

Randolph County Council

November 6, 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 the commissioner's update. I don't see any commissioners today.

Randolph County United update

David said next item is Randolph County United. Dan, would you like to come on up?

Daniel Baker said yes sir. First of all, I want to say congratulations to those who won their elections last night. That's pretty cool, and everything else that happened last night. Stayed up a little too late, but, little too tired this morning. Alright. I don't have much. I just figured I'd take about an hour and a half of your time since you have such a big agenda. So, you should have received an email about READI 1.0. There's a link out there. Tom, you asked, where those projects, and everything. So, hopefully, you were able to get on that website and find what you were looking for.

Tom Chalfant said well that's, it was a little complicated.

Daniel Baker said it is. But that's what we're getting in, so. Alright. READI 1.0, as well the 4-H fairgrounds, they did receive some of the READI funding. We're anticipating that that funding should be allocated and spent out there by the end of the year because they're going to go, use it for their septic system. And they're trying to get that bid and in place before the end of the year, just as an FYI. READI 2.0, no major updates, and we're still working through some of the final stages of submitting it to IEDC. We do have one project that is potentially changing. And we're looking at alternative options to make sure that funding stays within the county. But we'll have further updates as that progresses at the regional level, and IEDC level. I did, we do have, Cheryl Prescott here to talk about some tourism stuff as well. You guys needed that. We're still working through some things there. Kind of put some things on hold just because of harvest season and then election and all that stuff that was going on. So, we're still working through that. I do have a new office admin that starts tomorrow. Her name is Ruthie Rhoades. And she starts tomorrow. On the more of the private funding chamber side of things, we did have an

Ireland trip that was a fundraiser that we put on to be able to pay for the open for pitch competition. So, any money that is coming from that trip is for the pitch competition next year, which is, will be our third year. We had two successful years of it. The first year was county supported, the second year was privately funded completely, and we anticipate it to be privately funded moving forward. Other than that, those are the only updates. It's been a busy 3 ½ weeks and I look forward to next years, you have Tom and Missy coming on as commissioners and change in county council. So, we're all going to be working through a lot of different things. So, any questions for me?

David said Dan, I have a question on READI 1.0. I know all the money has been allocated. Not all the money is going to be spent. Do we know what's going to happen to that money after?

Daniel Baker said so, if it, my understanding is that if it was in the region and the project did not move forward basically, that the county that receives that initial funding, it stays in that county initially if they have another project it can be allocated to, if not, then it will go to the region and would be re-allocated. That's my understanding. But, I'll follow up on that, because that was talked about last, like the beginning of this year. So, I haven't heard anything since then.

David said okay. What about your chamber side of your business over there? How's that coming along?

Daniel Baker said we are moving forward on that. We have adjusted our memberships just because the cinema did get closed, so we had to do some looking at what our membership levels were, and just different things we could offer, because the cinema was a part of advertising the businesses and things like that. We also have inflationary costs, as we all know, that have gone up. We have brought on a new marketer who is doing a fabulous job of insuring that we are marketing Randolph County, it's not marketing Randolph County United, she's working on projects right now that will just market Randolph County, not just the private businesses. But we are working with multiple businesses in the area. In terms of other things, our membership has increased. I don't have the exact numbers yet. Honestly, I didn't ask for them, just because of everything else that's going on, but I can get those for you as well.

David said who is your marketer?

Daniel Baker said Keri McCoy. And she has done, like I said, she's done a fabulous job just increasing our social media presence, our presence on the radio. We're going to be working with the newspaper and increasing the presence there as well. And just getting in all the local municipalities and everything like that as well.

David said okay. Any other questions for Dan? Cheryl, do you want to come up.

Missy said so, from 8 o'clock to 4 o'clock, there is someone in the office?

Daniel Baker said so, have, in the past, our previous admin, just because we do support, he was a window cleaner and things like that. He worked 9 hours 4 days a week, and then the 4 hours on Friday, so we did have issues there. But that's because I mean, we were limited on how many

people we can actually hire and interview, and the quality of interviewees, right. But this time, we expect with Ruthie, to be able to do an 8 to 4, because we are, so, when I say we, my position, our chamber and the marketing, we typically are in the county, right. Part of our role is not to sit behind a desk, because if we were sitting behind a desk, we wouldn't be doing our jobs. So, most of the times we are in the county. There are times where you will see that my staff might be out and about at 3 or 4 o'clock, or even 2 o'clock just in the community doing some personal stuff. That's because they're working evening hours, right. My staff doesn't work a typical 8 to 4, 8 to 5 job. They have evening meetings as well. I mean, sometimes, it's 2 to 3 hours, 4 hours in the evening, from 6 to 8, maybe even 9 o'clock. So, when we're looking at typical 8 to 4 job, my position, and like I said, the chamber and the marketing position, you may not see them in those office hours. But we do anticipate the admin will be available at that time. So, yeah.

David said so, you will be covering the hours of 8 to 4, somebody.

Daniel Baker said with somebody, right. And if we are, so, one thing that we have identified, we haven't been notifying when our office is closed. Like for example on Veterans Day, we have a holiday, right. So, we will be, we are starting a, to make sure that we notify via radio, via face book, when the office will be closed. And if there are any times on a Friday evening or afternoon where those office hours have changed or shifted, just do a scheduling.

David said okay. Thanks Dan. You can stay, yeah, go ahead Cheryl.

Cheryl Prescott said what questions do you have for tourism? I'll answer any questions. Evonna was our tourism director and she resigned, I can't remember the exact date. It's been a good while. Dan was on his deployment. And when she resigned we didn't have a tourism director for a short period. The tourism commission brought Scottie Harvey back on as the tourism, she's actually the tourism temporary director right now until we do fill that position. And we have not filled that that position. And she's getting paid out of the tourism tax. So, she's kind of working at her own schedule. She comes to the hotel. I have a little place there that she can do her meetings if she has private meetings. But as far as tourism goes, I think that even though that Evonna has not been there, we've just kind of did our own thing because they've kind of, Dan wasn't there, so we've kind of basically, just went out on a limb and just made things happen. I know the speedway, Scottie was out there quite a bit, did tremendously a good job on those events. I mean it brought in, we really tried to focus on getting people into our county, and I think we did a really good job. And we're focusing on some Union City projects right now, and we're still focusing on all the things that we need to do as a tourism commission to make sure that we get things into the county, make sure we get the over night guests here. We're working on some billboards on 70 to draw people into Randolph County. So, those kind of things to me is huge. And there're some other events that we're trying to look into to broaden tourism. But at this point, I'm open for any questions that you guys have for me.

Missy said you don't get the \$2,000.00 that it says on the commissioner's appropriations for Randolph County United tourism? Are you getting that \$2,000.00?

Cheryl Prescott said no.

Daniel Baker said so, if you read the language in there, for Randolph, I'd have to pull it back up, so, it says Randolph County United in support of tourism functions, opportunities, right. So, we'll have to get back through and look at that. So, that was adjusted in the last EDIT plan.

Missy said I just know in that original documentation, which is pretty thick, it has those two separated out down that line and what the duties of each are. And that they have shared office space just so it's one stop. So, if a person comes in and they can see, they know they're both in there. And it shares, cut back on some of those expenses. So, it's been charging for rent for tourism. So, I just want to clarify.

Daniel Baker said so, we've never actually charged tourism for rent, right. So, that money is allocated not only for salaries, but also for the rental space for the use of all of that stuff, right, because it's a combination of all three entities. Randolph County United never charged tourism for rent in my tenure. I don't know what it was previously. So, it was only for the salary portion is where that contract came into play.

Missy said okay.

David said any other questions? I do know that 400 our there this year at the race track was incredible.

Cheryl Prescott said it was really big.

David said yeah, they got a new promoter. I know that.

Cheryl Prescott said they had a new promoter and I mean, I think that, I really do feel like the tourism did a really good job too, promoting it, because we promoted it. And you guys might not see where we promoted it, but we promoted it in some bigger areas, because you don't, you want people from Randolph County out there, but you also want for tourism, we want people at the hotel. I'm going to be honest. I'm looking out for two interests. I'm not, you know, I'm looking out for the hotel and the hotel brings in tourism cash. So, it's a win, win. And not only that, but once we get them here, they're going to spend money in Randolph County, and still, you know, and I've said this time and time again, for each person that you get coming to stay in the county, the average person spends over a \$170.00 a day for one person in the county that they go to, in the place that they go to. So, if somebody comes in here for, to stay over the weekend, you know, if you've got two people in a room, each person, the average person is going to spend over \$170.00. Those numbers are old. I don't have the new numbers. I'll get those for the next time. But those numbers are very old. So, it's got to be closer to 200 now. So, that's like the race track you know, when they bring in that many people, the money that they bring into the community, into the county, is huge.

Tom Chalfant said Cheryl, that reminds me, when is the restaurant going to open?

Cheryl Prescott said that will be open, don't hold me to this, Meeks, probably, probably the end of November, I believe, I'm actually going to be meeting over there today. They got in some

equipment yesterday, so we're working out, I'm not working with them, I'm working to help them get it opened.

Meeks said I would say that's right. He said the end of November.

Cheryl Prescott said the end of November. And I think their equipment came in a little bit before they thought it was going to. So, they had some big trucks there yesterday. So, I'm really excited about that. I think that's going to be huge for our county. And I think that that's going to also draw in because it's different, and not that we don't have great restaurants here, because we do, we have some really good restaurants here. But I think that that restaurant there is going to actually bring in a lot of people from other areas. I think we're going to get a draw from Jay County, Darke County, and even Wayne County. So, I just think we will.

David said as part of the Community Christmas group, I want to thank you guys for putting the billboards up because that's a huge draw for us.

Cheryl Prescott said you're welcome.

David said we'll bring in 30, \$40,000.00.

Cheryl Prescott said that's huge. So, we're staying on top of those kind of things.

Missy said so, do you have room in the hotel, I mean, I see in Richmond that tourism it's the visitors center and tourism that Marilyn Walker, I don't know if she's still there, but anyway, people see that sign when they come off and know that tourism is here and then it gets them into the hotel, is that a possibility?

Cheryl Prescott said it is. We've actually talked about that. Probably at our next meeting, we're going to be talking about this again to see what our future holds. We did have a business center at the hotel that we're going to do away with.

Missy said like a room?

Cheryl Prescott said yeah it's just a little office. It's kind of like a little office space. Back in the day when we built the hotel, you know, you have a business center, they have a little computer and a printer there for your guests. Guests don't use that anymore. That's obsolete. And if you go to almost any hotel, you don't see any business center. So, it's kind of, it's not getting utilized, so we're going to make that kind of our little visitors. We're going to put all of our brochures over there and have a little desk in there so, no matter what, that's going to be our little concierge visitor center. So, we're going to put that in there regardless of what happens to tourism. We are putting that in. So, we're going to do some updates to our lobby within the next 6 months. We're working on another project to finish up in the hotel before we start the lobby. But, that is in the works.

David said okay. Any other questions for Cheryl or Dan? One other thing, Dan. Sometime, can you bring us up to date on some of your projects, only to a point that you can?

Daniel Baker said yes. I can tell you right now, over the last three weeks, I've had two or three projects come across my desk that I've worked on. I said two or three because one of them is kind of still on the verge of moving forward.

David said okay. All I want to know is you know, we have some projects out there still going on. I don't need to know the details because of confidentiality.

Daniel Baker said yep. Yeah, I have no issues sharing that projects being worked on, just as you guys know, I could be under an NDA, non-disclosure agreement, that prevents me from speaking about specific topic, items.

David said okay. Anything else for Dan or Cheryl?

Missy said well I know Ruthie Rhoades personally,

Daniel Baker said yeah. She thoroughly impressed me before we even started the interview.

Missy said Cheryl, can you tell them a little bit about the award? I think most of them probably saw it, but Bill Armour and Pam Miller

Cheryl Prescott said oh my goodness. They got the best journalism award for the, for the tv show that they did the documentary on the race track, the Rust to revival. Bill Armour and I don't know if Pam got it, the best journalism, I don't have my phone in front of me.

Missy said that was her, and he got the historic documentary top award. That's huge.

Cheryl Prescott said that's huge. They're going to be honored in Indianapolis on December 12th. I'm going. I've got tickets to go. Somebody got me tickets. His name would be Charlie. So, imagine that. I'm going to go to that with Charlie to this big event that they're having in Indy. So, I'm pretty excited about it. You know, it's something that, I'll get to talk to them. But that show has reached lots, millions of people, millions. And it's funny because you talk about tourism, and tourism, you know, that's economic development, that's tourism, that works across the board. And tourism was a big part of that. And I mean, I know Missy could tell you that her and I worked with them a lot. I mean, we became like texting buddies every day for months and months, just trying to get this pulled off. And I think that everybody in this community really did a great job getting that show off the ground, and it's really done a lot for our community and for the race track. This race track may get bigger and better than it ever has been. You never know. That's my goal.

David said anything else ladies, gentlemen? Thanks so much for coming in. I appreciate the update.

Daniel Baker said you're welcome.

Cheryl Prescott said thank you.

Ben Vollmer, AES – South Salem Solar

Ben Vollmer said to echo what Dan said, congratulations to those of you that were running in elections and won. I was here last month introducing our South Salem Solar project. And when I was here, one of the questions was we want to know more about a yes, what other project have you done, do you have the capability to do projects like this. So, I put together a presentation that I believe has been shared with you all. So, point of that presentation to demonstrate the financial capabilities of the company and highlighting some projects that are similar in size to what we're proposing here. I understand that Baker Tilley has prepared a report, but it may have only hit your desks Monday or yesterday.

Meeks said I received the report yesterday. I have a meeting later on this week to talk about it with Baker Tilley and Rick Hall. They haven't seen it yet, because we want to make sure it's correct. And we always go over it before I send it out because in the past, we had a couple of things that I don't want to say not correct, assumptions that you didn't want to use. So, I imagine you guys will get that later on this week or early next week. I have it right here.

Ben Vollmer said thanks for that clarification Meeks. That's certainly the meat of the, the details are in that report. I don't have too much more to say at this time. I'm happy to answer any questions regarding what was in that presentation. Otherwise, I think we'll need to wait for your feedback once you've had a chance to review that from Baker Tilley.

Meeks said I think the plan, I gatherer from talking to Mary is to have a preliminary tax abatement to you folks in December. And then you'll set it for a public hearing and then have the final tax abatement probably some time in January. So, that's the plan now. I can tell you the numbers, I briefly looked at the numbers. They looked fine. But, I want to understand it before, my meeting is actually Thursday at 4 o'clock. I imagine if we have any changes, we'll make those and send them out to you guys Friday or Monday.

David said okay. Any other questions? I did review it, the financial. It was just a broad statement of the company's worth, is what I was looking at. Then spell out the details I think what we need to get through Meeks is where we're at.

Tom Chalfant said that's a project, basically the same size and scope of what you proposed.

Ben Vollmer said yes sir, correct.

Meeks said that's \$204,000,000.

Ben Vollmer said that's right.

David said okay. Anything else? Thanks so much for coming in and keep us abreast.

Ben Vollmer said thank you. Yes sir.

David said we'll wait to hear from Meeks in December.

Meeks said plan to be here at the next meeting in December.

Ben said I'll be here.

Other Business:

Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff

David said okay, we're down to other business. Art, would you like to come on up?

GPS System

David said okay, what have you got there, Art?

Art Moystner said well I guess I'd like to start with a thank you. I know I didn't make your last council meeting, but some things had gone on with the vehicles that you guys were shuffling some money around that we can get that accomplished. I do appreciate that. I think we've accomplished a lot in the last few years at the sheriff's office. Quick update, everything that we've been asking for in the kitchen is in the kitchen now. So, some of that 30-year old equipment is gone. Everything is operational there. The laundry room, we've replaced all the machines in there. So, that's in good shape. We've made a lot of progress on the septic system, so, I think we're in good shape there with the project we've got going with Argo. Hopefully, in the next year or so, we'll have some of that accomplished so that some of the failing systems, we won't have to worry about anymore. So, that'll be a relief so. We'll just start off with a thank you. I'd sent everybody an email. Not sure if everybody had a chance to read that, regarding an AVL system, which is active vehicle location, which would basically give a GPS location for all the vehicles in the county when they're on duty. To me, this is an officer safety issue. We had an officer the other day, his portable failed. He didn't know his portable had failed. It took us about an hour and a half to locate him because he was out doing his job. With this system, we wouldn't have that issue. So, that's one of the things I'm looking at. The cost for the county for this is going to be about \$5,485.00 and that would be a 5-year cost. So, that would last 5 years for us. What I would like to do in doing this is we have several agencies in the county that all go out of the dispatch center, so I've talked to their leaders and all of us are on board doing this together. However, it's quite complicated when you try to coordinate a single project with 8 different entities trying to pay the same bill, and it can have it done. So, I guess what I'm here to ask is I would like to pay the money up front and have them reimburse. So, I'm asking if we can that, if you're willing to let me do that, and then, I know there's going to be some MOUs involved, so, I would just need to get the, how to do that. I could work with Meeks and Laura on that part, if we can move forward with this. I think the total project cost is \$23,560. A couple avenues that I would have to use provided that money is reimbursed once I'm paid by the other agencies and it's reimbursed back into that account, is equipment that we use for cars. I can also use from computer video equipment and training I believe, because all this ties to the computer system. So, there are a couple avenues that the funding is there for next year. My concern is that when they reimburse, I know that goes back into County General and I would just like that money to be routed back into the account we use it out of so that I'm not running short for the rest of the year in that account.

David said real quick question. Have you run these by the county commissioners yet?

Art Moystner said I have not.

David said okay. My advice is probably to do that first, both of these items, because they, it involves cars. Cars are basically, the responsibility of the commissioners. We pay for them, is the way I understand it.

Art Moystner said okay. Yes, we pay for them out of LIT. And I guess with that being a part of the computer system, itself, and part of the dispatch center, I'm not sure, I mean, I can ask the commissioners. That's fine.

David said I think they need to make sure they're abreast of all this.

Art Moystner said yeah, I can keep them aware. I just assumed the financial piece was going to come through you. And if you don't have an appetite for this, then I'm going to have to look at different angles at pulling it off. I was just trying to find the simplest way to move it forward, because it's already, I already had the money in the budget.

David said they should be made aware of it, definitely.

Art Moystner said sure. And I can do that.

David said I know when I was commissioner, we had control over the cars and whatever went into them, and the people, the county council always has the responsibility of financial.

Art Moystner said sure. And the question I'm here asking today is the financial piece, is there a way that it can be routed back, the money, if we go in and do an MOU with everyone else, to where I pay the cost through Spillman up front.

David said I guess that would be a question for Meeks and Laura to see how they can work that out. I can't tell you personally how to do it.

Laura said we can figure it out.

Art Moystner said is it something that can be done though to route it through?

Laura said I don't think it can be put directly back, but we can do an additional to put it back, once it comes back, which ultimately falls to these guys to approve it.

Art Moystner said and I guess that's the reason I'm here today is I'm asking if I move forward with this and the commissioners are on board with this too, then is it something when I get that reimbursement, that the council will put back into that fund so that I am not shorting myself for the rest of the year in that specific fund or coming back to ask for monies that I know I'm going to use next year, because that's why we budgeted it.

Tom Chalfant said now you said your share was 54 hundred for 5 years or 53 something?

David said 5485.

Art Moystner said yes, \$5,485,08.

Tom Chalfant said and the total cost was 23,000, is that for the 8 agencies for 5 years?

Art Moystner said all 8 agencies. Each agency will be buying their own GPS device for the vehicle. So, however many vehicles you have, for a town marshal, it might be two. For us, I believe it's 18 pucks that we have to buy for GPS location. But as far as the software, the mapping program, and the maintenance for the next 5 years, we've split that out so the 4 large agencies are each paying 20% apiece, and the 4 town marshal agencies would be paying 5% apiece.

Tom Chalfant said now, is this in their budgets? I mean, we're not going to be spending more money that's already, you've got it budgeted, they've got it budgeted?

Art Moystner said I believe, all of them, I can't tell you it's in their budget. I can tell you all 8 agencies are on board with doing this.

Tom Chalfant said I would anticipate they might come and ask the county for money to fund this.

Art Moystner said I don't believe so.

Tom Chalfant said okay.

David said one other one, the 911 agency, is about 3668.

Art Moystner said okay.

David said that's a county budget item also.

Art Moystner said it would be, but Shaneyfelt assured me that he has some money there to pay for that.

David said so, we're looking at those two items instead of just the one. The financial side, we have look at both of them.

Art Moystner said correct.

Tom Kerns said so before you move ahead, you're going have the agreements in place from the agencies?

Art Moystner said oh, absolutely. They will be signed MOUs. I want to work with Meeks to make sure I have the MOUs properly written and signed and binding. So, yes, absolutely.

David said any other questions on this one?

Todd said how does this benefit, tell me how this works? Does it, what's the, what are we getting here that we didn't have before?

Art Moystner said it would have the actual location of any vehicle on patrol on duty in Randolph County at any given point in time. It's a live GPS location. So that if an officer goes out on a traffic stop someplace and the only thing he has time to say is help, we know exactly where he's at.

Tom Chalfant said you know where the vehicle is, but you need to get radio to tell where he's at.

Art Moystner said he's not going to be far from that vehicle normally. So, we can get into the area and locate him from there. I mean, do we have his exact person, no. But if he's on a traffic stop or trying to make a traffic stop and yells help, yes, we have his exact location. If he takes off on a foot pursuit, then we know where his vehicle is at and we can adjust accordingly. With regard to 911 calls that come in, we currently ask officers their locations prior to dispatching the closest officer. If we have this, it would be up in the dispatch center all the time, and dispatch would be able to dispatch the closest officer to that immediately. They would have that knowledge.

Todd said so, is it like a hosted-type situation, you go into a website to do this or is it an app?

Art Moystner said this is actually an add on to the Spillman data base we currently have, and it runs directly through Spillman. So, they can add on to something we've had since 1997. They've just added new technologies. There're a lot of agencies that already have this in place. We had looked into it under Sheriff Harris when this was all becoming new, and it was about \$130,000.00 for us to get on board with that back then. I think Sheriff Hendrickson looked at that during his administration. I think we were at 80,000. With technology currently, and all the other GPS stuff that is now on line for civilian use, in our market, ours has come down to where the county portion of that is a little over 5,000.

Tom Kerns said so it doesn't monitor the locations when they're off duty?

Art Moystner said not to where dispatch would have that? I'm not positive whether I will have that or not? I need to do some asking. I don't know if it's something that is only working when the Spillman program is up in the car or whether it will tag into that anytime? So, that's one of the other things I'm checking into. I would also share that I believe under an emergency, it's a GPS location device if the vehicle is on and there's power to it, there should be a way for us to do an emergency location if we need to and somebody's off duty.

Missy said what would draw your attention to needing to see where they're at?

Art Moystner said when they're on duty, yes.

Missy said so, when an officer gets out and is on foot pursuit, you could track them?

Art Moystner said I can track their car. I can tell you that in the car and on our portable radios, we have what is called a man down button, so that an officer, if an officer would get out, and for whatever reason, something happened rapidly enough that you're not able to get your location called out on a radio, you jump out, you rapidly engage into a tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving situation, and shots are fired, if an officer is hit and can't speak, he hits his man down button, we can't find him right now. We don't even have an area where to start. And it's a pretty large county. This would give us the ability and a location to start from. I can tell you in the last 4 or 5 months, I've had a couple radio issues where we've had officers that were off radio for anywhere from an hour to an hour and a half, and it took us that long to find them. And I think for \$5,485.00 and the turn you get an officer safety, this is something that I'm going to move forward with. My big question was whether or not I was allowed to move forward and pay everybody at once and had them reimburse or not? And that's something that I would have to have permission because you guys have budgeted the money for me, not for the other agencies, so I can't pay theirs without your permission and an MOU in place.

Missy said how long would it take them to decide that they would pay this to find out from the clerk treasurer?

Art Moystner said I've already got a response from all of them that they're in.

Missy said for sure, for sure their clerk treasurer said yeah, we have that, we have that money?

Art Moystner said all of them are in, yes. They've checked that, gotten back to me in about a 24 to 48-hour period of time. I know the second highest cost is Winchester PD. Theirs comes in at 5262. I don't if the chief's talked to the mayor, but I can't imagine the mayor would turn it down.

Mayor McCoy said no, we're on board and I think there's, and Art may be able to confirm this, I think there's a little bit of a problem with Spillman billing all the agencies and all it's double dipping is what we, we've looked at it and I'm kind of wondering whether that's the case and Mike's been digging into that. So, really, having Art be the guy that gets the bill and we go into an MOU with him is probably the best bet. That way, we're paying one bill and we're not getting billed for that from Spillman, all the agencies not knowing whether basically, they're double dipping if you want to call it that.

Art Moystner said and it's a little off topic, but we're meeting with Spillman between Winchester, Union City and myself, we're trying to meet with Spillman because we think we are double and triple paying for some services from Spillman and we're going to try to rectify that.

Todd said I'm not familiar, is this the console that you see in our police cars?

Art Moystner said yes, this is the record management system for law enforcement.

Todd said so, can, if this is in place, can an officer see where the other officers are?

Art Moystner said yes, they can.

Todd said so it's not just HQ or whatever?

Art Moystner said correct and we have some things where we're doing mobile cad, which has already been approved, and I'm hoping that I can tie mobile cad into this system, so that if an officer would happen to run a driver's license out there and that subject is wanted for murder out of another state or something else, that this should be, you know, this turns into a high risk traffic stop, that there is alert sent to the other officers in their vehicle on their computer, and a flashing red dot where that officer is located, so we can immediately start to them without having to worry about any radio traffic.

Todd said it seems like it would also cut down a lot on just radio chatter in general, say what's your location, what's your location?

Art Moystner said it could. I agree.

David said any other questions for Art on this? I guess I agree in principle with this. I'll move it.

Tom Kerns said do we need a motion to go ahead and let Art run all 8 agencies through the Randolph County and then whether we do a reimbursement or an additional appropriation back to equipment line, is that what it's coming out of?

Art Moystner said you might want to look at that. I don't know which is easier. I want to talk to Laura and see which is easier because I know we have to put it back into General and to move it over, I know I've got one line in Cum Cap and I can't remember where equipment is today, so I apologize.

David said Tom, is that motion with Art getting the MOUs from each of the agencies?

Tom Kerns said yes, the MOUs all need to be in place we write the initial check for whole.

David said have a motion on the floor to approve.

Mike said second.

David said it's been moved and seconded we approve the GPS location for the vehicles. All in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Body Armor

David said okay Art, let's go to your body armor.

Art Moystner said okay.

David said he had sent an email out, I believe on that.

Art Moystner said a month and a half ago maybe, when I realized I was off a year.

David said yeah. The quote is for \$16,675.00. It's for 15 of the, I guess the vests?

Art Moystner said it's the exterior body armor carriers and the body armor.

Todd said is this a situation where it was budgeted in 25 but it's going to end up being a 24 expense?

Art Moystner said well, I was going to ask for this in the budget when we went next year. So I could get the equipment at the beginning of 26. It would be the beginning of 26. I had forgotten we had purchased body armor 5 years ago and then we purchased the exterior carriers 4 years ago and simply took the plates and put them in the exterior carrier. So, in my mind, we had 5 years to go, and when I looked at the date on mine the other day, I actually have one panel that expires this month and I have one panel that expires in February of next year. So, everybody else is in the same boat. So, I apologize for the dropped ball, but it's something that we have to have, and I believe statute requires it. We've had a few new officers, so they have body armor that's been purchased within the last 2 or 3 years. There's a 5-year expiration on those, so I don't have to buy for them. So, I'm just buying for the officers that need new body armor.

Missy said how many will that be?

Art Moystner said 15.

David said any questions for Art on this? Any motions to move forward?

Todd said I would make that motion to go forward with this proposal.

Bev seconded the motion.

David said it's been moved and seconded we move forward with the body armor proposal Art has presented for \$16,675, paid from the General fund. All in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

David said okay. Anything else, Art?

Art Moystner said I don't have anything unless you guys have questions for me.

Missy said I have one. What's the total for that grant request for emergency management?

Art Moystner said for Shaneyfelt's?

Laura said it's right here \$15,000.

Missy said yeah.

Art Moystner said I was going to say, I don't have that figure. I think that's Chris. I would share with you, Chris would have been here today, but he had 3 meetings scheduled, so he was in a basement in his meetings when I had left. I know he mentioned to me if anybody asked, to let you know he was involved in meetings. Thank you.

Emergency Management grant request

David said okay. The next one is the emergency management grant request. It's for \$18,000. Entertain a motion?

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

2025 Budget Ordinance 2024-21

David said next I have some ordinances. First one is the budget ordinance, 2024-21. This is the first time through on this one. It's from our budget hearing. I'd entertain a motion?

Bev said I move that the council pass ordinance 2024-21 after the first reading.

David said I've got a motion. Do I have a second?

Tom Kerns seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Bev said I move that the rules be suspended and have the 2nd and 3rd reading by title only and adopted the same day for ordinance 2024-21.

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

Bev said I move that council adopt ordinance 2024-21.

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

2025 Salary Ordinance 2024-19

David said okay, next item I have is the 2025 salary ordinance 2024-19.

Bev said I move that council pass ordinance 2024-19 salary ordinance after the first reading.

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

Bev said I move that the rules be suspended and the 2nd and 3rd reading by title only and adopted the same day.

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

Bev said I move that the council adopt ordinance 2024-19.

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

Additional Appropriations:

Assessor

Chief Deputy Stipend \$500.00

David said okay, we'll be going into additional appropriations. First one is the assessor, chief deputy stipend of \$500.00. Looks like county commissioners approved it yesterday.

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

Commissioner's

Leap Managed IT \$5,410.00

YOC – Juvenile Detention \$30,000.00

David said the next appropriations is from the county commissioners. Leap Manage IT of 5,410, and YOC Juvenile Detention at 30,000.

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

Handgun Permit

Ammo, Flares, Film, etc. \$8,000.00

David said okay the next additional we have is handgun permit for ammo, flares, film, etc.

Todd made a motion to approve. Bev seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Health Department

Group Insurance \$35,021.00

David said next item we have is Health Department for group insurance for 35,021. Is that a new employee or change in status?

Sherri Thompson said when they changed insurance aa few of them went from single plan to family plan. So, that wasn't budgeted in there.

David said okay and this is coming from the state's monies?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

David said okay. I would entertain a motion.

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

Public Safety LIT

New Vehicle \$150,000.00

David said next item we have is public safety LIT for new vehicles, a \$150,000.00. We've already discussed this at a prior meeting.

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

Headwater's I

4-H Future Needs \$1,650,000.00

David said next additional appropriation we have is Headwater's I, 4-H future needs, \$1,650,000.00

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

Missy said if you haven't been out there, you might want to just take a drive and just walk around out there because they're really doing some work. Also, finding, I just talked to one of the bulldozer, or whatever it was, a lot of things were in worse shape underneath the ground than what they thought, drain pipes, wondering what was even holding up. They're doing a lot.

David said that's what happens when you get into a project. You never know what's.

Missy said yeah, and they've accounted for it.

Saratoga Fund

Equipment \$7,000.00

David said next item we have is a Saratoga fund for equipment, \$7,000.00.

Missy said remind me again what that equipment is?

Laura said I can find out and let you know. I just don't know off the top of my head.

David said entertain a motion.

Bev made a motion to approve. Todd seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Missy said this is way off the subject, but I was driving from one polling place yesterday and cut through Saratoga going to Union City, and they really try to, they, that place looks, I mean, there's some obviously, houses they haven't been able to maintain, but it is a well, kept well community.

Prosecutor's Incentive

Miscellaneous Expense \$1,000.00

David said okay. Next item we have for additional appropriations, prosecutor's incentive for miscellaneous expense.

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

ARPA

Sheriff (drone) \$13,383.99

David said next item we have is from the ARPA funds for sheriff's drone of 13,383.99.

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

| Transfer | From | To |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| \$300.00 | Postage | Office Supplies |

David said okay and the last item I have is a transfer from the Auditor's office of \$300.00 from postage to office supplies.

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

Citizen Comments (3 minutes)

David said is there any citizen's comments? Would you like to come up Hazel and state your name and what it's about?

Hazel Lewis said we'll talk really fast and not keep you very long. We are the team of Lewis and Clark and we're here to represent the Journey Home. We feel that we're really fortunate to have the Journey Home in our town. And it's such a wonderful place for the veterans to go to stay for that short period of time. We've been doing meals out there for over 2 years now. And those residents are so appreciative of everything. It doesn't matter what we fix, but they love sausage gravy, hot biscuits and fried potatoes. That's their favorite. You like that, too don't you? Almost every week we have people that just walk in with sacks or a box with food. This is our community support and we just appreciate the community so very much. And there're several churches in the area that go the extra mile and they help out with the needs out there, and the volunteering. And if you don't have anything to do, just come on out. Without the volunteers, they could not do everything that they do. The volunteers are just really, really important. And in November, that's this month, I guess, the Willard School will be having a food drive, can drive, non-perishable things. And they'll bring, the kids bring this in and bring a lot of green beans and a lot of canned corn. And it's wonderful. It's wonderful, because you're not going to go hungry if you have canned green beans and canned corn. And it's a good lesson for the kids too. It's a good lesson for the kids. They can learn to share that way. We recently had a fundraising carry-out meal. We had chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, and a roll, a hot roll, and good old Wick's pies. And it was pleasant. Everything was donated, everything, right down even to the carry-out things that we used to take it out there. We had 2 teenagers come from Union City and give their time that evening. They'd go out and get the orders and they would come back in. We'd fill the orders in the kitchen, they'd take them out and deliver and collect the money. That's the thing they got to do. We really did appreciate those kids. They just did a really good job. And then we celebrate their birthdays once a month. The first Friday of every month, we have cake and ice cream for them. And you would think that, you would think this is the first cake and ice cream that they had. It's just wonderful. They just appreciate it so much, and I just think that everybody needs to know this. I don't know whether you've been out there any time, whether you've gone out there and visited there or not. But, you need to do that. You need to do that. And we also have with the Second Harvest, when they do the food boxes for the veterans and family. And right now, we're working on a project. I guess we might be the only ones working on it but we're working on it. We have 24 veterans that we know about, we have names of 24 veterans here in our county that have no family to come and spend Christmas with them, nobody to do anything for them at Christmas time. And that is really a sad thing to know that they served out country so well, and here they have nobody to do anything for them. So, we're working on some sacks for that. And we were really thankful

for the Farmland American Legion Auxiliary because they donated us money so that we have a little bit of extra money to do that with. And we just hope that we'll be able to continue to do this and keep the Journey Home here in Winchester. And I just feel like that probably, there's nobody in this room that's faced a night without a bed, a day without food, or a roof over your head. And this is what we want to provide for these people that come, these veterans that come out there. And Jesus said feed my lambs and that's our goal. And if you ever get hungry, feel free to come out on the 2nd or the 4th Tuesday of any month between 4 and 6:30, or 4 and 4:30, and have biscuits and gravy. I think you'll enjoy it. That's all the time we need David.

David said okay. Well thanks.

Hazel Lewis said and if you have any extra money that you don't have any place to go. I'll just throw this in, their dishwasher broke down. Now they have 12 to 15 people that they cook for every day, 3 meals a day, now that's a lot of dirty dishes. So, if you have extra money that you don't have any place to go, don't forget the Journey Home and their dishwasher.

Mary Lou Clark said and the stove is ancient.

Hazel Lewis said but it still works and we're so thankful for that.

Mary Lou Clark said we have to baby it.

Hazel Lewis said we have prayer over it every time.

David said we definitely appreciate what you ladies do out there because you're right, the veterans sometime overlook.

Hazel Lewis said I think you're right there. We did really well on our fundraising dinner though. We don't have any place for them to come in and sit down, so we have to do a carryout. And it did, and we went real well. I think we made a little over \$400.00. We were thankful for that. I mean \$400.00 isn't much, but to them, it's a lot of money.

David said yeah, it's a lot of money.

Mary Lou Clark said and if you come and visit, well you will do the same thing I did. I got suckered into volunteering. And it's easy to do when you see the appreciation that they have for you, everything you do for them.

David said yeah, Tom is pretty well aware of the feeding the hungry, the needy. He helped establish the Methodist Church there in Union City, the Thanksgiving dinner, him and his wife.

Hazel Lewis said oh, by the way, I guess that we will be going Thanksgiving dinner because nobody has come forth yet, to do it, so, I guess that we'll be doing that. We've got our menu all planned out, and we're going to have something besides biscuits and gravy. Thank you. We appreciate it.

David said thanks for coming in. We appreciate it.

Mary Lou Clark said come visit any time.

David said anybody else from the citizens like to speak? I guess the next one, we'll go around the room of county council. Meeks?

Meeks – Headwaters III and ARPA update

Meeks said I do have something, just to let you guys know the Headwaters III agreements are almost done. And I fully expect that tax abatement to be in front of you guys by next meeting. I think that Baker Tilley report was sent several months ago. So, if you don't have that, let me know. And then I wasn't sure, Laura was going to talk about the ARPA stuff.

Laura said the commissioners have to get that designated.

Meeks said yeah, I can give you a brief description of ARPA I guess. Correct me if I'm wrong. So, Laura went to conference. The state board thought we could use the ARPA funds for future salaries and that would probably be 4 or 5 payrolls. Jason said we could use it for prior salaries, but not for coming. So, we're trying to figure out what we can use that for?

Laura said I have sent State Board of Accounts an email regarding this because it was conflicting what Jason told us we could do and what State Board is telling us we can to.

Meeks said which is about a million and a half.

Laura said 1.1 I think.

Meeks said 1.1. So, whichever way it happens, you will have 1.1 more in the General fund that it will be used for projects. I don't know, so you guys will have to additional appropriation that money at some point I suppose.

Laura said it has to be designated by the end of this year. So, I think commissioners are working to hopefully determine next meeting what route we're going to go. We just have some questions that Meeks and I are working on.

Meeks said yeah, so, I just wanted, I know four of you were there on Monday, but I wanted to let the rest of you guys know that hopefully, we'll have, I want to have all that done by the first of December, the first meeting in December.

Tom Chalfant said don't let it go.

Laura said and it can't just be appropriated. It has to be under contract, invoiced.

Meeks said if you say we're going to pay 2.1 million dollars, to the jail project. Well if we can't, or the whatever project, we don't have a contract for that, we have to have a contract for that project.

Laura said right.

Meeks said but since it's all lost revenue, we're going to say hey, it's lost revenue, so lost revenue.

Laura said when there's documentation, we have to provide for that using payroll, but I think we can, we can legally come up with that.

Meeks said we looked at the documentation. I don't think that's going to be an issue.

Laura said right.

Meeks said so, you have to have a stated salary. You have to have job description.

Laura said job descriptions.

Meeks said that job had to be in place on the 1st day of January of 2024, right. So, there are all sorts of restrictions. You can't just make up a position.

David said I talked to Gary Friend just briefly yesterday about this. And what I'd like the county council not to lose sight of is the 1.1 million for special projects going forward, we probably ought to consider that I think the Farmland ambulance is paid for, but I do know we're going to have to establish a new morgue. That could be used for that coming out of the General fund. And I know the airport hangar, but terminal, is going to be an issue going, in the next couple of years, going forward, and try to use those monies for that. That way that helps us potentially not have to bond for that terminal, because we have, our Special LIT is growing a little bit.

Laura said I think we're paying for the jail project from that. The jail project, I think we're going to pay for out of the special LIT that's growing.

David said yeah, it's growing a little bit.

Laura said because that's over a 2-million-dollar project when it's done.

David said but we could also use some of those General Fund dollars that we put in there from ARPA.

Tom Kerns said Special LIT will grow more once the hospital comes off next year too, so that payment comes from Special LIT.

Laura said right. And we don't want that to grow.

Missy – Farmland EMS and new morgue

David said we definitely don't want it to grow. Okay. Missy, would you like to start around?

Missy said one thing, I mean, in addition, I don't know anything, but I have stopped and seen the new emergency services, and Brad Mullen is doing a great job of overseeing that, and really making it how he wants. And he was explaining to me also, that the two open bays here in Winchester, that's where the morgue is going to go in, if I understood him explaining all that to me. So, that seems to be a great idea to get to do that and get that away from the hospital. I think it will be a real good move for the county to have that, particularly, if the service was just in that area. It's just not in that Parker, Farmland, I mean, it's down to Losantville, quicker to get there sometimes. So, no, that's all I can think of.

David said okay. Bev?

Beverly said I agree. I think everybody should drive by and take a peek at what they are doing in Farmland, because it's going to be nice.

David said okay. Tom, do you have anything? The other Tom?

Tom Kerns- Thanksgiving dinner

Tom Kerns said not really. I will say, you mentioned that the Wesley church there in Union City, I'm not involved with the dinner anymore, but we'll do the Thanksgiving dinner the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, and it's a really neat event. I think last year they served about 800 people. So, it's a nice, they work with in combination with the high school, and the city and usually the firefighters are there helping serve, and the police department has helped serving, and quite a few churches are involved in it. It's a good evening.

David said okay. Todd?

Todd Holaday – Election appreciation and Rainy day fund transfer

Todd said I think, I would like to show appreciation to the county clerk's office in all the early voting that was done this year that I don't think it had been ever done before, as far as the different sites and times and availability that they made for everybody to have a chance to avoid lines on election day. There were still a lot of lines. So, it was a great turnout. I thought it really helped to have the early chance to vote for the people, appreciate all the extra time they put in. And then, I was going to ask, are we going to do a Rainy Day fund transfer still this year?

David said that's on my list to talk about here in a minute. Yep.

Todd said that's all.

David said anything else? One thing, about the election, I talked to Mindy just briefly this morning. The Randolph County highway helped get the boxes and all that equipment. She said that worked out very good and hoped that we continue that going forward.

Tom Chalfant said that's probably illegal.

Laura said a lot of counties do it.

David said yeah but not every other county.

Laura said I'm not saying it's legal or not.

Tom Chalfant said we'll be in good company, won't we?

David said I do know that they had over 4,000 people that voted before the election out of a little over 10,000. So, that's a pretty good number. And we had like a 63% turnout for this election.

Tom Chalfant said a lot of first time voters.

David said okay. Mike?

Mike said I have none.

David said okay. Back to what Todd talked about.

Missy Williams – Appreciation of Auditor's office

Missy said I got one more thing. I've been here for 5 years and it's been definitely a learning experience for sure, for sure, but I could not have done it without the auditor's office. Laura has helped me out tons. I know she, I bet you that when she gets her email from my account, or a phone call, she is going oh, crap, what now? But she has, I know she's helped all of you, and she makes it much more, at least understanding for me, and I do appreciate everything you've done for me. And I know everybody else. So, just wanted to let you know that.

Tom Chalfant said here, here.

David said here, here.

Missy said cheers, cheers.

David Lenkensdofer – Rainy Day transfer of funds

David said okay. Back to the General Fund that Todd mentioned just a minute ago. I'd like to get your permission to go to the commissioners' next meeting and if you remember right, we did at our budget hearing, approve \$250,000.00 out of the General Fund and \$250,000 out of the Windfarm monies to go to the Rainy Day funds. So, trying to get another \$500,000 in that account.

Tom Chalfant said would you like a motion?

David said I don't really need a motion to go. I just, permission if it's okay to go ahead and present that at their next meeting. Right now, I think we're at 1.6 million in that account. That would take us to 2.1. Our goal is a little over, around 3.1 because of, as costs go up, we have not kept pace with if an emergency came up, if we had a 2-million-dollar project, we would be scrambling right now trying to figure out where we're going to get the money. So, if we have it there, and I know a lot of the counties in the state of Indiana also have been looking at this, and I

know Madison and Delaware Counties both have added to their Rainy Day funds. So, I think it's important that we try to continue forward with that.

Beverly said good idea.

David said if that's okay, I'll be more than happy to do that. Other than that, I don't have anything else. So, somebody want to make those famous words?

Adjournment

Tom Chalfant made motion to adjourn. Mike seconded the motion. All aye votes. Meeting adjourned.



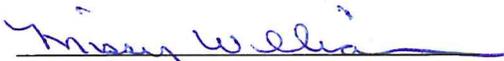
David Lenkensdofer



Tom Chalfant



Beverly Fields



Missy Williams

Mike Stine

Todd Holaday



Tom Kerns

Attested:



Randolph County Auditor

12-30-2024