

## **Randolph County Council**

**October 8, 2024**

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

Pledge of Allegiance

### **Commissioner's update**

David said the first item on our agenda is Commissioner's update.

Gary Friend said morning everybody. A few things going on, which is always a good thing isn't it? So, the Farmland ambulance depot is under construction right now as we speak. The commissioners are going to replace two doors at, we've approved to replace two doors and it's already in their budget, in the old ambulance depot, or the main one. And we only did two of the four doors because there's going to be a retrofit in there for the coroner to get him out of the hospital and into a coroner's position. So, I'm going to contact Darin, probably today, about getting a harder quote so we can put some ARPA funds to it because we have until the end of this year to get it all appropriated. So, we approved Jay Long's recommendation for his new highway administrator for Jaycie Bergman. Then he will work on replacing her position. We had presentation from Jentry Flesher, our insurance. All the insurances is, not all of them, but what they take care of, it went from \$450,000 to \$501,000. And basically, that's our commercial property insurance. Workman's compensation, obviously, goes up with the payroll value. General liability, nothing went down, employment practice liability, commercial auto, employment benefits liability and cyber. Actually, cyber did go down slightly. So, that's a total of 501,000. And then we extended the Journey Home's lease to the end of 2025, which is next year in December. What else? Oh, we approved out of ARPA, the sheriff made a good case for a drone. He's had to borrow one two or three times in the last month or so. It's the era we live in. It's a good piece of equipment to have. My only discussion with the sheriff on that was if it is that good of a piece of equipment, you need to have a drone, then it needs to be in the budget, his budget to continue the operation. So, it's not just a you know, buy it, try it and forget it. If we need a drone, we need a drone. I kind of think we do too, especially we're a huge farm and bean field community, you know, where sometimes drones and infrared is the way you find things you need to find. And then, I guess one thing here that, Meeks can weigh in on too, well first of all, we're going to go for an additional appropriation, I'm sure Laura will bring that up, so we have the funds ready to go out of General for the comp time payout. That led to the discussion, and I evidently didn't understand something, I can live with that, I wasn't at every single meeting. But

everything has been approved that we talked about except for the 40-hour standard work week, including paid lunches and those who have 35 hours, whether it be the courthouse, the RCFFO, Health Department, things like that. Then there's some discussion, and I didn't know, but maybe the council has already decided that's not what they want to do. And I can accept that. I'm fine with that. We've, with Meeks said Irwin's working on this, we need to see how they want to look at this too, because if that's the route we take, then we have to look at, we have other non-emergency personnel who are getting paid lunch. And part of my whole thing in this was this is all a level playing field when it comes to benefits and whatnot. So, the commissioners have decided for right now that we are going to add 6 hours of PTO per month regardless of what the work schedules are. So, I think the commissioners and the council and there're some lanes to stay in about who's responsible, has the final vote on each one. But, if we're going to stay on 35 hour and no paid lunch, because of the unfairness and the possibility people have to work through their lunch, people gets theirs paid, I can see the unfairness there. I can, but I can also see, and we have to make the final vote, if we have other people with paid lunch, why? If they're not emergency services, is it because it was just the easiest thing to do or how we did it. We have to get to something I believe, that is fair and equitable and equal. So, if the 35-hour employees can't have a paid lunch, then why does the 40-hour employees get a paid lunch?

Tom Chalfant said can we get more specific about this?

Gary Friend said Irwin is going to be working on that for us. But who?

Tom Chalfant said yeah, who and who has response, who gets to say?

Gary Friend said we can. There's a list. We'll have to get a list, yeah. Who has to say that.

Meeks said I think the problem is, and I'll pick on Laura's office just because she's right here. So, if everybody is getting a paid lunch in Laura's office, they leave at noon, and they come back at one, right, you are getting paid for 8 hours, even though you're not there. They have to clock in and clock out, because you might not show back up. So, we have to clock in. We have to clock out. Now, if Laura said Meeks, you have to work over lunch and the other three co-workers are not, and you keep picking me to be the one who works over lunch, well there's a lot of discrimination, and the employment discrimination issues you're going to get in. Although I am getting paid for it, the other three who are working right beside me are getting that same benefit, even though I'm working. So, that's a problem, that's the big problem. Now, if we say okay, no one gets paid lunch, but we're going to give them 1 extra hour of benefit time per 7 hours of work, with would be 8 hours, right, well we could do that and you and I can have overtime because now, if I have to work through lunch, I'm getting that hour, plus I'm going to now have 9 hours that day. And I don't think that's, that's what you wanted to get away from, so we didn't fix the problem.

Gary Friend said it is.

Meeks said you, that was addressed.

Gary Friend said right.



Meeks said so, I think the solution, and I think we've talked about this before, was to have Irwin go through that stuff, figure out what they come back with, see what we like, and then if you think that you need some sort of additional benefit time, to provide for those people that aren't getting that paid lunch, then we can, then I think that's what, but, yes, they're supposed to be getting that. But right now, it's going to come back no paid lunch. I think we discussed that.

Gary Friend said right.

Meeks said about 2 months ago, 3 months ago? Tom is shaking his head.

Gary Friend said and like I said Meeks, I don't doubt that, I wasn't there and didn't hear the whole conversation, so, yeah, I'll catch up here myself. So, right, that discussion is, that's where we're at. Now Laura needs some time in the LOW system to get everything going. Other than that, everything else, the commissioners will put out a memorandum to get all of that taken care of. My only hang up, like I said, and for everybody to discuss and figure out, if that's the case with what Meeks said in the courthouse, that's also throughout the county. I don't think we can have some get favored paid lunch and some get none. I think we have to be all or none. And how we get there, Irwin can tell us. Or, I can be told yeah, thanks for your idea, Gary, but we all agree differently. Well that's democracy, that's how we do it. I believe we all need to be treated the same way, anyway.

David said I did talk to Kent Irwin down at the conference and he said they should have it just shortly.

Gary Friend said yeah. And we've already, we paid them to do it, so we need to let them do their work. Final thing for me if you don't have any questions for me, the final.

Todd said I have a question.

Gary Friend said yes.

Todd said did you say the commissioners decided to add 6 hours per month of PTO to everyone's PTO bank or a number?

Gary Friend said that's going to be how they accrue, 6 hours per month.

Todd said over and above what they were accruing?

Gary Friend said no, no. Everything goes away and this is the replacement.

Todd said oh, ok.

Gary Friend said yeah. And that discussion, you've got to look at it, what's 3 quarters of, 3 quarters for a day, 1 day a month. The thing you got emergency services like the ambulances, they're 24-hour shifts. Their work day is 24 hours, you know. So, that would be like giving

them what, 18 hours, you know. So, that doesn't work. Well then you got the highway at 10 hours. Is it fair because they wanted to be on 10 hours, work 4 days a week, that they get more PTO, well it's a 40-hour work week is what we should be, I think, standardizing to, if we can. Does that answer that?

Todd said uh huh.

David said that was my same question, Todd. You said additional.

Meeks said it's not.

Gary Friend said no.

Meeks said it's not additional.

Gary Friend said it's not.

Meeks said but you still get your vacation.

Gary Friend said yes.

Tom Chalfant said do you know what from that gain the budget is for that 6 hours? I mean it's.

Gary Friend said it's a wash nearly.

Tom Chalfant said yeah, okay.

Gary Friend said we're already paying that.

Tom Chalfant said so it's pretty equal.

Gary Friend said yeah. If the courthouse stays, I shouldn't say the courthouse, if the 35-hour employees stay on 35 without a 40-hour standardization, it would be a very slight increase on what would have been already recognized. But we don't pay that part out until the end of separation.

Tom Chalfant said you, the commissioners, do you want to go to 40 hours per week in the courthouse for employees?

Gary Friend said well the courthouse is not set up to go for 8. It's, the courthouse is open 8 hours, and I want to see everybody treated the same. If there's a way that you're in here and you're paid lunch, and it's 8 hours, 8 is 40, then everybody is on 40. If not, and it doesn't work legally and through Irwin and Meeks, and it just doesn't properly work, then we need to address those who are getting paid lunch on an 8-hour day, because it's the same thing. They're working 7, taking an hour off.



Tom Chalfant said doesn't state statute create a lot of this problem because of the prosecutor's office, you have community corrections, those people get a different wage than what we give our county employees, so, it's not a real homogenous. I mean.

Gary Friend said it's pretty close though, Tom, because the salary ordinance recognizes by vote of the council, the wage requested. So, they can't just.

Meeks said I think Tom's talking about the probation office.

Gary Friend said oh, I'm sorry, the probation office. I thought you said prosecutor's office.

Meek said I think he meant probation.

Gary Friend said that's mandatory, yeah, absolutely. The state tells us what.

Tom Chalfant said well yeah, that's, you know, if we bring community corrections in the courthouse, you know, that's just, and that's maybe one reason they kept them out was because you've got you're mixing and you're not mixing very well, because you've got people doing a lot of the same kind of work, it's different, but it's the same, but some get paid more than others because the state says they get paid more.

Gary Friend said I misunderstood. That's correct. The probation is mandatory minimum pay. Community Corrections is not. They still have to approach the council for their pay.

Tom Chalfant said yeah, what if we say you're going to pay the same as the county, what's going to happen then?

Gary Friend said well the Community Corrections is paid by county, by ordinance from the council. So, that doesn't affect them, no matter what we do, I don't believe, I don't think. Probation, yeah, that battle is already been tested and yeah, it's mandatory. I think, I mean, I kind of understand what the state's trying to do, but they're not taking in your local demographics with that.

David said and that's part of our legislative committee, for next year again, is Probation. It specifically says in Indiana that they are state employees. They are state employees.

Gary Friend said yeah, and you know, one of the things there, and then we're trying to get everything straight. That's a 35-hour work week for the salaries. The state employees are a 37 1/2 hour work weeks. So, there're some imbalances that need to be worked out. If you want one, you've got to have both. You know, if you want, I think if you want the state pay, which they're by law allowed to have, then you ought to have the state hours too, and not collect extra time from 35 up or 40.

David said they're supposed to.

Gary Friend said okay. Anyway, there's still a lot going on there, but everything but this particular situation right here can be enacted and starts January the 1<sup>st</sup>. Laura is going to ask for additional appropriation to make sure the funds are there out of county general so we can start paying everybody the money they've earned they're owed. But the final thing, anybody else?

Missy said I've got a question, Gary.

Gary Friend said yes.

Missy said a couple of weeks ago I was over at the new ambulance place and I talked to, and I got his card, but I don't have it with me, and I was asking him about the project and all that, and he was very satisfied with it. I think he's the general contractor. I'm not sure. I've got the card there, but.

Tom Chalfant said Danny.

Gary Friend said Danny Stamper?

Missy said yeah, that's his name. And, anyway, been talking to a couple of these other guys and they questioned why we're not, are we not putting an oven or a stove in?

Gary Friend said we are not. We are putting in a straight counter top and we're putting in, I talked to Brad Mullen. If you put a stove in there, you go to commercial kitchen, with commercial range hoods and all that. That activity in there is not that. They run now on microwaves, hot plates, and George Foreman grills. So, we left all that out to keep that from being part of this project in cost in updating the kitchen. We are going to have a smoke exhaust fan put in the wall up high in the area in case there's something.

David said anything else for Gary?

Gary Friend said well coming up, I don't know when you'll bring them up, is Losantville and their town management and Greg Beumer. The commissioners endorsed what they're asking, and there're good reasons why. And so, I don't know if you're going to bring them up, but I know the commissioners have endorsed them. And one of our commissioners, Gary Girton, you know, he's quite adamant about the fact that a lot of the money coming at our disposal has been created in that territory down there. So, I agree.

David said let me get Joe up here first and then we'll bring them up. Are you going to stay for that, are you?

Gary Friend said yeah, I can stay for that, but it's, I'll just, unless you want to ask me some questions, I'll let them take it from there.

David said I don't want to hold Joe up back there any more than I have to. I don't see Deb Tharp.



Gary Friend said is that it everybody? Thank you.

**Joe Copeland – Financial Commitment letter**

David said Joe, would you like to come up real quick?

Joe Copeland said good morning. What I'm here today about is INDOT has some safety money and a call for projects. So, I talked with Jay and the commissioners and what it is, is they'll give out money for like sign replacement, sign inventories, guard rail replacement, specialized, you have to have a full study, like curves and things that are dangerous, that have had a high accident history. So, what I'd like to do is to get a sign inventory done for the county highway. That would include all regulatory and warning signs. It does not include road name signs. They will not, federal will not do that. So, and what that does is that gives us an opportunity in the future to get federal money to replace signs. Without that sign inventory, they will not approve replacement of signs. I've done it in other counties where we would take certain townships and we'll go out and I'll ask for federal money and it'll go through an INDOT letting and they'll replace all the signs, regulatory and warning in those townships. This is paid at 90%. So, only, the county would only have to pay 10%. I don't know if you got a copy of the letter?

David said we all got them, an email copy.

Joe Copeland said okay.

Missy said I would like one that's printed out too.

Joe Copeland said oh, sure. It's a good opportunity, and it gives you an idea of where we stand. I mean, they'll look at each of the signs, the size, the type, the, what they call the retro-reflectivity of the sign, which has now, there's a requirement in the manual that you have to have a certain minimum standard. And the manufacturer of the sign sheeting, the reflective sheeting, they'll only warranty those for 12 years, the ones they are putting up. Most people put up that particular type of sheeting. So, I don't know where we stand as far as whether we're behind the 8 ball or not or, and this will help give us an idea of where we're at.

David said okay.

Joe Copeland said plus give us the option to replace signs in the future. I just did one in Henry and it was around \$550,000.00 worth of signs. We paid \$55,000.00 for all those, and there were several, several signs. And we were able to get the scrap off of the old ones.

Beverly said sounds like a win/win to me.

David said so, Joe, real quick, it says utilize funding from highway and.

Joe Copeland said well, we put that in there but it's, we intend to use highway money for all this.

David said okay. And it says Windfarm if necessary.

Joe Copeland said that's the intent, yeah.

David said the commissioner comment yesterday on this.

Gary Friend said yeah, it's coming out of the highway budget.

David said okay. Wanted to verify that.

Joe Copeland said yes.

Tom Chalfant said can there be any money for safety studies, is that in the scope of this?

Joe Copeland said the, no, not, the study has to be done. This is more for correction. Once the study has been completed, then you go out and you can correct the problem. And they want to see engineering studies showing what needs to be done, and what you intend to do. And then they'll give you the money.

Tom Chalfant said it wouldn't qualify for the road out there at 800 N and highway 1, that study and then the corrective work?

Joe Copeland said I doubt it. We'd have to have an engineering study. And here's the other problem. If you don't have high accident history, chances of getting the money are probably slim and not from what I've seen.

David said any other questions for Joe? It's pretty straight forward I think, that the county will have to come up with \$16,480.00 over the next two years. If not, I'd entertain a motion to approve.

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

Joe Copeland said thank you. Any questions for me while I'm here? Bridges, bridge 190, we're probably within a month of starting it. It's on Base Road just east of 700 West. It's two large culverts. We're going to put back two large culverts. Bridge 304 here on Carl Street is closed. We have the property all except one. It's going to condemnation. So, it's moving. So, and we're replacing culverts, large culverts, 12, 14-foot span. So, we're moving along.

David said sounds good. Alright. Thanks Joe.

#### **Greg Beumer and Carol Weaver – Losantville Sewage project request for funding**

David said okay Greg, Losantville.

Greg Beumer said members of the council., good morning. With me also this morning is Carol Weaver, clerk treasurer of the town of Losantville, and Kim Ring is on the town council. We're here to ask the council for approval for an additional \$175,000.00 for the town's sewage collection project that is currently under construction. The reason for our asking for this money is we had an understanding with USDA that they were going to be able to provide funding that



would allow us to pay for the private connections to the households. So, you have the sewer line that's in the alley or the street, and then we're trying to find the money to pay, so the residents don't have to absorb the 4 to \$5,000.00 fee to put that connection in. USDA did say yes, we can pay for this, but then later, about a month after that, came to us and we said oh, well we thought you understood that if we pay for that, the town has to take ownership of those private lines. And obviously, the town, just for the just the simple issue of future maintenance, does not want to assume that responsibility. So, we're here to see if we can get \$175,000.00 that we're short now. The contractor who's doing that job has given us a firm price to connect every household, a hundred and I think it's 23 connections. And we're short \$175,000.00 to get that done. If we can do this, that guarantees that one contractor puts them all in. We know they're done right. We know the septic's are capped or tapped off correctly and so on, instead of the alternative, which is a willy nilly system of everybody hiring their own contractor and some people get connected when they're supposed to, some people don't and so on. Carol or Kim, do you have anything to add to that?

Carol Weaver said well, I'm sorry, my voice is not real good this morning, but I'd like to speak for a minute. This would eliminate any of our residents to have to incur another debt in order to hook up. We are a low-income community and they are going to be paying a sewage bill now that they're not used to paying, but the benefit is great and it's for everybody. But, if we could do this, then our residents will not have to create another debt in order to enjoy the service. And that's kind of our goal to do that. And then as Greg said, everybody's would be done exactly the way it's supposed to be done at pretty much the same time and taken care of. Obviously, that would be a great benefit to our community to be able to provide that. We had the \$275,000, but with 175, that would give us \$450,000 and we've been told that would take care of every resident in our little community.

Tom Chalfant said so, Carol, when the, if we would give you the money and this all gets done the way you want, what would you own when this is all done? What do you own or what does the homeowner own as far as the septic's or the connection? Where does that, how do you divide the, where the connection is?

Carol Weaver said our responsibility is still to the property and the homeowner's responsibility is on their property. We're just going ahead and providing that service in getting them connected. But we won't have any ownership on the property.

Meeks said I think the technical one is they own the main and then it's from the house to the main is with the property owner. The connection to the main is a good question and the law doesn't tell us who owns that.

Tom Chalfant said yeah, because the T is one piece that goes from the main, so, I didn't know if there were disputes about whose problem it is or normally the town would just fix it.

Meeks said the connection problem is only one that's not clear in the law. Everything else is very clear. The lateral from the main to the house is the homeowner, the main is the towns.

Tom Chalfant said usually the clog would occur at a T.

Meeks said I know.

David said okay. Any questions for them?

Missy said Carol, can I ask, how much is the service going to cost then? I mean, you know, monthly service.

Carol Weaver said we're not exact, we don't have it firm at this point, but it's going to be around \$90.00 a month. Right now we're collecting, which USDA requires us to start collecting \$50.00 a month from now until the service is in place so that we have the funds in place to run it.

Tom Chalfant said and that's sewage and water or just sewage?

Carol Weaver said no, that's sewage.

Tom Chalfant said how much is the water?

Carol Weaver said minimum on water is less than \$32.00 a month. Most residents, I'm going to say, are paying close to \$35 to \$37 in water. Personally, I don't. I pay the minimum because I'm a 1 person. But I'm adjusting for families.

Missy said I think it's a great project. I would make a motion that we approve the \$175,000 to Losantville sewage project.

David said and out of the Windfarm money?

Missy said yeah.

David said the commissioners okayed that yesterday?

Gary Friend said no, two weeks ago. Yeah, we okayed it, 3-0.

David said okay. I have a motion on the floor to approve this request.

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

Todd said I have a follow up question. The roads that are you know, now in a kind of state of disrepair, whatever, from putting all those septic lines down the middle of the roads, is that part of the project? Is there a restoration of those roads coming?

Carol Weaver said they will be repaired, yes.

Todd said who is paying for that?



Carol Weaver said that's part of our contract already with our contract. That's already in that agreement and the roads will be, some 100% and some will be patched in the outer part of the town. But yeah, everything will be back as it was, if not better.

Todd said okay. Thanks.

Greg Beumer said but likely not until spring. Okay. Thank you very much.

Missy said I went by there the other, well it's been several days ago, early in the morning heading to the airport in Indianapolis. I'm amazed how many people stop at the truck stop. It was busy and it's all, and then, somebody said well the Dollar General whatever that one is, it wasn't open then but I was amazed how many people were coming through there. You may get some growth with people coming in.

Carol Weaver said we've really do. We've already experienced the growth and we've got promise of greater growth in the second phase. Yeah, it's wonderful. Thank you so much.

#### **Mary Solada and Ben Vollmer – IN68 Solar Project**

David said okay, the next one I have is Mary and Ben, Indiana 68 Solar project.

Ben Vollmer said morning. It'll just be me this morning. Just to catch you up on what's happening here, yesterday Mary and I, who's the, our council for this project, appeared before the commissioners to see if they would encourage us pursuing development, proceeding with the development of this project, knowing that we need to go before this board, and they said yes, go ahead. So, we got added to the agenda yesterday so. I know it's late notice, and Mary had a scheduling conflict, so she wasn't able to make it this morning. Thank you for your time this morning, for your consideration. I'd like to start by introducing myself in the project and get to the ask that we have. My name is Ben Vollmer. I'm the project developer for this project which we are calling South Salem Solar. So, on your sheet there you'll see Indiana 68. That was kind of a placeholder that we had. We're now calling it South Salem Solar. And I'm here on behalf of AES who will be the long-term owner and operator of the project. AES is one of the biggest independent power producers in the country with 540 operating projects representing 5.1 gigawatts of power. So, this is a big reputable company that knows how to build, own, operate projects like this. AES Clean Energy is a separate entity from AES Indiana, the utility in the state. The parent company, AES Corporation is the same, but AES Clean Energy and AES Indiana are separate entities. So, just wanted to make that clear. We are not, I am not here on behalf of AES Indiana utility. Now about the project, South Salem Solar is a proposed 150-megawatt project located in Wayne Township, south of 32 and west of 227, right along south boundary Pike. We are optioning approximately 1200 acres but will likely build on fewer than 800 when accounting for drainage ditches, flow lines, wetlands and other building constraints. We are optioning the land from one family and then we have an easement option and a purchase option so that we can go from the array to the existing transmission line and tie in there and deliver the power to the grid. The project represents an investment of \$204,000,000.00. We anticipate starting construction in early 2028 and finishing toward the end of 2029. But that could come sooner. As you may be aware, there's been significant delays in the utility study process so pinpointing the exact timing is pretty difficult at this time. So, that ask that I would

have is for a preliminary abatement resolution to be considered at your next meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup> and a final resolution to be scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our council has been working on preparing some initial modelling that we would then give over to Baker Tilly at your behalf. Happy to answer any questions.

David said any questions for Ben?

Tom Chalfant said now where are your headquarters?

Ben Vollmer said AES. The headquarters are in Salt Lake City.

Tom Chalfant said and does that stand for anything, the AES?

Ben Vollmer said a long time ago it did, but it's one of those things that since it's just become that's what everyone calls it.

Missy said so, where do you have other solar fields now, and what kind of performance, how's that all gone? Is this a first-time project for this?

Ben Vollmer said no, all over. There are two projects being, well one was just finished recently called the Harty Hills Solar, is now operational in Clinton County. And then there's one called Petersburg Solar that is under construction, supposed to come on line toward the end of next year in Pike County.

Missy said is that Petersburg, Florida or Petersburg, where?

Ben Vollmer said Indiana.

Missy said Indiana, okay.

Tom Chalfant said and the other is Clinton County, Indiana?

Ben Vollmer said yes sir.

Missy said for me, it would be great if you had a written presentation you can hand us rather than us trying to take all these notes down and decide what to, I'm going to need more information on this thing.

Ben Vollmer said okay, sure.

Missy said what have your revenues been? Who do you sell that to on the grid and where's the energy going? I know a lot of ours goes to Dayton.

Ben Vollmer said we do not yet have what we call an off taker, so we enter into these contracts called power purchase agreements where someone agrees to buy the power. But they're not



buying the physical electrons delivered, yeah, so. The power would go to whoever needs it, whoever is drawing power from the grid.

Tom Chalfant said I mean our, we don't send the electricity to Dayton from here.

Missy said no, no.

Tom Chalfant said yeah, those companies buy and it all get's in the mix. It's got a big pool.

Ben Vollmer said that's right. Yes sir.

David said the neutrons only go so far.

Meeks said what I had told them yesterday was that's a pretty aggressive timeline, which is fine, you know, but that they probably needed to present something to you because if we get their analysis and Mary said that their tax analysis was almost complete, to be able to send that over to Baker Tilly to have them do our analysis of that before we kind of you know, because then if you guys are doing preliminary tax abatements, that's a pretty quick turnaround. So, when we get those analyses, I'll get it out to you guys and, because you'll still have to have a preliminary tax abatement, public hearing and then a final tax abatement on the project.

David said yeah, I don't see it happening before the first of the year.

Meeks said yeah, I told Mary that. I think I said, I'm pretty much, I think I said that yesterday.

David said I've been through a lot of these over the years and you're probably looking 4 to 6 months.

Meeks said we'll see, it won't be on our end really, I mean, it's usually on the company's end.

David said I'm like Missy though. I want to see more details. A power point.

Ben Vollmer said sure.

David said it wouldn't even have to be a power point, just a document, so we can sort of decipher. I know exactly where you're talking so.

Ben Vollmer said uh huh. We can certainly do that. Sorry. We didn't really anticipate that we might, would be here this morning. The plan was originally maybe meet with the commissioners. Yesterday I didn't know that we could get on the agenda for this morning. So, it was a quick turnaround.

David said well it's good you did. That way you're 30 days ahead of your schedule, but I don't see it happening in quite the timeframe you're looking at.

Tom Chalfant said many of these projects are financed by foreign money. Do you know if this is financed by, I mean, if companies finance it at all through your headquarters, you probably have investors that you can't really mention, do they, do you know where they're from?

Ben Vollmer said we don't have specific investors lined up for this project yet, given the timeline on it. But AES is an American company. We anticipate that most of the investors, if not all, I can't say for sure, but I would anticipate it would be money from this country.

Beverly said are you saying A E S?

Ben Vollmer said AES, yes ma'am.

David said they've got, they're big in Indianapolis, which just recently, they kind of lost down there because of their timing of getting their customers back on line. I don't think it was entirely their problem but.

Ben Vollmer said and that's the difference between AES Clean Energy which is the development and operations of these types of projects and then the utility, which is separate.

Todd said are these two companies linked together?

Ben Vollmer said they have the same parent.

Todd said okay. So, AES Clean Energy is for developer, the ones that put in the project and then the.

Ben Vollmer said and own and operate.

Todd said yeah. Okay. And then the AES Indiana is, are there other AES entities in other states?

Ben Vollmer said yes. There's in Ohio as well, a utility in Ohio.

Todd said but the clean energy part is nationwide?

Ben Vollmer said it is, yes sir.

David said okay. Anything else for Ben?

Missy said any information you could give us would really help, because you know this can sometimes be a really hot topic in a lot of counties.

Ben Vollmer said sure.

Tom Chalfant said you could just send it to the auditor and she can, she'll get it to us. So, that would simplify everything then.

Ben Vollmer said okay. Great. And you had mentioned revenues,

Missy said anything, I think anything you can give.

Ben Vollmer said okay.

Tom Chalfant said are you a publicly traded company?

Ben Vollmer said it is, yes.

Todd said general question. So, this, I mean, we've done quite a few of these in the past that I haven't been a part of, and I don't know if Economic Development has gotten any sort of fast track or any certain program or checklist, or is there, I mean, enough of, it's happened enough times that I wonder if there's a process now, not just where we say give us everything you got, but we give them what we expect. Do we not have anything like that?

Meeks said most of these projects Todd, because when you get down to it, 80, 90% of them probably have been with EDP.

Todd said so there's been some familiarity with them.

Meeks said and Mary's been, who's not here, has been involved in Bluff point.

David said I remember the name.

Laura said Nextera.

Todd said I would say that's where we're headed.

Meeks said and they had brochures because they were trying to get, they were trying to get people signed up. And so, they brought the brochure and you know.

Todd said I mean, anybody I think that has any land in this area is getting these kinds of letters 3 or 4 times a year from different.

Tom Chalfant said a few times a month.

Todd said so, it would be nice to have some sort of, you know, you don't have to make this happen super quick, that doesn't have to be the incentive, but it would be really nice to have, you're going to have reinvent the wheel every time.

Meeks said well really, we need the fact analysis that they're going to provide, and I think that's going to answer.

Laura said so, not only Meeks deals with their attorney and Baker Tilly and gets everything accumulated through his office.



Meeks said really 90% of the questions are going to come, the answer with that, with the tax analysis.

Todd said okay.

Meeks said it's going to tell us you know, what the assessed value is.

Todd said my fear is with, you know, the council turns over and next year we've got the new members and others leaving, the ones leaving, you've had a lot of experience with these kinds of projects in the past. So, anything that we could, you know, and you're telling me, you are telling me that 90% of it, you are, you know, have that worked out, but I don't know what the other 10%

Meeks said how many acres you know, thing of that, I think, when's the start date, when's the finish date, things like that.

Laura said and each project is different.

Meeks said where's it at.

Dan Baker said so if I may, we do have an incentive committee that typical projects do flow through, apprised of county and individuals. Any of you are welcome to be on that. Typically, projects do go through that. Sometimes they'll come straight to you first, that we're just unaware of. I haven't been part of any of the previous solar or energy projects either, but we can assist in that. And that's what we do with most of our projects.

Tom Chalfant said Ben you said you're dealing with one landowner for the solar and one landowner for transmission lines?

Ben Vollmer said one family. It's a brother and a sister that own land. And then it's one landowner that we have an easement with, and then there's another landowner that has agreed to sell us some land where we can then put the project sub-station and switch yard, which is needed to increase the voltage at the level carried by that high voltage transmission line, yes sir.

Tom Chalfant said do you have a good neighbor policy? I assume there are residents that live in this area that really aren't in, but they're impacted, are you familiar with other companies that have a good neighbor policy where just people that own a house on a lot participate.

Ben Vollmer said it's something we've done and we plan to ramp up community outreach later on. We wanted to start this process by first coming to the commissioners and seeing if it's something that they would encourage because we understood that to be the first step in the process. And if it wasn't something that the county wanted, then we weren't going to go ahead and reach out to the neighbors and do all that stuff.

Tom Chalfant said do you anticipate doing that?

Ben Vollmer said yes sir.

David said any other questions for Ben? If not, thanks for coming in and we look forward to more information.

Ben Vollmer said alright. Thank you very much.

**Other Business:**

**Ken Hendrickson, Randolph County Chief Deputy Sheriff**

**Car Quote**

David said Ken, would you like to come on up?

Ken Hendrickson said good morning. Sheriff is gone this week. He asked me to come. Did he get you an email? Everybody got what he showed? Did he tell you what happened with the vehicles? For the past couple years, we've had to order vehicles 8 months in advance to get them by, if we're lucky spring, or mid-summer. This year we did the same exact thing and now they're in. They just came in. We're at the mercy of the car dealerships. Dodge. And they came in. We've got currently, since I got back, I was gone for a couple weeks, we've got 3 cars that are down currently. The storm you guys had when I was gone, then one hit a deer. So, these cars are in. They're down at Wetzel's currently. So, what he was asking for if the money is in the budget now to be able to buy these cars and the money that was budgeted for the first of the year, you can just keep it because we're not going to need it, because these are the cars that we're not supposed to be in until March of next year. These are our cars. How this happened, we can't answer that.

Tom Chalfant said now so, you intended to trade these cars in March, are these trade ins?

Ken Hendrickson said no, these are the new ones for now.

Tom Chalfant said well but were you going to trade your old cars in?

Ken Hendrickson said yes. We have a couple that were on the chopping block already. Was it the ones that are being repaired currently? I don't think so. I think they were decent cars. One of them is probably going to be totaled now, with the deer. Eventually, they thought they were going to fix it. Of course, we're at the mercy of the insurance company on that. I think since last week, they're now going to have to total that car. And I can't remember if that was one of them that was on the chopping block or not.

Tom Chalfant said I didn't know whether the trade, the trade in value should be 6 months earlier, it should be worth more than.

Ken Hendrickson said well they've got 140 some thousand so it really doesn't matter. The difference may be \$500.00.

Tom Chalfant said okay.

Ken Hendrickson said I don't know this, but the one that may be totaled, we're probably going to get more money out of it than trading it off. We just will. But I can't answer that until I get all the figures in. I don't know.

Tom Chalfant said basically, you just need an advance from now until December, basically next year's budget would, well, you run, you don't run on the January to January you're the same?

Ken Hendrickson said we're the same as you guys.

Tom Chalfant said yeah.

David said so, how many dollars are we looking at?

Laura said it's around 150 isn't it, Ken?

Ken Hendrickson said yeah, I've got down a hundred, I've got like one on this sheet here, I'm showing \$146,253. I think we have, I don't remember what we put in this year for the budget.

Laura said I don't. I talked to Art about going ahead and doing an additional appropriation for this year.

Ken Hendrickson said right.

Laura said and then reducing the appropriation for next year.

Ken Hendrickson said absolutely. Yeah, that makes sense.

Laura said I was just thinking around 150.

Ken Hendrickson said yeah, that's a safe number.

David said so, we'll need to do an additional appropriation for next month?

Laura said right. We'll have to advertise that. Of course, you know the process.

Ken Hendrickson said sure, absolutely. Again, this shocked us more than anything when these came in. They just called and said we have your 3 cars. I mean, they haven't done that in years.

Tom Chalfant said the model and everything hasn't changed, it's the same?

Ken Hendrickson said no. These are the ones we had ordered. They just got them in. We usually ordered these three months out, I'd have them three months. And now, I've ordered the past two years, I know for sure, I've ordered 8 months out by what they want done because they couldn't get the cars. So, we were more than 8 months in advance to get them in.

David said so, how do we get the cars? It'll be 30 days before we can make the approval.



Ken Hendrickson said that's okay.

David said is that okay?

Ken Hendrickson said yeah, as long as they know.

Laura said yeah, I think we're okay to get the additional in this month. And then it would be here to approve in November. So, just tell us that you're okay with doing it and we'll move forward with the additional.

David said everybody on the council okay with that?

Beverly said so they have this money in their budget currently?

Laura said they have it in their 25 budget.

Beverly said that I understand.

Laura said so we're going to appropriate it for 24 and then reduce 25 by the amount we appropriated.

Beverly said that amount. Okay.

Ken Hendrickson said yeah, these weren't supposed to be in until March and April.

Beverly said oh I understand. I understand. Just the funding part of it I wasn't sure how it was going to work.

Laura said yeah, I think we'll probably have to do the 25 reduction in January, because that budget isn't actually in place yet.

Todd said you can't just amend next year's budget?

Laura said I can check and see. I don't know that.

David said do we need a vote on that or just?

Laura said no, just an okay to do it, and then we'll get the paperwork done and you'll vote on the paperwork when it's done.

David said I think you have our approval to proceed ahead and we'll get the additional.

Ken Hendrickson said there are two other things on additional appropriations, if you want me to speak on them. The sheriff K-9 for a 1,000 and repair of vehicles for additional appropriation of \$20,000. If you have any questions there, I'd be glad to speak on that also.

Tom Chalfant said the, this is a new dog, this \$1,000.00?

Ken Hendrickson said uh huh. Well this is not just for the, I mean, we already have a dog. Our supplies and vet bills have went up. We had to buy a new door popper for him. We have an automatic popper for the K-9. Officer gets in trouble; he can do a pop on it. The one we had was 10 years old. It failed. I mean, it lasted a good long time. And so that new popper itself, was a \$1,000.00. So, that's why, we've still got some vet bills and some food to get us to the end of the year.

Tom Chalfant said you might pass on to the sheriff the commissioner, a friend mentioned you know, you could budget, you have items you know, you can put cars in there, you run them 4 or 5 years, anyway, a dog last about 6 years, so I was wondering why you maybe wouldn't put a budget to a dog replacing every 6 years, budget for that.

Ken Hendrickson said I could bring that up to him. It depends on the health of the dog.

Tom Chalfant said right, yeah. They average 6, 7 years, sometimes more. Yeah, that's about the service life.

Ken Hendrickson said sure.

David said okay. I don't think I have any questions of Ken on the, those are normal routine things. Anybody else?

Missy said I just, can you explain a little about, how many drones do we operations, own in the county? I know Union City has one, right? Winchester.

Ken Hendrickson said I'm not sure about Winchester and Union City. The drones that we used when I was gone with the incident down south. We had Darke County came in, DNR came in. I can't remember if Wayne County came up, but these are all the same drones and what we, we've been looking at drones, but we never, there're so many other there and you want to get the best bang for your buck. And in talking with DNR, Darke County and the ones that they brought over, they also have the infrared on them. So, that's a big key because a lot of times it's nighttime, but even on the daytime, depending your heat of your fields, trees, there're are a lot of things you can just still do in the daytime too. When they seen these drones and found the batteries, how long we can keep those up, that's when we made the decision you know, we need to get this type of drone here into the county. So, that's why we picked this drone.

Tom Chalfant said Ken, they're all battery operated?

Ken Hendrickson said correct. And you have to have multiple batteries, obviously. Service life of a battery is about 25 to 30 minutes. And the good thing about the drone is it won't just drop. Once that battery gets so low, depending on where it's at, it automatically reads how much battery life it needs to get back home to you. And then all you do is change out, that drone goes right back in the air. So, we're buying about 4 batteries with it I believe because we can do a

rapid charge on the first battery, and by the time we're done with those 3 to 4 batteries, that first battery is ready to go again, and back up it goes.

Beverly said I was going to ask if they were rechargeable.

Ken Hendrickson said yes, they're all rechargeable.

Todd said I said speaking as a man who has lost a couple of them, when you borrowed that, you said you borrowed them in the past, did you also have somebody come with it operate it?

Ken Hendrickson said no, they brought, I mean, their team comes. We don't use their drone. They send their team.

Todd said so when you get one, don't you have to, isn't there going to be cost for training and so on to?

Ken Hendrickson said minimal cost. It's just not a lot, because when we buy this drone, that company, that's included in the price. And they will come in and train us on the drone. The only other thing that we have to do is send, I don't think it's included, you have to send them to a, I don't remember the words.

Mike said it's basically a pilot license.

Ken Hendrickson said yeah, it's not a pilot's license, but it's a drone, it's a little bit different than an actual pilot's obviously.

Todd said FCC rules and things like that?

Ken Hendrickson said yeah, there're all kinds of rules out there you have to abide by.

Todd said alright, I just was worried about buying a highly technical piece of equipment and then having to learn to use the thing, but from your experience, you're saying that's not a problem.

Ken Hendrickson said no, like I said, they train you on it. That's part of the included cost.

Beverly said what sort of cost are you looking at on those?

Ken Hendrickson said I think it's \$13,383. And again, this has been a couple years of trying to figure out drones. There are so many on the market and you have to be so careful. Once, like I said, we've seen these drones come in, both of these agencies are very satisfied, they've been using for a while.

Missy said how, will they be using the 36-inch one or are they bigger or do you know?

Ken Hendrickson said couldn't tell you. I wasn't here. I was in a hurricane, so I don't know.



Missy said I know some counties are starting to use them, I mean they actually do some patrol, like of their parks at night, where even the flashing red or the white, that doesn't bother any, I mean nobody thinks oh, and they're catching some people in their parks doing things.

Ken Hendrickson said correct.

Missy said yeah.

Ken Hendrickson said there are some stipulations to a drone that's a little different than flying. Of course, when I got my pilots license, we were able to do a lot of flying. I flew, we checked fields, and officers are spotting, I'm just the pilot. There are some different things with drones, which is okay. It's all legalities that they have to know, and that's okay.

Missy said they kind of explained as long as it's public property that, air space.

Ken Hendrickson said well, yes and no, because you're talking about different footage in the air, compared to a plane. I had minimums, which was air space is air space. The drones, because you can get down so close, the courts have kind of looked at it a little differently. So, we have to understand those laws.

Missy said yeah, we wouldn't want to catch people doing things wrong.

Ken Hendrickson said do what?

Missy said we wouldn't want to catch the people doing things wrong.

Ken Hendrickson said it's okay. We'll know the legalities of it and we'll be fine. We've already used them a couple of times, and we're fine legally.

David said okay. Anything else for Ken? Thanks for coming in.

Ken Hendrickson said thank you.

**Deb McGriff-Tharp – grant application**

David said okay. Come back to Debra McGriff Tharp's request for grant application.

Laura said it's the same grant she does every year.

David said okay. And the amount of match is \$21,000.

Missy said and that's just permission to let her apply for the grant, correct?

David said yes. It's a pass-through grant. County receives funds and passes on to another entity. Entertain a motion?

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

### Comp Time Report

David said let's go to the comp time report. We all got a copy of it in our emails. For review now. Then we'll have to what, next month or December?

Laura said yeah, so I was going to do this at the end of the meeting, but I can do it now. I asked the commissioners yesterday if we could do whatever the amount is. We're going to go a little bit above it, just to make sure we're covered, but right now it's at 130 something, 130 some thousand. And we would like to make it easy for the payout just put one lump sum into the commissioner's budget, comp time payout. There's already a line made. And then pay it all out of that one line at the time. So, we'll do an additional. So, we'll have to do it, advertise in November for December, is that what we? Yeah, then you would approve the additional in December and then we'll pay it out on December 27<sup>th</sup> like you had talked about. So, that's kind of what we were thinking to make it easy as possible. But that report is just to kind of keep you guys updated on where we're at number-wise.

David said okay.

<b>Transfer:</b>	<b>from</b>	<b>To</b>
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<b>Prosecutor</b>		
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<b>\$2,000.00</b>		
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	<b>City Court Deferral Fees</b>	
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		<b>Office Supplies</b>
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<b>\$2,000.00</b>		
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	<b>City Court Deferral Fees</b>	
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		<b>Miscellaneous</b>
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David said okay, let's go into Transfers, prosecutor's. Office supplies, miscellaneous. Entertain a motion.

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

### **EMS**

<b>\$3,000.00</b>		
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	<b>Training/Schooling</b>	
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		<b>Equipment</b>
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David said okay, the next one we have is a transfer, EMS, training/schooling to equipment. Brad do you know what they put, what equipment are you?

Brad Mullen said some of our cardiac monitors that the modems are going bad in them and there's not a renewal plan on them and we had to buy a new modem.

David said okay. It's for a new modem then?

Brad Mullen said yeah, so we could transmit our EKGs from doing in the field, we can transfer to the hospital. It's a quick outcome once we get to the hospital so they can get the care given to them there.

David said okay.

Mike made motion to approve. Tom Kerns seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

### **Community Corrections**

<b>\$250.00</b>		
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	<b>Drug Test Supplies</b>	
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		<b>Miscellaneous Supplies</b>
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<b>\$250.00</b>		
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	<b>CTP Client Clothing</b>	
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		<b>Miscellaneous Supplies</b>
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David said next one we have is Community Corrections transfers from drug test supplies, CTP client clothing to miscellaneous supplies. Rhoda, do you know what that's for exactly?

Rhoda Davis said we have, we did not set up a, I didn't, my first grant didn't set up the miscellaneous supply line although it's something that we've had in the past that was kind of removed when our PI balance was low. And so, I'm not asking for additional appropriation. This is just to move money into a line to get it to where it needs to be to cover expenses.

Beverly made motion to approve. Tom Chalfant seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Commissioners/Council**

**\$480,000.00**

**Headwater's 1**

**CCMG 2024-1 Bridge 304**

David said this is from commissioners/council, Headwater's I to bridge 304, 480,000.

Tom Kerns made motion to approve. Mike seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Additional Appropriations:**

**Bridge 304**

**\$480,000.00**

David said now we are going into additional appropriations. It is for bridge 304, \$480,000.00 for our county match for that bridge. Entertain a motion?

Tom Chalfant made motion to approve. Mike seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

**Building Commission – Contractual work \$10,000.00**

David said next additional we have is from the building commission, contractual work, \$10,000.00.

Mike made motion to approve. Tom Chalfant seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Missy said this may not be the time for a question, but I've got a question on this one. So, if he has a truck, which he uses, and so, if he is out on a medical leave, then does that truck stay at the location?

Meeks said Keith is going to use it.

Missy said okay.

Meeks said if Keith is qualified.

Laura said the insurance will cover it, but we've never addressed. I don't know.

Meeks said so he needs to come. I told him he needs to come and go to the auditor's office and bring his driver's license.



Laura said but Randy knows?

Meeks said Randy was on that email.

Missy said but does he know?

Tom Chalfant said so you're saying Bud will use the truck?

Meeks said if he, if our insurance will insure it.

Laura said they will. I already talked to them.

Meeks said but he has to bring his driver's license.

Laura said right.

Meeks said I told him that.

David said so the commissioners agree?

Laura said they never addressed that to my knowledge.

Meeks said yeah, it's a tool. It's just like anything else, I mean, if that's for a computer we didn't say you could use the computer either, but, it's a tool of the county.

Missy said it's a little different though, because a computer is not going to be out there.

Meeks said well he needs, that's why he needs to get approved by the auditor's office and get his driver's license and show he has insurance, just like everybody else does.

Missy said one of the meetings I was when we were at the conference, somebody questioned whether you could take a county-owned vehicle across the state line. And the consensus of those individuals in that meeting were that no, you shouldn't. When that one meeting, can't remember which one it was. It was on the, I think it was anyway. I can't remember. But they discussed you know, they were, there was a discussion on the use of vehicles, county owned vehicles that some had gotten out of control and shown up with a lot of mileage on them, where it didn't seem like it should have been for the, you know, a job that was being done, and so somebody brought up county vehicles crossing a state line, was going to southern Indiana, and the person lived across the Ohio River in Kentucky, and they really questioned it. You better check with your insurance, may not cover because it wasn't work related.

Meeks said we have a policy. We took a Ft Wayne policy and they don't let you do anything. I mean it's pretty, I think they put GIS trackers on everybody's car.

Missy said yeah. One of them, that's what they said it was. So, they are putting those on there anymore.

Meeks said we do have a two or three page policy on it. I don't know what it says about out of state.

David said I know, I talked to a commissioner from Allen County and they cannot take theirs out of county over into Ohio.

Meeks said well I'm certain, we took Allen County's, we used their.

David said is that the one you used?

Meeks said that was the template for, I mean, we didn't use everything. We didn't have GIS trackers. We took that out.

Tom Chalfant said well we, but we charge \$3 a day per employee for that truck.

Meeks said or whatever, yeah, the minimum amount, as an added fringe benefit.

Tom Chalfant does he check things on his way home and he lives out of state, so. I think, is that just an unwritten agreement, we don't have anything in writing?

Meeks said we have a policy.

Tom Chalfant said to cover that.

Meeks said our policy covers the use of vehicles.

Tom Chalfant said well does he violate that policy?

Meeks said I don't know, I'd have to pull the policy out.

Missy said well my only concern was in that meeting it was the idea that if someone were injured or a truck would pull out, you know, the damage, and then they say you weren't working, using it for work.

Tom Chalfant said that's something we should ask our insurance company.

Missy said yeah, yeah.

Tom Chalfant said I would think people would be allowed to drive home if they lived in another a mile or two across the line.

Missy said yeah, I think so too.

Tom Chalfant said they need to declare that.

Missy said yeah, I could understand that.

<b>Sheriff – K9</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>Sheriff – Repair Vehicles</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>

David said okay, let's go on to additional appropriations for the sheriff for K9 and the repair of vehicles, 1,000 and 20,000. Entertain a motion.

Tom Kerns made motion to approve. Mike seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

<b>EDIT – Art Association</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>
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David said next additional we have is from the EDIT to the Art Association for 6,000 for an HVAC repair. Entertain a motion.

Missy made motion to approve. Mike seconded the motion. 4 aye votes. 3 nay votes (Tom Chalfant, Tom Kerns and Todd Holaday).

Motion carried.

Missy said I'm sorry. Can we go back to that? I'm not trying to change anybody's mind. I was here for the discussion when the commissioners were talking about this item. And it is one of those gray areas you wonder should you, should you not? They explained expressively to the new director, and she's doing a nice job, I think, I'm sure. That because it was the building and not asking for programming, that's why they passed it. And so that would make a little difference in my opinion, because that is one of those, and it is a Randolph County Art Association. It's not actually, you know, just Union City. Just wanted to throw that in there.

**LIT Special purpose – Professional Svcs. \$5,000.00**

David said alright, next additional we have is LIT Special purpose for professional services.

Laura said that's bonds. They do our continuing, some type of continuing reporting that they do for our bond. That's what that is.

David said and we have 3 bonds.

Laura said yes.

Tom Kerns made motion to approve. Mike seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Tom Chalfant said point of interest, does that include our interest rate?

Meeks said no, this is the reporting to the state.

Tom Chalfant said it's a cost to that bond, but it doesn't reflect in?



Meeks said no, it's not a, it's not a reporting to the bonds people, a reporting to the state.

Tom Chalfant said well but yeah, when they tell us, you know, when they tell us we're getting this certain interest rate, whatever.

Meeks said this is in addition. And this is a new, relatively new.

Laura said we do this every year. So, our bonds.

Meeks said I think the other one that's new, the TIF reporting.

Laura said yeah, test reporting, yeah.

Meeks said yeah, I think it's the test reporting.

Tom Chalfant said all these fees get added on, these banks used to loan people money and all the, everything involved in that was included in that. Now, they have all these documentation fees, anyway, people find ways to add fees to the cost of doing business with you. It's an increase.

**Tourism – Contractual Svcs.**

**\$10,000.00**

David said okay. The next additional is tourism and contractual services and this is to establish a new line of \$10,000.

Missy said what is this?

Laura that is to pay the interim director. So, they've hired an interim director to continuing the Reporting for tourism until they get a permanent director. And so, this money is to pay that person. So, you're going to turn in a claim to the county. This is coming from Tourism's money. It's not coming from county money. It's coming from Tourism's cash balance.

Missy said oh, okay.

Tom Chalfant said to pay Scottie.

Laura said yeah. It's the interim director. So, she'll turn in her hours on a claim then we will pay it from Tourism's money.

David said okay. Entertain a motion.

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

**Opioid Unrestricted – Your Life Speaks**

**\$8,000.00**

David said and the last additional, we have Opioid Unrestricted, You Life Speaks. I'm not familiar with it.

Laura said that's, the schools have a, what do you call it, a motivation speaker.

Meeks said they have a speaker coming in and telling them not to do drugs I think. It's coming from opioid money.

Laura said yeah, mental health.

Meeks said mental health. And the schools didn't want to. They tried to get the schools to join and they couldn't get the schools to pay.

Tom Chalfant said so does that mean the schools, are they going to cooperate, participate, are they going to?

Meeks said they're not going to participate financially, but they're going to provide their children.

Laura said yeah, they have agreed to provide bussing to get them here. The speaker will be here in Winchester at the high school auditorium.

Tom Chalfant said all five schools?

Laura said yes. In my understanding, right?

Meek said my understanding is the whole county, yeah.

Tom Chalfant said well, if the county participates financially, I'm just concerned, will it really get pushed? Will it be promoted or will it be, oh, by the way, this is now?

Laura said I think I even seen a billboard on that.

Missy said uh huh, yes.

Meeks said my kids are complaining about it, Tom. I don't know about the other four school districts.

Tom Chalfant said they can't opt out of it?

Laura said well. Who came? I don't remember her?

Meeks said oh, I forget who came now. I'd have to look.

Missy said uh, Monroe Central.

Laura said oh yeah, Ann Taylor.

Missy said Ann.

Laura said Ann Taylor came and presented, and she said all the schools have agreed to bus their kids to Winchester to listen to the motivational speaker.

Todd said who's, so who's behind this? Who decided to, that we should have this program and, I mean, was it Ann Taylor?

Laura said Ann came to the commissioners and requested funding.

Missy said there's a coalition of educators. Ann, she's not the assistant superintendent, but in charge of student policies and all that kind of stuff and so, I think it's a group of people. And I used to go to those. It was like 12 people from around the county who would meet once every other month or something like that on suicides, drug abuse, all kinds of things that kids might be having issues with. And they would try to come up with programs the schools individually could do, but what they decided, it kind of takes a professional person or someone who's used to doing a convocation like that to get on all those key topics.

Laura said Ann said they have students involved in that.

Missy said they do. Yeah.

Laura said in that group.

Missy said and the other thing is, suicide has obviously been a big issue in our county. And it's not just a few suicides that Winchester Community High School had, Union has had suicides. But you haven't heard a lot of information about it.

Todd said yeah, I don't have a, I mean, I haven't heard anything about this. And if it does one person some good, then it's probably a good thing. I just wonder how these things kind of get in front of us where it has for money. It just feels, we got a huge Health Department budget that has money in there for this kind of thing, why couldn't it come straight out of their budget?

Laura said well, and I will say that this opioid money is a settlement fund and it can only be used for this type of thing. And we haven't spent a dime on what we've gotten until this.

Todd said okay, good.

Laura said so they just thought this was a good use for it because it's hard to come up with things we can actually use that money for.

Todd said right. Okay.

Meeks said the restricted fund from opioid is even worse.

Laura said yeah, it's worse.



Meeks said I'm not sure how we were meant to spend that money. If you look at the, what you can spend it on.

Laura said and we've got, I would have to look and see, but we've got a lot of money in there.

Meeks said a hundred thousand dollars.

Laura said and we continue to get that for like 18 years?

Meeks said something like that.

Laura said we're going to be getting money into those funds, so we've got to figure out ways to use it.

Missy said I actually think that's what, well I know that that's what Ann realized that there's money that the county, how do we use it? I mean, what are we going to create that's going to use that? So I think they just kind of decided that we've got to step out some way. Nobody, who's an expert on this? I don't know. I don't know if anybody's an expert at looking at some of this stuff. Again, it's not county money that we're asking to appropriate, it's money that came in through grants.

Laura said no, it's a settlement. It's a lawsuit settlement for opioids is where the money came from.

Todd said I would, I don't know if it's possible, but it would be nice on these appropriation line items that we have every month, to see where the money does come from.

Laura said it does show it on there.

Todd said but, not on here, right?

Laura said yeah, it's on there. Well yeah, up here, opioid unrestricted funds, this one. So, at the top.

Todd said got you okay. Alright. Thank you.

David said but it doesn't show on our agenda. I think that's where you were looking at.

Todd said yeah, well, I've got it, I've got it right in front of me. I just didn't see it. I just need to have my eyes opened. Thank you.

Missy said you know, it'll be interesting after this next, the upcoming election ends. There's a lot of discussion. I just follow that pretty closely because I used to teach and there's a lot of discussion on the high budgets that it takes to run the school corporations in the state of Indiana, and how much of it is necessity and how much of it is icing on the cake. I mean, when you start talking, everybody is going to promise you they're going to lower your homeowner's tax, yeah,

sure. Then how are you going to pay for everything you have going on? So, you've got to cut something somewhere. And there's probably a lot of fluff in some of those that they could cut.

Todd said Daniels did a really good study on this and it just got set to the side.

Missy said yep.

Todd said I forget what the name of it was, but it was a significant look at the cost.

Missy said yeah. The schools are going to have to look at it like every other company that has to run on their own does. What's necessity and what's fluff.

Todd said and there are so many opportunities in this county with 5 schools, you know, and being one of the most schools per population to share some services.

Tom Chalfant said overhead.

David said okay. I guess I'll entertain a motion to approve this?

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

Missy said I think sometimes when it goes before one body and it has to go before the commissioners, I'm sure they were under the impression that guy is coming.

Laura said he is coming.

Missy said yeah, they're under the impression this is paid and we're going to get that money. And I guess I was kind of surprised when I saw the agenda in my email that whoa, what if we denied this and they've already got this guy coming, how do they then pay for it? I think it needs to come up ahead of time to get our approval, right Laura? Because if we had not approved that, then it.

Laura said we would have had to pay for it from somewhere.

Meeks said well I don't allow you guys to sign the contract until we pay for it, so I hope they didn't sign the contract before that.

Missy said I don't know. I have no idea.

Laura said well we didn't sign a contract.

Meeks said we did not sign a contract with him or with whoever we, I mean, we tell everybody, we're pretty good telling everybody.

Laura said the contract would have been signed by the school.

Meeks said it's not approved until.

Missy said yeah.

Meeks said we're pretty good at, Laura is pretty good at telling everybody that.

Missy said yeah. But when you come to a commissioner's meeting and they approve it, and you're not sure how this process moves, you just think, yeah.

Meeks said we usually don't.

Laura said most of the time, Missy, not all because obviously, you guys didn't know about this, but most of the time they come and ask, the county people will come and ask ahead before we even do this. Just like Ken coming about the vehicles, so now, we're doing an additional, but when the additional comes, I guarantee one of you will say oh, I don't know if I want to approve this or not because, even though they came and asked ahead of time, you know. And that's why we ask them to do that, so that you know that it's okay to do it.

#### **Daniel Baker, RCU update**

David said okay. That's the last of the additional. I would like to have Dan come up and share with us where he's at.

Daniel Baker said well, I have been back for a week and a half, hit the ground running. I know there's been a lot that has been transpired since my departure. I would let you know that I have been engaged in nearly almost all of this while I was gone. I'm talked with my staff early mornings, usually about 4, 430 in the morning just to make sure I was updated on most of the things that were going on, and with my board, as well and others in the community. I can tell you right now, I'm not sure the last READI update you guys received, but we do have, all the READI projects have been scored. They have been, we're almost to the point to submitting to the IEDC because we have to wait for IEDC to do final approval before we can do any announcements, right. But we do anticipate a significant increase from the last READI, round of READI that we received. And that's work then the staff was able to perform while I was, while I was away. Additionally, I know there's a lot of talks around Tourism, things like that. I can tell you from my two years that I have been here, I have always, always worked and continue to work to make sure that we are working together as best we can, and always support of that through the Speedway project, thorough other things. I know too, I think it was last Friday, they had the film festival that happened where that was, we were nominated out of 5000 people for the international, yeah, FOX Sports program, the rush to revival that we did two years ago a year and a half ago, now. I can't remember. Man, time flies. But that got in front of millions of people and so that, just to showcase that we are heavily involved in Tourism. And I am definitely devoted, everything I have to make sure that all three entities are working as seamless as possible. So, I do know I have some work ahead of me, and I'll be meeting with Cheryl Prescott and others in the Tourism to figure out how we move from here. So, if you have any questions, if you have anything, I believe you all have my email, phone number, if not, I can get it to you. Call me. I'm an open. I'll meet with anybody and everybody and talk to, we have a meeting after this just to discuss everything. If you have issues how things operate, how things



run, my phone is open. And I will explain, I know there're a lot of things that happen in the community. As we know, we're in a small community, rumors fly, things go, and I just want to make sure the facts are out there, and that's all I've ever done, is just make sure that we have facts that are out in the community. I, also, just wanted to thank you for the support that we've had over the year. I didn't mention the incentive committee, and I bring that up because usually what happens is a company will come in, and in the past, they've come to you guys and the question would be, have you taken this to the incentive committee? And then, in committee, like I said is members in our community, we have Scott Fisher back here is actually sitting on our incentive committee right. And if anybody here wants to be part of that, more than welcome. And usually, that incentive committee is there to vet projects prior to coming here and also give them the idea of okay, what is abatement process look like. And all of those processes that you were asking, we lay that out to make sure that they understand so that we're not wasting your time. And that's really what they're for, and then others. So, other than that, I don't want to just chat, I am heavily engaged. I mean my orders were ended September 27<sup>th</sup> and I met with my board on September 28<sup>th</sup> and then I went to work on Monday, so, definitely hit the ground running. So, any questions for me at this time?

Missy said actually that project that Rust to Revival, was nominated for an ESPY and so Bill Armor was in London. That's where they did the awards this year, and they did not win, although the year before, he and Pam Miller did win. Meanwhile, he tries to get back into North Carolina because he lives close to Asheville, and he called a couple of us and said I'm sitting here, I'm going to send you a video. He is watching trees just go with the hurricane coming through. And then he showed us some clips of, he and his wife live up a mountain by, pretty close to Biltmore, 7 feet of water. And he, they really thought they were in trouble, going to have to get out of there and there wasn't any way to get out. But it didn't win, but still got a lot of recognition. So, bid weekend for the Speedway, and ESPN and Fox Sports agreed to let us burn 10 more copies of that, and so it'll be playing out there. Can't sell it. It belongs to them. That would be a big lawsuit on us, but it definitely got a lot of, lot of track, that's for sure. They've shown it at Bristol in a huge area. He did a great job. He and Pam did a really great job working, and all of us to work with him on that. I just want to say one thing about the READI grant. Got to know a lot sooner to score those. I'm trying to score those on, and just sit down as a committee and say let's read these through, and then anybody see anything that you know that we don't know, and then 66 pages to try to read on one computer, an iPad, score on another MacBook, and then I can't get anybody to print them for me, you know, because the office was closed that day. So, organization on that. I couldn't do the second part. I did not have time to do 64 of them. I had to back out, had to say I can't do this.

Daniel Baker said you're right. So, and that was my feedback too. So, I wasn't part of the scoring, but I did receive the projects just so that I'm aware, and that was a lot of information to go through, so, just on that.

Tom Kerns said I was going to say they were, the way we scored them was, I mean, it was just, there was no time for, no time to do any research, it was just checking boxes is all that was. To me, it was a worthless process.

Missy said yeah, I have to admit it too.

Tom Kerns said I mean, it happened and it had to be done, but it really was.

Daniel Baker said yeah, that was part of the state's crunch time on some things too. And then we didn't enjoy that. But, yes, I agree. I agree, and we've given them that feedback.

Missy said well and to offer up to read those proposals and then have some time to be able to say let's make some notes and say, because other counties did it. I know of two that did it. Give that, say you know, this could be a really good proposal if it were written a little bit better than having somebody sit down with them and say let's make the changes. And I don't know if you got through the second.

Tom Kerns said I did.

Missy said I did read them all through, and there were some really good ones, but only by presentation were they better than others due to the presentation. It's kind of like going in your holey jeans and somebody else wore the suit.

Tom Kerns said the good part about that whole process was seeing what everybody else is trying to do.

Missy said yeah.

Tom Kerns said other communities around our area, know what's happening, I mean, you know, that was the positive part of trying to get through it all.

Tom Chalfant said was there any silent reporting on READI grant 1, was there any, you know, how does that money get awarded? Does anybody know, can we see how that money got awarded around the state?

Daniel Baker said yes. The state has put most of that, they have a READI website, and I'll get that link and I'll have Laura send it out, but we can definitely get that. But they've listed out the projects and how much money has been awarded and funded and things like that, the last I knew. I haven't seen it for the last 5 months, but this was at the beginning of the year when they had put that out.

David said last I knew, a couple months ago, READI 1.0 has all been allocated but not spent.

Daniel Baker said all allocated, not spent.

David said I would like to know if it's not spent, does it revert over?

Daniel Baker said so, my understanding is that there have been a few projects, I believe it was Rush County, but don't quote me on that, where they had a project that they had to pull and they were able to take that money and put it into another project that they had on the shelf. So, I can't remember the whole 8 or 9 projects here locally that got submitted, and not all of them got selected.



So, if we have one project that got pulled, we should be able to put it towards another project within our county. Now, from a regional perspective, let's say Delaware got a project pulled, I'm not sure right now if we would be able to take that money and put it into Randolph County. That's just going to be an agreement we have with the partnership and the region. But it's not like the state was just going to take that money back and say you don't get the, the region got 30 million, they're not going to say you can't allocate more money just because that project didn't go through.

Missy said who decides where it gets allocated? If they couldn't complete it, it doesn't necessarily go, stay in that county. It goes to the next high scored is what I read.

Daniel Baker said so that might be the change right, I'm still catching up on a lot of things. As you mentioned, a lot of paperwork to go through. So, I'll have to follow up on that and get back with you. Like I said before, the IEDC still has to approve the projects, but the 30 million is still 30 million in the region.

Missy said and they get a good, for some reason, I've got an invitation from Brian Chegan to go to Yorktown's library to go through something about the READI grant. I explained to him I'm just a councilor, but he wanted me to come over. So, I did and it was two folks, two young people from READI grant, from the organization, and basically, going through here's the things you didn't do well, that you didn't get projects through before, make amendments and changes, but we never got to talk to the people who submitted the projects to say hey, here's our list of things. I assume they might get to those, but you know, and say hey, here's what we were weak on so, look over your project again, see which of those weaknesses you thing might be in your project, and let's ramp it up here a little bit to try to make it better. But I asked two of them and they said they had not gotten those suggestions.

Daniel Baker said so, we just started that process last week, because we wanted to hold back on any announcements or anything like that. But we needed some numbers updated on some of these projects. So, it won't be a full announcement, but the projects will know if they got selected or not. So, they wanted to hold off on that selection process. So, we literally, Friday is when I got the email saying hey we start talking to those project owners.

David said anything else for Dan? I have one last thing Dan. I'd like for you to be on our agenda every month from now on.

Daniel Baker said okay.

David said and what I would recommend that we put the RCU on right after the county commissioner's update. That way you would be right at the top of the agenda and you know, then you could scoot out and you wouldn't have to wait until.

Daniel Baker said I don't mind waiting actually, but sometime I'm checking emails back there.

David said that's a recommendation I have. Would the rest of the council? How do you feel about that?



Beverly said sounds like a good idea. I think so.

Missy said yeah. Tourism is working on their own now. So, would it be a good idea for Tourism to come in and give us an update?

David said yes.

Daniel Baker said so, I'll work with Cheryl if you don't mind. I'll work with Cheryl and have her come in for the time being until we can figure out what the next steps are.

David said okay. I'll meet with you after this meeting. Okay?

Daniel Baker said yes sir.

Missy said and you have, I saw you have a job opening?

Daniel Baker said we do. I'm not going to go into details of why he left because he, it had nothing to do with office environment, nothing like that. He has chosen to go a different path for benefits perspective, and you can have an individual conversation with him on why. And it's a very good reason why. How about that. I don't want to share that in a public forum. That's for him to share.

David said alright. Thanks, Dan.

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

David said okay, now were down to citizen comments. Anybody in the citizens group like to?

Missy said I don't want to put Brad Mullen on the spot again, but that's not the guy I talked to. I think I just talked to a contractor who was there working and I don't, I can't, I take pictures of all the business cards, and I can't find that one on there because I don't think he had one. So, you're looking obviously over that facility that's in Farmland, is it going to be everything? I don't mean the sky's the limit, but is it going to be what you need to work out of there?

Brad Mullen said yes.

David said okay.

#### **Adjournment**

David said seeing no other business before us, I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

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

Reviewed and accepted this 3 day of December, 2024.

RANDOLPH COUNTY COUNCIL

David Kenkenschper

Tom Chaffin

Beverly Fields

Will Stone

JHG

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ATTESTED: Laura J Martin  
Laura J Martin, Auditor