

Randolph County Council

September 6, 2023

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

Council President David Lenkensdofer presided.

Pledge of Allegiance

Randolph County Solid Waste Public Hearing

Dave said okay, first item I have on our agenda is a public hearing for Randolph County Solid Waste district's budget. Shonda.

Shonda Solomon said good morning. Our budget for 2024 is very similar to our budget from this year. We made just a few adjustments for an increase in the cost of household hazardous waste disposal. And we made an increase in our public relations line because this is our year to publish, or 24 would be our year to publish our guide again. So, about every other year, we increase that line to cover costs for the publication of our community guide. And there was a little increase in salaries, and that was it. So, everything else is about the same. And, things are going well at the district. So, we're pleased to be there.

Dave said any questions for Shonda on her budget for Solid Waste? If not, I'd entertain a motion to close the public hearing.

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

Dave said we're going to open the Randolph County Council meeting now. I'll entertain a motion for the Solid Waste District budget.

Bev made motion to approve the Solid Waste District budget for 2024. Tom Kerns seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Dave said okay, thanks for coming in.

Commissioner's update

Dave said okay. Mike, would you like to come on?

Mike Wickersham said morning. We had two councilmembers at our meeting yesterday, so this will be old news for them, but it'll hopefully, be new news for you folks. We had a short meeting, but we made some important decisions. We continued to improve our mechanical system at the jail. A few months ago, we approved an outside septic cleanout, sewers cleanout. We approved to purchase another one yesterday by Cobalt Civil for the same amount of money. So, we'll have an easier cleanout of our systems. I think you're all aware that the town of Losantville received an OCRA grant for the sewer project, and we approved a utility sewer right-of-way throughout the county roads in that area. Camp Yale, Camp Slingshot, we have agreed to give that to Open Arms Ministry, a church in Farmland that runs Camp Trinity for youth at risk through the summer. And they intend to develop that into a larger camp with housing and for more youth and other groups to come in of the same, I guess, background. So, it would be similar use that the YMCA had, similar use that the Camp Yale originally had. So, it's, it'll be a betterment we think, for the community. And eventually, I think, their plan is to open up a Camp Yale for walking trails, just as a privately-owned church-run park. So, that's in the works. We agreed to support the Main Street's monument lighting project. If you're not aware, Main Street has a project to light up the monument. On November the 10th will be the opening day. As part of our agreement, we've agreed to upgrade the electricity and the flood lights around the base of the monument. We're going to pull out all the bushes around the base of the monument, open up a view of the three monuments that are around the base, and have those cleaned up, and just dress up the monument, as a whole. So, it'll be a, look good once the lights are taken down. So, our cost on that for the cleanup and the new lighting was around \$3,000.00. And then Jim Martin and Main Street were short \$2,500.00 to complete their estimated project cost. So, we agreed to, out of farm maintenance, to give \$2,500.00 to complete that. We also agreed to participate in Randolph United, the local video commercial project that's going to cover Union City, going to cover Winchester, going to cover Randolph County. It's a cooperative effort by Union City is putting in \$8,000.00, that their Tourism is putting in \$2,500.00, Randolph County United is putting in \$2,500.00, City of Winchester is putting in \$5,000, private parties are putting in \$18,000, and we're putting in, the County is putting in \$5,000.00. That's a total of \$41,000.00, and their budget for this project for production is \$40,000.00. And it's going to create videos for Union City, videos for Winchester, commercials for Union City, commercials for Winchester and tourism. So, it will be a good thing once it's out there on the, and these are all web-based, so it's for Instagram, for U-tube, for face book, what have you. We agreed to participate in that. That's all I have from the commissioners' meeting yesterday. Do you have any questions of me?

Tom Chalfant said Mike, what do you mean give Camp Yale to?

Mike Wickersham said we're going to transfer ownership them with restrictions as we did with YMCA and original Camp Yale, should they cease in operation, should they cease to use it in the purposes for which they said they would use it, then it would revert back to Randolph County.

Tom Chalfant said we're not giving title away?

Mike Wickersham said pardon?

Tom Chalfant said we're not really giving title away?

Mike Wickersham said yeah, it'll be a restricted title. And they can't mortgage it. That'll be one restriction, and then they, it has to be used for the purposes that we've agreed that it be used for. Should it not be used for that, they can't turn around and sell it to someone that wants to develop houses out there or someone that wants to make a private fishing lake, or what have you.

Meeks said Tom, the old one said that it would be used for a youth, adult learning environment, an outdoor camp, enhance the skills of parents and other adolescent children, a problem-solving community that could reduce the possibility of neglected delinquency. And then goes on and says you can't have any liens, other than real estate liens on that. And you couldn't, you know without transferring back to the county. So, it will, that restricted covenant is going to be a little bit different. It will probably, going to put adult and adolescent learning, and also put for, you know, charitable and religious purposes.

Todd said could it build any buildings that go on that property?

Meeks said it would be come, I mean, if it reverts back to us, those buildings become a fixture and revert back. If they build a building on there, it reverts back to the county, that building comes back to us because it's a fixture.

Todd said and those buildings wouldn't have to go through any sort of an approval process? They would be.

Meeks said no, if they want to build a building out there, they would be able to build a building out there. They wouldn't be able to mortgage that building.

Todd said right.

Meeks said but they would be able to build one.

Dave said I would assume it would have to go through Area Planning?

Meeks said well yeah.

Mike Wickersham said yeah, it would have all that. We wouldn't have any say in it, as county commissioners.

Meeks said I haven't even looked. I assumed the county council has to approve it at some point, but we'll get the proper resolution. We haven't, we've just started talking to the church.

Mike Wickersham said we've leased it to them since the 1st of July, I think.

Meeks said for the last three or four months.

Mike Wickersham said they've used it July and August, maybe, June, July, August and September. And they've made improvements out there. They fixed the water system and they've, the shelter house, if you recall out there, they sided the shelter house so it could become

a dormitory for their campers. And, so, they run a pretty successful operation. And it's helping them in a sense that they don't have to go find a camp to lease. And their plan was to develop 17 acres down on Highway 36. And they have 17 acres they own. They have a sewer, or a septic permit for that 17 acres, but their investment in that septic system was going to be around \$75,000.00. And they saw this opportunity, being more centrally located, and it meets their needs as well as the 17 blank acres. So, they wanted to make this move, and we kind of wrestled with it for several weeks, and as I said, yesterday, we decided to make the move with them.

Dave said it sounds like a good move.

Mike Wickersham said well I hope you would agree that it is.

Missy said are they going to open it up to like, schools who do outdoor education, are they going to let groups like the 5th grade come in and do?

Mike Wickersham said that, I don't know. I really don't know that. That wasn't discussed. It's for their church and religious purposes, and camps. And what they do now, is go around the community with a bus and pick up kids to go to that camp. Now, how far they're going to expand that, I think, would depend upon staffing. That sort of thing takes staffing. And I'm not sure they, I'm not sure what their situation is on that.

Missy said we didn't have to make this a public notice that we were taking interest from other, anybody who might, there might have been other churches who thought.

Meeks said you don't if it's for an educational site, scientific, or, I forget the third one.

Missy said yeah, I'm not saying you had to but, I mean.

Mike Wickersham said we got a lot of calls on use of that property.

Missy said yeah, I knew you did.

Mike Wickersham said this is the only call we received that fit this category. I mean, I'm sure we could have sold it and, for whatever purpose. But, the commissioners decided yesterday that this continues in the use that it was originally dedicated for, I don't know, 30 years ago, 25, 30 years ago, and it worked well for a while, and that group stopped. Then the YMCA, it worked well for a while, and to your point, it becomes difficult to make, break even on it, if you have to house it waiting on groups to come in and use it. So, I think this group has a volunteer base to service children in the community, and I think they'll be successful with their narrow focus. Now, as they grow, and as that camp grows, I think they look to have opportunity to make some revenue off renting it to other church groups that would want to come in and bring their camp in. And it might just be a camp just for Bible school, as opposed to what they do out there. And, each church group has their own camp facility, and so, or camp mission. So, they, I think it's a good thing.

Missy said they really do, I went out on the 19th. They had an open house. I don't know if anybody else went out, but it's a pretty neat program. And they have definitely made improvements out there. It looks really nice. Torn down the, whatever you call it, it had, not able to be used, the repelling thing that you go down. They've really cleaned it up. And they're, it was kind of fun to attend, I only stayed an hour, but, the cupcakes were really good.

Mike Wickersham said I forget how many, I think 900 ice cream cones they serve in a week. Did you have one of those?

Missy said no, I had a chocolate cupcake.

Mike Wickersham said any other questions for the commissioners?

Tom Chalfant said Lonnie called. Anyway, he'd reported that there had been some copper aluminum stolen off of the old highway garage, is there any movement to lease that or do anything with that?

Mike Wickersham said our goal is to use it for county storage. The highway garage is not big enough for all of our equipment, the county highway department still needs some of that, and the sheriff has indicated, so, we've not gone forward, but what we've discussed is dressing it up and securing it and then using it for county storage. So, our intent is not to lease it to another party at this time. Any other questions? Well then, I'm also here on behalf of the Randolph County United Board of Directors. At our last meeting, there was a discussion had about the council's decision not to approve the Tourism's, Commission's request to transfer or appropriate \$12,500.00 for the Tourism Director's salary to the Randolph County United. And we discussed that, and through the discussion, there was a question of where would we get the money to cover the Tourism director's salary. And it led to further discussion that we have an agreement between Tourism and Randolph County United that Tourism agreed to, on November 29th, 2022, to support 50% of the Tourism director's salary. That salary is not \$25,000.00. It's \$25,335.83 with payroll taxes. And it's, the agreement says the salary and all withholding and fringe benefits is budgeted in the Randolph County United's budget. The dilemma we have is, Randolph County United relied on this agreement in establishing their budget, and now, with that appropriation not coming, we're down to what does Randolph County United do about the shortfall of \$12,500.00? And they really have three options. One is, they can come to the commissioners and ask for EDIT funds to cover the salary of the tourism director. They can find it in their budget, or they could reduce or not pay the tourism director for the balance of the year for the \$12,500.00, or really the 12,667.91. And none of those are really optimal considering that Tourism agreed to pay the \$12,500.00 or 50% of the salary. And we think that sense we relied on that, we think it's only appropriate that that being seen through, and paid. And I understand that you chose not to. And I'm not sure why, but I know if my name was on this contract, as promising to pay Randolph County United 12,000 or 50% of the salary, I would want to do all I could to make sure that that was done. And, so, I'm just here to ask the council to reconsider their decision of appropriating the 50% of the tourism's director's salary to Randolph County United, so they can cover their budget. As I said, 50% is \$12,677.91. Ideally, that's what I would want if I were on the Tourism Commission, but being on Randolph County

United board, and knowing that I have other funds I can go find, I guess I would say anything up to and including that amount would be appreciated by the Randolph County United board.

Dave said any questions for Mike?

Missy said Mike, can we see that document?

Mike Wickersham said the contract?

Missy said yeah, because I knew nothing about this document.

Tom Chalfant said they're not going to have trouble meeting payroll, I understand, because they have two openings or two people, staff people less, so they're really not.

Mike Wickersham said well they're Randolph County United staff people.

Tom Chalfant said yeah.

Mike Wickersham said so then could we ask the tourism, I suppose we could ask the tourism director to do, to fill in for those two people, and not do her tourism work. Is that what you're suggesting, Tom?

Tom Chalfant said I think, I think they can work it out. I think they can make.

Mike Wickersham said they shouldn't have to.

Tom Chalfant said I think they.

Mike Wickersham said I guess, I mean, if your name was on that contract, would you just go ahead and say well I don't.

Tom Chalfant said well that is the whole problem with what we're facing today, is all this co-mingling of jurisdiction. We have all these cooperative arrangements between different taxing units. And pretty soon the state is just going to throw us all together, because I would too. Why does this group raise taxes and this group raise taxes, then we throw it together and let's have a party? I mean, we're, we're not headed towards, we're not headed in a good direction in this state or this county, the way we co-mingle jurisdictions. People don't know what the responsibilities are, because they answer to this person and this person, you know. It's just, it's becoming problematic the way government keeps growing. And we don't have a handle on who is responsible for what.

Dave said I have two concerns. We've never seen that Mike, as a county council. They're asking us to supply money to them that an agreement that they made between Tourism and you approved. That should have come before us, in my opinion, if they were wanting money up front. The second problem is that they budget is \$24,000.00. I think they have 41,000, is that correct, last I knew?

Gary Friend said yeah.

Dave said so that takes it down to 17. They asked for another 12,500, they're not going to be able to do any promotion of tourism for the next year. And, in checking the balances right now, Randolph County United's balance is, as of August, around \$137,000, plus counting improvements around 67. So, right now, Randolph County United has over \$204,000.00 at their disposal, whichever way they want to move that money, they can do it.

Mike Wickersham said I'm confused on how much tourism has.

Dave said that's the numbers I've got.

Mike said they have a balance of \$48,279, is what I'm looking at, as of yesterday. If they do what they promised to do and spend roughly \$12,000.00 out of that, they have \$36,000.00 for the rest of this year. And they're bringing in an average of what, \$4,500.00 a month? That's what they've brought in so far this year.

Dave said all I went is by numbers I received.

Mike Wickersham said I guess I would ask you the question, if they don't have a tourism director to promote and market tourism, why do they need marketing monies? And if they say well, we have board members to market tourism, then they don't need a tourism director. I guess that's the catch there.

Missy said why wouldn't they have a tourism director?

Mike Wickersham said well who's going to pay the tourism director? If we don't want to co-mingle funds, EDIT shouldn't be paying for the tourism director. And EDIT is substantially, paying for tourism director.

Missy said I think in the, my understanding, by talking to somebody, I think it's probably been two or three years ago, the director at the time, Ceann Bales came in and asked for appropriations. We approved it, and someone asked, is this going to be every year deal, and she said no.

Mike Wickersham said it hadn't been.

Missy said that's the only thing I've ever heard.

Mike Wickersham said it's not in this year's budget. But it was in last year's budget because it was promised to be done by the tourism commission out of Innkeepers tax.

Tom Kerns said when the tourism was all set up, it was set up as EDIT paying for the tourism director wasn't it?

Mike Wickersham said no. When it was set up, it was what?

Tom Kerns said we were using EDIT dollars to pay for the tourism director.

Mike Wickersham said we've always used EDIT dollars to pay for the tourism director. It wasn't until 2 years ago when Ceann asked for that money. And this last year, we asked for that money to help support the office of tourism director. And I'm sure you're aware that, at one point in time, you might say that office, the rent on that office was \$250.00 a month, but now, it's about a \$1,000.00 a month. So, the idea was when the expenses of Randolph United went up, then maybe tourism should help support some more of those expenses, because tourism doesn't support the office at all, except for this stipend that Randolph United is asking for. And you know, and I know, maybe I don't know, but I don't think there's enough Innkeepers tax to support a stand-alone office for tourism. I don't know if that's been discussed at the commission or not. But when I was on the tourism commission, there wasn't enough funds to support a stand-alone office. It had to be part of the Randolph County Economic Development office or Randolph County United office at that time. And it, it's about \$36,000.00 a year that EDIT supports tourism. And EDIT, in my opinion, EDIT should support tourism, but not 100%. It should, tourism should be able to budget their money to support some of that cost of administration of the tourism office. And then, also be able to promote tourism within the county. That's, I'm just here to ask for what I believe Randolph County United is due. It's due \$12,667.00.

Missy said but the rent on that whole suite over there, the board room, the front room, the three offices, and the main entryway, it's only, what is it, 20, it used to be like \$2,600.00 a month.

Mike Wickersham said it's like, I don't know. I don't have the budget with me, but it increased substantially. And really, we're not talking about rent. We're talking about the director's salary. And that's what the tourism commission agreed to do, is pay that money, and they've not done it. And it's a shortfall for Randolph United regardless of how much money we have. It's, Randolph United, sure they can find the money. EDIT can find the money. You could find the money out of Rainy Day. It could come from anywhere, but the point is, it's supposed to come from Innkeepers tax. And it's supposed to support the tourism director's salary.

Missy said I just think it's going to leave tourism short on many of the things that they have been able to sponsor and assist with throughout the year across the county.

Mike Wickersham said that, I don't know Missy, because I'm not on the tourism commission. You are, and I guess I would return to the fact that if that's going to happen, then I don't know why the tourism commission agreed to pay it in the first place.

Missy said yeah, I don't know.

Mike Wickersham said because they did.

Missy said did they think it was a yearly deal?

Mike Wickersham said you can read that contract wherever it is. It's for 2023. There's been no request for 2024. It's for 2023. So, whether it's a one-year deal or a five-year deal, that contract is a one-year deal. It's for the 2023 budget year. Randolph United relied on it in developing it's budget. Now, they don't have it.

Missy said if it's Innkeepers tax, can you transfer that? See, because I.

Laura said we checked into it two years ago when we did it. And yes, you can.

Missy said yeah, I got a phone call with that lady from Indiana Tourism, and talked to a couple other auditors. And they said you can't transfer, I mean, can't transfer Innkeepers tax.

Laura said it could be used to pay tourism director.

Missy said okay.

Laura said right Meeks?

Meeks said I'd said that 15 years ago. I mean, if you want me to, I had it with Vicky when Vicky was the president, and Kirsten was the director. How long ago was that? And it's much simpler just to pay entire salary with that tourism, because that's what literally the Statute says that, and you're never going to get questioned if you're paying the salary with it. That was my recommendation, it's been 15 years ago. I think that's why you have it, and then you use the other money if you carry enough to do the projects you talked about, EDIT money to do tourism.

Missy said if you can't do any projects, I mean.

Meek said well you have to have other money because you only have a certain amount of money.

Mike Wickersham said well it's not taking all of the money. And the rest of the money, to my knowledge, the rest of the receipts could be used for promotion and marketing, because I don't, not sure what other expenses they have.

Missy said I'm assuming a little bit of mileage and when she has to go to conferences or go visit people in the county.

Mike Wickersham said I'm not sure, I think that's paid out of Randolph United. I don't think that's paid out of tourism. I don't know. I've not seen their budget. You know what their budget looks like. I don't know what items they have in there besides marketing and promotion. So, I would stand corrected if I mis-spoke on that.

Missy said well I think it's something the tourism is going to have to give. I mean, obviously, they signed that document. I've never seen that document, ever. And by looking, yeah, I'm on that commission, looking down through there, they're going to need to make some hard choices because \$12,000.00 goes a long way in tourism with carriage rides in Lynn, carriage rides in Farmland, which make their Christmas festivities, billboards to support Randolph County. You

know, those are for the Winchester Speedway and Wick's Pies, where people think I can go up there. And there's a lot, many things that they give to the small communities on the outlying areas to support them. They have no revenue to give. Some of those, they're going to have to look through there and say we've got to start saying no, we can't do this. And, you know, supporting Community Christmas in Union City, they put a billboard up and Community Christmas even at the time asked them, how did you know about us. Oh, there's a billboard over there, saw the billboard, so I came over. I mean, there's, you know, little things like the car show that you guys do out here. You know, they, tourism supports restroom porta pots being brought in. We have no downtown restrooms. I mean, what do you do? I don't know where they're going to cut at. So, if that's going to continue for each year, and I mean, I was going on what Ceann had said, is this going, she said no, we won't ask again. So, that comes as a surprise to me, because I've never seen it.

Mike Wickersham said and I, I guess, I'm looking at a cash balance of \$48,000.00, and four months left in the year at \$4,000.00 a month is \$16,000.00, so that's a cash balance of \$66,000.00. Randolph United is entitled to \$12,500.00. So, that's \$52,000.00 to finish the year.

Missy said but she has a lot of that money appropriated.

Mike Wickersham said I understand that.

Missy said so she's going to have to go back and reduce.

Mike Wickersham said I guess the question is, how much does she expect to carry over? Last year, they carried over \$102,000.00. I know they spent a lot this year. We've all spent a lot on marketing. EDIT has spent a lot on marketing. And we all, I hope we all agree that it's valuable and important, not only for tourist, but for housing, for people to move to the community for the schools. It's important for everybody. But, I guess I go back, and if it's only this year, I would be one that should, I'm a little like I should say like Meeks, I would agree that there should be support every year for that salary, because tourism and Innkeepers tax, that can be used for salary, and it should be used for salary.

Tom Chalfant said so, what kind of, how does the tourism board interact with Randolph United board? Again, it's just so confusing.

Mike Wickersham said well they have a board member. We have two board members on our board so.

Tom Chalfant said do they all meet here and they meet.

Mike Wickersham said they have two board members, and obviously, she is in the, the tourism director is in the office, and she's supervised daily by the Randolph County United executive director. However, goals and responsibilities are, you'll read in that contract, those are established by the tourism commission, along with the Randolph County United president. But, it's basically, an attitude, it's your baby. But, if you're in my office, I have to have direct supervision responsibility.

Tom Chalfant said whatever.

Mike Wickersham said it's co-mingled. I don't disagree with that. But it can work. It can work.

Tom Chalfant said well I haven't seen much evidence in.

Mike Wickersham said it can work if those that are responsible take their role seriously and do their jobs. And as you say, we've got lots of money in the personal services line because we're losing two people, Randolph United is planning to replace those two people, but I don't think he, I don't know, maybe he has plans to move Scottie into one of those positions to fill the void. I don't know.

Tom Chalfant said it's, yeah, I just don't see the benefit. I asked the director two years ago to give us a history of where the Economic Development tax has gone the last 25 years, and I've yet to see anything about that. I guess we just lost a Y director last night too. A lot of vacancies.

Mike Wickersham said I trust no one around this table or up in the front of this is planning to move on anyplace. I don't plan to move anyplace, not resign, so, we'll keep leading this county with what we have. That's the only thing I can say. And we're far away from what I have requested here, and that's that I think that appropriation should be done in the interest of fairness. I really do.

Tom Kerns said see I don't have it. Was this \$12,000 included in the budget the tourism turned into us that we approved?

Mike Wickersham said no. It was not.

Tom Kerns said that's the biggest thing, that I don't know how two committees negotiate a contract with tax dollars, and don't bring it to the fiscal body of the county.

Mike Wickersham said that would be, Randolph United doesn't bring its budget to the council.

Tom Kerns said I know they don't.

Mike Wickersham said tourism does. Why that wasn't done, other than this was signed in November, and tourism budget was probably submitted prior to November. It should have been done in January, and I'm not sure why it wasn't. And in January, it may have been approved because they had a lot larger cash balance. No one would say well you're going to run out of money. And tourism would have had the opportunity to adjust their budget for 2023 to maybe spend less early and have more later. To me, they're still going to be in, \$52,000.00 for the last four months, if Innkeepers tax comes in, is the way it average does.

Missy said that's not what Scottie sent to the, I think she sent it to all the tourism board members. And I'll forward this on to everyone, because she has listed in here, I can just pass it out. She's committed to things. I mean, I know, if they sign that agreement, I'm like Tom, I'm

not sure how you don't, why did we not know that? And this comes back when we were told no, we aren't going to ask again. I don't know who asked that question, but it was a good question. And then we skipped a year, didn't hear from them. And then it comes up again. And I agree, there is office space over there, but Scottie has indicated that you know, maybe she doesn't need that office, she can work from home or get a smaller office. I don't know. That's between her and the immediate, the leadership, vice president, president of that tourism board.

Mike Wickersham said that would be your call.

Missy said yeah. That would be, yeah, the leaders of that, I'm just on there. But there are a lot of, she's got a lot of commitments on there right now that she's not going to be able to make, and that she may have already signed for. Who's going to cover those? Like the billboard for Community Christmas or you know, different help. She had a, I volunteered at the race track this past weekend because they can't find help. Since when don't kids want to come, 13 bucks an hour, all you have to do is sit there and tear a ticket and hand them the, it's amazing. But anyway, so she had these little cards out there. You can put it in your wallet or your purse or whatever, has every, you tap on it the place you're going to be, it pops up with a map of, I mean, she had somebody do it. Obviously, I couldn't do it. But, every restaurant in that town, you tap on Union City, every restaurant is on there. I mean, every little, everything. And it's things like that, I don't know what she paid for that, but that's going to be another bill, because it was, I think that's something she just kind of felt we should do this so these race fans, and they took them. They took them and went places with them, at least on Saturday and Sunday. So, I just don't know how she's going to pay all her bills to commitments. Does she turn back around and say, and Scottie has to know that document existed.

Mike Wickersham said I would hope.

Missy said I'm wondering if she, I wonder if they just thought it was done in, they didn't read it carefully enough, thought it was done in 2022, and I don't know. I have no idea.

Tom Kerns said what we probably, I don't want to interrupt.

Missy said no, you go ahead.

Tom Kerns said what we probably need to do is have the tourism board and Scottie come in here and present their budgets again, since we approved their budget, and see where they're at with their expenditures, and where they're at with their commitments.

Missy said yes.

Mike Wickersham said this is not for 2024.

Tom Kerns said I know.

Mike Wickersham said okay.

Tom Kerns said but it's not in the budget we approved for 2023 either.

Mike Wickersham said no, it's not.

Tom Kerns said so, somebody from that board needs to come and present it to us.

Missy said there's some other pages on there. You can feel free to look at the other ones too.

Tom Kerns said I think would be the right direction forward with it.

Dave said is that a motion to table until our next meeting?

Tom Kerns said yes, and with their, with communications, I don't know, is Cheryl the president of the board? Contact the president of the Tourism board.

Missy said Cheryl. I've drawn a blank today.

Tom Kerns said I've looked at the signature on the.

Missy said Prescott, yeah.

Tom Kerns said Prescott, yes. According to this, she is.

Missy said yeah, I think so.

Tom Kerns said but that could have changed since this contract.

Missy said no, I think she is.

Mike Wickersham said she's on our board as well.

Tom Kerns said so she would be representing, somewhat represent both boards. And then Scottie come in with her so, that we know where their budgets are. So, we know, you know, we know where Scottie's budget is and go from there since we would be modifying the 2023 budget for tourism.

Dave said I have a motion on the floor to table it until the next meeting and bring in tourism president and director.

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

Dave said and I'm like Tom, you know, we're trying to spend money here that we didn't know anything about. And, I think we should have been in somehow, in the loop of requested money. I find fought with tourism and Randolph County United.

Mike Wickersham said where does that fault lie?

Dave said because you guys knew about the contract, the agreement.

Mike Wickersham said why would we be responsible to bring that to council?

Dave said somebody needs to, you guys, if somebody is wanting money, they should come to the fiscal body.

Mike Wickersham said we had our money.

Tom Kerns said well, but they had a budget and they're spending money that's not in any line of their budget, is the whole tourism.

Mike Wickersham said that's why they should be held accountable.

Tom Kerns said that's the biggest thing.

Mike Wickersham said Randolph United shouldn't be held accountable for what the tourism failed to do. So, thanks for your time.

Tom Chalfant said I think you made my point, Mike.

Sherri Thompson, Health Department salaries

Dave said okay. Sherri.

Sherri Thompson said good morning. I know that everyone got emails with this information in it. But, the State did send us books. This is a study that they did. We're here today, to ask the council to reconsider or to look at our salaries. When we were promoting to opt into the state, part of the state money was to bring us up to where we are competitive to other counties. And that's why, in 2024, the county would pay an average of the last three years. Then in 2025, it would drop to 20% that the county would have to pay. So, that overall, is saving the county over the next five years, over a half a million dollars. And the state money was to help bring more people in for health care. According to the studies that we have and that was sent out, our health department should be running with approximately 20 people. And we run it with 5. I feel like we have done a good job at running it with a short staff. So, with that, that's why the state is saying that the money that they are giving us should be part of our pay, our salary raises. So, I guess to start off, what the council approved for salaries is considerably less than what the state average is. And that is what was presented, the state averages. That money would not come out of the county portion of the budget. A lot of that would come out of the state portion of the budget. So, we're here just to present why we feel like we deserve those raises, and some facts about how the county is going to benefit from it. So, the other people would like to talk also, if that is okay with you.

Dave said sure.

Sherri Thompson said okay.

Missy said can you identify. I mean, so, health officer, she starts the day, he starts the day, this morning, what do they do?

Sherri Thompson said the health officer?

Missy said uh huh.

Sherri Thompson said he is located in a different part of the state right now. So, the health officer gets an update every week. He comes in to the meetings, he comes in when he's able to.

Missy said so, he'll be there tomorrow night?

Sherri Thompson said he will not be there tomorrow night. He called.

Missy said when is the last time he came to a meeting?

Sherri Thompson said the last meeting.

Missy said because I've tried to come to two and you guys didn't have anything, so you cancelled, so I mean I didn't, and I didn't know it, so I showed up there. And how about the coordinator registrar? What does that?

Sherri Thompson said that's my position. I do all of the grants, the budgeting, I take care, I do support services to the other roles. So, if they need help with anything, I'm there to go help them. I also take care of vital records, and birth certificates, death certificates, genealogy, all of the grants, that type of thing, payroll.

Missy said okay. Public health nurse.

Wendy McDavid said that's me.

Missy said okay. And you're an LPN or RN?

Wendy McDavid said I'm an LPN.

Missy said yeah. What's the difference between an LPN and an RN?

Wendy McDavid said in this position, absolutely nothing.

Missy said no, I mean by what you can and can't?

Wendy McDavid said in the state of Indiana, RNs can push narcotics, they can, through IVs. They can start different types of IVs. There's not a lot difference between LPNs and RNs. It's just RNs have a few more years of education, more of the management type. LPNs are more

geared towards working the floor. RNs are more towards management. But as an LPN, I've done both. I worked in long term care as an ADON.

Missy said so there's one health officer, one of you, how many public health nurses are on that staff?

Wendy McDavid said me.

Missy said just one. And then, sanitarian, I know what that does. Okay, so, what do you do? Where are you in this?

Tammy Pruitt said I'm the clinical school liaison nurse.

Missy said okay.

Wendy McDavid said which is a new position.

Missy said is that on here?

Wendy McDavid said no.

Missy said so that wasn't on here when you, when we did our budget?

Wendy McDavid said yes.

Sherri Thompson said yes, it's on there.

Dave said on the second page.

Missy said oh, okay, thanks.

Sherri Thompson said it comes out of a different fund.

Missy said okay. Thanks.

Sherri Thompson said and as of right now, Tammy is doing two jobs. She's doing the clinic nurse and the school liaison. In 2024, the school liaison will become a full-time position versus what it was this year. So, Tammy is going to step into the school liaison role and then we will need to hire a clinic nurse.

Bev said were you or any of your staff here on the second day of the budget meetings last month?

Sherri Thompson said we were not because I was not aware that we were able to come and speak. In the past years that I've been in this role, we've never been able to speak or come to that part of the budget that I knew of.

Tom Kerns said Sherri, part of that discussion was we didn't know the different positions that day, and we truly, we weren't trying to give you low wages. We truly expected you to come back and adjust because there were so many new positions.

Sherri Thompson said and we appreciate that.

Tom Kerns said we didn't know where to go with them that day, so we just put all the nurses in the same salary for now until we had that discussion, and worked from there, because we truly didn't know where to go with everything. We didn't have the information.

Sherri Thompson said and I apologize that I wasn't here. Again, I wasn't aware that I could come in and talk. I spoke to Laura afterwards, and I conveyed to her also, I did not realize that I could come and present. That's why I had given you a few papers the day before, kind of trying to justify you know, the raises.

Dave said and I do know Tammy is well received at the schools, right superintendents? I mean, it's been a blessing to them to.

Sherri Thompson said yes, she does a wonderful job.

Todd said there's also a, since there was no one here to speak on behalf of what LPN versus RN, was filling each role, there was a disparity on the budget in the salaries presented on those budgets for each of those positions. So, there was a concern that if we just approved what we saw, we would be out of balance with what reality was.

Sherri Thompson said sure.

Wendy McDavid said in the years past, I've been here, this is my 10th year, I just had my 10th anniversary, and in the years past, we discussed, probably my 3rd year in, whether I should go back, because previously has been an RN in this position in Randolph County. The state does not mandate an RN in this position. It can be either or. It was discussed that, whether or not I should go back and get my RN, because I was willing at the time. And since it's paid per position, and not per letters behind your name, they felt like there was no need. And I haven't come across anything that, being an LPN, hinders me from doing. Like when COVID hit, you know, when COVID hit, this funding has come from, stemmed from COVID. When COVID hit, you know, we were all like, whoa. We had a health department of three, and we set up a test site. We did vaccine clinics. We pushed, we ran, we did whatever we needed to do, by choice. It was not mandated from the state or anyone else. We did this by choice. Opting in for this to save money to you guys, and most of all, the most important thing is, to benefit the county. The new KPIs that they are asking us to do are things that have been done in a small portion in the past, when there was more money in the budgets. If you look through the health department budgets, they have dropped in the years. I think the last, maybe 3 or 4 years, it's been kind of the same. But it's significantly lower than when I started 10 years ago. We had more staff and more nurses. So, when the state was looking at this option for us to opt in, they realized across the board, how short staffed and overworked the public health departments were. So, their priority is

to make sure that we can offer the services that every county needs. So, they figured out the key performance indicators with KPI, of what they feel like is the most important things, on average, in the state of Indiana. So, we will significantly be picking up a lot of things, diabetes educations, smoking sensation, there's just a ton of things. And so, a lot of that does fall on the nurses. That's why we're going, you know, in Tammy's position, she works in the clinic and as school liaison. But next year, she will not be allowed to have two positions. We have to make her straight school liaison, which is wonderful, because that gives her more time to do, to work with the schools, and help with them, because I'm going to be busy doing this. So, we'll have a clinic nurse that will provide services to the children that come in to get, children or adults that come in to get immunizations. So, our work load is going to significantly increase in 2024, by our choice. We didn't have to do this. No one mandated us to do this. We did this for the county, for the people. We all live here, we all work here. This is what we wanted to do. So, by providing these services and making these things better for the county, I feel like we deserve the pay raise that the state says, and that's the state, these are state numbers, we didn't ask for anything that the state doesn't say that we should have. I mean, of course, we're not going to go for 20 employees, we don't have anywhere to put them. But, hiring one more nurse to work the clinic, having Tammy as the school liaison, and I will do the other things, and substantially, if Tammy and the new nurse doesn't do what they need to do, I am responsible for their jobs. Now, there's lots of training. There's going to be lots of things I will be out of the office for, so they will kind of cover for me if there's an emergency, but for the most part, you know, it's a huge work load for all of us. And it's not just one of us, we all work together. We all pick up pieces. We all just do whatever. I mean I can do vital records if I need to, I can inspect homes if I need to, whatever needs done. And the same goes for everybody else. We do it together. We want to opt in, and we want to do this for the county. We also feel like we deserve the pay raise. And the pay raise doesn't come out of 1159. The pay raise comes out of 1161, which is totally state funded. So, I'm not sure why it's a no to that, because it's not the county budget.

Tom Chalfant said see the problem is, the state needs to come here and run our health department because they're telling us what to do, how to do it, and who to pay, and pretty soon, that money will slow down or stop, because that is what they do. They bring all this upon us. The school superintendents know exactly what I'm talking about. We're all being screwed by our state legislature. Unless you move to Indianapolis where the power is, we get the leftovers.

Wendy McDavid said we totally understand that if this, if 1161 goes away, we are totally very aware that we go back to county base pay. We totally understand that. But why we're doing this, and we're choosing to do this, we feel like we should be compensated for this. We have to change our clinic hours. We will no longer be 8 to 4, because we have to do evenings and weekends. So, we will do some of that. The office will be open 8 to 4, the normal hours like it is for vital records and things like that. But we will also have to do weekends, we'll have to do evenings. We do, wherever and whoever, and you know, during COVID, 10 o'clock at night, I'm at the COVID test site, you know, doing a sheriff, to make sure he can work, and he's safe, testing you know, or vaccine, giving somebody a vaccine.

Tom Chalfant said so how do you get paid for that?

Wendy McDavid said before, that was, it was comp time. And if you have any idea about my comp time in the last three years, it was ungodly. I mean, some of it was paid out. I spent 8 weeks off in the hospital and never drew one day of sick pay. It was comp time. So, that tells you how much I had, and you all paid me out like 80 hours because I was too high. That tells you what we worked. We all worked.

Tom Chalfant said the problem is the State has mandated things, forcing this upon us, because they know best. They know what we need. We're not smart enough to do it, so, tell them to come in here and do it, rather than telling us to do it. We're not smart enough to do it. You guys do it yourself.

Dave said right now, this is a two-year program. And I agree with you Tom.

Tom Chalfant said and there's 2 or 3 funds going away in their salaries now.

Wendy McDavid said they're combining them into the 1161.

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Wendy McDavid said they're not going away. They're just shifting.

Sherri Thompson said in 2025 the school liaison will go into this. There will no longer be a grant for that. And then of course, the maintenance grant and then the trust are in this also. I mean, as far as it goes, we can opt out at any time. It doesn't have to be, the state doesn't have to be a part of it. We can opt out and it can be all county.

Dave said but as of this morning, 86 out of 92 counties have opted in.

Wendy McDavid said have opted in.

Tom Chalfant said this is, well they just use a sledge hammer you know, they're not subtle about it at all. There's a threat there. If you don't do it the way we do, you're going to pay for it. You're going to suffer.

Wendy McDavid said and we're not asking for anything that we won't provide. I mean, if you look at the history of the health department, we checked off the boxes when we didn't have the funds to do anything else. But with COVID, when things got tough, we jumped in. We didn't have to. We didn't have to by any means. So, we're not asking for anything that we can't provide.

Tom Chalfant said well then, it's just the larger picture, the sanitarian, the state is, you know, we have all these failed septic systems, they're going to force us to go on sewage treatment plants. I mean, it's, and again, half the people live within 25 miles of the state capital. It's just a mess. We're, the schools need our help. We can't update infrastructure and give comparable wages with other people in our market, the county, that it's just untenable, this whole situation is just going to get worse and worse.

Sherri Thompson said but the other, and I wish everybody could get huge raises. I mean, we all work hard, everyone deserves you know, what they do, they should be compensated for it. But, I guess I feel like our department shouldn't be punished because of the other departments not being able to have those, because they are county funded. And this money is coming from the state. And I, it's not that I think we do more than anybody else, I don't. I just don't think that we should be penalized for it. And as far as sanitarian, his job is going to grow too.

Wendy McDavid said so today, all we're asking for is for you to approve the 1161 supplement to our salaries. It's no money out of county money. It's all state money. That's what we're asking for.

Sherri Thompson said when she says 1161, yeah, it's just another fund instead of being 1159.

Dave said okay. What's everybody's wishes here? While they are thinking, I did have a chance to speak to the new commissioner, Dr. Weaver, about the health officer. There's been a lot of people approach us about concerns. That he's in West Lafayette, doing Randolph.

Wendy McDavid said uh huh.

Dave said perfectly okay to do that. She said there're other options you could do. You could partner with another county or get another medical doctor. But, we are getting concerns about that.

Wendy McDavid said but Dr. Sowinski, let me just put that out there, he is always available. I have never called him and not got a response within 15 minutes. So, I mean, he is available. We can email, we email him, he emails back. I mean, we have talked about maybe another health officer, but yeah.

Dave said I'm just sharing that with you. It's okay to do it, but there are a lot of people concerned in Randolph County that he's in West Lafayette.

Bev said what numbers would we be looking at that would be coming out of the 1161?

Tom Kerns said the salary lines. The additional salary lines.

Tom Chalfant said do we have any time to study this?

Tom Kerns said we don't have, we wouldn't need, this is for the 24 budget.

Wendy McDavid said 24 budget.

Tom Kerns said so we could study it and look at it next month, just table it until next month because it doesn't matter.

Dave said okay. We definitely will take a look at it. We were wanting you in here to explain.

Wendy McDavid said explain, sorry about that.

Sherri Thompson said I also wanted to kind of update you. I did get a final number yesterday. Instead of us getting \$266,000 from the state, because every county didn't opt in, we're going to get \$276,592.

Todd said still have a question about the way those two funds are presented in the budget. They show up as line items for specific people, I believe. I don't have the budget here with me today, but the first, you tell me if I'm wrong, but those were pretty different widely varying numbers for those two-line items, and then the 1161 item was quite a bit more, are those not directly allocated to individuals? Are those distributed amongst different people, is that what I'm hearing, that that 1161 number is not a person, it is money that goes to several people?

Sherri Thompson said each line item on there is for one person. What it was is it got split. Tammy, the school liaison, hers was all coming out of the 1161, because hers is a new position, and the county didn't have, has never paid that position. So, what we did is we left the positions that the county has paid prior in the 1159, a portion of it, and then the rest came out of the 1161.

Todd said okay. So, there's, there are lines in 1161 that are basically, supplemental to the other?

Sherri Thompson said yes, yes.

Tom Kerns said in all those positions, the salaries you put in was what you came up with the state average, or what the state supplied?

Sherri Thompson said yes.

Tom Kerns said that was one of our questions looking at it before is, and it's exactly what she said we didn't want to do. We didn't want to pay for the person who wanted to set up the salaries for the positions when they wouldn't be known if you were setting different salaries for different positions because this person that happened to come in as an RN, and it really doesn't require an RN. So, we wanted to make sure we were setting salaries based on position and requirements of the position, not the person.

Sherri Thompson said and I do have kind of a break down, which is also in that book. But it's kind of showing the averages, you know, of each position if you're interested.

Dave said okay. Is that a motion Tom to table?

Tom Kerns said yeah, table it. Bev seconded the motion.

Dave said it's been moved and seconded that we table the health departments salaries until the next meeting.

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Dave said thanks for coming in. We'll put you on the agenda for the next meeting.

Sherri Thompson said I do have one other question if that's okay.

Dave said sure, Sherri.

Sherri Thompson said has anybody been looked at or appointed about the vehicles that we have talked about?

Dave said well last I knew, you guys.

Laura said the commissioners already approved it.

Dave said yeah, you were to get another quote. You only had the KIA quotes.

Tom Chalfant said we were going to ask the commissioners to oversee all the fleet vehicles in the county.

Laura said nobody came and asked. Well Bev came yesterday and asked if she could look into it. She didn't ask them to.

Wendy McDavid said you were going to find somebody in charge of the cars, right?

Tom Chalfant said well that's what we ask the commissioners if they would find somebody to be in charge of all the vehicles in the county.

Dave said right. That's one part of it. The other part was you guys were supposed to go out and get another quote.

Sherri Thompson said okay.

Dave said I think your sanitarian was getting the quotes.

Sherri Thompson said yeah, he was working on that. The last I knew was we were waiting on someone to look at that.

Dave said yeah, I'd say go get another quote.

Sherri Thompson said we'll go ahead and get it. Okay.

Bev said and be sure when you go to look for the cars, tell them that it will be government, they have government rates.

Dave said yeah, they do have government rates.

Tom Chalfant said and not all dealers participate in that.

Bev said that' right.

Tom Chalfant said our surveyor could probably tell you. He has a list of maybe approved dealerships or something.

Ed Thornburg said that changes.

Tom Chalfant said yeah.

Dave said it does.

Ed Thornburg said I'd say we had the dealer I bought my vehicle from changed hands and the new owner doesn't participate in this.

Tom Chalfant said is there a website that shows those things Ed, do you know?

Ed Thornburg said I don't know. I'd say, we talk once in a while, I'll get with them.

Sherri Thompson said okay. Thank you.

Art Moystner said hey Tom, if you go on line under Indiana.gov, they do have a state bid that will tell you what dealerships have earned that state bid for vehicles, and you can contact that dealership direct. So, that's what we do at the sheriff's office, just to share

Aaron Black and County Superintendents

Dave said okay. Superintendents.

Aaron Black said well first of all, thank you so much for having us this morning. Really, this is just a conversation to bring the council up to speed on something we shared with the commissioners two weeks ago, just to generate conversation, so you guys can know about more co-mingling of government agencies that we're looking to occur. And Mr. Chalfant you said that and I thought I'm just going to walk out the door right now.

Tom Chalfant said well I mean, you guys have Gric and you do a lot of things out of survival. And, I think this is probably a real good idea. It's just how do we get the money, and how do we keep lines, how do we not, yeah.

Aaron Black said well with that being said, we'll just kind of go in and share with you where we've been, and kind of how we've gotten where we're at right now. So, what we've developed is what we're calling the Rural Alliance Zone 32, as highway 32 is where that number came from. But the Rural Alliance Zone currently is made up of Monroe Central, Randolph Central, Randolph Eastern. This was a product of years of work, like Mr. Chalfant said of us working together, county safety meetings, Gric, special education. Pre-school has been huge in Randolph County, and that's been a collaboration school amongst other things. So, this time last year,

Randolph Eastern was awarded a grant, 3.3 million dollars. And one of the main reasons we earned that grant was to provide equity and access for all of our students to high quality college and career pathways. No secret, we have a high Hispanic population. That kind of put us in a place to qualify for the grant. And one of the things that we worked on last year and actually Missy was part of our steering committee, was how do we get kids equitable access to quality programs? I'm a believer that your zip code should not dictate your access to quality education. Reality is, is we can't all afford what we want to do for our kids, but I think collaboratively, we can continue to offer more. So, that leads to our shared values. Obviously, we're all student first school corporation, have a passion for strengthening Randolph County and rural communities in general, and we take pride in community and our schools. So again, make no mistake about it, this avoids the other C word that schools don't like to talk about. I think there's room to collaborate before you ever talk to consolidation so, this is a way for us to continue to maintain that pride of our school and community. Our challenges, been well documented, limited talent pool when it comes to teacher resources and folks that can teach courses. Roland is pretty fortunate to have two amazing welding teachers. That doesn't happen everywhere. There's not a chance that Randolph Eastern can start a welding program and hire the quality of folks that he's been able to hire. Lower enrollment, and then obviously, the funding issue, that remains for every school.

Roland Abraham said and some of the programs that we've looked into, we've just not been able to pursue. We've got so many irons in the fire that we just can't like, you know Randolph Eastern is been to developing a medical program. We've looked at that, but, two years ago, but we just can't, with our enrollment and our funding, we just can't do everything.

Aaron Black said yeah. So, last spring, the schools' representative, vice president from Reed Health, the chancellor from Ivy Tech and Katie Lash from the Service Center all travelled down to south Texas to explore a rural collaborative that's currently running there. These schools were on the bus a longtime, folks. These schools were an average of 45 minutes to an hour apart. And they all specialized in their own area. One school specialized in medical, another school specialized in the trades, welding, construction trades, those type of things, and another district there specialized in early childhood education, which is what Monroe Central is exploring, the program that they would like to bring to our county. So, we all travelled there. We've used transportation and logistics as an excuse, maybe why we haven't done this at the level that we should be. And that excuse was quickly taken away when we saw the distances of which those students had to travel in south Texas in order to take part in these programs.

Roland Abraham said and you know, we do have some of these programs at the career center, but you know, traditionally, Randolph Central, we've only sent 8 to 10 kids to the career center because they don't want to travel that far.

Tom Chalfant said Muncie's career center?

Roland Abraham, way over you know, out on Cowan Road. So, we've really struggled to get kids there.

Aaron Black said and that puts our students at Randolph Eastern, we carry the bus. That's about an hour and 10-minute commitment in the morning. They board that bus right at 6:30 so, we all know that limits the interest right off the bat. And we can't take students both in the morning and afternoon. The logistics just doesn't work out in order to get that done. So, the opportunity.

Missy said Aaron, can I point something out?

Aaron Black said go ahead.

Missy said it also takes kids out of their extra-curricular activities, because most of them are mid-morning, so, clubs, all that, they can't be a part of it.

Aaron Black said right.

Missy said and that's a big reason why kids sometimes aren't interest.

Aaron Black said club meetings that happen before school, they're removed from those. There are students that do the afternoon. At MICC we have a couple that have a hard time getting back for practice and those type of things, because of the travel to Muncie. So, the opportunity here with RAZ32 creative collaboration to increase access for our students in short. The features of the Rural Alliance Zone, first of all, is to put some things in writing. The county council, the commissioners have been very supportive of our programs of the past. I know that our Kiss tv and Apache programs have been beneficiaries of funding from folks sitting in this room, multiple times. I know that Roland's welding program has been supported, as it should. And I believe green house project at Monroe Central, the county council has supported in the past. This is going to formalize agreements that you all could hold peoples' feet to the fire too, to make sure the programs you are supporting are being used and accessible by other students in the county. Community driven, locally led, and that, we'll get into a little bit later, who's involved. And the RAZ beyond the school, but there are also community members that will be part of the oversight committee, and then just providing high quality and ambitious programming to our students in Randolph County. The partner's, three schools here, and you might ask, well there's five schools in this county, this is not to be exclusive. This was for us to work, right down the corridor of 32 to be quite honest with you. The plan is as we figure out the nuts and bolts, we'll invite Randolph Southern in. We'll invite Union in. We'll invite, I see space for possibly Wapahani, Liberty Perry. Northeastern already sends students to Roland's welding program. And I honestly believe, between the medical pathway that we're building, it's going to be about a three quarter million-dollar investment. We'll absorb students from the surrounding areas. So, this is not an exclusive group. It was just the common group in order to get this thing off the ground. Then community partners, IVY Tech, community college, the Randolph County Community foundation, East Central Education Service center, that's Katie Lash's group, and Randolph County United. And each of those have members that will sit on the board. So, with that, I'll turn it over to Roland to kind of share the overview of the mission and vision that we've developed as a team.

Roland Abraham said and part of our initial work was to develop a vision and a mission statement. So, you can see the vision statement there is equitably expand access to high value

college and career opportunities for all students. And once again, what school district you are born into or where you live shouldn't determine whether you, what access you have. And I appreciate the support the county has given to our welding program. And that's been a great example of other schools participating in that program. And we just want to expand that and then make sure that our kids are going to other programs as well. The mission statement there is small districts working together embodying the heart and strength of rural Indiana to prepare and support students, families, educators and industry partners in the creation of a vibrant and successful regional economy and flourishing community. That just kind of knocks it out of the park. It's a long, I don't know if I could ever memorize that, but it really says what we're trying to do here. And really kind of embodies what Randolph County is trying to do. So, I think it's a great mission statement.

Aaron Black said the steering committee, so it's important to note that all three schools have already signed a letter of intent to participate and look into this further with the goals signing an MOU as early as November. So, each school has three members represented on the steering committee. Then Chad Bolser, the chancellor at IVY Tech, Katie Lash, Daniel Baker from Randolph County United, and Lisa Jennings have all agreed to be a part of the steering committee. I think it's also important to note that the community foundation, because of this conversation, already has a very large grant, of which, that they can use this language to apply for and support the programming as well. So, it is going to open up different funding avenues we believe through the state. Now to the timeline, pretty aggressive. We started last spring doing some exploratory, met throughout the summer to get what we have for you today. This fall is very important. It's critical, this fall, one, that we develop an MOU. But in order for our school boards to sign onto a MOU, we're going to have to take on a pretty concrete plan, right. Why we have to have that done by November? Scheduling starts for our students in January. And our goal is to have this off the ground, have students exploring and visiting each other's schools by December or January, so when they make the decision to sign up for courses next year, that they are considering those programs as options. So, it's pretty aggressive, I'm confident that we can get there, but there's a lot of work that has to be done between now and the time that happens. Another important piece of the cog is we need post and hire an executive director for this role. That person's position will be a logistical manager and a sales person for all three districts right off the bat. There are going to have to be some of them that can come and speak to students about welding, and excite students about welding to get them engaged, to get them plugged in, set up the trips between the schools, and then the logistics of setting up the travel between schools and figuring out how I can have a student go take the early childhood courses at Monroe Central, but they may need to take an English course. That student may have to take an English course in Adrien's building before they come back. Those are logistical things that we're going to have to have someone help us figure out to eliminate barriers for our students. And the last slide here, this is pretty loose, I will be honest with you all. But, when we were in front of the commissioners, they kind of shared that there are some EDIT funds out there that were earmarked for connectivity that I'm not quite sure today that there's a solid plan for. So, I'd be remised to sit here and say that this isn't going to cost nothing to nobody, and at some point, I think, it would be important or critical that we engage the county in the work, but that's where probably conversation is going to grow from your all's perspective, But we all have shared costs between teachers' salary and benefits that's pretty sizeable, annual supplies, especially for, I know for Roland's welding program are pretty astronomical in just curriculum

materials. What we're going to need, salary and benefits for an executive director's role, assistance with transportation, that's fuel costs, driver costs, mobile hot spots of connectivity on our busses, so those students, if they participate in an on-line course while they're travelling, that we make sure that they can continue to do their work while they're travelling. And then our partner, our educational partner in this is Empower schools who works with us in Indiana Department of Education through the Next Gen Grant that we were awarded. That annual budget, \$225,000.00 again, that's pretty loose. That's me putting in numbers really in the past week just trying to spit ball this to give you all an idea kind of where we would be. The blessing we learned yesterday is that IVY Tech Richmond is committing \$60,000.00 a year for the next three years, and hopefully, the foreseeable future specifically, to help fund an executive director role. Their return on investment, pretty obvious, they want to get their hands on our kids as soon as possible so that they can earn those dual credits through IVY Tech.

Roland Abraham said and I'm a trustee, IVY Tech Richmond trustee, and it was good to hear our chancellor talking about they really need to invest in Randolph County in the way they've invested in Rush County. And this executive director's position is an opportunity for them to do that. And he even indicated that beyond, don't assume that beyond three years with this grant, that we won't continue to fund this position. So, that's looking pretty promising.

Aaron Black said so, that was a nice shot in the arm. It was really unexpected to be honest with you all. So, I guess I would leave it to questions. I'm sure your wheels are spinning on the topic, and what questions do you have.

Tom Chalfant said do you look at this as a county for seed money or is this going to be a continual thing? Do you hope to absorb this into your budgets in the future once it all becomes pretty clear that you can hopefully all share that cost, or do you do you want the county to continue to participate forever?

Aaron Black said can I say both and? So, I would, I don't want to speak for the group, but what I would envision Mr. Chalfant, is some type of continued commitment just so the council stays engaged and what's occurring, does it need to be at the high level I think that we need the first three years of support, no, because, as this executive director role grows, one of their main responsibilities is going to be fund raising for the program. And not only for their salary, but connecting the Cobalt Civil's award, the, what's the building? Hobart Schools, in getting them to buy into the program. We just need the seed money to lift in order to get us moving down the road. But again, that's me, not saying that down the road I would hope that county would continue to engage in some aspect, but not at that range.

Roland Abraham said this will be very focused on the transition also from high school into the work force. So, this is all about community partners. So, the programs that we're developing will be you know, we'll have that in mind. You know, if you'd look at our welding program, we, well, if you're not aware of this, I'll just tell you, we currently have two welding instructors who are both instructors at the Hobart Institute of Welding technology. So, we, you know, we're doing a great job of getting kids into that program. And they're getting out there right away and making good money. It's exciting to hear those success stories. So, our community partners that we've already developed and are developing in the future in this community, will be a big part of

it. So, I guess from my perspective, that's why the county would really want to stay fully engaged. Hopefully, these are very preliminary numbers, and we're going to work all that out in the MOU. But, hopefully, and you have been so, in terms of like the welding program alone, \$210,000.00 now I believe that you've invested in equipment for that program. So, that's a huge plus and I want to thank you for that.

Todd said how do you decide what career paths you're going to focus on?

Aaron Black said that's a great question. So, the state of Indiana pushes out what they consider high quality career technical education pathways. And they've, to be quite honest with you, they change from year-to-year. They stay pretty consistent, but a lot of times, people hear that and they think that's high paying. That's not necessarily, it's a high need role as well. So, for us, medical, the courses we will offer, medical, business and then Kiss tv, just because it's just been a staple. But, the medical pathway is a development as a request from Reed Health, IVY Tech, and quite honest from the state encouraging that. I don't want to speak for Adrian, but the early childhood, we're in an early childhood desert. Randolph County's bleak when it comes to early childhood education. And what an investment they're looking in making into making that happen. So, it's really, Todd, to answer your question, geared from the state. They kind of help.

Todd said I guess the reason I asked is that, those of us who have lived here forever, and have watched the brain drain, the talent drain that happens because of the career opportunities in the surrounding areas of Randolph County, you know, pulling people away that go for certain types of careers, I used to live down in the Union district, and New Castle's was strong, still is, I assume, for a career center. I didn't have a lot of exposure to the Muncie Career Center until I started a few years ago on the school board, looking at what other schools in the county were doing. But, looking at the, about 10% of the population leaving every census, as the kids, and a desire to retain people and get younger people to stay and live, I just would try to, and I'm sure you will, just try to see if there are choices there that might be more centric towards keeping, you know, providing careers that a person could continue to live in Randolph County and have health care obviously. I would think excavation, equipment operators, trucking, all those are kinds of you know, careers that we see people in this county have and live in this county. I'm not sure about welding. I know it's a great opportunity for people, but how many of those are staying in this region. So, this is, as you're picking these kinds of paths, looking for county funding, the county should have a vested interest in you know, what types of career paths are being offered, because they want to do more as a county to be thriving more 10 years down the road, 20 years down the road, so that we're not constantly providing, not that we shouldn't always provide the diverse range of opportunities for people, kids should have lots of choices. But, we can't keep going down this path of losing a chunk of our population every year as they have to leave to go find jobs elsewhere, especially with the work from home opportunities and things like that. I just don't know if any of the work from home opportunities fit any of these career paths, probably not. It's mostly skilled trades and so on, but, we had a great, as a, you know, growing up in the 70s and 80s. In that area, the building trades program was, they would build a house every year. And we'd all go out and see the home that these groups of kids had, through that building program, had built. So, it was amazing how we kind of swung away from that over the last 20 years, and now all of a sudden, guess what, we don't have people to fill these jobs, because we pushed everybody into a college path, or just out the door. So, as we kind of circle back, and

realize what we, I think, as a, you know, community, we forsook sort of the skill trades and we're now missing all those people to fill those spots. I think it's an opportunity to try to at least find ones that fit, not the state's desire, not to go back to making it a state thing again. But that's all driven out of the center I assume, you know, PHDs and so on, that, you know, in an Indianapolis region, say in looking at the big picture, but we have to exist in this region, and be smart about the types of choices we make, since we have to make them. We can't offer everything.

Aaron Black said and I think Roland's point about community partners, where we have failed is not educating our students on what's available in Randolph County. And Randolph County United has been crucial really in the past couple of years, in bringing that to life. We have a responsibility of getting our kids out in work experience in our businesses.

Todd said I thought Greg Hinshaw was trying to do that, wasn't he some with the, it's not Greg, the former superintendent at.

Roland Abraham said Randolph Central had Greg Hinshaw.

Todd said yeah, didn't he have a partnership there with a local business at the career center when that was first established?

Roland Abraham said well we currently have 41 partnerships, with our new, with local industry. I don't know if you know Christian Weigand is out there working for our P-tech program and that will be great in integrating it into what RAZ32 is doing as well. But we literally have 41 partnerships, and they're actually developing curriculum that will be used in that P-tech program. So, there's, that's been ongoing and growing.

Todd said and that's not part of this?

Roland Abraham said that's not, but those partnerships will be, because there's only so many community partners, and that'll be a great resource for RAZ32. And those people even in the P-tech program, part of that program is they have to have a, they have to get a certification in something. So, any program that's offered, as a part of RAZ32, those kids could engage in and that could be that certification that they get. Just to one other point that you made, I don't know if you're aware of it, my transportation department has been training CDL drivers for some time now. They've trained bus drivers for 20 years. But now we're training local CDL drivers for Culy Contractors, is big. I think they're about to start training people in Richmond. And we want to develop that. I don't know if that'll be initially, one of the groups. For us, right now, initially, it's going to be welding and precision machining. But that CDL can easily be developed, now, it's a little different because of that age requirement for kids. But, as long as they turn 18 their senior year, 2nd semester, they can be out driving, and get that CDL. So that's something that we can develop.

Dave said any other questions?

Tom Kerns said just kind of shifting a little bit away from that. But one of the biggest things of early childhood development and then going into daycare, I mean, all three of you kind of addressed that, that's one of the big things of maintaining people in this area, to try to, if you don't have anywhere for your kids to go when you're trying to work a job. Where's that going? I know there's a lot of things headed towards that, and I've been.

Aaron Black said well based on the news that I learned today about our IVY Tech, our YMCA director position, that was news to me that that changed again. But I think we've all made huge investments to pre-schools and have ambition for some sort of daycare at least for our staff, for retainage. That speaks to Adrian's. That program at Monroe Central training of folks that can work in those areas. The YMCA's struggle, and Union City's in particular has been people. It's, they're untrained and it doesn't create the best environment that I think parents want to send their kids to. And so, you've experienced that first hand. So, that's the challenges training of a generation of folks that can take care of our kids. I think the most important number that we all have to be focused on is that 2030 goal of 0. And that is we stop the bleed of people leaving Randolph County. And these are ways of which we can make that happen. If we don't make that happen, I'm a little apprehensive what our county that we all love is going to look like.

Roland Abraham said I know Adrian opened the full-day classroom this year. We opened the full-day, I say full day, full school day, classroom at Deerfield last year, and we opened the full-day classroom at Baker this year. So, we're getting in that market and going to expand the number of full-day positions for those kids.

Tom Kerns said do you see it going to daycare?

Roland Abraham said I think eventually. Once I get, I don't have a pre-school director yet. So, I'm scared to jump into that. But, I think now that we have two full-day classrooms, and we're accepting the CCDF and the On My Way Pre-K vouchers, because we really need to target those low-income kids that maybe aren't getting the kind of you know, maybe kids' parents aren't reading to them as much, or whatever. We're trying to really target that group because we've got, you know, half of our kids are on free or reduced lunch. So, but yeah, that'll expand once I get a pre-school director on staff, and we'll make that work.

Missy said a couple questions. I've looked through all the scholarships that, as an example, Community Foundations offers out to kids. You can encourage, and I'm on that board, but I've mentioned it, they need to get, we need to have more scholarships available, not to always the top kids, but you need to find those kids who need that, because some of those kids want to go to Hobart, they don't have a vehicle to get there, they don't have money to get started. And so, if they could open up some more of those scholarships or create some, I think that would be great. What's the textbook situation doing for county schools? That was a nightmare that they were going to do that. I mean, people don't understand. So, there's no textbook fees for students anymore, which means if you bought a textbook in the last, whatever, you've got to, the school has to continue to pay for that. I'm just curious. I'm not trying to open a can of worms, but.

Adrian Moulton said we're waiting to see what our amount would be. We have an idea of what we're going to give on the first, but that's probably not going to come until November. I can tell

you that we have, I speak for Monroe Central, we have always tried to keep our costs way down at the expense of our teachers in many cases. And we've, I still think we will be short, even with the cuts we have made in curriculum materials over the years, so, that's a great concern. And it's a great concern as we start to develop some of these programs that we're not going to be able to rely upon parents or free and reduced funds to get the materials we need.

Roland Abraham said yeah that was kind of a, that came out of, and don't get me wrong, I talked to, it's a good thing for parents, but when the state did that, they didn't think about welding programs.

Missy said right.

Roland Abraham said you know, because, I mean, these two instructors, they've got kids welding all the time. We're burning through welding rod like crazy. Well that's you know, that's a lot of money. And so that was kind of you know, well it just didn't help us. We'll put it that way. And we may have to find other ways like you know, even like, chrome books. I mean, we've always charged for chrome books, but we may have to find a more creative way to fund those, you know, through a GEO bond or something, I don't know.

Aaron Black said which goes back to the taxpayers.

Missy said yeah.

Aaron Black said that the state said we weren't going to charge, but anyway.

Tom Kerns said does your welding program do projects in the community at all beyond your classroom?

Roland Abraham said they do it through Falcon Industries. So, anybody can walk in with any project and our kids will find out what the project is, give them an estimate, and then a lot of the Falcon Industry's kids are welders, there're welders, there's a machinist, and there're woodworkers. And so, then they farm those projects out to those kids. The kids complete it, and yeah.

Tom Kerns said something like could bring a little revenue in?

Roland Abraham said yeah. Yeah, they do.

Missy said those kids get money at the end of the year. They're all shareholders. So, however much they sell, they divvy that up and I know, last year, that one kid I have had some contact with, got almost \$2,000.00.

Roland Abraham said yeah, some of them get up there.

Missy said at the end of the year.

Roland Abraham said yeah, there are certain ways that they earn profit shares, and then they can lose them, you know, if they do things they're not supposed to do.

Missy said and so we're always in desperate need for CDL license for our highway department. So, I mean, how do we, how do we, I mean, obviously, have you ever thought about expanding it to an adult population?

Roland Abraham said oh, we are. That's what I'm saying.

Missy said okay, great.

Roland Abraham said yeah, right now, Keith Neubauer and what's the other name, Jake, I forget Jake's last name, sorry. They are training people from, we train Union City, city employees. We've trained quite a few people for Culy. They're starting to train bus drivers for Randolph, I'm sorry, for Richmond. And then we've trained people for churches. I mean, they're training adults, and we bought a semi, so we now have our own semi just so they can do Class A, and a trailer as well. That's something that we can expand the kids as we throw out those challenges.

Dave said any other questions?

Aaron Black said I do have one more request, and this is cost free. As we start to interview for the executive director role, we would love for a council member to be a part of that interview committee. So, I don't know if anyone wants to jump on that grenade right off the bat, but if anyone is interested, we would love to have someone from the chambers be a part of that interviewing committee, so they can see the development of the job description and the quality of the individual that we're looking for.

Dave said alright. Well, thanks for coming in. Sounds like a good program.

Roland Abraham said thanks for your time. I told Missy this on the way up the elevator, Larry Fast called me and said what do you need next? And so, he's now going to purchase an \$81,000.00 CNC mill, that's one generation above the one we, he already paid for it for us, so. That's the kind of friend you need right there.

Other Business:

Minutes of August 8, 2023

Dave said okay, down to Other Business. We've got minutes of August 8.

Tom Kerns made a motion to accept the minutes. Bev seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2023-18

Dave said next item we have on the agenda is Ordinance 2023-18, and it's an ordinance for our tax rate option of our tax rate.

ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES

State Form 55865 (7-15)
Approved by the State Board of Accounts, 2015
Prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance

Budget Form No. 4
Generated 6/31/2023 9:21:56 AM

Ordinance / Resolution Number: 2023-18

Be it ordained/resolved by the Randolph County Council that for the expenses of RANDOLPH COUNTY for the year ending December 31, 2024 the sums herein specified are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named and for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same. Such sums herein appropriated shall be held to include all expenditures authorized to be made during the year, unless otherwise expressly stipulated and provided for by law. In addition, for the purposes of raising revenue to meet the necessary expenses of RANDOLPH COUNTY, the property tax levies and property tax rates as herein specified are included herein. Budget Form 4-B for all funds must be completed and submitted in the manner prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance.

This ordinance/resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval by the Randolph County Council.

Name of Adopting Entity / Fiscal Body	Type of Adopting Entity / Fiscal Body	Date of Adoption
Randolph County Council	County Council	09/08/2023

Fund Code	Fund Name	Adopted Budget	Adopted Tax Levy	Adopted Tax Rate
0101	GENERAL	\$12,588,995	\$6,079,976	0.6398
0124	2015 REASSESSMENT	\$201,130	\$219,000	0.0204
0181	DEBT PAYMENT	\$0	\$0	0.0000
0254	LOCAL INCOME TAX	\$726,500	\$0	0.0000
0580	COURT HOUSE LEASE RENTAL	\$0	\$0	0.0000
0616	CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU	\$63,000	\$0	0.0000
0702	HIGHWAY	\$4,163,823	\$0	0.0000
0706	LOCAL ROAD & STREET	\$722,000	\$0	0.0000
0790	CUMULATIVE BRIDGE	\$0	\$442,768	0.0350
0801	HEALTH	\$234,321	\$219,000	0.0204
1156	EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM	\$371,266	\$0	0.0000
2391	CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT	\$464,000	\$401,021	0.0317
2411	ECONOMIC DEV INCOME TAX CREDIT	\$474,250	\$0	0.0000
		\$20,009,285	\$8,161,765	0.7473

ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES

State Form 55865 (7-15)
Approved by the State Board of Accounts, 2015
Prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance

Budget Form No. 4
Generated 6/31/2023 9:21:56 AM

Home-Ruled Funds (Not Reviewed by DLGF)		
Fund Code	Fund Name	Adopted Budget
9500	Auditor's Platbook	\$20,514
9501	Community Corrections 9000	\$218,700
9502	County Identity Security 1160	\$5,000
9503	Community Corrections Project Income 1122	\$141,185
9504	County Sales Disclosure	\$9,000
9505	LIT Special Revenue	\$830,400
9506	Tobacco Settlement	\$0
9507	Windfarm 4915	\$250,524
9508	Community Corrections Grant	\$0
9510	Elected Official Training	\$7,000
9511	Airport - other #1 Fly-in	\$4,000
9515	Surveyor's CP	\$60,000
9516	Clerk's RP	\$11,400
9517	Supplemental Probation	\$38,617
9518	Misdemeanant	\$42,500
9519	Supplemental Public Defender	\$60,000
9520	Child Advocate	\$21,000
9521	Local Health Maintenance	\$0
9522	Clerk's Incentive	\$14,400
9523	Prosecutor's Incentive	\$4,000
9524	Accident Report	\$4,000
9525	Handgun Permit	\$16,000
9526	County User Fee	\$67,481
9527	Local Emergency Planning	\$7,000
9528	Community Corrections Grant 9001	\$0
9533	Local Public Health Services Fund #1161	\$210,920
		\$2,043,641

Tom Chalfant said if we raise salaries, that won't change it then.

Laura said no. This is the budget. It's not the salary ordinance. It's the budget, an adoption of the budget. We'll do the salary ordinance usually at the November meeting.

Dave said entertain a motion to adopt the tax rate ordinance.

Bev said I'll move that council pass the tax rate ordinance number 2023-18 after the first reading.

Tom Kerns seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Bev said I'll move that the rules be suspended and have the second and third reading by title only, and adopted the same day for 2023-18.

Tom Chalfant seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Bev said I'll move that the council adopt Ordinance 2023-18.

Tom Kerns seconded the motion. All aye votes. Motion carried.

Dave said Ordinance 2023-18 is now adopted.

Additional Appropriations:

Airport	state and federal tax	\$5,000.00
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Dave said next we have Additional Appropriations for the Airport, state and federal tax of \$5,000.00.

Tom Kerns said I assume that's fuel taxes?

Laura said yes.

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

<u>Transfers:</u>	Amount	From	to
Health Department	\$3135.28	Unappr. Grant	Group Ins.
	\$7200.00	Unappr. Grant	Contractual work

Dave said okay, next item we have is Transfer of the Health Department, looks like from unappropriated grant line to group insurance, and contractual work. Entertain a motion.

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

Treasurer \$300.00 Postage Office supplies

Dave said another transfer for Treasurer \$300.00 from postage to office supplies. Entertain a motion to approve.

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

Dave said sheriff, do you have anything today for us?

Art Moystner said I would give you an update the, as you are aware, we've ordered rifles and pistols. The rifles came in yesterday. Pistols are supposed to be in by the 15th. So, that's something that's moving along. The commissioners approved yesterday, to work on a second clean out for the septic systems to be proactive with the building. Other than that, everything is going pretty good I think. So, unless you have questions for me?

Dave said anything for Sheriff Art?

Art Moystner said thank you.

Citizen Comments (3-minute limit)

Dave said is there any citizen comments? We have three citizens here. Okay, in that, let's go around the room here. Tom, do you have anything?

Tom Kerns said I do not.

Dave said Todd?

Todd said just throw out some numbers. A private health group I work for is paying around \$50,000 in salaries for an LPN and about \$65 for an RN at this time. Somewhat less than what hospitals are paying.

Dave said okay. That's information for our next meeting then. Mike, do you have anything?

Mike said no.

Dave said Tom?

Tom Chalfant said no.

Dave said Bev?

Bev said nothing.

Missy said Todd, on the yours, Tammy Pruitt contacted me and said she was getting paid from a \$5,000.00 grant last year also. So, when that was gone, that really reduced hers, because that's

not available anymore. And I've kind of, in going through some different counties, we are way lower in the health department. I mean, we are in other areas too, but we are definitely in that health department.

Tom Chalfant said well, but, yeah, I mean, it's pretty easy, LPNs, RNs, but what about office managers compared to other office managers. Where do we, just because the money is available, do we up one just because we can, and then, what do we hear from the others you know.

Missy said exactly, and you may hear from everybody else too, after we settle those. You're right Tom. I personally think, and this is only because he doesn't live in this county any longer, I know he can call in, I know he can, but still, to have somebody who walks into the office, looks at what's happening, there's a reason why the state appointed that person, or demands that person, and I, Mike asked some really good questions in the, I think it was June or July, I can't remember exactly what month. We went to an association meeting in Carmel, and the new health director, and Dr. Box was the same way. She made all these reforms. And eventually, this fund is going to go away. How are you going to pay for it after it goes away? It's a, they don't have any answers for that. Mike asked a lot of good questions of that. There's a lot, well I've heard two counties that opted in like we did, and they're now going whoa, I'm not sure we made the right move here, because what's going to happen when it goes. How are we going to fund it, which is which everything, but, there're some questions on that health deal.

Tom Chalfant said well can we work with, until we find a physician who lives in Randolph County to be that county.

Missy said she said it didn't have to be a physician.

Tom Chalfant said okay.

Missy said didn't she say, she said it could be a nurse practitioner.

Mike said I think so.

Missy said yeah.

Dave said it had to meet certain qualifications.

Tom Chalfant said it could be that it could be a nurse practitioner, so, yeah.

Missy said well, and all they do, all he did, was, see there's two nurse practitioners that are on the board that get paid to attend meetings.

Tom Chalfant said well we need to figure something out, that's for sure.

Missy said yeah.

Tom Kerns said well even though we're help, even though he's not in the area, he's a pretty good health officer.

Missy said oh, he is.

Tom Kerns said it would be hard to replace him.

Dave said for the money.

Meeks said you can't replace him anyway, you can't remove somebody unless for a cause.

Missy said right, that's what I mean, looking forward.

Meeks said you're going to have to wait until the term ends. I don't know when that is.

Tom Kerns said that's the commissioners.

Meeks said that's the commissioners. I think it's a three of four-year term. I don't remember. I thought it had to be a physician. I'd have to look that up.

Missy said there were several questions. I mean, it was a long session.

Meeks said it used to be, I could tell you it had to be a physician back then. That was, how long ago was that?

Dave said I don't know. I do know that.

Meeks said 8, 10 years ago?

Dave said a few counties in southern Indiana, they share one health officer between the counties. Anything else Missy?

Missy said no, that's it.

Dave said I had a couple things here real quick. Budget hearings for 2024, it was brought up, a recommendation maybe bring half of the groups in at 8:30 and the other half at 10:30 to go through the process like we normally did. I think it's a great idea. And then use the afternoon to do the salary discussions and all that, so maybe we can get this down to one full day.

Tom Kerns said I would almost, also like to let them have a salary discussion while they're bringing their budget. We don't have to make-a-decision then. But if they have some points they want brought up about their salaries, each time, instead of saying we're not talking about salaries now, that when they bring their budgets, I would like to hear if they have any certain points about their salaries. We can say we're not making decisions now, but if you want something, to discuss something, so they're already up here one-on-one.

Dave said we'll have to sort of watch that, limit it, because you know how some of them will, talk for 15, 20 minutes, if we wanted to do it that way.

Tom Kerns said I just feel like I'd be more informed because afterwards, you know, we say we're not talking about it and then afterwards only one or two of them come up and discuss their salaries. I would rather hear it then.

Dave said we can do that.

Mike said well it's just like we had questions for the health department.

Tom Kerns said if we would have talked, yeah, if we would have talked to the health department when they presented their budget, then we would have known the next day, what we were talking about when they weren't there.

Dave said yeah, and by that time, we should have an idea what kind of salaries we're going to do anyhow.

Tom Kerns said yeah.

Dave said and the other one is next month, I'd like to talk General Fund dollars to Rainy Day. Let's talk about that. Can we put that on the agenda for us?

Laura said yes.

Tom Chalfant said it might be a little over strict for the commissioners now.

Dave said well it's really for the county and for them, because they run the, it's for the, you know, whatever, have the oversight.

Tom Chalfant said just saying there might be a little more discussion on that.

Tom Kern said then we could trade tourist dollars for Wind fund money going to Rainy Day.

Dave said we can still put money out of the General Fund if they don't want to match, but we need to start our discussions here first, so.

Tom Kern said we do.

Dave said okay, I think that's all I had.

Adjournment

Dave said I guess the next thing is entertain a motion to adjourn.

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

Reviewed and accepted this 3 day of October, 2023.

RANDOLPH COUNTY COUNCIL

David Lenzendorf

[Signature]

Tom Chaffont

Beverly Fields

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

ATTESTED:

Laura J Martin
Laura J Martin, Auditor