

Randolph County Council

July 8, 2025

The Randolph County Council met at their regular meeting at 9:00 AM in the Commissioners and Council Room in the Courthouse with the following members present: Board President David Lenkensdofer, Beverly Fields, Mike Stine, Todd Holaday, Greg Cheesman, Scott Fisher and Larry Preston. Also present was Randolph County Auditor Laura Martin, Sheriff Art Moystner and County Attorney Meeks Cockerill.

Pledge of Allegiance

David said effective July 1, we will be live broadcasting this meeting, so, just for your information.

Commissioner's update

David said so, the first item we have up is the commissioner's update. Gary?

Gary Friend said I promise you I'll give you all a condensed version. So, the street out in Harrisville, the lady, Samantha Burke, I believe her name is, come in with an ordinance to close half of the street. And closing half a street I never good business in Randolph County, and according to our attorney, I mean, he agrees and I agree, so, the other side of it, who has disputes with their neighbors, come in and got their own attorney and they're coming in, and we're having a public hearing on the 4th to close the entire street, which is the way it should be. So, Mrs. Burke does not get harmed whatsoever, and then, that'll be done. So, that's what's going on, on the street in Harrisville. It'll be solved, I'd expect on August the 4th. Think about it. If you close half a street, you still allow the other neighbor to have the right-of-way, what's left. That's public access right-of-way, theoretically, if you down the road, went to close it again, then they would have half the rights to half of that, I mean, rights to half of that right-of-way possibly. So, you need to do it all or not at all. I believe we need to close one by one, every street out because nobody is crossing that railroad track. It's not going to happen. So, that's being taken care of. Jake gave up an update on jai roof issues that need to be taken of, and we're funding out of commissioners' Cum cap to get it taken care of because there's going to be quite a project going underneath that roof. That roof's got to be sound. So, Perry Knox was in and Sam Magers wasn't here, but Chad Roots from, and he's here today, so he can come up and speak to you if you guys want to talk to him. This is task order 8 about the road out there at the Fairview stone quarry. The commissioners have voted to fund the task order and also the project management out of windfarm funding or renewable energy funding. I believe, I don't have the number wrote down, it was 400 and 3 to 5,000. The number's down there, so I'll have to look it up. We can't do the bond, which we had talked about because the bond, we could do a bond, but not this bond. This bond that we're looking at for the morgue redo and the jail is out of special EDIT. Road building is not a special EDIT project. So, I would hope the commissioners would entertain, or

the council go with the commissioners on getting this started. This task order 8, we've been through, for anybody that may not be keeping up with it, we've been through it a lot of different scenarios, starting with the bridge across the Mississinewa River to Highway 28 was completely unaffordable. Then we looked at going north. We couldn't get out of the flood plain there. Then we looked at maybe get INDOT to work with us and slow that traffic down. That's not feasible either. So, now we're looking at going between two houses, re-routing 800 North and doing an arc right down to US Ag's property and they will move the weigh station to it in an acceptable amount of time. And then that will get us up above the danger zone. With 12,000 loads of stone going out of there, that means there're 12,000 empty trucks coming in. So, you've got, you know, up to 25,000 uses of that road in one year. And with, I don't know, I think Chad had told me 40 to 60 years of stone out there. This is something we have to get taken care of and go on. If we do not, we will absolutely, utterly destroy 700 over there, or I mean a 1,000. There's just no way around it. It's already taken the toll on it now. And honestly, we don't need those big triaxle gravel trucks passing each other on that 1000 West, possibly getting I the ditch, possibly having roll overs. I mean there's just, this way here, we'll be able to get it out to the highway and continue on. So, when I get done, Chad's here, I'd just like to let you know.

David said we don't know how much it is though? I mean.

Gary Friend said for it? I've got to look it up. Maybe Laura can, it's 400 and.

Laura said no, but are you not going to ask for renewable for the whole project, which is.

Gary Friend said well right now we have to do the task order. We don't even know yet.

Laura said you're just doing the task order?

Gary Friend said yeah.

Laura said so, it's 406, I believe, somewhere around that. I didn't bring it up with me.

Gary Friend said yeah.

David said and what do we get for 406,000?

Gary Friend said we get all of the drawings for the road. We get project management for the whole project. We get, we don't get the land. That's not part of it.

Meeks said you get the legal descriptions.

Gary Friend said you get the legal descriptions.

Meeks said and engineering, right.

Gary Friend said yeah, and engineering. And then the utility issues that we have there So, basically, the way I understand it, we're getting everything ready to build a road to take it to quote, take it to bid.

David said okay. So, we don't know the total bid, or total?

Gary Friend said of the road, no. We have an estimate 2.2 million.

Scott Fisher said Gary, does that 2.2 include the engineering costs?

Gary Friend said uh, I'm thinking it did, but.

Scott Fisher said I was thinking it did.

Gary Friend said yeah. I think it was 1.8 plus engineering up to 2.2.

Scott Fisher said 1.8 plus the engineering cost.

Gary Friend said yeah. So, one way or the other, we have to, I believe, for the councils' consideration, we have to build this road before we have a major catastrophe out there. And I know that they used to run stone out of there 50 years ago, but it's just things are different now. We had a presentation from a gentleman named Jacob Roddy, on Enterprise. I think some of the councilmembers here have had that discussion whether we should turn our entire fleet to Enterprise to manage for us. After the presentation, it was the commissioners' thought that he needed to go back and get more specific to what can you really do to Randolph, other than just pull in statistics out of the way and saying here's how it could work. Well, we do okay right now with our own fleet management. And we don't turn, like I was just talking to Jack before we come up here, his truck is pushing 10 years right now, you know. So, we don't flip them right over right away. We get everything out of them we can get out of them and that has value too. So, he'll come back with the commissioners after he's had time to get on the schedules of all our department heads that use vehicles and come back and see if it's something that we'd want to do, something the commissioners would want to pass on to the council to look at and to expense. Eric Hiatt from Union City fire department was in. We've been paying \$12,500.00 a year for a long time. And it's probably not right. However, he came over with a 5-year progressive contract and the commissioners want him to come back with something more, I personally think, more reasonable, because there's concern about you know, will this money support the Ohio side, because of how Union City operates. He says it will not. I don't know, but in their formula, they had us paying \$10.00 a head for every single person in the city of Union City, as part our fee. The discussion was is you're already being paid by your rate for your own citizens. I have no doubt at all that our 12,500 is way off the mark in the 24,000.

Meeks said we might have to check that because when I thought about it afterwards, I'm not sure that's not based on fees.

Gary said okay.

Meeks said so, I just don't know.

Gary said okay. We're looking into it though, yeah. But we're really responsible, excuse me. We back up Union City, obviously. We back up Winchester and they back us up. But, we're looking at taking care of the townships out there, Wayne and Jackson Township. So, they're going to hone that down a little bit and come in here and we're probably going to go from, I believe we statutorily have to go from 5 to 3 years, don't we?

Meeks said we've only done 3 years, so. I don't think you can do 5 without doing special.

Gary said yeah, I don't either. Yeah.

Meeks said you can do 5, but it takes special action.

Gary said yeah. So, before we get on to some of the other things, I'll ask Meeks a little bit of help from it, on it. The Farmland EMS building is completed. I think we have some adjustments on some closures yet, but and paid for yesterday. So, that entire project is done and it come in exactly on the budget numbers. We had a, quite a discussion on setbacks yesterday, solar, windmills and animal controlled feeding operations. You might say it got a little passionate from time to time. But, the, with the help of our attorney too, I'll have Meeks fill in a little bit of the moratoriums that are in place. I was losing track of some time frames as we were going through it. We're putting a solar overlay, we're attempting, we're going to vote to put a solar overlay over the county in the projects of the solar. Instead of sending projects to the BZA like was first proposed, that gets pretty subjective. It also gets out of the hands of the elected officials. I'm one that believes that if you take the office, you've got to face forward and you've got to, you make the decisions. So, on the solar overlay, I think, simple as I can put it, there'll be more notifications to the people who are going to be affected and there'll be open public hearing where they can come and speak to the commissioners. And a large project, let's just say a large project in the 1,000 acres is going to go under solar, and we, the commissioners, listened to everybody and we look at it, and we see 3 spots in there. They just shouldn't be there for a quality of life of people. We can say yeah, we'll accept the project, except for those 3 small spots. You need to move them. We're going to mandate that you move them or you're not getting your permits. That puts the control of the solar into the hands of the commissioners more, so we can manipulate allowing this type of growth and not destroying the livelihood of people nearby. That about the jest of it?

Meeks said I think the solar overlay, how I would explain it is if you have a parcel, 1,000 acres of say it's going to be the solar farm, and it's ag intensive or ag limited, whatever, the zoning, this is just another layer of zoning so you can do, you can do everything you can in the ag limited and ag intensive, nothing of that changes. It only allows now, for solar, also solar in that area. And why it's probably better to do it as a rezone is because we rezone things all the time. You go to the city of Winchester and you want to become an R-1 to and R-2, you go to the BZA, you get approval, they vote, it then goes on to the legislative body. So, if you're in the city of Winchester, you go to the city council. If you're in the county, like this would be, you would go to the county commissioners. So, then the county commissioners can hear your petition or do whatever, you know, you'd want to do. And notices are sent out, and so, we have already the

framework set up for a rezone. So, it's almost just like a rezone. I think it gets the notice requirements and then it's up to the county commissioners or whoever the governing body is at that point, to say yay or nay.

Gary said so, great explanation. So, we'll move into the moratoriums and the actions that were taken, and Meeks, if you'll help me with this, so we get them right.

Meeks said well, on the carbon capture, we have no, in the Unified Zoning Ordinance, if you looked up carbon capture, even in M2, which is where Cardinal Ethanol is, it's not a permitted use, it's not a special exception. There's no, it's just not in there. So, I would say, if they would come to the Area Plan and ask for a permit, they could not issue a permit because it's not a permitted use, and you haven't got an exception. And you can't get a special exception because it's not, it's no where in our ordinance. So, they did a 90-day moratorium on that to put language in there that says well you can have this carbon sequestering in M2, if you meet certain requirements. And those people are coming to our meeting next month, your meeting for tax abatement. So, but even if they came today for the, it's not permitted use. I mean, I guess that's the problem. And then the battery storage, exact same problem. You go and say well I want the battery storage and it's, nowhere is it a permitted use or a special exception or anything, anywhere in our zoning ordinance. So, they did a 60-day, or 6-months moratorium on that, and hopefully, Jay County, they came to Jay County. That's the, if you read the, there's an article in the, what's their newspaper, Review?

Gary said Commercial Review.

Meeks said Commercial Review. And you might read that article if you guys get a chance. But it's basically, their minutes and they said well we don't really know anything about battery Storage, so, we're going to need to do some research. In that article that I read, there's a lot of things on that battery storage. What happens if there's a fire? Do we have the necessary fire suppression? I don't know, right. I don't know what type of fires they are with, I mean those are some real things they've got to really think about when they do that. That's a 6-month moratorium.

Gary said yeah. And then we contemplated a moratorium on animal barns for 60 days, as the 60 one in there, which didn't go. But there is going to be a review, and I personally brought that up and it is a little bit personal. I mean, sometimes your decisions on how you act and even manage, from personal experiences, I believe that turkey barns under 80,000 square feet of roof, 870 feet of setback is not enough. I truly believe that. I made it quite clear that I believe the hog operations that are back 1500 foot, there's no problem with it, the county is doing fine with it, turkeys should be reviewed. Matt Dirksen didn't agree at all. I also believe that to use my 300 feet of my front yard as part of your agricultural setback wasn't quite fair to me, because, or any other. And the argument with that is we can't go to structural to the property line setbacks right now because of the difficulties of those who have 40 acres and the house is plotted on there too. Then all of a sudden, that particular property line is the property line of 40 acres, not where the house sets. I understand that. But if you don't have that and you just have a residential lot out in the county, it's a little bit different. So, they're going to review that at the APC about the setbacks. The reason I was looking for a CAFO, or I'm sorry, not a CAFO, moratorium for 60

days is because there's no permits in our office at APC, none. Nobody is affected in their day-to-day operation. So, it didn't go, so that's where we're at. Any questions?

David said I have a question on carbon capture, 90-day moratorium. You said they're going to be in your next meeting?

Meeks said your next meeting.

Gary said yours.

David said for tax abatement?

Gary said yeah.

Meeks said they're asking for tax abatement.

David said how can we give a tax abatement if?

Gary said good question.

Meeks said well that's an excellent question.

David said we can't do it officially because you have a 90-day moratorium.

Meeks said well, you could do a tax abatement, I mean.

Gary said I had the same question. Meeks.

Meeks said you can do a tax abatement.

David said if you looked at the big picture, I don't think you can.

Meeks said I think you can do a tax abatement. They just don't, they can't put it in, so they don't get any benefit from it.

David said well my recommendation, we wouldn't do that.

Scott Fisher said I struggle with a tax abatement.

Meeks said well I told them that they better have a very good presentation.

Scott Fisher said and I'm going to, I'd like to share some figures that I received from a large stock holder at Cardinal. They're doing this for the tax credits. And the tax credits are worth \$85.00 a ton per year. And Cardinal produces 400,000 ton a year. That's 34 million dollars a year they're getting in tax credits. So, I have trouble understanding why Randolph County needs to give a tax abatement for that.

David said yeah.

Scott Fisher said I do.

Greg said well not only that, with the new ruling that's forced it down on us from the state, then this new big bill that we got this year, tax abatement is not going to be that good a thing anyway.

Meeks said and it's in a TIF you wouldn't receive it.

Scott said we're not going to receive it. I just, I have a problem with it.

David said I voice with Scott on that. I just struggle with that one.

Meeks said I told them it was still in a TIF. Why would we, I mean, that's a deal you need to work out with Cardinal. I mean, that's really how, and I told them that on the phone.

Todd said and that goes on until when?

Meeks said 6 more years.

Scott said I got my information from a stockholder. He said, he shared the numbers with me, said we're producing 400,000 ton a year and we're going to get \$85.00 a ton tax credit. That's 34 million a year. I don't think they need our tax abatement.

Gary said anything else, Dave, for me, anybody?

David said one other thing. I noticed yesterday, on your agenda, Coblenz Construction for the airport T hanger, you approved claims?

Gary said yeah, yes.

David said do we have any concept or idea when that building is going to be built?

Gary said I do not, but before we approve the claims, one thing I did was looking at all the signatures on there so it's, you know, everybody's on board. I do not know, myself. I think Commissioner Williams, Missy, is the liaison I'll have to ask where she's at with that.

David said just a little concerned. That's been going on for 3 or 4 years now that. They do have the concrete pad finally poured, but there's no.

Gary said fair question.

David said I thought it was supposed to have been up a year ago.

Gary said well I agree. I almost lost track of it when I seen it on the claims.

David said okay.

Larry said my feedback was you drive by there and maybe see the cement and the groundwork and everything they did, and the claim is for about \$200,000, and the total project is \$477.

Meeks said something like that.

Larry said so, that obviously, means the building better get up for \$277 or something like that.

Gary said right.

Larry said in my mind.

Gary said yep. You'd think too, that the building part of it is probably one of the easier parts of it.

Larry said oh sure, and probably the least expensive too.

Gary said just a steel skin building going up, yeah.

David said okay. Anything else for Gary today?

Gary said thank you, everybody.

David said thank. That was the abbreviated, right?

Gary said that was the abbreviated. Meeks, was that abbreviated?

Meeks said very abbreviated.

Jake Donham – Jail Roof

David said okay, Jake.

Jake Donham said like Gary had explained, yesterday in the meeting, they approved Commissioner Cum Cap to fund a couple maintenance issues for the jail roof. I think everybody got the copy of the report, or should have anyways. In a nutshell, the perimeter cap is limestone in 4-foot sections on the jail, on top of the wall all the way around. Between every piece of limestone is a caulk joint, expansion joint. Well that caulk's failed over the years and then the mortar joints on the underneath side of it have failed as well. So, here lately on these driving rains, that rain is pushing underneath that cap running inside the wall and creating wet spots underneath the underlay of the roof. We had a couple places in the jail that were taking on, not a lot of water, but just making stains. So, that's what brought us aware of it. They did a roof scan of it and found all the hot spots around the perimeter. And then that report clearly showed that it's, the only way to come in is through that section of wall where it's driving in under that cap. So, they proposed putting a metal cap, mechanical fasteners, all the way around and completely

encapsulating that limestone cap to remedy the problem. The quote on that was \$45,000. And then they had another smaller issue on one of the roof drains that needs reworked for \$2189. Two separate proposals there. But, in the report, they said with these repairs, Simmons Roof Maintenance projected another 15, we could get 15 years out of the roof that's existing. Everything else looks to be in good shape. I've been using Simmons Roofing for several years now on all the other county building. So, this is the first they been on this one. They always come in, they do a complete inspection to the entire roof, fix anything they can while they're on site, and then they came back and done this major report, and put this together for our issues.

David said any questions for Jake on this?

Greg said just to be clear, Jake, you're going to cap this with steel to take care of the problem then, some metal siding, stuff like.

Jake Donham said yeah, yep, yep. They will just encapsulate it, have drip pads on each side to drop below the actual mortar joints so it will shed the water off on both sides, just to eliminate it.

Larry said do you if it's galvanized or copper color or?

Jake Donham said we haven't got to that part yet. I can get with the sheriff or commissioners and see if they have a color choice. That's a good question. I don't know if this is going to be, if it would be a painted product. I'm sure it would.

David said it is over a 30-year old building, so, it's time for some repair.

Jake Donham said the roof is actually not too old. I think it's 9 or 10 years old. I can't remember, but I went back through, was looking at all their warranty information and all that, the actual roof material itself, has got a 20-year warranty on it. So, we were kind of, when I was dealing with Simmons, I explained that to them and I said I'm kind of cautious on what kind of inspections they do, I don't really want to start cutting and prodding around on the roof structure yet until we have that manufacturer do their inspection, so we don't, you know, lose our warranty. And they agreed, so they, that's when they decided to do their infrared scan, and that showed them all the hot spots, which is the water coming underneath. That proved where the water was coming from for sure.

David said the mortar joints have never been addressed, right?

Jake Donham said right, because actually, you can kind of see it in some of the report pictures, they're actually is a mechanical fastener right underneath it that the roof went up to, and they rolled underneath it. And so, that left the exposed mortar joints underneath. And then on the other side as well, that wasn't ever addressed because that really wasn't roof either. It's just where the limestone cap meets the outside brick. Then there were a couple of places that's pretty much gone.

David said okay. Anything else for Jake today?

Scott Fisher said is there any chance when that work gets done that there'll be any damage done to the existing roof?

Jake Donham said I wouldn't, I mean, these, if these guys put it on, they're not going to do anything to, as far as the work, while they're working on it or the?

Scott Fisher said yeah, getting this cap put on, is there any chance in damaging the rest of the roof?

Jake Donham said I don't think so. I mean, it's a pretty solid roof as far as when you're walking on it, working on it.

Scott Fisher said you've got 10 years of warranty left, but they're going to come back and say you know, this has been damaged or something.

Jake Donham said yeah, I don't, I can't say 100%. I would hope these guys are qualified enough to not damage.

Scott said and maybe they can put the cap on without actually working on top of the roof, working off lifts?

Jake Donham said yeah, possibly. I'm not sure what they're approach would be. I'm guessing they're probably going to work off the roof before they would outside. I could address that. I could ask them. It's probably going to change their quote as far as if they've got to bring lifts in and that, I don't know.

Scott Fisher said well just, I would hate to put the new cap on it and find out okay, now we've got to replace the roof.

Jake Donham said yeah, I don't think we have to worry about that with these guys, but I could ask that question to see if we're jeopardizing our warranty on the actual surface now, yeah, definitely.

David said okay, anything else?

Todd said so, if it's under warranty, the warranty obviously doesn't and cover what's going on here for some reason?

Jake Donham said warranty just covers the material that's down right now. This really isn't a roof. This, what they're doing is not really a roof, anything to do with the roof. It was just the top cap. And so, if you get a chance to go back and look at that email that had the full report, it'll show all the pictures and show you what exactly, what's going on. That's why I emailed everybody that report, because it's pretty, pretty cut and dry when you look at it. It's a 50-page report they put together and it's very, very detailed. And it explains each picture, what's going on and what they're proposing to do, and so forth.

Todd said I don't need it, but I don't think I got it, just so you know.

Laura said I thought I forwarded it to all of you. Jake asked me to.

David said I've seen the report.

Laura said okay, yeah.

David said I can't bring it up on this for some reason. Okay, anything else? Got anything else, Jake?

Jake Donham said I don't think so.

David said okay. Well thanks for coming in.

Other Business:

Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff

Commissary Report

David said okay, go for other business. Art, do you have anything?

Art Moystner said the commissary report was shared with you guys by email earlier. There was a change in that statute also effective July 1. Instead of doing that bi-annually, you'll receive that quarterly. I asked the commissioners yesterday, since this is a change and things sometimes get busy in my office, if you don't receive that on the quarterly, let me know and I will get that to you ASAP. But, I've kind of written down so that I can try to get that to you. The only other thing I wanted to check with is I received a copy of responses on email from the Axon information that I sent out to the council. I just wanted to make sure that everybody had received that and if anybody had any discussion that they would like to do with it, I know that was a 10-year contract, I would share with you in talking to the individual, I had looked at a 5-year. The 5-year is a minute difference in cost, and I think the way I'd sent out in an email to explain what it would cost 4-years ago, what we looked at a year ago and what it is currently, and I think if you would do a 5-year, and the council needs to renew it in 5 more, I think your cost would greatly increase per year over that time frame. So, I guess that's one of those things and I guess I would share with the council that that's not something I included in my budget this year. Technically, we don't run out until November of next year. However, we do have a bit of a credit there that will go into that, that's went into that figure for the quote we have now, so we get credited. And if we decided to move forward this year, that would go into effect January 1 for the new taser contract. I would also share with you this is probably one of the best tools that's been given to the law enforcement officers as far as having the in-car cameras and the body cameras, evidentiary-wise, plus the taser for officer safety, in having that less lethal option. So, I think it's something that the county does need to keep if there's any way possible.

Bev said I do have a question. So, this is the 900 and some odd thousand dollar, or 9 thousand, I don't know, it's a big, over ten years.

Art Moystner said over ten years, it's a large number.

Bev said it's a large number. But you have an installment per year, and that installment is the same per year?

Art Moystner said correct. It is the same.

Bev said same for the ten-year.

Art Moystner said it's right at the \$95,000.00 mark and I would share with you, I believe it's page 2 of the documents I sent, have that ten-year schedule on it.

Bev said yeah.

Art Moystner said does anybody else have any questions?

Larry said you said, Art, this contract would have to be signed by December 31st or January 1?

Art Moystner said yeah. I mean, if we're going to make a determination and move forward with it, we would probably want that before December because we would want to start putting that into play January 1, and if we don't sign it until December 31st, then obviously, we're not going to get that contract started right away. If it delays out beyond that, I guess the contractual obligation would go from whatever month we were able to get it in, and move forward from there.

Larry said so, if we adopted the contract this year, would the first installment be due in 26 or?

Art Moystner said your first installment would be due February of next year is the way the current quote is listed.

Bev said and you've included that in your budget?

Art Moystner said I have not included it in the budget because that is a large sum of money that would be new money. So, that would be a new ask. It would probably be a new line item or would go into our contractual line that we have now.

David said my recommendation, the council, if we continue on with this, we need to probably make it part of the budget. So, the councils going forward will know.

Bev said yes, over a ten-year period I think is necessary.

Art Moystner said and I would share that over the years when Commissioner Friend was on the council, him and Councilman Lenkensdofer, both said they wanted to make this a budgeted item when we got it initially. But, I think it's something that is, on your side of it, I mean, it helps us evidentiary-wise with cases, on your side, I think it's a tremendous tool for liability because it captures the actions that take place. So, I know we've used it in the past when we've received complaints to go back and review. And to date, I've never had an officer that I've disciplined

because of something they've done wrong. I've been able to go back and it's not you know, this person versus that person. I get to see what happened on scene.

David said Laura, can you make sure we see that at budget hearing this year?

Laura said I have it, made a note, yep.

David said okay, very good. I figured you would. I wanted to make sure.

Art Moystner said does anybody have any other questions related to the sheriff's office?

Todd said the price on this just keeps going, I mean, up, up, up, big time. Was 60 then 70, now it's going to be 95, feels like.

Art Moystner said it does. And that's why, I guess that's one of my comments that I've made is if we would only do a 5-year, you're still looking at very similar cost. And then your next 5-years, going to be 120,000 a year.

Todd said there's no, can they just make this whatever they want? Is there not much competition out there for this kind of thing?

Art Moystner said there is competition, but there's not a competition in the combining of the way they've combined it. I can also tell you that there's been several advances that have been made. There is one piece of this that would be, in this contract, that wasn't there last year, that contributes to \$6,000.00 a year in this cost, and it's a training tool that I believe is well worth getting because it's a scenario-based training. It is where everything is moving in law enforcement currently. And it's 6,000 a year. I don't know why you wouldn't include that into this. But beyond that, it's stayed relatively consistent in a percentage because we went from basically, it was 60,000 a year 4 years ago, when we looked at it, last year, I believe it was in the lower 70s to continue that on. And we're looking at the 95 now, and you think about the inflation rate over the last 3 years, I'm not real sure that it's out of line with what everything else has done.

Todd said well, I mean, I think it is. I mean, you know, we had one year we had like a 10% increase, that be, 5, \$6,000.00, and then it looks like it's increasing about you know, 20 to 30% every year or two. Which, I mean, feels like a locking in at \$95,000 I suppose is the right thing to do because they'll keep doing that.

Art Moystner said sure.

Todd said it just feels like one of those things where we are paying whatever you know, they tell us to pay. You know what I mean, it's just like, because everybody knows prices have gone up. It feels like people are exorbitantly increasing the prices of these kinds of services where you only have one or two options. I don't really know what to do about it, Art. It feels like that's not something that, it just, all these things, you know, the cost of doing things with our buildings, the

cost of these services and so on, they can't just keep going up 10, 20, 30% every year when our revenues are not going up 10, 20, 30% per year.

Art Moystner said well I would share with you, when I came into office, our vehicles were costing us \$32,000.00 a year. I think they're at \$55,000.00 a year now. So, I think some of this is doing that. I also think there is some adjustment here because we have a cloud-based storage system. And when you're paying for that cloud base, which is probably a little more convenience than trying to keep the servers yourself, and there're just some share tools that we have with this that make this valuable. And they've increased some of the technology with this, which goes along with some of the costs. So, I don't disagree. I think, you know, in my time in office, some of the equipment for law enforcement has went up considerably. And I don't like to see it either, but it's just a blunt reality. And I can share with you one of the things I've done is I've tried to package it because if we were to buy this with the things, to where I would carve it out with the things that are less essential, less needed than this stuff that are actually needed, the cost would go up, because by doing the bundle, I think it saved \$300,000. Where, if I would start cutting out and doing everything individually with these, with this company, I don't know that we're going to save much, if anything.

Laura said can I ask a question? If you don't go with Axon, would you not have to buy all new equipment too? I mean, if you went with a different company.

Art Moystner said there's no other company that manufactures the taser.

Laura said okay.

Greg said say that again, Art?

Art Moystner said there is no other company that manufactures the taser, which is the less lethal that all the officers and has proved very effective, not only for us, but for law enforcement nationally. It's a very effective tool. At some point, if any of you get a chance to stop and see me, I will show you a video that for officers' safety is an amazing video to see. So, if I had the technology, I'd bring it in here, but I'm not that technical to bring in and be able to show you all in an open meeting.

David said any other questions for Art?

Art Moystner said I guess the only other thing I would add is when you're talking about officer safety and citizen safety, not sure how you put a price tag on it. That's all I have. Thank you.

Minutes May 6, 2025

David said okay, next item is the minutes for May 6th, 2025.

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

UG Winchester Biogas 2025 pay 2026 CF-1

David said okay, the next item we have on our agenda is the UG Winchester Biogas 2025 pay 2026 CF-1. It's a reporting of that tax abatement.

Greg said what is it?

Laura said you guys gave them an abatement like last year, for this year. This is the first year for their abatement. And they are required to file the CF-1 with my office and other entities in their district every year. This is the first time any company has ever sent me copies to send out for them. So, there's a place for the council to sign saying they received these, and then I'm going to put them in the envelopes and send them out for them.

Todd said is this the company that has the digester?

Laura said over at Union Go Dairy?

Todd said uh huh.

Laura said yes basically, all I need is these signed, so I can get them mailed out.

David said and, I'm the only one to sign this, the president of the county council, so, it's just the information, so.

Laura said yeah. I get these from everybody that you do abatements for, but they've never sent me copies to send out to the other entities before.

Greg said what was the abatement for?

Laura said so, Union Go Dairy put in a digester.

Bev said a digester.

Greg said methane digester, okay, okay.

Laura said yeah, and that's what the abatement was for.

Greg said okay, okay. I didn't know they did that.

David said has anybody heard back from that yet? I've not heard.

Greg said when I see Tony, I'll ask him.

David said okay, that would be great, Greg.

Additional Appropriations:

Misc Expense **\$5,000.00**

David said okay, let's go to Additional Appropriations. First one is a prosecutor miscellaneous expense \$5,000. We don't know what it's for, do we?

Laura said it's out of his incentive fund, and we've done these before and I'll re-iterate that he does not have to appropriate that fund. He does it, but he doesn't have to. So, he can spend it without an appropriation.

David said and he does?

Laura said he does bring it through and have it appropriated.

David said entertain a motion to approve the prosecutor miscellaneous expense.

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

Extension Office

Overtime \$800.00

David said Julie, would you want to come up about your overtime here? Next item we have is the Extension Office overtime of \$800.00.

Julie Wilson said so, Danita reached out to Sue and had some concerns about to the overtime that Sue accrues during the fair and what it will leave her after the fair. So, based off of the math, after the fair, for the month of July and the rest of the year, Sue will have a total of 8 hours left of the overtime. We've been really good at not using much of that and using the flex time. We've only used about \$100.00 of that \$3,000 that we were allocated for the year. So, we are just trying to be proactive and not come to you and have a different problem if we end up going over those 8 hours after the rest of the year. So, we're just asking for the \$800.00 to make sure that we have enough to get through the year.

David said okay. Any questions for Julie?

Larry said being new on the council, Julie, did this scenario happen last year, do you know or is that? Is it normal from the fair?

Julie Wilson said it's normal from the fair. Normally, we could accrue comp time and so, that went away, and so when we requested in our budget last year, we had done the math and we had asked for more than the 3,000. But we were given the 3,000, so, typically, Sue gets between 80 and 85 hours of comp time during the fair. So, that's a very typical running average for her, because it's two weeks, the fair is Friday to Friday, but the week before is when all the projects come in. And fair set up is on Monday, and some of that. So, it's a, more of a two-week and then we go to state fair and all that other jazz that comes along with July.

David said okay. Entertain a motion?

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

Todd said when we get to the budget, will you remind us kind of what we did here so we put in 3800 or whatever?

Julie Wilson said yes.

Todd said thank you.

Julie Wilson said and then, building update, I don't know, did you give them an update yet? I know you.

Greg said I was going to at the end of the meeting, but you're welcome to go at it.

Julie Wilson said okay. So, the final clean day for the main building up front is this week. We are moving the freezers and coolers and all that on Sunday into the new junior leader stand and the new kitchen for the homemakers. And they're supposed to be done by the fair. So, that's what they keep telling me. I don't know, you talked to Mike, he might have given you a more update than me, since I was gone last week. I hope it doesn't rain because there's a lot of bare dirt during the fair. So, it could be a muddy mess, but it'll be good.

David said anything else for Julie?

Julie Wilson said fair starts July 18th, so come out and get a milkshake. Thank you, guys.

Auditor

GIS Coordinator \$613.20

David said okay, the next additional appropriation is for the auditor, GIS coordinator. I'll let Laura explain that one.

Laura said I came probably last month, maybe the month before and asked for a small increase for my GIS coordinator in her pay. Part of her pay comes out of the GIS so, this is just the appropriation to allow us to pay that portion out of the GIS mapping fund instead of general. I'm not asking for more money for her, just appropriating it out of the correct line.

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

Opioid Restricted

Jay County Drug Prevention \$10,000.00

David said okay, the next item we have is the opioid restricted for Jay County Drug Prevention of \$10,000.00. I think we've talked about this in our previous meeting. So, it's just a formality, just go ahead and sign this.

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

Children's Advocates

Coordinator Fee	\$14,700.00
Postage	\$50.00
Travel/Mileage	\$3967.01
Volunteer Recruitment	\$3,000.00

David said alright, the next item we have additional appropriation is for the children's advocates for coordinator fee, postage, travel/mileage and volunteer recruitment. This, I believe, is a grant, is that correct, that they are taking this from?

Laura said yeah.

David said it's been approved by Debra Tharp and Judge Toney. Are there any questions on this one? Entertain a motion.

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

Transfers

Emergency Management	From	To
\$493.00	Uniforms	Director

David said next one we have is down to the transfer of emergency management of \$493.00 from uniforms to director's salary.

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

SJCA Task order #8

David said one last thing Laura just added is for the funding for the 800 North Task Order number 8, is what we talked about earlier. It's for \$406,568.00 to come out of the Wind Farm monies. The commissioners already have approved it.

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

Citizen Comments (3 minutes)

David said anybody, citizen's comment, want to come up and present anything? Seeing none, we'll go around the table. Scott, we'll start with you first this time. Do you have anything?

Scott said I don't believe I have anything.

David said okay. Todd?

Todd said yes, I do. Back on what Meeks said on the carbon capture group coming to the meeting next time to make a presentation to us for tax abatement not only does it sounds like there's not a lot of appetite for it from one of the members. But, normally these tax abatements are for 5 years and it's, and they're part of that TIF which doesn't end for 6 years, so, it doesn't seem like it's, it seems misguided to ask us for a tax abatement. So, if they're watching or listening, I'd encourage them to talk to Cardinal Ethanol about that.

David said okay. I wholeheartedly agree with you Todd. Mike?

Mike said nothing.

David said Larry?

Larry said I just want to reiterate one of the comments that was made yesterday at the commissioners about how strong Randolph County and the people are. I think it was Missy, that was keeping track and maybe Pat Mullen keeping track of the housing since the tornado, and they surmised that only 2 families moved out of Randolph County because of the tornado. That's a great stay-power.

David said Bev, do you have anything?

Bev said I do not. Thank you.

David said Greg.

Greg said I thought I'd give an update on the 4-H fairgrounds since we're so close to the fair.

David said that would be great.

Greg said I had talked to Mike Reed a good bit yesterday, which he's one of the members of the future needs at the fair out there. I think there are 6 members on that if I remember right. But anyway, the show arena, the structure and all that is done. The gates for the pigpens are there. The rest of the gates to surround the outside of the show arena are to be delivered this week. The electricity, the electricians are to be done this week or the very first of next week as far as where the restrooms and all that are at the end of the show arena. They were putting in septic tanks today and tomorrow, yesterday and today, I believe for the show arena and the new kitchen at Husted Hall, and I think they will even have inspection of all that sometime this week. The dining room area is pretty much complete other than the electricians finishing up. The kitchen is pretty much complete other than the electricians and also getting the septic hooked up and all that. The old kitchen will still be there because they simply didn't have enough time to get done away with, because they had such bad weather, they got held up last winter on construction of it. Yeah, and as Julie stated, the fairgrounds around it is going to be a muddy mess because there's no time to level dirt, get seeding down and get anything growing. So, that's all going to happen after the fair.

Laura said so, wear our rubber boots to the fair.

Greg said if it rains, you best have some good rubber boots. And also, I asked Mike, and it was, I was tickled to death to hear this because it's been quite a project and everything else, but he said that last month that they talked to the contractor and they had been after him all along to keep up to date as to where they were money-wise, and he said the contractor's fairly confident that this thing is all going to be completed on budget.

Bev said I have a question. So, you talked about the new restroom, is that over by the show arena, you said?

Greg said it'll be on the, be the west side, west end of the show arena, new restrooms and showers.

Bev said and showers, okay.

Greg said so, they tore down the old one.

Bev said okay. So, what about the restrooms that are connected with Husted Hall?

Greg said there're new restrooms there.

Bev said there are, great.

Greg said new restrooms, a kitchen and dining area.

Bev said okay, thank you.

Greg said but they, Mike felt confident that they would be ready for the fair. He said it's running down closer than he wanted, but it's not going to be down to the last day. He thought they would be ready by sometime next week.

David said okay. So, the fair is what, 10 days?

Greg said yeah.

David said they're going to have a couple days extra.

Greg said they'll have a couple three days in between but he said if it rains a lot, he said it will be a muddy sloppy mess because he said there's just.

Bev said you can't do anything about that.

David said just make sure it's a dry July for us.

Greg said yeah, yeah.

David said okay. Anything else, Greg?

Greg said no, thank you.

David said Laura?

Laura said so you all should have received an email I received from the Republican Party to file CF-1s with the clerk of courts. That's due by July 11th, which the deadline is coming up so if you haven't done that yet, you probably should reach out to her, stop by there on your way out or something, or her staff, I don't know. But, that's a new law that went into effect July 1. So, you might check with her on that. And then, I don't think Gary mentioned in his update that they hired Bob Jessee for building commissioner, and hopefully, we're hoping to get him processed through payroll so he can start Monday. That's all I've got.

David said next Monday then?

Laura said yes.

David said okay. Alright, thanks, Laura. I just have 2 things. Have we heard anything back from Jason Semler yet on the budget, for the budget, do you know, Laura?

Laura said no, but I'll reach out to him.

David said okay. And the other one is the AIC conference is coming up in September down in French Lick. If you've never been to one of those conferences, I'd encourage anybody that can attend to attend.

Laura said and registration for that is open right now.

David said it is open right now. And it's always a great conference. County councils will meet on Tuesday morning for about 5 hours, just to go through all the new changes and what responsibilities for county councils to do. It's always a great time, so, I think 3 or 4 of us already signed up. If you want more information, I don't know, can you help them Laura?

Laura said yeah, just reach out and I'll whenever I can.

David said Laura sits on the board of AIC.

Laura said yeah, I highly recommend this conference. It's a really good one. Bev can back me on that too. She's been to several.

David said I've only been to a couple.

Laura said yeah, I know. You let your voice be heard on it. It is a lot of good workshops.

David said it is good workshops. Anything else to come before the county council?

Adjournment

David said entertain a motion to adjourn.

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

Reviewed and accepted this 3 day of September, 2025

David Lenkensdofer

David Lenkensdofer

Larry Preston

Beverly Fields

Beverly Fields

Greg Cheesman

Greg Cheesman

Mike Stine

Mike Stine

Todd Holaday

Scott Fisher

Scott Fisher

ATTESTED:

Laura J. Martin

Laura J. Martin, Auditor