

Randolph County Council

July 2, 2024

The Randolph County Council met for its regular meeting at 8:30 AM in the Commissioners and Council Room of the Courthouse with the following members present: Council President David Lenkensdofer, Tom Chalfant, Mike Stine, Tom Kerns, Todd Holaday, Missy Williams and Beverly Fields. Also present was County Auditor Laura J Martin.

Council President David Lenkensdofer presided.

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner's update

David said first on the agenda is Gary, county commissioner.

Gary Friend said morning everybody. First, we'll go over some of the business we did and we'll, if you don't mind, we will go into the comp time bullet point report for everybody. Nothing has been guaranteed on it, it's just now time to propose. So, yesterday, we open the bids on bridge 304, which is Carl Street and we accepted one of them. It's a \$1,025,000.00 from the bidder part of that particular bridge. We funded, we're going to fund through Opioid funds, we're asking to see which is restrictive and which is non-restrictive, and what's used, and Anne Taylor presentation, she's from Monroe Central. It's a Nathan Harmon, to get the children together and talk to them about substance abuse. The schools are going to participate, but we didn't have any luck getting them to contribute to it. But we did think it was a good deal for everybody. Other than that, ordinary business, just like you have on your agenda today is what we had going on as far as the commissioners' part of that. Before we went into talking about, anybody have any questions on that part before we get into the salaries and the comp times?

Meeks said you might talk about the ambulance.

Gary Friend said oh, the ambulance building, yeah. That was the meeting before. We have chosen Thor Construction to build the ambulance building. I believe the quote was \$435,000.00. I believe that was it. It was the low one too. I've got, they're working on their AIA contract for us. I sent them their tax information yesterday. It's going to be paid out of ARPA funding is where we chose to pay for it out of. Any questions on any of that before we go into this? Yes?

David said real quick Gary, I just have one question. On Base Road 400 East, has anything been addressed?

Gary Friend said not that I am aware of. We did, and you have a commitment letter coming or asking for a commitment letter for 800 East from 28 to 700 North, Jackson Pike. So, it was a recommendation from our highway superintendent and our engineer that that would be a good use for that road there.

David said okay.

Gary Friend said anything else from anybody?

Missy said what was the cost for the ambulance facility in Farmland?

Gary Friend said I believe, there were a lot of numbers going around, \$435,000.

David said and is that to start?

Gary Friend said well, he had told us during the meeting when we accepted that he was going to try to get going on it in 30 days, and he going to try to have it built before the end of this fiscal year, this year, this calendar year. Thor construction is also Carroll Electric and the Carroll Electric did the electric on the courthouse and built the highway garage. On the salary committee, we have three members up here who are on there. Of course, it's broken into two parts. One part, of course, is the funding mechanism of it, and the other part is the executive mechanism to put it in play. And it takes both pieces of this to move forward in doing it. And after discussion at the commissioners' meeting yesterday, the commissioners are on board with putting this in play. However, we can't jump the gun if the council has concerns or doesn't want to move forward right now. And we're holding back until the next meeting to hire a company such as Erwin and maybe there're others out there that can help us put the legal aspect in the personal policies to keep everything proper on it. We don't want to hurt anybody, cheat anybody or anything like that, but we do want to get everything done properly. There is some concern that was voiced out loud of the possibility of paid lunches through the county, and how that would work if people leave their work area in Randolph County, the courthouse and go somewhere. As we look into that, the only problem with that is, if that is really a scenario, if it's a situation, we already have it existing. So, then, we'd have to address that independently of how we're going to get that done. We'll get the help that we need to make sure we're doing it correctly. So, the bullet points, one through nine here, in no order of importance, but, the number one is no comp time. We want to pay out all time paid at 1 ½ times after 40 hours per week. Number two, is all positions include paid lunch. That come to be because we're 2/3rds there already. And it's more than emergency services now that get paid lunch. It's administrative staffs and support in emergency services and truck drivers and what not. It's just, we've grown into the point, it's the people that don't get it who are really the minority now in Randolph County government. Hours for work could be flexed by the direction of the department heads, and the hours of operation remains fixed for the county, as they currently are. What we're talking about there is an order to help manage overtime in the cost of the budget is letting employees work back and forth through the day, as necessary. Just puts more control of the manpower in the department heads before it moves up to the next level of management. Number five, all budgets will be developed to include overtime. Did you get the email, Laura did you send an email out to everybody with all the spreadsheets?

Laura said I did.

Gary Friend said okay. And in that is the cost of comp time against the county. The comp time occurrence going on currently, as we speak, the cost of overtime projected. What I seen on that, that's not all against county general. There's overtime that we currently pay now in areas of operation, one being the highway, one being ambulance service, things of that nature. So, as you look at the impact there, some of that impact already existed. All employees are non-exempt. Only elected officials are exempt. So, we discussed that a little bit in depth of should we make departments exempt or non-exempt, and when I'm talking exempt, none-exempt, I'm talking about overtime. So, in order to be fair with that, Meeks can correct me if I'm wrong, at least in governmental work, if you're on salary, you still have to show up and work your time. If you're on salary in the private side, if you have a day off and you're on salary, you're going to be paid right on through. That's not exactly how it works in the governmental entity. So, that being the case, there's no benefit to be on salary very much, I don't see. So, we said okay, instead of getting into the middle of that, we'll make everybody eligible for overtime unless you're elected, which we don't make that law on the elected anyway. It just needs to be said. Four weeks of vacation after fifteen years. We know that there are instances where people like to work, get comp time, use it for more time off. We know that. So, we, well we're going to go to four weeks of vacation after fifteen years, and that does also help reward longevity as we talked about longevity into the future. And it's not uncommon to have four weeks of vacation in any kind of industry after fifteen years. All accrued comp time will have to be paid out if this takes place, at the end of the year. And then you start right up with just overtime. I'm sure department heads have to keep an eye on their comp time, just to make sure, you know, I would, I would hope we could keep it at that at 160, \$170,000.00 range, as you know, it grows and gets used through the year, a total against the county. And then the county to enlist services from a company such as Irwin, Art has mentioned to me about one that works well with emergency services too, in order to make sure that we do this properly, and not get ourselves stuck out accidentally. So, there are three members of the salary committee amongst the council. So, any of the other members have any questions?

David said let's go back to number three. I think you missed that one, Gary.

Gary Friend said oh, I did. Thank you, Dave. I'm sorry. All earned time is considered PTO, in lieu of personal and sick time. The problem with sick time is people who get a lot of it accrued, they have to say they're sick to take their time. It's just not fair to make somebody do that. So, I spoke to Laura yesterday, a little bit, of how we would do that. None of this is set in stone, nor has it been voted on, but a way to do it is basically, there're six sick days per year, and three personal days per year, for nine days per year. We just simply could math that into you know, three quarters of a day, which is not an 8-hour day, with is six hours per month, would just accrue into your PTO. It's yours, you take it for whatever you decide.

David said okay, so you're just doing that for personal and sick days only?

Gary Friend said yeah. We haven't discussed using, doing the vacations as well. That may bring itself into discussion with Erwin, so, you might as well roll your vacation in there too.

David said most places do it.

Gary Friend said yeah, they do. And you've got a bank of hours of PTO, they're yours to use whenever you want to use them.

David said holidays are holidays.

Gary Friend said holidays are holidays. They're independent from it, yeah. I'm sure we'll get into the decision. We have emergency services that deal with holidays and how they get paid on it. You know, holidays in the private sector reduces the work week from 40 to 32 and over time is paid after the 32, because you add the 8 of holiday on there for 40. Anybody else have any questions on it?

David said anybody have anything from the council that was on the salary committee, pretty much what?

Bev said pretty much what we discussed.

David said okay. We'll definitely take all this under advisement. I guess you need a decision though.

Meeks said well, I think what I need is for you guys to say go ahead and hire Irwin or whoever.

Gary Friend said take the next step.

Meeks said that's the next step, is to, because there're some issues that I voiced at the commissioner meeting, but I just don't know. And we're going to need to get some experts.

Gary Friend said we help off from the vote at the commissioners' meeting because of this.

Meeks said I looked up yesterday, after that meeting, to see the exact time, because there's a salary component to it and I don't know if they've done away with it. I'm going to have to talk to Irwin because it had \$23,000 below that your automatically, non-exempt. It used to be 45.

Gary Friend said now, it is.

Meeks said but I couldn't find it. I'm just.

Gary Friend said Laura has it.

Laura said yeah, I can get that for you.

Gary Friend said I've read it.

Laura said it's almost \$50,000 now.

Meeks said I thought it was 50.

Laura said yeah, it is.

Gary Friend said another thing we did, all our department heads, we were beyond that, and we still decided not to go exempt.

Meeks said yeah, because you, if you're under it, you can't be anyway.

Gary Friend said you can't be anyway. But it's also a fairness factor in there too that we didn't want to be unfair.

Meeks said I need from council is that they'd have to get from commissioners a commitment to just maybe hire Irwin and take the next step.

Tom Chalfant said you have a recommendation?

Meeks said that is my recommendation.

Gary Friend said okay. I have one more thing too. When you look at all the salaries in there, you'll see, and I said I would speak to it personally and openly, over the years that I've been on here, the commissioners, the council and even our attorney, have never taken the adjustments that we've put through to all the department heads, even the elects that are in the courthouse and offices, we've even took zero over the years. We took no bonuses. We're not allowed to over the years. So, there's an adjustment, it looks like a large percentage, but it's not a large dollar amount. It's like saying that you know, something goes from one dollar to two dollars, it's a hundred percent increase. So, the adjustment on the commissioners' wages, as I have learned, and I was on the council, I didn't understand the depth of work that it takes. We have two commissioners, previous commissioners up there, it's a monumental amount of work. There're adjustments to the council also. But there's a lot of responsibility. It's going to even get greater on the council as this overtime gets used up and you will have to sit and make the decision whether you want to put more funding up to departments. And our council has never asked for what's fair in the world out there. So, when you look at the reports in there and you look at the amount of money and the wages, that's what drove it. I just wanted to say that out loud. I told the members that I would. And I believe it's fair. I believe it's equitable. I believe it's time, because now in Randolph County government, we are not broke. We have, we went over the hill of barely surviving and we're in a position now where we can do things like end comp time and do the final adjustments that have been left behind. So, anybody have any questions on that?

Tom Chalfant said other than I have taxpayers telling me we have the highest tax rate in the state.

Gary Friend said well, I actually told Mike Wickersham and Missy, I said no, we're third. And I found out we're not, because two counties, I believe, reduced their taxes a little bit. So, yeah, we are the highest taxed county in the state of Indiana. But there's no increase in taxes on the

horizon. I know that from talking to many of the members. And there's no need to. We have actually grown into positive territory. But it took that to get there. We were on the verge of complete collapse and laying more people off to the point functioning was going to be difficult. Nobody did it. And I know Tom, you know, just to do it, just to have an excess, but it moved in our favor and we had to do it. That was our only way to get it fixed. Can we reduce taxes? I mean, it's something that can be looked at as this thing all settles down and we get where we need to go. But I don't like it either Tom. I have as well, been told that, quite sternly actually, from a couple of people. It is what it is. We had to do what we had to do. As a matter of fact, I believe there are some counties out there now from our report from Baker Tilley who wish they had our position and are actually moving forward to tax increases in the state, because they set it up. They set it up to reduce property taxes from all different mechanisms to where, you know, onto your LIT taxes. And the fact that we don't have a high assessed valued county, we don't have any choice but to go that route. But we don't, you can't go overboard. I get it. I know.

David said I was told at a conference last week that maybe Blackford County is number one now.

Gary Friend said that would be nice to be off of that particular.

David said they've had their struggles like we did.

Gary Friend said well I mean.

David said and they're all looking at us at Randolph County to see how we, even Delaware County sat down with me at length, discussed different things that we're doing now that they need to be doing, because they're struggling.

Gary Friend said and a lot that I hear too, is we have this renewable energy fund. We ought to be using it to lower taxes, but it's hard to explain to the layman in government financing, that money we don't use to operate our county. We use it for development. And if we were to, when it goes back to assessed valuation, we would find ourselves in a world of hurt when that funding goes to assessed, because we don't go to assessed valuation as you all know, those dollars quit coming in and the tax rate goes down, you go back to max tax levy. Does anybody have anything else? I can't stay later to talk to anybody because I need to be in Engles in like an hour and a half or two if I can get there.

David said I guess what our next is to entertain a motion to hire Irwin.

Gary Friend said but I, can I, is it safe for me to report to the commissioners that the council right now is in favor of the two bodies?

David said I think we'll find out here real quick.

Bev said I'll make a motion that we enlist the services of a company to help us in this moving forward, the proposal from the salary committee.

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

Meeks said I am going to send the email out probably this afternoon, asking for a meeting that they could come to the salary committee, maybe the first week of August or the last week of July.

Gary Friend said we meet on Wednesdays. It seems to be a very good time.

Meeks said well I would pick a Wednesday evening or?

Gary Friend said evening.

Meeks said okay. I will ask them for a Wednesday evening that they could come and meet with the salary committee.

Missy said is anyone open to come to those meetings?

Meeks said yes. A committee, a sub-committee any elected body is an open public meeting.

Missy said we could sit and listen then?

Meeks said it's an open public meeting, just like this.

David said as of yesterday, this changed.

Gary Friend said changed it, yes.

David said the amount of people.

Meeks said I don't know

Gary Friend said two or more now. That means anything, any, like you said, if elected officials are involved in a meeting, it's open to the public, has to be published.

David said I've got Mindy and Joe here. Mindy and I were talking about the primary, of some help getting those boxes to the different locations, if maybe our highway department could help. And I think I shared that with you.

Gary Friend said oh yeah, ferry them from one place to the other, oh yeah, I can bring that up to the other two commissioners. I don't have a problem with it.

David said I know she was extremely busy that night and any help would be appreciated.

Gary Friend said well it's great in Randolph County too, you know, our results come out on the same day, a couple hours after the polls close. It's nice to know.

David said okay, that's all I've got.

Gary Friend said thank you, everybody.

Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff- additional funding for cars

David said Art. Additional funding for the, is it four different cars you're getting?

Art Moystner said we have received two of them, and I have two that are waiting for us to pick up. As I explained, I believe in an earlier meeting, the one we had damaged in the tornado, the insurance check was a little bit of a shortfall. So, we've done some additional appropriations so that we can try to make that up. We got our three normal cars that we get every year, then we've asked for, we've replaced the one that was damaged, totaled.

Tom Chalfant said did you have any issue with the insurance company not making you whole on that car?

Art Moystner said well I would share with you that I believe that car we purchased at about \$45,000, the check we received was \$36,000 for insurance.

David said it was just a year old or less?

Art Moystner said yes.

David said \$9,000 is probably right for the first year, depreciation.

Art Moystner said well that's what we received on it. They also, the insurance company is also paying to have the lights switched over the equipment. So, I think we received a check for an additional 1,600 for the fees to move equipment from one car to the other.

Tom Chalfant said so, this is an odd enough event that you're not worried about us being under insured in the future for similar occurrences?

Art Moystner said correct, and I hope it is a very odd event that that we don't have to deal with again.

David said we've had a couple odd events in the last 5 or 6 years.

Art Moystner said yes sir we have.

David said okay. I guess it was around \$10,000 wasn't it?

Tom Chalfant said \$10,942.

David said yes. I guess I'd entertain a motion to take out of General Fund.

Laura said we have the additional for it after bit, or do you want to do it now?

David said well then let's do it after bit. We'll be looking at that \$10,942 for the additional. But for Art's sake, we'll just agree that we're going to make that happen.

Art Moystner said I appreciate it. Thank you.

David said anything else?

Art Moystner said if I may, the one thing I would ask the council is if before, I know the salary committee has done a lot of work, and I appreciate what they've done. I've asked for a couple, three years now, to have the salary committee get some of us involved so that we can talk about different things in different departments. So, when they make the decisions, it's educated decisions as to what the positions hold. And I guess I would ask those that are on the committee and the council to talk to employees within the county, and pool some of those. Talk to some of them within the courthouse, see how these changes are going to affect the employees, and what takes place with that. Talk to some emergency services. Get out and talk to department heads because I personally have been asking, like I said, for three years, and I'm not getting to talk to anybody. And the way I feel is you know, the citizens of this county elected all of us to do the job, and we're supposed to work together. And I feel like, sometimes with budgets, we don't do that. I feel like a 16-year-old kid walking in asking mom and dad for keys to the car. So, I'm just asking, get out and talk to us, so we can tell you how it affects the employees, because I know personally, myself, for my department, with some of the things they deal with, I know you guys want to do away with comp time completely. Personally, with the benefit time we're given the first 5 to 10 years that your employed here, I would like to see more of a hybrid system where there's a little bit of comp, just put a cap on it. But that's my opinion. So, that's what I ask you to do. Thank you.

David said okay. Thanks, Art.

Joe Copeland – Community Crossings Financial Commitment letter

David said okay, next up is Joe.

Joe Copeland said good morning. I didn't know if everyone got a copy of the proposed financial commitment letter. It's Community Crossing matching grant funds again. So, they do applications twice a year, January and July. We spent a portion of the money with bridge 304 here on Carl Street. There's a remaining balance of \$431,050.02 to get our full 1 ½ million dollars. They've raised it from 1 million to 1 ½ million this year. So, I asked Jay, is there any resurface that you'd like to do. We could use that money. Now that's 75% of the construction cost. No design and no inspection. So, Jay says that he thought that 800 East between State Road 28 and 700 North would be an ideal road. We went up and ran it. It's rough. It is rough. Chip seal is not going to do it. You put a chip seal on it, it's still going to be rough afterwards. So, I, what I would propose is to do a re-surface, hire a contractor, and INDOT requires that all the work that's done on that project be done by the contractor. The county, I don't know why, but the county cannot participate in it. I wanted to do some work earlier when this Community Crossings came around to try to save some money, but they will not allow it. So, in other words, the contractor will have to do, he'll have to berm the road, cut the edge off of soil and grass, and

then he'll do all the milling for the butt joints for all the other roads and beginning and ending. He'll lay the asphalt, I'm looking at 2 inches of intermediate asphalt and 1 ¼ inches of surface, and then he'll come back and put stone along the edge of the road for safety. I've estimated \$871,000 is going to probably be a little high, but I'd rather be high than low.

Tom Chalfant said is that 4-mile of road?

Joe Copeland said about roughly 3 ½.

Todd said is there a standard for the width of a county road that has to be met if we put this out for a bid like that?

Joe Copeland said there, no. Let's go back to, let me explain width of road. Anything less than 16 is considered one lane. And that, I'm taking that from the Indiana manual in Uniform Traffic Control Devices because you're supposed to post one lane for bridges less than 16. 16 to 18 is narrow, and anything over 18 is good, two lanes. Alright, in another county I was in for years, we'd always shoot for 20. So, we're going to try, but the thing is we'll use what we have here and re-surface it as it is, because to widen will cost a fortune, to widen that road.

Todd said so it wouldn't be any narrower than it currently is, is what you're saying?

Joe Copeland said yes, no, it's not. We're going to stay with what's there right now.

Tom Chalfant said Joe, are most of our county roads 40-foot right-of-way, do you know?

Joe Copeland said some are wider than others, but in looking at commissioners' records over the years, that, all the informational right-of-way, which is in the commissioners' records. And a lot of it is back in the 1800s. I've gone a lot of research on it in other counties and it seems like the commissioners, sometimes they would put a right-of-way in their minutes and sometimes they wouldn't. Most of the time, they did. And sometimes it would be two rod, which is 16 ½, is a rod, so it would be 33 feet, or it would be 30 feet. Now there are some exceptions that, on some major roads back then that they were looking at, maybe 40. But here's the thing today. When I go out and look at right-of-way, I look at telephone poles, power poles, fences, and I don't go beyond them. They are set there, and usually those power poles are usually pretty close. You go to the back of a power pole and pull a tape from one side to the other, you're usually going to see 30 or 33.

Tom Chalfant said so that's where most of our roads are at?

Joe Copeland said yeah. And in general, now there are exceptions, because you have some major roads that have more. And I've even ran across roads that were at one time state roads that were given back to the county and those roads of course, had wider rights-of-way. And then some of those still have right-of-way markers.

David said what's the width of 800 East?

Jay Long said anywhere from 19 to 20 feet.

David said okay, with the right-of-way, is it a 40 foot or 30 feet?

Joe Copeland said I didn't measure it.

Jay Long said yeah, I'm talking road width. It averages anywhere from 19 to 20.

David said so it would be around 20 feet?

Joe Copeland said yeah.

Jay Long said and we measured that in probably 8 to 10 different sections down through there just to see if we could get a ballpark average.

Tom Chalfant said is it 700 that is a concrete road? 700 is where the church is, isn't it, 700 East?

David said 800 E.

Tom Chalfant said so that's a concrete road and it's, okay, so I've heard people complain about that, so.

Jay Long said yes sir. Well, just in the time, we had a culvert replaced there just north of 28 and Joe's familiar with that. We went back and paved that. In that time, we were out there, there was every bit of 70 to 80 cars that come up and down through there. Most of them came off of the county line, they either go to 28 or cut over.

Joe Copeland for Randolph County, that is a fair amount of traffic.

Jay Long said yeah, it's a lot of traffic. There're a lot of people that stopped and came to us and said hey, you know, is there something we can do with this road?

Tom Chalfant said yeah, with that concrete base, it's really hard and rough.

Jay Long said well and I guess they said in the past, they've tried chip and seal on that multiple times. Well, it just keeps fading off and it's really not doing anything. And for us to try to grind it, we would pretty much tear our equipment up with it being concrete.

Tom Kerns said that first mile is a cutover too from 47 in Ohio where they've got a lot of truck traffic.

Jay Long said I mean; they go both ways. It was unreal. We were trying to work and I mean, I know there're a lot of roads with traffic but it was just, it was hard to get something done.

Tom Kerns said and it'll get worse because I know a lot of people avoid it because it's so rough now.

Jay Long said we, on an average will spend a day, you know, just sending somebody out there to keep adding cold mix to it to fill in potholes and stuff. And it's like you fix it and they just pop right back. You'd have to actually be out there to understand how, I mean, it's in some need.

David said okay and this money comes out of the, the local match comes out of MVH?

Joe Copeland said no it will come out of landfill.

David said oh, you're going to use the landfill funds, okay.

Joe Copeland said my understanding from Jessica, there's over a million dollars in there. Oh, the estimate I put together for this project, I used 21-foot width, for your information, 21. The contractor will get as much as he can.

David said okay. I would entertain a motion then to approve Joe's request.

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

Tom Kerns said what's the timeline on that?

Joe Copeland said well here's, we won't find out whether we've got the money or not until October. By the time we get to there, then we have to bid it. It'll take over a month to bid it by the time we have to advertise. We're talking November, so you're figuring 25.

David said okay.

Joe Copeland said well thank you. Are there any questions?

David said I was bragging on you at our county council a couple weeks ago, but, another county is interested in, Owen and Greene County, they're wanting to share a highway engineer and I said it's worked great for us. So, I advised if they could find somebody.

Joe Copeland said find somebody with experience, yeah, that helps, yeah.

Bev said thank you Joe.

Tom Chalfant said which there's another question, are we training somebody to take your place?

Joe Copeland said well, I got asked here a couple of weeks ago whether I was planning on still doing this next year, Gary Friend asked me. I said yes, as far as I know. I'm 67. I'll be 68 in November. And I enjoy what I do. And I've slowed down some, part-time of course, but I'm going to continue to work the part-time.

Tom Chalfant said I think it's going to take more than a few months train somebody to replace you, I guess I'd like to coordinate with the commissioners to you have two people, you and a trainee, somehow, and whether we cooperate with another county.

Joe Copeland said yeah, I'd be more than happy to show someone you know, what I know and a good Purdue engineer would be a good. Of course, I had to get that in there.

David said had to get that in there didn't you? I know Delaware County questioned me at length, and I showed them some of the reports you gave us. I always take that information with me to share it, and they were impressed with your reports because they don't have it over in Delaware.

Joe Copeland said it's funny, because over the years, Delaware has had a real problem keeping engineers. I don't know why. They come and they go real quick.

David said they struggle over there. Thanks a lot Joe. Thanks Jay.

Other Business:

Minutes of May 8, 2024

David said let's go to other business. Minutes of May 8, 2024. Entertain a motion.

Bev made motion to accept the minutes. Mike seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Salary Ordinance amendment (Correction only)

David said okay, next item we have is salary ordinance amendment, corrections only. Laura is going to explain.

Laura said so, Jessica from the highway department brought this to my attention. JC, they made her full-time last year, I think. And she is being paid full time with benefits, but the budget, their budget line has the full-time position in it, but our salary ordinance did not. So, we're just adding this. It's already being that way. But this is covering us with the State Board of Accounts. Our salary ordinance only shows a part-time line there.

David said okay. I guess I'll go through the ordinance process on this then.

Bev said I move that the council pass Ordinance number 2024-12 after the first reading.

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

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

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

Bev said I move that the council adopt ordinance 2024-12.

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

Additional Appropriations:

Commissioner's

Overtime/Comp payout	\$50,000.00
Employee Separation Payout	\$20,000.00
Liability Insurance	\$80,000.00

David said okay, let's go into Additional Appropriations. Commissioners' overtime/comp payout of 50,000, employee separation payout, 20,000, and liability insurance, 80,000. Is that out of the General fund?

Laura said yes.

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

Sheriff

New Vehicle	\$10,942.00
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David said next one we have is the sheriff's department, the new vehicle, \$10,942.00. Entertain a motion.

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

EDIT

10 Unit T Hanger Project	\$181,685.00
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David said next one we have is from the EDIT funds, 10 Unit T hanger project at the airport. It's a grant of \$181,685. Entertain a motion.

Tom Chalfant said did this come out of Windfarm?

Laura said EDIT.

David said it's a grant.

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

EDIT

Randolph Easter/Union City Daycare	\$100,000.00
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David said next one we have is from the EDIT also for Randolph Eastern School Corporation for the daycare of \$100,000.00 and it's a 5-year, zero percent interest. I take it's a loan?

Laura said it is a loan.

David said entertain a motion.

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

Cum Cap

Building Maintenance \$20,000.00

David said next one I have is from Cum Cap developments, building maintenance of \$20,000.00. Entertain a motion.

Bev said which building, do you know?

Laura said I believe that's community corrections isn't it Sherrie?

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

Health Department

New Vehicle \$69,339.52

David said next one we have is for Health Department, new vehicles, \$69,339.00. That's coming from, is there a grant, where is that monies coming from?

Sherri Thompson said it's the money that we brought in for COVID. It was \$101,000.

David said okay. It's from the COVID grant cycle.

Bev said and that's for two vehicles, isn't it?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

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

Headwater's II

RAZ 32 grant (2024) \$242,530.00

David said next one we have is the Headwater's II funding. It's for RAZ 32. It's a grant for year 2024.

Bev made motion to approve. Missy seconded the motion. 6 aye votes/1 nay (Tom Chalfant). Motion carried.

Headwater's II

Town of Losantville \$275,000.00

David said next one we have is also from Headwater's II. This is also a grant. Town of Losantville for sewer connections.

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

Riverstart I

10 Unit T Hanger Loan	\$447,000.00
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David said okay, the next one we have is the Riverstart I funding, a 10-unit T hanger project. It's a loan for the airport of \$447,000.00. Entertain a motion.

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

Bev said I've got a question.

David said go right ahead, Bev.

Bev said on building these new hangers, do they get federal funding, it just takes a while, and we approve this in advance because that comes back to us?

David said they receive \$150,000 a year from federal.

Bev said okay. I thought there was something there.

David said usually the payback is about three years.

Bev said okay, good.

David said it's a win, win for everybody there.

ARPA

Jail Equipment	\$20,840.00
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David said okay, next one we have is from the ARPA funds the equipment at the jail for combination lavatory, two of them in the amount of \$20,840.00.

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

ARPA

Computer Equipment	\$53,105.07
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David said next, from the ARPA funds we have computer equipment for 911. It's hardware and software refresh, \$53,105.07. Entertain a motion.

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

Bev said got another question.

David said go right ahead.

Bev said do you have any idea where we're at on the ARPA monies, I mean, as far as expenditures?

Laura said it is on your spreadsheet that Sherrie shares with you. I don't have that spreadsheet, but I think it's on there.

Bev said okay. Thank you.

Todd said looks like there's 1.6 million available.

Bev said okay. Thank you.

David said and they're using \$435,000 of that for the ambulance department.

Transfer of Funds	From	To
\$447,000.00	Riverstart I	10 Unit T Hanger

David said okay, last one I have transfer of funds from Riverstart to Unit T Hanger. We just approved of the \$447,000. Entertain a motion.

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

Citizen Comments (3 minutes)

David said next item on the agenda. Is there anybody from the citizens with any comment? Like to speak? Come right on up.

Mindy Peed, Clerk- Update voting equipment

Mindy Peed said I kind of just got on the agenda, but you know, I like to fly by the seat of my pants. So, I've already submitted my budget obviously, for next year, but I was just, it was just brought to my attention that our voting panels are now outdated and it's going to be difficult for our vendor to get replacement parts for our voting machines. But it looks like \$130,000.00 to replace them. We don't have an election next year. I did not submit that request in my budget for next year. But I didn't know what, I mean, I can submit it now for next year or if you'd rather me split it between two years? It's going to have to happen. We've had the same voting panels since we switched from paper ballots.

David said okay. It's been a while.

Mindy Peed said so, yeah, and so like screens are going to be harder to replace, buttons. I mean, we just had a couple of issues with some voting panels last year.

David said yeah, I'd personally like to see it in the 2025 budget, the whole amount.

Mindy Peed said okay.

David said I don't know what the rest of council.

Tom Kerns said well we don't need them next year, do we?

Mindy Peed said no, we won't need them until the primary in 26.

Tom Kerns said my thought is you wait until the last minute to update it because technology changes so quick, that by, at least toward the end of the year of next year or something. I don't know how quick the new ones would change or what the new models whatever.

Mindy Peed said I mean they just came out with a new model.

Tom Kerns said okay.

Mindy Peed said so, I wouldn't think it would be that quickly. I mean, I can't predict the future either, so, I don't know. I mean, we'll have to pay for them before.

David said I rather be ahead of the game a little bit.

Mindy Peed said right. I mean, it's up to you guys. I have to have them, so however you want to pay for them, or when you want to pay for them.

David said any questions or concerns? If not then, I'd entertain a motion to add that to Mindy's budget.

Tom Chalfant said add a line you mean?

Mindy Peed said well I can just increase my computer equipment line.

Tom Kerns said why don't we just do that in her budget when we do budgets in August?

Laura said yeah, you don't need to vote on it.

Mindy Peed said I just need to know what you want me to do. I could get with Danita and add it.

David said okay. So, the consensus is to put it in the 2025 budget? Okay.

Mindy Peed said and then I also wanted to point out to the members of the salary committee, we are not emergency services, but we do work two holidays a year. So, just to keep that in mind. My staff, my entire staff works 17-hour days on election day. And right now, they get comp time plus the holiday pay, so I just kind of wanted to point that out, just so it's not, we're not lumped in with emergency services, because only two holidays we do work. Just keep that in mind.

Tom Chalfant said and that's, is that every other year, is that right?

Mindy Peed said it's every year but, it's not next year.

David said three out of four years.

Mindy Peed said so, it's every three out of four years.

Tom Chalfant said three out of four?

Mindy Peed said yeah.

David said okay.

Mindy Peed said and I think that's it. I'm done with you. Thank you.

David said thanks Mindy.

Dave said Anybody else that would like to speak before the county council? Let's go around the council. Let's start with you today, Tom.

Tom Kerns said nothing.

David said nothing. Todd? Mike? Tom?

Tom Chalfant – Commissioner's salary increase

Tom Chalfant said this salary proposal from the committee, do you know what the county commissioners' increase is, the salary from last year to what it will be, do you know what percent increase that is?

Bev said I don't know what the percentage is. I think it's \$30,000.

Tom Chalfant said well it looks like it's \$36,000 for commissioner and then it's almost \$3,600 for the drainage board. That would be off about \$39,590.00.

Missy said what page are you on, Tom?

Tom Chalfant said what.

Missy said what page are you on?

Tom Chalfant said 7. It's \$108,000 for three members. That's like \$36,000 apiece isn't it? And then drainage board is just a hair under \$40,000. I just wondered what an increase that was from last year? It's a big job and hopefully, I mean, there're a lot of things I've mentioned that, you know, we need to be, commissioners need to be more in charge of than they are now so.

David said that's not what Gary said earlier. I thought he said \$30,000 when he was in here.

Tom Kerns said he didn't say. He just said it was substantial increase there. He said there's been a lot of years that when we didn't do raises for our public officials.

David said you're right, Tom. It's what it says here.

Tom Chalfant said I just, yeah, hopefully, willing to take on additional responsibility, because there's a lot of issues where people want money from the county and so forth.

David said yeah, it's a busy job. You know it and I know it. We'll just have to discuss it at the budget.

Tom Chalfant said that's all I have.

David said Bev, do you have anything?

Bev said I don't have anything. Thank you.

David said Missy?

Missy said no.

Dave Lenkensdofer- AIC Conference reminder, Two Council members requires a public meeting notice

David said I just have a couple things here. If you're interested in going to the Association of Indiana Counties conference in September, it is open for you to sign up at the hotel and the AIC. It's ready to go. The AICC, which is the county council association had their annual meeting two weeks ago, must have been about two weeks ago now. A great conference, learn a lot. I'm going to make some recommendations how they can change going forward. Maybe starting on Friday afternoon and then continuing through lunch on Saturday, because about 2:30 we lose about half the people we get there, and I think some of the reasons some of the others don't come is because the hotel sells out quickly and I don't blame them there. So, but we did learn effective July 1, any two county council members in a meeting, it's an open-door policy.

Tom Chalfant said two?

David said two, instead of three.

Tom Chalfant said I thought it was four.

David said yeah, that's the majority, four.

Tom Chalfant said but even two cannot meet together?

David said two can meet.

Tom Chalfant said but not three?

David said not three.

Tom Chalfant said but like your, well like the salary committee would have, you would have to have.

Bev said it has to change

David said it would be open door if you continue with four members.

Bev said anymore it has, anything that might go on later this year with the meeting and such will have to be advertised.

David said that's all I have.

Adjournment

David said I'd entertain a motion to adjourn then.

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

Reviewed and accepted this 6 day of August, 2024.

RANDOLPH COUNTY COUNCIL

David Pentensdofar

Tom Chalfant

Becky Fields

Mike Wood

Mike Sork

Joe Holly

Theresa

ATTESTED:

Laura J Martin
Laura J Martin, Auditor

