

## **Randolph County Council**

**April 8, 2025**

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, Beverly Fields, Mike Stine, Todd Holaday, Greg Cheesman, Scott Fisher and Larry Preston. Also present was Randolph County Auditor Laura Martin, Sheriff Art Moystner and County Attorney Meeks Cockerill.

Pledge of Allegiance

### **Commissioner's update**

David said commissioner's update.

Gary Friend said good morning everyone. Lot of stuff yesterday, so I'll get through it quicker than we did yesterday, I hope. Or, you'd probably throw me out if I didn't. And the 4-H ladies may put me on a time frame.

Julie Wilson said three minutes.

Gary Friend said three minutes. Anyway, we approved funding requests for Jake. The RCCFO building is running out of funding for maintenance, and now he's got some water issues to deal with, like a lot of people in Randolph County. Of course, we had an update from the Randolph County Extension update, which was good. The purchase of the new radios, the commissioners sent them basically, back to get approval from their board, and give us time to look into exactly. They're wanting 6 new radios. It's not an outlandish ask, it just kind of took me by surprise a little but, their reasoning is not invalid. But they need to get their board approval I believe. Also, there's some information I've seen where we could actually get the radios, the same thing for lesser money. We just need to shop around.

David said is that for the Health Department to buy?

Gary Friend said Health Department, yeah, yeah.

David said okay.

Gary Friend said and then of course, we had Joe, Jay, Joe Copeland, Jay Long, Chad Roots and Perry Knox from SJCA, some more information about County Road 800 North, west of Highway 1, approaching the Fairview stone quarry. The Ridgeville stone quarry's last blast will be in July, and then they will work that stone out, crush it, get rid of it, then transfer operations completely out of there. And that'll take them 6 months they said, maybe even a little bit longer. Then that

particular land will go back to whoever was the owner of it. Of course, Jim Nunez was in with the Tourism director, which is Angie Martin. She has experience. A lot of us have been around when she was Tourism Director once before, and did a fine job. The Amspaughs came in for possible funding from the commissioners on the Community Christmas. We decided to, it would be better off if they went to the Community Foundation, Funders Forum, things of that nature, to the Chamber of Commerce, RCU. We were really, we didn't want to open up the door to all clubs coming in to ask for funding. And they would. Why wouldn't you? We declined it.

David said how much was that request?

Gary Friend said 20,000. We had an update from Justin Lester at the Journey Home. And then we had an update that Mayor Bob McCoy and Commissioner Missy Williams put on for blight in Randolph County. And there is a lot of blight in the county, in the cities, in the towns. But I've learned since then, it is possible that I've been not intentionally misguided, but the \$500,000.00 grant from OCRA may be for business buildings, commercial buildings, because I spoke to Greg Beumer and he said he thought the only thing on the residential side was OOR, over occupied rehabilitation. So, it may not, it may be, I mean, I'm not definite yet there even is a 10% matching grant for \$500,000.00. If there were, the commissioners' discussion would lead you to think that we were in favor, and I am, and I think we are, which we didn't vote on it, of doing a match out of EDIT to get that grant if it's possible, help start cleaning up houses. Meeks gave us some ideas too on how to statutorily properly do it, and one of the things we'll be considering is instead of on the 2<sup>nd</sup> sale, letting it go for the minimum bid of \$200.00. On the first sale, you have to go for the taxes owed. Well that just allows people to buy a lot of them then leave them set. So, if we decide, and maybe we will, that we should say you've got to go taxes owed even on the 2<sup>nd</sup> sale, or it returns back to the county. And the commissioners then can give these properties back to the cities and towns and let them dispose of them as they see fit, instead of having some out of state concerned own it and do nothing with it, and still you know, just let it continue to fall apart. On some other business, the Vision Trail was discussed. The Vision Trail, and I've asked that it be put on our May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, as well as the jail will be on the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting as we know, because that particular project was before the commissioners and the council, who equally had to do their own voting to approve the funding. The trail now, the proposal for the trail is not the same. And I personally believe that it's more than just the commissioners who could say yay or nay, that the council needs to weigh in too because the council voted for that funding for that trail. Meeks has advised Laura and she's going to get it out to us to get everybody the minutes of that meeting so we can all read and see where we really stand on what where the decision lies, whether we continue forward or not. There's going to have to be a decision made on it, whether it's the commissioners only or whether it's the commissioners and the council together, independently, basically. Does that make sense to everybody?

Todd said you're talking about the Modoc portion of the train, right?

Gary Friend said well, the trail that's down there that was going to connect to Henry County trail is not on the same scope as the beginning, because they've lost the right-of-way with Losantville, the trail people did, lost the right-of-way to the railroad or to the gas pipe line. That's changed everything. It's put a lot of that trail out on the county roads. There's been two meetings, I



believe, at the APC. None were favorable for it, from the people who lived down there. But it is something we're going to have to address. Now the things that we all have to understand is there's a 20/80 match on that particular grant. And Randolph County has probably only paid 20 to \$25,000.00 of the 112 or whatever it is, it's up, a little more than a \$100,000.00. If we were to back out of that trail, then I would expect that we will have to pay the DNR back, their 80% they've already put up to it, which will leave us carrying the whole load of the 100 and, or is it 112? It's somewhere in there.

Sherrie said it's like a 122 right now.

Gary Friend said 122? Yeah, because we just paid \$11,000.00 for it. So, that would put all that on the burden of Randolph County. And I believe we put up 900 and some thousand dollars. So, we're going to have to look at this with some serious thought. So, I would have everybody do their due diligence on it as we come forward. I believe, unless I'm forgetting something, that's about all, except for the routine paying the bills and things. And I'll give you all an update too on the Farmland, because that's, there're a few things at Farmland. I've talked to Thor Construction and I sent him a message at the commissioners' meeting. One, the stone is not staying on. So, now we're at the position, if we're going to pack mortar on top of mortar, is that stone ever going to hold on. It may be such a thing that he needs to take it all off, scrape it all down, start over and get it back on there. A lot of things went wrong when they were doing it. None of it was intentional, but the fact of the matter is it's not tight up against the cement board. The frost line situation with the water line, there're pictures floating around on that. Randy Abel was on that. There are alternate methods to protect the water line from the frost and he's going to see that through, that it follows the alternate codes to get there. So, the other things are kind of minuet, the bath fans inside were wired for lights only on the motion detector and the fans weren't coming on. So, they're on that. There's some mitering in the garage windows, the bay windows where they took quarter round and just square cut stacked it, which is you just don't do that. If you're going to square cut stack, you do it with square stock. He needs to take care of that. There are some holes left behind where they misplaced the towel bar. That needs taken care of. Soon as the landscaping is done and the PO's out, I did talk to Danny Stamper, which owns Thor, that the PO has been given to, there's a company in Hagerstown that's doing landscaping. So, we can get that all done and get that general set and the air conditioner set. I mean, it might be 20 degrees out right now, but it'll be time for an air conditioner in 6 weeks probably. So, that's where we're at on that. It's in. It's functional. Everybody is working out of it. They love it. The floor plan flows well. We've just got to get these other little things out of the way. Most of them are quite minor, but the 2, there are 2 majors that's not unknown to us that it needs taken care of.

Greg said they won't receive payment until this is all taken care of?

Gary Friend said well we have a 5% hold back on the total that we can hold to make sure that it's all taken care. But we're not going to pay them. Now, the stone's been paid for already before it came off there. I was there one day when it came off. And putting it on at 18 degrees, there are additives you can put in the mortar, whether they got it right or wrong, I don't know. But I was also there when the inside crew was nailing on three quarter plywood at the very same time, and it was blowing off on them. So, it was just, a lot of things went wrong but it's still, you know, we

have to make sure we got it right. So, no, you know, we have paid for the generator. We own it. But we haven't paid all the bills for all the processes as it comes through. His bill comes through in percentages of completion. So, but at the end of the day, there's a 5% hold back to the total, \$435,000.00 that we could exercise. And when I talked to Thor Construction about it, he said well there's hold back money, then I'll see to it, it gets done. I said well, you know Dan, I hope we don't have to get to that point right now. He said no, I have hold back money on the contractor that did it also. There's a plan to get all this done. We're not going to not, we just not going to turn our head and let it go. However, we're going to continue to use the operation because none of this stops the operation for the building. And even the stone being loose doesn't put the building at risk, because there's cement board behind it. Actually, that stone is just really décor, but it needs to be put on right. The shingles that are coming off the people are talking about, are capping. The capping's got loose and it's blowing off the coping on top. It's not allowing water in it, it just needs to be redone. There's probably 20, 25 shingles off there already. It'll continue until they get up there and redo it. So, I think that's about everything I have.

David said anything else for Gary while he's here?

Larry said Gary, do you know are any commissioner going to attend that RAZ-32 thing at Monroe Central?

Gary Friend said I know that Commissioner Williams is intending to show up.

Larry said okay.

Gary Friend said I don't believe I can. It's mid-morning on Wednesday morning next week. But one thing I did do, and it wasn't no intent at all from the group, is they had invited the commissioners to come to be recognized, and I got ahold of Adrian Moulton and said that was equally the council, too. Both of us equally sent the money over. So, they're correcting that and there should be emails coming out.

David said we've got an email already.

Larry said I just wanted to make sure that somebody was going from our group.

Gary Friend said yeah. I think they're going to have a two-day recognition.

David said yeah, it starts Wednesday to Thursday.

Gary Friend said if I get some kind of cancellation in my schedule, I'd be glad to get there. Anybody else have anything? Alright.

David said thanks Gary.

Gary Friend said thank you.



**Randolph County United update**

David said next we're got Randolph County United. No Randolph County United?

**Jake Donham – funding request**

David said okay, Jake.

Jake Donham said yesterday I went to the commissioner meeting requested some extra funding for the old hospital or RCFFO building. The past couple of months, took a pretty big hit on my building maintenance line item out there, anything from water to electric, to elevators to generators, and today's roofers. Mother Nature has not been real nice to us here lately with water, so not I'm fighting some pump issues and some roof leaks, so trying to get that stuff tied up and running short already. So, they, I think they approved to redo my line item, my Cum Cap building line item, put another 20,000 in there. I'll definitely have some invoices that are going to be coming due here soon. So, hopefully, that'll get me through the rest of the year, but time will tell.

Greg said you indicated that would get you through the rest of the year?

Jake Donham said possibly, possibly. Seems like my invoices are getting more expensive, which everything else is, so.

David said where did they take that money from?

Laura said well they haven't. He'll need to do an additional appropriation. So, it'll come out of General unless you say somewhere else. But for an additional appropriation.

David said off of CCD monies, already?

Jake Donham said they talked about pulling it out of the Commissioners' Cum Cap, then decided to pull it out of County General to replenish is what I think I understood.

David said we knew it was going to be an additional but didn't know what fund?

Laura said well the only fund really, is General to do an additional.

David said okay. But the CCD, did it have money still in there?

Laura said well I'm sure they do.

David said okay. We'll go ahead and do it out of General. So, I'd entertain a motion to do the 20,000 out of General Fund to replenish.

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

David said alright, anything else?

Jake Donham said that's all I got unless anyone else has any questions or concerns.

Larry said don't make it rain like that the rest of the year.

Jake Donham said oh, my goodness. The old hospital had water come out of the cracks of the floor, looked like water fountains everywhere.

Larry said oh, I'm sure.

Jake Donham said we had roof leaks where I've never seen roof leaks before. So, we'll keep patching them up.

David said alright, thanks.

Jake Donham said yeah. Thank you, guys.

#### **George Caster – Headwater's I update**

David said next, George. I asked George to come in to explain to us how this first Wind Farm will be coming off this year and how it's going to affect the county going forward. George has done a nice report here and he'll go over it for us.

George Caster said yeah, I've, thank you for all bringing me up here. I've given each one of you another copy of it. I'd emailed them all to you. So, you notice you have a stack of stuff, because once I got going, I just started adding on stuff here. But, the initial request was to try to figure out the impact of the alternative energy projects in Randolph County tax base. So, overall, since 2010, as you know, EDP is our primary alternative energy. I've already now been approach by Ryan who has worked in Benton and Starke County. They're wanting to come in and do some talking about how we do things. Worked with Next Era, which is the company in Jay County who we got some of their turbines. But, the energy landscape for Randolph County through project 6 is the Headwaters Wind turbine project and the River Start Solar Farm. This report that I've given you, I try to analyze the impact of the renewal energy initiatives on the local tax base providing an estimate tax revenue for 2026. So, the taxes you'll collect next year, because of the Headwaters I abatement closing this year, so next year they'll have to pay taxation. Headwaters wind turbine project initiated by EDP consists of 100 turbines, each with the capacity of 2 megawatts. And all of those land use of the turbines is assessed at \$15,000.00 an acre. The physical footprint is very minimal for a turbine. I mean, sometimes, they're a quarter acre, just depends. But, they're not very big. The turbines enable adjacent farming up to a 100 feet. So, I mean, they can pretty much farm everything else. You can see a corn field with a turbine sticking out of the middle of it. Where the land is taxed as commercial property, its intrinsic value remains relatively low. More, where the turbines are classified as a state distributable personal proper, and have been solely abated under 100% tax agreement, an abatement that concludes at this current tax cycle. The biggest issue is trying to analyze the tax recoupment, is because this is a state assessed distributable property. And just like all personal property, it's whatever you put down is what your tax. They can say it's worth nothing. We don't know, because the state doesn't go out and check it. They just take the numbers and here, here you go. So, we are at the mercy what they are reporting, if the state is reporting to us. So, this data came from the state, state distributable person, and I talked to her and she gave me a few years of what they had been turning in, and I saw the steady depreciative value to them. So, that's how I got these numbers. Projected 26 revenue for the 4 townships that are affected in Headwaters I project are listed there, Greensfork, and these are all based on current tax rates because I don't know what next year's tax rates are going to be. So, based on the current tax rates and the preliminary property value, the following estimates have been prepared for Headwaters I. Greens Fork could receive about \$13,600.00 in additional tax revenue, Union Township, 386,217, plus or minus, Washington, because they have the most, is going to get the most. They're going to accumulate almost a million dollars in tax revenue. You're talking about \$931, 368.00. White River, they'll get 296 out of that because we do have a few still in White River. The estimated total tax revenue for Headwaters I for the county as a whole, comes out to be 1.6 million dollars. Washington and Union are expected, as I said, to see the most significant reduction in tax rates due to the high concentration of turbines. As additional from the state, assessments become available, I will further update these things as I get the data. Now, I also go on and I talked about the additional Wind energy developments, because we do have a couple new ones being tried to be



developed. Riverstart IV, which is currently under construction, this project will utilize approximate 847 acres of out of production land. This is land you're not going to be able to farm. 735 acres in Union, 112 in Stoney Creek, and they're expected to produce 150 megawatts of power. Using the current tax and land rates create an additional income of \$124,700.00 from taxes over and above what previously stated in the projected taxes here for Washington and Union specifically. Why, because that land is commercial. The taxpayer will pay that commercial land. So, you're going to get that increase. The company pays them back. So, the county received the bigger part of it. Union Township would show an increase of about 489,000. Stoney Creek would increase around 21,000. Riverstart V is planned north of Highway 28. It's going to occupy about 750 acres of land. Now, you had some people here a few council meetings back that raised their interests and concerns about this project, mainly because they're surrounded by them. But, 750 acres of land, delivering 100 megawatts. Now Next Era, which is a Jay County project, they only occupy about 10.72 acres because they're all turbines. There are 16 turbines. And they do not, their abatement will conclude in 29. So, you're looking probably 30 before you collect anything from them at all. So, what's the impact on agricultural land? Alternative energy projects account for approximately 4.16% of all Randolph County's agricultural land. Roughly, Randolph County has roughly 67,417 acres of productive land. That's not woods. That's not river, that's tillable ground in the county. 2,803 acres is currently allocated or to be under construction for alternative energy. So, that's where we get the 4%. As final agreements are still being processed, definitive estimates about future land allocations are still forthcoming. I don't know in these two new projects, where they're actually going to go, so until I know that, I can't give you that data. In conclusion here on this impact statement is the evolving portfolio alternative energy projects in Randolph County presents both opportunities and challenges for local tax revenue and land use. While initial estimates indicate significant changes in tax distribution, particularly in Washington and Union Townships, ongoing developments and forthcoming data will necessitate continuous review to ensure that local government and stake holders, or tax payers, achieve a clear understanding of the fiscal landscape. So, I've done this so that everybody has an idea what is coming up. Does anybody have any questions referencing that?

Beverly said just one comment.

George Caster said yes ma'am.

Beverly said because of the fact that the state is trying to do away with personal property tax, that would be a huge impact on that, correct?

George Caster said that is correct.

Beverly said okay.

George Caster said that's a whole other field I went down too, so, I didn't want to cover that. But you know, right now, we're going to collect some money off of these turbines coming next year. The townships will benefit. That should lower some tax rates, which then turns around and gets people to come in, should. But, we never know. And, I think it'll be a good thing eventually, when these things come off, but it's all going to be what they want to do. Any other?

David said any questions for George on that?

George Caster said again, I gave you a bunch of paperwork. But I did want to bring up something that's going to occur again next year. The tornado recovery, we lost, we're losing some money this year because of disaster last year. We took the tax, we affected their taxes for payable this year. Based on the current collection as of January 1, 2025, Randolph County as a whole is expected to received \$16,386,000.00 increased assessment. Why? The majorities are all brand new homes. Monroe Township

will get about 4,800 because they only had one property that was really hurt bad. Stoney Creek would get about 155,000. White River will collect 2,584, 2.585 million dollars. Winchester itself, will be the one who gains the most because they had the most damage. They'll be in receipt of around 12.8 million dollars of increase in AV. Now, I've already foreseen what's going to happen. People are going to come in here and telling me that their property is not worth that. Yeah, you just paid to have that built, so that's what it's worth. We're already getting people this year thinking that they should get the same deduction as the guy whose house got wiped out, when theirs' wasn't. We're already seeing that. But, it is what it is. But I just wanted to give you a heads up that that's an additional income coming in for AV. Again, the city who took the most hit is going to get the most in return. And they're putting up, all of these homes are in the 6-digit high end, 6-digit numbers. Wayne is going to get \$771,700.00 and that's on 6 houses. So, that just tells you what the value of these homes they're putting up. TK is making a mint out there on those homes. Any questions on that?

Larry said so, that's increased AV?

George Caster said that's increased AV.

Larry said on the new houses which will drive the taxes up. Do you know how much that we would lose by, for example, my house got, totally got wiped out, there were 30 or 40 properties in, would lose on that part, right?

George Caster said yes, you won't gain anything because you've already lost it. There's not going to be any gain.

Larry said but I mean the county.

George Caster said yes. You've already lot it for this year. You're not going to gain it for next year. If it's gone, it's gone. These are just things that have been replaced and are now ready to be, we've got more coming. We've got commercial properties being rebuilt. That'll probably be in 27 tax collection. They're a little bit slower on that. You've got the Wendy's that took over that other facility. Well, that's a brand new facility. It's going to have a lot of cost to it. But it's going to probably be collected in 27. And all this other stuff. So, you do have some money coming in from the disaster. It's just going to get slow getting here.

Gary said Dave, can I ask a question.

David said sure, Gary.

Gary Friend said I don't want the wrong impression. A lot of this money that's going to be paid in taxes doesn't mean that Randolph County General is going to see all these millions of dollars because it's going to go to AV. And then the tax rate is going to be re-adjusted and we're a max tax levy. So, we're not going to see millions of dollars of windfall revenue. I just want the public to understand.

George Caster said no. All I'm saying is this is the AV which is coming in. Now, that's for gross.

Gary Friend said right.

George Caster said so, like your paycheck, this is the gross you make, your net is what you take home.

Gary Friend said one of the real big gains is the rate goes down in the county.



George Caster said correct.

Gary Friend said then the circuit breakers may come down as a circuit breaker loss.

George Caster said correct.

Gary Friend said because the rate will be picked up by schools and towns and townships. So, it's not like when all this is done, Randolph County is going to put double the amount of money in their County General.

George Caster said no, but you're going, you have more income than you're having this year.

Gary Friend said but they'll adjust our max tax levy?

George Caster said correct, for that.

Gary Friend said for all that.

George Caster said yes.

Gary Friend said I just wanted to make sure that we're all on the same page. Sometimes people hear that you get a million dollars down there in the township, they're not going to get a million dollars in their township.

George Caster said no.

Gary Friend said they're going to have a million more dollars in assessed valuation to go to have the rate distributed out over.

George Caster said correct. And that's up, before they do their budgets and all that stuff.

Gary Friend said thank you. I do appreciate George, your reports and everything. Did you sent those to the commissioners? Have I just not read it yet, that one?

George Caster said yeah, I sent all this to you guys.

Gary Friend said okay, I haven't read it.

Greg said George, do you have any idea the percentage of the homes that won't be rebuilt?

George Caster said right now, it looks like in Winchester, based on what has been sold, because a lot of these people just sold their lots and been done with it.

Greg said that's what I wondered.

George Caster said okay, you're looking about 10% of this area down here, the Gas Light District. The people just sold their lots, because they were just built on slabs and the house took off and they don't want to rebuild it, so they just sold it to their neighbor, and they're done. We calculated over 25% of Gas Light District was devastated. About 15% of that has been rebuilt or being rebuilt. You have the, out there, I don't want to say Sunny Knoll, it's across from Walmart there, condos.

David said Summers Pointe.

George Caster said Summers Pointe. A lot of those were hit and took damage. Some of them were just wiped out. They've had people come in and just buy the square or rectangle and then build the house, and then sell the house. So, those are being done too. So, that area is being pretty much almost to what it was before the tornado. It's not quite there yet, but it's getting close. Right across the street, you've got Wendy's going in to where that strip mall was. You've already got Taco Bell back. You've got the Good Will is rebuilding. They said they were, then they said they weren't, well now, they're already doing it. You've got all that strip there, the church is trying to rebuild. They've got to figure out how to anchor their offices. They stuck an office on cinder blocks, we didn't tie it down, so the wind just blew it over. So, that area is pretty strong. You've got houses right down there behind Walmart that were completely gone, completely rebuilt already. So, it's progressing quickly.

David said so, did the condos in Summers Pointe assessed value go up, because they basically redone the whole outside of all of those?

George Caster said the condos this year will not, they all seen a decrease in the assessed value. Next year, they're going to see an increase because they're going back to the normal average or, their effective age is going to change, okay. You've got people selling properties for a lot more than they, the rest of them were sold for. So, that's still going to make a difference for next year. I just can't tell you what that's going to be. And like you said, you're getting all this gross, but that doesn't mean you're going to keep it all.

David said okay. Anything else for us, George?

George Caster said well, yes, I do.

David said okay.

George Caster said I've been saving this up for I don't know how many years. You all know that the legislators right now are just going crazy trying to shove everything into a casserole bill. Most of the house bills that they brought forward failed. Well, Governor Braun gets in there, he wants his Senate Bill 1 passed. Senate passes it. It goes to the House. They don't like it. What they start doing is they start shoving all this stuff in the failed House bills into Senate Bill 1. And they're sort of hiding them under the floor board so when that Senate bill passes all this stuff. I've given you each a synopsis of the initial Senate Bill. Senate Bill 45, and I gave you a update because we have a local, and I gave it to Union Township because it affects them the most. But our local representative decided he wanted to do away with Union Township school district. But, all these things here, they're trying to do tax reforms they're doing a knee jerk reaction to what they created years ago on how we're supposed to do this and how we're supposed to tax them. Well now, they don't like it because it's getting out of hand and they're trying to now, pull everything out. One of the proposals, like Bev said is they want to do away with personal property altogether, business personal property. That's a lot of cash that's going to be gone. I mean, so, who has to make that up? Taxpayers are going to make it up and it's going to be residential people. They're trying to do Farmland adjustments. I get it. But they created it, now they want to try to fix it. But they're, somebody is going to end up paying for it. And I watched this recent webinar. I took a class the other day and a guy used a tool and all it was, was a balloon. And he showed okay, we're going to take this away. What happens? This part of the balloon gets a little bigger. Well they were going to take this part away. This part gets bigger. The residential taxpayers will end up footing this bill. And they're already footing quite a bit of it. The relief that it tries to produce creates an increase on them as far as the share of total, if it was a 100% taxable product, right now the residents, if this passes, would end up paying over 40% of the share of that tax burden. There're bills in there that want to get rid of us all. Well then who is going to run that, the state? No. So, I have sent these things out to you guys for



you to hopefully, talk to your statewide people to talk about this. And you can look these over. The last, there's a current one that I received this morning that the AIC is calling for action. They need some help quick. They're stating the loss of business personal property going forward will eventually cause any properties not yet at the property tax cap to rise. So, everybody is going to hit their caps. Often, those are properties in the unincorporated part of the county. Right now, our township properties sort of benefit not having that 2 and 3% cap thing, they stay down here. If this business personal property goes away, they're all going to be flush.

David said maxed out.

George Caster said yeah. And once that happens, this becomes revenue loss for local units. The legislator understands this, yet wants local officials, you guys, to adopt higher LIT taxes to cover the losses.

Todd said that can't happen.

George Caster said I'm just saying, that's what they're.

Todd said I'm just saying we already know Randolph County, it can't happen here, because we're already the highest LIT county in the state.

George Caster said yeah, I've been, I got told that quite often yesterday, anyway. Well, okay, not my point. These taxes, once again will focus Indiana's dwindling local tax base to individuals this time in the form of income taxes because property taxes will be tapped out. The amendment does not include adequate language protecting existing debt against default. Companies and in rating agencies will be instantly concerned about repayment of existing debt and state and local tax units will be ripe for expensive lawsuits. We can't afford none of that. The actual fiscal impact on specifically the total elimination of business personal property is not, they do not include that in this packet, but what I've read of so far, and I shared this with Gary and a few other ones, in three years, we're looking at losing over 25 million dollars somewhere. I mean, I don't know where it's going but we're going to lose it. So, these are, and then the other one I gave them, they wanted to do away with Union Township and force them into annexation to local, the adjoining districts, which would either be southern or Monroe. So, you've got a person in Union who is used to paying the Union School district fees, all of a sudden now, because they live closer to Monroe, that's where the kids are going to go, they've got to pay the higher rate, which is going to put a burden on them, or they have to pay over here. And you just sort of got rid of all Union. I mean, yeah, I know Union is small but they've got, they are one of the premier on-line alternative learning schools around, which I didn't know this until I listened to Mr. Hubber last night go off on this. So, we need to really start looking at these bills and making our voices known to what's going on and how it affects us, and talking to our senator and our representative, who is pretty much right now, had nothing but get rid of mind set. As long as we get rid of everybody, we haven't got to pay them, therefore, it helps the taxpayers. Well, it doesn't, because somebody's got to run this place. And what they don't encounter is local government just not the county. It means cities, you have no mayor, who is running the place? It's total chaos. And maybe that's what they want. I don't know. But anyway, that's my spiel. I'm done.

David said alright. I got Senate Bill 1 Saturday night. I'm on the legislative committee for the County Council. It's 368 pages. You're right. They've put everything into that, just swept it into that bill.

George Caster said yeah. The initial bill started out 77 pages. It's 368 now. And they figure the more they shove in there, nobody will see it and they pass this one and this all goes on with it. And it's just going to hurt everybody in the long run. No benefit to it. If there's no other questions, I'm done.

David said okay. Thanks, George.

**Jay Long and Nate Moore – CCMG 800 East**

**Transfer of Funds**

**From**

**To**

**\$200,000.00**

**MVH Restricted**

**Community Crossings 2024-2**

David said okay, next one. Jay, Nate, you want to come up here. Morning.

Jay Long said basically, we're just wanting to transfer \$200,000 from our MVH restricted for our matching grant for the pavement on 800 East. That's our portion towards that.

David said we've got your transfer of funds to Community Crossings 2024-2, is that right?

Jay Long said yes.

David said okay, we can do that. Entertain a motion to approve the \$200,000.00 transfer of funds from MVH restricted to Community Crossings 2024-2 for the road on 800 East. This is going into the stone quarry, is that correct?

Jay Long said no, not the stone quarry, north of Union City. It would be 28 all the way to 7 North.

David said oh, you're talking asphalt?

Jay Long said yes.

David said okay. I misunderstood. I thought it was road construction.

Jay Long said we've got two projects going on.

David said that will be good because I see where we cut across with some piping.

Jay Long said yep.

Nate said trying to get that done before we pave it.

David said and what is it like 1 inch

Nate Moore said I think it's two and two. It'll be four inches total.

Jay Long said yeah. They're doing two less, yes. I think they're, about mid-April is when they're wanting to start it. So, we're just trying to get our preparation done and that way, they can do theirs.

Nate Moore said if the weather ever cooperates.

Jay Long said the rain kind of set us back a little bit, but we're alright.

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

David said so, it is ready to go for asphalt? We have no more county work to do?



Nate Moore said we have two more pipes yet to put in. We had to wait on them. We had to order them. They were a little longer. They're ready to put in, just waiting on the weather to cooperate.

David said okay. Is there anything else for us today?

Jay Long said that's it.

David said I questioned Jay on 500 South, that bridge that the approaches were just a tad bit rough. Got those completed now.

Jay Long said yeah. I think we did that last week.

Nate Moore said yeah, last week.

David said okay. Well thanks for coming in.

**Julie Wilson, Amy Alka and Zoe Robinson – Randolph County Extension update**

David said next is Julie and her team.

Julie Wilson said so, we are from the Extension office, and there are some new faces, and so, we just wanted to come and kind of give an update of what programs we've been doing through Purdue Extension. So, first, the renovation at the fairgrounds is coming right along. They're going to put drywall up in the part that's connected to Husted Hall this week and so, we're supposedly, July 1<sup>st</sup> is the target completion date. And so, that gives me 14 days before projects start coming in for the fair. So, let's hope we don't get 7 more inches of rain and they can continue to make progress on that. So, I'm Julie Wilson, I'm the 4-H educator here in the county. So, some 4-H updates, 4-H enrollment is still happening. So, if you have any youth members in your life that you think would benefit from being in 4-H, we have anywhere from dogs, shooting sports, horse and pony, cake decorating, the list goes on and on. There're over 75 different project areas that youth can be involved in. We have 4-H camp, junior leaders, it goes on and on. So, the junior leaders, they meet monthly and we are hosting a community-wide Easter egg event. We're going to do it at the antique tractor grounds. Due to the construction site of the fairgrounds, we're going to move it across the way. But that is Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. So, that's coming up. There is a flier in your folder that we gave you. We've got our dog club, they meet every Tuesday, so they've been meeting since January for dog obedience. For youth who are interested in that, we've got dog obedience and dog agility. Our horse club, they meet monthly. We've got our shooting sports club, so we do hunter education and then they do different disciplines, and they meet from now until the middle of July with those disciplines out at the Farmland Conservation Club. So, archery, rifle, shotgun, muzzle loader, outdoor pursuits, I'm forgetting another one but, sports fishing. So, there's a lot of avenue there that they can learn about shooting sports and gun safety and all of that. So, we do have roughly 105 adult volunteers that are helping lead the 4-H program. So, that's adults that have bought back into the 4-H program and want to give the youth in Randolph County the opportunity to learn about these skills. So, I think that you know, really speaks volumes for what people have gotten from the 4-H program and want to continue to give back. So, I couldn't do my job. Obviously, there's only one of me and there're lots of avenues of 4-H going on all the time. So, those adults help coordinate all of those activities that are going on also. A couple other things, Ag days was supposed to be tomorrow and Thursday, but we, the committee moved that Ag days event back to September due to the construction and not having a kitchen, and all of that. So, the program that I normally do in conjunction with Ag days is I go to all the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes and I do an hour-long lesson about chicken embryology and food systems and development of eggs and then they would come to Ag days and we have baby chicks hatching. Amy will talk about the backyard chicken program that she does, but when they come to Ag days, they would get to see the baby chicks hatching. So, we, I'm still doing that program with all the 4<sup>th</sup> graders this year. The 4<sup>th</sup> graders,



when they become 5<sup>th</sup> graders, they'll be invited to Ag days in September, and then I will go and do all of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes in August and September so they all can come to Ag day and the experience. So, I do that program and that kicks off Thursday, will be my first classroom that I would start with the chicken embryology. We also, fair dates are in there. So, July 18<sup>th</sup> is the first day of the fair. That's when all of the animals will move in and it runs until the 25<sup>th</sup>. So, that is kind of the 4-H update. I think I gave you everything on my list of what's going on. So, Amy, who's next? Amy.

Amy Alka said I'm Amy Alka. I'm the Ag educator out at the Extension Office. And as we speak, they had to pull me away from the incubators because our chickens are hatching right now. We have 5 incubators full of eggs. We went ahead and did our backyard chicken program that we do every spring where offer people to come in, learn about raising chickens, the embryology, the food science part of it and then they usually hatch during Ag day like she said. But we went ahead and did that this spring. We're going to have to rethink the fall hatch. So, anyway, get on our face book page. I've got pictures on my phone if you'd like to see them, got some babies this morning already.

Julie Wilson said and we have kiddos that do that program receive chickens to be able to show them at the 4-H fair.

Amy Alka said right. So, Friday, they'll come in and pick up their chicks. And then tonight, I am having a class called I have worms and you should too. And we're going to be doing, we're going to do a make and take worm compost bin tonight. So, I've got a full class of that. On Earth Day, here in a few weeks, I've partnered with Tonia Williams at the Solid Waste Management and we have got 300 trees. We're going to have an educational session at the Purdue Davis Farm, and participants will come, they'll go through 3 rotations on how to care for trees, plant for trees and then further care as the trees continue to grow. And then people have the opportunity to choose trees if they fit their situation of pin oaks, tulip, poplar and Washington Hawthorn. So, they can pick those trees. Another thing, Zoe and I are partnering together, you're going to see this stuff here in the front. We are a pilot county. I'm really big on farm safety and Ag safety. We are a pilot county for We're On This Road Together, so Zoe and I have partnered together, and we are promoting road safety and this is more for the general community, more than the farm population. And we have several popup events coming up and all kinds of stuff to hand out so you guys have those things. Car air freshener to remind you. There's also in the back of your folder, there is a survey. So, we started off with the survey, Randolph County is leading the way with surveys in the area. And so, if you want to take that survey, and then we're going to do the survey again in the fall to see if people got the message. So, we're going to really work hard on that to make sure everybody keeps our roadways safe. And then the last, oh no, I've got a couple more things. This Friday, I am on the UAV state team, so that is basically drones, so, we're helping with that. We recently partnered with the Randolph County, some emergency management and the sheriff department and a couple other counties, and we offer UAV training for our police officers and just emergency management people, so they have the ability to use drones in situations where they're needed. I'm also, so, as agriculturist people have to have spray license, and maintain those spray license, and there're 14 categories that they have to maintain those licenses in. And so, I'm on a state team to help organize a multi-category event. The educator in Blackford County and I have partnered for several years on offering these multi-category situations. We've offered them in Wayne County and Blackford County this year. And therefore, we've offered over 200 different people have gotten a plethora of category certification to keep their licenses to maintain their jobs. And so, we are creating a state team that can promote that and help spread the success of what we've done here throughout the state for people to maintain their licenses, because there's just not enough trainings out there for that. And then, the last thing, the Avian influenza, Randolph County is good to go for the 4-H fair with that. I've been in strict contact with the Board of Animal Health at Indiana. They've even been to Randolph County several times. They've come to our backyard chicken class and explained that it's safe to take the chickens home. We are not in an area that we're under surveillance right now. And they talked about how to keep our chickens safe, and so, we're going to share that with our 4-H



members. And hopefully, we don't foresee any issues in the future with that for the fair, because that's a huge project, really growing.

Julie Wilson said buying cages or birds.

Amy Alka said okay, Zoe, tag in.

Zoe Robinson said alright. So, I'm Zoe Robinson. I'm the Health and Human Sciences educator at the Extension Office. So, in my role, I cover 4 main areas of food, family, money and health. So, one of the money programs that I enjoy is Captain Cash. So, I do this with all the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes, or all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. So, I completed this at Monroe Central, Randolph Southern, North Side Elementary, and I'm going to Deerfield in May to finish up. So, I'm still trying to work on getting with Union as well as Willard, but there's only so much time, because I cover 4 main areas on that. So, I go to 4 islands with them. So, I visit their classroom 4 times. We cover save, spend, borrow and earn. So, we have a lesson. I also partner with Merchants Bank on this program, so they offer piggy banks to all of the students. And they come in during my saving lesson and talk about what it looks like opening up your own saving account at the bank. So, that's a lot of hands on learning with that program. Like I said, we'd love to continue to keep growing that and eventually get it into every 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom in Randolph County. Then I have, I am a part of a statewide team called the Farm Stress Team. So, this is an initiative that was started about 4 years ago just addressing mental health and stressors in the agriculture communities. So, whether it's working with farmers, farm families, Agra businesses, and now we've also started offering with youth. So, Winchester, Randolph Central, I went in and offered 4 sessions as a pilot of a new curriculum, I'm on the team of helping develop that, so they were kind of our guinea pigs with that programs as we're still on grant funding and getting that still established. I'm trying to get back in the classrooms to kind of see what our finished product looks like, so just really addressing stresses that may individuals in the ag community face because a lot of those are out of our control. So, they are kind of, they're subject to the weather, diseases that could be facing within their animals, as well as livestock. So, I'm very passionate about this team. Amy and I partner a lot, so, I offer some little snippets of how to manage your stress, making sure, maintain your mental health is a priority within the ag community. So, that program, it kind of ties in well with our We're On The Road Together, so, you'll see some resources in your packets on that as well. And then, I also have a calendar in there for, I'd started these last year, it's called Parent Cafes. So, I partner with Reid Health as well as Firefly Family and Children Alliance. So, we offer these. It's like a, it's just like a gathering for any adults, parents, caregivers that have children in their lives and just kind of talking about the wins and losses of parenting. So, I offer childcare, dinner and we talk about protective factors while raising children. So, we partner with Countryside Christian Church and then we also offer them at the fairgrounds. So, these are kind of a new initiative, they're kind of slow getting off the ground here, but we have, they are growing so, it's a great opportunity for families to come together and talk about things that they might be going through. And then, to wrap this up, we, as a team, all 3 of us work on a program called Farm to Fork. So, this was created, we partnered with a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Randolph Southern. She came to us 3 years ago and she had a national small community rural education grant that she received, and she wanted us to help with this initiative in bringing farm to fork to the classroom, because many of them are growing up in this rural community but maybe don't have the agriculture background and know all that entails. So, we do 3 units with them, so our 1<sup>st</sup> unit this year was gardening and crop production. So, we went to a local farmer's home. He showed us around the farm, showed us his field, equipment. So, the kids had so many questions, just loved getting up into the equipment as well. But, then we also have, we talked about soy beans, corn production and the different bi-products as well as we did some cooking, just seeing all the aspects that go into, maybe gardening or crop production. And that was our 1<sup>st</sup> unit. Then we had the swine unit. We went to Shaffer's Goldrush boar stud. So, they were able to see all of the aspects that they do when shipping nationally and production all over the place for producers. Then we talked about we dissected pigs, fetal baby pigs, then we had, Julie did bi-products and cuts of meat. Amy did what it looks like at a Randolph County level of

our swine production. Then I do a lot, since my area is a lot of like food science and food production, I looked a lot of like cooking and having them do hands on cooking and how to check the temperatures, make sure their food is safe to eat. So, that was that unit and then our final one we're going to do before we start making their 4-H projects because they are all going to be 4-H members, all the 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Randolph Southern, we do the poultry unit. So, each classroom will have an incubator. And we'll cook the eggs, we dissect eggs, we talk about egg and poultry production here in Randolph County. So, it covers all of our areas and kind of encompasses all and it's a program we're very passionate about. And even others around us have expressed, other teachers and school corporations have expressed this is a program they would like to see. So, we're throwing around the idea of looking for funding for furthering this into other schools as well. So, kind of looking at a small scale of what we do with Randolph Southern, but just looking for funding opportunities to take that even further. So, I think that's about it.

Greg said Julie, what's the 4-H enrollment, up, down, the same?

Julie Wilson said so, COVID year was a pretty hard year and the year after COVID, but we have increased on our numbers so we're on the upward trend again.

Greg said okay. Good, glad to hear it. Great.

Julie Wilson said we love the farm to fork and we spend a lot of time there but we'd like to figure out a way to implement that into some of the other school corporations.

Amy Alka said and then those kids, they apply for the chicks that hatch and they can start their own backyard flock then. And we've had kids bring them to the fair, do well at the fair, and get pretty extravagant on what they're building to keep their chickens in. So, it's really cool to see what the kids go ahead and do with what they've got started.

David said any questions for them?

Beverly said I think it's a real asset. It's wonderful working with you.

Julie Wilson said thank you and thank you for the support. We appreciate all the support you guys give us throughout the year.

Amy Alka said if you need worms, I've got them tonight.

Julie Wilson said there's a lot in the office.

**Sherri Thompson, Health Department – purchase new radios**

David said okay, Sherri, come on up.

Sherri Thompson said actually, the commissioners tabled this yesterday, so we won't really have any, until the next meeting, commissioners meeting.

Scott said what was the cost of those 6 radios you were looking at?

Sherri Thompson said Cobi has all of that. It was a roundabout number of like 25,000, if we get all 6. But I don't have an exact number.

Scott said and your intentions was to use carry-over money from last year, is that correct?



Sherri Thompson said yes. And he does have all of the type of radio and things that he feels like would be the best. And he will come and present to you. But I'll try to get that out to all of you so you'll have that ahead of time.

Todd said what's changed that we need radios, this is the first time I'm hearing of this?

Sherri Thompson said we have, we have two radios now, which do not work well. And it was brought to our attention during the tornado that we had no phone service. We couldn't get in touch with each other. We didn't know what was going on, who was where. So, looking at that has made us more aware that we need those. And in the past, we've had them, but as the years have went on, they've, you know, quit working and it just dwindled down to the two.

David said okay. I guess we'll wait to hear from the commissioners.

Sherri Thompson said we have a board meeting the 17<sup>th</sup> and then we'll have it, I'll go to the commissioners, I think it's the 21<sup>st</sup>. Okay, any other questions? Thank you.

David said thanks.

**Other Business:**

**Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff**

David said Sheriff.

Art Moystner said the only thing I have this morning is just a quick update. We, the GPS system that we'd talked about and did with the commissioners which shows the officers' locations in their vehicles. We are rolling that out and it's starting to work. I've got a meeting this afternoon for the mobile data terminals, which will allow us to be more efficient when we're out on the road, traffic stops and things of that nature. So, some of that is moving along. Other than that, I don't think I have anything for your guys unless you have questions for me today.

David said I don't have any questions. Does anybody else have?

Art Moystner said perfect. Thank you.

**Minutes of March 4, 2025**

David said next item on our business is the Minutes of March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting. Move for approval?

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

**Additional Appropriations:**

**CCD-Commissioner**

Computer Equipment Repair	\$30,000.00
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David said the next item we have Additional Appropriations is for CCD-Commissioner computer equipment repair of 30,000. Any questions on that?

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

**CCD-Sheriff**

Computer/Video Equipment	\$23,669.25
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David said okay the next item is also from CCD for Sheriff's computer/video equipment, 23,669.25. Entertain a motion.

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

### **Highway 1176**

Overtime \$15,000.00

David said next item we have is from the Highway 1176 account for overtime of 15,000.

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

### **EDIT**

Playground Paradise \$10,000.00

David said the next line item we have is from the EDIT for Playground Paradise at Harter's Park of \$10,000.00.

Larry made a motion to approve. Scott seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

### **Headwaters I**

Playground Paradise \$40,000.00

David said the next line item we have is Headwaters I. It's for Playground Paradise also. Now this is a matching grant of 40,000. It's a 2 to 1 match from the city of Union City being the two, and us being the one. So, this would be up to 40,000. It's whatever the city will find in their funding.

Larry said my understanding they haven't made their 40 yet.

Laura said we'll require proof before we send ours out.

David said actually, they have to come up with 80 to get the 40.

Greg said they got to have twice as much.

Laura said this is just getting the funding ready, so, when that all goes through, we can pay them whatever our percent is.

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

### **Children's Advocate**

Coordinator Fee \$12,000.00

David said next one I have is from the Children's Advocate, coordinator fee of \$12,000.00.

Greg said what is that?

Laura said it's grant funding and we never appropriate it until the grant money gets here. So, it's already been budgeted. You guys have already approved her budget for this amount, but we don't appropriate the money until we actually get the money. So, that's what this is.

Greg said so, who is the coordinator?

Laura said Deb Tharp. She works for Circuit Court.

David said entertain a motion.



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

**Health Department**

Social Security	\$35.00
Medicare	\$ 9.00
Office Supplies	\$24,956.00

David said okay, the last additional appropriation we have is for, from the Health Department, \$35.00. \$9.00 and \$24,956.00 for office supplies?

Sherri Thompson said it's a, the grant, the school liaison grant.

David said can you come on up here?

Sherri Thompson said it's the school liaison grant. That office supply line was already appropriated, but we forgot to appropriate the other two lines that we just took the money out of the office supply line and put it into the other two lines.

David said okay, clear as mud, huh.

Greg said so that's 3 separate items?

Sherri Thompson said yes. The office supply was a little higher. We took the money out of there to appropriate into the other two lines, so that's why that number is different.

Larry said 24,000, it's supplied by a grant?

Sherri Thompson said yes, all of it is a grant. It's all the school liaison grant. And this, the Medicare and the tax is for her phone stipend that she gets.

Larry made a motion to approve. Scott seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Transfer of Funds	From	To
\$20.52	Maintenance	Office Furniture

David said okay, and now we're down to Transfer of Funds.

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

**Citizen Comments (3 minutes)**

David said okay, are there any citizens that would like to speak on behalf of anything? Seeing none, I'll go around the table. Start with you first, Greg. Do you have anything?

**Greg Cheesman, 4-H building update**

Greg said no, no I was going to say something about the lady here, the ladies were here and told about the building coming along out at the 4-H fairgrounds, so, that's.

David said okay. Bev, do you have anything?

Beverly said I do not. Thank you.

David said Larry?

**Larry Preston, Gaslight addition update**

Larry said no, I don't, but just living down by the Gaslight now, it's progressing, progressing well. I think according to what George says, there may be a few 4 to 5 lots still vacant that people haven't decided whether they were going to rebuild or not. But, it's become a new addition again.

David said that's pretty good for one year.

Larry said yes.

David said Mike, do you have anything?

Mike said no.

David said Todd?

**Todd Holaday, Insurance Committee meeting update, Salary Study Committee and Joint meeting**

Todd said yeah. A couple weeks ago, the insurance committee met and just letting the council know that there were several complaints to our representative about our third-party administrator, Unified Group Services. And so, he was going to take a look at moving us from that group to the group that he, that he preferred. I can't remember the name of it yet, right off the top of my head. But, there's a consortium of counties that use this other third-party administration. He's going to come back and make another presentation to, I think, the insurance committee, but no date has been set yet for that. The claims range, the claims runs for last year looked very good as far as not having excessive amount so that the county is in good shape from a health insurance standpoint when we're shopping a bit. There was a proposal by our representative to take a look at a plan to replace our, help me with the word, Laura, not the, high deductible plan, but the.

Laura said HSA. The HSA or the PPO?

Todd said the PPO plan. To move it to a new plan with United Health Group called Surest. So, there's some changes being looked at with the health insurance. But generally, the main issue the county employees had was with claims processing not working timely, and so some denials of service and things like that. And that was all to do with the third-party administrator. But there will be some potential changes with our new insurance year begins, and I think it begins midpoint of the year.

Laura said July 1.

Todd said July 1. So, just kind of keep your ears open for that. Last time we met, we wanted to get on the salary committee meetings early and we appointed two people from this council group to be on this committee and ask that we get one from the commissioners so that we could get moving. I have not heard yet that that person has been.

Laura said Tom Kerns.

Todd said so, it's Tom?

Laura said uh huh.

Todd said so, will Tom organize the, get the, you know?



Laura said you can. I would probably just, you can go ahead and reach out and get a meeting set. I'm guessing he would prefer evenings, but you can talk to him.

Todd said okay. And it's Larry, right? Yeah, so, we'll get that going. And then, there's an upcoming meeting to discuss a council/commissioner's joint meeting, I think.

Laura said May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Todd said in May, 19<sup>th</sup>. By that time, will we have heard a final decision on this bill, do you think?

Laura said yeah, legislation ends the end of April, right?

Scott said yeah.

Laura said and they're hoping sooner.

David said I thought it was supposed to end Wednesday, but maybe that's just.

Scott said I think it's the end of April, 29<sup>th</sup> of April.

Laura said that's what I thought, the end of April.

David said going through the committees, maybe it's.

Laura said but they said it could possibly end sooner. But with all the uproar on this, I'm not for sure.

Todd said it's Baker Tilly is that right?

Laura said uh huh.

Todd said will they have had time to take the effects of that bill into consideration?

Laura said he said that he would be able to give you scenarios, but he won't have exact figures for us at that time, based off of legislation. But he can tell you this is what legislation decided, and it's probably going to affect you and give, in general, not specific numbers.

Todd said my thought is if that's impactful, if the person from Baker Tilly thinks it would be better if we had a little bit more time to get those numbers?

Laura said you guys are going to have to vote if you want him to redo the numbers, the plan.

Todd said okay.

Laura said normally, we wouldn't redo it again until next year. Right David?

David said right.

Laura said but he said if this is going to be significant, you guys may vote to go ahead and have him.

Todd said I want to make the best use of our money and time with this consultant. So, if it's not the best use to have him on May 19<sup>th</sup> because of the effect of this bill, then we need a recalculation of the projections, and can we adjust that? I was just thinking is that?

Laura said we can. But just let me say that he's also bringing information on bonding for the sheriff's department project.

Todd said so there's enough other things to talk about?

Laura said so, I think that we're just kind of, and that's why he's like let's wait until after legislation so we can talk about how that might impact you, and he'll bring the bonding information for the sheriff's office. I feel like there was a third thing that he was going to talk about, but I can't remember what that was.

Meeks said I just remember the bonding, because that was the big thing.

Laura said yeah, because Meeks had asked him for information on the bonding.

Meeks said bonding for that and the bonding for to see where, if we had any more after that?

Laura said so, when I asked him, because you wanted him to come and go over that plan, you know, he was like, well let's wait until after legislation and that's why. So, if you guys decide you want him to go ahead and redo the financial plan this year instead of waiting until next year, you can vote to do that.

Todd said I would encourage us to lean on him to tell us, you know, if he thinks it's worth doing.

Laura said right, right.

David said yes.

Laura said and he will.

Todd said okay.

Laura said he'll let you know whether he thinks.

Todd said if he says it's worth doing, let's do it because I would want to operate off of good assumptions, or good projections, is the thing.

Laura said right.

Todd said and the numbers there looked really favorable, you know, from a 5-year standpoint, last time, that may.

Mike said can totally flip flop.

Todd said yeah. So, I don't want to start talking about wages and so on as we think about the next couple of years with false projections. Anyway, lots of things are coming on that and I'm looking forward to that report.

David said okay. Anything else, Todd?



Todd said no.

David said Scott?

**Scott Fisher – Jail project**

Scott said the only thing I got is do we have a cost on the jail work?

Laura said it's like, for everything, I think it's like 4 million, somewhere right around that, and that's double what we had originally anticipated.

Meeks said I don't think that's a hard number.

Laura said no, I don't think it's a hard number.

Scott said they haven't got the hard number.

Meeks said engineering estimated.

Scott said 4 million. I don't have anything.

Beverly said this joint meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>, time?

Laura said it's May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Beverly said yeah, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Laura said it's 6:00 p.m.

Beverly said 6, okay.

**David Lenkensdofer – financial information**

David said okay. I just have one item. I do this every year. Laura, can you take one and pass it down. I go through just a bunch of different basic financial stuff for Randolph County, sharing with where you might be able to get information. And then, I listed the Lynn Solar projects, listed the assets and that's just a rough number that's, these are all estimates. I listed the townships, all their funds that they've gone through in 2024. This comes off of what we call the Gateway program off the State of Indiana's website. For the yearly rate, by year, back from 2015 through 2024, and then I listed the employees benefits and then I listed the cities and towns. What I'd like you to do is maybe to review this for next meeting, and share any ideas you'd like to share. It's all financial information pretty much.

Todd said and I have a question then, before I start to take it through. On page 2, on the column that's got 12/31/24 at the top of it, the first two-line items, are those receipts that how much money was received from those two sources, local income tax?

David said which number are you talking about, Todd?

Todd said so, it's on page 2, and it's 1.52 million.

David said okay. That's what was in that account at year end, 2024.

Todd said so, that's the balance of the fund?

David said these are all balances of the funds.

Todd said so, we don't really have, on your report, you're showing, the Windfarm is actually money coming in, in each of those years, right?

David said that's the, you mean on number two?

Todd said on this first page, it starts with like projected receipts, right, from Windfarm?

David said those are the balances.

Todd said are those balances of funds again?

David said as far as what we're still yet to receive.

Todd said okay, so, this is projected receipts?

David said yes.

Todd said and then you get into balances, or actually, the asset values, right?

David said right.

Todd said and then fund balances?

David said correct. There're two or three pages of those.

Beverly said in the township one, is that the balance the township trustee has available?

David said as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, yes.

Beverly said okay.

David said and what I did on the others also, I put available cash, that's outside of their disbursements, which I considered their budget. So, they're holding quite a bit of cash right there.

Beverly said yep.

Todd said sorry to keep, and then on the last page, where you've got the cities and towns, those are receipts from all sources, is that the way that?

David said that's, they're getting, it's from, that's what they have to file through Gateway at the year end, and yes, that's part of their whole, what they call their whole process of funding of their budget. But those are the balances at the year end. And usually, a good rule of thumb, especially the townships, is that they need at minimum 75% to get through the next tax draw, which is usually what, June?

Laura said yes.

Todd said you say 75%, so, at the end of the year, so, they need a 75% of their projected receipts just to get through to the point when the money starts coming in?



David said right. And most of them far exceed that.

Todd said so, Union City would not, in other words?

David said Union City would not.

Todd said in the sources of receipts to the towns, there's some local income tax, right?

David said right.

Todd said and then property tax, as well?

David said right.

Todd said and are there any other taxes that go to these towns?

David said well they just have their EDIT funds which is.

Todd said part of their local income tax, right?

David said right. If you noticed in the last 4 to 6 weeks, the newspaper has been publishing their budget, and that pretty much tells you where all the different line items. I do have copies in most of them, but I didn't bring them with me today. I've been cutting them out of the paper. But a good source is to go to that Gateway. I've left the, up at the top of the page, the website to go to if you need any questions, additional questions.

Todd said thank you.

David said anything else? If not, I'd entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

#### **Adjournment**

Greg made a motion to adjourn. Scott seconded the motion. All aye votes. Meeting adjourned.

Reviewed and accepted this 6 day of May, 2025




David Lenkensdofer



Larry Preston





Beverly Fields

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Cheesman

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Mike Stine

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Holaday

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Fisher

ATTESTED:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura J. Martin, Auditor