

## **Randolph County Council**

**September 3, 2025**

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

Pledge of Allegiance

### **Shonda Solomon – Solid Waste budget**

David said okay, we're going to have a little change, according to the agenda, we're going to open a public hearing to approve the Solid Waste budget. Would you like to come up Shonda? Shonda Solomon said good morning.

David said good morning. I'll get to that, have your budget right here in front of me. Go right ahead, just explain your budget.

Shonda Solomon said our 2026 budget is very similar to our 2025 budget with just a few exceptions. You will on line 101, director salary, we upped that a little bit 3% every year. Our salary ordinances, our salary ordinance is set by our board of directors. And so, I don't set that. I just make room in the budget for that and then the board of directors then, at the end of the year, makes that decision. You'll notice that on line 102 for community outreach coordinator, we increased that a little more significantly. We're trying to make room in the budget for that position to go from 25 hours to 30. It's, we've gotten a lot of good work done in the last couple of years and we're doing really, really, really well with our education, and there's room for, there's plenty of room for that extra 5 hours a week. So, if the board of directors decides they want to do that, then we have room in the budget to facilitate that. We, most of the other changes in the budget were decreases except for line 392 under recycling and we are operating under a different contract, an updated contract with Best Way than we had, and we just had to make room for an increase in recycling cost. But, other than that, we worked kind of decreased costs in other places so that we could facilitate the increase in the education and outreach line. But, we couldn't quite cover all of it because of that big increase in recycling.

David said okay. Any questions for Shonda? Okay, I guess we'll have to close the public hearing, right? Or is there anybody, response to, or for or against? Okay, we'll go ahead and close the public hearing. And we'll just go ahead and vote on it right away. Okay, I'd entertain a motion to approve the Solid Waste District as presented.

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

Shonda Solomon said alright. Thank you all very much.

David said you're ready to go. Thanks.

**Commissioner's update**

David said okay, Missy, would you like to come up next?

Missy Williams said I'll just kind of give you some highlights. I think Dave, you were there yesterday, so, or you weren't there yesterday.

David said I wasn't there.

Missy Williams said okay. So, it was a fairly lengthy meeting, but a lot accomplished. I'm just going to hit some highlights here. Chad Spence and Steve Shoemaker were here to ask the county to use the trail money that was to be from down along 36 in some farm area, move that to Union City, so they could begin a trail, continue a trail they have from downtown Union City to the park. And we said that whatever trails' money that is there, we would approve of that, but we were not going to make any commitments to any additional money that would have to go into that. So, they're still working on that plan. Had a long discussion with the Journey Home administrator. He did a good job of explaining some changes that we had. I think all 3 of us had met with him at different times. I'm sure of that. To, not only express some of our concerns here at the meeting, but also, we've, individually I think, visited him in his office and needed some changes to happen. I know I had a list of about 6 things that the neighbors had let me know that they were really concerned about. And I walk by there quite often and I have to admit, I think several of them, there is no outdoor fire pit any longer, they're tightening down on some behavior things that had been happening. So, I think people in that surrounding area are really happy with what's going on. So, we did, we talked about a lease. What should that look like? I know they can't afford to pay a huge amount, but we did want to increase that lease so they're paying at least a fair amount. And the number of times that Jake is called in there at night, oh, there's a fire alarm going off and it turned out to be a cookie in the microwave. Those things have got to stop. And I think there's going to be a lot better on that. So, we left on a very high note with them and gave them a 2-year extension on the contract. Right now, my observation is that it stands at 2 years, may or may not be renewable. So, we didn't make any commitment out past there. But, it was a good conversation. We also talked about the highway garage, the old highway garage. I had had somebody who contacted me about leasing that. He wanted to start a business. He had been approached by some car dealerships. He has a business here in town, a car dealership, used car dealership, and he wanted to use the main part of the building. He needed 3000 to 5000 square feet of concrete under roof, heating and cooling. So, I guess in 2 years, all cars that are going to be manufactured have to be calibrated. All I know of that is when I drive, that it gets on the, near the line, it automatically puts me back in my, it's, that's all I know about the car. I just know that it does that, that calibration. He's been asked to start a business to do that. So, he thought the county barn might be a great location. In fact, Jake and I met him there one day, just walked over and he said this would be perfect if I could rent it. But the other two did not want to do that, so that's not going to go through. So, hopefully, if you know of any place that is a facility he could do that, that he would be running cars through there to check the calibration, is everything in your car working like it should be, and they would make repairs if

it's not, because most of that is under warranty for up to 4 years, 3 to 4 years. So, that was the highway garage discussion. And then, I brought up, and went out to the airport with some, I'd been, I'm on that and I had neglected to go to some of the meetings. I didn't really remember I was on it. But then I went to it and when I walked in there and I know you've all seen the same things, now when you turn to go to the board room, that's a treat there too. The wall is now pushing in. I don't know if it's structurally pushing in, but they have a 2 by 4 and they've put it in the ground to try to keep that paneling up on there. So, we had some discussion about airport update. And everybody seemed, the other two gentlemen seemed to be very much in favor of that, and there is FAA money, am I saying that correctly, grants that at some point are 95% to 5% put in by the county. So, we're going to pursue that and see what we can do. I went out Monday evening and asked for a tour and they gave me one, so I could see in, everywhere, and I don't know anything about building or construction like you. We've been out there before, each one of us differently. And so, as I finished and left and looked at the new hangars, and looked like great hangars, I don't know. And so, anyway, when I got in my car, realized I had a flathead screwdriver there, a long one, I had been doing something. And so, I thought, that foundation looks really shaky. I went up and I put that screwdriver, pushed it in about 4 inches, and if I could have gone further, it would have gone. That foundation is shot. So, in talking yesterday, there's a lot of FAA grants, particularly to build terminals. Made it very clear to the gentleman who showed me around, and yesterday, it was made clear, we're not going to do a Taj mahal of a new terminal. There's not going to be any elevator going up to an observation deck or anything like that. So, everyone was very positive on that we know we need to make some improvement on that terminal you know, it comes down and a whole new one goes up. And there was some discussion on the hangar that is attached to the terminal because that's where they pull in planes to do repair work. Biggest thing I saw on that is, I thought to myself, if there were a storm and planes had to find a place to land, had to land at our Randolph County, where are they going to go for a safe place in a bad storm? And that was part of it too. So, in the FAA, they see that as a real push towards safety as far as awarding grants. I was reading quite a bit last night. And I think that's about it that's important. Any other questions anybody has?

Bev said no, I'm the representative from county council. I missed the last meeting.

Missy Williams said yeah, I hadn't been to one before.

Bev said there was a conflict, or I had a conflict, but I feel the same way. It's just decrepit inside. It's really bad.

Missy Williams said yeah, it's not ADA accessible. It's yeah, it's time. But I really stressed to them that, I think you'd been out to the airport at times too, several times, looking around.

Mike said yeah.

Missy Williams said and I think we had talked a little bit different times about it's not just an embarrassment, but it doesn't meet standards for much of anything. But the commissioners were in full agreement of that too, that's something we need to work on. And there is grant money up to 95%, so something to keep, and get going on.

Bev said because overall, I think we've got a great little airport. I mean, it's utilized and runways for big planes if necessary. And I think we just need to have the terminal.

Missy Williams said yeah, yeah, it's bad. That's for sure. Anything else?

David said anything else?

Missy Williams said no, I don't.

David said okay. Yeah, I agree with you on that terminal. It's, I've been after them for years trying to do something. I thought they would have done the terminal before they did the last hangar but, it's behind us now. So, I don't know if there's 95%, Missy, grant, but you might be right.

Missy Williams said that's just what I was told.

David said at one time the 150,000 they get annually from the FAA ticket sales, can be used towards engineering fees I think, then we have to come up with the money. And I think we can as a county, somehow work that out. They need to start getting to our meetings, start presenting their ideas on it, like you said, not a Taj mahal terminal, but a terminal to adequately fill the needs. Okay. Alright thanks, Missy.

#### **Jason Semler – Comprehensive Financial Plan**

David said I guess we got next is Jason Semler.

Jason Semler said morning.

David said oh my, look at that.

Jason Semler said I usually bring gifts.

David said yes, you do.

Jason Semler said we've updated a comprehensive financial plan. I thought I would hit the highlights of the report. I know we've done this a number of years, usually kind of every other year, but with all the changes going on with the legislation that was passed, and I think I was here a few months ago and kind of hit some of the highlights of what we think we can expect based upon current legislation, as far as additional deductions and exemptions for taxpayers and how I think that may impact tax rates and circuit breaker losses going forward for the county and all the other units. Now we've heard that there's going to be some tweaks you know, in next legislation, both on the property tax side and the income tax side, but it's hard to tell what those tweaks will be and if it'll be better or worse. So, right now, this is based upon you know, what we know going forward. And so, I'll go again, kind of hit some of the highlights, but if you have any questions, feel free to stop me. Be happy to address them. If you turn to page 2, I do want to kind of before I go into the numbers, just hit some of the highlights on the executive summary. I know, again, this is just kind of a summary of some of the new legislation. Page 2 is, add the new local income tax structure. That doesn't really take place until 2028. We don't have to start

making decisions until 2027 regarding the county rate. You know, General Fund rate of 1.2%, as you know right now, you know, you have your certified shares, your public safety, your economic development, those will all go away in 2028. And then you'll be left with these kinds of new decisions to make. So, I'll probably talk more about that as we get closer. But, I did on page 3, I did go ahead and put this together. So, right now, this shows what you're collecting in 2025. This is just the county unit. So, in 2025, you're collecting 4.9 million dollars in certified shares. That goes into your General fund. \$806,000.00 in public safety and 808,000 in economic development. So, the county is collecting about 6.5 million dollars in local income tax this year. The 2026 estimates are out. They came out a couple of weeks ago. So, you did see a slight increase in all 3 of these. So, next year, you should see about \$6,590,000.00 in revenue for these 3 revenues. For 2027, we kept that flat. And then for the report, we've assumed that you're going to adopt a rate in 2028 that would keep about the same amount of revenue that you're currently collecting. So, this is going to be a decision that the council will need to decide in 2027. But for this purpose, we assume that you would adopt a rate of about 1%, which would generate about \$6,040,000.00 a year in revenue. And then we just also just showed if you increased it to 1.1%, that would give you about \$6,644,000.00 and then if you went to the max, that bottom box there, that would give you about \$7,248,000.00 in revenue. So, just kind of gives you an idea of what options you'll have here in a couple of years. And then right now, as I mentioned the last time I was here, that will be an annual decision. So, every year the council will have to make a decision on how much you want to collect in local income tax, what rate you want to put in place. Any questions on that?

Meeks said that's the one that does not get shared?

Jason Semler said correct.

Meeks said okay.

Jason Semler said kind of skipping on, there's a lot of information here I'll kind of let you read. And then starting on page 7, we summarize all the different funds. But you kind of skip to page 22, just kind of want to hit some of the assumptions that we used for this report. So, on page 22, near the top, you see the number 1 maximum levy growth factor. You can see that's a, we assumed 4% for 2026, which is by the Statute, they've limited us again, on how much we can increase our maximum levy growth quotient. In 2027, under what was passed last spring, it goes back to that 6-year formula, the average of 6 years non-farm income. Right now, it's, I think around 5.6%. But for this purpose, we've assumed that let's say it's changed again where they're going to limit us to cap us out of that 4%. So, that's what we've assumed for 27, 28 and 29, is that your budget can increase by 4% again the next 3 years. Hopefully, they don't adjust that and we can increase it by you know, the, based upon the actual formula and we do increase by more like 5 to 6%. But again, for this, it's 4%. Page 2 of that maximum levy that you're allowed to collect, you're allowed to collect. You're allowed to allocate that between these 4 funds, the General fund, Reassessment, Cum Bridge and Health. So, we just looked at historically, how you allocated those funds. So, for instance, if you look on the top graph there, on the far right, in 2025, of the 7.6 million dollars that you're able to levy, you had allocated about 88.8% to the General fund, 2.2 to Reassessment, 6.8 to Cum Bridge and 2.2 to Health. And we kept that relatively the same going forward. But that again, that's something that you, as council have that

decision to how you want to move that levy between funds depending upon your budgets. Circuit breaker credits number 3, you can see you know, 2023 the circuit breaker and this is a levy you've lost because of the circuit breaker caps. About 8% in 2023, 6.5 in 2024, 7.5 in 2025. We're estimating that 2026 that you're going to lose about 7%. So, your assessments for 2026 did go up and they're pretty healthy this year. So, that helped us as far as you know, hopefully, the circuit breakers will decrease a little bit. But, as you can see, because of SCA1, you know, we're showing that the circuit breaker losses will increase over time and they'll be about 8.5 in 2027. You'll lose about 11% in 2028, and a little over 11% in 2029. Now, a lot of there will again, depend upon how trending occurs and how your assessments increase. But that's kind of what we're projecting at this point. Page 23, all your other revenues, miscellaneous revenues, your local income taxes, we assumed that those stayed flat. We didn't assume any increases. That's really foot note 5. And then foot note 6, on the expense side, we did use your 2026 proposed budget that you've entered in Gateway. And then 2027 and forward, we just assumed the 3% increase in all your operating costs. So, based upon those assumptions, I'll start hitting the various funds. So, page 24, I wanted to start with the local income tax funds just because, that are going to be going away in 2028. But on page 24, you see the public safety fund of 1170. Again, if you look at line 2, you know this year, we're collecting \$806,000.00, in 2026 we're estimating that 812,000, keeping that cost for 2027, and then keep in mind, in 2028, you'll no longer be receiving any money in this fund. Now, if you allow a lot to allocate or adopt a local income levy, it'll go into your General fund. So, I show that next couple schedules. So, if you look at 2025, based upon the amount of revenues that we think we're going to be receiving, about \$913,000.00. Looking at your budget, \$809,000.00. If you look at line 33, we're anticipating you'll bring in about \$103,000.00 more than what you're spending. So, that's great. And that's why you see at the end of the year, your balance increasing from 100,000 to 203. In 2026, we are showing, if you'll look again on line 33, that we're spending a little bit more than what we're bringing in, about \$27,000.00. One thing I don't have in here, is if you look at line 3, your supplemental distribution. You know, if you look the last 3 years, in May, you received that supplemental amount. And that's basically, that you've been collecting more than what the state has allocated to you each year, and your balance at the state has been more than 15%. So, whenever it's more than 15%, they give you an extra distribution, and that's what you received in May for the last couple of year. There's a good chance you'll get that again next year, just because looking at the economy and the way that salaries have increased. But I didn't assume anything in 2026, also because if you looked at 2025, 2026, your amount of revenue you're going to collect didn't really increase that much. So, it tells me that the income is pretty much staying pretty flat for Randolph County. So, if you do get something next year, it'll probably be less than the 100,000 that you got this year. So, again to be conservative, I didn't assume anything on line 3. But if you do receive anything, that's just going to make your ending balance even better in 26.

David said you said this goes away in 2028, right?

Jason Semler said correct, yeah. So, in 2028, you see there I have, if you'll look at line 15, we've kept that budget going forward for 2028, but we're assuming that we're going to move all these expenses to your General fund budget. That's where the revenue will go. And then you also look at line 29. I've assumed, to kind of make this easy, is that whatever ending balance you have in 2027, you just transfer that to your General fund and you'll just end that fund. We

haven't gotten an opinion yet from DLGF if they'll allow us to do that. They may require us to keep this fund open and just spend it down until it's zero. But they may allow us to just move it all to the General fund and keep it dormant. So, it'll be one or the other that, it's just a matter of where do we spend the money. But again, trying to keep it simple, we just kind of show it being, moved that to the General fund, and then you would just end this fund. But overall, I mean, if you're looking at your budget that you have proposed, you know, that \$844,000.00, you know, it's falling right in line with what you're estimated to collect for 2026, pretty close. And this is going to be the, my sentiment for basically, all your funds. I mean, you know, what you put in your budget is really right in line with the amount of revenue I think we're going to be receiving. So, any questions with the public safety? If not, the next is local, the Economic Development income tax. Same thing here, you know, in 2025, you know, if you look at line 25, with your budget, the amount of revenue that we think you're collecting, you're going to be bringing about \$83,000.00 more than what you're bringing in, so increasing your balance and we see that for 26 and 27 with the budget you proposed in 26. That budget still increasing. So, don't see any issues with your Economic Development, so again, in 28, this will go away. So, we're showing it as expenses, 865,000. That'll be moved to your General fund. And then we're also showing your ending balance be moved to your General fund.

David said now, in 26, you show line 17, operating going down, so, does that mean we're getting less?

Jason Semler said yes. You're increasing your balance but now as much as you have in the past.

David said okay. So, the trend is going down?

Jason Semler said uh huh. The next 2 funds I've looked at was the Health fund, and I've been doing this a lot lately because of 1161. Looking at your Health Department 1159, again I'm not worried about this fund. I know you are looking at your 2026 budget, you know, we're looking at you're bringing in \$222,000 in revenue on line 12. Your budget is \$270,000.00. So, spending about \$47,000.00 more than what you're bringing in. But you have a very healthy balance, so that doesn't you know, concern me, because you still have \$486,000.00 which you know, line 30, if you remember that operating balance percentage, that's basically how much money you have in the bank, the fund, in your budget. So, at the end of 2026, we're showing that you have an ending balance of \$486,000.00 and your budget is only \$270,000.00. So, you almost have 2 years of cash on hand to fund 2 years' budgets. That's very, very healthy. So, that doesn't concern me that you are you know, eating into your balance a little bit. So, 1161, this was kind of the new state health fund that was in place, put in place a couple of years ago that you guys adopted and it looks like you know, one of the things that I've been seeing a lot and you guys noticed this and consider this in your budget is if you look in line 2, your revenues, this year, you're receiving \$534,000.00. Next year, only anticipate you receive \$152,000.00 because of the state's budget. They really reduced the amount of funding for this project. So, and I saw where if you'll look at your budget on line 10, you'll have your budget, you know, you'll equal that. So, you've already adjusted for that. I've got a lot of other clients where they're going to have to move, they're going to try to keep the services they're providing under this fund, but we're going to have to move those expenses to General fund or your other health fund. Looks like you're making some adjustment to your services there. So, this one looks good based upon the budget.

And then, page 28, you're now moving to your General fund, again, your most active fund. So, looking at 2025, again looking at line 42, if you spend everything that you've budgeted, you don't have any more additional appropriations and collect the amount of revenue that we're anticipating, you should bring in about \$800,000.00 more than what you spent. So, increasing your ending balance about \$14,226,000.00. So, again, you have an 87% operating balance, which is phenomenal. So, if you look at 2026, based upon the revenues that we're projecting, in the expenses, we are looking at your spending a little bit more than what you're bringing in, that 635,000. But again, that doesn't concern me because you have such a healthy balance. Again, this also doesn't assume any supplemental income tax that you might get next May, which, this year, if you look at line 16, you got \$650,000.00 this year. So, if you know, anything like I said, in 2026 and going forward we're not assuming anything. So, if you do receive anything, that will just increase the ending balance more than what we're showing now.

David said yeah, one quick comment here, and this is for us, the County Council. If you notice, 2026 is at 80%, that by 2029 it'll be 42. So, you're almost at half already. And that's not depending on what else the state's going to do to us. Is that right Jason?

Jason Semler said yeah, uh huh. Yeah.

David said well we've got to be very careful going forward is what I've always preached.

Scott said it's a 3 million dollar cut.

David said yeah, so.

Jason Semler said and really, to add to that, one reason it's not worse than that is because of the transfer in from your EDIT and your public safety. If you'll look at line 40, again in 2028, we're transferring in your balances from your EDIT fund so, we're transferring in 1.8 million dollars from your LIT fund. So, that's really helping you as well.

David said a lot less.

Jason Semler said worse than what we're showing here. So, really, what's kind of key is, if you look at line 29, I know that's in the future, but if you look at line 42, you know, that's where we're showing we're spending about 3 million dollars more than what we're bringing in. You know, so that's, you'd only do that for about another 2 or 3 more years.

David said so, I think we've got to be very careful going forward I guess we may be.

Scott said I think it is time to start making adjustments now.

Mike said I agree.

Scott said and instead of waiting until we're spending 3 million more.

Jason Semler said the other thing that's contributing to that is if you look at line 3, the circuit breaker tax credits, you know, you can see in 2023, you lost 500,000, 24, 417,000, this year, 464,000. And then you can see it increasing 498,000 in 26, 629,000 in 27 and then bumps up to almost 850,000. Again, that's the impacts of SCA1 really hitting the county. So, that's kind of a wild card right there. Those are our biggest, or most current estimates for the county. But you can see that's you know, more than doubled, more than doubling. That's adding to why you're seeing a decrease in your balance.

David said and that line is going to continue to go down.

Jason Semler said yeah. So, again, I'm not worried you know, for 26 or even 27, but once we see 28, 29 and the full impacts of SCA 1, that's where we need to start really looking at things. So, any questions with the General fund? I guess the only other thing, see what line item it is, the other one that's going to be a big key is if you look at line 12, earnings on investment. That's another big variable, because we've really benefited from the higher interest rates the last couple of years, which has really helped increased our balances as well. And we do show that going down, you know. 2.1 million is what you received last year. We're estimating about 2.4 million this year just because your balances are healthier. But then after that, we do start going down, 2 million, 1.5, 1 and 800,000. But then there's still some healthy numbers, so if rates were to drop like they did a couple years ago, you could see this revenue being less than what we're showing to you now. But, we did try to decrease it somewhat, to be conservative. The next fund, the Reassessment fund, you're kind of seeing the same trend, you know, very healthy balances now, but if things continue, we're starting to eating through your balance a little bit each year. Again, not too concerned about 26 and 27, but once you start in 28 and 29, it's starting to get really tight. We're starting to be negative in this case in 29. So, just something that I think we need to kind of continue looking at each year, see how things progress. Next one, statewide 911. This is one where I'm showing that based upon the budget that's in Gateway and the amount of revenue we're receiving, it does look like we finish 2026 in the red. So, that might be something where we may want to consider moving some of these expenses to the General fund or at least being prepared to next year.

David said I think 2027 budgets, which will be done in 2026, we need to really consider a lot of these items that he's presented today. So, does that show you where in the General fund now?

Jason Semler said no, I haven't done that because I didn't want to make that assumption until we got direction from you. If that's something that you wanted to have us do, we can because there are a couple of funds where we may want to look at moving some expenses this year to the General fund. And then we can do that. Again, wanted to discuss it with you first. Same thing for Cum Bridge. Based upon the 2025, you had a large additional appropriation of 2,473,000.00 based upon that, we're projecting that the Cum Bridge will go red this year. So, that's something that we may want to, we may need to address, or will need to address this year. Maybe need to move some of those expenses to the General fund. And then same thing going forward in 2026. And going forward, we may need to move some of those expenses to the General fund.

David said that, or we could use our Wind and Solar monies.

Jason Semler said yes.

David said I think that would be a better option for us, because that's what that was developed for, instead of trying to take everything out of the General fund.

Jason Semler said Cum Cap Development, again, looks very healthy, but you're eating into the balance a little bit each year if you do spend everything that you budgeted, which, looking at the 2025 budget going forward, it's significantly more than in prior years. So, again, this just assumes you spend 100% of the budget. But again, even with this budget that's being proposed, definitely something we can support for the next 3 years. Local Road and Street, again, a lot of times this is a fund that you kind of spend capital as you need it, so we just kind of kept the 2025 budget going forward, which we could do, until 2027. 2028, that's something that we would have to you know, look at reducing. But again, this is more of a fund where you spend what you have. Same thing for County Wheel Tax. You know, the budget is significantly more than what you'd spend historically, so we just tried to keep that going forward, just to see long you could sustain that, and you can see you could only sustain that until 2026. In 2027, we'd have to adjust it. So, given this, these are, if you want us to change these numbers in the future, we can. We just wanted to keep them flat for now, just so you could kind of see what it would look like. And then MVH and MVH restricted, if you look at them combined, 26 and 27 look pretty good, but start again in 2028, we're starting to spend you know, more than what we're bringing in. So, that's something unknown. The MVH has a number of operating expenses, so it's something that I think we'll need to address, because if you look at 2028, you could combine the two, we're still at negative 1.2 million dollars.

David said okay. Basically, the last 3 or 4 accounts, we can talk about using Solar and Wind moneys to shore up if they need to shore up projects.

Jason Semler said and then your Special Purpose rate on page 37. Again, this is mostly used for debt service on your outstanding bonds. I have on line 13, I did go ahead and put in kind of a placement holder, about 300,000 on the bonds that we're talking about doing now for around I think, 5 million dollars, I think Barnes and Thornburg sent a time table out yesterday. I don't know if you received that or not.

David said we did.

Jason Semler said but that's something that when you go forward on, I put that in here just to show that even with that payment, starting next year around \$300,000.00, you still have about \$400,000.00 remaining each year for the 2<sup>nd</sup> both issue if we decide to do that or to accumulate.

David said and on Special Purpose LIT, that's outside of the 2.9?

Jason Semler said correct.

David said okay. Just want to make sure these

Jason Semler said yeah.

David said because we do have another project we're going to have to look at and it's the airport terminal. We can use those monies to, the extra monies we have there maybe, to support that.

Jason Semler said and you do have you know, 4 million dollars, you know, what we're projecting at the end of this year. So, again, as you know, this is restricted on what it can be done. You've added the flexibility what that money can be used to, but it's still somewhat flexible, so, you know, if you have the cash on hand and you can use that rather than spending money on a bond issue, we can look at that too. We can do a combination of both, as well.

David said that, and going forward, I won't be around but, future County Council may be able to reduce the other bonds with this money.

Jason Semler said uh huh, yep.

David said and I would highly recommend that going, after we meet, what is it, the 10-year mark on those bonds?

Jason Semler said yeah, yeah. And then, I included the Rainy Day fund. Again, we talked about that's a fund that I always recommended not touch unless you really have to, especially if we're looking at bonding. That's something that's always good for rating agencies to know that you've had that in there and that you only use it case of emergencies.

David said just for your information, Jason, we were going to try to increase that again this year by another half a million.

Jason Semler said okay.

David said hopefully, our goal is to get to 3.1 million, so we're at, over the next couple of years, try to get that to that number.

Jason Semler said so, you'll move 500,000 from the General fund to here probably?

David said probably 250 from Solar Wind and 250 from General.

Jason Semler said okay. Do you want us to go ahead and show that in this report?

David said what do you think?

Laura said yeah, I think everybody's pretty much agreeing.

Jason Semler said which Wind, because after the next 3 or 4 slides are the Wind farm accounts that you have. Which one would you transfer it from?

David said probably I would think the most, the one we have the most in. We just look at wind and solar as a total number.

Jason Semler said I know that on page 41, the Next Era Wind farm, there's that \$100,000.00 in it.

Laura said yeah, we could wipe that one out.

Jason Semler said we could wipe that one out.

David said I would do that.

Jason Semler said okay.

David said take the balance from whatever

Laura said well it looks like Headwaters I has quite a bit.

Jason Semler said yeah.

Scott said Headwaters.

Jason Semler said page 39?

Laura said yes.

Jason Semler said okay.

Laura said take the other 150 out of that.

David said yeah.

Jason Semler said and I know there are a couple other Headwaters, but I didn't think they had started construction or started payments so, I hadn't included them in here yet, not knowing for sure when they might start. But, if you do have a definite repayment, we can add that, but I hadn't done that yet.

Jason Semler said be happy to answer any questions?

David said I have all sorts of questions. You know me, Jason. I'm concerned how this is all going to be put together. I understand EDIT will be under the auspicious of the County Council instead of County Commissioners?

Jason Semler said uh huh.

David said so that goes into the General Fund?

Jason Semler said uh huh.

David said so, that's something we're going to have to be very careful about you know. Right now, we have a balance of so many dollars that we show in there. Let's see if I can get that real quick. What I'm thinking is, is there any way we can, it'll just all be in one pot then, won't it?

Jason Semler said yes.

David said somehow, in the back of our minds, we have to think how we're going to spend those monies if somebody comes in with a project. You know, like the commissioners do today, they have a special EDIT meeting that, I don't know. It's just a whole new game that we're going to have to learn how to I guess play, however the state wants us to play.

Jason Semler said yeah.

David said I'm very concerned about going forward. Some of the other questions I'm thinking about, Cum Cap Bridge will still be separate, right?

Jason Semler said uh huh.

David said Cum Cap Development will be separate?

Jason Semler said uh huh.

David said outside that 2.9?

Jason Semler said yeah, those are both property taxes.

David said so those will both be under County Commissioners, is that?

Jason Semler said they won't change from how they're being, how you handle them now.

David said okay. I guess I've got concerns of not knowing and I've been hearing some rumors at the state, some of these things are going to change next year. Have you heard that?

Jason Semler said I have heard that they're planning on making some tweaks next year, but you know, it's a short session, so I don't know what those tweaks will be.

David said more than likely, they won't be drastic changes because being a short session, they're not going to want to continue their short session on.

Jason Semler said right, uh huh.

David said I don't know. I just have some concerns going forward. We'll just have to keep our ear to the ground and make sure we understand what the state and everybody's trying to.

Jason Semler said yeah, I mean, I'm hearing lots of different things. You know, one of the tweaks they've talked about is I think they understand like as I mentioned, that new LIT that starts in 2027, have to do an annual approval. That makes it impossible really, or very difficult for us top issue bonds based upon local income tax, because no one's going to buy bonds when they don't know if the revenue stream is going to be there from year to year, because they don't know what future councils are going to decide. So, I've heard them talking about not making that a requirement, to kind of have it as it is now, once you adopt it, it stays in place until you change it. I've heard tweaks like that, that really aren't that significant, but as far as the amount of revenue you're going to collect, are significant in a long term. The other thing on the local income tax, not so much it impacts you, but I think we did this for the City of Winchester, but a lot of you know, the large cities, they can adopt their own 1.2%. A lot of the calculations we've done, even if the cities go to the max 1.2%, they'll be collecting lot less than what they're collecting in their current system. I mean, in some cases, millions of dollars less. You know, so they talked about, I think AIM is really working on tweaking that math because the numbers just don't work. So, those could be some tweaks that could happen. Some of the other tweaks I've heard, you know, could reduce the amount of property taxes that we receive. Now, whether that will happen in a short session or not, I don't know. But I've heard that SCA was just a step in what their ultimate goal was, where they want property taxes to be in the long term. And so, you know, you've heard rumors, some people still want to eliminate property taxes. So, they're, some of those tweaks could be you know, reducing the amount of revenue that we're collecting from property taxes even more, forcing us to increase local income taxes even more. So, it's hard to say what will happen next year. But one thing I would say and I've been telling my clients is, and you guys have done this, did an exceptional job, as we start moving away from property taxes and the local income taxes, those healthy balances that you have, they're going to be more important, because, as you know, income taxes are more volatile than property taxes. So, just keep that in mind as well.

David said okay. Any other questions for Jason? I'm sure I'll have some. I always figure I would in conference.

Scott said I don't know that I have a question for him, but you know we didn't make any cuts in our budget you know. Everything got increased. And I don't see how we're going to do that in the future, you know?

David said yeah, I agree with you.

Scott said I mean, we're going to have to start, we're going to have to start supplementing some of these budgets if we don't start trimming some of them. We're going to have to supplement them anyway, even if we just hold a level line.

David said that's why it's so important that we maintain this financial plan from Baker Tilley. I mean, it shows the picture and I'm thankful for Jason's.

Scott said 3 years out and we're.

Mike said we're broke.

Scott said yeah.

David said 2026, I think we'll be okay, the budget we just approved. 2027 is where we're going to have to start really looking at 27 budget and going forward, because it does, it tells a story and that's why I like Jason's work here.

Mike said I do too.

David said it shows us exactly our position on the next 5 years.

Meeks said I had a question for Jason.

Jason Semler said okay.

Meeks said and it's about, not about the budget here, it's about the timeline. Just wanted to kind of go over the timeline.

Jason Semler said uh huh.

Meeks said and I have it here for those, for the bonds. Are we going to have to do a rate, S&P, like get a bond rating?

Jason Semler said I'm going to recommend that we do.

Meeks said okay, because I didn't see that on the timeline. I wanted to, so, okay. Basically, we sent out the timeline and it looks like there's going to be a bond ordinance adopted for you guys on the next meeting in October. And then we have to do a bunch of publishing and a bunch of other things. So, the ordinance should be in front of you, do we have to do the bond rates? Do we get the rating before we do the ordinance?

Jason Semler said no.

Meeks said okay. I didn't think so.

Laura said so timeline-wise, what are we looking at date for the S&P, only because I'm going to be out of the office a lot in October?

Jason Semler said we can work with your schedule. I haven't started on the marketing, the official statement yet. I mean, we'll probably have that done later this month. So, I'll have, we'll get together, because you know, you're the key. You're the key to that call.

Laura said well I figured you'd want me there.

Meeks said you're key, Laura. You're the one that's going to be there.

Laura said so, and I can, yeah, whenever you get where you have dates, then get with me so we can get that set.

Jason Semler said yeah.

Laura said I have like a couple of conferences and stuff coming up, so.

Jason Semler said yeah. We'll get together. But yeah, I mean all this can be happening as we're working on the official statement and as we're getting through the rating process.

Meeks said and the reason to do the rate study, I mean, correct me if I'm wrong, is to get a better rate?

Jason Semler said yeah.

Meeks said I guess we could use the old rate, but that's been 4 or 5 years. I don't even know if they'll use that.

Jason Semler said no, we'd have to get these bonds rated and I mean, there is a fee for that. It's probably about 25, \$30,000.00. And there's more time incurred for everyone, but to get that bond rating, you know, when we're selling this throughout the entire region and they may not be, well they're probably not familiar with Randolph County, but they're going to be familiar with an A plus rating. And that's what they're going to put their interest rates on. And with the rating and the lower interest rate, you'll save hundreds of thousands of dollars more than the 30,000 additional fee more than likely over 20 years at 5 million dollars.

Meeks said and with that bond fund, I'm looking at it, I mean, I don't think there's any doubt in my mind we'd have a pretty high rate.

Jason Semler said yeah. And we're also going to do it, not just for the Special Purpose, but I'm going to put a property tax backup behind it like we've done before so it just, you know, all belts and suspenders to make this a very secure bond, knowing that we're not anticipating have to ever levy a property tax like we have in the past, but it makes the bonds more secure. It gets the lowest interest rate possible.

Meeks said so, next council meeting, you guys will have an ordinance that will be presented.

David said okay.

Jason Semler said and I can be at that meeting if you'd like me to. I think I went through the schedules, months ago, but I can be here and go through them again and answer any questions that you have.

Meeks said I will not be here so, we can talk about it, but you know, it's fall break for Randolph Central School Corporation.

David said okay. Anything else for Jason?

Jason Semler said well I'll kind of wait to hear back for any other comments that you have on this and then we can finalize it after you've had a chance to look through it and talk about maybe moving any expenses that you like, from one to the other. We can do that and once you finalize your budget, we can incorporate that here too, so you can have a final version if you like.

David said sounds good.

Jason Semler said thank you.

David said thanks, Jason.

**Sherri Thompson – Health Department Budget**

David said Sherri, would you like to come up?

Sherri Thompson said good morning.

David said I guess there are some questions on the Health Department's budget. Let me get to that. I guess the first question Laura had was need to vote on salary amounts.

Laura said so, you guys did 3% across the board. That would take their current salary and give them 3% on top of that. Her requested salary was less, so I didn't know where you guys wanted to go with that.

David said you mean less than what it was last year?

Laura said yeah, they lowered their salary and their request because you guys had told them that.

Greg said that was because you had part time, or are going to part time work, right?

Sherri Thompson said no. Our full-time people took a pay cut also, so we could keep our part time people.

Greg said okay, okay. I remember that now that you mention it.

Laura said because the state cut that funding, they lowered their salaries. So, we weren't sure. We didn't go back and visit each department. You guys just said 3% across the board.

Greg said yeah, yep.

Laura said so, we didn't know where to go with theirs.

Greg said okay. I remember.

Laura said so, you need to clarify what you want done with their salaries.

David said when you created your budget, did you create it off of your 2023 budget? That goes back before 24 and 25?

Sherri Thompson said yes, yes.

David said because of the two years. So, what did you include there? That's what I guess we need to know. What was it in 2023, the salaries?

Sherri Thompson said we had in 24 is when we got our raises, and what was, what you proposed for 24 is what we used.

David said so, in 24, we had an 8% increase in 24. No, that would have been for 25, it would've been the 24 budget.

Laura said in the 24 budget for 25.

David said 23, it was a \$1,500.00 minimum to 4,000, depending on departments. We increased some more than others. So, I guess we need to know what were the salaries in 2023? I guess we need to create it from 2023 going forward with the different increases over the years because they would have been entitled to those increases also. Is that right?

Scott said they didn't get their 8% increase?

David said no, they had a different pay schedule. They had a higher than 8% in most cases I would say, because of the state funding.

Scott said what kind of pay decrease did they make?

Laura said it's on there, it's on your sheet.

David said the 25 adopted budget was \$44,754 for the coordinator registrar. They only done 41,000.

Greg said with the state adopted, with the state funding then, did we kick in money from the county, or was the state funding then totally in the past?

David said well the county always had some monies involved in it. The state went to another level. I think, what was it, \$250,000.00 you received from the state?

Laura said 500 and some this year, 25. And they got 200 and some for 24, and then it went up to 500 and some for 25. Now it went back down to 150.

Scott said well I would think it would only be fair to give them the 3% over what their wage was last year.

David said well, we can't do that because.

Mike said we're losing all that funding.

David said we lost that funding.

Laura said so, they gave them a raise when they got that 500 and some thousand. Gave them a huge raise. And they told them if that funding went away, so did the huge raise. Some of them, I can't tell you which positions, but I know one of them went up like 16,000 for a year. They raised them that much. So, it was a huge raise. So, not the funding has dropped from 500 and some thousand down to 150,000. And so, basically, that funding almost went away.

Mike said and isn't it supposed to go completely away?

Laura said well, Jason is showing it in his plan for, to continue at the 150, but we really don't know what the state will do in the future at this point. We're just guesstimating that they'll continue the 150.

Mike said so, why don't we go off of what they proposed for this year, because it was pretty fair wages, wasn't it?

Scott said do you go off that or do you give them 3% off what, 3% over what they proposed?

Greg said I'd say go off of what she budgeted.

David said that's the way I would look at it, because I'm looking at the clinic nurse. It went from 51,000 in 2025, to 37,000 in 2026, so, that shows you how much increase that the state allocated. I would say what they proposed is what we go with.

Mike said that's what I would say.

Sherri Thompson said the clinic nurse is going to part time.

Bev said yeah, because they, we saw it coming. They saw it coming, and she created her budget based on the reduction

Greg said on the budget cut?

Bev said and I think that's only fair then, to say that we accept what was presented.

David said because the fund in 1161, their total requested budget for 2026 is 152,000, which is what.

Laura said what they'll get.

David said is what they'll get, so. That's what I would recommend. So, we probably need to vote on that.

Greg said I make a motion we accept the Health department's budget as written.

Mike said as they presented.

Greg said as they presented.

Mike said second.

David said it's been moved and a second, we approve the Health Department's requested budget as presented. All in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

David said okay, the next one we need to vote on.

Laura said so in there, what they proposed, that was in there, that's in 11. It's to be paid out of 1161.

David said right.

Laura said okay, I didn't know what fund you had opened. I mean, maybe your salary took care of that too.

David said it probably does since we approved 1161.

Laura said what she's requesting?

David said yes.

Laura said okay. And then, was the school liaison position showing on your budget?

Sherri Thompson said the school liaison position is not in the budget. It's being paid out of the grant.

Laura said because it's out of a grant. So, do we need to act on that?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Laura said so this one, you'll need to vote on that.

Sherri Thompson said what Dr. Sowinski and I had discussed was the school liaison position would get paid the same as the clinic nurse and then also, he would like to keep her full time until April. And then she intends to retire at that point. And it is, everything is budgeted out of that grant. There's not anything in that position in the budget.

David said so, the grant will work until April, when she retires?

Sherri Thompson said that grant will pay her. She intends to stay part time after she retires, and that grant will cover that full salary and, for that year.

Laura said, yeah, I would vote on that to allow this to happen out of this grant fund.

David said okay. What we need is a motion to, for the school liaison to be paid out of Work Force Development grant full time until April, and dropped to part time, it comes out of that grant.

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

David said alright. Anything else, Sherri?

Sherri Thompson said I don't think so. I'd like to thank all of you for your time, because I know it was hard for us to do the budget, so I know it was a lot of work for you guys to look through and figure out.

David said two years of the state involvement, and it just, well I knew we were going to have to have some

Sherri Thompson said thank you.

David said alright. Thanks, Sherri.

#### **2026 Budget Ordinance 2025-07**

David said okay. Next thing we have up is the 2026 budget ordinance, 2025-07. Just need to adopt it. We have the correct number, right Meeks, 5 to make it?

Meeks said yep.

David said 5 out of 7.

Meeks said as long as you all agree to it.

Bev said I move that County Council pass ordinance 2025-07 after the first reading.

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

Bev said I move that the rules be suspended and have the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading by title only and adopted the same day for ordinance 2025-07.

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

Bev said I move that council adopt ordinance 2025-07.

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

David said 2025-07, the 2026 budget ordinance is now adopted.

**Joe Copeland – Bridge project funding**

David said okay, Joe, would you like to come on up? Sorry we took so long. That budget is really important.

Joe Copeland said thanks forgiving me the time this morning. I'm looking at a long range here, at least through 2031, and we have some federal aid projects that we're currently working on, plus we're going to be applying for some Community Crossing matching grants also. Let me pass out these handouts to make it easier to see. What I need is your help to keep these bridge projects rolling, which is in the form of money, as usual.

David said that's why we're here, right?

Joe Copeland said as usual, right. The ones in yellow on this sheet are those that I need additional funding for. So, what I've done is I've carried that through 2031 on what I'm needing, or projected anyway. These are all INDOT projects, federal aid, which is paid 80/20. And of course, we have to pay the money up front on most of it except construction, and then we get reimbursed our 80%. We get design reimbursed, right away reimbursed, construction, inspection, reimbursed. The construction, we have to pay our 20% up front, so that's where these large numbers are coming in, that 20% to get the job rolling. INDOT will not give notice to proceed until they have their money. If you'll look at the smaller one, it pretty well recaps, I'm figuring I need about \$4,321,400.00 in appropriation. But with the reimbursement, the net would be 2,202,680, clear down in the bottom, after we get our reimbursements. Now we've gotten approval for bridge 85, bridge 212. They're working on 85 now. 212 is one at Union City and we just got approval for 114, a steel truss down on 300 South. We're going to apply again in November, for bridge 303, which is here in Winchester. And then we're going to apply for another one. We've applied for 3 bridges every year, and we get 1. So, this time, we're probably going to apply for 2. Hopefully, we can get 2. I hate to say this, but the counties around Marion County are getting the majority of what they're asking for. They ask for 5 bridges, they'll get 5 bridges. We ask for 3, we get 1.

David said pretty standard.

Greg said imagine that.

Joe Copeland said we're trying. And we need that 80% money to keep projects moving. You know, we need to save every dime we can save. Same way with Community Crossings, but now Community Crossings, if you look at the big sheet, we've completed 2 Community Crossing projects, bridge 304 and bridge 250. Of course, with the latest legislation, that's been reduced dramatically. And now, they were letting us go to 1 1/2 million per year, now it's 1 million. They've lowered it. But they are allowing 80% instead of 75% match, just for the construction. I've got 2 bridges that I'd like to apply for and the application is next month. We'll see what the final totals are and see if I can keep it under a million dollars, so, for the 2 of them. Bridge 42 and bridge 29 are the 2 I'm looking at for Community Crossings. 29 is currently in design. 42 is

ready. It's ready to go. 42 was a culvert. It's up on 750 North, a large culvert. It's just under 20 feet span. So, it's got to go back as a bridge over 20. But I wanted to bring this to your attention and see if I can get some money to keep these projects moving. We're also looking a bundling some bridges, see if we can save some money, both on design and construction, by putting line 5 of them together and see smaller structures, and see if we can get a better price.

David said good idea.

Joe Copeland said yeah, so, we're looking at that right now. The figures aren't in yet, but.

David said so, what do you need from us today, Joe is just consensus or do you need an actual vote?

Joe Copeland said well, the question is, I don't know how you want to handle this moving forward. Do you want to allocate so much a year, because here's the thing, if you give me say, the 600,000 I need for this year, or to finish the year, and of course, that's an estimate, depending on how the invoices come in from the consultant, and then I'm going to get 480,000 back. But it's not appropriated. It's cash in the bank. Alright, then 2026, I need a 1,036,400. That will, I need a little more but I have to get all that appropriated. Do you want to do it year by year or how would, what's the best way to handle this with keeping the books?

David said what do you think, Meeks?

Laura said I think budget-wise, I mean.

David said well that and.

Meeks said once you start spending the money, I mean, you're going to put it in the, I mean you're not going to stop.

David said right, right.

Joe Copeland said and can we take, Laura, can we take the money, put it in a fund, and I'm assuming it'll have to be, will it be per bridge, I would assume?

Laura said well what do you mean? Oh, yes, so, if they appropriate 600,000, it would be 600,000 for, and it would need to be how much you need for 42 and how much you need for bridge 29 broke down.

Joe Copeland said okay, broke down.

Laura said yeah. So, each bridge has its own fund.

Joe Copeland said okay. And so, and then that money would go back into that fund as we got the reimbursement?

Laura said it goes back to the fund it comes out of, I think, so it would probably, I'd have to talk to Danita how. If it goes back to.

Meeks said it would come out, it would be reimbursed to the fund it came out of.

Laura said yeah, but does it go back to the original Wind fund or does it go back to the bridge fund, because we don't want it back in the bridge fund.

Meeks said it would go to the fund that they were originally.

Laura said so Wind, and then you would re-appropriate it for.

Joe Copeland said and then re-appropriate it for the following year, okay.

Laura said yeah, so, I think.

Joe Copeland said so, we could do this by year and then just see how we're coming along.

Laura said yeah.

Meeks said confirm that, but I am pretty sure.

Laura said yeah, that's kind of what I would prefer too. I think it would be bookkeeping if we just do it annually.

Joe Copeland said so, what I need probably now is, can I get approval to start moving toward getting 600,000 for the remainder of this year and then I'll be back then in December or January to, for next year to get the ball rolling for 26.

David said I think that's a good idea.

Joe Copeland said and then we see where we're at as far as our bounds.

Scott said do we know when we're going to need the 2 million for the new road up on 800?

Joe Copeland said no, that's not, this is just bridge. That's another 2 million.

Scott said I mean, that's another 2 million that we've got to take out of Windfarm.

Joe Copeland said yeah. This is just bridges.

David said how soon do you get that money back Joe, on let's say the 600,000?

Joe Copeland said I, Laura, I, it's within 2 months, isn't it, within 60 days?

Laura said when it's finished? When the project is finished?

Joe Copeland said yeah, when we, see, I send a, I put together what they call an invoice voucher to INDOT and I have to put the actual invoice that we receive. I had to fill out a special form, 2 special forms, and then I have to put an EFT showing it was paid, and then send it to INDOT. And then they'll put it through the system and get us money back.

Laura said right. Yeah, once you do all that, which is when the project's done, then we would get the funding back pretty quickly.

Joe Copeland said yeah, it's not, it doesn't take that long. It's not too bad.

Scott said I'd say we do it year by year.

David said yeah, I think that's, we about half to.

Mike said yeah.

Bev said I think that's the easiest way to keep track of what it takes care of.

David said I don't know how much we have available here.

Scott said because as that money gets reimbursed.

Laura said it goes back into that Wind.

Scott said it goes back into that.

Laura said and you can re-appropriate it for the next project.

Scott said you can re-appropriate, yes.

Laura said yeah.

Scott said so, it's a little bit harder to do it on a 5-year plan?

Laura said exactly, I feel like. I feel like it's easier to do if year-by-year.

Scott said we'll give you the money for it, just year-by-year.

Joe Copeland said that's alright. Keeps me moving, keeps things rolling, yeah. That's fine.

Laura said and if they approve it, you'll have to go back to commissioners because both have to approve the Wind.

David said right.

Joe Copeland said right. And then, once it's approved here and the commissioners, then we have to do an additional, correct?

Laura said correct.

Joe Copeland said okay.

David said and I think, why I was asking when we get the money back, I think our funding out of renewables will, even with the \$2 million project. We'll be okay.

Joe Copeland said okay. I appreciate it. I mean, if it wasn't for that, I mean, I'd be sitting on my hands.

David said well you know, I've been part of renewables from day one and the original intent, you guys all have heard me.

Bev said roads and bridges.

David said roads, bridges and drains.

Joe Copeland said there's another county I work for and I've got a bridge closed now and I don't know, it's going to maybe open, but it's going to be a low load limit, and it's to the airport. Yeah, so, I mean, yeah, they're in trouble. They are in trouble.

David said hopefully, we can utilize this, renewables to the best advantage for Randolph County.

Joe Copeland said I appreciate it.

Bev said so, we need the 600,000 today?

David said yep.

Bev said yep. I make a motion to pay the 600,000 out of renewables.

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

David said anything else, Joe?

Joe Copeland said no, that's it. Thank you.

Greg said Joe, I've got a question. How are we coming along on that 800 project up there on Road 1?

Joe Copeland said it's in design right now.

Greg said okay.

Joe Copeland said and I have not heard back. I haven't gotten an update on where they're at. There was a little bit of a setback. The fellow that started the design, a road design engineer, he left employment with SJCA, but they have other road design guys that are working on it. So, let me see if I can move them up a little bit.

Greg said I was just curious. I just, you think we're still kind of on schedule to get something done next spring?

Joe Copeland said yeah, should be.

Greg said okay.

Joe Copeland said it should, the design shouldn't be that bad. They should be able to have it done by then and we can get a bid out.

Scott said what about the.

Bev said the condemnation

Scott said possession of the property?

Bev said yes, condemnation is usually.

Joe Copeland said that'll be, once the design is completed or far enough along, then they'll have an idea what right-of-way they'll need and they're supposed to put together the legal descriptions and things for that, then it will go to the quarry people, the owners to get the right-of-way. They said they would get the right-of-way.

Scott said well, are they going to be able to get it or are we going to have to take eminent domain to get it?

Meeks said they said they were going to get it. If they don't, then we'll have to do eminent domain.

Scott said okay.

Joe Copeland said yeah

Bev said yeah, and that's usually.

Meeks said there's a person that does that.

Joe Copeland said yeah, I've been through several eminent domain.

Bev said some are timely, some are.

Meeks said well you just, you have an appraisal, you put that money in the court and they say no, it's more money and they argue about how much it should be. But you go along with your project.

Scott said the only reason that I brought that up was it was my understanding that they couldn't get approval to go across his field before.

Meeks said well he's not agreeing to it is what they said. But I mean, this is a public use. It's not like you're taking somebody's land and giving it to somebody else.

Scott said right, but if he's not agreeing to it, you have to take the eminent domain.

Meeks said then you go to court.

Bev said yep.

Meeks said but they said they were going to, I thought they thought they might have something in the works. But I don't know. I don't know if they do have something in the works.

Joe Copeland said once the money is deposited with the court.

Meeks said you're good to go. You proceed.

Joe Copeland said then we're good to go.

Meeks said and that could happen in weeks.

Joe Copeland said yeah. The problem I've seen in the past in the different counties I've had to do it, is getting on the court's docket.

Meeks said we won't have any problem.

Joe Copeland said won't have any, okay, we're good then.

Meeks said as long as you got your notices out, after 30 days you can literally file it, deposit the money in the court, and then they'd have to argue.

Joe Copeland said okay. Great.

Meeks said and this isn't a process where you're taking a piece of ground from one person and giving it to another person. This is you're taking a piece of ground and putting a road in. I don't know what public use, more public use you can get, as a public road. You guys tell me. I don't.

Joe Copeland said and we're okay with INDOT. We've already discussed this with INDOT, the powers that be and so, we should be, they didn't see a problem.

Greg said oh, okay, that was my next question.

Joe Copeland said we should, they didn't see a problem, so, permits.

Greg said wonderful.

Joe Copeland said thank you.

David said hey thanks, Joe.

**Other Business:**

**Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff**

**Lexipol annual contract**

David said Mr. Art.

Art Moystner said good morning.

David said okay, what have you got for us today, sheriff?

Art Moystner said well, I have one that I think is really easy, then guidance, I would like some guidance on something else. The first is I have a policy program that we use that the officers have access to in their vehicles and on their phones, and it's the policies that pertain to use of force, vehicle pursuits, things of that nature that are law enforcement specific. Historically, I've paid that out of commissary. There're some rules with my commissary fund that I have allowable expenditures that I don't have to come to you for, and there're other things that I do. This is one of those that if it's mutual agreement that both the sheriff and the council agree to spend the money on this, then I'm allowed to do that. So, I'm asking to do that again. And we've done it in the past.

David said okay, and this is the Lexipol?

Art Moystner said yes. Lexipol policy program.

David said annual contract?

Art Moystner said it is. And they have updates that they send me on a regular basis so that I can revamp policies as needed depending on what kind of case laws have changed or what kind of statutes have changed. So, I think this is very beneficial in a liability standpoint for the county.

David said and the amount Art's requesting is \$6,550.56.

Art Moystner said and I would share it's not, from the council money. I mean, this is from the commissary budget.

David said commissary funds.

Art Moystner said commissary budget, yes.

Mike made a motion to approve. Scott seconded the motion.

David said it's been moved and a second, we approve the request from the Sheriff Moystner on the Lexipol annual contract, \$6,550.56 to come out of the commissary fund. All in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

David said okay, what else have you got for us?

Art Moystner said the other question that I would have for the council is that I am looking at replacing the computers in the vehicles and the equipment that we use now, everything's in that car. I've received some quotes from different companies. And obviously, we use a more of a tough book variety-type computer in the car, so that it takes the wear and tear of the driving and the use that we have out. To buy those outright for all the vehicles, that total is \$76,800.00. That's not something that I have in my budget, so, in order to do it that way, I would have to ask for new money. What I'm asking for is, I would like to do it in a, they set up a 5-year payment plan, similar to what we did with Axon. And I have the funding for that, because that would come to \$16,345.75 a year. I can take that out of my budget. I have that. We have that computer equipment and training now. The condition with that is we would be signing, or the commissioners would be signing a contract to pay that 16,345 every year for the next 5 years.

Bev said I think that sounds reasonable, personally.

Art Moystner said and I think overall, it's a little more palatable, plus it becomes a budgeted item. And I know that's one of the things that Dave and I has talked about with the Axon contract is if we can get it budgeted, then I'm not coming, asking you for a large sum ever 4 or 5 years.

Scott said did you present this to them yesterday?

Art Moystner said to the commissioners?

Scott said yeah.

Art Moystner said I have not. I wanted to make sure that council was on board first. There's no contract, but the commissioners would have to sign the contract. So, they would have to be on board in order to proceed forward anyway. Now, I have, I have talked to them individually, a couple of them, regarding this, but not formally at a meeting. That would take place in 2 weeks.

Bev said just off hand, do you remember, what's the age of those computers?

Art Moystner said the ones we currently have?

Bev said yes. I mean, maybe how many years ago was it that that?

Art Moystner said I know I just replaced several of them recently, but I had to get refurbished units because the problem I have is we have docking stations in the vehicles. They don't make those docking stations anymore. So, the ones I replaced with, I had to buy to fit those docks. I can't get those docks and my docks are starting to fail me now.

Greg said I was going to ask does this include the docks, or the docks are separate?

Art Moystner said this would include the cradles. There're some things with this computer that I'm switching. We've got tablets now. This is more of a laptop and a table duo. So, it's kind of replaces some of the things that are in the car. This would cover everything with the exception of the mount that would go on the center console. And I would take that out of my equipment. I already have that also. So, I'm not asking you for any new money. I'm just saying that I'm going to enter into a 5-year contract, or the commissioners are, so that money would need to be funded for the 5 years, but the money is 16,3. And I actually think that it would save the county money in the long run instead of me having to buy the pieces outright, because there's some warranty that goes with this and some insurance. So, I think this is a good way to go.

Greg said the other question I have, how long those things are actually lasting?

Art Moystner said oh, they'll last, the computers we had, they'll last normally 5, 6 years.

Greg said okay.

David said I'd say that's about right for most computers.

Art Moystner said yes. And of course, anything electronic, it's outdated the day after you buy it.

Bev said yep. Well I think the 5-year plan is a good idea. It keeps the company you're dealing with right on board as well, with any issues that may be occurring.

Art Moystner said perfect.

David said is that a motion, Bev?

Bev said that's a motion.

David said do I have a second to that motion?

Scott seconded the motion.

Dave said it's been moved and seconded that we approve Art's request for computer's and docking stations with a five year payment plan of \$16,345.75 per year and refer it to county Commissioner's for the contract. All in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Art Moystner said do you guys have any questions for me? I think that's all I have today.

David said alright, thanks.

## Minutes of July 8 and August 5, 2025

David said okay, next we have is Minutes of July 8<sup>th</sup> and August 5<sup>th</sup> meetings. Entertain a motion.

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

### **Additional Appropriations:**

David said okay, the next item we have is Additional Appropriations, Children's Advocate of Randolph County of \$1,077.00. Entertain a motion?

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

**Transfer of funds**      **from**      **to**

## Airport

\$41,000.00      Fuel      Runway Repair

David said next item I have is Transfer of funds for the airport of 41,000 from fuel to runway repair. It's to do some sealing on the runway and taxiway. Entertain a motion?

Bev made a motion to approve.

Greg said isn't that in, wouldn't they have that budgeted in their regular?

Laura said it's in their budget. They're transferring it from one budget line to another budget line.

Greg said I understand that, but.

David said just for sealing and not out of funds for fuel.

Greg said right. I question how come we don't have a better line on, the amount of money we fork out there for the fuel.

Laura said so, they were going to ask for an additional appropriation, which would have come out of county general. Danita said you have plenty of fuel money, why don't we just transfer?

Greg said okay.

Laura said so that's why we're doing that this way, rather than take more out of the county general. I see what you're saying is that, but that's a budget, like when you do the budget, that's where you need to look at that.

Greg said okay. Okay.

Laura said you might just make note for next year.

Greg said yeah, I'll try to remember that.

Scott said that answered one of my questions. That 40,000 out of the fuel money, was that going to cause a problem 2 months down the road?

Laura said they didn't say that. I mean, when she made the suggestion.

Scott said so, it's, they had plenty of money in the fuel then?

Laura said she just told them they had plenty of money in the fuel, rather than take more money out of county general, why don't you just transfer. Looking at where we're at this year, she probably, she keeps a pretty good eye on that kind of stuff, so I'm guessing that she figured she had that much extra. But it doesn't mean that, I don't know what the totals are in those funds to tell you that, where that puts that fund at. I'm guessing she looked at that before she made the suggestion. She usually does.

Scott said I'm sure she did.

Laura said yeah.

Scott seconded the motion.

David said it's been moved and a second, we approve the transfer of funds of 41,000 from the airport fuel to runway repair. All in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

#### Citizen Comments (3 minutes)

David said okay, any citizens? I think we've pretty much, everybody's spoken today. So, I guess the next item is the adjournment.

#### Adjournment

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

Reviewed and accepted this 7 day of October, 2025

David Lenkensdofer  
David Lenkensdofer

Larry Preston  
Larry Preston

Beverly Fields

Beverly Fields

Greg Cheesman

Greg Cheesman

Mike Stine

Todd Holaday

Scott Fisher

Scott Fisher

ATTESTED:

Laura J. Martin

Laura J. Martin, Auditor