

Randolph County Commissioners

August 1, 2022

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, Tom Chalfant and Gary Girton. Also present was Randolph County Auditor Laura J Martin, Sheriff Art Moystner and County Attorney Meeks Cockerill.

Michael Wickersham, President presided over the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Wendy McDavid – Covid test site funding

Mike said first item on our agenda is Wendy from the Health Department to talk about Covid test site funding. Good morning Wendy.

Wendy said so our Covid test site was set to shut down in June. The state offered us a \$50,000.00 grant to continue the test site until the end of the summer. Our grant and funding has not arrived yet. It has been approved, but it is not here. So, we were wondering if you could cover the test site funding until the grant came. The grant is for \$50,000.00 total. And like I said, it's just a matter of paperwork. It's not here yet.

Mike said any idea when it will be here.

Wendy said soon. No, I mean there's no rhyme or reason. It's just.

Mike said so are you looking for us to just.

Wendy said just cover it until we get our money, then pay it back.

Mike said as you submit invoices or claims, we would pay those claims.

Wendy said yes.

Mike said what do you anticipate those to be.

Wendy said well there's only two staff members working at the test site right now, so it shouldn't be much.

Mike said where would we pay that from if we did that. I mean, I think it's probably a safe, safe investment. It would be difficult to pay it out of EDIT funds. We can't loan money out of ARPA, any other funds we have I suspect would have to come from council.

Laura said well in additional appropriation, that takes a month. And that would be September before any money would be available. So, if there's money like in any budget lines we could use. I didn't think about checking that out. I wasn't for sure what was going on.

Mike said I guess if we chose to do so, then we could make the decision to fund the testing site until the grant came in, and then let council determine how to pay for the claims as they come in. Would that be an appropriate way to do it? They meet tomorrow.

Laura said and we can look into it this afternoon.

Wendy said I think we have enough to cover two more pay periods. Sherri could tell you for sure, but she's sick today. I think we have enough to cover like two more pay periods.

Laura said then we should be okay.

Mike said be okay so. We've heard the request from the health department to.

Gary made a motion to approve the request. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said how are the numbers doing.

Wendy said going back up.

Mike said is that just positive tests or is that hospitalizations.

Wendy said both. I can only count positive tests that are, that we see that are valid that have run through our site. So, all the home testing, I can't count the numbers, but they're, I'm not sure, there's been so many. I mean people's called me and told me, but I can't count them.

Mike said okay. Well it's probably a good thing the state extended it then.

Wendy said yeah it is. Thank you.

Greg Beumer & Roger Gough - 4-H Future needs

Mike said Greg, 4-H Future needs, and Roger.

Greg said commissioners, good morning. I'm here with Roger Gough and we are representing the future needs committee of 4-H Incorporated. And we are here to begin a conversation about county assistance in the construction of improvements to the Best Way pavilion and then also for construction of a new livestock show arena. I'm going to turn it over to Roger. He's got some information, but I want to share with you, I think you are aware that the county received funding from the READI Program of the state of Indiana. And that this project, the 4-H Improvement project is one of two projects that have received tentative approval. So, we're looking for some additional seed money to go with that, begin a capital campaign and so on.

Roger Gough said just kind of give you an update of where we're at, the future needs committee, we have raised money ourselves. We're right at the \$200,000.00 mark that we had raised. We also like Greg said, we applied for the READI Grant. To be able to move forward with that to keep that process going, like he said, we're needing to ask the county for some money, because we've got new bids coming in to give us more up-to-date quotes on it. But we don't see the project being anymore than exceeding the two million dollars for the two build, two projects. So, to move forward on the project with the READI Grants stuff, we were needing to ask the county to commit to \$600,000.00 so we could keep the process rolling. And because this READI Grant from, it does have a time issue that we have to get rolling on this. I think Greg said we're right around, I think he had about a six months window of showing some progress that you are making headway towards that. So that's what we're asking the commissioners to at least commit the \$600,000 to that project.

Greg said we will be meeting with county council as well to have this conversation with them.

Mike said so I toured out there several months ago and I guess the livestock wasn't part of the project. And it was just the pavilion expansion and the remodel and expansion of the dining area.

Roger said the project, the show arena big in the project, but our main focus was on the dining room. That was kind of our phase one that we wanted to get done, because I mean, all of you had meetings out there. You could kind of see the conditions that the bathrooms and the dining room was at. So that was our main focus, but our, to do for this READI Grant, I mean both projects was the show arena and that. But our main goal is we want to get one done.

Mike said so is the READI Grant then \$1.2 million. Is that what I'm hearing.

Greg said no, their commitment is only, READI can only be 20% of the total project cost.

Mike said so it's \$400,000.

Greg said up to a maximum. So, and that was based on Randolph County's allocation. So, we split money with the project in Union City, the vision corner. And our share of this is roughly \$230,000. And I apologize, Ceann Bales, when she was the director of Economic Development, spearheaded the READI application, and she could not be here today, but she will be able to be with us at county council tomorrow. So, the specific questions about the READI funding, she can answer those.

Mike said okay. So, I understand, you guys have raised \$200,000, Ready is going to put in \$230,000. You're asking us for \$600,000 and the project is \$2 million.

Greg said and there will be a, so the money that's been raised so far has not been part of an organized capital campaign. It was basically folks who contributed to helping get this off the ground. And then the shortfall then would be part of a capital campaign that the future needs committee would embark on.

Mike said which is almost a million right now as I add these numbers up.

Greg said and what we're looking at with the \$2 million figure is sort of a not to exceed. We think it can be done for less, but with estimated construction in 2023 and 2024, we just, we just don't want to be short.

Mike said so how soon will you know what the project estimate will be?

Roger said we've been working with contractors and we've been talking to them for at least three or four months now every week. And we were hoping to have something today. But we think we should have at least one contractor get back with us at the end of this week, we are hoping, on the project up there on Best Way center.

Tom said now the plans I saw, you are going to go out south of the building?

Roger said yes.

Tom said are you still going to keep all the existing restroom and dining room.

Roger said once we build on out south, the dining room and the bathrooms, that'll all come off. Everything will be brand new on that part of it. That's our biggest thing is because I mean, you guys have been out there. You've held events, and you've got a nice place out front, but.

Tom said yeah I didn't want to, yeah can use that or remodel that so.

Roger said yeah, what we're trying to do is set it up where when we do have it remodel that we can hold something in the dining room, something in Husted Hall and everybody would have access to the bathrooms without interrupting each other. We, I mean, early on in the meetings, we showed how many groups used that and there's multiple groups out there at the same time. But that's, that is our design right now. But yeah the contractors have been a little slow, but part of it is because their workforce is out there and they're out on the job, and having a hard time getting the estimates back to us.

Mike said there's no question it's an asset for the county. I don't have any other questions. Do you have any, Gary have any questions.

Gary said well I think it's a good project. I'm just not sure about the financing at the present time. I wasn't aware of the amount of money to fund it. I understand that the need is there, but how we are going to go about doing that, I'm not sure at the present time.

Mike said I'm a little confused on the READI as well.

Tom said you didn't know it was a 4 to 1 match.

Mike said I knew there was a 4 to 1 match, but I guess I'm thinking if it's 20% of the project, and the project is \$2 million, why isn't READI \$400,000.00. I don't quite understand that.

Greg said because Randolph County's allocation wouldn't fund both the Vision Corner and our project too. It wasn't in the budget. Now we can, I can specifically ask Ceann that question. Tom said and the agreement, we can expand our portion, that's what we're, that's what the eight counties or ten counties gave us and that's not going to get more.

Greg said yeah. And there is a public sector funding requirement.

Mike said right I understand that. That's where the forty comes in. And then do you know how much Vision Corner got out of READI?

Greg said I don't, but it was more than the allocation for the show arena.

Tom said it was three hundred or so.

Mike said Andy Fahl, do you have a comment.

Andy Fahl said yes maybe I can clear this up a little bit because Ceann and I both worked on this. And you're all on the right vein. Don't quote me on this. I think Vision was in that \$320, \$360 range. 4-H was \$230 and Tom, you are right. The counties we participated in, in East central, got awarded an amount and then the counties each negotiated their position. And our position was our two projects was \$600,000ish. So, our attitude was, we considered that to be a win. We weren't greedy about it. And we've considered those two projects to be near and dear to Randolph County. We consider it to be a win. So, you were right, \$2 million, 20% is not, it's not \$400, but at the time, that's the way it shook out.

Mike said okay thank you Andy.

Greg said thank you very much for your time. We were just, we're here to continue to let you know that this is moving forward. We haven't communicated with you in a while. And that we will reach a point soon where we would like to get a commitment. Now soon meaning in the next thirty, sixty days. We realize there's more details that we'll be able to provide in that time frame.

Mike said we'll still be here in thirty to sixty days.

Greg said thanks for listening to us.

Chris Beasley & Grace Minkis – Riverstart III agreements, Resolution 2022-25

Mike said Chris and Grace. Riverstart III agreements. Anything you want to share about these this morning. I think they've been reviewed and reviewed. And they've been approved have they not Meeks, from a legal standpoint?

Meeks said from my standpoint absolutely.

Mike said and I appreciate the change in the roads and drains paragraph. The decommissioning reads the same as post construction.

Chris said yeah it made sense.

Mike said so we've got three agreements and we have a resolution to pass. Does it matter which order we take these in.

Meeks said I'd do the resolution first because it authorizes you guys to do them.

Mike said this is resolution number 2022-12, a resolution of the board of commissioners of Randolph County Indiana approving an economic development agreement, a road use agreement and a decommissioning agreement with Riverstart Solar Park III, LLC., and certain other matters in connection therewith. And basically, it goes through the project with several whereas, and then it concludes that we are resolving to enter these agreements on behalf of the county. Anybody have any questions about the resolution?

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF RANDOLPH COUNTY, INDIANA APPROVING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT, A ROAD USE AGREEMENT, AND A DECOMMISSIONING AGREEMENT WITH RIVERSTART SOLAR PARK III, LLC, AND CERTAIN OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Randolph County, Indiana (the "Board") desires to benefit the health and general welfare of the citizens of Randolph County, Indiana (the "County") and create opportunities for gainful employment and business opportunities within the County; and

WHEREAS, Riverstart Solar Park III LLC (the "Company") is contemplating the development and construction of a solar-powered electric generating facility in the County, which will have a rated capacity of approximately 100 megawatts (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, in the completion of the Project, the Company will invest up to approximately One Hundred Seventy-Five Million Dollars (\$175,000,000) in equipment and real estate improvements in the County and create approximately four permanent jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Company has requested assistance with the completion of certain road improvements, the approval of tax abatement, and other assistance from the County with respect to the Project; and

WHEREAS, to induce the Company to complete the Project, the Board desires to approve the execution of an Economic Development Agreement, between the County and the Company, a form of which has been presented to the Board on the date hereof (the "Economic Development Agreement"), pursuant to which certain incentives will be provided to Company in exchange for its commitment to complete the Project, to make certain economic development payments, and to take certain other actions with respect to the Project; and

WHEREAS, as contemplated by the Economic Development Agreement, the Board desires to approve the execution of an Agreement Regarding County Roads and Drains, between the County and the Company, a form of which has been presented to the Board on the date hereof (the "Road Use Agreement"), pursuant to which the County agrees to provide the use of certain roads to the Company and the Company agrees to repair and improve such roads and certain drainage improvements in the County; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 19-7-6-3 of the Randolph County Zoning Ordinance, the Company is required to formulate a decommissioning plan and to provide financial assurance for the decommissioning of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to approve the execution of a Decommissioning Agreement, between the County and the Company, a form of which has been presented to the Board on the date hereof (the "Decommissioning Agreement").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Randolph County, Indiana, that:

The Board hereby finds that the execution and delivery of each of the Economic Development Agreement, the Road Use Agreement, and the Decommissioning Agreement are in the best interests of the County and its citizens. The Board is authorized and directed to execute each of the Economic Development Agreement, the Road Use Agreement, and the Decommissioning Agreement, in the name and on behalf of the County, and the Auditor of the County is hereby authorized and directed to attest the execution of each of such agreements, with such changes and modifications as such persons or the County Attorney deem necessary or appropriate to effectuate this Resolution, said persons' execution thereof to be conclusive evidence of the approval of such changes.

The members of the Board, the County Council, the Auditor of the County, the legal counsel of the County, and other appropriate officers of the County are hereby authorized to take all such actions and execute all such instruments as are necessary or desirable to effectuate this Resolution.

This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption.

Gary said after much discussion, I'll move approval of the resolution number 2022-12 as presented.

Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said well since we passed the resolution saying we wanted to enter these agreements, I suppose it's time to have a motion to accept the agreements as presented, and execute them on behalf of the county. So, I think there's no reason to take these one at a time is there Meeks.

Meeks said no.

Mike said so I'd entertain a motion to approve the, and by the way, I trust everyone received one of these via email. I have, as well as the resolution. So, we've had an opportunity to review them. I'd entertain a motion to approve the agreement regarding county roads and drainage

between River Solar Park III in Randolph County, the economic development between the same two parties, and the Randolph County Decommissioning agreement between the same two parties.

Tom made motion. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motions carried.

Mike said I trust the developer will sign these and you'll get the signed copies back to us.

Chris said correct.

Mike said anything else on Riverstart III.

Mike said while we're all here, I think we all received the letter from Laura regarding the Becker tv reception. And I think I shared that with Laura that there was kind of a matter of, not been resolved, that Chris has indicated that they are going to approach it by resolving it in a different matter I guess, a different manner. And I don't know if he's done that.

Tom said they've been working on it for quite some time.

Mike said I know.

Chris said it's an atypical situation for sure. We've offered a different route and Mrs. Becker did not want to take that route. So, we're going to keep thinking on it, working on it. It's definitely at the forefront. If any of you think of a suggestion as to how we might proceed, your input would be very much appreciated.

Mike said well I was hoping, and I shared the email with you, Max I believe, I was hoping someone might know Mrs. Becker and could have that conversation with her. She's in the western part of the county, so I thought maybe Max being from down there or Tom, being, representing.

Tom said her horses were out of the field a few times, but, so I've had a little conversation with her.

Mike said I know how diplomatic you can be. I was just hoping you could go talk to Mrs. Becker.

Tom said alright I'll try to do that.

Mike said it doesn't sound like a problem that shouldn't be unresolved. It sounds like something that could be resolved. And I think if the right people are involved, maybe they could so. You going to take that Tom.

Tom said I will.

Mike said do you think you can report back in a couple weeks.

Tom said I think so.

Mike said very good. So, Tom's going to help you.

Chris said I appreciate that.

Mike said and I don't know if we want to talk about that while you're here. Are you going to stick around for ordinance 2022-22 and ordinance 2022-23, which are the speed limit ordinances that we're in the process of passage?

Chris said yes.

Mike said do you want to grab both of those out. So, we're ready for our second reading of ordinance 2022-22. This is the one that we put temporary speed limits in effect back in July of 2021, and they expire at the end of this month. And we decided three or four meetings ago that we should make these speed limits permanent in that area because of the industrial activity, the solar farm and the windfarms. And we did pass it on one reading about a month ago. And since that, Mike Haffner has raised some concern about making these permanent, as well as there was some concern raised about these speed limit signs not meeting state standards. But they do meet state standards, they are just not on a tall enough pole. And should we make that permanent, then it's going to be somebody's expense to put in the taller poles at \$80.00 a post. Is that what you shared with us Mike. And how many are out there?

Mike Haffner said I think it's around 25.

Mike said that would be about \$4,000.00 in my calculation. So, I guess we need to consider knowing that, do we.

Tom said that's \$2,000.00.

Mike said oh that's \$2,000.00. Thank you. We pay half if we could get EDPR to pay half. And then we could cover it so. Mike said I guess the question for us as commissioners, do we want to make these speed limits permanent, and thereby incur an expense at the highway department of \$2,000.00. We're going to have to do that to make them permanent.

Gary said has there been any objections to making them permanent.

Mike said I've not received any objections. Again, Mike Haffner has raised an issue about complaints about slowing down out there in your email. You had a concern.

Mike Haffner said well we've had multiple different people with small businesses and stuff saying hey can I get reduced speed or something like that. I've always said hey that's got to go in front of the commissioners. With newly paved roads, peoples not going to drive 45.

Mike said some of them might.

Mike Haffner said I think we're just opening up a can of worms if we start restricting speed limits, because then everybody's going hey I want my road restricted too. But my main concern is just you know, we just took a major hit on some signs and stuff, and you know, if we do pass this ordinance, you know, all new posts and everything, then new regulations are going to have to be installed.

Mike said well you're right in respect if a small business wants the speed limit reduced in front of their property, they need to come to the commissioners and convince them that needs to be done. To my knowledge, that's never happened. I don't know of anybody that's come and done that other than EDPR, has done that, and we're acting on EDPRs request. And even with paving, unfortunately some of those county roads that the windfarm has repaved, at least the first one, was taken back to original width, so it does make them narrower. And that was the county's responsibility to not, they didn't catch that. Or we didn't catch that so, I guess I'm in favor of slower speeds in the county. I thought speed limits on all county roads were a lot slower than what they are. So, I would be in favor of passing this ordinance on the second reading and absorbing the cost of the signs unless you guys want to volunteer to pay for them. So, I'd be in favor of doing that so.

Gary said I'm not opposed to it, in fact, I'm in favor of the speed limits. But if the highway is going to do the installation, I'd prefer that we not pay any more than half of the cost since we are absorbing the labor to install the posts. So, we could negotiate a couple of thousand. And so, we're going to have more than two thousand involved. We're going to have a fair amount in labor since we had a truck, to drive the posts, and the equipment.

Mike said what's your thoughts Tom.

Tom said yeah I guess I would still go ahead in posting the speed limits. I don't think I want to paint a bike lane on the road yet though. We can maybe slow people down so the bicycles can still ride on it.

Mike said how about our Randolph County bikeway, biking sign. This is a dedicated as a Randolph County bikeway, based on ordinance 2022-24.

Tom said if we could name that after a certain person, I'm in favor of that.

Mike said well this is just to put people on notice that bikers are out there. The road's not wide enough for a lane. So, I guess I'll just call it a question and see where it takes us. What's the labor on a sign for them Mike. Anticipate one person, two people for an hour.

Mike Haffner said it takes one person. You have to call in locates, you drive it in, but then it goes on his inventory. So, there's some data input work. But, you know, if you just figured roughly a hundred bucks a sign, that would cover both labor and installation and everything.

Mike said I was about right at 4,000 then.

Mike Haffner said unfortunately steel is just increased and these posts are harder to get than actual signs themselves.

Mike said what kind of a post are they on now.

Mike Haffner said it's a, it's a straight post, but they used a lot lighter gaged post and a lot of them's bent. You know the wind hits them or they lean and a lot of them's only a few feet off the ground, where the minimum height underneath the ground to the underneath part of the sign has to be five foot.

Mike said right. That's why we need new posts.

Mike Haffner said and when you go taller, then you've got to go a thicker, heavier.

Tom said are they the two piece. You drive the bottom in then you bolt the top to it.

Mike Haffner said yeah that way they kind of shear off or if somebody hits it, at least the stub will be there that we can attach it to. And most of the time, we just take the bent, broken signs and cut that stub and use it for the bottom.

Mike said okay. Well I would entertain a motion to approve Ordinance number 2022-22, an ordinance for the county commissioners of Randolph County amending chapter 71, schedule on speed limits for it's second reading by title only.

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-22

**An Ordinance for the County Commissioners of Randolph County Indiana
Amending Chapter 71, Schedule I, Speed Limits**

BE IT ORDAINED that the Randolph County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 71, Schedule I, Speed Limits was amended by adding the following to subsection I:

<i>Street/Road</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Speed Limit</i>	<i>Penalty</i>	<i>Ord. No.</i>	<i>Date Passed</i>
C.R. 600 S	From S Indian Trail Road to C.R. 200 W	40 mph	Class C Infraction		
C.R. 650 S	From C.R. 400 W to 450 W	40 mph	Class C Infraction		
C.R. 700 S	From C.R. 500 W to C.R. 200 W	40 mph	Class C Infraction		
C.R. 850 S	From C.R. 500 W to C.R. 300 W	40 mph	Class C Infraction		
C.R. 500 W	From 675 S to C.R. 850 S	45 mph	Class C Infraction		
C.R. 400 W	From C.R. 600 S to C.R. 700 S	30 mph	Class C Infraction		
C.R. 400 W	From US HWY 36 to C.R. 850 S	40 mph	Class C Infraction		

C.R. 300 W	From C.R. 600 S to US HWY 36	45 mph	Class C Infraction		
C.R. 300 W	From US HWY 36 to C.R. 850 S	40 mph	Class C Infraction		
C.R. 200 W	From C.R. 600 S to C.R. 700 S	40 mph	Class C Infraction		
C.R. 200 W	From C.R. 700 S to US HWY 36	45 mph	Class C Infraction		

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the above speed limits were scheduled to expire on August 1, 2022 and upon the passage and due publication of this Ordinance those speed limits shall not expire and shall continue as shown above until further modified by the Randolph County Commissioners.

Tom made a motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2022-22. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said that's a unanimous vote. We can suspend the rules and complete this process this morning, or we can wait two weeks and determine whether or not we hear any concerns, more concerns.

Gary said I don't think we rush. I'd just as soon wait.

Mike said it's until the end of August they're out there anyway. I'm okay with waiting. You okay. So, we'll have the third and final reading on August the 15th. We might as well deal with ordinance 2022-23 and this would be the first reading of an ordinance for the county commissioners of Randolph County Indiana amending chapter 71, schedule 1, speed limits. I'm going to read this one because number one, it's short, and number two, I want the people to know what roads we're slowing people down on. Again, it is a temporary speed limit ordinance and it's, be ordained that Randolph County code of ordinance, chapter 71, schedule 1, speed limits is hereby amended by adding the following to subsection 1. County road 600 South, from Highway 1 to County Road 500 West, reduced to 35 mile per hour. County road 700 South, from Highway 1 to Indian Trail, reduced to 35 mile per hour. And Indian Trail from County Road 600 South to U. S. Highway 36, reduced to 35 mile per hour. The above speed limits shall commence upon passage and due publication of this ordinance. And on August 1st, 2024, the speed limits that existed prior to this ordinance for the above streets and roads shall go back into effect. Any questions about the ordinance. Any thoughts.

Chris said my only question is would the county prefer for EDPR to install the signage, or for the county to install the signage at EDPR's reimbursement.

Mike said that's what you did last time on the ordinance we just, for temporary, so yeah, that would be. That was your offer last time and we accepted it. So, if you're offering that again, we will, on behalf of the county, I would accept that.

Chris said okay so you would like us, we would install the posts through a contractor.

Mike said well I think if you, I think last time you bought the signs and did they install them last time.

Mike Haffner said yeah they bought signs.

Mike said did they install them or did we install them.

Mike Haffner said they installed them.

Chris said Scott Fisher's crew.

Mike said well we can do that. That's okay with me. Appreciate that. So, does someone want to move well we can do that. That's okay with me. Appreciate that. So, does someone want to move approval of this ordinance number 2022-23 as I just read after the first reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 2022- 23m

**An Ordinance for the County Commissioners of Randolph County Indiana
Amending Chapter 71, Schedule I, Speed Limits**

BE IT ORDAINED that the Randolph County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 71, Schedule I, Speed Limits is hereby amended by adding the following to subsection I:

<i>Street/Road</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Speed Limit</i>	<i>Penalty</i>	<i>Ord. No.</i>	<i>Date Passed</i>
C.R. 600 S	From State HWY 1 to S C.R. 500 W	35 mph	Class C Infraction		
C.R. 700 S	From State HWY 1 to Indian Trail	35 mph	Class C Infraction		
Indian Trail	From C.R. 600 S to US HWY 36	35 mph	Class C Infraction		

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the above speed limits shall commence upon the passage and due publication of this Ordinance. On August 1, 2024 the speed limits that existed prior to this Ordinance for the above Streets and Roads shall go back into effect.

Tom made a motion to approve the first reading. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said it was a unanimous vote. We can suspend the rules on this temporary speed limit ordinance and have the second and third reading by title only this morning, and passage by title only.

Gary said I'd prefer to wait until next meeting and have both the second and third reading then.

Mike said okay. We'll wait until August 16th. Okay. Thank you. Anything else to share with us this morning.

Chris said that's it. Just once the work is complete, just send us an invoice. We'll remit payment.

Mike said you mean on the permanent ordinance.

Chris said the Riverstart III signs.

Mike said I thought you were doing those.

Chris said oh we're doing those, okay.

Mike said the permanent ordinance we could do that, but we'll talk about that later.

Tom said I might mention while they're here EDPR host an interview last Tuesday was very successful and through the county.

Mike said very nice. That was the solar, wind and Ethanol. Thank you.

Mike Haffner – Utility agreement

Mike said Mike, utility agreement. Mike has a utility agreement from BSM group on behalf of QC communications, running the cable.

Mike Haffner said okay that's basically to install fiber on 800 East, east of Lynn to the factory out there. They will be putting in one splice riser, but it going to be a residential yard. There's no concern that I have in that area. Just going to bore under and be adding one splice structure that I don't have a concern with.

Tom said well but this is not I&M.

Mike Haffner said no.

Mike said are you recommending approval of this.

Mike Haffner said yes.

Mike said the highway is recommending, I'd entertain a motion to approve this utility agreement.

Gary made a motion to accept the recommendation of the highway department and approve this utility agreement. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike Haffner said I've got, it's for future meetings, but I'd like to start the process. We had a single axle 2001 dump truck that we're getting antifreeze in the oil. And we had it analyzed, and they're recommending a rebuilt in the \$12 to 14,000. I don't, I don't have a need for this truck, so I'd just like to start the process with declaring this surplus and we'll get rid of it on line auction. So, I've got that information.

Meeks said send me an email.

Mike Haffner said you want it in an email?

Meeks said oh yeah I need that stuff.

Mike Haffner said okay I can put it in a email for you. So, we'll just start the process if you guys agree to do it. Then another is just a question. We wanting to add a new office position. Do we wait until after budget to see if council approves the budget that was already put in, and then vote on this or does that need to be prior to budget?

Mike said your new office position, is it part-time clerical or full time.

Mike Haffner said yes.

Mike said part-time clerical.

Mike Haffner said moving it to full time and we did add that to our budget.

Mike said well I think if we're going to ask council to fund it, I suspect we'd need a job description.

Mike Haffner said we've already, we've got that.

Mike said we've not approved it though.

Mike Haffner said no.

Mike said we need to approve that job description.

Mike Haffner said I didn't know. I'll get on the agenda for next meeting to do that then.

Mike said I think that's the way that would work isn't it.

Laura said uh huh.

Mike said so if we approve the position, then we need to ask council to fund the position. And if council refuses to fund the position, if you've got a position out there with no funds, then it's unlikely you'll get anybody hired for this position.

Mike Haffner said yeah, no problem.

Mike said okay. Anything else.

Mike Haffner said no.

Mike said okay thank you.

Additional Appropriations:

Ridgeville Public Library

Rainy Day \$1,600.00

Mike said Ridgeville Library. Ruth come on up.

Ruth McCormick said thank you.

Mike said so we're looking to have an additional appropriation to buy the Ridgeville Library a new printer.

Ruth said yes. Our printer was bought in 2002, and we had it repaired three years ago, and they told us at that point, that they no longer could get parts for it. So that we would need to replace it. And we've been very fortunate that it's lasted this long. And so, it's making clack, clack, clack noises and the board of directors was there when we had to print something, they said that's frightening. So, they decided and voted on to arrange the appropriation out of our rainy-day fund.

Mike said okay well then uh.

Ruth said it's the state library board that you have to get it approved.

Mike said okay. So, you've heard the request. This is an additional appropriation from a rainy-day fund for a new printer for the Ridgeville public library. Someone want to move approval of that.

Gary made a motion to approve the request. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said that was pretty simple. Sorry to keep you here so long.

Ruth said oh that's okay. Thank you so much for your time. Appreciate it.

Mike said you're welcome. Okay now we're ready for Ed.

Ed Thornburg – ARPA fund request

Laura said so Casey called this morning and said that Ed wasn't going to be here today, and that the Commissioners were aware of what they're asking for here.

Mike said right. This is the adding back the second drain on the east side of bridge 305 on South Street in the city of Winchester. If you recall, when they re-designed and replaced that bridge, they took off what I would consider to be one half of the drainage solution for that street. And that's caused Judy Anderson's property, which is right next to the White River, to fill up with water when it rains heavily. And they presented at the drainage board several months ago the issue and the problem, and we decided as a drainage board, that it really wasn't a drainage board issue, it was more of a mistake in the replacement of that bridge in taking out the drain, and it should be a broader county expense. So, Ed's presented to us a storm water modification to bridge 305 on South street in the city of Winchester. This project is to mitigate a flooding problem after heavy rains. And the work will consist of a new catch basin about 40 foot of 24-inch RCP ran from the street to the ditch, tree removal, replacing the sidewalk, restoration of the

property, and work on the retaining wall where the ditch will come out into the White River. So, doing a lot of improvement to the city's bridge there, or I guess it is the county's bridge. But a lot of improvement to that. The cost of that is \$59,000.00.

Tom said do we get three bids, I mean if it's over \$50,000.

Meek said he needs to bid that.

Mike said it looks like he just has one bid attached here. And I would say at that cost, he probably ought to put that out to bid at least to two others.

Meeks said it's \$50 to \$150 needs to solicit three bids.

Meeks said you need to solicit. That doesn't mean you have to get three, although they changed that law it might be \$250,000.00 now.

Mike said I think we should anyway, even if we're not required to. That's more than I expected it to be.

Tom said is that a local contractor.

Mike said that's Culy. He's got Culy's bid attached here.

Tom said tell him if it's \$49,000 we could have accepted it.

Mike said you can't tell him that now.

Gary said it's only good until the 28th so it's past.

Mike said okay Max do you have anything for us this morning.

Max said no sir I don't.

Mike said Mayor do you have anything for us this morning.

Bob McCoy said no I appreciate you taking care of your bridges.

Mike said you're welcome. I rode close to is it 304, Carl Street bridge, it's still closed.

Bob McCoy said where are we at on that. Do you have any idea?

Mike said it's in the pipe line for Community crossings.

Bob McCoy said okay. Is that 2022 Community crossings.

Mike said it's in the pipe line. 2022 is out of the pipe line.

Bob McCoy said okay.

Mike said it's not a closed pipe line either.

Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff

Mike said Randolph County Sheriff do you have anything for us this morning.

Art said just an update I talked to the Auditor's office about the fuel concerns this year with the cost of those that wasn't anticipated. Probably going to have something with meals, I'm not sure what that's going to be by the time we get to the end of the year either. Other than that, I think everything is going fairly well. I have a couple of vehicles that are probably on their last leg. And we're waiting, I think we've had vehicles on order for more, at least two, if not two and a half months. No word on those coming in. So other than that, I think things are going well. Do you guys have any questions for me. I can answer those.

Mike said do you have any questions of Art.

Gary said how soon are you going to need the funding for the fuel.

Art said asap.

Laura said it's in the works. We have to do our additional.

Art said I just wanted to make sure that everyone was aware that we were doing some of that. I know the Auditor's office made some emails and phone calls so we could get things worked out.

Mike said are you doing all you can to reduce gasoline consumption.

Art said as much as we can. We're still getting the, obviously, we're responding to calls. We talked to the officers about trying to conserve where they can conserve.

Mike said okay. Are you going to stick around until the end of the meeting or are you going to get out of here?

Art said I will be around.

Mike said I suppose we can go ahead and talk about this now, but, I've added, have a seat. To my agenda, I've added a matter of, I went to a fire chief's meeting last week. And there was several complaints regarding their hand-held portable radios that are still on VHF, and their pagers which are still on VHF. And they're intermittent hearing. They can hear them sometimes. Other times they can't. The pager doesn't always alert them when it needs to, but then some of them will. And when they do connect on the radio, it's scratchy and not clear a lot of the times. And the solution would be, and we talked about this very early on, would be to provide the fire departments with digital radios and digital pagers. And what I indicated to them at that meeting was if we're going to discuss digital radios and digital pagers, it would be helpful if we knew how many they needed. And I'm not sure they provided me with a list of how many

they needed. But they did provide me with a list of how many would cover them. I won't say want, but would cover them. And that list for the ten departments, including our EMS, which would make eleven, for radios, portable radios, their list is for 162. And for pagers, they're list was for 212. So, they had a lot more personnel in these volunteer departments than I thought. And I talked to J&K. He was at that meeting as well, and he provided me with a quote of a little less than \$2,000.00 per portable radio to digital, and a little less than \$700.00 for pagers to be digital, if we buy them this week, because that's the price he contracted for when we started the communications project. And we can still buy in on that price if the communications project is still open. And he said he intends to close that project this week. So, recognizing that a \$455,000.00 expense for radios and pagers for department throughout the county is probably an expense that I wasn't expecting. I'll just say I wasn't expecting that big of an expense.

Tom said we were told when we started this project that wouldn't be necessary, that the existing radio's would work.

Mike said J&K would say that it's not necessary. It's just not what digital is. And there's a lot of discussion with that above my head in that meeting that indicated that we could solve a lot of problems if we added another channel. And maybe you have more to share on that.

Art said I think we had a suggestion with adding another channel because I think, my take away from the meeting because I was at that same meeting, and my take away from the meeting was with regards to the pagers, they were having issues with the pagers they have, in trying to get those to where they were digital. And I don't necessarily disagree with that. To move that point so that we're getting that and you don't have any, a lot of their equipment is 4, 5, up to 15 years old. So, to move to that, I think you diminish your cost a little bit with the pagers. The suggestion I would have to give them another frequency with portables so that they could stay on VHF on scene. Was one of the things that had happened that I wasn't aware of was when they put the project in, they changed the PL tone on my frequency on VHF, which I had tried saving the county some money by keeping the VHF in the cars. When they switched that, it made my car radio useless, so I had them switch back. The suggestion I would have instead of spending the amount of money we would spend on portables, if we could put the 700-megahertz radios in the sheriff's vehicles, the patrol vehicles for the officers. There would be 18 or 19 of those radios, which would be about half of what it would cost you to buy all the portables or less. So that would save some money so that they could take the frequency from what the sheriff now uses or sheriff's office uses. And they could use that frequency with fire. That would give them one more frequency on VHF. And it would simply change PL tones. So, I think to get the in-car radios for my entire fleet you're looking in the neighborhood of \$60,000. I would have to go back and get exact figures. I wasn't prepared.

Mike said you're not on this list.

Art said I am not on that list for those. Like I said, initially, because when we talked in there, you had suggested 8 portables per department. And one of the comments I made to the fire chief, when you guys do this, understand we don't have a money tree in the back yard, so please put down what your needs are and not your wants.

Mike said well I don't know what this is, but it, 80 turned into 212 pretty quick. And my thought was that 80 radios would be \$160,000.00 and that might be doable from ARPA is what I was thinking.

Art said it would be.

Mike said but you know, they've got.

Art said and then you add the pagers in which would come to just under \$150,000 I believe. I haven't done the math.

Mike said \$145,454. That includes trade in.

Art said okay.

Mike said and I guess, going back that the suggestion was made, J&K made the suggestion, that if we added another channel, that would solve some problem. Is that what you are talking about.

Art said that's what I'm talking about is if we would replace the VHF radios in the law enforcement vehicles for the sheriff's office, there would be about 19 of those. And that would come in.

Mike said so you wouldn't need that VHF channel anymore is what you are saying.

Art said no I would not.

Mike said so we wouldn't have to buy another channel. Cause he was talking another channel would cost \$150,000.00.

Art said yeah we would not have to buy another channel. They could change the PL tone on the VHF, and the fire departments would be able to use those portables on scene. And we would have that in the car. I think doing it this week is going to make it kind of tough.

Mike said he didn't get back to me what it would cost if we didn't do it this week, although he said if we didn't buy over a hundred, it would be a 2 percent upcharge as well. And the pager is probably the greater need for the local departments.

Art said that was the, that's what I took away from that meeting was the initial call out they were having issues with. And where the fire chief had mentioned it's not uncommon for them to have a couple different radios with the scene command, so that they can talk to their people that are inside, plus be able to still communicate with the perimeter and dispatch.

Gary said so what you're talking about correct the pager issue as well or not.

Art said if you purchase the pagers, it would correct the pager issue. We would have to purchase the pagers.

Mike said and that cost is, based upon J&K's quote is \$145,454.00 for 212 pagers. And that includes 15 for our EMS department.

Art said correct. And then if we did the 700-megahertz radio in the patrol vehicles, we would not need that VHF frequency anymore so they could change the PL tones on it to allow to be a fire frequency.

Mike said and there's nothing magical about 212 other than it covers every person in that department. And I don't know, do you carry a pager.

Bob McCoy said no.

Mike said no. So, I mean that's 20 for Winchester fire department.

Art said yes.

Mike said and we can look at it like anything else. We could say well we'll buy half of those, which would be 106.

Tom said do we want to give everybody, we're going to pay half of what they request.

Mike said half of the pagers.

Tom said well they just, yeah you're taking at their word that Saratoga needs 25 radios and 25 pagers. I think not everybody got the same message that ARPA is putting out there.

Mike said or we can do nothing. Part of me says that if we do nothing, then the, our \$3.5 million emergency communications project is deficient in some respect.

Gary said I agree with that. But I'm a little disappointed that the fire department said we've talked to them for three or four years of getting out there and getting grant money, and doing some of this on their own. I've seen very little of that being done. I think it seems like they've just said we'll wait and then.

Tom said yeah there's just no leadership to do those things.

Gary said because they've known about this and we've talked about it. They're either going to have to up their radios or equipment that are capable of being reprogrammed, or if it wasn't, then they were going to have to buy new, and they were going to have to plan for that. Is that not right Art. That was my take from the very get go.

Art said correct.

Gary said and I've not seen any of that done. I don't want to leave the fire departments out here in the middle of an issue and not have communications, but then I don't think it's all our

responsibility to carry on the funding of their departments. And I certainly don't see how you know, the sheet that I've got shows that, like you said, I think Lynn is showing 27 pagers, and they're having trouble even having enough fighters to go to the fire, let alone 27 men. I'm not sure where that number is coming from.

Mike said I don't know if you know or not, but Chris Shaneyfelt has indicated in an email to me, as far as the paging units go, those numbers are more factual and a need, instead of want items.

Gary said instead of what.

Mike said want. I think the gist of his email is that Modoc, Losantville, Ridgeville, White River and Lynn need the most help when it comes to radios. As far as the paging units go, those numbers are more factual and a need instead of want items. So, they're saying, Chris Shaneyfelt is backing them up saying they need all those pagers.

Art said the pagers I think are what the initial is. I know I had stopped at White River a couple weeks ago and borrowed one of their pagers, brought it to dispatch to see, and they were losing the first five or six seconds out of the transmission when the tone was dropped. J&K is supposed to be working on that to get that fixed.

Mike said but the question becomes though as Gary just said, does Lynn need 27.

Art said and that I can't say.

Mike said Chris is kind of saying they do.

Gary said that sounds high to me.

Tom said we should ask Terry.

Art said we could ask, we could ask for a roster. We could ask for a roster from each of those departments.

Gary said they have to submit a roster to their insurance company.

Art said I guess the thing that I would say is if they're asking for 27 pagers, and they have 27 slots, even if they only have 23 current firefighters there, if they pick up the other four, those four can't respond if they don't have a pager.

Mike said or, I guess is the situation where somebody has more than one pager.

Art said I don't know why they would need to carry more than one.

Gary said I think we also need to know, for them to show us some indication that they don't have any, can't provide any funding for of this.

Mike said we can.

Gary said because I know that's not true with some of the departments.

Mike said we can force that issue by not buying all the pagers they say they need. If they say they need 212 pagers and we say we're only going to give you 40 percent of what you are requesting, then they're going to have to pick and choose who gets the better pager, and go out and try to find money. I would think any help we give these departments at this point in time in purchasing pagers and or radios, and I'm inclined just to consider pagers, would be welcome.

Tom said well it's, yeah, it gets complicated. I mean you've got townships, you know the township has their own fire fund. I mean some townships have three, four hundred thousand dollars in their fire fund. And we can't pay everybody everything they need.

Bob McCoy said and excuse me. But I think between Winchester and Union City and the county, we're picking up a large portion of 911 or what, or Art, do you know what I'm trying to say.

Art said I do. We're picking up the bill on the bulk of it. I know a lot of them have access to the Spillman data base that we use for dispatching and law enforcement, fire units, all of that. And currently, we've never, I've never charged any of the other departments. I've always budgeted it for, Chris and I split the maintenance fee for that. Winchester pays for their own. Union City pays their own. But we've always had the ability to tuck them under our umbrella with regards to some of that maintenance. We take care of a lot of that.

Mike said with Union City. They're asking for two pagers.

Gary said so when it comes to the radios, you're saying around \$66,000 to correct what you think would be.

Art said I'd have to look.

Gary said to the other channel away from you.

Art said yes, I would have to look and see exactly what the cost is for those mobile units for mine because I think when they quoted us it was only 8 units. And I think I would need, and I would have to double check the figures, but I'm going to need 18 or 19 of those possible.

Mike said and those would be replacing VHF.

Art said and they would be mobile units that would replace the VHF, and then I would no longer need that VHF frequency. So, they would simply change the PL tone over so the fire departments could use it.

Mike said do you think that would clear up the static issue.

Art said well they could use that on everything. They can use those to communicate back to dispatch on that 700-megahertz radio. But they would only need a couple of those on scene for those that are in charge of the scene. And I think most of those or a lot of the departments already have those.

Mike said well I think today we're not going to take advantage of the J&K discount.

Gary said that's a little tight.

Mike said so why don't you look into your replacing your mobile units.

Art said I will do that.

Mike said and we'll see if we can get some better I guess, I'm going to say different numbers from the departments.

Art said I will reach out to Ted because it's one of those, if he closes the project so we're looking at other things. I might reach out to a couple other companies to get costs on pagers and just see which one's more competitive.

Mike said very good.

Gary said I'm not sure how he's closing the project from the standpoint of our contract with them, because they're not complete. I mean they're still working the bugs out.

Art said I agree.

Mike said maybe he's closing the radio portion of the project.

Gary said I think that's because they bought a way lot more than they thought.

Art said I'll get with Chris this week and I'll get something to you either from me or Chris.

Mike said okay.

Gary said it'll need a little fine tuning I think.

Art said I would tell you guys in sharing on the portables and the new ones that we have in the system that's up, I haven't had any issues, and I've heard comments from several of the officers that they are actually able to talk in places they weren't able to talk before, and talk out of buildings that they weren't able to talk before.

Mike said I think the issue is mostly with the fire department. I think law enforcement, all the departments it sounded like at that meeting, law enforcement departments were communicating fine.

Art said I agree.

Mike said okay.

Minutes of April 8th, 18th and May 2, 2022

Mike said next item on our agenda is the Commissioner minutes of meetings of April 8th, April 18th and May 2nd. You all received a copy of these via email. Are there any additions, corrections or deletions to those minutes? Hearing none, I'd entertain a motion to approve all three sets.

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

Regular Claims \$678,831.84

Mike said next item on our agenda our Regular Claims in the amount of \$678,831.84. We received a copy of these via email.

Gary made a motion to approve the regular claims as presented. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Payroll Claims \$238,606.28

Mike said that brings us to our Payroll Claims in the amount of \$238,606.28. I'd entertain a motion to approve the payroll claims as presented.

Gary made a motion to approve the payroll claims as presented. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Payroll Expense Claim \$276,041.38

Mike said that brings us to our Payroll Expense Claim in the amount of \$276,041.38. I'd entertain a motion to approve the payroll expense claim.

Gary made a motion approve the payroll expense claim. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

L&M Water District OCRA Grant Claim \$148,352, 95

Mike said next claim is the L&M Water district OCRA grant claim. Is this a reimbursement claim?

Laura said it's an OCRA grant. It's just a pass through for us.

Mike said I'd entertain a motion to approve this pass-through claim for L&M Water district in the amount of \$148,352.95.

Gary made a motion to approve the L&M Water District claim. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Pyramid Claim \$4,000.00

Pyramid Claim \$233.28

Pyramid Claim \$2,280.00

Pyramid Claim \$8,000.00

Pyramid Claim \$1,906.24

Mike said I trust we're going to continue to table the Pyramid Claims.

Gary said have we had any communication from them.

Mike said I've not.

Achieva Resources Funding Request

Mike said the next item is the Achieva Resources funding request. This funding we started doing a couple years ago. If you recall they seeked a \$75,000.00 grant from the Indiana Supreme Court I believe, for adult guardianship resident. And as part of their services, which are located in Richmond, they serve residents and citizens of Randolph County, and they've asked us to help fund their matching portion of that grant to the tune of \$5,000.00. We've funded that out of EDIT in the past few years and they're asking us to do that again this year.

Tom said that's in our budget correct.

Mike said it's a new request every year so it comes out of EDIT. So, it's one we've done the last two years. And it's takes an amendment to our EDIT plan and an EDIT board approval.

Tom made motion. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said so now we need to, I don't know of any other EDIT request coming forward so. Do you want to wait a little bit because he doesn't need this until when? It's for the 2023 year. I'd say why don't we hold off on scheduling an EDIT meeting until at least maybe a city of town comes in so. Just kind of put it on maybe the first meeting in September.

Broadband Ready point of contact

Mike said Broadband Ready point of contact. We've not, although I've had a conversation with Grant from Tower King and he kind of left me with the impression that counties were racing to get that broadband ready designation in order to line up for grants. And beyond that, there's really no reason to have it. And beyond that, what the statute requires of having to have a single point of contact, having forms and applications to be electronic, those being approved within 10 days and having inspections might be considered a violation of interstate commerce, because they have the rights to come in here. And I suppose short of registering as a business in the county, which I don't think the county requires that. I didn't really check, but to inspect their project, he said I don't think you can do that anyway. So, I'm not sure what we should do about that.

Tom said maybe we don't need an official contact, a name. I mean I suggested have Gary as my replacement. He would be willing to sort of take over because it's going to be, there's going to be a lot more stuff going on with broadband, both emergency and.

Mike said you want to ask Gary Friend to be our single point of contact.

Tom said well I did. I asked him and he said he'd be willing.

Gary said let' see what happens with this other. I think we need to pursue it a little more.

Mike said what's that.

Gary said what you talked to Grant about. Talk to the state and see what they're telling us. I know Joe has contact with people at the state.

Mike said and he's the one raising the questions.

Gary said I know. We'll have another meeting next week.

Mike said are you. Okay. The other matter, and I presume you are going to talk about Tower King at that time because they asked me what the status of our emergency towers were, because the last they knew was that nobody could climb them. And I've told them that's changed. And they've been approved. So, they would like to market them. That's evidently part of their contract is to market space on our emergency towers.

Gary said it is.

Mike said and he told me, and I'm sure the technology committee knows, but he told me that they need structural design so they know how much weight they can hang on there.

Gary said Shaneyfelt supposedly emailed all that to them.

Mike said well they haven't got it.

Gary said that's what he told me because he has all that.

Mike said and then the number of antennas that are existing on the towers and the location of the towers, to all three of those things.

Gary said that, Shaneyfelt would have.

Mike said well I thought he would.

Gary said that's what J&K has given that information to him.

Mike said okay. And then the other one is the north tower location, which we're going to probably, if we want a location there, we're going to have to pay somebody to put it there.

Gary said and that's the issue we have to decide.

Mike said how long we want to subsidize a tower out there.

Gary said exactly. We've only agreed for what, two-year lease of \$200.00 for the initial contract.

Mike said I'm not sure we've agreed to anything. Maybe the technology committee has.

Gary said no we did. We've agreed we wouldn't charge more than \$200.00 the first two years. I think then after that, it would be negotiated.

Mike said so I guess we'll wait to hear back from the technology committee and what they decide at their next meeting. Is that okay with you Tom.

Tom said yes.

Mike said we're down to two ordinances. We've done Ridgeville public library.

Highway	
Wheel tax	\$500,000.00

Mike said we got a highway wheel tax additional appropriation of \$500,000.00. This is from the wheel tax for the highway department. I'd entertain a motion to approve that additional appropriation.

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

Highway	
Social Security	\$15,000.00
Perf	\$25,000.00
Group Ins	\$70,000.00
Medicare	\$4,000.00
Culvert	\$110,000.00
Stone	\$50,000.00
Professional Services	\$150,000.00

Mike said additional highway. Social security of 15,000, Perf of 25,000, Group Insurance is 70, Medicare 4, Culvert of 110, Stone of 50 and Professional services of 150, for a total of \$424,000.00. Do you know what your professional services are for, for a 150,000?

Mike Haffner said yes basically, what all that is to support the small structures we're going to be putting in.

Mike said inspections. Okay.

Mike Haffner said the installation and the cost.

Mike said okay. I'd entertain a motion to approve the requested additional appropriations.

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

Highway

Bridge tech	\$21,000.00
Sign tech	\$13,000.00
Liability	\$21,000.00

Mike said again from the highway for a bridge tech, 21,000, a sign tech, 13,000, and liability, 21,000. I'd entertain a motion to approve this addition.

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

General – Commissioner's budget

Employment separation	\$30,000.00
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Mike said this is additional appropriation from the Commissioners' budget for employment separation payout, \$30,000.00. I'd entertain a motion to approve this additional appropriation.

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

EDIT

Forum of Funders	\$10,000.00
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Mike said additional appropriation from EDIT for the Forum of Funders in the amount of \$10,000.00 to allow a council person to serve on that committee. I'd entertain a motion to approve this additional appropriation.

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

Mike said that brings us to the end of our agenda.

Tom Chalfant – Easements for fiber

Tom said yeah. The county easements for fiber. The proposal from New Lisbon, it's actually, I mean they, that is expired. Hopefully he still will agree to it, but he, he gave a date that we couldn't meet because he wanted to start construction. But anyway, I delivered the easement so hopefully those people are, and I think it'll take them a payment to get some of them to sign. I mentioned I thought we would give them a dollar and quarter a foot for the land that was paid for by EDPR for the installation. And we would, we would take the \$21,000.00 we paid for the handholds, junction boxes and then he would furnish a year of free internet was his proposal. And I don't know if he would still be willing to go with that or not. So, I guess I was hoping we could come to some resolution today or make that offer a counter offer, and see if he's, New Lisbon is still interested.

Mike said the \$21,000 would cover the expense to the property owners.

Tom said no that would be more like ninety-some thousand. I think it was \$90,000 EDPR paid for 70,000 feet of buried conduit. They paid like ninety-some thousand, \$1.25 a foot. They paid the contractor. And then we paid Fisher \$21,000 I believe something for the handholds or junction boxes. And he will reimburse the county for all of that, plus give the land owners, the title holders one-year free internet.

Mike said he would reimburse the county for the \$21,000?

Tom said right. He would give that to the county. And I would suggest we would give that land, that part to the land owners that we didn't, we're not out of pocket on.

Mike said all of the land owners.

Meeks said we can't because we'd have to get an appraisal for that of what the easement would be. And you can't go over that. So, it would be very difficult for us to pay the land owners without appraisals.

Mike said we'd have to appraise it, each easement.

Meeks said you know, X amount per, you know.

Tom said well we could suggest that he would pay, he could pay the land owners.

Meeks said we'd probably have to figure out what the lease, we'd probably have to get it appraised to see what it's worth.

Tom said well I don't know how you would appraise it. Anyway, he was wanting a twenty-year lease for this consideration.

Mike said so we've got five property owners roughly.

Tom said well there's about twenty-some, five that haven't signed.

Mike said that do not want to allow conduit to run through the, or fiber to run through the conduit on their property.

Tom said well there are five who haven't signed. I think three or four of them are agreeable to doing it, and the one of them probably won't do it without compensation. And in which I, if we pay one of them, I would pay all of them.

Mike said well why wouldn't that just be his deal with them.

Tom said well it could be.

Mike said if we lease our existing conduit, and these properties don't have conduit on them yet.

Tom said yes they do.

Mike said so if we lease to them our rights to that conduit, or lease to him the right to run fiber through that conduit, and he can't run fiber through the five properties, then it's up to him to resolve that issue. We could do that couldn't we.

Meeks said we need the easement. They can't, we can't use that without the easement. We need a signed easement from those five land owners.

Mike said but we could lease our rights to the rest of them.

Meeks said correct.

Mike said and then he can get the easement from the land owners.

Meeks said but we want that easement. I mean that's important to us.

Tom said they've already, they're looking over the easement. Hopefully, they'll sign them. They're, all but one will sign, and I mentioned that I was going to propose that they get the money for that because I know one land owner would not sign without being paid. And that was, I suggested we could pay, because they want an annual payment. I said this is all that we could offer. And so hopefully that one land owner would be willing to sign for that. And if that one did, I would give it to all of them.

Mike said in order to give it to all of them, you got to have all the easements appraised.

Meeks said you'll have to have an appraisal.

Tom said I would just tell him to pay them. It's recorded, every easement has the feet that they have, so it's not that hard to figure. But I would just say, you give us our money for the junction boxes and you pay the land owners that money, and I would also put a ten-year call back or something that we would look at that after ten years. We would look at his income to make sure that he's not making. Yeah, I wouldn't give him a twenty-year easement just for that consideration without having some kind of you know, ten-year re-negotiation or some, so he'd have to prove.

Mike said it doesn't sound like we can do that without a large expense to us.

Meek said if you get appraised, I mean when we did that for the city of Winchester, it's fifteen hundred bucks per parcel. I think it was actually \$2000 on Western Avenue.

Tom said we just couldn't tell him to pay the land owners that money.

Meeks said well that's between him and the land owner. I don't think we can get in that negotiation. We cannot stipulate that the land owner sign and this other person is going to pay him without putting it in some sort of legal document. Then when that other person doesn't pay them, they come back on us. And we never agreed to it. There has to be some sort of tie-in.

Mike said so property A says I'll grant you an easement if Mr. Smith pays me \$1,000.00 for that easement. We could do that.

Meeks said I, what is the easement, does the easement say Mr. Smith is paying, are we putting it in the easement that somebody else is going to pay.

Mike said no the easement would say just like all the easements.

Meeks said no, nothing. The easement says nothing.

Mike said so that wouldn't work.

Meeks said I'll have to think about it. I don't know. It doesn't sound like it would work. I'm certain there's a work around from it, but I'm not sure what that would look like. It would probably look something similar, the contractor goes to the land owner and says if you give the county an easement, this is what we will pay you to run fiber. I mean that would be fine.

Mike said well I think that's what he's talking about.

Meeks said but the land owner and him, we can't be involved in that negotiation. I don't think we can then give the developer a break or something. But this is all probably going to fall under economic development. And so, under that economic development statute, we can do a lot of stuff, meaning we can lease this fiber for nothing. But there is, there is a process we have go through to go through that. Am I answering the questions. I don't know.

Mike said well I guess the next step is to find if NLBC wants to negotiate these easements. And they're going to have to pay for them. And I think the next step for us would be if, they find out, if we find out how much they have to pay, then we share any expense that we've saved back to NLBC.

Tom said sharing expense that we've saved, what does that mean.

Mike said well if you were talking about paying \$110,000.00 out to 25 property owners, and he's got to pay \$15,000.00 to get these things, then we could, he could re-coop that expense, because we've saved that expense.

Tom said well you, so I mean, I said you pay the land owners a \$1.25 a foot, you pay us \$21,000.00, and that's a twenty-year lease, but again, I would still want to have some kind of call back after ten or twelve years that he has to prove a reasonable return on investment.

Mike said well that comes long after. For me, that comes after determining whether or not he can get these easements. If he can't get the easements, it doesn't matter.

Tom said right.

Mike said because I'm not in favor of going out and appraising all these properties.

Meeks said if he could get the easements, then he needs to get us that lease and then we could look it over.

Mike said I guess we can negotiate that later.

Tom said well it's yeah, very unique because I mean, the first bid was like a half million dollars to install this fiber. And EDPR negotiated it down to like \$90,000, \$91,000.

Mike said to install the conduit.

Tom said right. So, what's that worth. I mean it's not worth anything if one land owner holds everybody else up.

Mike said but I would think if NLBC is interested in this conduit, they could get that easement negotiated and granted.

Meeks said we just want to make sure it's our easement and not NLBC's.

Tom said if they sign these, these private land owners are all done.

Mike said and the other way to do it is, is, and it wouldn't, it's not fair to those that have already signed, we could negotiate directly with the property owner who is holding out and find out what they want, and have that appraised, one property appraised. Pay the appraisal and pay them the easement fees. And then it's all ours.

Meeks said you got thirty other ones that might not be very happy with it.

Mike said we would have thirty other ones that you know, you paid him, why didn't you pay me. And we can't, well we can't pay you because we've got to appraise it.

Meeks said it's exactly what happened on Western Avenue. Some people got a lot more than others and they couldn't understand why.

Mike said but memories are short so.

Meeks said mine's not. I see Western Greenville Pike.

Mike said the way to proceed in my opinion would be have NLBC obtain the easement for us and then we get that easement, and then once the easement's there, then we got a complete line, we negotiate a lease.

Tom said have you got John Greene's phone number.

Mike said well he calls me quite a bit.

Tom said okay. Well why don't you pursue that with him.

Mike said unfortunately it's Wilber Wright Memorial in Mount Summit. Okay. You know what to do though then.

Tom said no.

Mike said well I think you need to talk to John Greene.

Tom said yeah, find out if he's still interested or not.

Mike said okay. The next item. Do you have anything else for us, either one of you.

Tom said well I might mention we poured a bridge deck of this new process last Friday, it looked very good. I hope it's something that's going to continue to save the county money.

Mike said I hope so. Gary do you have anything for us this morning.

Gary said no.

Mike Wickersham-Opioid settlement, Covid leave policy

Mike said I'm just going to alert you, and I think I shared the letter with Laura, that we are going to participate in the Opioid settlement. Looks like we're going to get quite a bit in the next couple of years. And then it's going to shrink for the next eighteen. The last item is the Covid pay for our veterans' officer. I think we've received an email from her indicating that she was out for several days with Covid, and was wondering if she would be entitled to Covid pay. And I told her we would discuss that this morning. And now would be the time to discuss it. It's been a long time since we've paid Covid pay. We only paid Covid pay when it was required us, of us too pay it, other than emergency personnel.

Meeks said I think it was only required when we to do it.

Tom said could we tell her just to go to the office and work and put a sign on the door, no one allowed.

Meeks said it's already over. It's retrospect.

Tom said well I mean could that be a solution that if somebody tested positive, they could go in and work in their office.

Mike said if they were well enough to do that.

Meeks said I think we tell them they should follow the CDC, call the Health Department.

Laura said and that's what they've been doing.

Meeks said I mean we can't tell them what to do. We can only say call the Health Department and whatever the CDC is saying right now is to follow those guidelines. And if it's, I think it was five days right, after you have.

Laura said on this one, Wendy told Paula ten days. I wonder since it's going up, if the CDC guidelines have changed. I haven't looked at it lately.

Meeks said it all depends if you've had a shot. It all depends when you have the shot. It all depends when you, there's a lot of depending.

Mike said okay. Sounds like we're going to just continue to keep our policy the way it is and since it's not a required benefit, then we're not going to pay the veterans service officer. That's all I have this morning.

Citizen Comments

Mike said so anyone here have a citizen comment. Hearing none, I'd entertain a motion to adjourn.

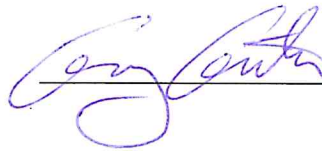
Adjournment

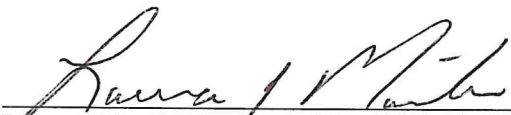
Tom made a motion to adjourn. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Reviewed and signed this 17 day of October, 2022.

RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS





ATTEST: 

Laura J Martin, Auditor of Randolph County