthouse upgrades here, I believe the HVAC project and substantial renovation

expansion at the 4-H fairgrounds that will be complete by the fair this year. All of this has been possible do to the relationships that we've established with the county and the community here in Randolph County. And I appreciate hearing the recognition of how that revenue has helped all these projects with the county in these lean times. Over the last 6 months as we've been talking about Riverstart V most recently there have been concerns voiced relating to the future development of solar projects here in the county. The concerns have culminated in propose or vision to the ordinance approved by the area planning commission. We appreciate the time the area planning commission members and associated committee members have spent discussing and coming up with this potential revision. As we've moved through that process and heard the concerns, there are a few aspects that kind of give us pause as we look toward future development. One is the increased set backs which can lead to a less efficient design and potentially larger foot print of the overall project and ultimately restricts how the land owner can use their land. The other item that is of concern is the potential requirement to obtain a special exception for every project. It creates risk with future development because even if the ordinance is followed it opens up, a special exception allows subjective interpretations to shut down a project. So, it's understood that there are many factors that inform the decision that you guys as commissioners have to make. It is our hope that Randolph County will continue to be open for business and continue this relationship. I don't know if you have any additional.

Tom LoTurco said yes, thanks for having me here this morning. I think we are able to be flexible enough. We have a number of land owners that have obviously signed the leases and generally we have more land than we need and can live with a little bit larger of a setback and I think we've voiced that in some places. The concern that we have is the requirement for the special exception because then what happens is it goes from being permitted use where if you follow the rules then you can move forward to one what Brad mentioned that you have to go to the BZA and the criteria is completely subjective. We think that one of the way's we've been able to invest as much here is the certainty. Business needs certainty and we want to keep investing, we want to keep seeing the benefit. I've been with this company 18 years, we are an owner operator, we stay with the projects for the life of the projects. This is home base for us in Winchester. You and I were talking about it between our direct employment and our indirect employment, we've got about 40 people there. Looking to expand that, looking to expand the building over the next couple years because we need more space for solar equipment, equipment for the inverters, additional solar panels things like that. So, yea we want to keep investing here, we want to keep employing folks here. I really appreciate the time today. Like we said we understand the need for some of the changes and we can live with some of the set back issues. It's just the removal of solar permitted use.

Gary said it sounds like in the new ordinance that the two things we're dealing with is the 500 foot setback, you can live with that. You can make all that work to protect people. I agree with you I don't like sending every project to the BZA. I think it puts the decisions of elected officials to the decisions of appointed people, who do a fine job but it becomes subjective and it can be counterproductive. I think we have to write an ordinance that allows you folks to do what you need to do and it be the law of the land basically our law of the land. I'm glad we got to a 500 foot set back to protect home owners, I'm glad that you guys can live with that and every other solar company could but I can't live with going to the BZA. Then the only remedy is Circuit or Superior court one of the two. It takes it out of the hands of the elected officials.

Tom LoTurco said I totally agree with you. The Commissioners now have the ability to make the decisions and enter into the county agreements but this the way it's written today, there would be one additional step before we would even get to you to make that decision. Now, if there is a question about how we're notifying neighbors and things like that, we have open houses and things like that. I think we've for a long time been doing a lot of neighbor outreach, we offer neighbor agreements to those who are not yet participating but are adjacent to the project. I think we have maybe 100's of those in place in the county already. So, we can add another layer of notification before county agreements are considered. We just don't think the BZA is the appropriate pathway to do that.

Gary said Tom your on that committee what do you think?

Tom said notification was one of the biggest things, that was what was brought up at the BZA. I wasn't at, I was out of town for the final vote, the final meeting. I think notification as suggested prior to the county contracts to anybody within a certain distance a letter goes out. Then everybody is notified before it even comes to the Commissioners for the road use agreement and social media. I think anybody just like you would be notified prior to our contract and then I think you did a meeting last weekend.

Brad said it's this coming weekend.

Tom said and as part of that notification you would do a public meeting. Is what I'd like to see. One of the biggest concerns was always notification. So, before the county enters into an agreement local residents are notified. Even though they've been offering what's been referred to as kind of the good neighbor agreement to a lot of the adjacent properties. I think that's a little bit of a slippery slope whether that's put into the ordinance, that needs to be required because we're not talking about an ordinance for EDP, we're talking about an ordinance for any developer in the county. That gives kind of a tie into any neighbor.

Meeks said I don't think you can do that. I think notification you can do. If I'm a neighbor, I'm not required to do anything. It's my land.

Tom said well, your not required but what they've been doing is a good neighbor agreement where they.

Meeks said some of them don't.

Tom said right, some of them don't.

Meeks said but notification of them is absolutely appropriate.

Tom said so, we can't require them to offer a good neighbor agreement.

Meeks said no.

Tom said I do think notification is good but I agree I was not in favor of the BZA part of it. I do like the part of more notification, earlier in the project. The BZA comes so late in the project anyways that like you said it's not permitted use and theirs so much that goes into the project that has that it's hard for development to move forward with everything that they have to do ahead of time and not being sure that it's even permitted use of the ground.

Gary said Missy?

Missy said I agree with not going to the BZA and not to take that power so to speak out of their hands but I've read through the summary of the minutes of their last meeting, which is 23 pages and I'm going to admit, I have a hard time understanding what their point is on some of it. So, I think we set the standards and we follow the standards. I understand that's 500 feet now instead of the 40 and you have indicated that you are operational to move forward with that. I mean maybe it's not ideal but.

Gary said it's 40 foot from the property line, now it's 500 from the dwelling.

Missy said yea and that was a question that someone asked me and I said I think, I was wrong because I said I think it's the property line and learned that it is the dwelling.

Gary said it's the same as the animal feeding operation setback.

Tom said one of the things I struggle with a little bit and I talked about a little bit at the meeting, the committee meetings was the setbacks. I probably wasn't quite at 500 feet. I was more comfortable with less than that. But the 4<sup>th</sup> side across the road, with the setback, if you have a 100 acre field across the road that's going to be a solar field then you just have a big notch in the middle of it. I struggle. Because you still have property rights on both sides of that property line and it's just so inefficient for the use of the property. Right around the house and up to the property but across the road I struggle with a 500 foot setback because it just puts a notch plot that somebody has to maintain or mow or whatever on the 4<sup>th</sup> side. That was one of my biggest concerns about the setback.

Gary said unless EDPR takes it as part of their rental ground and does something with it.

Tom said and obviously the owner can negotiate that. That was my hardest thing on the 500 foot set back.

Meeks said they didn't take out the ability for the adjacent property owner to wave it. They can wave it?

Gary said yes.

Meeks said I've not read the whole thing.

Missy said but the property owner cannot wave the 500 foot setback, correct?

Gary said yes, they can. The owner of the property can do it. That's something they would need to work out with the developer.

Missy said I read that and I think that needs to be clarified that they can negotiate that and go back to the 40 foot.

Meeks said there was a minimum.

Gary said that would get them to the BZA, right?

Meeks said on site setbacks.

Gary said moving on, it doesn't sound like the Commissioner's are going to approve the ordinance change the way it's currently written. But listening to you folks the 500 foot setback is not going to be a sticking point from here forward.

Brad said correct.

Gary said it's mainly just the BZA for every solar project.

Brad said yes.

Missy said I'm not sure some people are aware that in the area of Modoc, not to pick them out among any others but. I had a family that called me and needed help with some bills and it was very much needed because something that had happened. It was a death in the family. And they were able to go, I said try the community foundation, and you guys are still helping some people pay some of those bills when they need. In fact, I don't think you have turned anybody down, have you. I mean you probably don't know that. But, no one has been turned down and there is some need in those areas when things happen and you just can't get an electric bill or I think it's now been changed where it's any bill.

Brad said yes, the general utility assistance.

Missy said that was really appreciated by that family. That's the only one that I know of and I will guarantee that a death in the family brought that up and paying funeral expenses, they wanted me to relay that if I ever saw you that they particularly appreciated that help.

Gary said okay. Tom is our APC appointment. I'm sure he will take back our discussion, where we're at. We've got the ordinance coming up.

Meeks said you probably will vote not to pass that ordinance but give instructions back and then it will go back to them.

Gary asked is Debra here. Debra can you come up please? We can move this ordinance 2025-02 up to now. It doesn't sound like Commissioners are going to pass it as it is.

Debra said I understand.

Gary said next phase, can you tell us?

Debra said we need to know what needs to be changed.

Gary said Tom will bring that as our appointment.

Debra said it will go back to the APC.

Meeks said I think the process is you take a vote not to pass it and then you take a vote to say this is what we would like APC to change.

Missy said and so what is that change exactly going to be.

Meeks said that's the question. You send it back to the committee to say you don't like the requirement to go make it a special exception.

Gary said so at this moment we can formulate a motion to not accept 20025-02.

Meeks said because if you don't do anything within 90 days it goes into effect. So, you will need to vote not to pass it.

Tom said so moved.

Gary said we have a motion.

Missy said what if enough people get together and go to the APC and they decide they are not going to pass anything.

Gary said then we go back to the original.

Missy said okay.

Meeks said we already have an ordinance.

Gary said so, we have a motion to not pass ordinance 2025-02 as written and presented to the Commissioner's. Do we have a second?

Missy seconded.

Gary said we have a motion and a second. All those in favor of not passing this ordinance signify by saying aye.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Gary said we would like to send back.

Tom said the proposal I would suggest sending back is removing, I don't know if you want the section but it's the required hearing. Which is 10.7.118 is where it's at in the ordinance. And then adding a required notification and I think that should be by mail to all residence just like with the hearing requiring notification. I'm going to say a home within 1000 foot. That was my thought anybody on the property line or within, even there are some properties that will be back a little bit, not necessarily be adjacent to it, I think we should notify.

Meeks said right now they have the special exception hearing. Who do you send those to, how far?

Debra said special exception would be adjacent or affected. So, when you consider, say it was a business and the traffic, the business might not be directly across the street from someone but traffic coming in and out or noise or late nights, whatever it might be would affect someone, that does make it a little bit subjective but I'd say if you're going to be across from, adjacent to or across from panels. And what Tom said earlier, the main thing was so many people showed up and said how can they be doing this, planning this for years and I'm just finding out about it. I just bought this house. So, I don't really enjoy the idea of another BZA hearing and relitigating the whole thing. But notifying people who are going to be affected. The CAFO's have to do that, the state makes them do that. So, I know it's got to be something that we can do. Not an opportunity for someone to come in and say I don't want that but maybe to negotiate like we said. When you're talking four sides of a house and the neighbor has no negotiation power, they might say can you back them off here and then I don't care what you do over here. This can be right up next to the house they can have a little bit of say so in it. I know they've got their plans laid out too so your kind of give and take. We just wanted some kind of notification.

Meeks said we should just send it back to the committee and say probably what you have to do for a CAFO or a special exception hearing or however, we'll just use the same requirements. I hate to have different requirement in an ordinance for different types of hearings. There is no reason to reinvent this thing. I'd send that back to the committee and say we want a notification, what the committee deems appropriate and then they'll come back with something.

Tom said the biggest thing would be the timing of that and I think that should be prior to the Commissioner agreements.

Meeks said when you say the Commissioner agreements, prior, like 30 day's prior to the signing you have to have this requirement. Because we already say in the ordinance you have to have a road use agreement and an economic development agreement. So, prior to obtaining that within however many days, I wouldn't think more than 30 but I don't know.

Missy said what happens if you take it back to the committee and they say we've decided we're going to go 1000 can they change the limitations on the setbacks.

Meeks said then you don't accept it.

Tom said it still comes back to us.

Gary said what happens if the committee doesn't work this through and then it goes back to what it was and it will be over and nobody wins.

Missy said what I'm cautioned about myself, is that there are people looking to do things in Randolph County, companies looking to do things. I don't want them to get the inclination that it's really difficult to deal with Randolph County on coming in. What you can, what you can't do. Oh, we thought it was this set back, now it's this set back.

Meeks said the long story shorth Missy is that it will bounce back and forth a couple times and then eventually whatever you guys decide is going to be in the ordinance because you can send it back and it comes back 2000 feet then it's like we don't like it, it's going to be 500. It goes back and then you guys can pass it and then that's kind of what Farmland did with the 10 years ago, it kept going back and forth. How many times, there's a statutory process.

Tom said the other thing, which is nothing to do with this, there was also put in here on the larger noncommercial. That's going to require a hearing too. I want you to explain that, I'm not saying good or bad against, I just want you to explain that.

Debra said say it's a farm and we were thinking houses that would use a certain amount, this is still the same concept. Its just for a private individual that wants to run a small business off their farm and it would take more than what we allowed in there so we increased that.

Tom said I just wanted that brought up because it's in there. It's a whole new category.

Debra said we've already approved that.

Gary said unless they can prove 120% they're just doing their own needs.

Debra said right. And we're not going to be a stickler on that if it meets the criteria of the noncommercial. But we had to have that middle ground in there. We didn't have it but we have already passed a portion of it and now we're changing it.

Tom said and with that there is a little bit left to your discretion isn't it as to whether it goes to BZA or you approve it.

Debra said possibly.

Tom read "the director may grant a waiver". That's for any noncommercial or at the discretion of the administrator approval of the waiver may be delegated to the BZA. That's nothing new but that was in there and I just wanted to highlight it. The schools would be noncommercial.

Debra said yes. If Walmart decided to do it behind their building. The reason for that is because it could be in the middle of town, it could be next to a subdivision, it could be anywhere. Even it's for you know a small business.

Gary said Tom, Missy you have anything else before we form a motion?

Missy said I just think we need to send the message that we are open for business in Randolph County and not make it so difficult that companies are deciding to go somewhere else.

Gary said we're looking at notification 30 days prior, no hearing required and then 500 feet setback.

Missy said I will accept, I want to respect what they have decided in the past. I mean most recently. That's it, that's where their sticking and they are not going to ask for changes.

Debra said I just had one more quick thing to say. There were two things in there Andy Fahl is very good at explaining this. When we started this, we had no idea what to put in there and the 40 feet was pretty insignificant. However, EDP has surpassed that. We have drawn circles around a lot of the houses involved and they're surpassing that. However, in the last few months we've had a dozen different companies call. This is not just EDP's ordinance and we can't rely on the next person to say well I'm not going to surround a house 40 feet on all sides because they're not doing it. We have no idea. I talked to a company a couple weeks ago that sounded pretty cut throat. They want to be as close to everything as they can get. So, we have to keep in mind that we are not writing it for anybody.

Missy said we are writing it for anybody and everybody.

Debra said not to keep people out but to make it fair on both sides. You write an ordinance you find out what works, you see what's going on and then you make changes and that's where we're at right now.

Gary said does someone want to make a motion on the change of the ordinance that we would like the committee to entertain.

Tom said I will make the motion to drop the BZA requirement, adding the notification requirement based on where we're at.

Debra said will that go back to the committee or just the APC?

Meeks said I think it goes back to the APC unless they want, the APC decides whether they want it to go to the committee or not.

Gary said you heard the motion, do we have a second.

Missy seconded.

All aye votes motion. Motion carried.

Gary asked anything else from EDPR?

Brad said no, thank you for your time this morning.

Gary said we are now ready to move on to other business. Sheriff?

**Other Business:**

**Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff**

**Fingerprint device**

Art said the only thing I have this morning is the contract that I'd sent to you guys, Meeks had looked at it and sent back to me that he did not have an issue with the contract. I would like to be able to sign it in order to be able to sign that I need you to approve me doing so ahead of the 20 day mark. Otherwise, I have to wait 20 days before I can sign it. So, I'm just looking for Commissioners approval. It is at no cost to the county, it would replace the fingerprint machine that we currently have.

Gary asked does someone want to make a motion.

Missy said I will make that motion. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Art said just a quick update for all of you. The GPS in the cars is up and working. We have someone coming in this Thursday I believe that will show us how we can change some things on that, make it more effective. Chris Shaneyfelt and I been working together, we are going to try to get the dispatch center and the road all integrated under the same map. So, it will stream line some things for us with dispatching units and keeping track of where units are at throughout the day when they are working. It's been a really positive thing. The other things we've spent money on we're in the works of finishing those projects currently. Hopefully those will be done and we have our meeting I believe in May for some of the upgrades we need inside the jail building itself.

Gary said May 19<sup>th</sup> it's part of that meeting. That and the funding, the bonding.

Art said we get that moving and I think we are going to be in very good shape.

Gary said when we get to that, is your maintenance Devon will work hand in hand with our Building Administrator, Jake?

Art said absolutely. I think they work together now at times and help each other out as necessary.

Gary said of course you will be monitoring it too as Sheriff.

Art said somewhat, I would also share and probably would speak more at that point in time and Jake and I have talked about this. This is a pretty extensive project and I would highly recommend that we have a project manager who is familiar with this because I have stated time and time again. Air conditioning and plumbing are not my forte.

Argo is presenting that.

Art said perfect.

Gary said so we will discuss it. I would agree by the way. Anything else?

Art said that's all I have unless anyone has questions for me.

#### **Minutes of April 21, 2025**

Gary said minutes of the April 21, 2025 meeting. Somebody like to make a motion to accept them?

Tom made a motion to accept the April 21, 2025 minutes. Missy seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

#### **Payroll Claims \$373,737.69**

Gary said payroll claims \$373,737.69 somebody like to make a motion to accept?

Tom moved to approve. Missy seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

#### **Regular Claims \$1,833,995.28**

Gary said regular claims \$1,833,995.28 somebody like to make a motion to approve.

Tom moved to approve. Missy seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

#### **BF&S (Vision Trail) Claim \$1,400.00**

Gary said next the BF&S Vision Trail Claim of \$1,400.00. We will go on to the next bit of business of this trail directly after we pay the claim. Somebody like to make the motion to pay this \$1,400 claim. I have no doubt we owe it.

Tom moved to approve. Missy seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Gary said now that we are on the trail everybody was given the DNR letter and we will have our council Meeks help formulate the motion to suspend the trail.

Meeks said I think based on the DNR letter we vote to follow their recommendations and halt the trail process.

Gary asked would somebody like to make that motion?

Missy said I will make that motion. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Gary asked Meeks can you draft us a letter.

Meeks said you should do a motion to send them a letter.

Gary asked would someone like to make a motion to send a letter informing them of our decision?

Tom moved to send the letter. Missy seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Randolph County Tourism \$2,365.66**

Gary said next we have a Randolph County Tourism claim for \$2,365.66. This is their monthly claim and it goes directly to them now.

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

**Ordinance 2025-02 Unified Zoning amendment**

Gary said now we have already taken care of Ordinance 2025-02.

**Morgue project**

Gary said now we are on the morgue project. Everybody got the file for the morgue project. It does make it barley, which is enough. I think what we need now, Tom you mentioned you'd take care of the field project on this one here as the contact person.

Tom said sure.

Gary said someone like to make a motion to give Tom the authority of the commissioners?

Missy made a motion. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Gary said that's all we need on that. Pretty good print. Meeks have you seen it.

Meeks said now I have not.

Gary said while we're here the update on Farmland is it's coming along slow. Their supposed to be there this week and sure the rain has something to do with it, to get the oil separator put in properly. The air conditioner is installed and operating. The generator is installed to be hooked up this week. Then we will be down to dealing with the stone and any cosmetics that we have inside. The drainage issues that were created have now been repaired. Randy and Jake are on every move of that project.

Missy said I think it's a good idea to get Jake on from the very beginning, keeping an eye on it for any future projects.

Gary said yes, I do too in the future. What happened there was Randy ended up in surgery and we didn't have an inspector on it. Anyway, it's getting done. It's in operation and the I&M issue that come up was not the contractor's fault.

**Additional Appropriations:**

**Airport**

<b>Overtime</b>	<b>\$5,750.00</b>
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Gary said additional appropriations airport overtime. Already, we don't have enough funding at the airport for overtime. I want overtime to go to the Council for budgetary process. Does it have to come here first Meeks.

Meeks said we have to do the additional appropriation. It doesn't have to come here first.

Gary said I think overtime appropriation should go to council tomorrow and have a budgetary discussion. We'll have a lot of them before the Council.

Laura said if you approve it today and Council don't agree with it, they're not going to approve it tomorrow and it can't go through. So, it doesn't matter if you do it now or if not it's just holding up the money to pay.

Meeks said if they approve it your just holding up the money for two weeks.

Laura said if we take it to Council first, they only meet once a month. Then it's an additional two weeks for your approval.

Tom said then they need to come in and present it and tell us why they need overtime already.

Larry Preston said I think just talking to a couple people in a grievance, we recognize the claim of \$5,750.00 but we have no information to see what it's for, why and how long.

Gary said we don't either.

Larry said so I think at this, I don't know what's going to happen tomorrow at the Council meeting but that would the questions that I would propose.

Gary said we can pass this today, providing that the council passes it tomorrow asking the questions. But I would like Laura to send out to the department heads. Don't even send in an overtime request without representation.

Meeks said I think you can require that. If your asking for an additional appropriation. I think this is pretty new and you guys can have a rule at the Commissioners and the Council can have their own rules tomorrow. It's pretty new so I think the rules could be hey if your asking for overtime you better give us a written statement why you need overtime or you better have somebody.

Greg Cheesman said at the very least a written statement. I don't know why the department head can't be here to talk.

Missy said and the hours they work. Was there a, I didn't see it, was there an explanation of what day I worked and why I was there that late.

Meeks said I think for the Commissioner's you can make your own and Council can have a different set of rules. But Laura could sent out to all the department heads hey if you want an additional appropriation for overtime, you better come up tell us why.

Larry said if I understand, talking to Missy, that Eric is the only employee out there. Soley almost.

Gary said they have a part time.

Larry said a part time. Has this overtime already occurred from January 1 to today. Is this what you expect for the rest of the year. I think we need a little more detail.

Greg said you guys seem to be blind sided by it at today's meeting and we will be just as blind sided tomorrow even though I've heard it today.

Gary said you have time for someone to contact the airport and tell them to come to your meeting tomorrow. I would think. Would the Commissioner's like to entertain going ahead and approving this one, this one time to keep the ball rolling and then put out a memo that you must come.

Missy said no, I'd like to hear an explanation first.

Gary said so, you'd like to table it until we get an explanation. Do we have a motion to table it.

Missy motioned to table. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

## Airport

**Fly-in Breakfast** \$2,000.00

Gary said next fly-in breakfast \$2,000 airport.

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

## Tourism

**Rent** **\$6,000.00**

Gary said tourism rent \$6,000.00 this is for renting their space over at RCU.

Tom asked is that for the year?

Gary said it looks like it. \$500 a month.

Missy said couldn't that come in as a claim month by month.

Gary said it wasn't in their budget. It has to be appropriated.

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

CCMG 2024-2

**Match for 800 E** **\$200,000.00**

Gary said community crossings matching grant 2024-2 match for 800 E \$200,000.00.

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

CCD – RCFFO

**Building Maintenance** \$20,000.00

Gary said CCD-RCFFO building maintenance \$20,000. Somebody like to make a motion to approve.

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

### **Citizen Comments (3 minutes)**

Gary said we are now at citizen comments 3 minutes. Does anybody here want to come forward. Please come up. Are you coming up as a citizen or a council member.

Scott Fisher said both. I have a concern on your 800 N project. Two million dollars is a lot for a half mile of road. And if they don't move that drive way or that scale house, there's not going to be no trucks use that road. Right now, their coming out and going south down 1000 W to 700 N and across 700 over to state road 1 because it's a lot easier to see to get out. If you spend \$2 million and US Ag pushes it down the road 2 or 3 years. He's already said they wanted at least 24 months to do it. You know what if that turns into 3 or 4 years none of your truck traffic is going to use that \$2 million dollars of pavement. So, you really need to think about that. Because I know for a fact that trucks are going down 1000 and they are going to continue to go down 1000 unless that drive way and that scale house gets moved over there where they have to go out onto the new pavement. I think you need to make sure you've got a firm commitment that the scale house and the driveway is going to get moved. Otherwise, that new road is not going to get used.

Gary said even if it does, nothing stops them from going down 1000 all the way to 700.

Scott said until they move their driveway. Once they move their driveway, their coming out on 800.

Tom said if there's a scale on both ends. They're going to use the existing scale.

Scott said right now their going to use the existing scale and the scale house and they will until they get a new scale house and a new driveway. But, he mentioned that they are going to want a couple years to get that done. So, that means all the truck traffic coming out of there is going to be going down 1000 and across 700. Are you sure you wouldn't be better off to spend the money on beefing up 700 and 1000 since that's where all the traffic's going to be going anyway.

Gary said there's a lot of properties on there, a lot of houses. Also, he said post production too. He didn't say starting right now.

Scott said right. I just wanted to mention that the county could spend \$2 million dollars on this ½ mile of road and their might not be any trucks using it.

Gary said that would be unfortunate wouldn't it. Thank you for that.

Scott said yes, it would. Just something to think about.

Missy said I think one of us need to get together with you, Scott, and drive up there. I need to see it.

Scott said I went up there. I was asked to look it over. And I went up there and actually they were surveying the s curves the day we were up there and there were a lot of trucks coming in but when they would leave they all went down 1000 and across 700. And I get it because it's easier to see coming out on road 1 on 700 then it is 800.

Gary said for sure.

Scott said 1000 and 700 are pretty good roads. I'm not so sure you wouldn't be better off to thicken up the pavement on those and put more shoulder on those and use that versus spend \$2 million on a half mile of road.

Gary said the reason I have a disagreement on that. We have a lot of home owners.

Scott said I get it. My only concern was US Ag was a little bit hesitant about when they would put their new driveway in and move their scale house and if they don't do it your wasting this \$2 million. Your flat out wasting it.

Gary said point taken. Thank you.

Scott said just something I've picked up on. Not that I'm wanting to deny them anything but I would hate to spend \$2 million and I'm telling you if they don't move the driveway and the scale house the trucks will continue to go down 1000 to 700 and across.

Gary asked how many speed bumps will it take to stop them. Thank you Scott. Anybody else from the citizens. Please come up and state your name for the record.

David Ziembra said I was told and to my understanding that no one is allowed to move a creek or any kind of a waterway. Am I correct in that information.

Gary said it just so happens that our surveyor is here. Can you come up Ed and answer that? Or you can talk later. You can get with our county surveyor.

David Ziembra said is that true.

Ed said it takes permits from IDEM and DNR if your going to move a river.

Missy said Ed you need to come up to the microphone.

David said I apologize I don't know. But it's a concern.

Meeks said you need to talk to DNR. Are you wanting to move a waterway sir?

David said no, there is someone who has move a waterway and it has created a big problem.

Meeks said you will need to talk to DNR if they move the waterway and file a complaint with the Department of Natural Recourses. Ed probably has their number at his office.

Ed said believe it or not I don't.

David said I was directed to you. I didn't know what was going on and I was told you were having a meeting.

Meeks said maybe after our meeting you could talk to him Ed?

Ed said yes, we're about done here but I have Drainage Board that will take about 1/2 hour. I can talk to you for a couple minutes between meetings.

David said okay.

Gary said anybody else?

John Ison III I live on 1000 South, 317 W 1000 South. I thought there was going to be a Brandy here, she said come to the Commissioner's meeting Monday and I haven't seen her, so I don't know if she canceled but she has a drive that has a culvert that is undersized and I know the Surveyor, you might as well come on up because he's here. I've lived there 23 years and basically my house is worthless because of this driveway culvert. Every time it rains it blocks, washes out her gravel, she replaces \$1,000.00 worth of gravel every time storms come through. The big flood in 08 washed out everything.

Ed said actually I was going to bring this to their attention in drainage board, which is in about 10 minutes.

John said is it? Okay, because we been dealing with it forever. Nobody wants to fix it, way back then they told me oh it's plenty big, I mean I figured it up. I'm a product designer, I've been working in engineering for 32 years and just by the number you've got over 6000 square inches trying to go through 1800 square inch culvert.

Gary said we've heard your concern and we'll let our surveyor advise us.

John said they've always told me take them to court. I'm not that kind of neighbor. Multiple people have owned it, the problem is it's got steal rails and actually ties back into the road, so if the owner tried to rip that out she'd rip 1/2 the road up.

Gary said and the drainage board is open to the public and it is next after this meeting, so if you'd like to stay here, you can hear the discussion. Anything else?

John said that's it.

Gary asked anybody else? Hearing nothing, Missy?

Missy said no.

Gary said Tom?

Tom said no.

Gary said Meeks? Laura?

Laura said I do. I have a few things. First I just want to mention that if your going to call a meeting, please make sure that you are not inviting more than 1 Commissioner or 2 Council to that meeting. Otherwise, it is considered a public meeting, which must be advertised. Correct Meeks.

Meeks said absolutely.

Laura said the second thing is if your using the Commissioners/Council room for a meeting that needs to go through me. I have a calendar and there are people that use this room, not outside of county government but for example Redevelopment Commission, PTABOA, they use this room too. So, I have a calendar, so please let me know if your planning on having a meeting in this room. I talked to Irwin regarding travel policies that we talked about last time. She sent me not policies so we would still need those drawn up but she reviewed typical ways that other counties do it. Number one is the way we do it now. You pay for it and get reimbursed. The second one would be to use a county credit card maintained by the Auditor, the employees would sign out the credit card after the travel is authorized by the department head and commissioners, employee returns credit card and itemized receipts to Auditor. The third one is county allows department heads to own their own credit cards to use for expenses included travel. Those are what Irwin sent me of ideas of what other counties do. I thought I would just bring that to you guys for consideration. I don't have a policy today to sign or approve. Those are just ideas that came from Irwin who does our policies.

Gary said one could be that they have to come and request a check.

Laura said that is not one that she recommended and I don't recommend but that's not my call.

Meeks said to administer that, that is what you'd be dealing with all the time. You just need to have a policy.

Missy said isn't there a policy in the handbook?

Meeks said yes, our policy is that you pay for it and you get reimbursed.

Laura said it's been this policy for years and it's not been an issue until now.

Gary said it's same day reimbursement too, right?

Laura said we can do same day reimbursement, if you bring it in the day you get back. It may be the next day because we do ACH and it takes a day to get into your bank account. But, if you turn a claim in the day you get back with your receipts then we can process it and have it in your bank account the next day. That would be a change from what we are doing now but you're still using your own funding but we can reimburse it the same day basically or the next day.

Missy said a lot of the time there is a deadline for when you have to register for the workshop or whatever it is.

Laura said they don't take the money off your card. The registrations are paid for by the county now if you register correctly. They will invoice the county direct. So, you don't pay that. The only thing is the hotel.

Tom said if you reserve the hotel ahead of time.

Laura said they don't take it from your card until you check out. So, if you bring it back the next day, you should have your money before the bill comes. I've never had one that's charged me before I check out.

Gary said they do that because you can actually cancel up to two days.

Missy said has anyone ever had trouble with they charge you taxes.

Laura said yes, and we have always paid that.

Missy said we don't need to pay it.

Meeks said we have always paid whatever your expenses are.

Missy said but if you take that tax exempt form with you and actually I used it with my personal card last time and they didn't charge me tax. I don't know that we want to pay taxes when we don't need to be.

Laura said we've been paying them. Like I said I'm just giving you what I received.

Meeks said the employee is not out any money.

Missy said but the county is.

Laura said the next item is Maze design sent an invoice. Can we pay that from Commissioner's Cum Cap?

Gary said we need to pay it from County general because, they have the funds that were earmarked for it from ARPA.

Laura said I just wanted to know how you wanted it done. The last thing is I didn't put the copiers back on the agenda. I'm getting a third quote from our current vendor. I'm thinking the one that was really inexpensive. That was really a good deal but I don't know those copiers, they're willing to bring me trial machine for 30 days. I'm thinking about doing that if you guys are okay with it.

Gary said I'm okay with it. Missy?

Missy said yes.

Tom said it was a significant difference in cost.

Laura said yes, it was over \$100.00 almost \$200.00 difference.

Gary said per month.

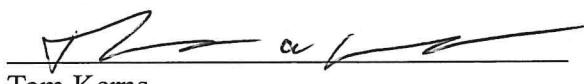
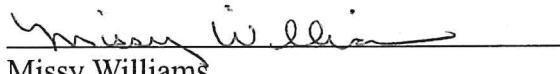
Laura said yes, per month. That's all I got.

Gary asked anything else before we adjourn?

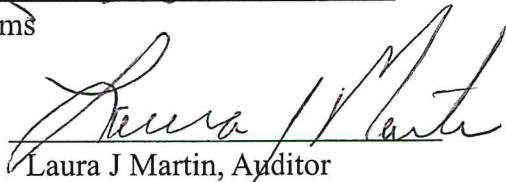
**Adjournment**

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

Reviewed and accepted this 2 day of June, 2025

  
Gary Friend  
Tom Kerns  
Missy Williams

ATTESTED:

  
Laura J Martin, Auditor