

Randolph County Council

July 7, 2026

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner's update

Greg said okay. It's July the 7th, Council meeting come to order. First thing on the agenda is our Commissioner's update. Got two of them here today.

Gary Friend said I'll start. Good morning everybody. So, we had a fair bit of business yesterday. And I'll just go down the list. Joseph Baldrige was in with LEAP about mobile device management, and we didn't take any action on that. And that was basically, putting a program on everybody's personal phone that could delete county only business. We're not comfortable with it right now. So, we have tabled it. And then Debra Johnting was in. We passed Ordinance 2026-10, an ordinance amending of the zoning ordinance Article VIII flood damage prevention. We had to get that in line with the state law and the insurance world. And we have got that done now.

Greg said just to clarify, that was because of the tornado that went through that made a bunch of our property not eligible for funding, wasn't it?

Gary Friend said well I think that exposed it, but it wasn't the real problem.

Greg said yeah.

Gary Friend said the real problem is we didn't have the ordinance in proper order, I believe.

Greg said okay.

Gary Friend said we spoke a little bit about security. The security committee meets, I believe, it's tomorrow. As the security at the front door keeps going on, there're going to be things that we have to adjust and change. But the judges, the courts actually drive the rules. The commissioners can add certain things to it, but we can't retract anything that the courts want put on there. So, we're all working together to get some standard operating procedures down there. Joe Copeland came in and we approved a quote, or a purchase actually, of some traffic counters

of our own, instead of having to wait to borrow. And then we got a report from Charity Cox on Willows Edge's business as it's been opened. We got a report from RCU from Sydnee and Ruthie was here on, it was a mid-year update. Then we got a lady named Lauren Abshear brought this Roots Recovery non-profit recovery for drug addiction for women's type of shelter. And I think we've got like three of those running out there. What they had right there was more of an idea. They're no where near ready at all to solicit any kind of funding from any kind of government at this time. And we pretty much let them know that. So, we talked about a county administrator. As changes from RCU come through, there's a committee working on what we're going to do and how it's going to go. We put in our budget a line item for a \$65,000.00 for the council to review. We don't have any job duties for it yet. We just need to get it in the budget because it will be a next year operation. And then Meeks has sent out to everybody, the flex time policy, and of course, the insurance policy, and just for absolute clarification because the county doesn't require insurance in the handbook for purpose of employment, everybody still needs insurance for the vehicles. So, the flex time, there was a question come out today about why Thursday on that particular. There's an example given. Meeks can correct if I'm wrong. That was just an example given how to use time you've collected. That's all, right?

Meeks said well, I'm going to amend it. We'll just add Thursday.

Gary Friend said just to make it easy, okay.

Meeks said yeah, just. I saw that comment this morning.

Gary Friend said okay. And if anybody's going by the ambulance building and the new morgue it's starting to take shape now. You can start to see how it is, what it's going to look like, the updates. So, that's pretty much, other than the general housekeeping we're doing, everything's going on. We did, however, hold off two claims from the airport, LWC and BF&S, and that's only until we get somebody in here to tell us exactly what they stand for. So, we tabled both of those. Not that we smell a problem, it's just we couldn't answer any questions about them, so. Alright. Anybody got anything?

David said courthouse offices, where do we stand on that project?

Gary Friend said it's in design right now. We moved it to design two weeks ago I think, the last, three weeks. The last commissioners' meeting, it was brought up.

David said and you say the courthouse security have a meeting tomorrow?

Gary Friend said the security committee, to my understanding, meets tomorrow.

David said okay.

Larry said or is it today, Meeks?

Meeks said today.

Gary Friend said is it today?

Meeks said yep, today.

Gary Friend said okay, well thank you. Today.

David said okay, the morgue, I've been by that, it looks like it's coming along pretty good. Highway storage, the?

Gary Friend said it's out. We've approved the quotes. It's out to be built.

David said so, it ought to be started in the near?

Gary Friend said no, not to my knowledge. It's all engineered. It's done. It's now ready to be built by the contractor.

David said okay, so, it's in the start phase?

Gary Friend said yes, it's in the start phase.

David said airport terminal. I don't know what to do there.

Gary Friend said well we wonder if one of these particular claims that we got was for the conceptual drawing we got of a possible terminal. We just don't know.

David said okay.

Gary Friend said so, we haven't gone any further than that.

David said does anybody have a question?

Todd said I have a question about that, that one. I saw that you guys were kind of shocked by it too. I'm like, who said it was okay to commit, you know, that kind of money for a drawing that wasn't even something that even came close to what we were, and do you know what I mean? It was, my question wasn't to the commissioners, but it was more about what was, was there a break down in like, in a budget somewhere, that allowed them to commit us to 17 or, there were two items, think one was 18,000, one was 25,000, something like that.

Gary Friend said yeah.

Todd said and it was kind of like this doesn't seem right to me.

Gary Friend said and I think, in discussion, we were talking to them, I think they might have got the impression it was okay to get an architect to do a quick drawing. My shock was if that was so, that's \$17,000.00 for that is pretty intense.

Todd said right.

Gary Friend said so, I don't know. That's why we're going to ask them what's going on.

Todd said and it's, I don't know if they have the power to act as an agent on behalf of the county to commit that kind of money without us, you know, having some sort of approval of it.

Gary Friend said if they have a line item in their budget that allows for these types of things, they don't have to have the commissioners' approval for that, that they have their own airport board.

Todd said right. If it's within their budget, then that's fine, but I, those.

Gary Friend said doesn't look like it is to me, but.

Todd said no.

Gary Friend said I agree. I agree, Todd. I think there's a mis-communication or something's going on here that we just need to understand one, so, if the commissioners inadvertently did it, we don't ever do that again.

Todd said yeah.

Gary Friend said obviously, you can see why we said wait a minute. But, fair questions, we're going to find out what it's all about.

Larry said I think it's fair Todd, because I thought at one meeting last year we said that we wouldn't pay a claim if the person didn't represent themselves at the meeting or we didn't know, you know, what it was.

Gary Friend said if it was a claim that we needed clarification on, we pay claims all the time without.

Larry said right, that we know.

Gary Friend said yeah, that we know, yeah.

Todd said what's the name of the group that's doing the engineering or, is there an oversight for the morgue?

Gary Friend said that's Maze, is the design architecture firm.

Todd said okay. When I saw the initials B something, I thought that was maybe the, for some reason, I had it in my head that.

Greg said BF&S.

Gary Friend said oh, that's the airport.

Greg said yeah. Is that an architectural firm?

Gary Friend said yes, yeah.

David said it's Butler, Fairman and Seufert.

Gary Friend said yeah. Maze Design is the designer of the morgue and Smarrelli was the general contractor.

Todd said thank you.

David said stone quarry road, where we stand on?

Gary Friend said the stone quarry road is in the phase right now, is they're getting permits from INDOT to cut into Highway 1 and make a deceleration lane.

David said so, is all the land?

Gary Friend said we've moved it. It's going to go to land acquisition.

David said okay.

Gary Friend said that's not happened yet, but it's next step.

David said okay.

Gary Friend said and I think if I remember, this is strictly remembrance, it's like below 2 acres we need to get.

Greg said do you still see that happening this year, Gary?

Gary Friend said the road?

Greg said yeah.

Gary Friend said I think we'll get started. It will not be done this year, I doubt.

Greg said that's what I was.

Gary Friend said that's just my experience on how long it takes to get all this stuff through. INDOT is happy with it. It's just a slow-moving process.

David said and the last one I have is jail renovation. Where are we?

Gary Friend said it's back out for, it's been re-quoted, sent out for re-quote. The first two or three that came in were all rejected, and they started over.

David said okay. I knew that. I didn't know where.

Gary Friend said yeah. But it's in the start over phase.

David said okay, that's all I have.

Meeks said thought they said we'd have quotes in July. I thought they said that, maybe it was August.

Gary Friend said yes, one of the two of them, I'm thinking so too.

David said that's all I've got.

Gary Friend said anybody else?

Greg said yeah, the last I understood, there was more interest this time.

Gary Friend said I heard that too, which is good.

Greg said yeah, instead of just having two quotes, we're going to have three or four maybe.

Gary Friend said yeah. Anybody else? Thank you.

Other Business:

Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff

Greg said next on the agenda, Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff.

Art Moystner said morning. Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff. A couple things this morning. The first is I had sent an email for the commissary report to the council, which is required by law to be done quarterly now. So, I just want to get on the record that I had provided that to the council. So, the second thing I have is, I had sent an email yesterday, and I know I had a chance to talk to Mr. Cheesman. The maintenance position at the sheriff's office is open. In the email that I sent yesterday, I had a gentleman that I had heard might be interested, so, I made contact with him. He is actually certified in a skilled trade. He's a certified electrician. The issue would be to get him to come to us, he would take a bit of a pay cut. I think a salary of 56,000 would get him here. I think that would be an asset to the county. I think you would be able to save money, in not only the jail, but other parts of the county to where this person would be available to do some of that work during normal hours. So, we would be paying him, so he would still have that skilled trade that we would be able to utilize. This person is also very familiar with the jail, itself, because he's worked on several of the systems within the jail. The current salary for that position is 49,6 something. I don't remember the last 2 numbers. So, you're talking about a little less than a 65 hundred dollar lift on that. And I kind of would like to know what the council's thoughts are on that. If it's something you would be interested to do, I

think he would be an asset. If you're not, then obviously, I'm going to be looking for someone else, but it's going to be someone coming in that doesn't know the building, probably, at all, and is not a person that's a skilled trade.

Greg said Gary, would you come forward and help us with this? I want to get everything laid out as to what everybody's thinking. What Art's saying, I like, but I want to be able to trade, not trade, I want this person to be able to work with Jake here within this building too, as well as working at the sheriff's department.

Art Moystner said absolutely. And I'm agreeable to that, and Jake has worked with us very well in the past, back and forth. And if he's needed help, my maintenance person has helped Jake in the past. And Jake has come over and helped my maintenance person. I think we have a great working relationship.

Greg said yep. But Gary, I want you to state what, Jake's going to be in charge of building maintenance.

Gary Friend said right. There're two different disciplines we're talking about here. And Art's talking about on hand in the sheriff, in the jail. We've got to be careful that stays under the purview of the sheriff. Anything and everything can go wrong with an inmate. They're pretty clever, I would say. Art, well, being kind right?

Art Moystner said sure. And they have 24 hours a day to think about it.

Gary Friend said Jake is basically, what we were talking about, overseeing the major systems of the jail. And he will take care of the maintenance, not the maintenance, but the scheduling of the maintenance and the overview of the main electrical system, the main HVAC system, the main heating systems, things like that. Within the jail, like Art's talking about, if this particular individual has the abilities to ward off one invoice from a sub-contractor locally, it's paid for themselves, and he's always at hand to do it. I don't know the individual personally, but if you get us a skilled trade, skill set in there and we don't have to hire a contractor to do somewhere in the mid-electrical range type of work, that 6 or \$7,000.00, we pay that all the time in professional contracting.

Greg said yeah, it's a great idea, as long as everybody's on the same page.

Art Moystner said well, and interestingly enough, because that maintenance position is open, because I'd hired him for the road. We had the basement garage door is currently down and we've had lights in one of the, in our wash bay that are not working. So, I kind of wanted to hold off before I called an electrician to talk to you guys and see where we were going to go with this, and then go from there.

Gary Friend said one of the things that we discussed, Art and I did discuss, that when Jake has the major contractors coming through and doing preventive maintenance and the scheduled looks of everything, that they can provide a list and we can send it down through and if there's a skilled trades in there, everybody will know who's got the capability of taking care of it on the you

know, the work shift that they're in. So, it's not like you know, we'll have Salyer-Taylor in here take a look at the system and say now, we're going to charge you to take care of all the stuff. No, we're going to look at it ourselves and say here's what the interior maintenance person of the jail can do. Jake will monitor it, because he'll be you know, filling the gap between some of the larger pieces of this. But, like I said, I think it's money well spent, especially if just one or two invoices gets headed off that we hire people in to do. There's a lot goes on in that jail that is within the budget that just doesn't come for everybody's notice all the time. But it's, and you've got to leave that, you've got to leave the sheriff, there's no doubt whatsoever, with somebody in that particular facility.

Greg said I have no qualms with that at all. I just wanted to get this laid out in the public meeting as to what the ramifications are.

Art Moystner said sure, absolutely.

Greg said another thought I had, once this jail project is done, your maintenance man or Jake's maintenance over there shouldn't be near as bad for a while with all brand new equipment and systems.

Art Moystner said you would just have all the preventive maintenance to make sure we have it lined out and it's done properly.

Greg said but anyway, that would, that person, whoever you hire, would have maybe some extra time with Jake.

Art Moystner said absolutely.

Greg said because of that.

Art Moystner said don't disagree.

Greg said okay.

Art Moystner said don't disagree.

Greg said I just wanted to get everything so council could understand.

Art Moystner said the situation you get into is, obviously, if there's an emergency, we would have to prioritize which emergency there is, and obviously, there's certain situations within the confines of the jail that if we don't address that emergency immediately, it affects the inmates, which results in liability to the county.

Greg said right.

Art Moystner said other than that, absolutely.

Todd said is this person like, high chance he'll take this position if we make this adjustment?

Art Moystner said absolutely, at 56, I'm 99% confident he will take this position.

Gary Friend said one good thing about this particular person, sometimes you like to set positions up where the person doesn't matter, for the salary, the names are nothing, but I believe, if I'm not mistaken, this person also understands law enforcement.

Art Moystner said very much so, yes.

Gary Friend said which matters too.

Larry said so, in your opinion, Art, if we did make the move, this person would probably stay for an extended, I mean, we don't know, he'd stay for an extended period of time?

Art Moystner said I think you're going to have him 10 or 15 years.

Larry said okay.

Greg said this something we need to do at budget time?

Laura said well, I think he needs somebody now, so, I mean, we'll have to go through the salary ordinance procedure, so I can't say that money is going to be available tomorrow, no, but next month, when you do your salary, you can approve the salary ordinance. He could start him so that his pay wouldn't hit until after that salary ordinance is passed.

Art Moystner said the other thing I would ask the council, and I don't know if we're permitted to do this, so, Meeks, you can weigh in on this, he did offer that if we have things that are going on part-time currently, if you guys decided to do this, then he could come in on a part-time basis. I don't know how we could pay out of that line. I have a part-time jail. But the part time is out of the jail for jail officers. So, my curiosity is would we be able to pay him on a part time basis if he's willing to do work one or two days a week?

Laura said well so, Art, you have the current maintenance line that's not being used.

Art Moystner said correct.

Laura said and there's probably enough in there to cover that for the first month, to cover his salary, there will probably be enough left in that line to cover him until we get the salary adjustment made. So, you should still be okay to go ahead and hire him.

Art Moystner said well I just, and I guess my thing is in changing the how that salary line is being used, I wanted to make sure I had council's approval to do that.

Laura said well right, right, yeah.

Greg said anybody got any questions for, any questions on the precept of this?

David said just one question. Do we have to advertise this position?

Art Moystner said I have advertised the position. It's been out for.

Mike said it's been out for probably a month, hadn't it?

Art Moystner said it's been out for at least a month.

David said and you don't have any other people applied?

Art Moystner said no one that's qualified like this, but I have interviewed one.

David said okay. As long as we covered the bases on that.

Art Moystner said yeah, the position was advertised.

Mike said something that other buildings will go take care of that as well, if needed?

Greg said if Jake requires it.

Art Moystner said absolutely.

Mike said that's what I'm saying.

Art Moystner said yeah, we'll communicate with Jake. We always have.

Todd said after the 2027 salary ordinance, the difference in this isn't going to be quite as much anyway. It'd be about \$4,500.00 probably, based off of what we're thinking of proposing.

Greg said yeah. But, I know the gentleman.

Mike said I do too.

Greg said not real well, but I know him fairly well and I, he's a highly respected individual.

Mike said and I think he's good at what he does.

Greg said yes.

Todd said do we need a motion to get this on the agenda for next, what would the motion consist of?

Gary Friend said you guys done with me?

Greg said yes. Thank you, appreciate it.

Todd said kind of like what was done at the joint meeting?

Laura said yeah you can just make a motion to, for us to do a salary ordinance amendment or this amount and then we'll have that salary ordinance for you at your next meeting to approve.

Todd said do we need to make any kind of motion to approve or being able to pay part time out of the full-time line?

Laura said well, he can pay him full time out of that line. There's enough money in there already. We're just going to make it, we're going to up it so that it'll.

Greg said we're just going to up the.

Todd said I didn't know in this interim period where we're talking about.

Laura said but, well that's when I was thinking we wouldn't have the salary ordinance until next month. But, he's got money already in that line, so he could go ahead and start him because you have enough in that line left until we get that salary ordinance in effect.

Todd said got you.

Greg said are you with us, Art?

Art Moystner said I think so. So, we're going to go ahead and change the hourly rate for him now in the system, so if he would start getting paid, it's going to be at the new rate.

Laura said if they approve that. If they approve that, then, yeah.

Art Moystner said okay. Perfect.

Greg said so, we need a motion to approve the new rate?

Art Moystner said and obviously, we want to give him.

Laura said Dave's got something.

David said you're talking full time. You were talking part time.

Art Moystner said I am talking part time to start.

David said that's where I'm.

Art Moystner said but I can start him full time also. But I would also, I would expect, knowing the individual, he wants to be able to give a two-week notice.

David said he's going to have part-time monies if he comes in to work.

Laura said you've got part-time money in your budget.

Art Moystner said I do for now.

Laura said yeah.

Art Moystner said and if we need to, obviously, I have a couple open positions so we could shuffle money.

David said I'm okay. I just want to make sure.

Laura said I don't know what he's wanting to do, but I'm just saying that we will not have a salary ordinance in a place until next month at your meeting.

David said right.

Laura said but, he's already got money in that line that he could use until you get that approved. That's all I was getting at.

Larry said can you go ahead and hire him full time based off what Laura says and not use him until he comes? I mean, are you in a dire need to have part time?

Art Moystner said there're a couple things that we do need work on. But I'll make contact with him and see if I can do it where he'll come in one or two days a week for the time being, and just do it part time. I would rather have you guys be, have the ordinance passed and be solid before we go full time. I think that keeps everything clean.

Greg said yep. Agree. So, we need a motion to, a pay increase.

Mike said I make a motion we increase the salary to 56?

Art Moystner said yeah, it would be right at 56,000.

Greg said okay, make this salary for the, make the new jail maintenance at 56.

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

Art Moystner said just to share with council, I did hire two new road officers. So, we are full on the road for the first time in a little over a year and a half, so, just to share. So, does anybody have any questions for me? Thank you.

Greg said thank you, Art.

Minutes May 6 & June 2, 2026

Greg said alright, the minutes of the May 6th and June 2nd meeting approval.

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

Children's advocate grant application request

Greg said children's advocate grant application request.

Laura said this is the same 21,000 they ask for every year.

Greg said okay, the amount request is 21,000. Laura said that this is what they've asked for every year, have always done it, so, we need a vote on that, need a motion.

Larry said this is what they call a pass-through grant?

Laura said we match, so our match is 21, but that's the way it is every year.

Larry said alright.

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

Salary Ordinance amendment 2026-11

Greg said okay, the salary ordinance amendment 2026-11 for the 911 center.

Todd said I move that the council pass ordinance 2026-11 after the first reading.

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

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

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

Todd said I move that the council adopt ordinance 2026-11.

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

Additional Appropriations:

General fund

Professional Svc	\$54,000.00
Professional Svc	\$100,000.00
Contract	\$296,000.00
Contract	\$145,000.00

Greg said okay, the additional appropriations, general fund. Professional service, \$54,000.00. That's for what?

Laura the Ritter contract.

Greg said Ritter contract. And professional services \$100,000.00.

Laura said that's the three Baker Tilly contracts that you entered into it.

Greg said that's all for Baker Tilly. And then the contract for the ResQ911, \$296,000.00, and the contract for \$145,000.00 is Protection Plus, our security system. Any questions on any of them?

Larry said basically, does the security, that's like stands for like 6 months. That's half of an annual contract?

Laura said yes.

Todd said I think it runs into next year doesn't it, or is this only a partial portion?

Laura said we're only appropriating a portion because to get us through the rest of the year.

Todd said so, this is until December 31st?

Laura said uh huh. And then you'll budget, at budget time, you'll budget for the rest of it.

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

Next meeting date: August 4, 2026

Budget Hearings: August 25 & 26

Greg said okay, our next meeting will be August the 4th, and as you see there on your paper, our budget hearings are the 25th and 26th, and do they start earlier, Laura?

Laura said yeah, normally, Danita will send out a schedule, but normally, it's around 8:30.

Greg said 8:30, okay.

Citizen Comments (3 minutes)

Greg said next on the agenda would be citizen comments. Anybody that has anything they'd like to let us know or discuss, you've got 3 minutes. Seeing nobody race to the front, looks like there won't be any citizen's comments this morning.

Board Comments

Greg said we'll go around the table, Meeks, do you have anything extra?

Meeks said I do not.

Greg said David?

David said I have a few things here. Just a reminder, the AIC conference is coming up in September. The registration is open for everybody. I got registered the other day. You can't get into the main hotel. You can get across the street to the Marriott, Hampton, so. It's always a pretty decent time up there. I'd mentioned before about Rainy Day. I think we need to consider Rainy Day a little more this year, but just keep it in the back of your minds. Towards the end of the year we'll get a figure to put in. As costs continue to go up, we need to continue to increase that Rainy Day accordingly. There's a caucus this Friday night for a prosecutor. Dave Daly is retiring at the end of the month. So, we'll have a new prosecutor in place shortly. And remember in September, the budget hearing approval has to be done in the September meeting. Make sure we're all here for that. That's all I've got.

Greg said Larry?

Larry said I don't have anything, just to keep everybody informed that they wanted to, like I say, we'll have a security meeting today at noon, and a salary meeting for the ones involved tomorrow at 6:00 o'clock. That's all I have.

Greg said I had a couple, three things here. Tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m. in the auditor's office, we're going to have a tele-conference with our Baker Tilly guy over the MUST meeting that we're going to try to schedule the end of September. And so, any of you guys are welcome to come and be a part of that meeting, educate yourself as much as you can, because we all need to learn. I know it's short notice.

Scott said you say 10:00?

Greg said 10:00 o'clock in the auditor's office. As of right now, we've not set a date, but I'm thinking the last half of September. Larry and I went to the AIC meeting at Carmel there, the month of June, and they were pretty adamant that there was no use of trying to have those meetings much any before October 1.

Laura said well you have to have it in effect by October 1. They're recommending late to get more accurate numbers. So, as close to that as we could get it, because what we're shooting for.

Greg said okay. But anyway, hopefully, we'll all learn more on it tomorrow morning for the ones that can be here. The meeting that I just referred to, Larry and I were filled plumb full of information that we couldn't hardly keep up on because it was all about how to figure the new tax set up on the new taxing system that we're going to have here in another year to deal with. So, Laura has gotten ahold of the what do you call it?

Laura said a program that was created for calculating those tax rates for the different units.

Greg said so, she has not had time to mess with it, nor Nikki, to see how that works, but it's going to be very interesting.

Laura said they've done demos for us. You guys got a demo too, didn't you?

Greg said yes.

Laura said and it's a pretty slick program.

Greg said yeah, it's rather amazing, but you can change the number here just a little bit and it really affects numbers on down the line. It's going to be a very good tool.

David said is it, are you allowed to send that to us?

Laura said I am not. It's proprietary and only go to auditors. But, we'll get the numbers from the different units.

David said okay. I'd like to see it sometime.

Laura said okay. You can stop in wherever.

David said okay.

Greg said so, that's, yeah. The end of the meeting they had a question answered and it was Jeff Thompson telling David earlier that he's the head of Senate, State Senate, and he kind of, one of the things he told us that I found kind of interesting, he said he knew of no county in the state that was going to be hurting financially. I guess it depends on what your definition of hurting is, because we all know out here in the rural community, we're going to be, probably be doing with less money to run the county. But, he said was concerned about some of the larger cities and some of the schools as far as their budgets. They're going to be pretty severely cut with this new taxation system. So, you'll probably be hearing more about that in the news here in a couple of years, unless the Legislature changes their mind and re-does things. And as was stated earlier, maybe not stated, but, it wasn't, this courthouse does have two new judges basically. Toney's last day was yesterday, and so the Judge that we've had in the other court has moved over into his court, and the person that won the primary is going to be at the other, take her place in that court. So, you have two new judges basically, in the courthouse now. And I did stop at the new morgue the other day and basically, you've got a shell there. You've got the roof, you've got the walls, no doors, no anything other than that. So, but it is moving along. And that's all I have. Mike?

Mike said I don't have anything.

Greg said Todd?

Todd said did you guys all get the county council members email from Jamie Bosworth about the MUST meeting? Attaches of MUST notice developed by blah, blah, blah, has the dates and things.

Laura said I did.

Todd said because it's, so it sounds like we need to appoint a representative during the public county council meeting, and that they are recommending that the person we appoint be a council member. And they're also saying that the meeting had, they recommend being after August 20th, and as soon as we have that scheduled, to let them know so they can come, somebody from their office can come and attend it, to kind of help. With that kind of timeline, I'm thinking maybe we should go ahead and get that meeting on the calendar and get that person appointed.

Laura said I feel like we need to wait until after our meeting with Baker Tilly tomorrow because they're kind of managing our MUST, and that's what that, this is the first meeting tomorrow. So, I feel like we need to wait until that meeting to set.

Todd said well if we do that, then we're going to be, when's our meeting in August, 4th, 5th?

Laura said 4th.

Greg said the 4th.

Todd said so, we're going to be putting something on the calendar between August 20th and September 1st, is that right? You're saying it has to be done by September 1st?

Laura said no, October 1st.

Todd said October 1st.

Laura said we were going to do it mid to late September.

Greg said yeah, at the last half of September is when I was thinking about having it.

Todd said so, the timing works out that we can do it at our next meeting?

Laura said uh huh.

Greg said yeah, it would be, yeah.

Todd said that's my only concern, that we wouldn't be able to.

Laura said I mean, we're paying them to guide us. And if we just start doing it on our own, there was no point in paying them to guide us.

Todd said yeah, I guess my only thought is the sooner we get it on the calendar, it may beat others to the possibility of getting one of those helpful people to our meeting. I assume it would be useful to have one of those. It's in highlighted yellow at the end of that email.

Laura said uh huh.

Todd said they're offering to come.

Greg said Jamie stated at the meeting that Larry and I attended, that she would be glad to come to any county and walk us through this.

Todd said right. So, I thought if we got the date out there early, we might have a better chance of being.

Greg said I don't know anything about her schedule. I'm sure she's busy.

Larry said yeah, I think you're correct, Todd, if my memory is, just exactly what you said, they wanted us to have one person from council, is what they told us at the meeting before we left, and that Jamie could attend.

Greg said but I think that tomorrow morning's meeting the Baker Tilly man will be very informational for all, and then we can have a little more knowledge to go forward with this.

Todd said do we need to have a council meeting to set a date for the MUST meeting?

Greg said we can do that next month.

Todd said I just wondered if you guys could do it after talking to Baker Tilly and not have to wait until August to set that date. If you can't, you can't, but.

Greg said I don't know this is necessary. Do you, Laura?

Laura said Meeks?

Meeks said I have no idea. I'd wait until after Baker Tilly, and if you need a meeting, just, Greg set the meeting.

Laura said yeah, I can send an email out.

Meeks said send an email out, set the meeting.

Greg said okay. We'll just gather more information and then go from there Todd, if that's okay.

Todd said uh huh.

Meeks said I don't know much about this MUST thing, so, I don't.

Laura said well, I guess the question to you was can they just come up with a meeting date without having a council meeting?

Meeks said yeah, I think Greg can call a meeting. He's president.

Laura said okay.

Greg said okay.

David said do it during the day or something, just.

Greg said do what now?

David said do it during the day. I mean, most of us can be here during the day.

Laura said well, and the MUST committee is going to be comprised of one council, the two city clerks and then the town clerks. So, that's who's on the MUST committee. It's an open-to-the-public meeting. So, any of you can come, but the committee will be one council, or the person of the council's choice.

Greg said the council could put Laura in the place.

Meeks said it really needs to be a council member.

David said I would think so.

Laura said they recommend a council member.

Greg said yeah, they recommended it. Yeah, so, that's.

Laura said and that council member can work with auditor's office since I have that proprietary spread sheet that we can work on.

Meeks said you can appoint a council member now at this meeting tomorrow.

Todd said that's what I was wondering. But, I'm okay to wait. In watching that demo, and you've seen it too, I think, from Jamie. It's not going to be much use at a public meeting if you can't see the numbers, and you know, we've had meetings in the past where, especially, to other members of the council, because it's all put this number here and it drives the spreadsheet. If we can have some sort of set up where we can see what's happening, it would be a lot more helpful if I'm not, whoever is not the person who's not the representative won't have a clue what's going on if they can't see the screen, because this is a model that kind of gets driven by whoever's at the keyboard.

Laura said well, and I don't think it's like you can't see it.

Todd said well, how would you?

Laura said you just can't use it. Plug it into that tv and.

Todd said that's what I'm saying.

Laura said it wouldn't be hard to do. It's not that you can't see it. You just cannot use it.

Todd said oh, I know. I'm not saying it's not.

Meeks said manipulate it, manipulate it, yeah.

Todd said I don't care, we can't, the proprietary part is being able to actually have it on your machine and manipulate it. So, just saying when we have that MUST meeting, I suggest that the we have some sort of tv set up or something.

Greg said and Baker Tilly will surely have their own program.

Laura said and I don't know.

Meeks said I assume by that meeting, they're going to have a spreadsheet, to tell you what's going to.

Gary said we plug that one in, we can't plug yours in.

Laura said well we can plug it in to show them.

Meeks said they always have in the past. They can ask tomorrow.

Laura said yeah, they just can't.

Todd said Baker Tilly usually brings a handout.

Meeks said yeah, that's what, I assume they're to bring.

Todd said but this is interactive. If you've towns here and.

Meeks said I think they're going to kind of know though, what the sweet spot is by the time.

Todd said okay.

Meeks said and then they can show you. That's what I'm assuming they're going to do.

Todd said I just watched the way she was doing the demo. She was mocking it with the towns, kind of one-by-one going through each town's budget and so on. And one change affected a lot of other things. And it was just very confusing unless you could actually see what was being done. It was a work in progress, not a completed work that was being presented. I just imagine how, it's the first time we're ever going to do it and it's a rehearsal anyway. But it would be.

Meeks said maybe Laura can ask.

Todd said the way I saw it demonstrated, it would be helpful if we could see what's going on.

Laura said yeah, I don't think it would be an issue to plug it in, so you guys could view numbers on the screen.

Todd said I still don't really understand it, even having watched the demonstration. I don't really get it.

Greg said I think that's the way all of us feel right now.

Meeks said I don't understand it either, Todd. I don't think I'm going to until after we go through the first one.

Greg said the way it's set up, if I understand it right, we'll go through this meeting this fall and do the same thing again next fall. The next one will be the actual activation. So, we're going to have two trial runs basically, mock runs or however you want to put it, to get through this before everybody has to do it for real. So, that was the intent of it all.

Todd said that's all I have.

Greg said okay. Scott?

Scott said yeah, I got something I wanted to discuss and maybe bring up Gary for a little clarification. I know the RCU board, the executive board has been working on some restructure plans.

Gary Friend said Gary Friend again.

Scott said I know some figures were shared with me about a week ago from the executive director, not the executive director, but the board president, Clyde. And they were proposing some serious changes and some serious cuts to their budget. But, I know, yesterday, Gary proposed that they, the commissioners appropriate some funding for a new person next year for the commissioners, and I guess I'm just wondering, it was my understanding they were going to put together a committee and discuss where things were going to go with the RCU board.

Gary Friend said that's correct. That committee has already been put together, at least for the commissioners. Tom Kerns sits on it for the commissioners.

Scott said Tom sits on it. I don't know that anybody, Clyde mentioned he was going to pull me in on it. He did share some figures with me. We've actually never had a meeting. So, I guess I was trying to get some clarification here what we were actually doing with the RCU?

Gary Friend said well, it's not been voted on. So, speaking for myself, I believe it is time for the commissioners to take more control of the economic development of Randolph County, and restructure RCU to do the things, maybe work with the commissioners. But my intent, straight up, my intent is to cut their funding from Randolph County Edit funds down to a hundred thousand dollars and put them on the path of self-funding, as was their charter when they began.

And I'm not a fan of a part-time director. I will never be a fan of a part-time director. We would be better off with a county administrator then we are with a part-time director.

Scott said I agree.

Gary Friend said so, I believe the commissioners are going to have a committee member, and just because I think they should be cut to a hundred thousand dollars, doesn't mean that's what the committee is going to come up with. And I will look at what, myself, for my vote only, I will look at what the committee's come up with as long as I believe there's a track to self-funding, to a point, I believe that Randolph County can put some funding over there to help them keep the lights on, and keep the rent paid. But, if we don't sever the funding stream, sooner, it's never going to happen, and in lieu of what's coming down the road after 2028, we don't even know how EDIT will be funded. Will it be a County General expense? Will they make a change at the last minute and leave EDIT there for the commissioners to use or not? That set aside, the county administrator also, as all you folks are understanding, there's more and more and more going on with legislating and operating executively the county. And basically, we rely on the auditor's office to do everything, and they do. They do what we ask. But we also know that you can overload the auditor's office with constant need. And the commissioners and the council too, have the statutory right to have an administrator. So, we are just looking at being prudent with the county dollar. Say, we'll have our administrator do some things that maybe the RCU was doing for us, but we'll see to it that it gets done and the reports come in. Not that they don't get everything done over there, I'm not saying that. I'm just saying they only get done what they have time to do, and with a very part-time executive director, and it's not her fault, by the way. I believe it's a failure of the board just letting it go on and on and on. I do.

Scott said I'm in agreement that the commissioners need somebody working with them on a daily basis. And I think what director have in mind right now does that. Like I say, the committee is not met to my knowledge.

Gary Friend said I don't know.

Scott said but there were some new budget figures shared with me. I think the total number went from about 270 a year to like 150 a year. But the 150 included about a \$50,000.00 salary for the director, which is a figure that the commissioners actually approved to appropriate yesterday.

Gary Friend said no, for the economic development, RCU director?

Scott said yeah.

Gary Friend said no. We put in the budget \$65,000.00 for county administrator.

Scott said county administrator.

Gary Friend said nothing to do with RCU.

Scott said okay. Well, they do have a, they have put together a new proposed budget to present, I assume to commissioners. But, I know that the committee really hasn't met yet.

Gary Friend said yeah, I don't know, and I haven't seen the budget numbers that they're going to propose.

Scott said so, I guess I was curious with, when things were going to be presented.

Gary Friend said well their contract runs out at the end of this year.

Scott said right.

Gary Friend said so, I would say long before we get it, there's time in the EDIT.

Scott said they need to be presented before budget hearing next month, correct?

Gary Friend said not necessarily. They're subject to the annual appropriation of the council for sure. I don't know if it's needed to be in here by then. I think it's going to be an EDIT fund expense, and then the county will treat it as an approval of a claim I think. I don't know that they're under the requirements like Solid Waste is, to get into the county budget. So, I don't think they are.

Scott said okay.

Gary Friend said the sooner the budget, the better though, Scott. There's no doubt about that. I'm sure the commissioners will come up with.

Scott said right. I was just wondering if we would get it before the council discusses their budget numbers next month?

Gary said well, the budget numbers for the council for the county budget is not the same as RCU budget.

Scott said correct.

Gary Friend said so, that has to be done for them in time, it's got to be done in time for the EDIT board to, for the commissioners to change the EDIT plan, for the board to meet and for the EDIT board to approve the proposal. That all has to happen before December 31st. So, that's kind of the clock they need to work backwards with. The sooner the committee meets and the sooner that we get you know, some numbers, and I wouldn't be surprised you know, at all, if somewhere between zero, which is where I'm at, because I'm just not happy with the output from RCU. Not necessarily pinpoint people, to me, honestly, that's part of the board members, I think it's a failure of the board to let it go on. And I don't mean that to disparage any one individual of the board. But, they have their own board to take care of this, so, they're going to have to convince the commissioners, as a board and as a committee, that somewhere between zero and it's not

270, because Tourism gets 24, 5, 6 thousand dollars of that. Somewhere between zero and there will be.

Scott said right.

Gary Friend said but I don't believe that we should make a move that just absolutely leaves them high and dry. We should make a move that gives them the opportunity to get on the path of self-funding. And if they can't, then we're going to have to look at it.

Scott said they're in agreement that they needed to make some changes. They have some proposed changes. But, I've been a little bit confused about the committee that was supposed to be formed.

Gary Friend said Clyde requested a committee be put together consisting of the executive board of the RCU, one commissioner and a council member. The commissioners chose Tom Kerns. I have not got a report back from that committee, official, I hear things too.

Scott said there were numbers shared with me, but I was never asked to be on the committee.

Gary Friend said okay.

Scott said I was never appointed by the council to be on the committee. So, I guess.

Gary Friend said I think the council probably ought to appoint one because.

Scott said council needs to appoint somebody to sit on this committee to talk about these figures and where RCU goes from here.

Greg said well that can be done right quick. Since you're the one that has the information and the knowledge of what's going on down there, I don't see any reason why you shouldn't be the one to represent council. Does anybody else have anything to say on that?

David said I think it would be a fine choice.

Greg said I need a motion.

Larry said I make a motion to have Scott Fisher as our council representative on the committee for the RCU and commissioners.

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

Greg said you're the man, Scott.

Gary Friend said I just recommend reaching out to Clyde Shaffer. He's the board president.

Scott said he shared some numbers with me a week ago, but like I said, I had never been appointed.

Greg said that's kind of an oversight on my part, because Clyde did call me a good while back and I didn't write it down.

Gary Friend said got anymore for me?

Todd said I have a question. On the county administrator roll, are you looking to fill that? Do you have a, I mean you obviously, you guys established that yesterday, so, it's there now, I guess it could, the position could be filled now at this point, or does it have to go through another meeting to?

Gary Friend said it's not budgeted yet.

Laura said they're going to put it in the budget and then if you guys approve the budget line, then they would probably at that point, look at.

Meeks said fill it in January.

Laura said yeah, it would on January 1.

Todd said so, it wouldn't be available to be filled until next year?

Meeks said unless you guys at the budget meeting decide to.

Todd said what is your wish for that? I mean, would you?

Gary Friend said well, I think it would come after, first of all, we've got to get job descriptions put together.

Todd said yeah.

Gary Friend said you're probably looking at a January hire, and also, the 65,000 in the budget, we don't even have a salary for that yet. We just don't see it, or at least, I don't see it, I'm speaking for myself, going over 65,000. It could come under. It depends on the training that's involved with it. So, we just, when I say we, we would talk about it, know that it needs to get into the budget.

Todd said it seems like these two things are tied a little bit together.

Gary Friend said they are.

Todd said okay.

Gary Friend said we need to see where this committee is going to come up, and what the commissioners decide with what's presented to them, if it's acceptable.

Todd said okay.

Gary Friend said and if it's acceptable, then we will look at what we're going to do from their forward. I don't know where the commissioners will go. I tend to believe that we're going to, a significant cut is coming and significant changes, if there's not a cut. That's how I feel about it.

Greg said anybody else?

Gary Friend said nope, thank you.

Greg said Scott, is that all you had today?

Scott said yep.

Greg said okay. Been around the table. Laura, do you have anything?

Laura said I don't.

Adjournment

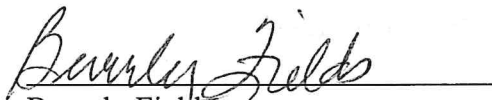
Greg said okay. I need a motion to adjourn.

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

Reviewed and accepted this 9 day of September, 2026

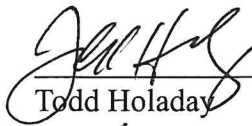

Greg Cheesman


Larry Preston


Beverly Fields


David Lenkensdofer

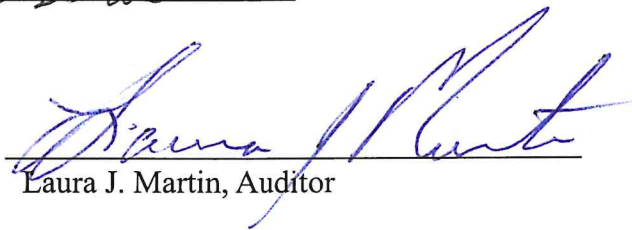

Mike Stine



Todd Holaday



Scott Fisher

ATTESTED: 

Laura J. Martin, Auditor

