

## Randolph County Commissioners

August 16, 2021

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.

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Michael Wickersham, President presided over the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

### **Adam Wilson – IT Cost Proposal for Switches & SysAid**

Adam said when we talked last time, I spoke about the switching environment and how it needed upgrade and how it was the most essential part of our upgrades that we need to do for security. This is the quote that I didn't have last time. It actually came in a little bit less than what I said, I think I said \$60,000 to \$80,000.00 and it ended up being \$51,604.70. That is to get us right with our switching environment and what it allows us to do is all those switches will be under warranty, if one of them goes bad in the next five years, I call a guy and the next day another switch is here. That is what we are going to do if you will allow it. The SysAid is a communication tool and an inventory tracking tool. It also allows remote assistance. Because were so spread out, something I ran into when I had to do the recent passwords, I wasn't able to really assist people as affectively as I'd have liked to. The assist tools that we have now aren't very secure. SysAid will be a client program, I can hop in and help them remotely if I'm at home. It also gives me a communication tracking tool for ticketing and reporting tool for ticketing, so that everybody can see how many tickets I have. It has a tracking tool for inventory. I will be able to track computers; how old those computers are. Maybe we can stay out in front of some of these aging issues that we have, not have to spend a bulk of money every five years, instead we can stay ahead of it.

Mike said the towers we bought last month, how did the Council pay the balance of that?

Laura said they approved the balance out of the leftover Cares. I believe if I'm not mistaken, we have about \$70,000.00 left.

Mike said that would cover this. And this is as needed as the towers were?

Adam said more so.

Mike said does anybody have any questions of Adam?

Gary said no, I'm glad were moving forward with this.

Mike said do you want to move approval and recommend paying for it out of Cares?

Gary said yes, I will make that motion. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Landon Vine, V3Corp – GIS Layer for regulated drains**

Mike asked is Landon here this morning? Ed do you want to tell us about this?

Ed Thornburg said Mr. Vine is representing V3 Companies and they are from what I can see from the research and what he's told me they are grant writers. They're doing an upper river valley water shed project. They are working on federal grant money and some of this type thing. They would like to have our GIS drain layer and the way we are set up right now, were charging about \$1200.00 for that subscription. They don't want to pay \$1200.00 for the subscription.

Mike said is V3 an engineering firm?

Ed said yes.

Mike said do we want to give them a pass on that and get that ball rolling.

Tom said do we want to have a condition if they do make money they can reimburse us later, if something comes to fruition. They can pay us a fee if they actually get a grant and make their money. I think they could afford \$1200.00.

Ed said to be honest, I'm going to give you a neutral recommendation on this. He seems like a straight up guy, I don't know a lot about their company but everybody is doing a Whiteriver watershed studies, to be honest, I offered him our plat maps. I will give him those at no charge which we do for everybody.

Mike said would the plat maps get him in the right direction to where he could know whether or not he could file a grant and then at a later time with the grant get the GIS?

Ed said I think so. I am really skeptical because of the luck I've had getting grant money to deal with legal drains which has been none. It is hard to get a grant for something you collect a fee for.

Tom said are these grants going to be beneficial to the County or detrimental?

Ed said I don't know.

Mike said V3 may not be the only company.

Ed said if we do this for them, we are going to have 50 more of them before it's done.

Mike said I am inclined for at least today to pass on it and see where that takes us. What do you think Gary?

Gary said I agree, if Ed can provide them with what he thinks is adequate information for the present time.

Ed said they know where the watershed is. Our plat maps are already, actually our stuff is on the GIS, they were wanting shape files that they could drop into their program and I understand it makes it easier.

Mike said they could generate the same information from what your giving them, its just going to take them a little more time.

Ed said they will have to work at it and it won't be as accurate because an overlay is accurate anything else isn't.

Tom said I would tell them to draft a proposal that if they receive money they would pay us.

Ed said he had originally thought he was going to be able to be here and he contacted me at the end of the week and said he couldn't. He might have a much more convincing proposal than what I've got.

### **Chris Beasley & Grace Minkis, EDPR – Riverstart III**

Mike asked what happened to Riverstart II?

Grace said essentially, we just want to bring to your attention this new phase of Riverstart, you said what happened with two, there is just some internal switching where a cue for Riverstart III processed faster. That is why it's called Riverstart III. This is the second phase hopefully of the Riverstart Solar Parks. This park is 100 megawatts, half the size of Riverstart that is in construction right now. Can you see the map okay, it's just located north of the town of Modoc and we currently have approximately 1200 acres leased and of that 1200 around 650 would be within the facility? With this next phase, due to its proximity to the town what we'll need to do is approach the BZA to get a special zoning exemption because it's in Ag Limited area. We're at the state where we are getting ready to approach them. We want to start generating some information on the project. We have already engaged the town of Modoc and had some communication there.

Chris said ideally, we would start construction fall of 2022 and wrap up before end of year 2023. We would have a year off between phases.

Mike said it would be nice to see one done, to see what kind of finished product we have in the county before we go into two or three. Do you not need anything from us this morning, you're just sharing some information with us? And, you say you have 1200 acres under lease and 650 in the project, that means they get panels.

Grace said that is correct.

Mike asked how much of this project do you need to have a BZA variance on?

Grace said all of it.

Tom said is that because it is continuous. The town just has like a mile, don't they?

Grace said that buffer basically goes right up into the landfill. We are just south of the landfill and just north of the town.

Mike said so you go almost up to 600 S. What is the red line.

Chris said I believe that is the transmission line.

Tom said for underground?

Chris said that is the existing Headwater's I transmission.

Mike said will you tap into that?

Chris said yes, we will use it to get the power back to Losantville, Riverstart I is all using that and it will be more of the same here.

Gary said you have addressed the Town Council of Modoc?

Grace said we've met with them and presented the project.

Gary said what was their feeling?

Grace said it was good, were still working communication with them. Specifically, Dave Sexton and Jeff Ison and Greg Beumer. Were just hoping to keep an open line of communication.

Gary said what is the status of the present operation as far as construction.

Chris said we are slated to wrap up November 15<sup>th</sup> or so, it's going pretty well. It deployed a very large force; the site is about 700 plus folks trained that go in and out.

Mike said interesting colored buses too, their red, yellow.

Chris said they are hard to miss.

**Mike Haffner & Michael Ficcaglia– Awarding Bridge 110 Contract, Utility Agreement**

Michael Ficcaglia said Jutte Excavation was the low bid.

Mike said I trust this is your recommendation?

Michael said yes.



Mike said they did a bridge for us before. They did 100 East. Mike, your good with them?

Mike Haffner said I am good with them. They have to be signed in blue ink.

Mike asked does anybody have any questions of Mike or Mike? It meets all the qualification of the bid documents?

Michael said yes. They also came in below engineers estimate, so you will get the full 75% of the Community Crossings funding.

Gary said what kind of project time schedule are they running on?

Michael said we specified that they cannot do construction during harvest season, so there is a specific start time frame. I can't remember exactly what that is but we gave them a specified frame where they could start and they have to get it done before the Community Crossings requires that they get it done.

Mike Haffner said they basically have a year to have it complete. They'll have to work around our schedule for harvest season since that is an outlet. They will probably do it in the winter months.

Gary said starting November, you're thinking?

Mike Haffner once we get them the contract, I can get them to lock down a better date.

Perry said they have 18 months from the time of award date to complete the project.

Mike said does that mean we want to award it today?

Perry said please.

Tom made a motion to award the Bridge 110 contract to Jutte Construction. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said we have a Frontier Utility agreement to bore under East 300 North. Do you have any issues with this?

Mike Haffner said no, I am recommending it.

Gary made a motion to approve the Frontier utility agreement as presented. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike asked what about bridge 304?

Mike Haffner said I am going to invite Perry up here.

Mike said that is the one on Carl Street in Winchester and we go an updated engineering report on that recently.

Perry said we had originally, of course the bridge is closed as a result of our inspections, we had our engineers look at that project and had though originally on the three-sided precast structure. Because of the location being urban and the potential of once you excavate all that out what you may find in there could become quite problematic for a precast structure. Additionally, you have some overhead utilities there that would need to be relocated and bring in a large crane, could add quite a bit of exposure to expenses at the time of construction. We took another look at that project and believe that the best route to protect the county from that level of exposure would be a cast in place structure so as to help contain any potential problem we might run into on the construction side. The proposal I sent to Mike and copied to the Commissioners is from Shirley George and that is our Vice President who recommends that we go that route with a cast in place structure. In looking at the projected cost of the project, you would be looking at a Community Crossings funded project. On Community Crossings as you recall the engineering is paid for by the County up front and then because of the process submitting for construction at a 75% match we believe that if we can move forward on a proposal for 304 for engineering that we could be ready for a Community Crossings grant application in January of 2023 which would be their first round. Assuming that we could get the award and move the contract through this process of award, you might get to construction in the fall of 2023. More than likely early 2024 for construction.

Mike said so January 2023 right now that gives us the rest of this year and all of 2022 to put the project together?

Perry said that's correct. The time frame is because of permitting and because your urban that DNR permit is really dragging. If it's in an urban situation required DNR permit and those particular permits seem to be lagging in time. I did inquire to Shirley if it was possible that we could get this ready by the second call of next year. If for some reason they happen to get that permit back to us in time we could go but realistically your looking at that first call in 2023 just to be on the safe side.

Mike said you would recommend the whole process start as soon as possible?

Perry said as soon as possible, yes.

Mike said I've got the feeling that the bridge someday, this county is going to repair, were not going to leave Carl Street without a bridge for a long time. I guess the question is do we have the money in your budget to do anything about it.

Mike Haffner said I don't believe we do. We've got everything committed with the Windsor bridges and everything else coming up. Windsor's Community Crossings.

Mike said the engineering fees come out.

Mike Haffner said I have not looked really close to what our future projects are and my thinking 304 is still not on the top three of my priority.

Meeks said Carl Street is not the top three of your priority?

Mike said the top three of your priority are they grant bridges?

Mike Haffner said you've got the grant bridges, you've got the one over at Union City that is a reduced load limit amount.

Mike asked what bridge is that?

Perry said that is 212.

Mike said in town?

Perry said it is next to a park. It is not closed but is a reduced posting.

Mike said that is one of them, what are the others?

Mike Haffner said on 500 East, that smaller 5-ton structure.

Mike asked 500 East and what?

Mike Haffner said it is above 550 North.

Perry said that is bridge 159.

Mike said a third one?

Mike Haffner said a third one fits into that 304.

Mike asked is 159 one that we are going to seek federal or state money on?

Mike Haffner said I think we can do that with local funds.

Mike said Union City, the one in town, what about that one?

Perry said that one is a little large, the posting is not as low as 159, that structure could go with a bridge contractor that would supply bridge materials. It would need some engineering.

Mike asked it is still open?

Perry said it is still open. That one would need a side walk because of the location near the park. We do have another bridge in Lynn which is 250, Commissioner Chalfant and I were on that bridge. Because of the size of the bridge it's 80 some feet, it will definitely be a Community

Crossings project. I think it is posted at 8 or 10-ton at this point, maybe seven. So, 304 and 250 in my opinion, if you go down the bridge list that was provided through our phase I inspection down to 2027. All those bridges from 2026 current, there are two of those bridges that we are looking at for definitely Community Crossings, state funded. Then on the rehabilitation list, the number one bridge is bridge 114 which is that truss bridge south of Parker City and that bridge we are definitely looking at federal aid.

Tom said its historic.

Perry said yes and I do want to mention on that particular bridge we are going to need to do a county funded historic bridge alternative analysis on that bridge to make it eligible for federal funding. I'm hesitant to give a cost on that but I'm hearing 40 range and that would have to be paid by the county but that bridge project is well over a million dollars and because it's historic nonselect and Tom and I went to the state house and met with JD Prescott and this particular analysis is just a step as you know Tom, we have to go through this step in order to get the thing eligible for federal aid funding for replacement. Having said that, that bridge is posted quite low, it's a steel bridge with a steel break and since we are talking about cost, we would recommend entering into that analysis fairly soon to prep that project for federal aid at the end of 2023.

Mike asked it's not one we can go around?

Perry said I doubt it.

Tom said there are two other steel bridges in Stoney Creek Township that will probably just be closed, go away.

Perry said there is one there on a ½ mile road that we discussed, that has one person living on it.

Tom said 1150 and the other is on 750.

Perry said I think our plan is to just allow that to close. I think there is one resident and it's an off road. That's a very large bridge, that would be another million dollars plus project. This particular bridge 114 has traffic.

Mike said I think considering that it is one that would help us do the Community Crossing, I think we probably should find some way to start the process. Unless you tell me, you can spend \$163,875 out of Cum bridge, we are not going to be able to start this process without the Council unless we do EDIT. How much can you spend out of Cum Bridge?

Mike Haffner said I would have to look at that.

Mike asked could you do that, if you could come up with \$63,875. I think we may be able to come up with \$100,000 somewhere, either with Council's help or with our funds and split this engineering cost and get it started the first of September.

Gary asked Perry when they start construction, if things go as your saying you hope for, will it be one year or 18 months?

Perry said we would submit it in 2023 for the first round of funding and let's assume that they announce the funding in 60 days, 90 days after that puts that at March or April, then we would go through this bid process and we have four months from the time of the award date to get it under contract. It could go a little faster, you might get that thing under award by August. Once you award that contract then the clock starts ticking, they have 18 months from that point of the award. Everything works out alright, August and then 18 months following, if the bridge contractor is available I guess they could get right in there and start on it but probably spring of 2024 would be the earliest. But they have 18 months from the award date of August of 2023, that is when the clock starts ticking.

Gary asked Mike Haffner, the email we received on the damage lightning strike?

Mike Haffner said we are still trying to wrap our hands around that, it seems like everybody is giving us the run around, the electrical contractors are saying were not going to recommend anything, you tell us what you want and we'll put it in. They are reluctant to even guarantee anything. Certainly, with the electric strikes, we know it's coming from low voltage, they keep saying the tower interferes with that and I reminded them that tower wasn't there the first time we got it. The first time we got hit it was a high voltage, not low voltage and then the second two times it was low voltage. There is what they call sponges that were looking at, they're relatively inexpensive, that's suppose to be taking care of that. Jerry Franklin is looking into their suppliers and what's recommended but their hesitant to put their name on a product and guarantee it to work. That's kind of where were at and right now I've got a \$7,900.00 bill from the last go around and our insurance is saying we have a \$10,000.00 deductible. I'm stuck with that bill to pay. Then weeks later we got hit again. I know running in manual mode it's almost, its a nightmare to compute and paper work that would be involved. At the time we don't need any added paperwork at the Highway Department. We are estimated that could be another 15 hours a week just to manually track and billing the other departments. I'm at a loss to eve recommend anything.

Mike asked are you without one now?

Mike Haffner said we are back to manual. We haven't even got the bills made out from the last go around of manual. That's how far behind we are.

Mike asked the manufacturer of the surge protector?

Mike Haffner said the manufacture of the fuel master control systems, they are saying it is up to your electricians to recommend that and we've went through two different electricians and they say you tell us what you want, were not guaranteeing anything. They did recommend the high voltage system and that's what we put in and it has been working. I don't understand this low voltage.

Mike asked an electrician can't tell us about the low voltage? It sounds like it needs a different protective system than the high voltage.

Mike Haffner said yes.

Mike asked where do we get the system that protects these? Where do you get it from, somebody is making that?

Mike Haffner said the high voltage system was purchased through Carrol Electric.

Mike asked Carrol Electric doesn't have a source for the low voltage protector?

Mike Haffner said none that they are going to guarantee. They've got sources to put in the low voltage but nobody wants to say if you install this we'll take care of all the hits if it doesn't work. Because your taking almost \$8000.00 every time we take a hit.

Mike asked how much is a low voltage protector?

Mike Haffner said we can't price one because there's been no recommendation. The fuel control system said they've got other customers putting these sponge systems in and supposedly that might be less than \$1000.00. We said get us information on this and see what it pertains.

Tom said the sponge, that's like protecting the voltage, it keeps the voltage up somehow sort of like a battery or something that keeps a constant voltage to the electronics.

Mike Haffner said Lonnie has done more investigation on that than I have, I do know if it's more a DC low voltage related than AC.

Gary said I can't believe were the only ones in the country that have this issue, there is not a system manufactured that protects us from that. We can't keep taking \$8,000.00 hits every time this happens. We've got to get it running, that's affecting our other departments.

Mike Haffner said you can't get responses back from emails. We've tried, Jerry's tried. They don't have people working or they don't know. I am getting a little put out. It's taking a lot of my time and Lonnie's time to research and try to figure this problem out. In the long run I don't have an answer today.

Mike said other than the sponges.

Mike Haffner said I don't know with the sponges, if we put them in, if that's going to help or if we are just wasting our money. I don't know. Jerry's suppose to be getting me a list of his customers' that maybe have the sponges but he doesn't have any that he knows of that's using the sponges on the systems that he's installed.

Mike asked does the high voltage surge protector, is it guaranteed?

Mike Haffner said the high voltage I don't think is guaranteed. I know there are alarms on it and it has tripped a couple different times, so it definitely is working. I'm all for putting the sponge system in if we can find the proper people. I'm willing to use that gamble to do it, I just got to find where to buy them and who can install them.

Mike said if we buy the high voltage off I don't know Square D, they don't make a low voltage protector?

Mike Haffner said I will check with them. I've got the paperwork, I can make contact.

Mike said maybe that is the sponge protector, I don't know.

Mike Haffner said I never heard that referred to as the sponge. I know the sponge is what they manufacture for the fuel maintenance system.

Mike said then that is where I would start and get that installed.

Gary said we need some reasonable assurance that it is going to function. We don't want to put in another \$8,000.00 unit if we blow that system again.

Mike Haffner said I will have to just reach out to two firms and try to manage that myself.

Mike said does the fuel pump system, when they recommend the sponge system, do they tell you that another county's highway department is using it.

Mike Haffner said that is what we are trying to find, and right now we can't find anybody that's got the sponge system.

Mike said they won't give you that name?

Mike Haffner said we have asked, because I've asked for a list so I can call them and say is this working for you and what would you put in the next time but so far, they have no customers out there that's having low voltage problems.

Gary said I don't believe that, but that's alright.

Mike said but there are customers that have put sponge systems in or they wouldn't have told you about them.

Mike Haffner said they know of sponge systems, they don't have customers locally or anything that their aware of.

Tom said have you talked with Kevin Cook, they've got a similar system.

Mike Haffner said I can reach out to them.



Tom said you might see if they've had issues.

Mike said so right now you are just manually pumping gas and tracking.

Mike Haffner said I will make a few phone calls to our connections at INDOT and ODOT and see what they've got on their fuel systems.

**Other Business:**

**Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff**

Art said I sent you an email last week regarding body camera's and mobile cameras. The Council in having talked to them had stated that they would like to move forward with those but I read an interesting article this morning that I would share with you because I know one of the issues we have is a funding source. Apparently last week St. Joseph County Council had approved \$2.2 million in ARP funds for body cameras. I'm not sure that is something we might not want to reach out to those other county's and see exactly how they are doing that out to ARP funds.

Mike asked have we run that by Barnes and Thornburg?

Laura said we did, they said only out of lost revenue, which we have a meeting with Jason from Baker Tilly Wednesday, I believe regarding how much lost revenue we have.

Art said that might be the avenues for the other counties. I know there are about three of them this far that have used ARP funds for that. I just wanted to bring that to your attention.

Mike said I think our advisor's have indicated it would have to be lost revenue and we are still waiting on that.

Tom asked are they looking at the highway budgets.

Mike said I think they are looking at all budgets are they not?

Laura said yes, all budgets.

Art said I assume everybody got the email last week, correct?

Mike said with the two quotes? Yes, and really, I don't want to kick the can down the road but if we decide today were going to visit it again on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September because Council can't vote on it until the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. If we use ARP funds, they have vote on it, if we use windfarm funds they have to vote on it. Other than that, we recommend to them. I think it is something that we need.

Art said I agree. I wanted to send both because I think with the body cameras and the package with it, I think it gives you a certain amount of coverage when the officers are out of the car, obviously when their in the car, the only thing that you see on the body cameras is the steering wheel, so I think it's important that of course we are looking at all the officers to have the body



camera system and only the patrol units is what we've quoted for the in car cameras. I think there is only 13 of those. That's one of the things, the Council wanted me to bring it to you, I don't know if they are going to talk about it at all when they meet for the budget hearings. But I know that they are pretty insistent that they wanted to move forward and wanted to discuss the different funding options but I'm at a loss as to which way they want to go with that funding.

Mike said the total package is how much?

Art said I believe, I don't know that I brought that sheet over with me.

Tom said \$290 some thousand.

Mike said \$291,408.00?

Art said yes, and one of the things, if we take local funding for it, one of the things that I would recommend, I did submit a grant the other day for a small rural of tribal communities that we qualify for the max award that it would give is \$36,000.00 if awarded. In talking to those at the state level, the max you would get is about \$75,000.00 because it would not go toward the mobile cameras at all, it's only the body cameras.

Mike said so that knocks it down to about \$190,000.00.

Art said one of the things we can do with the company we're looking at is you can fund up front what you would like to do for the first year, I know Winchester funded heavily their first year and then I think they set up a five year payment plan beyond that and I would recommend we do similar especially if we use local funds so that we can see what that state grant is, because I'm not sure when they're going to get around to even letting us apply.

Mike said I couldn't tell if that email I got from Bennet, I sent that to you on Thursday, that had a bullet point in there about the grant and I didn't know if it was the \$36,000.00 or the \$75,000.00. I couldn't tell.

Art said I don't think I've saw the email yet.

Mike said I sent it Friday and it's the body camera grants.

Art said I will look at that later this afternoon.

Mike said the process will begin in September, selections will be made late this year, that's 2022 so it will be fourth or first quarter, this will only be for camera equipment not on-going costs. So, that would be the \$75,000.00 grant it sounds like.

Art said I agree. I did ask all the guys to report back to me the status of the cameras that were working, I think we have one functioning properly and the rest are intermittent at best and at least 1/2 of them are down now.

Mike said unless we find the money on our own, nothing is going to happen until Council votes to approve what we approve. For me I think it's a purchase that we need to make.

Art said I will report that to Council at the budget hearings.

Mike said I don't know if they do that sort of thing at budget hearings or not.

Laura said not unless it's on the agenda, if they ask me to put it on the agenda, they have before.

Mike said do we want to decide today on what we recommend Council to spend the money or do we want to wait until our meeting in September and take care of it all in September?

Gary said you are going to know from Jason this week?

Laura said yes, Wednesday I have a phone meeting with him.

Mike said we know we lost LIT. I don't know what calculations he does, but LIT came in at almost \$300,000.00 down. That's lost revenue. If we approve the purchase today and say subject to Council's determination on how to finance then could you go ahead and order them and then we tell you how to pay for them in September.

Art said I would probably contact the person with the company and let them know that we are moving forward to try and get something. But I hate to sign anything without having Council approve. I can start the process moving and let them know they need to set that up.

Mike said I know you said the lead time was a while.

Art said about three months.

Mike said my point is if we said we're for it today and we haven't done that yet, but let's say were for it can you get that three-month process started?

Art said I think I can.

Gary said I agree, I was at the last Council meeting and they said they definitely wanted to move forward, so I think they are going to work somehow to get there. I agree with Mike, I think we need to move forward immediately.

Mike said the other thing we could do is to say we recommend we spend windfarm money for it and then Council can say sorry we don't want to spend windfarm we're going to spend ARP money for it.

Laura said Commissioner's decide where to spend ARP funds and then Council appropriates.

Mike said I suppose we could do ARP first, backed up with windfarm and of course they are still not going to do it until their meeting in September because the hearings are next week.

Gary said with their support, everyone of them who sat at the table agreed that they were in favor, there weren't any negative comments and we're in favor, I think we need to move forward in getting them ordered so we can get them as soon as possible. The funding we can work out.

Laura said I know we do have lost revenues, I just don't know the number yet because Jason wanted to go over them before he met with us.

Art said I am going to reach out to a couple of other Sheriff's in the counties I know of moving forward with this to make sure how they are doing it through the ARP funds.

Mike said I am okay with approving the purchase and paying for it with ARP funds first and windfarm second.

Gary made a motion to approve purchasing the camera package. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike said you still have to wait on Council.

Art said I know but I can get the ball rolling, that will cut a little bit of time I think but I will let them know that were going to move forward with it. Do you have any other questions for me?

Mike said I don't.

**Minutes of July 19, 2021**

Mike said we received a copy of these via email any additions corrections or deletions to these minutes?

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

**Regular Claims \$615,156.84**

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

**Payroll Claims \$ 223,573.81**

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

**SJCA Claim \$8,961.00**

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

**Tracy Cross & Associates Claim \$2,500.00**

Mike said this is Tracy Cross & Associates claim in the amount of \$2,500.00 and Ceann have you received the housing study report.

Ceann indicated she had received this report.

Mike said those just came out in early or mid-July to the Eastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission and our balance due on that is \$2500.00 which we approved paying that several months ago.

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

**MPX Claim \$27,000.00**

**MPX Claim \$9,628.15**

Mike said do we want to continue to table the two MPX claims.

Gary said yes.

Mike said are you okay with that Tom?

Tom said yes.

Gary said have we ever had any conversation on the \$27,000.00?

Mike said I've not heard back from Todd, Todd was going after that one meeting he was going to check into it.

Gary said that was months ago.

Mike said yes, it was early July and he's not been back to discuss that.

**Rex Collins Electric Claim \$52,880.00**

Mike said this claim is for a generator package, generator labor and rough in package labor.

Tom said is that one or two generators?

Mike said I'm not certain, the only thing I'm certain is that the contractor signed it and the architect and I believe Chris sent us an email. Is this the one that Chris indicated the work had been done and he would recommend approving it?

Tom said I think he said the electrician had done the work.

Mike said to answer your question, the schedule of value of the generator package is \$49,500.00 and with previous allocation and this period, its \$49,500 so it looks like it completes the generator portion of this contract.

Gary said this completed the contract except for the changes.

Mike said I just meant it's for more than one.

Gary said it would have to be. It's just the north and the south.

Mike said does someone want to move approval of this claim?

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

**Pyramid Claim \$4000.00**

**Pyramid Claim \$233.28**

Mike said these are Pyramid claims for \$4000.00 and one is for \$233.28 and that is for travel. I suppose we might table this one.

Tom said I wouldn't pay Pyramid or MPX anything.

Gary said I agree, I don't want to pay them at all because we have asked and asked and we're not getting anywhere. We've got issues with the tower and were having to deal with that.

**Randolph County United Claim \$18,467.67**

**Randolph County United Tourism \$2,365.67**

Gary made a motion to approve both of these claims as presented. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**EDPR Claim \$2,000,000.00**

Mike said the next claim is the EDPR claim in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 and that is the highway fund were paying back.

Laura said we have not got that agreement yet, so I assumed you would want to table this again.

Mike said we haven't got the new road use agreement yet, so we will table this as well.

Gary said where are we at on that because they were supposed to have started work in July?

Tom said I think they are going to award the contract this week.

Mike said they haven't given us an amended road use agreement. Until we get that I think we probably should hold on to the money.

Tom said Zach was here, we probably should have talked to him.

**Doug Bird Tax refund claim \$782.49**

Mike said this proof of an error in the computation of interest, penalties and taxes carried forward, \$782.49.

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

**Treasurer's monthly report**

Tom made a motion to approve the Treasurer's monthly report. Gary seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Airport Manager Vacation carryover**

Mike said the airport manager's vacation carryover, I don't see the airport manage, I think the airport board meets tomorrow. Hopefully this is on their agenda to discuss, I would say we table that.

Tom said I agree.

Mike said we probably need a recommendation from the airport board on what to do with it. I don't feel comfortable making that decision without a recommendation.

Gary said I agree.

**Neglected Horse invoice**

Meeks said I would hold off on that.

**Third party tower inspection agreement**

Meeks said it is \$2,750 per tower.

Tom said is that for all three towers?

Meeks said it is per tower.

Tom said is it all or none.

Meeks said the proposal was per tower, that's what I saw. I would think you would want to do all three towers.

Gary said I contacted the folks at TowerKing and talked to him for a while and he gave me Brian Reece and his company, that's the people that do the inspection of every tower that they put up. He said he is competent and that is what his specialty is. He is based out of Pennsylvania. I emailed him a couple times and sent him the base construction, the tower steel, everything he asked for and the photo's that were taken and ask him to give us a quote and this is what he sent me back on Thursday. I gave a copy of this to Meeks and so this is his quote for the three towers and saying that he could do the work approximately three weeks after a purchase order.

Tom asked do we know about the safety cable installed and operational?

Mike said note number 4. We don't have anything on the towers yet.

Tom said 5 should be okay, but 4 I don't know if those safety cables, ladders and everything for him to access. I think everything else is okay, except number four, I don't know if we meet that criteria or not.

Gary said it would have to for the tower climbers to have come here to put up their equipment.

Mike said did they bring their own?

Gary said no.

Mike said I would think this is something we would want to pursue and I would think that somebody needs to make sure number four is met before we bring them in here.

Gary said Chris was out there when the tower climbers were there.

Mike said I think he's gone all week. If we decided today, I'm not certain we need a contract do we.

Meeks said they will give you a purchase order, you sign that. It says that when they receive a purchase order.

Mike said I think we should have this company do it.

Gary made a motion to allow Brian Reece's company to inspect the three communication towers. Mike seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Mike asked who is going to reach out to Chris on Monday?

Gary said I will.

Mike said if Laura had a copy of this, she could send it to Chris and just tell him to refer to number 4, we need to make sure number four in place. Can you do that for us Laura?

Laura said yes.

### **Zach, EDPR – Headwater II amended road use agreement**

Mike said we were going to give you back the \$2 million but we didn't have the amended road use agreement.

Zach said I don't mind you hold on to it until we get you the amended RUA. There are no changes to the plan that we discussed last time. EDPR is full steam ahead with the full scope of work and getting our ducks in a row with the contractor that we have decided to award the contract to. It should be final, officially awarded this week. I think it has been communicated to that contractor. Unofficially they are working on getting a performance bond set up and then getting the contract put in place. The same contractor is beginning work out there this week I believe on all of the crane crossings through the area. In short, we don't have an amended RUA

yet. I absolutely plan to have it for the next meeting. That will be after the contract is awarded and the work will be starting and compete this year on those roads.

Tom asked on the conduit easements, do you know where were at?

Zach said I don't have a great summary yet, we are still having some roll in. I know I owe you kind of a summary as to all of the property owners, links of conduit that have been signed and agreed. I actually just go a couple of more in last week. They continue to roll in, we have defiantly slowed down in terms of having an agent continue to pursue those. The conversation has been had. With the amended RUA, I will come with a little more information.

Tom said maybe we can get together and plan to try and clean that up so that we can move on with a provider. They're asking questions about where we're at.

Zach said yes, that will give me a chance to put them back together and identify all of the links that have been signed and just highlight these are links are outstanding. I think we can help a little bit, there are still a few of those land owners and properties maybe support from the county can help convince those folks.

#### **Veteran's service officer**

Mike said we discussed at our last meeting, Mike Kennedy our retired Veterans Service Officer has agreed to come back to work for us for 21 hours a week and after our discussion on the phone is willing to do that for the part time pay rate of Randolph County of \$14.00 per hour and his offer would be done so since Cathy is working full time as an acting Veteran's Service Officer at the full time pay. If we want to add Mike Kennedy into that arrangement then I think we would be good to go with the department of Veteran's affairs to have a certified officer in the office 21 hours a week all year long and then Cathy would do what she is doing now and assisting Mike.

Gary asked 21 hours will let you stay certified?

Mike Kennedy said it keeps me my 1000 hours a year and keeps me under Social Security, so everything works out great.

Mike said I know we have had some Veterans Service Officer applications but I'm not sure what the status of those were. I have not been involved in that since Mike left. I will say from a community stand point, I've not heard any complaints about Cathy's service at the Veterans Service Office. I think she is doing a good job for us.

Gary said I think this is the correct move. Mike is quite knowledgeable of what's happening here in the County.

Mike Kennedy said I have kept my accreditations with the American Legion, the VFW, the DAV and with the IBBA. The only thing I would still have to get would be my PIV card which allows me access to the computer in Indianapolis. Other than that, I can step right in.



Mike said you need to get with Paula and start that process from the beginning.

Craig Brutout said I have had the opportunity to work with both of them with my father in laws case, which has taken some really strange twists and turns and I can say they have gone above and beyond any level of service that I expected.

Mike said we appreciate hearing that. Thank you.

Gary made a motion to hire Mike Kennedy as a part time Veterans Service Officer to work 21 hours per week at the rate of \$14.00 per hour. Tom seconded. All aye votes. Motion carried.

### **Meeks Cockerill-Highway Engineer**

Meeks said I have been trying to follow up with Henry County and haven't heard from them yet. I had that on my calendar to call them again today, I've sent several emails.

Mike said I'm inclined to believe that I would like to pursue the idea that if we can't do it together, we pursue this guy on our own. Were at that point, we can't find an assistant superintendent. The constant visage of paperwork that the Superintendent has to do at the Highway Department disrupts and takes him away from critical responsibilities on the road and with his employees and I think an engineer whether part time or full time would be helpful. I don't know how long we want to wait on that but. Right of the top, if what I understand to be true, I think he could save us some money going forward with working with third party engineers.

Tom said do you want to put hard numbers together?

Mike said the engineer thinks he can work both counties and I think he can serve both counties and I am hoping that comes to fruition because it will be less expensive plus it will satisfy him in respect that he will stay busy. I think his concern is that he is not busy enough.

Gary said I think we could alleviate that problem.

Mike said I think so. I think maybe we give it another month and if we don't have anything by the second meeting in September the we see where that takes us

### **Gary Girton – Lick Skillet**

Gary said Lick Skillet is done. All that is there is a few rocks. I think the people in the community appreciate it.

Mike said good, anything else?

Gary said I am still concerned about this MPX bill, are we just going to wait or are we going to contact them. Todd has told us that he is going to do this and nothing happened, like we said it has been at least a month or six weeks.

Mike said I think it has been six weeks.

Gary said we had a couple other bills from Pyramid and Angela said that didn't coincide with the information she has.

Tom said we will know a lot more when we get a third-party report on whether we are going to go to litigation or not.

Mike said I think we made a statement to Pyramid this morning in not approving their claim. I think we just leave it on the agenda. Part of me says I'm glad we have their money.

Tom said we don't have near enough.

Mike said I understand that.

### **Mike Wickersham**

Mike said I have one other matter and that's an email from Dr. Sowinski and it was copied to Wendy, Chris, Rick and Cody and it says:

CDC recommends all persons (irregardless of vaccination status) wear masks at public indoor places. This has to do with features of the Delta variant which is much more contagious and can spread even from vaccinated persons (who may not feel ill from the virus due to the protection from the vaccine). This sets up easy virus spread opportunities.

While I do not feel there is enough virus activity to have local government mandate masking, I do think it would be wise to require masks in all government buildings to better protect our workforce, especially when we have such low immunization rates in the County.

We have gone to yellow metrics and advisory and are seeing increases in cases, positivity, and had a death this week of a Randolph County citizen who was younger than 50.

Delta is the predominant variant in this region, it is much more contagious than the Covid germ we had last year, and everyone is sick of wearing masks. Combined with low immunization rates, schools re-opening and not requiring staff or students to wear masks and Delta taking root, I anticipate a significant uptick in cases over the next few months.

Mike said interestingly enough he ask for Wendy, Chris, Rick and Cody's thoughts or input about this. They didn't disagree with what he said, I'm not sure they gave any strong recommendation for what we should do. I respect Dr. Sowinski and I would listen to him long before I would listen to the CDC but I'm inclined to consider us all adults here and would encourage any office holder that are concerned that their people should wear masks, let them control their office. I would be inclined to say if someone wants to come in the Treasurer's office or the Auditor's office and the Auditor has a mas rule in her office saying you can't come in without a mask. But I am not inclined to, for me I am just one vote, I don't think we ought to require masks in the buildings. If Mike wants to require masks at the Highway Department, go

for it. I you want to require masks at the Surveyors office, Veterans Affairs go for it. I don't want to make that decision. I don't know how you guys feel about it.

Gary said I understand what he is saying and I am concerned, particularly concerned since were going back to school. Let's see what our numbers are going to do in the next six, eight weeks. I'm interested in doing whatever I can to control this bug.

Mike said what I read and see is that we all need fitted N95 masks to really have an effect. Then you hear it gives you false hope, you got a mask on, I'm protected so you don't separate. I know from last time around there were office holders that were more concerned than others and we may have office holders that don't necessarily agree with me but they have the opportunity to impose their own rules in their own office and that doesn't bother me and if I go into that office then I will wear a mask. Does anyone want to act on this matter?

Gary said I don't today, but I think if our numbers increase, I am going to have to reconsider it.

### **Citizen Comments**

Ceann said I would like to update you on the READI grant. We have scored all 140 applicants and the thing is for the money, \$122,000,000.00 and we are going to get \$50,000,000.00 so we have some cutting to do. Andy and I have a meeting in Muncie on Thursday to really get down there and see, they've all been scored, numbered. I can say, I am proud to say that our Union City Vision Corner rated the top of all 140 and our broadband application that I put in also scored highly and our 4-H project also scored highly. Those are three really good projects, I can't say if all of those will get in we'll know more after Thursday. Also wanted to tell you that Fayette County, we voted two weeks ago that we have allowed Fayette County to join late. They were the only county in the state that did not become part of a region. They got some pressure as you can imagine and so we allowed them into our group and so we will know be an 8-county region instead of a seven-county region.

Mike said I think its important since you mentioned the three that rated top that our two people didn't vote on those three in the since that they were excluded from, you didn't vote on the people that recommended the Randolph County?

Ceann said correct.

Craig Brutout said I've got a couple of concerns mostly dealing with traffic on Greenville Pike and Arba Pike. I live out at Bartonian and I know the Sheriff's Department is strung thin but that stop sign out there has become a suggestion. It is ignored 90% of the time.

Mike said which direction, all directions?

Craig said all, even the farm equipment people don't stop, they just keep on rolling. I don't know what you can do.

Mike said I see the Sheriff taking notes.

Craig said there are times when you can literally hear people speed up. I live right on the corner. The other one is the amount of semi traffic, when 227 is closed and now all the truckers have GPS and everything else, their coming over Arba Pike and then going back north. Arba Pike can't stand wide load traffic count. It just can't and now with 36 closed were getting a bunch of semis are cutting across Greenville Pike and you get two semi's side by side on Greenville Pike there's not a lot of room and there's not a speed limit sign heading west on Greenville Pike from 227 until you get to the 45 mph sign at the city limit and they take advantage of that.

Mike said I think that would be a 55-mph speed on that road which is pretty fast. The improvement of that road is in the works of the next generation I think. It's an expensive project but the stop sign problem would be something that the Sheriff's Department could manage. The could pass an ordinance to say no trucks on Arba Pike and no trucks on Greenville Pike, of course we would have to exempt local trucks and that becomes an enforcement issue for the Sherriff's Department as to is this a local truck or is it not and then it's also a man power issue too. I wish I had a better answer for you Craig, but I'm not sure other than maybe closely watching that intersection at Bartonina.

Craig said we have discussed stop strips and some other things in the neighborhood. I appreciation any help I can get on it.

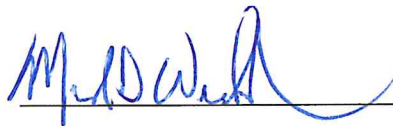
Art said an email will get sent out this afternoon to all the guys to keep an eye on that intersection.

**Adjournment**

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

Reviewed and signed this 7 day of September, 2021.

RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
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ATTEST:   
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Laura J Martin, Auditor of Randolph County