

Randolph County Council

June 3, 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. Also present was Randolph County Auditor Laura Martin and County Attorney Meeks Cockerill.

Pledge of Allegiance

Judge Toney and Judge Dowling – Funding for interpreters/language line

David said on the agenda, Judge Toney and Judge Dowling, would you like to come on up?

Judge Toney said good morning. For those of you who don't know, Judge Arnett was permitted to take a leave of absence during the state's investigation. And the Indiana Supreme Court has appointed Judge Dowling to serve as Randolph Superior Court Judge in the meantime. We don't know how long that will be, just Judge Dowling is an experienced Judge from Delaware County who will do a great job in Superior Court. So, we're lucky to have her over here. She is much better at these administrative things that we're dealing with today with regard to language lines, so, I'll turn it over to her.

Judge Dowling said good morning everyone. I'm Kim Dowling. I am serving as your Judge Pro Tem in Randolph Superior Court. About a month ago, it came to our attention that because of some cuts within the state budget the Courts were going to incur an additional cost, and that takes effect July 1st of this year. The Courts are required to provide interpreters for anyone who's not an English speaker or English isn't their first language. Historically, the Indiana Supreme Court has paid for a service called language line, which is a phone service where we can call and get an interpreter on the phone immediately. So, if we're in the middle of a hearing and we find out that someone is not able to speak English or not speak it well, we can call language line, get somebody on the phone and they can interpret right there on the spot. Effective July 1st, our local Courts are going to have to pay for that service. So, I've taken two actions, Judge Toney and I have had numerous conversations and so, what we thought would be the best course of action is first of all, we're entitled to request a grant from the Indiana Supreme Court, and so we've made that request, and you may have seen that paperwork. I know it got turned into, I think, Mrs. Martin recently, so we've asked for an \$8,000.00 from the Indiana Supreme Court to help pay for interpreter services, but in the meantime, we hope to establish a line item in the budget for interpreters. And we are both requesting that some of our part time line item for our part time employees be transferred. My request is to move a \$1,000.00 from our part time line item, we had a \$5,000.00 total in there, to interpreter services and Circuit Court has requested to transfer \$700.00 from their part time line item into interpreter services. The additional request that I've made is to take the remaining \$4,000.00 from the part time line item and transfer that into my jury fee fund. We have already had two trials this year and we have very little left in our jury line item. And so, I'd like to go ahead and move that because I know we have some jury trials coming up. So, if anyone has any questions, I'd be happy to try to answer those for you.

Judge Toney said this is a service that we use frequently.

Judge Dowling said we do.

Judge Toney said sometimes it's multiple times a week, and then we might go two weeks without doing it. But, obviously, it's normally Spanish, but I know Superior Court, at least, has had a couple really odd languages they've had to use. And it's amazing you call, and there's somebody there all the time.

Judge Dowling said we also, part of the reason for the request for the grant is there are going to be times that we might have to use a deaf interpreter, and that's someone that we definitely would have to have in person. Language line is something that we can use more easily if it's a non-evidentiary hearing, so an initial hearing or pre-trial conference. But we get into, when we take a change of plea or if we have to do a jury trial, we would really need to have someone here in person. And so, that's asking for someone to come from Richmond or Indianapolis to provide those interpreter services.

David said anybody have any questions for the Judges?

Greg said you said you applied for the grant? Do you have any idea if you're going to get it or not?

Judge Dowling said I would imagine we'll get some.

Greg said you don't know if it'll be the full amount or not?

Judge Dowling said I don't. And I don't know when we'll know. Generally, I would think probably by August 1st we should know something, but I don't know right now.

Greg said okay.

Judge Toney said this is a service that the Indiana Supreme Court has always paid for, that came out of their budget I believe. So, they're the ones that are trying to continue the program and at least provide us some of the funds.

Greg said and the line item switches you are wanting to do are done right now, not, soon, or whatever?

Judge Dowling said correct.

Greg said it's not something for next year's budget?

Judge Dowling said no. We will be putting things in for next year's budget, but July 1st, we are on the hook for the language line services. The Supreme Court is not paying for that anymore because of their budget cuts.

Greg said okay.

Judge Dowling said so, we really need something immediate so that if someone comes into Court and I have to call language line, I know that that's something that we have money to pay.

David said any other questions? What we'll go, I'll take the grant application first, it's to be signed by the president of county council only. So, I would entertain a motion to approve the \$8,000.00 request.

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

David said the next two items will be transfer of funds. First one, and we can do both of them together if you'd like.

Greg said is it two or three?

Judge Dowling said there's actually three.

Greg said that's what I thought.

Judge Dowling said one for Circuit and two for Superior.

Greg said okay.

David said well three line items, I only have two requests pages.

Greg said excuse me.

David said two signatures on them. So, I'd entertain a motion to approve the request of 1,000 and 4,000 from part time and 700 from part time.

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

Judge Dowling said so, we don't have a line item currently for interpreter services, so, we'll just have to create one? Okay, thank you.

David said that should do it. Thanks for coming in and letting us know.

Judge Dowling said thank you. Nice to meet you all.

Judge Toney said thank you.

David said Missy, would you like to update us on Commissioners from yesterday?

Commissioner's update

Funding of contract with Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition

Missy said sure. I'm going to hand out a couple of maps. I'll start with Scott because he, the maps are for the re-routing. I think it's important to communicate a little bit better I guess, between the commissioners and the council, so what we have, we're going to try and start getting that to you guys a little bit more. And bridges obviously, and road repairs are a big part of our finances, so I'm going to give you that too. And a lot of it, what's on there, Joe and Jay explained just a little bit yesterday, but that's just kind of a plan to go forward and of course, with a lot of matching funds from the state we hope, on each one of those. There's a lot of duplication on our agenda from yesterday and your agenda for today. So, I'm only going to hit some of the high points and then try to answer some things. Brad Mullen was in and talked about some job position changes. He is going to go a little bit different route in hiring his two new people to come in that can cover over there. We also had some discussions on the Farmland EMS facility. As you heard earlier, some of the rocks, blocks, whatever you want to call them, have fallen off again, so they're back to the drawing board in getting those to stick up there. They have also assured us that it normally has a one-year guarantee, but they're going to extend it and make it a three-year guarantee, so anytime those come off the building again, for three years, they're going to replace those at no cost. I was over there on Saturday and looked around, because I had gone by the place and somebody had pulled up in the yard and had a tread mark, a tire mark up in there, so I kind of looked things over.

Personally, I still have a few questions about if that's ever going to work out there, but I guess within three years maybe we'll know and go a different route. I'm not sure. Tom Kerns also is in charge of the new addition for the morgue over at the EMS station here in Winchester, and let you know that he has thoroughly looked over that building and is going to make some improvements and some changes like concrete out front that looked to be deteriorating, the siding, which seems to have, maybe from mowing or whatever reason, has some holes in it. So, we're going to go ahead and spend a little bit more money and upgrade everything to make it look a little bit better, plus securing cameras over there. And that's the one thing that we talked with Brad about, Brad Mullen, I think he'll bring that up too, is when I was over there on Saturday, I knocked and knocked and nobody came to the door. I'm just nosing around. I wanted to see some of the improvements that have been made on the inside. And they were on call, so they were ready to come if they needed to be, but I realized there's no door bell. And I would have, hoped there would have been a ring door bell or something that if anybody walked up there, somebody would know right away, did they need to get help to them or who is it, somebody trying to, whatever the reason, so again, they're taking care of that. But Tom has really done a great job, and also Gary Friend, and Tom Kerns, in each one of those location, overseeing those projects. They have a lot of knowledge of that. Mr. Shaneyfelt came and asked for additional appropriation for overtime. We had a lot of questions on that, and still kind of seeking some answers, you know, the shifting of duties and things that they're coming up with that the overtime, you know, we did away with comp time. And again, that seems to be an ever changing, that money is going to get tight with Senate Bill 1.

David said very tight.

Missy said yeah, very tight. Thanks, Dave. And so, we're going to have to look at some of this how we're going to handle it. And we didn't come up with a solution or an answer yesterday, but again. Jake was great enough to come in and with the consulting company that's doing the jail, and they have also, want to include a drone fly over to look at the roof to make sure, we're doing everything else, but the roof needs to be in good condition also. So, they'll be doing that. I also handed you, I think I did, the insurance. Chris Burton was in to talk about the insurance. And most of that, we're getting better rates than what we had before. And I was in on that insurance meeting and he talked, highlighted several of the things that he thinks will be much better for employees going forward. And that's simply because of the number of, Laura, you correct me if I'm wrong on this, but I think the number of claims we're turning in, in total value of them has gotten much better. So, that's good news too. Brad Dilger was in and talked about the Riverstart Solar Park, the decommissioning performance and he explained that. Ed Thornburg was in to explain about the utility agreements and we had a surveyors' meeting after that. You know, some of the things that, not only the utility agreements that go with that, but we're still seeing some after effects from the tornado and from the flood out in the country where some box culverts are not holding up because of the heavy, heavy rain. Is it the landowners or is it the county's responsibility? Most of those that we talked in our meeting really goes back, because it's on the landowners' property, and they may have edited a ditch or a box culvert or they put their own box culvert in that didn't hold what it should have. So, that's how we finished up with the meeting with Ed yesterday afternoon. He's a real asset, in that meeting particularly, to tell us about things. I think that's it unless you have any questions? Scott, you can probably explain that. I'll hand an insurance. Those are where are rates are going.

David said so, did Chris give an over, all costs increase on insurance?

Missy said yes and it's coming around. I think it's on there.

David said I mean a total number for budget?

Missy said I'm not sure. I'm not sure it's on that one.

Laura said he did the last time and I can't remember the amount.

Missy said I can't either. It was, and I have that paper at home.

Laura said I can give it to you just not right now.

David said well I just want to make sure we have it for budget.

Missy said yeah, absolutely, yeah.

Laura said we do.

Missy said I need those back, but I can have somebody make copies if anybody wanted those. It just helps me. It helps me to know what each one of our groups are doing, and I like having, I really appreciate having the joint meeting once in a while so we can kind of talk some things out, know better what's going to be coming up. And again, there's going to be, as the years go on, from what I have had people explain to me, you know, year three is going to hit us really hard. So, it's preparation going into that. So, that's, when we're looking over this, I think that's got a lot to do with it.

Greg said one question, Missy, just so I'm clear on it, yesterday you talked about the door bell or whatever they're going to do, and then they got to talking about whoever is doing our security, having them look at all that.

Missy said yeah.

Greg said is that the way, the route we're going to go as far as, in it and the new morgue both, do both, right?

Missy said yeah, both, yeah, yeah.

Greg said okay. That's what I understood, but I wanted to make sure that's what it.

Missy said and the whole thing, I was talking to another person afterwards because nowadays, you just don't know where people are going to show up and vandalize or do something, so, we just felt like those ring, or something similar to a ring, and we've got one and we don't pay anything for it. It just pops up on my phone. And it is voice activated and motion activated. So, I'm not saying we need to go to a lot of expense, maybe we do, because it needs to be recorded for the county, for the government, but yeah.

Greg said I think Tom threw out on as far as the morgue, redoing the siding and the concrete at the doorways was going to need to be cut out and re-done and they were going to put a wider approach in, and he was, I know it was just a guess on his part, but he was estimating another \$100,000.00 above what the quote is to build it additionally.

David said okay. To finish the building?

Greg said to finish the whole, yeah.

David said and I talked to Gary last night and said while we're doing it, we need to do it right.

Missy said exactly.

David said because it's cheaper to do it now than wait 5 years and prices will be so much higher.

Missy said and they haven't done what I understood was, they haven't done much maintenance on the EMS there. It's held up really well. So, it's just time to do some over there, while they're working on it all.

David said I do have a question for the commissioners, you know we're talking about security, we need to really talk about courthouse security one of these days.

Missy said yep.

David said we've talked in generalities for years, and it's maybe time that we moved forward on that?

Missy said I know you and I have talked before about being proactive rather than reactive, when then it's maybe too late and wish you'd done something. I think we're only one of like 6 or 7 courthouses who do not have security in the state of Indiana today. I read that someplace.

David said I think that's right.

Meeks said I would not doubt that at all. Just to reiterate, somebody got shot in one of our buildings. This isn't, at the RCFFO building a gal gunned down her ex-husband within feet of the commissioner and council room, like the hallway.

David said yeah, I remember that.

Meeks said I know you remember that.

Missy said and just having a sign that says no weapons at the front door doesn't stop anybody from coming in. And we have three entrances. That's another thing that's been, a couple of the committee meetings I was in on, at the last county council meeting was how many entrances do you have into your courthouse, and we know it might be inconvenient for people, for everybody, for elected officials, plus everybody else, elected officials maybe have a key, but to have one secure location. But that's for discussion at a later time.

David said I just wanted to plant the seed again.

Missy said yeah.

David said this State Route 1, that's got, do we know if the landowner has agreed?

Missy said he hasn't.

Greg said he did not agree.

Missy said he did not.

Laura said it was a hard no is what Tom said yesterday.

David said alright.

Missy said and there's a lot of information to that and you two can explain it better because you were here, but with utilities and everything else, how to cut those corners and get acquisition for that.

Scott said do we know whether the engineer reached out to the state to ask them their

Greg said yes, yes. And he's reached out to them and the guy would get back, I think he said within a couple of weeks. And the guy that he's dealing with, he thought it would be a go. This guy had to get in touch with the people for the culverts and on and on and on.

Scott said so, if the state does give it a green light, then it sounds like the county will have to take eminent domain if they want to use it?

Greg said yes.

Missy said can you talk a little bit about the underground utilities that is in the one location, you know more about it than.

Greg said I don't know about the underground. The only thing I knew about was the telephone and the light services all overhead.

Missy said yeah.

Greg said there's a ditch.

Missy said a ditch.

Greg said a ditching problem because I think Mr. Levy had that systematic ditch the ground, so outlet to get him, keep him draining is going to be, maybe somewhat of an issue, but I have no idea what that'll be.

Scott said I mean, I don't like doing it, but I don't like spending two million dollars and still having a depth trap at Road 1.

Greg said yeah. And then there was discussion with the commissioners about, which we need to do, because it's closing 800 so there's no access on or off of it off of Road 1. Make everybody come to the top of the hill. But that's going to entail getting the light company to re-route their lines and the telephone company to re-route, and that stuff's all overhead, which will make it a little simpler, I think. But, I think that's probably one of the requirements the state will have maybe, is to be sure that 800 is shut off.

Scott said I would be curious if the State was going to require any decel lanes or passing lanes on Road 1.

Greg said there was nothing said about that. One of the commissioners asked Joe Copeland what kind of a deadline and his best guess he said, is if everything went smoothly, we would get permission to go ahead, get the ground, permission to go ahead, yada, yada, yada, and maybe do some preliminary work this fall with finishing up, come first thing in the spring of next year. The gentleman that was here from the stone quarry talked like that time line would work for them too, where they would all kind of join together at the same time.

Scott said was everybody okay on where the new road would tie back into the existing road at that west curve?

Greg said they had two different options and they voted for this option here that she's showing.

Missy said yeah.

Greg said Joe had two different options platted out, but the vote was for this one here I believe, wasn't it, Missy?

Missy said yeah. Anything else? Thank you.

Sydnee Cseresznyes, Randolph County United update

David said okay, next. Sydney, would you like to come on up?

Sydnee said good morning. Alright, well Sydnee Cseresznyes, I'm the new director of Randolph County United and I had some conversations about coming and giving you a presentation on kind of what my work has been the last couple of months with the organization and kind of where we were at, and where I'd like to go, and then talk about just some of the strategies I think would be beneficial and answer any of your questions. So, I'm rounding out my score, if you will, with some of the county stakeholders. I know I've met with a couple of you on the council. If you have not heard from me, you'll hear from me within the next 72 hours to get something on the schedule so we can meet one on one. I like to do one on one introductions then just figure out where stakeholders are at, both in their elected positions and personally, with their involvement with the county. So, I officially came on board full time in the county May 1st. And so, in the last 30 days or so, we have really hit the ground running, if you will. I was part time before that because I was finishing up some work at the state house. Senate enrolled act 1 was my entire life for a long time. And so, I spent some time meeting with stakeholders then in developing a strategy that quite frankly pivots every time I meet someone new in the county, as it should. And so, the last month has really been putting together a plan of where Randolph County, I believe Randolph County United should move forward as it relates to them as an organization and our partnership with the county, as well. So, I wanted to go over some of the accomplishments I've felt the organization has achieved over the last month, and I'll go into some of my strategies on how we can continue with the momentum and move the county forward. So, some of the things that I had to tackle right when I came in was restructuring administrative staff and responsibilities. Obviously, tourism was kind of removed out from under our wing, last year I believe, and so we are a lean three-person staff. And while tourism went away, that 4th person was incredibly essential, so we've restructured some responsibilities with both our office administrator, myself and our director of chamber and marketing. And we're still kind of restructuring some program roll outs and who is going to be responsible for that. We created a health care policy. So, we have a lot more organization in the office now, which I believe was needed to really create a foundation, all expectation guideline on how we can move forward. I believe, you know, I know the history of Randolph County United from what people have told me, and it sounds like communication was a barrier before, if I'm being honest. And I think that we are really starting off on the right foot. I've met with all the commissioners, like I said, I'm making my way through the council. I've met with the city mayors and I'm making my way through the towns as well. And I'm an open book. You will learn that of me. I don't like, I won't hold back and I don't want the people I meet with to hold back. You guys are the ones that have lived in this county for a very long time and represent the county and my job is to move the county forward through your lens. And I take that very seriously. So, I am easily accessible. I over communicate and I think that's better because I am completely above board and transparent and I made a commitment to the commissioners, I'll make the same one to you. I'm happy to come present once a quarter, if you find that valuable. I can present more if you find that valuable, as well. But that's my commitment to you, and I look forward to meeting those of you one on one, that I haven't already. So, we have, the state has a site prospect or website. You may or may not be familiar with it, so I apologize if you aren't. I'm going to explain it real quick. So, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation has a website or a portal where companies from across the nation or globe really, can submit interest for land or buildings. It's called site prospector. We have some land advertised down there but we also get emails of potential projects that companies are looking for. So, we, in the last 30 days have

submitted to, now I will say and I've said this statistic all the time, 80 to 90% of true economic development comes from within a county, with businesses you already have here. The other 10 to 20% comes from situations like these. That is not to say we shouldn't try. So, I'm really proud that we were able to submit, one project was from the Mall Technologies building in Winchester and another was from a building in Union City. So, we haven't heard back on those, but it is a step forward in the right direction that we're letting, not only these businesses, but IEDC know we're here and we're interested. I was really pleased to hear, I've been working with the chamber on this. I was really pleased to hear that there are businesses, not all are members, which is a good thing in my mind, that businesses are interested in expanding. I mean, a lot of businesses here have interest, they're busy and they would like more opportunities to grow their businesses. So, within the last few weeks, I and Kerry the director of chamber have received 5 inquiries on businesses who are looking for resources for various aspects of their business. The common theme is expansion. And so, while we are internally reworking our revolving loan fund programs, we're trying to figure out some of the reporting requirements, because one of our three is from COVID and we can't, not a lot of people need COVID dollars anymore. And so, we're trying to figure out how we can use some of that money. But in the meantime, several of these people have gotten connected with the Indiana Small Business Development Center. I think that's a resource that is really great for small businesses, and it's avenues like that, that I think Randolph County can really serve a purpose in. I have worked across the state with these state agencies for a very long time now and we have really deep relationships and I'm proud of that, and I think it's a value add for Randolph County in the organization, because these people will get in front of the right people when they need to, and it won't be a waiting game. And so, we're hoping to help some of these individuals move forward with their projects. This isn't on there, but outside of the business inquiry, Readi 2.0 Funding, I have been notified that it is finally being released. There was some holdup there at the state and we're trying, if the projects that are currently, they were currently scored and allocated money, if those projects fall through for whatever reason, whether someone doesn't want to do them anymore, or any hiccup that has come up, I had actually, my second conversation with the region 6. Trevor has resigned, so they have a new interim CEO and Katelyn is her name and she's great. We have talked about how we can, if there are additional funds that have not been used by the end of the allocation period, to make sure that money stays in Randolph County, and we're trying to figure out some potential projects that any additional monies can go to. Establishing partnerships with state agencies, I listed a couple there, that is not an exhaustive list at all. But like I said, a lot of my background has been working with state agencies. I consider myself to be a convener and collaborator of sorts, I have a really robust network. And while I might not be a subject matter expert in every area, I know enough to be dangerous and I certainly know the people who subject matter experts. And so, I think between OCRA, ISBDC, Region 6, the IEDC, you know, I know they're going through some re-working right now, you know, I think that we could really be an asset to our community in that way. And I know that I've talked to IEDC quite a few times at this point, and I believe that we are going to bring them in for a tour, if you will, I'm trying to figure out how I would like to structure it. But I'd like them and the ISBDC in potentially the innovation kind of internship institute with Ivy Tech to come in and do kind of a retreat seminar, something, if you will, towards the end of the year, so our businesses can have a one-stop shop with any questions that they may have. But, we're still working that out. Another thing that we're working on, so, I've talked to a couple of the cities and it sounds like there have been grant opportunities that have been taken up and used in a couple of the cities. And now, when you think about going and re-applying for grants, a lot of the times, the trend that we're seeing in the grant community is that they want you to be collaborative on a community-wide scale. And so, some of these grants, they're no longer eligible to apply for because they have to have county buy in. And so, I am starting to have meetings with those representatives and those firms who do grants, and specifically, Brownfields and Blight, blight clearance to see if we can do a county-wide partnership on grants going forward with some of those initiatives, so stay tuned on that. Moving forward, I want to talk about where the county in Randolph County, where I believe we can create some momentum and really get the ball rolling. So, I think, in light of Senate enrolled act 1 which we all know has created a lot of questions, I know that my municipal advisors are still working through the ramifications of that,

especially because two bills had enrolled act 1 language in it. Candidly, a lot of the triggers don't take, and this could be a good thing, but a lot of these triggers don't take effect until 2028, which gives the General Assembly two sessions, one extra budget session and one interim session to amend that language. So, all the numbers might be what they are today. I envision there are some additional changes, potentially to county benefit and local benefit, that could happen. With that said, budgets are tight regardless, we're going to hear that for a while. So, I'm trying to adhere to that while also creating investment for Randolph County so that we can make an impact in some of our key areas. So, the first one, the biggest one I want to talk about is collaborate with the county to develop a strategic plan. You guys have a comprehensive plan, which is a form of strategic plan back from 2018. Statutorily, it's outdated. You cannot use it to apply for grants anymore at the state level. I am not recommending that the county go forward with another comprehensive plan. I think it's more timely to go through an actual strategic plan that is tailored to a couple different metrics whereas comprehensive plans really deal with land use and things like that. Strategic plans can be tailored to what you want to focus on as a county. And so, they're a lot shorter in time frame as far as you know, a comprehensive plan might be 25 to 35 years. A lot of these strategic plans are more to the three, five, ten-year range. Something I would like to partner with the county on, and a couple, and I'll get into kind of the details of that in a minute and what a strategic plan really is, but I think it would really help the county move forward in some key areas in where you really want to see investment. One of the first questions I was asked by the commissioners was are you going to deliver results? And my answer was yes, but when you have a rethra of stakeholders in the county, the definition of results can be different, depending on who you talk to. And I think getting on the same page and formalizing expectations would be beneficial to not only me, but I think the county as well, so we can really start to measure those results that we have. We're in the process of deploying a business retention and expansion program. There's a lot of data and science around this. There are systems we can track this information. And so, I am partnering with the chamber on this effort to make sure that not only our small businesses have the resources they need, but our large businesses if they have, if their leases are coming up, if they have workforce shortages, if they are looking at expanding, that they know they can call us and we'll be a resource for them. Restructuring our revolving loan programs, you heard me talk that we have three RLF programs right now. One will be COVID, one will probably have to turn into a grant program. I would like to build these programs up. I would like there to be two separate programs. I would like there to be an RLF program for businesses who are looking to expand, zero interest, pay it back in full, something like that. And then I would like to see potentially a RLF program where we can help potentially quality of life projects or whatever that strategic plan says that the county wants to move forward with. I'll use quality of life and housing as an example. So, as our goal from that strategic plan is to attract families. Okay, so we need the housing for the families, but what else attracts families? Let's use the park for example. So, if a developer comes in and needs help with land acquisition, they just have a gap in funding, maybe our RLF program can fund that, to say hey, we'll put up the money so you can build your park. And that's just one of seven or eight examples I could think of. But, I think that would be really beneficial to attract more projects to our communities as well. Collaboration, you hear me say that I'm an over communicator, I am very passionate about people coming to the table and having tough conversations when we need to have them. I don't believe different opinions are a bad thing. I think they actually lead us in the right direction. And so, you will hear from me a lot and I will encourage people to speak their mind and tell me you know, what their opinions are as far as you know, what they want for the county and not be shy, because I really want our plans and our initiatives to be representative of the county and what they want. Then effectively market the community. So, I would, I, not only want to effectively market the community for people within the community, I also want it to be also effectively market our community for businesses that are looking to expand their operations or bring their operations to Indiana, and also bodies. I'm passionate because of my work at the state house, I know how important it is to have a diverse tax base, and so people and businesses are going to be important. We can't just operate in one of those lanes. For the sake of time, I won't go over the benefits of a strategic plan. You know, at the end of the day, in short, it's a formal document where you create a mission, which says who you are, a vision that says where you want to go,

and then it gives you the tools to truly assess where you're at, the realistic capabilities you have as a county, and what your assets are, what your challenges will be in accomplishing the goals you want to accomplish, and then it provides implementation practices, so you know what the next step is and who needs to be involved. Again, I'd like to partner with the county on that. It's something that I think will really benefit the community and we can see actionable results from. So, I know that you guys will be going into budget discussions and are already in them, and so, in light of that, when we developed our budget for 2026, we decided, as a group, that we would, I know that there was funding decreased by the council last year, and we have a three-year contract from my understanding, with the county, at \$270,000.00. I believe our budget was brought down to 245,000. We're not asking for any additional money, just for our contract to be fulfilled in full through 2026. And I believe our contract is up at the end of 2026, and so there is a time to re-evaluate at that point. But that is our ask. I have listed in here what that budget request, what I can commit that some of that budget will go to. Like I said, I'm big on results so I want to be able to say where are line items are being funded. And so, those are some ideas. I welcome yours. Again, I will be meeting with the rest of you one on one, and for those of you I've already met, you have my cell phone number and I'm a short walk away across the street. So, I'm happy to answer any questions. But thank you for allowing me to present.

David said any questions for Sydnee? I've already met with Sydnee one on one, expressed what my ideas were and explained to her about the reduction last year and to get their attention on we're serious over here about economic development mainly. And also expressed about strategic plans and comprehensive plans over the years, we've had several done and they seem to get shelved, and I'm, very dear to my heart, strategic plan is very important. It has to be utilized to its fullest. It cannot sit on a shelf. Any other?

Todd said what's the acronym RLF? You lost me on that.

Sydnee said Revolving Loan Fund, and I'm sorry I talk in acronyms all the time, so, please stop me anytime I do. And I will say one benefit, and you might get different opinions, depending on who you talk to, I think that if we approach the strategic plan, part of the reason, because I've done strategic plans and comprehensive plans for communities, part of the problem is that they're too long in their timeline, 25, 35 years. I mean, we went through a pandemic, right, and so, before, or after 2018, so it's all changed. And that's why, I think if we were to do a strategic plan, it would be cheaper, but b, and most important, if we shorten that time frame, we can really dial in on what the, they won't be 30,000-foot view goals. They will be more micro level and I think that shorter time frame will really allow for progress and not be, not the ability to interpret a bunch of different ways or let it sit for a while. I think it should start immediately from that. And so, that's kind of where I came up with the timeline. And the right firm, I mean, if you partner with a firm on it, which I do recommend, I have a lot of good ones in my arsenal that I think are great that I've worked with in the past. But that also plays a factor too.

David said any other questions?

Meeks said I just have one comment, Dave. You know, EDIT funding is going to go away in about two years according to Jason.

David said right now it is, yep.

Meeks said yeah, so, like you fund this through the EDIT funding, so, I mean, you're going to have to think about it in 2026, how this is going to be funded.

Sydnee said and I'll be interested to see what, we've talked about that, I don't know if you can, can you, I'd try to decompartmentalize Senate enrolled act 1 after session, but I think it's reauthorized, some of that. I don't know if there's language reauthorizing it.

Meeks said it doesn't say that, at least the.

Sydnee said reauthorizing it through LIT.

Meeks said okay. Well, I assume you could use a LIT tax for that. You can use that EDIT funding for anything now. I think you can use the LIT tax for anything. But, pretty much anything.

David said we're over the max on LIT tax now.

Sydnee said I know.

Meeks said yeah, the, you're cutting the LIT tax.

Sydnee said and so, you guys don't have a levy freeze rate, do you?

Meeks said no.

Sydnee said okay. That's another hiccup that.

David said we have so many avenues of revenue streams coming in that are going to be taken away from us, basically.

Sydnee said and I think, you know, and I say this and this is me putting my legislative hat on a little bit, and I can end here, I could talk about this all day if you guys want one on one. So, the General Assembly had this big goal and you know that Governor Braun made this his political platform. And so, when you pull all these levers and you put all this language into a bill like Senate Enrolled Act 1 and 1427, which amended Senate Enrolled Act 1, you have a lot of unintended consequences. And sometimes, it's intended, you just don't know how it will all shake out. Business personal properties, a good example of that demis going away in 26, pay 27. And so, I think that that is noted by members of the General Assembly. I think they know that there are some tweaks that are going to need to be made because tax policy is now a one size fits all solution, although it's authored like it is. And so, I'm optimistic in a sense that they're open to conversations later. I encourage everybody here to talk to their state representatives and senators on how this will impact you because that'll inform the changes that are made next year. You can't make a lot of fiscal changes with next year, as far as it having a fiscal impact to the state. But you can make tweaks in the tax code and then obviously, 27 is a budget year.

David said got to get through the next two years.

Sydnee said correct.

David said I think it's going to be a very difficult time.

Sydnee said yes, I think a lot are in that boat.

David said and it may be longer than that.

Sydnee said so, happy to help in any way.

David said alright. Thanks for coming in.

Sydnee said thank you.

George Caster – Funding for part time

David said okay, George.

George Caster said good morning. I'm here, I met yesterday with the commissioners and asked them to create a part time line. I have an employment issue and we have found through organization relooking everything, we found that we can most likely get through the year being as efficient as we are with a part time position instead of trying to re-hire somebody for a whole new full-time position and going through all that training and it's all involved. So, they approved it. The request today is actually for a transfer, they've taken money out of the full-time position line and moving it, it was 18,000 to the part-time position line, so I can get somebody in here to start to work. And I've done the transfer paperwork and all that good stuff. So, I guess I'm here just to see if I can get approval to do that.

Beverly said so, are you taking out one of the full-time lines then?

George Caster said at this point, no. I mean, right now, I'm taking money out of the full-time because there's nobody in it. We budgeted it. I'm taking money out of it for part time. As Sydnee said and things that we're trying to do, I'm trying to be as efficient.

Beverly said oh, I understand.

George Caster said as I can.

Beverly said that, I'm not.

George Caster said so, we may not need that full time if the part time works out.

Beverly said so how many are you budgeted for?

George Caster said right now, I'm budgeted for 3 full time and me.

Beverly said okay.

George Caster said okay, I'm going to be asking for 2 full time, part time. I'm going to reduce a full-time line to a part time line for next year. I'm just talking about for the rest of this year.

David said rest of this year.

George Caster said to cover a part time person because we've got people who are working very hard. They're very efficient what they do, but I don't want burn out. And there's going to be vacations, there're going to be, we don't know things go on, this part time person would fill in those holes so we don't have one person sitting here trying to do everything, which is automatically gaining because the way we have it set up, they're all going to get overtime every week if somebody's gone for a period of time. And trying to resolve all that organization, the part time will be beneficial to us. There're no requirements as far as having to know anything. We're going to teach her everything they need to know. They'll be under the chief deputy's purview. They're going to be trained through her, what they need to do, and they report

directly to her. So, it's a win, win for everybody but, because right now, I have nobody. There're three of us in there and I'm not getting that third full time back.

Beverly said so, to begin the year, you had the 3 full-time?

George Caster said that's correct. We had 3 full time, correct.

Beverly said so you had somebody leave or discontinue?

George Caster said yes. So, instead of trying to go through the process of trying to get a full time in and all that training, I just want to get part time in there to fill the gap and we've already re-looked everything and next year, we're going to take that full time line out and leave it at the part time line throughout the year, which cuts our budget down and gives you, it just, to me, it's a benefit for everybody. And we're still able to do our job.

David said so, basically, we're going back to where we used to be?

George Caster said no. Never had a part time in there.

David said we added an extra full time.

George Caster said well, we really never added it. We've always had to have it, but we just never got it. And I finally got it approved, but that person had other issues that I'm not inclined to discuss right now, and they're no longer employed here. So, there's a lot more money involved in a full-time person than there is a part time person.

Greg said I was going to say, the part time would not involve any medical health insurance or anything like that.

George Caster said no benefits.

Greg said no benefits. Yeah.

George Caster said none of that. Full time also takes on training costs which you have to budget for. Part time, there's no need for that unless they choose to do so, and then I could work that schedule out. I've got it in my budget, but if I don't have to use it, I end up giving it back in the long run. I cut it out. If you don't use it, don't keep asking for it. So, that's my goal. The only thing I'm here for today is really just to request a transfer from the full time slot to the part time position so that I can get somebody in here to cover for the rest of the year. And then, we'll go through that process. Okay, cause like Sydnee said, there's a lot of stuff going on in the next 2 or 3 years. Your biggest thing is you're going to lose 90% of all your knowledge in this courthouse is leaving. And I'm not going to say, I'm not going to say I'm the top of the list, but I'm leaving too. I don't know what's going to happen in the election. I don't know who's going run. I don't know what the results are going to be, but that person can literally come in here and wipe out that whole office and hire their own people. We don't know what that is going to entail. But they have the right to do so. So, I'm just trying to make us get through what we, I can control to the end of 26. And provide you with as much information as I can, with the values I can, so you know where you're going.

David said any questions for George? What's your wishes?

Greg said I, with what George is trying to do, I'm in agreement with him.

David said okay, is that a form of motion, Greg?

Greg said I'll make a motion to accept George's proposal.

Scott said I'll second it.

David said it's been moved and seconded that we approve George Caster, the assessor, for a part time position in his office. All in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

George Caster said I just want to make sure I, when I walk away from here, I understand totally what's going on. You're authorizing the position but you're also authorizing the transfer of that fund so I can get this job hired?

David said yes.

George Caster said okay. Didn't want to go out of here thinking one thing and something else happen.

David said okay. Anything else, George?

George Caster said well unless you guys have anything else. Be prepared, I might have another white paper coming out on some of these changes that are coming up. I've done a lot of study on the SB1 and the 1427 and I know how we're going to get hit with it, but things are changing, the languages. It's already changed this year.

David said yep.

George Caster said ag was one price then we changed it back after we'd already sent out the documents. We got personal property. Well, it's a million. Well now, it's 80,000. So, we had to go back and get those people that were over the 80 but under the million because the original bill said a million. Well then, they changed it so we had to go back and get those, so they're getting filings, just to have everything turn around next year to go to 2 million. So, we lose all that personal property. You've got businesses who have applied for abatements and all this to you guys, and have yet, I don't know what they're thinking, but they haven't even turned them in. So, they're paying taxes on the stuff they asked for abatement on. So, it's like, okay, here's your money. So, we are going to be rolling our values this year, the last week of June. My statutory is 1, July. I do everything I can to meet my statutory cut off. At that time, we'll have a pretty good gross number for both personal property and real estate, and you'll be able to understand what's going on there. A lot of things happened this year with the real estate that we weren't prepared for. We knew our normal marketing trends we always have to look at, and Randolph County, since 2017, had a 63% market value increase, even though nobody in the world believe it, the value is showing. But we've also seen some other issues happening. And so, we knew the market was going to change and we knew the land was going to change. We prepared for that. It was 5, 6, maybe 8% increase. That was moderate. We did not know the state was going to impose their replacement costs adjustments this year. I mean, they've only let them run since 2010. So, last year your beginning of your property was based on 2010 values, not 2014 values, well this year, or 2024 values, this year they decided to make them 2025 values. So, that was a 30% increase right off the top. And there were a lot of people that jumped up 50, 60, 70%. And I mean, my own property went up \$45,000,00. And figure well, you know, even though the, your social media says I'm out there just nitpicking, I'm not nitpicky, I'm stupid because I raised my own property up. I have nothing else.

David said okay.

George Caster said unless you have something for me.

David said I think we're done here. Thanks George.

George Caster said have a good day.

Chris Shaneyfelt – Additional appropriation overtime

David said Chris, you're next.

Chris Shaneyfelt said good morning.

Todd said a couple comments before Chris starts. So, at the commissioners' meeting yesterday, Gary made a, they made an approval of a \$50,000.00.

Laura said yeah, I changed it on the form.

Todd said okay, it still, I mean, it still says.

Laura said I didn't change it on the agenda, but I changed it on the form, so yes.

Todd said and there was a clarification too, that overtime is, you know, well when you see that line item, it can be a couple things. If somebody's scheduled to work 36 hours and they work 40, the 4 hours is put into an overtime category, even though it's just straight time.

Laura said it is actually overtime, but it's not.

Todd said overtime but it's not

Laura said it's not time and a half.

Todd said and the line item that we're seeing for overtime, is a full pay for that overtime, it's not just the premium, so if you see 100,000 here, whatever, it's not, that's not the half time. That's the whole, it's basically.

Laura said Chris, I don't know if Chris has that situation. Like for us, we work 35 so 35 to 40 is considered overtime at straight time. I don't think you have that situation in your office, do you?

Chris Shaneyfelt said we're classified as 40.

Todd said I'm just saying a lot of reports when you look at overtime, at least from my experience in businesses, when you see overtime, it's just a premium, the $\frac{1}{2}$ time that you paid in additional to the regular pay, but this isn't full time. Does that make sense to?

Greg said I understand what you're saying but it would be helpful to have it separated out.

Todd said yeah, that's the way to do it. Just want to be sure of its apples to apples.

Chris Shaneyfelt said I think something else, is like, I give you copies of the schedule changes and stuff that we made, and even if you'll look at the schedule change for Monday the 26th, that's holiday pay, but

it's going out at time and a half as overtime. It's not holiday pay. So, you know, that needs to be considered as well. That's, nothing on my end.

David said because of the holiday.

Todd said so, can I just ask a question then?

Chris Shaneyfelt said you may.

Todd said so, looking at what you provided, looks like you changed the schedule to decrease the overtime. Did you go like a 4 2 2 and a 6-hour period, is that what you'd done?

Chris Shaneyfelt said I don't remember his name.

Todd said Tom.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah, he made that suggestion.

Todd said oh, Larry.

Chris Shaneyfelt said he made that suggestion of changing and I went back to Mindy and told her what his suggestion was and that's what she done. She just moved them forward and then everybody is working on a Tuesday and everybody is working a 6-hour shift on a Tuesday, so you just, it's still an 84-hour pay period, but they're only get that 4 hours of overtime now, as opposed to 20.

Todd said I mean, it looks like it's balanced it out a lot better than it was before.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah.

David said so, I guess, what you're saying Chris, we budgeted \$40,000 last year overtime.

Chris Shaneyfelt said I don't, well and see, that was a question that was asked in the commissioners' meeting yesterday.

David said yeah, I've got the budget right here.

Chris Shaneyfelt said what was the original request and what was funded and I've asked for that paperwork and I haven't got it yet. But, I know what I asked for was a lot larger than.

David said I can tell you.

Chris Shaneyfelt said than what was provided. And the numbers that I requested was based off not changing the schedule and what we were spending per pay period. So, working with Danita, that's where I come up with the 85 and the 42.

David said you've gone through over \$40,000.00 in 5 months in overtime.

Chris Shaneyfelt said uh huh. Does anybody have any questions on this schedule changing? I mean, the top one is the old schedule and the way we were doing it and you can see that there was 20 hours of overtime that they were getting automatically, which put them at getting paid 30 and then now we're, on

the overtime on page 2, I mean, it shows 16.25, but 12.25 of that is the holiday. So, they're only getting 4 hours of overtime.

David said so, you decreased the overtime by 16 hours then?

Chris Shaneyfelt said I decrease the, yes, by 16 hours, yes.

Laura said per person, per pay.

Greg said that would add up.

David said adds up pretty quick.

Greg said yes, it would.

Todd said so, that was what my concern was and it looks like you've addressed it, so, thank you.

Chris Shaneyfelt said uh huh.

David said I do know though, we did approve 40,000.

Laura said that would have just been one line, right. Because basically, we transferred 15,000 from another line into the overtime to cover. He's went through \$52,311.06 as of now. That's out of two different funds, 1222 and 066.

Chris Shaneyfelt said and did I put overtime, I thought I put overtime funds in 35 as well, but I don't know that any of that money, I don't know how you guys are figuring my overtime, because I'm being paid by two departments.

Laura said yeah, I don't know. I didn't look up 35.

David said find it real quick and go on.

Chris Shaneyfelt said is Danita working today?

Laura said she is.

David said okay. But you made the correction.

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah, Mindy went through, she spent 8 or 9 hours re-working the schedule, then showed me it and it got us to where we needed to be, so I told her to roll with it and that's where we're at.

David said it's in there. I think you heard we talked about how tight it's going to be the next.

Chris Shaneyfelt said right, I understand that.

David said and all managers and department heads are going to have to really scrutinize everything and get down. Don't know what budgets are going to do. We had Baker Tilley, they're doing a financial right now for us on the impact of Senate Bill 1, and I don't think it's going to look very good. I know, at least, it'll be 400,000 this year, maybe more. Over a period of 3 years, it's over 3 million dollars cut. So, we've got to.

Chris Shaneyfelt said and you know, we're trying to do what we can, you know. We're still short personnel. We do have required training obligations and stuff like that. We try to do the training so that we can get everybody in the room at one time instead of having to do splits, but that's tough to do, especially because it requires us to do the training on the floor and you know, you get 10 or 11 people in a 911 room, it gets noisy in a hurry and it make life tough for the girls that are working.

Greg said are you currently budgeted for two more people, Chris?

Chris Shaneyfelt said yes, I'm 2 full time short.

Greg said okay. How long have you been short 2 full time? A long time?

Chris Shaneyfelt said yeah. We've been running short basically, since COVID.

Greg said okay.

David said I thought you were at full capacity here not too long ago.

Chris Shaneyfelt said no. We've been one short and that's the lowest we've been. But our most recent departure was the employee that wanted to start her own business and she has done so. So, she stayed on as part time person, but we haven't been able to replace her yet. And we were, there for a short while, a few months ago, down 4. And that had to do with some terminations due to policy violations. We were able to get people, well you hired one person from Jay County. She lateralised here and then another lady, she was retired from dispatching but she didn't like being in the health care sector so she came back to us and all her certifications are still current. So, we don't have to pay for any of her certifications, it's just getting her up to speed on Randolph County and its different communities and the various departments that we have and stuff like that. So, she's still in training.

David said on your account, overtime for the budget, we approved 40,000, you requested 84,480. And we're already at 50 some thousand, 52?

Laura said so, 066.

David said that's 066?

Laura said yeah. That's 066. He had 40 and on 1222, he had 15. We added 15,000 from one of his other lines, which we need to put back once this appropriation is approved. So, he really won't even have 1521 because we're taking 15 of that right off the bat, put back in the line we borrowed from. Otherwise, he would have been in the negative. So, as of right now, he has 2,600 left for overtime funding. So, if this does not get approved today, we will be back to finding money to borrow from again.

Greg said it's like Gary said yesterday, the office and the service he's providing is, has to be done. There's no way around it.

David said right.

Greg said I mean there's, it's got to happen, even if we still have a problem with the hours and all, but I think he's done a good job of getting that solved. But, we've got to do something to keep it going.

David said I don't disagree there, just trying to get all the facts and figures up.

Greg said I understand, I understand.

David said okay, so, the commissioners approved \$50,000 out of 066 and \$21,000 out of the other one, 1222. So, I'd entertain a motion to approve.

Todd made a motion to approve the same amount the Commissioner's approved. Greg seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

David said okay. Anything else for us, Chris?

Chris Shaneyfelt said the only thing that I talked to the commissioners about yesterday besides this was we've, we're finishing up the closing out of the multi-hazard mitigation grant and the EMPG salary grant for 2024, so, those reimbursements should be coming here soon for those. And then the seed grant that I applied for, that has been approved. That was approved yesterday and I accepted the grant. So, now we're just in the process of working with WTH and the IGO to start that process and get it going.

David said okay. Thanks, Chris.

Sherrie Thompson – Health Department Radios, Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition funding
David said Sherrie, come on up. Coby.

Sherrie Thompson said yeah. There were some questions about servicing the radios and Coby can answer that more.

Greg said what's your name sir?

Coby Wells said Coby Wells.

Greg said Coby Wells, okay. Thank you.

Coby Wells said there's not really like a service plan that you buy into or anything. It's part of the contract when you get the radios. A warranty goes and stuff like that. It's been my experience that if it's something that they were involved in when we get the radios, that they would just fix it, you know, and you can ask any agency around that deals with the radios, that's pretty much how it goes. If we needed, wanted additional programming or additional radios, that's when the cost would go up, or we would have an additional cost. So, to say that there's a service plan or contract, I've never in the years that I've dealt with that had to find something such as that when I bought radios. So, not really familiar with it, but I could ask them if there is one if that's what your interests are. Otherwise, it falls under warranties and their guarantees when they program the radios and things such as that.

David said okay. Anybody have questions for Coby on that? I think I understand what you're saying is that the warranty covers up to a certain period and then after that, it's a repair type?

Coby Wells said right. In past practice for me, at lease, I don't want to speak for the other agencies or anything, I've never really had an issue with these companies wanting to repair their own work or you know, if something happens, so I've never really had any big issues with that in my experience. The only extra cost would be if I asked them to do something other than what we had planned on in the first place. So, like changing frequencies or adding frequencies to the radios or, you know, getting additional equipment for the radios, that would be an additional cost.

Scott said what frequency are you going to get on? I mean are you going to have your own frequency?

Coby Wells said there are several bands, ours is going to match what Randolph County has as a whole, like EMS, fire, police, all those guys, we'll match that.

Greg said so, you're aiming on being on the same thing as the sheriff's department?

Coby Wells said there will be what I call like walk around channels, we could pick a channel to use. It would already exist in that programming and utilize that if we wanted to. We wouldn't be on the fire channel. We wouldn't be on the police channel or EMS. We could monitor those frequencies, but we could use a different channel to speak on to each other if needed.

Greg said I would think the sheriff would have something to say about that as to whether they could be allowed on his frequency or not.

Coby Wells said we wouldn't be on his frequency. We would be able to monitor his frequency.

Greg said like a public monitor?

Coby Wells said I really don't know how, without going into, so, every radio has several channels, different bands you can flip through it, A, B and C. On each one of those, there's so many channels that are afforded. Some of the channels are utilized through FEMA, statewide, then you have our local channels for fire, EMS and police and stuff like that. We would be able to monitor those, which is what in essence, we're asking for, because during an emergency, we aren't able to now. So, just knowing what we need to do when we respond to those emergencies and where to go, so yes, we could get on to those frequencies and ask hey, where would you like for us to respond, how can we help you and then have those communications available. That's why we have those frequencies. So, we would be able to talk to dispatch for ourselves also. We could you know, contact dispatch. If we, ourselves, get called out and have to set up a pod, per say, like for COVID situations like we had, pods, we could communicate with other agencies while we're doing that, along with dispatch. And essentially, it's that communication with dispatch that we're looking for.

Todd said Sherrie, can you kind of give me a run down on the employees at the Health Department? I have not met Cody before, so just kind of.

Sherrie Thompson said yeah. Coby is our preparedness coordinator. And then there is Wendy McDavid.

Todd said what's Coby's role?

Sherrie Thompson said he's the coordinator for preparedness.

Todd said okay.

Coby Wells said that's off of a grant.

Sherrie Thompson said yeah, we pay that through a grant.

Todd said okay.

Sherrie Thompson said and then we have Wendy McDavid. She's the county health nurse.

Todd said okay.

Sherrie said we have Eric Devon who is the environmentalist and sanitarian.

Todd said okay.

Sherrie Thompson said we have Tammy Pruitt, who is the school liaison. And we have Marita Runkel she is the clinic nurse. And then we also have Tammy Devon who is, she's an admin tech. She does a lot of our data input. She started with the COVID site and she's assistant with the school liaison, but she's paid on contract. She's not considered a county employee. And then myself, and I am the coordinator and registrar. And Dr. Sowinski.

Greg said but your whole premise for wanting these radios are for emergencies?

Coby Wells said yeah, that's the whole premise for, and I'm not trying to be a smart-alecky or anything, but that's my job, is to prepare the Health department for any emergencies that come about. One of the key things that I found when I first started in their role, is there is a lack of communication within themselves, amongst each other, if there happened to be an emergency, and then also with other agencies, fire, police, EMS and things such as that. And it was looking back at such things as like the tornado, and when COVID happened, the ability to communicate was decreased because they didn't have radios. The ability to move around and stuff like that was diminished because lack of communication. That's just what I'm trying to improve by getting the newer radios. We do have two radios right now, but those radios, as soon as something happens to them, they're not fixable. They're outdated. Nobody will fix them. They're just, they'll become paper weights.

Greg said have you ever tried to reach out to hams operators for emergency type?

Coby Wells said we could use hams but that would be in a bigger operational-type deal, and then again, that would, we would have to have that equipment also for us, which we don't have ham radios.

Greg said well, I understand that you wouldn't and I understand that, but I didn't know if, I don't know that much about it. I just wondered if that would be a service because they're able to communicate at all times too.

Coby Wells said sure.

Greg said and I know other counties have used them.

Coby Wells said the overall umbrella of.

Greg said the health departments.

Coby Wells said emergency response and stuff like that, those are utilized at some point you know, if the emergency got big enough that we could use those yes. That is talked about in that area.

Greg said but you guys have never reached out to anybody here locally?

Coby Wells said not that I'm familiar with or since I've been on.

Greg said okay. And what about the idea that it's, and Art's not here, so I can't relate to him, the sheriff, if he were able to appoint somebody that in an emergency, they would just be with you, like somebody with her, you, whoever is in charge, that would have radio connection to wherever?

Coby Wells said so.

Greg said in the case of an emergency, since that's what we're talking about here.

Coby Wells said so, this is just speaking in generalities, so to speak, there wouldn't be a command center where that would take place, where one of us who would respond to emergency, may be sitting in that room with the sheriff himself, but then we would need that communication from that point on to our peoples. And some of the things that they're asking during emergency situations for the health department to do or set up shelters, you know, or they may go to nursing homes and things such as that, and that doesn't mean our people, all of our peoples are going to go to the same spot. So, that's why we're asking a radio for each employee, which I understand, at this point and with the things going on that that is hard to imagine. And I kind of look at it as you know, we have fire extinguishers on every level of this courthouse and we pay for them to be serviced, but we don't use them every day. But they're there if we needed them. And this goes above and beyond even use of a fire extinguisher, we need these radios. Communication breakdowns are bad when an emergency happens. It's a tremendous help for us during these situations.

Greg said Dave, I'm going to ask you, as I understand it, maybe you've got more clarification, the budget for that department is going to be severely cut in this new bill?

David said yes. Before it was a 150, it went down to a 100 and I think it's down to 40 now, statewide.

Sherrie Thompson said it has, we have our numbers and it is over a 60% cut.

Greg said so, I guess to get to my point, is there, I don't see with that kind of a cut any way you're going to be able to keep all the people you have.

Sherrie Thompson said and we're working on everything.

Greg said I'm sure you are.

Sherrie Thompson said yeah, but, I don't know that.

Greg said but realistically.

Sherrie Thompson said realistically, we may not.

Greg said so, that's why I'm, I just can't get my head around 6 radios.

Sherrie Thompson said 6 radios, sure, I understand.

Greg said hard to get around any, but I know I can't around 6, but that's my opinion.

Sherrie Thompson said that was part of the question the last time, was the amount we would need.

Coby Wells said it's really hard to argue that point. You have a very good point and a great point, but I mean, what would you suggest, then how many would be my question?

Greg said well, I guess I brought that up so we could get the round table discussion here.

Coby Wells said so, I'll throw this out there. We currently have 2 radios, like I said. They're operable at this point. We can use them. An additional 4 more instead of asking for 6 brand new, would you go for 4 brand new ones? That would give us a total of 6 operational at this point?

Sherrie Thompson said I didn't think they were.

Scott said I was thinking 2 or 3.

Todd said my thought is, my personal thought here is, we're putting the cart ahead of the horse a little bit, but you know, this is on a new issue, it's not any emergency. We've got some time to think about this. Meanwhile, we've got a big budget. An unclear situation about the budget, let's clarify the budget situation then re-address the radio situation. That's the way I look at it, the way I would do this.

Sherrie Thompson said I am asking to use carry-over money from the HFI fund from last year to purchase the radios, not to take them out of our current budget or next year's budget.

Scott said yes, that was one of my questions as well, as where were the funds that were going to be used, it's carry-over funds?

Sherrie Thompson said yes, right now, in that fund, there's \$95,000.00.

Scott said are we going to lose that money if they don't use that money?

Todd said money is money. I mean it stays in the balance and can carry forward.

Laura said yeah that money carries forward for the Health Department. It's only for the Health Department. It's not something we can use in our other budgets.

David said well I'm going to back Coby up on this. I'm a former volunteer fireman and I know how important radios are in communications and I agree we didn't have total communications when the tornado hit last year. Just going to be honest, because I was out in the field with it and I think we need the radios in some point, so many radios, I'm not saying we need 6.

Scott said I would be in favor of buying 3 new ones at this point. I mean, I would throw that out there that I don't have a problem buying 3.

David said okay. Is that a motion, Scott?

Scott said I can make a motion, yes.

David said what's the rest of the body feel?

Beverly said I think 3. I think I would go with you on 3.

Greg said I was thinking 2.

David said Coby asked 4.

Greg said yeah, but they got 2 working right now and 2 more would make 4.

Sherrie Thompson said and I did not realize they were working. I didn't think the two we had worked at all.

Coby Wells said like I said, the only thing with those 2 was that at any point they break down, they're not fixable.

Greg said I understand that.

Coby Wells said but I'm just throwing that out there. I'm not really here to argue it. I understand what has to be talked about.

Greg said but I agree with Todd's premise on that too, kind of getting the cart before the horse.

David said I did too.

Scott said I agree with Todd. I also agree communications is important but we're also facing a major budget cut. You may need those funds somewhere else.

Sherrie Thompson said I do know there is other carry-over money in our health fund, but I completely understand what you're saying.

Greg said if there's a motion for 3 and then seconded, then we'll vote on 3.

David said well, what's your wishes? We're a team here, so.

Greg said has it been seconded yet?

David said no, it has not. And technically, Scott has not made the motion yet. He said he could.

Scott said I could. If somebody wants to make a motion for 2. How about I just make a motion that we let them purchase 2 new radios?

David said okay. Is that a motion then?

Scott said yes.

Greg said I'll second that.

David said it's been moved and a second, we approve 2 new radios for the Health Department, all in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

David said okay, the next item is the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition funding.

Laura said yeah I added this because I forgot about it when we talked yesterday.

Sherrie Thompson said oh, that's okay.

Laura said the commissioners signed the contract with the Jay County Drug Coalition to pay for this out of Opioid restricted funding, and they wanted it brought to the council too.

Todd said I heard the presentation. I understand the thought behind it. If it wasn't for the fact that we had this Opioid fund that is just sitting there, it seems to be somewhat unable to be used, I wouldn't be too hot on the idea, but since it is, I would go along with it.

Greg said now is it, yeah, I see what you're saying and I agree with that to the point, is that Opioid fund, is that going to continue with this?

Laura said I think we're going to get funding into that for like 18 years is my understanding.

Todd said settlement, right?

Laura said yeah, it's a settlement. So, like it was a lawsuit over the opioids.

Greg said so how much a year then?

Laura said it's not a set amount.

Greg said it's not a set amount.

Laura said we've got quite a bit and I didn't bring that number with me, I'm sorry, but we've got quite a bit sitting in there.

Greg said you said the last, it's a good bit of money?

Laura said yeah, and it's just been sitting there because it is restricted on use. So, this is one thing I think we've determined it could be used for.

Meeks said this is the first thing that's ever been presented that we could.

Laura said that we could actually use the restriction portion for.

Beverly said sounds like a reasonable.

Todd said originally school programs?

Meeks said I'm not sure that we could have used it for restricted. I re-read that.

Laura said that school thing? Yeah, I think we could have. But, we did use unrestricted for that, yeah.

Greg said and if I remember right, it was a \$20,000 first year and reduced to 10 thereafter?

Laura said for the next, at least 1 more year, maybe 2. I can't remember. But it was yeah, 20 the first year and then I think 10, maybe 10 and 10. I know at least one more year. Well, I've got the contract here, hang on.

Greg said I was going to say, how long is.

Laura said the county agrees to pay the contractor \$20,000 in year one of the contract and \$12,000 per year after the contract term as written in attachment A.

Meeks said yeah, then it says subject to the appropriations.

David said we have \$232,000 restricted opioid and \$74,000 in unrestricted.

Greg said okay. So, it's well funded.

David said it was well funded.

Greg said for the amount of money we're talking about anyway.

Laura said it has 3 years, 20, 12 and 12.

Greg said I'd vote that we accept this commissioners' contract.

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

Laura Martin – Auditor's office salary Ordinance amendment 2025-03

David said Laura Martin.

Laura said I added two actually, salary ordinance amendments, one for me and one for EMS and Brad will present EMS' in a little bit. So, I'm requesting an amendment for the 2025 salary ordinance. The Payroll/HR position is a lot for one person to handle. So, I've rearranged duties in my office and moved most of the HR portion of the job to another individual in my office. If we were to hire an HR director, this person would be under the commissioners per statute. And after doing some checking into HR directors, they make between 75 and 85,000 and that's on the low end. So, I'm asking to increase a deputy's salary from \$1,460.20 per pay to 1,504.00 per pay, a difference of \$43.80 per pay or \$1,138.00 per year. This is a very small amount compared to hiring a full-time person to take over the job at a much larger salary and benefits. I also had a meeting with an outside payroll company, and although, I didn't get the quote from them, which is what I've kind of been waiting on and I did not get, because they said it would take approximately 16 weeks to get us moved over from our current way of doing payroll to them. He ballparked the amount to me at around \$100,000.00, based off of the number of employees we have. So, this is a way lesser cost, and I just feel like this person deserves a little bit more for taking on that extra duty. We have had to many hiring turn over. Back several years ago, we never had turn over. You got in the county and nobody left, you know. Now, it's like constant. I think we processed 5 people last week. That's just one week.

Greg said is that because we're lower pay than what society is providing or is it multiple?

Laura said I feel like there's a lot of reasons.

Greg said okay. I didn't know which.

Laura said I mean, pay where county versus public is lower in general, and I don't know because of this being multiple departments.

Scott said there's a lot of people hiring and yes, some of these private companies are bidding up on the wages.

Laura said yeah. So, I do think pay is a lot of it, public versus private.

Greg said right, that's what I wondered.

Laura said but I don't know that that's the full reason. So, anyway, I prepared a salary ordinance bumping this person up. Like I said, it's not a huge bump, but it's a little bit extra.

Todd said what is the percentage?

Laura said I didn't do a percent. It's \$43.80 per pay.

Todd said so about 4% roughly?

Laura said I didn't do a percent. I'm sorry.

Greg said well 4% of a 1,000 would be 40 bucks, wouldn't it?

Todd said I make a motion approve that.

Laura said so, this is an ordinance, so we have to have a three reading-type thing.

Greg said what were you talking about the, I lost on the \$100,000.00?

Laura said so, I talked to an outside payroll company like, I think it was like, is it ADP?

David said ADP.

Todd said outsourcing.

Laura said the guy came in yeah, outsourcing versus doing it in house.

Greg said oh, the payroll.

Laura said yeah.

Greg said okay, now I'm with you, okay.

Laura said and he just ballparked that. We met. He came in my office and we met and talked over our situation.

Todd said it's not the same, I mean.

Laura said I don't feel like that's a good fit for us, but it was a lot of money too.

Todd said you're go talking about helping people with their benefits and that's, a payroll company is not going to take that part of it.

Laura said right. We're still going to have a lot of it in house, even if we outsourced it. I just didn't feel like it was a good fit for us. So, that's what I came up with.

Greg said I missed, I didn't catch the first part of that, I understand what you're saying now.

Todd said I was just saying what if we hired an HR.

Laura said director.

Todd said manager, which we just went through this here recently myself, and I know there are several levels of pay and that can get extreme. We really need somebody that does the work, rather than somebody who is more of a director and sounds like you've got a plan that makes sense.

Bev said okay. I'll move that council pass ordinance 2025-03 after the first reading.

Todd seconded the motion.

David said it's been moved and second that the county council pass ordinance number 2025-03 after the first reading. All in favor?

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.

Todd seconded the motion.

David said it's been moved and second, we suspend the rules and have the 2nd and 3rd reading by title only and adopted the same day. All in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Bev said I move that council adopt ordinance 2025-03.

Todd seconded the motion.

David said it's been moved and a second, the council adopts ordinance number 2025-03. All in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Brad Mullens – EMS Salary Ordinance amendment 2025-04

David said okay, Brad, come on up. Sorry we're taking so long today, but, a bunch of talkers today for some reason.

Brad Mullens said good morning. I'm here today, we've had a couple people resign from Randolph County EMS. One of them was my assistant director and another paramedic resigned to pursue their career on the fire side, going to firemen and paramedics. We have hired a replacement for the one paramedic. I've interviewed 4 for the assistant director. I've just not had any luck with filling it because of pay. It's kind of hard for a paramedic to take the big pay cut of not getting the overtime. You know, when they come in administration, you kind of have to give up the overtime to work with it. But, I would offer, if we could delete the assistant director position and hire field supervisors, it would make it that there would be a supervisor or call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. I did a study with several departments around town and around the county. I talked with Jay County, Reid EMS, Henry County EMS, and Delaware County EMS and they go from like 50 cents an hour or up to 2 dollars an hour. I think with the added job responsibility, I'd like to at least give them a dollar and hour to start out with, and I would like to take the funds that are in the assistant director line item and transfer into the supervisor line to cover them for the rest of the year. These 3 individuals would be hired within, they're already working shifts for us. So, we'd be making them, you know, they're on set days, so their set days

we could have a supervisor all the time, after hours, after I'm gone, because if someone wants to talk to somebody and I'm not there, after hours, they want to talk to someone else that could answer their questions, lead them in right directions, they'd have over help over daily operations, make sure supplies are there, and the big thing is that I want them to be paramedics, because we do have a DEA license and part of that licensing is if when we order our drugs from Ball Hospital, only a paramedic can go over there and pick them up. So, with having the field supervisors, if they're over at Ball, they can pick up the drug order and we're not sending people over there on, you know, they get the drugs and, so I think it would be a big help with us having one on, you know, having the 3 supervisors there. They would be able to help out with training. They would help out with our vehicle maintenance because we have, I mean, very new vehicles, and we want to make sure we keep them up to date on their services so we can keep them longer times and use them a lot longer. They'd help out with scheduling. We've had very good luck with our billing service. And we've been able to get cases to them a lot faster. We're averaging about 80,000 each month, bringing in from our billing service. They're getting us caught up from where the other billing service was.

Todd said how much did you say?

Brad Mullens said about 80,000. I haven't pulled the bank account yet this month to see where we're at here, but we've been very busy with calls. And a good thing about the billing services is they pull it every 5 minutes. Once they hit the cloud, they're pulling it and they're sending it out and they're getting it done a lot faster.

Todd said it's a little bit more than it was a while back, wasn't it like 60, something like that?

Brad Mullens said yeah.

Todd said since we added, we bumped up the calls and bumped up the revenue?

Brad Mullens said and charging different.

Todd said which is what we hoped to help pay for the....

Brad Mullens said yeah. It's going very well. They've implemented new programs that help us write better narratives so we can get more money on the charts that are being turned in.

Scott said I think there's a lot more runs down in the Losantville and Modoc area now that our Randolph County is covering that area.

Brad Mullens said I have to totally agree. That Farmland station is the busiest station out of them. They're taking probably 65 to 70% of the calls in the county.

Greg said that's quite an improvement over what we had.

Scott said I noticed it. I live down there between Losantville and Modoc, and I see a lot of Randolph County emergency traffic.

Brad Mullens said yeah, they're about 70% of our total call volumes down in that area.

Bev said so, I understand, you would like to use 3 of the existing personnel?

Brad Mullens said yes.

Bev said and raise them to supervisors?

Brad Mullens said yes.

Bev said okay. And do away with the what?

Brad Mullens said the assistant direction position.

Bev said assistant director position. Using the monies from there to compensate the supervisor option.

Brad Mullens said yes.

Bev said sounds like a good plan from what you're saying.

Todd said the assistant director that you had with you a couple of meetings ago, is he no longer then, with you?

Brad Mullens said no, he is, he has resigned and he's started with the City of Winchester. He was a fireman before and wanted to go back into the fireman's career, and he made the transfer in. You know, he was up front and honest with me. He told me from day one, you know, hey, I'm going to apply for this job, and he did a great job with me. I mean, he helped me get a lot of stuff up and running. He gave me different ideas and still he said if you have any problems, I will help you out.

Scott said it's hard to get management people on salary position when they basically take a pay cut from working by the hour. I see it in a lot of industries. People don't want that management position because it's going to pay less than what they were making on hourly check.

David said I was in private manufacturing for years, and my guys under me, I was managing a parts operation, they made more money than I did because of the overtime.

Brad Mullens said I've seen it for years. I've been with the county for 26 years and I'd always sit back and say why are we making more than what the administrators are. And then when I step into that situation you know, a lot of people just don't, they won't do it for the money. I do it because I want to make Randolph County better and I think we're making the right steps with the ones we've hired. They're very experienced paramedics, that's going to help us out, giving better care, give us better training, and moving in the right direction that I would like them to move to.

David said so, did you run numbers on that Brad, approximate, it doesn't have to be.

Brad Mullen said well, they, it's kind of difficult because we are a 40-hour employee with built in 16 hours of overtime. A normal, they make 26.01 is what they make now as a paramedic. I'd like to just move them up to 27 and it's right at like 16.48 and it will go up to like 17.23, kind of roundabout.

Todd said it seemed like a good plan to me. I heard it yesterday. I would make a motion that we move forward with it.

Laura said ordinance again.

Todd said another ordinance.

Bev said I move that county council pass ordinance 2025-4 after the first reading.

Todd seconded the motion.

David said it's been moved and second that council pass ordinance number 2025-4 after the first reading. All in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Bev said I move that the rules be suspended and have a second and third reading by title only and adopted the same day.

Todd seconded the motion.

David said it's been moved and second, we suspend the rules and have the second and third reading by title only and adopted the same day. All in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Bev said I move that the council adopt ordinance 2025-4.

Todd seconded the motion.

David said it's been moved and a second council adopt ordinance number 2025-4. All in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

David said okay, anything else, Brad, for us?

Brad Mullen said I just to let you guys know that after today that we will be fully staffed. We have our last person going through her, downstairs at the auditor's office, going through a drug screen and stuff like that. And then she starts on the 16th. After the 16th, we'll be full manned. Every crew will be covered. We do have one opening, like a part time shift, but our part timers are coming in and with vacation season, our part timers have been picking up a lot to help out and try to keep away from the overtime issue.

David said I do have one comment. My mother has used your services twice in the past couple of months, and she had excellent care.

Brad Mullen said thank you.

Todd said and I also have a commend you on using part time where possible to try to keep the overtime down. I heard through the grapevine that there were some people who wanted overtime

Brad Mullen said when I came in last year, did my first budget, I got, to keep the overtime down, down, down. And I try to do my best to get through our part timers and let them work. It's a last resort before I put in a full timer that's already getting that overtime. So, I do my best to do that for you guys. Also, I'd like to offer any time, if you guys would like to go over and see the Farmland station, feel free to contact me. I'd be willing to take you over there to show it. I was part of that meeting about the bricks, and it is frustrating. I mean, it's a very nice building, but when you have one brick on the front, that takes away from the rest of the building. They have come through, and everything that we brought to their attention,

they have fixed already. We had some issues with the roof where the neighbor called me and brought over a stack of shingles that came off. They got that fixed within a week. They did some of the stuff around the windows, got it fixed, got our fans fixed. The water issue, that was a huge issue, it's fixed and we've not had any problems. And the meeting the guy says you'll have the one year for the factory warranty and then three years on after that. And if we, I mean, some of the problems were, they were mudding one-side and just putting it up there and not spreading apart. So, one part was really loose but the other part was really good then. I feel after that's done, we finally got the project done and will be able to, I mean, we're, we're moved in. I mean, the people like it. It's more like a home to them instead of staying in the fire department in a little office. I mean, we're grateful.

Todd said I am kind of curious on the whole topic of the doorbell. Is it the type of building that you want somebody to be able to come up to.

Brad Mullen said I've seen both. What I'm working on is getting a sign to put on that front window, if this is an emergency, dial 911, because a lot of times, I mean, if that truck, there's a good chance they're probably not going to be there. They're going to be out taking calls. So, at least, we can notify them if you do have an emergency, dial 911 and then that'll show them if they're at our station.

Todd said it really isn't a public building.

Brad Mullen said no, it's not public assessable. I mean, I could see it both ways. I mean, I work at other departments that have it.

Todd said but I just don't think it's such a crisis that it doesn't have a doorbell.

Brad Mullen said I mean, I did not put it on a priority list on mine. I mean, I want to get the building up and running, make sure everything's done, you know. We're at the final stages of it. And that's something that will happen down the road, but I am working on getting that sign put up on the front window that says if this is an emergency, please dial 911. If they're back in their rooms doing stuff or if they're out in the garage, they're not going to hear the doorbell and stuff.

Todd said right.

Brad Mullen said any other questions?

Greg said along the same line, Dave talking about his mother, my family has used the service twice here in just the last year. And the response time has been good for where I live. 12, 15 minutes from Farmland to get to us is, from the time of the call, I think is excellent. I mean, it's just. I don't see how you can be any quicker.

Brad Mullen said yeah, it makes a big difference. I mean, if we were still in Winchester, you double that time limit. And if you double time limit, that, bad outcomes happen. And that's what we try to eliminate.

Greg said been 3 or 4 times that we've had a bad accident there at my house and one girl died, people were there very quickly.

Brad Mullen said thank you.

Bev said and I personally was transported mid-March and everything went well. I was impressed.

Brad Mullen said I'll let the crew know. So, makes a difference in this field you really don't get thank you a lot, and when you do get them, I mean, a couple of weeks that I came back during EMS week, there was 25 gift cards from Pizza King and 25 gift cards from Pizza Hut. And it said thank you Randolph County EMS for doing a great job. This is your EMS gift from us. I don't have a clue who dropped them off or what but they were sitting right up against my door. And in 26 years, never had anything like that. And it meant a lot to the staff, because you know, people are seeing that we're kind of upgrading, trying to move up and stuff like that, and getting compliments and stuff like that makes a world of difference to the crews.

Bev said thank you.

Brad Mullen said thank you.

Other Business:

Budget Hearing Dates Aug 19 and 20 Adoption Sept 3 (Need approval)

David said okay. Budget hearing dates, August 19 and 20.

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

Additional Appropriations:

Highway Wheel Tax

Road Projects \$1,300,000.00

David said additional 1.3 million on road projects.

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

Saratoga Fund

Equipment \$7,000.00

David said next, we have the Saratoga fund for equipment of 7,000. That's from the, Saratoga I think pays the Sheriff's department 7,000 a year. Evidently, they're asking for some equipment money. Entertain a motion?

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

Prosecutor's Incentive

Misc Expense \$2,000.00

David said next we have prosecutor's incentive additional appropriation of 2,000 miscellaneous expense. Don't like when it says miscellaneous expense. I wonder what that's for?

Laura said I do know the prosecutor's incentive doesn't actually by law, have to be appropriated. They just do it as a procedure, and it can only be used by the prosecutor.

Todd isn't that when he usually says when he comes in and does his budget presentation he uses it to cover incidental costs.

Laura said I know it's been brought up before.

Todd said usually has a pretty good explanation as to what it's used for.

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

<u>Transfer:</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
EMS		
\$5000.00	Utilities	Medical Supplies

David said and the last one we have is transfer of 5,000 from the EMS utilities, or from the utilities to medical expenses.

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

<u>Randolph Superior Court</u>		
\$1,000.00	Part-time	Interpreter Services
\$4,000.00	Part-time	Jury

<u>Circuit Court</u>		
\$700.00	Part-time	Interpreter Services

Citizen Comments (3 minutes)

David said okay. We're down to citizen comments. Looks like we've ran everybody off pretty much.

Anybody out there want to comment on anything?

Okay.

Meeks said I have one thing Dave. It's not a citizen comment, but, the commissioners did approve the bonding. I thought that was going to come up at some point.

Greg said I was wanting to bring that up and I forgot it.

Meeks said so, 5 million dollars of bonding and they hired Jason Semler and signed the contract and the other bonding. I haven't gotten back with them yet. But, sent them an email yesterday about that.

David said okay. And the bonding was, is it just for the jail?

Meeks said it's for the jail. What they approved was the jail and about 350 I think, for the new morgue, the EMS morgue.

David said for both projects.

Meeks said yeah, for about 5 million dollars is the estimate.

David said up to 5 million dollars.

Meeks said yeah. However, they're going to have to do the bonding documents. Approximately 5 million dollars. I will be gone for about 10 days starting next Thursday, so if you guys need anything, shoot me an email or I'll be back at the next council.

Greg said one other thing Meeks, on that, can't think of the proper word, the ground that the county is going to try to get ahold of.

Meeks said they did hire.

Greg said they're going to hire somebody to do that.

Meeks said so when you do a condemnation of a property, I know the landowner so I can't do it. So, Joe Copeland has a group, and it's a big group, I mean they do, I think they do everywhere throughout the state of Indiana, like all the state contracts and we don't condemn very many properties so, they've authorized to hire that group. And I don't have her name, it's a lady's name, I don't have it. I have it in one of my emails somewhere. They do a really good job, so. If they did proceed with it, basically what happens is you get an appraisal, that money goes to the clerk of the court here, you do a condemnation action and then the landowner can't really fight. On this project it would be really difficult to fight the purpose, well you don't need that, is the purpose. It's going to be a fight over well, you didn't put enough, that property is really worth 5,000, \$10,000.00 more than what you've made an offer on. So, and then the appraisers just fight it out at that point.

Scott said so, are they going to move ahead with that?

Meeks said they approved Joe to move ahead to start that process.

Scott said I just wonder if we shouldn't wait until we have thumbs up from the state of Indiana on that?

Meeks said I think Joe's going to figure that out. We still, I mean, you're going to have to get a survey description, you're going to have to, there's a lot of things that's going to go into this one.

Laura said you guys did an appointment on Winchester Community Library for Doug Baker last meeting and I had the wrong date. So, I corrected the date, I just need it re-signed. You already approved appointing him, it's just when I filled out the form, I filled it out wrong. And while he's signing that, State Board of Accounts sent out the council meeting information for Saturday June 21st, I sent you all a letter and it had the agenda on the second page.

David said I think we all got one in the mail.

Laura said okay. And I just passed out that Claudia Thornburg's retiring after 38 years, and Jane is having a little reception June 5th from 1 to 3pm in the lobby of the courthouse.

David said very good. We'll go around the room. Greg, do you have anything?

Greg said no, Meeks covered the two things I wanted to.

Bev said fly in breakfast Saturday.

David said right. I'll be serving.

Laura said what's the time? Six until what?

Bev said six until noon.

David said six until noon.

Todd said yes, I wanted to say again, I don't like face book as a platform for governmental events to use to communicate and I know there was, I don't have an active face book account, but there was some issue here just recently, where there was some misunderstanding about an imprisoned inmate and a warrant and I don't understand it well enough to explain it, but Union City put out something on their face book page stating something that happened a version of it, our police department put out a something on our face

book page. And I just don't like all these face book pages, and the last time I brought this up, Meeks you said it's in our policy that at some point it's in our handbook I think. Is that what you said?

Meeks said it's in the handbook.

Todd said what is the

Meeks said no disparaging, you can't put disparaging remarks about the county on it.

Laura said of course, we can't control Union City.

Meeks said no, we can't control Union City.

Todd said I'm just talking about the county. But, isn't that addressing employees of the county now?

Meeks said yep.

Todd said disparaging people on their personal face book account?

Meeks said or either, yeah.

Todd said so it doesn't really address this concept of official face book pages for governmental units, right?

Meeks said I think your answer to that is the sheriff is elected sheriff of Randolph County and he can put pretty much whatever he wants on his face book page, on the Randolph County Sheriff's face book page.

Todd said yes but it becomes, doesn't it become somewhat of an official face book page?

Meeks said oh, it's an official face book page, it says Randolph County Sheriff's department.

Todd said and I know it's not the only department there are various departments that has a somewhat official face book page. And to me, it's a social media platform that individuals use, corporations use, I don't like governmental agencies using it. For one, not everybody, it's not, it's certainly free if somebody wants to go find it, they can sign up for face book and get to it. But I just, it's, I struggle for the words for face book because it's not, it is a free-for-all. Comments, you know, I know you can limit comments and so on, I find it to be a very toxic environment personally, and I, so every time I go back to it, that's why I don't stay there, I leave it. And I don't, I just don't like to find out about things that are going on in our government I have to go back in face book again to read about it, because we have a platform. We have a website. We have a place to post official statements. But we just don't use it. Am I wrong?

Meeks said well you're really going to not like it when you are on You tube next, a week from, a month from today?

Laura said July 1st.

Meeks said they're going to be, these will all going to be live on You tube and if there're comments associated with it, you're not supposed to be deleting them, even if they say Todd looks, you know.

Laura said I don't know how to delete so it's not going to happen.

Meeks said I mean either you allow all comments or allow no comments.

Todd said yeah, I think you should allow no comments.

Meeks said if we can. I don't even know if you can or not.

Todd said I believe you can.

Meeks said I don't, I'm just telling you.

Todd said I know I don't like Facebook.

Meeks said okay. I'm not on either of them either. But, you know somebody can then take that and put it on their You tube channel and then you can have a....

Todd said but, in this case, we have to do it, and we're doing it.

Meeks said this is required by law.

Todd said and it's a county thing. And, you know, people know how to get it, where to get it, and if they want to watch it, they can watch it. Whereas with these face book pages, we're just best to leave it up to each individual to decide whether or not they want to create one.

Meeks said that's up to the elected department heads.

David said Meeks, did you see the letter, that response back from the Sheriff?

Meeks said I read it and I heard all about it at every grad party I went to this weekend, yes.

David said did you read it before it went on?

Meeks said no, no, I didn't. I did not know about it until I started going to graduation parties.

David said I didn't either.

Meeks said I might have known about it a little bit before, but not much before then.

David said okay. Anything else, Todd? I agree with you wholeheartedly on that because all it does is, number one develops pen pals, hard to get the ones you want. And two, and I'm going to get with Chad Spence, the mayor, and ask why can't that be done in a local situation back and forth with Union City instead of putting it on social media.

Scott said it needs to be handled in a professional manner.

David said yeah, and it sure, in my opinion it was not. Scott have you got anything for the good?

Scott said no.

David said is anybody going to the county council annual meeting?

Bev said I am not this year.

David said I am not either. I cannot. I've got two graduation parties that day.

Todd said yeah, I think I'm going to go to that. It's 3 weeks from now.

Mike said the 21st.

Bev said it's at the Renaissance center in Carmel.

David said and they're nice meetings, aren't they, Bev? We've been before.

Bev said yes, it is.

David said a lot of us used to go down the night before. Well, if that's all, I'd entertain a motion.

Adjournment

Bev made a motion to adjourn. Mike seconded the motion. All aye votes. Meeting adjourned.

Reviewed and accepted this 5 day of August, 2025

David Lenkensdofer
David Lenkensdofer

Larry Preston
Larry Preston

Beverly Fields
Beverly Fields

Greg Cheesman
Greg Cheesman

Mike Stine
Mike Stine

Todd Holaday
Todd Holaday

Scott Fisher
Scott Fisher

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

