

Randolph County Council

April 7, 2026

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner's update

Gary Friend said okay, so we had a fairly busy meeting, and I'm sure there are some things that I'm going to say and touch on that'll be coming up anyway. Jake Donham and Dave Inderstrodt were here about the county building projects that are going on and gave some updates. A lot of stuff is beginning to get in motion and to start off with, we have Tony Jacobs from Argo is beginning the process to get the permits and everything that we need for the jail. So, that's, there's a lot of back, behind the scenes things that goes on before you see any kind of construction. But it's in process. The EMS, morgue building, there's a track hoe out there right now so it's actually in process and going. We approved to take the highway building out to quote to get a bid for it now. We've got information from the road, 800 North road. The INDOT has approved the entrance to where we're going to put it. They actually wrote in their email they like that, the safety of it all. So, SJCA has got that going. I asked them what the next step was and of course, it's INDOT allowing the access on. They've got to get like a driveway permit style, to open up the road area there. Downstairs, that's still in design. We still have to get the heating and cooling system figured out, and that's going to have a lot to do with whether we put cubicles in or we put walled up offices in, or a mixture thereof, of both of them. Joe Copeland and Jay Long from the highway were in and they commissioners approved 1.8 million dollars out of Windfarm funding to send off to the council for the projects that we've been sending letters of commitment out on. We brought that up, I think, a month ago. We've got all these letters of commitment out, you know, when's it going to come? Well, we've approved that on the commissioners' side to get that started.

Dave said and that was for bridge?

Gary Friend said bridges, yeah.

Dave said okay.

Gary Friend said they'll be coming up with a bridge report that'll tie it altogether for you. Also, in that discussion with the highway is Jay, our superintendent out there is going to be looking at

putting a proposal together, how he can put on a couple more people and do away with road service in contracting and get more roads done for less money at the end. And that's good for us because motor vehicle highway self-sustains right now. They pay their own overheads. So, if they can do that and get more surface roads down, I think it's a good thing. But, like everything, it's got to pen out on paper, got to make sure that it works. And then, we can go from there. William Greer came in and he'd been to the council already. We, basically, at the commissioners told him as well that that's a private project and a private endeavor that we didn't approve funding for. Debra Johnting came in with the new amendment to allow people who have non-conforming properties to go ahead and rebuild on that property. If anybody didn't know what we had, was an instance where if you were under 2 acres and you had a destruction on your property more than 60%, a tornado took it out, a fire took it out, lightning took it out, the way the ordinance read, you couldn't rebuild if you were non-conforming. So, we got that fixed to where if it's already there, it's already there, which I think is a good thing. RCU was over to defederalize the EDA funding that was put in there so the county can have more control or they can have more control over the loaning that they do of it and not have to report it. And then we had an update from Anna Lark from Sonder Energy for South Salem Solar. That project right now doesn't look to build until 2029 or 2030. I believe we approved some equipment requests for stair climbers for the EMS so they can get up the stairs with the equipment. I think we have some, but it's old equipment and it needs updated, and we approved that. We approved the preparedness grant for the Health Department. Basically, that's it. Any questions?

Greg said yes, Gary, I've got a couple.

Gary Friend said okay.

Greg said you or Meeks one, can answer. Is there anything being done on as far as purchasing the land for that new road yet?

Gary Friend said no. I asked that exact question. That has not been done yet. They've got to get more permitting from INDOT, Meeks can follow up with.

Greg said okay. And then the other question I had was, if I understood it right, they're about to let out the bids for the jail project, aren't they?

Gary Friend said correct. There'll be some walk-throughs of contractors. They've got to work that out with the sheriff. The sheriff can update you better than I can on that.

Greg said okay.

Gary Friend said yeah that whole process is in full swing now. These bids and things that they have to do, especially in a jail like that, and I believe the sheriff has told everybody they're going to try to do it, what he calls them two units, I think, at a time, so we don't have to transport inmates out in order to get it done. So, yeah, that's going on too. Just like you know, the highway's, the highway building is going on, the EMS, coroner, is actually in process. We did approve a change order and a plumbing system that they could not, they could not see what they

run into, but we had \$30,000.00 in contingency on that and I mean, this took like, in my mind, \$3,000.00 or so, give or take, for the change order.

Greg said yeah, I know it's in progress because they've already dug up a line.

Gary Friend said yes, they have. They hit one yesterday. But that was all on them.

Greg said it's a sure sign of construction in progress.

Dave said courthouse security, where are we at on that?

Gary Friend said oh, thank you, Dave. Courthouse security, Protection Plus will be meeting with the commissioners at our next meeting, providing that all goes well, and it looks as good as I think it should. Greg and I had already met with them and it looks like it's a very doable thing. It almost becomes so doable like we probably should have already been there. Then they'll be coming to the council in the first meeting in May, which is on Wednesday, because I think you have the primary.

Greg said yeah, voting, yeah.

Gary Friend said and then we're looking to get it all started right away in June. We've got some things to get over. We've got Jake's getting quotes in right now for the panic button or alert buttons. We've got to get the doors alarmed. We've got the camera systems in already. We've just got to make sure we get the doors covered.

Greg said yeah.

Gary Friend said we're also looking at starting in May, putting traffic control of the doors. I'm trying to find the right word, you know, put up a nice chain and say you know, please use front doors and get everybody in the process that these doors are going to be egress only.

Greg said yeah. There at the end of that discussion, I liked the part I think you guys talked about, putting signs up that these doors by June such and such will be no longer in use, and then put a chain on it later.

Gary Friend said I even thought about starting the chain early and just divert people around. If you go into it, there's no foul, but after we get everything set up and started, you know, after the commissioners get all the processes.

Greg said then it'll be locked?

Gary Friend said yeah, they'll be locked and even the employees won't be able to go out unless it's an emergency situation.

Greg said right.

Gary Friend said so, I think we'll be fully in process with protection of the courthouse in June. That's the goal right now. And Jake has, I know some of you are in a loop of an email, the door has been ordered for the split door up in the Superior Court, and he's also ordered the ballistic material up there to help. And they do, like we talked, at least one of the judges does not want anything up above the bench. It's all below, so far, as I understand it. Anything else?

Greg said I have nothing. Anybody?

Scott said what's your time frame on the other project here in the courthouse?

Gary Friend said second floor?

Scott said yeah.

Gary Friend said well, we're at the mercy of design right now. That project could be very expensive if we don't get the right design because of the way the heating system is worked in here and the ASHRAE air requirements required for offices. So, I'm saying I expect Maze Design to have us something to decide on June or July. And I'm hopeful that we can come up, me personally, I don't have a problem with partitions. Today's partitions are well designed.

Greg said I don't either.

Gary Friend said and even sound proof, and we have another room to go to down on the second floor if there's a security issue that needs you know, nobody can hear you. Or maybe there's a blend that two small corner offices won't bother the heating system and the open-air design for the rest of the employees or positions are cubicaled. That's all being looked at right now.

Greg said I think Tom was going to stop over at Dayton at the, one of the suppliers and they have a cubical set up with the sound deadening material and everything, and he was going to look into that and report back.

Gary Friend said it's my understanding it's a big deal on the heating system if we can't.

Greg said oh, yes.

Gary Friend said if we have to completely redo it, we're, we can double the cost of that project up there.

Greg said easily.

Gary Friend said yeah, so, I don't want it to go away. I want to follow through that we need to, protection is important, and I know it is and think it is, and it's important we've got to get it done and get these people in here. Anything else?

Greg said thank you, Gary.

Gary Friend said thank you.

Sherri Thompson – Preparedness grant and supplemental pay request

Greg said next, Sherri Thompson.

Sherri Thompson said good morning. Sherri Thompson, Randolph County Health Department coordinator and registrar. Here to ask permission to go ahead and apply for the preparedness grant. It's a grant that we do every year. It has a \$20,000.00 amount that they will grant to us if we are able to apply for it.

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

Sherri Thompson said thank you. The second thing that I'm here that they wanted me to present, I believe everybody got an email with the details in it. So, I'm here to see what your thoughts are and your considerations about it. This is about the supplemental income for the Health Department.

Greg said for the whole Health Department or any one person, individual or?

Sherri Thompson said just, it's just full-time employees.

Greg said any why, I mean?

Sherri Thompson said this would bring them back up to where they were before the budget cut and as stated in there that it was brought up by Wendy to the board and that, that because there are more responsibilities because we had to cut 3 of our people to part time, there are more responsibilities on the full-time people. So, she didn't feel like that there should be a cut in the pay when they're taking on more responsibilities.

Dave said and I see where Dr. Sowinski signed off on that, is that correct?

Sherri Thompson said yes. I attached, and if you don't have it, I have it here, that Dr Sowinski and Mindy Winningham.

Dave said in my opinion, salaries always should be discussed at the budget hearings.

Greg said yeah. That's what I was getting at.

Bev said I agree.

Scott said these funds that were going to be used to cover it, there?

Sherri Thompson said uh huh, it would be the HFI funds.

Scott said which is leftover funds, is that correct?

Sherri Thompson said yes, yes.

Scott said what do we do when those funds are used up?

Sherri Thompson said I absolutely understand that, that we could be back in that position.

Scott said you know I get it we're increasing their pay back to where they were before.

Sherri Thompson said yes sir.

Scott said but, when these HFI funds are gone, then we've got to cover the difference.

Dave said that's why it's a budgetary item.

Greg said anybody else got any questions? Go ahead, Scott.

Scott said what, if those HFI funds aren't used to cover this supplemental, what can those funds be used for?

Sherri Thompson said they can be used for anything in the original grant. So, that could be to, you know, fund something in the community, to purchase items for the schools, different things like that.

Scott said but the way I see it, we're looking at \$16,289.00 of supplementary income to come off the \$183,000 left over, which would leave a \$166,722, is that correct?

Sherri Thompson said yes. And that's just in the HFI fund. That's not in any other county funds or anything like that.

Scott said anybody else have any thoughts on it?

Todd said I have the same thought as David.

Mike said I do too.

Todd said a budgetary, thinking those are best discussed at that time of year, at those meetings.

Greg said Mike?

Mike said I feel the same way, need to be discussed at budget time.

Greg said yeah, budget, I'm agreement, budget. It's a budget conversation.

Bev said I'll make a motion that the request be deferred to budget time as it seems more appropriate at that time.

Greg said I've got a motion. Do I hear a second?

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

Sherri Thompson said okay. Thank you very much for your time. I appreciate it.

Beth Kreig – request for overtime funding

Greg said Mrs. Kreig.

Beth Kreig said good morning. Beth Kreig with Probation. I'm here today to request some additional funding for overtime. We are averaging, since the first of the year, we are averaging about \$500.00 a month. I feel that the, well, because we now are actively doing more out of Superior Court, it is impacting case load size, just general activity, things that need to take place within the office dealing with our clientele and the court. So, we are having more overtime. I've been kind of monitoring that as I've been doing payroll and I'm concerned that we will have what is already appropriated out of County General depleted within the next month.

Greg said so, by the end of May your overtime allotment?

Beth Kreig said if we continue at the level that we're going, yes. Now there is money appropriated out of Supplemental but I think we have to wait until the salary is actually being paid out of Supplemental. Now, if not, there's that. The other thing that was discussed when I was looking into it, there is money appropriated for the second secretary position that has not been filled. It was not filled after it was approved, mainly because I didn't find anybody that I really felt was appropriate to hire, plus, with all the things that have been going on, Court changes moving possibilities, changes, just didn't feel like it was appropriate to do that at this point. So, I don't know if there's a way to move some of that money over to cover while we're still being paid out of County General. I'm just here today to, need some assistance so that we can continue to move forward.

Greg said now is your extra overload of work that you're talking about from Superior Court, is that the Court system just trying to catch up on what was left to go?

Beth Kreig said yes, yes. I mean, I'm sure everybody knows there was a lot of slowdown that took place and we are not slow not at all.

Greg said okay. I just wanted to know what the reason was.

Beth Kreig said yeah, yeah. I mean it's an increase in people. It's just an increase, that are coming to us, just increase, well, the other issue is there is, and it does fluctuate, but the other issue is just the need to be able to work a little later into the after four o'clock time with some of the current case load because people do work, and we want to keep them working. So, sometimes we have to work through that. And there's been working through lunch to do paperwork that's required through the courts. And so, it's just, I really believe that that's what has impacted it because last year I felt like we were moving along pretty good, keeping up appropriately, as far as using the overtime.

Greg said not germane to this discussion right now, but looking forward, this will get caught up and you'll kind of get back to a normal pace?

Beth Kreig said I don't know. I'm not, with all the changes that we're talking about here in the next year, I'm not predicting anything. I would like for it to be, yes. But, I'm not committed to saying yes or no. I have no idea.

Dave said was there an additional appropriation anywhere that we know?

Laura said not yet.

Dave said this is all new to us today.

Laura said yeah, she had talked to Danita so we added her to your agenda for today. So, we'll do an additional if that's what you guys choose for her to do.

Dave said I just need to know more information. I don't know what, what it's for or who it's for?

Todd said I'd like to.

Dave said huh?

Todd said yeah, I'd like to know just the numbers.

Laura said I think last year we transferred a little bit out of your secretary's line, correct?

Beth Kreig said at the end of the year I think, toward the end of the year.

Laura said yeah, at the end of the year to cover. She does have \$2500 still in the supplemental fund, but we haven't switched their payroll over to that yet. We do it like mid-year. So, based off of what Danita told me, that when we switch, we can start using that \$2500. So, she's got that for later in the year, just not right now.

Scott said what's the figure you foresee?

Beth Kreig said well, I know 3 months, we're 3 months into the year and I don't know if 3 months is good enough to give you an average, but we're averaging about \$500.00 a month in overtime, since the first of the year. The switch over to being paid out of the supplemental usually occurs the end of October, first of November, depending on where that falls with payroll.

Todd said what did we budget annually for overtime?

Beth Kreig said \$2500 out of County General and then there was \$2500 in supplemental. What is left right now after the payroll that I just did was a little over \$600.00. So, for the month of April, I mean I feel like we'll be good. And then when I contacted Danita yesterday, we were

talking about it and you know, she was like well, we look in to about June and moving forward, so.

Bev said so, what's in the line item that was potentially new employee?

Beth Kreig said I think, it wasn't last budget, I think it was the budget before, budget year before, I had asked to have the full time secretary put back in place because I thought I was going to get that position filled, and I just, I didn't fill it because there just wasn't anybody, there just wasn't anybody that I felt was a good mix, and I just wasn't going to.

Bev said okay, so it's not a line item that's active?

Beth Kreig said yeah, and then I think.

Bev said okay.

Beth Kreig said I think last year we were right at the point toward the end of the year of crossing from the County General to Supplemental on payroll and I was running a little bit short and we did end up using a little bit of that money. That was, I contacted the Auditor's office, that's how we handled it. That's what they told me to do.

Bev said do we have an idea of what, what's, you know, what you're looking at moneywise that you're needing?

Beth Kreig said well if we keep up.

Bev said from us today.

Beth Kreig said if we were keeping that \$500.00 a month average, so, you know, we're about 6 months before we would switch over to supplemental, so that would be \$3,000.00. I don't know that, I don't know if that's what we need. I, it's, that's just the average that I have for January, February, March. I don't know if 3 months is a good enough time frame to give you guys an average or not.

Bev said I think it's a good start.

Laura said so, if we don't switch over until October, then you need May, June, July, August, September, that's another.

Beth Kreig said I was thinking about 6, at least 6-months-worth.

Laura said that would be another 2500.

Beth Kreig said yeah.

Bev said about 2500?

Laura said uh huh. If she stays on what she's doing now.

Beth Kreig said yeah.

Bev said it's understandable.

Beth Kreig said yeah, and I don't know, I mean, since things are.

Bev said why this is happening.

Beth Kreig said since things kind of smoothing out with the court, maybe that will slow down a little bit. But I can't predict what's going to happen with that.

Meeks said I don't think it's slowing down.

Beth Kreig said no, if anything, it's, thank you.

Meeks said I think speeding up, it's actually getting stuff done.

Scott said I think it ought to be cleaned up, because I mean.

Beth Kreig said and it is.

Meeks said they're going to keep it up. I'm not surprised you don't have, I'm not surprised you don't have overtime in the court, in the courts staff.

Beth Kreig said yeah. Based on what we're seeing with the Probation Department, it's moving.

Greg said I'll ask this again, Beth. I'm a little foggy, do you have enough money to get through May?

Beth Kreig said. No, I think we have enough to get through April.

Greg said okay. You're going to run out, basically, get too close in April?

Beth Kreig said right. I mean, I'm concerned that I would.

Bev said maybe one payroll in May, but not two payrolls.

Beth Kreig said maybe. I mean, and you know, yeah.

Greg said okay. I just.

Scott said I would be open to some additional appropriation up to \$3,000.00.

Bev said second.

Greg said do I hear a motion?

Scott make a motion for an appropriation of 3,000.

Bev said I'll second it.

Greg said it's been so moved and seconded to allow the Probation Department another appropriation of \$3,000.00.

Todd said this from the General fund?

Meeks said yes.

Laura said an additional would be, yeah.

Beth Kreig said because if I'm understanding correctly, if we didn't use it then it's still General Fund, so, it goes back to the General Fund, correct?

Greg said I think so.

Laura said yes.

Beth Kreig said I believe that's what I've always.

Greg said yeah.

Beth Kreig said maybe we won't have as much. I don't know.

Greg said okay, it's been so moved. All in favor?

All aye votes. Motion carried.

Beth Kreig said much appreciated.

Greg said thanks for the information.

Joe Copeland and Jay Long – additional funding for bridges and hwy. update/chip and seal
Joe Copeland and Jay Long. And Nate Moore.

Joe Copeland said good morning. First item here is the list of the bridges that we're currently working on. We were just approved for two bridges. We applied for Federal aid bridge number 5 and bridge number 303 on the list. Those bridges in the description that are highlighted in yellow, we needed funding for. And we were hoping to get Wind, Solar money to be able to do that. This is for this year. And the reason bridge 85 is so high is because we may have an INDOT letting which requires us to pay 20% up front. On that particular job we're thinking it's probably in the neighborhood of 4 to \$500,000.00 to get it moving. Now there're some right-of-

way prob, well not problems, but a little behind, so that could move, that bid letting date could move and they're talking maybe January of next year. But I'll keep you updated where we stand on it, okay. So, bridge number 5 is a tough one. It's right at the intersection, and it's going to take some, we put in quite a bit of money for that one to get that one done. There's, the stream runs right along the road and it's going to take some work to get that bridge replaced and get that stream moved, hopefully moved away from the road. And then we have to secure the embankment at the road to make sure we can hold it. And whether that takes a retaining wall or sheet pile or whatever it takes to get it done. And then we added the 5-bridge bundle down there, of small bridges. 62, 208, 222, 283 and 286. We want to finish the design so that we can build those then, probably next year. And we'd like to probably just bid that all as one bid, a contractor like that, yeah. Hopefully, then we get it cheaper.

Greg said go ahead, Scott.

Scott said you're basically asking for a \$1,801,000 in additional appropriations?

Joe Copeland said yes. And those bridges, now, we do get reimbursement on some of that, okay.

Scott said when we get that reimbursement, does it go back?

Greg said it goes back to the renewables.

Scott said back to the renewable fund?

Greg said where it came from.

Scott said so, we can use it at a later date?

Greg said correct.

Joe Copeland said so, hopefully, next year, we won't need quite as much because of reimbursements.

Greg said on the bundle that you're talking about Joe, when they are rebuilt, will they be like the bridges we were talking about yesterday, Jay, with the grating on tops since they're smaller bridges or don't know yet?

Joe Copeland said we're not sure yet.

Jay Long said I don't think they're designed.

Joe Copeland said I want to look at, yeah, they're not finished designed, but we want to look at, do you like the ones with the metal grid decking on top?

Greg said I do, yeah.

Scott said if there's a cost savings, you know, if you're not saving a lot of money, I'm not against, I'm not opposed to the concrete decking. But if there's a substantial saving, I think you've got to consider that.

Joe Copeland said there's good things about it and there's some maintenance involved with those structures. Maintenance, you have to clean the end vents where the steel bearing set. You should clean those at least once a year. Debris collects in there and it will damage the steel. So, that has to be done, but the good thing is you don't have to put salt on it in the winter. It doesn't get slick.

Scott said do we, is there, the salt from the road traffic, I mean, is there a chance that it's going to affect, speed up the deterioration in the steel structure?

Joe Copeland said not that I've seen or heard. No.

Greg said yeah, the three of us are right there with, all of us are on the board, right there next to the cemetery, where the one is, so, we're very familiar with it.

Jay Long said and our guys actually just got done sweeping and cleaning all the bridges, so.

Todd said how long does that take? Is that a one and a half a day deal or what is that?

Jay Long said to clean them?

Todd said uh huh.

Jay Long said there're, how many are there, 216 bridges, there're 214, it took us roughly 3 weeks.

Todd said no, I mean one of those metal ones to clean up that.

Jay Long said oh, it'd take.

Joe Copeland said power washer.

Jay Long said an hour. I mean.

Joe Copeland said end vents, just wash it off.

Jay Long said I think they did all of them in one day, those guys, you know, I think, how many were there, 6, 7?

Joe Copeland said about, I think, yeah.

Jay Long said 6 or 7, yeah, so.

Scott said it would be nice to see what the difference or cost difference is between the concrete and the steel grate.

Joe Copeland said I've tried to beat the price on the steel grid decks with other manufacturers in the past and I've not been able to beat the price. And that's because the company that sells us the steel grating, they make it. They actually make it and you can't buy it commercially anywhere else for as cheap as they'll sell it to us for.

Scott said are they rated as high as the concrete decking? Do you still have the same rating on the structure?

Joe Copeland said they designing the bridges now to the new standards, the new standard out. And they are designing the new ones to that standard, yes.

Todd said I just, maybe a kind of a dumb question, but I'll ask anyway. Are these metal gratings, do create any wear on vehicle tires more so than concrete?

Joe Copeland said don't know. I wouldn't think so. I've had problems in the past with some Amish. I had one fellow that was a little leery of walking a horse across it. But, one of the elders came forward. It was a smaller horse, and one of the elders came forward and said that's not a problem, as long as they walk the horse across it the first or second time, he says they won't have a problem any more. And I've not heard another word. That was in another county.

Greg said I bet that horse had more issue than the Amish did.

Joe Copeland said yeah, we're trying to get these bridges done. The other problem is we have a list of large culverts and here's a map showing some of the ones that are, that we're looking at and there're several. And I'm working on the design for those right now. There's 2 pages worth of, we've done some of them, a few of them, but that's next on the radar. We've got to get moving on those large culverts.

Greg said with construction when? Starting next year, maybe, Joe or?

Joe Copeland said no, I want to replace some of them this year yet.

Greg said yeah, okay, okay. I didn't know how aggressive we were going to be on that.

Joe Copeland said yeah, Jay's got one on 1200 West that he needs here quick, because he's going to do some work on the road. So, I'm going to start getting quotes for that particular one.

Greg said okay.

Joe Copeland said and it's hard. I mean, we've got, there're 2 manufacturers I know of in the state of Indiana that make them. And I try to get 3, at least 3 quotes. And the one manufacturer out of Maxwell, Indiana, counting materials is, they're quoting through another company that we asked for quotes through. So, I saw him at road school, the salesman and asked him, I said are

you going to quote us direct or are you going to quote through the other company. He says well let me think about it. So, I haven't heard back.

Greg said so, you're talking mostly these will be concrete culverts?

Joe Copeland said yeah, concrete boxes, most of them, not all of them, most of them, yes.

Greg said yeah, okay.

Joe Copeland said and, in the past, I mean, it's here, it's in other, all the other counties. When they come in and years ago and they had a concrete box, and they tear the box out, tear the top off and cut down the foundations on each side, and then they just throw a pipe in. Of course, it won't carry as much water. You see a lot of over the road flow when that happens.

Greg said restrict the flow tremendously.

Joe Copeland said yeah. And, so, we're going back and a lot of these you can tell exactly you know, that that's what they've done. And Henry's bad for that. It's got a lot of, so. But we're, I'm hopefully, I'm putting them in and designing them to, for at least a 100-year storm. So, if you get the big one, you can still get a car through there, a vehicle. Okay, so, that's the idea.

Greg said very good. Appreciate your work.

Joe Copeland said well thank you.

Dave said so, you'll need our approval today for the 1.801 million then?

Joe Copeland said yeah.

Dave said is what he's after.

Greg said yeah, that's what, that's for what bridges?

Dave said there's a list there.

Greg said oh, a whole list, okay.

Laura said the highlighted ones.

Greg said okay, just the, okay, the one's in yellow. That's correct.

Laura said yep.

Greg said and that was 1 million.

Laura said 801.

Greg said 801.

Joe Copeland said one of them, bridge 308 on Short Street, that one's already been approved for Wind and Solar. So, it's 20,000 less. So, it would be 1,781,000. So, that one was approved some time ago.

Todd said so, is that what we need a motion for is the \$1,781?

Joe Copeland said yeah.

Todd said I make a motion that we approve the money from Wind Farm and Solar of \$1,781,000 for the bridges listed.

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

Joe Copeland said thank you.

Greg said you're welcome. Thank you.

Jay Long said on my part, I passed out a list to you guys. That's our yearly plan for the highway on our road maintenance. We're to do about 80 miles of chip seal and there's going to be 6 miles of grind and chip seal. That's where we completely grind the whole road, lay it back flat and then do a triple seal on it. And then the last part is going to be 6 miles of paving. So, basically, I was just here today to ask if we could take some money out of our Landfill and Wheels tax for our chip seal program. So, we were going to take \$600,000 out of our Landfill and then \$600,000 out of our Wheels tax to do our projects for the year.

Scott said 600,000 out of each?

Jay Long said yes sir, yep.

Scott said for a total of 1.2?

Jay Long said yes.

Greg said the first was Landfill and the other one was Wheel tax?

Jay Long said yes sir, yep.

Greg said how many, how many miles did you say on the grind and chip?

Jay Long said on the grind and chip there's going to be 6 total miles on that.

Greg said 6 total miles, same as the pave?

Jay Long said yeah. But those are going to be like a full restoration, so they'll get completely ground up, laid back flat.

Greg said I like that.

Jay Long said yes. They turned out really good. It takes about a month. You've got to grind them, then let traffic drive on them for a while, roll them, spread them, roll them again. But 200 South, it was rough. You couldn't drive 15 miles down it, you know, miles per hour. Now you can do 55 down that.

Greg said do you regrade them right before you put the, start chip and sealing?

Jay Long said yes.

Greg said because the one, the first one, about one of the first ones that was done down on 600, both ends got wash boarded and they never smoothed it up before they redid it.

Jay Long said I think that was before we had all the adequate equipment, you know what I mean?

Greg said yeah, oh yeah. Yeah, yeah.

Jay Long said so, the ones that we have done since I've been here, they've turned out awesome and never had any complaints. Residents like them.

Greg said I can see where it would be a nice road if it was done right.

Jay Long said yeah and I think that one maybe sat too long before they progressed and finished it, so. And actually, 200, you've got to put 2 layers of 9s, a layer of 11s on it and then you've got to come back the following year and put a layer of 11s on it to finish it. And that's what gives it the smoothness, and some of them were done maybe once or twice and then got lost and never got back to getting finished. But, we have a better plan, so.

Scott said the chip and seal, you're looking at 80 miles?

Jay Long said yeah.

Scott said will you fog seal that one when it's all done?

Jay Long said I'm still up in the air on fog sealing. Talked to Joe about it. Just sometimes it just doesn't seem like it lasts, you know what I mean, for the cost. I mean, it seals it in, but once you put a blade on it the next year, it's pretty much gone off of there. We're still trying to weigh the cost if it's beneficial or not.

Scott said it helps with the dust and it does.

Jay Long said yes it does. But we have also noticed, you know, on 200, we put calcium on it where they came in and spread calcium on it too, and that really cut the dust down too. So, we're trying to weigh which way is cheaper if you're trying to maintain a lot of miles or if you're, you know, just trying to do a couple.

Joe Copeland said you've got to have a pretty good distributor to lay fog seal because it's such a small amount of liquid that's applied.

Jay Long said yeah.

Joe Copeland said and if you do it, in another county I wrote specs for, they apply it one way and then half, and then they come back the other way and apply it half. So, it's even smaller rate on the application.

Jay Long said yeah.

Joe Copeland said it seems to do a little bit better job, each direction.

Jay Long said it's pretty costly to try to outsource it to be done. But we have a distributor, but then we have to change, you know we've got a chip sealer and we've got to take all them nozzles off, wash it out, put the new nozzle, it's a lot into it to, in the sprayer tank, it's not very cheap. I mean, it's pretty, yeah, so. We're just trying to weigh our options on it.

Greg said Jay, on all the stuff that you've got written down here that you're going to try to do, is that more aggressive than you have been in the past or is it about the same?

Jay Long said keeping it, it's up from last year, but we're trying to keep it about the same.

Greg said okay.

Jay Long said and I know Gary touched on it when I spoke to council yesterday about maybe adding some more manpower, because I mean, when we get into paving, everybody likes a paved road, but it takes everybody in our office to pretty much even to keep it going, even with the mechanics out there. Then if something breaks, puts us in a bind because we've got to pull them out from doing that to do that. So, trying to work on a plan to when the budget comes, to present it and where it can help out the county and everybody.

Greg said and then just for information, I talked to you yesterday about it and we got 3 people here from Union Township, the roads that the Solar system kind of tore up last year, that, I mean, they patched some places, but it's still not very satisfactory in my opinion, and I know you have the same opinion. But I think the commissioners or somebody needs to step in and kind of force the issue.

Jay Long said yeah. The patches did help tremendously.

Scott said I will tell you this though, they waited until the middle of November to pull the trigger on doing the patching.

Jay Long said yep.

Scott said I mean, there was asphalt laid in December and the reason was, there wasn't any contract issued to patch the gravel spots until mid-November.

Greg said yeah, it was way late when they finally got it done, but it's not satisfactory at all.

Jay Long said yeah, and that took, that actually took me reaching out to the other company and then reaching out to Scott to force them. I was like, man, you guys have got to do something.

Scott said I think EDPs intention was to chip and seal all of that project again when the project was finished. But it's going to need some additional shoulder work and we're talking lots of shoulder work from them.

Jay Long said yeah.

Scott said but I don't know that they've committed to do anything yet.

Jay Long said yeah.

Greg said is that something the commissioners need to help on?

Jay Long said I'm not a big fan of the chip and seal over it.

Greg said I don't either. I'm not either.

Jay Long said they are destroying our roads and I mean, it's taken everything we have, we're trying to.

Scott said the problem is their road use agreements state that's all they have to do. I have a feeling maybe we need to be a little bit more aggressive on the specs and the details in the road use agreements before they get signed. But that's where the issue lies is the road use agreements are signed before the projects ever start and then you get patching and chip and seal and when they're done.

Greg said they've went down 500 which it was the worst road, but 400, just north of it, it's, as you well know, it needs work too. It hadn't been, I don't think there's hardly been anything done there.

Jay Long said I mean, our guys go through and maintain it you know, when things happen, but yeah, in the end, it is their responsibility that, you know.

Greg said that's the way I see it.

Jay Long said and even at Purdue, we were up there a couple of weeks ago, me and Nate and we sat and talked to other counties and they were totally against chip and seal back over. And, if you go out to some of our roads and I don't know if you all know this, but most of them isn't 2 ½ inches thick. Some of them have been chip sealed over the last years more than others. Others get put off to the back, they don't get chip and sealed. So, if you go out there you can, it's just mud, underneath them. And when these trucks go over them, they're just destroying them. And I know we have a road use agreement, but let's just be honest, they don't all just stay on those roads. I mean, we get calls daily, this one over here or this doing this, or you know.

Scott said well that was a poor job, River Start 5, there was a poor job of maintaining the roads done, extremely poor.

Greg said yes.

Scott said I mean, the shoulders were beat down 6 inches and it was brought to their attention.

Jay Long said multiple times, yeah.

Scott said for months and months and months and months. I mean, they were told in May that there was a 6 inch drop off on the edge of 500 and it didn't get fixed until mid-November. I mean, they're just going to have to do a little better job and I think Randolph County is going, in my opinion, you're going to have to tell them what needs to be done instead of just letting them do what they have to get out of there.

Jay Long said I mean, I did. I put in the calls, things like that, and the last call I think I pretty much got them on the same terms and then that moved forward with getting the shouldering and stuff done, but yeah, so.

Greg said I just, I'm not, no grievance towards you guys, I just wanted to get it out in the open so council would know what we're talking about and got a commissioner sitting here listening too, so wanted him to hear it.

Jay Long said yeah. And we have to, we have to stay at this pace. We have 900 miles. I mean, if we don't, then.

Greg said I understand that.

Jay Long said and we go through and, me and Nate, we spend, he spends a lot of time looking at the roads, grading them and it's pretty much a you have to, sometimes you have to, hey, is this road better than this road and just until we can get some of this caught up.

Dave said and this isn't the first project Solar when the roads that's happened to. They've had other issues years back that, and I know Gary will get with EDP.

Scott said but in past years, in past years, when there was an issue you know, they dealt with them pretty quick.

Dave said right.

Scott said this past project, I mean they just let it go.

Greg said they did nothing.

Scott said they just let it go.

Greg said they just let it go until like Scott said, it was November before they did any patch or repair work practically.

Jay Long said yeah, I mean, they pushed some of the materials in the side ditch, which we had to contact them to come and dig it back out. I mean, they did, they removed it, but it just took some time.

Joe Copeland said the chip seal is nothing but a sealer and it gives little or no structural strength to that road. You need hot mix asphalt.

Greg said well thank you for your information, Jay and Joe. Appreciate you both.

Jay Long said yep.

Joe Copeland said alright, thank you.

Greg said anyone have anything else to ask these guys while they're here?

Bev said do we need a motion on moving 600,000?

Greg said oh, Jay was needing that wasn't he? Thank you.

Jay Long said yeah, I was going to say. Thanks, Bev. I was going to ask because like, now wait a minute.

Bev said yeah, 600,000 from Landfill and 600,000 from Wheel tax to.

Greg said to what?

Bev said I don't know what the fund is called.

Greg said okay, roads.

Bev said road, okay. I make that motion.

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

Jay Long said and we get it back. It comes back as quarterly, so. Alright, appreciate it. Thank you, guys. Thanks for your time.

Sarah Black – Playground Paradise

Greg said okay, next on the agenda here is Sarah Black, Playground Paradise. Got a bunch of smiling faces here this morning. Pull you some chairs around there, ladies, so all four of you can sit at the table. There you go.

Ava Reichard said good morning and thank you guys for having us here. Thank you for taking time out of your day to listen to our playground paradise project proposal. My name is Ava Reichard. I'm a sophomore at Union City Junior Senior High School. And the reason I joined this project is to enhance Union City's quality of life.

Kendra Shelby said my name is Kendra Shelby and I'm a sophomore at Union City Junior Senior High School. The reason I joined this project was to help our community and future generations.

Sophia Kobus said my name is Sophia Kobus. I'm a freshman at Union City Junior Senior High. And the reason I joined this project was because I want to make our park safe for children to play on.

Novali Kennedy said my name is Novali Kennedy. I'm a freshman at Union City Junior Senior High School. I joined this project to help enhance the children's play. I'm sure many of you in the room have kids, grandkids, siblings or younger family members that you have taken to a park. Have you taken them to a park that you thought was unsafe? My family, along with many others don't like to take their kids to the park. The equipment we have in the park currently is damaged, moldy and unsafe for the children to be playing on. This is a problem that needs to be solved.

Sophia Kobus said that's why we created this Playground Paradise group. This is a collaborative effort between students and the city to revitalize Harter Park.

Kendra Shelby said our goal is to create an inclusive, safe, ADA accessible park

Ava Reichard said so, this project will not only bring a better quality of life and place for the residents of Union City by providing them with a better physical and mental health, but it will also help our economic growth by bringing new people into community to shop at our local businesses. This will also help us create stronger community bonds and better our social skills.

Sophia Kobus said this project is necessary because our equipment is seriously unsafe for children to play on. For example, we have broken swings, an off-balance merry-go-round. We have chipped paint, which creates rust, and on to of all of that, everything is built underneath a tree canopy which fosters the growth of mold and bacteria.

Ava Reichard said so, our phase one of our project is our 2 to 5 structure. Our 2 to 5 structure includes swing sets, a swing set, sensory items and some benches. We actually just started the

installation of our phase one yesterday. And the timeline for that is about 3 weeks, weather dependent.

Novali Kennedy said for our phase two, this is our 5 to 12 structure. While our phase one focuses on ADA accessible equipment for children under the age of 5, our phase two, we're focusing on more sensory items for school age children.

Sophia Kobus said the location of the new equipment will be behind the Union City pool and will also be creating pathways leading from the pool back to the playground equipment for easy access.

Kendra Shelby said the sidewalks are connected to the pool and pool parking lot, which includes sensory walkways with instructions such as jump on your foot one time or spin two or three times. This will help with children's movement and overall health.

Novali Kennedy said under all the equipment, we'll have a rubber pour and play. The rubber pour and play will have an 8 foot so it's much harder for children to get hurt.

Ava Reichard said so, what we have completed and what we plan on doing in the future, as I mentioned earlier, we have started the installation for our phase one. Our phase one cost \$321,000.00. So, that will be completed within the next month. And for our phase two, like she mentioned earlier is a 5 to 12 structure. And that phase cost \$183,000.00. Last time we were here, we got \$10,000.00 from you guys, which we are extremely grateful for and we're just here to follow up and give you guys an updated presentation of our project.

Kendra Shelby said the total project cost a little over a million dollars which includes a 2 to 5 structure, benches, a 5 to 12 structure, a swing set and sensory items.

Sophia Kobus said this is just a start. In the future we plan on redoing our basketball court, redoing the soccer field, and hopefully adding a splash pad.

Ava Reichard said so, throughout this whole project, we have four different groups. We have a marketing group. They create fliers. They make our t-shirts and they also do our social media posts to help spread the word about our project. We have a grant writing group. They write grants that we're eligible for to help us raise funds. We also have a fundraising group. These students brainstorm different ideas for us to raise money, such as like raffle baskets and different fundraiser ideas. And then we also have us. We're the presentation team. We're the voice of the project and we go around to local businesses and places to ask for their support in our project. We also have several students from each group working on our ribbon cutting ceremony. They also planned our groundbreaking ceremony, which we just had a couple of weeks ago. Also, on this page, you will see that there is somebody's, a student's name and their email address if you would like to talk to a person directly in that group.

Kendra Shelby said we have raised \$150,000.00, plus in-kind donations, which includes a \$35,000.00 matching grant. If you'd like to donate personally, we take cash or checks made payable to the city of Union City, memo Playground Paradise. If you would like to donate

virtually, you can go to our Go Fund Me Account and scan the QR code for more information. We are also looking for more in-kind donations from businesses to donate their services to us. We truly want this to be a community project, so any feedback or ideas would be greatly appreciated.

Ava Reichard said so, once again, we would just like to say thank you for taking time out of your day to listen to our Playground Paradise project proposal.

(All four) said lead the laughter and be a playmaker for Playground Paradise.

Ava Reichard said do you have any questions for us?

Bev said I think it's great.

Laura said I have a question real quick. So, we have an additional appropriation that we were going to ask for approval today for the \$40,000 match and the commissioners have changed the route that they would prefer to pay that out of. Gary's coming up to answer to this. But, by doing that, that means we'll have to do another additional, which would be next month. Is that a problem?

Sarah Black said nope, that should be fine.

Laura said okay.

Gary Friend said so, we have an EDIT meeting. The commissioners approve the \$40,000.00 yesterday out of EDIT. We set the meeting, I think it's April 29th.

Greg said uh huh.

Gary Friend said after that, the funds will be opened up to use. So, if that doesn't interfere anything.

Laura said we have to do an additional, so it would be the first of May, but, first meeting in May. May 6th is when the money would be available.

Gary Friend said if that would work?

Sarah Black said yep. That'll be fine.

Gary Friend said okay. In the original part, yeah, we were talking all energy funding. When the commissioners were visiting with these folks up here and sitting it up we started talking EDIT and ended up in the EDIT plan. I'd rather keep it in the EDIT plan if we could do that mainly so we can keep the renewable energy plan more in our infrastructure for the county if possible. If it doesn't both you, then I think we just go with EDIT.

Laura said okay.

Sarah Black said nope. We're extremely grateful.

Gary Friend said are you alright with that, Greg?

Greg said yes. Yeah, I agree with you on keeping the renewable for the infrastructure.

Gary Friend said before I go back to my seat, I heard the road issues.

Greg said yes.

Gary Friend said I spoke to Jay. I'll contact him later today and we'll get EDPR to respond.

Greg said very good.

Gary Friend said just for some history for some of you folks, kind of like what Dave was talking about in the earlier part, and I'll let you guys go on this, or back to yours. The original road use they had to take the roads back to the original use and they paved them and all of a sudden you started seeing narrower pavement, because that was what was plotted, and that's what they did. Then we went back to, take it back to the condition it's currently in, which was the chip and seal. But it wasn't supposed to fail either. So, thank you for letting me get that in while I'm up here.

Todd said I have a couple of questions just on the presentation.

Greg said go ahead.

Todd said so, this is the overall project?

Ava Reichard said yes, that is everything.

Todd said and this was phase one and that's going to be completed here in a month or so?

Ava Reichard said yes. Yes, that one is our phase one, the one that, yeah.

Todd said so, this was, you said this was like \$321,000 for this one project?

Ava Reichard said that also includes the swing set, which is over on the side of it, and it also includes, yes, and then it also includes all of the rubber pour and play for the entire project.

Todd said and this part of the project is phase two?

Ava Reichard said yes, that's our 5 to 12 structure.

Todd said and that part is like \$183,000. So, between those two, you're around a half a million dollars. Where's the other half a million go? I mean, if it's a 1 million-dollar project, I was just trying to figure out where the rest of it is.

Ava Reichard said I do believe we have to pay for like the installation of the project as well, so I think that's also a part of the rest of the money.

Todd said so, is all of this phase one and phase two then complete the whole thing?

Ava Reichard said that is everything, total, all of the equipment, all of surface and everything.

Todd said so, the whole project will be done about when?

Ava Reichard said we don't have an exact timeline for phase two. It really just depends on funding and how fast we can get that money.

Todd said okay. So, phase two funding, you haven't raised yet?

Ava Reichard said no, we have not.

Todd said phase one is complete?

Ava Reichard said yes. But we are still raising money for our phase one because we want to be the main funders because that, our phase one is our ADA accessible equipment, so we want to be the main funders for our phase one.

Todd said okay. Thank you.

Ava Reichard said yep.

Greg said anyone else have any questions for these ladies?

Sarah Black said may I say one thing? Sarah Black, the mentor. I do want to point out as you'll see, you're probably kind of scratching your head why the big difference between the two prices. The 2 to 5 structure is the ADA accessible, so it allows for wheelchairs to participate in the play structure, so those wheelchairs can actually go up onto the play structure, which allows, something that we don't have in Randolph County. So, it'll allow children to, instead of just sitting on the edge watching their friends play, they'll actually be able to engage and play with their friends in the actual play structure there. So, that equipment is significantly more expensive than normal playground equipment.

Todd said okay.

Bev said so is your group, I mean, how was this developed, this group?

Sarah Black said so, 3 years ago we created something called Work Force Wednesday at Union City Junior Senior High School, and it was just a project. You could create a project. We decided to do something with Playground Paradise. We knew that our equipment at the park was, needed some help and so, we created a student group to kind of lead the forces with that. Some of these students have been in here for a few years. Some of them are new. We've had

some students who have graduated and are no longer part of the project but have still continued to get updates and want to be involved in the future of the project. But, it's really just a student led group. We meet each Wednesday for 12 Wednesdays in the first semester and 12 Wednesdays in the second semester. So, our time is limited, but we have 2 hours on those Wednesdays, so, they do a lot of work outside of those Wednesdays to really kind of develop and move the projects and get progress going.

Bev said thank you. It seems like a very productive group. That's for sure. A lot of work.

Dave said yeah, it's been a great group to work with.

Greg said yes.

Bev said yes.

Greg said I'm proud of them because they were able to answer most of the questions that's been asked to them. They didn't have to stumble around a lot to figure it out.

Bev said they were reciting their sections right along without.

Dave said they are well schooled

Greg said they have been well schooled.

Bev said it came across really well and congratulations because it's a stepping stone to bigger things, let me tell you.

Greg said anyone else have anything for these ladies? Thank you.

Other Business:

Art Moystner, Randolph County Sheriff

Greg said other business, Art. This is going to be a hard act to follow.

Art Moystner said they did very well. Art Moystner, Sheriff, Randolph County. A couple things today that I would like to share. One is the sheriff's app, the mobile app, we have it up and running. Not quite at a 100% yet. There's a, was an interface issue with the recent arrest. We are working some background to get that where we want it. But most of the other is up and running. We are able to send out notifications through the app. You can see the inmate population now through the app. And we will keep working on that, but I wanted to update you guys. I think that was a project we'd started back in January, maybe. So, it's in progress. The other thing I wanted to make you aware of and I talked to the commissioners yesterday, since we did the Axon contract, they have a new technology, an AI technology that came along with the body camera that is a translator channel. That translator channel, in my opinion, would be a nice officer safety thing. I didn't realize, but in talking to the guys last week, we are encountering, each officer told me they're encountering 2 to 5 individuals per week that are not English speaking. So, there's a language barrier there with these calls. Right now, we're having to bring

up some program on our personal phones. You type in what you want to say, it translates it, they type in back. This, with the body cameras, the body camera would actually detect the language as not being English and would automatically translate it. So, when that person speaks, the body camera would translate it to the officer, the officer would speak, it would translate back to the person we're dealing with at the time. The cost that they've given me is about \$7,600.00 a year to get that going. I think it's something that if you have the opportunity to do that, tie it in with the other Axon contract we have, because I think that's a reasonable officer/safety issue cost, and it's one of the things I told the commissioner, if need be, I think I can come up with the funds for this year, but I don't feel it's right for me to put that on the next sheriff without going through council and getting some type of commitment. Obviously, the commissioners would have to sign the contract anyway. I'm in the process of getting a trial for that right now. That way, I can see it is as good as advertised before we purchase. But, I would like to add it to the agenda for next month to possibly talk about a commitment from council for funding to put it in the budget for subsequent years. Do you guys have questions of me?

Greg said so, you think you can get the trial run and everything done in that, in a month's time?

Art Moystner said I signed the trial run today, as soon as it's turned on, it'll be up and running. So, I think I'll have that before the end of the week.

Greg said okay.

Art Moystner said so, yes, it wouldn't surprise me if I didn't have it tomorrow. It just takes them a little while to flip the right switches so we have access to it, and then I've got to get the word out to the guys to get out and do that. And I have some friends of mine that are fluent in Spanish, so, I'm going to probably go meet with them outside of the realm of official duties, and test it, myself, because I want to make sure that it works as advertised.

Todd said how many languages does it, lots of languages, just Spanish?

Art Moystner said it's AI based. I think if there's anything that's in the system, it would detect it. My understanding, it will even work with the dialect, if I'm saying that correct, because even with Spanish speaking, you would have different dialects within the Spanish language. So, I think it would detect that and translate that for us. I think it would be a wonderful tool.

Todd said I can't remember the exact number, but I was thinking some administrator in Union City's School said they had several languages with, not just.

Dave said there's, I think there are 13 different nationalities in Union City alone now.

Todd said yeah, I heard something like that.

Bev said small world and it happens.

Art Moystner said it's becoming more and more of a situation. I mean, we dealt with it early in my career thirty some years ago. But you dealt with it very infrequently. Now, it seems like they're dealing with it almost on a daily basis.

Bev said I think it's a good idea.

Art Moystner said I do too.

Todd said I had a question related to the jail. They were talking, Gary was talking about the project. How many units are over there? I assume that means cells, in the jail.

Art Moystner said correct. And it varies from block to block. We've talked to them about a plan that we have, that when they start into the cell block with the domestic water side, we will close 2 blocks at a time and reshuffle everyone into the remaining blocks, and as the blocks get finished, we will move our way through the system as best we can, making sure we still follow all of our required regulations for the inmates. So, I know we have 8 different cell blocks and then the number of cells in each block varies.

Todd said okay.

Art Moystner said so, as we go through this, we will move them accordingly, so that we can use similar sizes. The other thing is, I know yesterday they had asked if there was a chance we might have to move a portion of our population, and I don't think that's going to be anything that we have to do large scale. However, there might be one or two that I have to call one of the surrounding sheriffs and ask them to hold because we do have situations within the facility where we can't get certain inmates in the same block. You have to keep them separated whether it's because of behavioral issues or issues pertaining to court.

Bev said what's your average population these days?

Art Moystner said I think we are averaging anywhere from 55 up to 80 currently?

Bev said inmates at the jail?

Art Moystner said inmates at the jail.

Greg said what is that percentagewise for you Art? Is that over 50% occupancy?

Art Moystner said we have 106 beds.

Greg said okay, so, you're just a little over half then.

Art Moystner said and a lot of times, right at three quarter.

Greg said okay.

Art Moystner said which is surprising. Eight years ago, we had over 106 inmates. So, it's come down considerably.

Greg said that's good.

Art Moystner said I don't disagree. So, I think things are moving well over there. The guys are doing a wonderful job. I still have two open positions that we can't seem to fill. So, just so you're aware.

Greg said so, you'll be back to us next month on the channel, the radio thing that you're talking about?

Art Moystner said correct. We will, I will come back and report how the trial goes and like I said, I would ask for a commitment from council, moving forward, to tie it in with the other Axon contract, which is a 10-year contract. So, and that would lock us in at 7600 a year.

Todd said a couple of commissioner meetings ago, the Winchester police was here asking about encrypted radio costs and updates and things like that. Are you aware of any of that need or do you know anything about that?

Art Moystner said one of the things that when we first did the project, with the radios we got, we were able to encrypt certain frequencies, and like our tactical team, when they're out there on an encrypted frequency, we have an investigative channel that's an encrypted frequency currently. The going trend, my understanding is, because we haven't sat down as the heads of each departments, we haven't sat down and discussed taking our primary frequency to this. So, that was the first I was hearing about it. So, I'd asked a few questions. Apparently, they're actually having people show up on scenes prior to the officers getting there, so some of the conversation, and I think some of the trend in the world today, is to encrypt those primary channels, so that if we have anything that's going out, we get that information and we get on scene before bystanders or anyone wanting to video anything like that, that we get on scene first, and are able to deal with that.

Todd said are we capable of doing that now without additional cost, or no?

Art Moystner said we are capable of having the encryption, however, the county will have a per touch cost, because they will have to encrypt those channels. So, we will have the dispatch center, obviously, those channels will need encrypted from dispatch, and all the radios that the county currently owns on the law enforcement side, unless you guys intend to do the same thing with EMS, because that's a separate frequency, but if we do it for the primary law enforcement frequency, then the county will have a cost for each radio that has to be done. I can tell you that I'm not sure what Shaneyfelt has on the EMA side, but as far as the sheriff's office, we have 25 portables and 18 in-car radios that would all need touched.

Todd said well when this conversation comes to a head, I mean, it doesn't work for city, county communication, they're not both encrypted, right? I mean, you've got to have the capability on both sides, I would assume.

Art Moystner said correct. You would have to have, everybody would have to have the same encryption if we were doing it on our primary channel. And not only do you have the city and the county, you would also have all the town marshals that now have to encrypt their radios.

Todd said and that's what he was asked to go and.

Art Moystner said along with you know, Union City. So, everybody would have to have that encryption to be able to be on that channel.

Greg said Gary, would you come up please and tell the council what you guys decided yesterday. I know you table it but be able to understand a little bit more.

Gary Friend said Gary Friend. We haven't made any concrete decisions yet. What we are discussing is this encryption Art, and not just working with Winchester alone, because they asked, more so, to, if we want to put a special grant together and maybe out of the EDIT funding to allow all the cities and towns by population to get the same amount of money. And going along with what Art said, I believe I was told yesterday we'd be looking at a \$100.00 per unit on encryption. And I spoke with some people too about you know, why we would help Winchester with half their costs when other cities and towns paid for their costs out of their levy. So, we've got to be sensible to that. But we are sensible to maybe getting a grant to county and be getting it down to the cities and towns. And I would kind of probably like to get towards the encryption side, you know, they can handle their own hardware, and the county could help getting all this encryption in play, clear through EMS if necessary. We don't, we do not need civilians ahead of emergency services. So, I think that's where we're at. We're not decided on anything.

Greg said yeah, that's what I wanted to make that clear to everyone here that nothing's been decided for sure yet.

Gary Friend said we've got a, for the cities and towns, they handed out a piece of paper. I mean, there's like 51 radios I think, on there. Some have already bought, some already have, some don't, haven't purchased them yet, wondering what the county can and cannot do with it. We visited this some time ago, and the amount of money that was asked of the county was astronomical. And it is a hard sell when cities and towns have part of their levy is to pay for this themselves. So, we're going to look at it. We're going to make some decisions on it. I kind of believe we'll get to some, at a minimum, we'll get somewhere on it and will likely be in the line with the encryption, because we do need to get there, I believe. We want to be fair. We give anything to anybody in the cities and towns, the county, we'll take care of as a county, but on the cities and towns, they all get treated in equality according to their size.

Art Moystner said and to share with those that weren't on the council at the time that we were switching and doing the radio infrastructure for Randolph County, we did set a committee for that, and everyone was invited to participate so they would have the knowledge as we were putting the infrastructure in for the radio system, because it was needed desperately at the time. So, that's when we'd purchased and discussed radios. There were special prices at that point in time that agencies could get, and the committee worked at least 3 years, if not 4, on the project itself. Then, I'm not sure how many years we've had it now. Probably another 4 or 5.

Gary Friend said there were some discussions and I don't completely understand, we at that phase, we need to get Chris Shaneyfelt in there, along with the sheriff, to help. At one time, there was an issue going back and forth the state line and the frequency. I don't know exactly where we're at.

Art Moystner said we've solved a lot of that.

Gary Friend said you've solved a lot of that?

Art Moystner said here, yes.

Greg said very good.

Gary Friend said that it?

Greg said yeah, that's it. Thank you, Gary, for clearing that up for us.

Gary Friend said sure.

Art Moystner said does anybody have any other questions for me?

Greg said I do not. Thank you.

Art Moystner said thank you.

Redevelopment Commission Report

Greg said next on the list is the redevelopment commission report.

Laura said I emailed that to you. It's just required that I share that with you every year.

Greg said okay.

Laura said and then if any of you are interested, is it the 9th?

Greg said Thursday.

Laura said Thursday, we have a redevelopment commission meeting and Jason will be here to present that report.

Greg said and that's at 9:00 o'clock, correct?

Laura said yeah.

Bev said tomorrow morning, or?

Laura said Thursday.

Bev said Thursday morning.

Greg said Thursday morning at 9:00 o'clock.

Scott said I guess I've got a question or two.

Greg said yeah, go ahead, Scott.

Scott said it shows expiration date 9/12 of 36.

Laura said that's when that TIF goes away.

Greg said that's when the TIF district.

Scott said are you sure it's there and not 30, because I sat in on this meeting last year and I.

Laura said that's the date in the agreement. That date came directly from the agreement.

David said is that for Cardinal?

Greg said yes.

Laura said yes.

David said 36?

Greg said yes.

David said I thought it was 30.

Scott said me too. And I thought we discussed it last year at the meeting.

Laura said I can share the agreement with you.

David said no, I believe you. But, it was always led to be, how long, it was for 25 years, wasn't it?

Laura said 30, I think. Wasn't it 30, Greg?

Greg said yeah, I got confused on that, because I heard, I've hears so many different, but I know.

Laura said I'll send that agreement out to all of you so you can see it.

Meeks said send it to me too, because I have actually thought it was like 32 or something like that.

Scott said we discussed it last year at that meeting and I thought it was 30 as well.

David said I did too.

Scott said one other thing. In the column where it talks about revenues as of 12/31/25, it shows a million, ninety-two thousand, that would just be current revenues for the year, correct?

Laura said that's how much was collected for the year, not the total as in the fund.

Scott said right. I've done a little research on it last year and I mean, recently, it's been collecting about a million dollars a year.

Laura said correct.

Scott said but those funds are not accessible to the county?

Laura said no.

Scott said just strictly for.

Laura said Cardinal.

Scott said Cardinal Ethanol?

Greg said correct.

Scott said I don't think I would be in favor of a TIF district again.

David said no.

Meeks said what you have to realize that million dollars wouldn't be access for us, it's the million dollars for all the taxing units.

Scott said right.

Meeks said and which means even then, we don't, it's not new money, just like everybody else's taxes just goes down. So, it's the same, your rate might decrease a penny or two. It's the same, we would have had the same money.

Scott said yeah but had the TIF district been designed a little bit different.

Meeks said I don't disagree.

Scott said the county could have used it for road maintenance.

Meeks said 100 percent.

Scott said around Cardinal Ethanol and stuff like that.

Greg said it depends on how you set up a TIF district is how beneficial it is to the county.

Meeks said if the TIF district is in the city of Winchester, you can use those TIF funds for any.

Scott said for sidewalks, streets, so on.

Meeks said you can buy equipment. But that, the TIF district was designed like that. It's just the agreement that went along with that TIF district, was what the kicker was on that.

Scott said it's, like I say, I did a little research on it last year and.

Laura said yeah, and you came last year to the meeting, didn't you?

Scott said yeah, I came to the meeting.

Laura said you and Larry. Was Larry down there when that was there? Two of you came.

Greg said yeah, Larry Preston.

Scott said Larry.

Greg said yes, I believe you're right.

Scott said I mean, I did a little research and kind of researching what kind of revenue has gone into that fund over the years.

Dave said quite a bit.

Scott said recently, it's been a million dollars a year, and I think I was able to trace back about 15 of 16 years and it was approximately 15 to 16 million dollars. But, I wasn't able to go all the way back to when it started, because those funds were in a different account to start with. But definitely interesting.

Meeks said well, I would agree with Scott too. I did not write that agreement by the way, just putting on the record.

Scott said well when I first seen it's like well.

Meeks said it seems like that Cardinal people wrote it.

Scott said it seemed like Cardinal Ethanol.

Meeks said I was not the attorney at the time.

Greg said you think it's a sweet deal for them?

Meeks said I was not the attorney at that time.

Greg said pretty sweet deal for them.

Dave said the county, now I was part of that years ago. It was in an agreement to put a TIF district in instead of a large loan.

Scott said right. I commend them on their success. There's no question, you know, they needed the help getting started, and they've made something out of it. But, it would have been nice if those funds would have been available for the highway department for the roads around the facility and stuff like that.

Dave said partially.

Meeks said and it's been a big plus for the farmers, right? I mean, you're not hauling at the same.

Scott said it's been a plus for the county.

Meeks said yeah, yeah.

Scott said it's been a plus.

Meeks said just on the hauling of the grain, I mean, you know.

Greg said yeah, the grain's coming from the southern part of the state, it's coming from all over. Our farmers, yeah.

Meeks said yeah. I'm just saying our farmers can just go out there instead of, you know, driving someplace else, Cincinnati or whatever.

Dave said yeah, I think TIF was put in, in lieu of about a 20-million-dollar loan they were wanting, and the county at that time, did not have it.

Greg said any other questions or comments? Not hearing any, I'll move on to the next one.

Wage and Salary Committee

Greg said wage and salary committee. Yesterday the commissioners appointed Missy Williams for their part, so I'll need 3 people from council.

Todd said I can do it.

Mike said I can do it.

Greg said Todd, Mike. Larry Preston told me yesterday he would. Larry's not here today because he's operating the polls down there in the lobby.

Laura said so, you're appointing Larry?

Greg said yeah.

Dave said sounds good to me.

Greg said didn't figure you would argue.

Dave said I'm the one who originated that.

Minutes of March 3, 2026

Greg said okay, minutes of the March 3rd meeting.

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

Additional Appropriations:

Playground Paradise- \$40,000.00

Greg said additional appropriations. The Playground Paradise, \$40,000.00.

Laura said no, we're not doing that one.

Greg said oh, we're not doing that one.

Laura said so, here are the two that you're doing.

Greg said oh, we're just doing two. Okay, I'll scratch that out. I didn't know that.

Laura said well we just talked about it.

Todd said that's what Gary was saying that they wanted to change the source.

Saratoga-Equipment- \$10,000.00

Greg said what's the equipment of Saratoga?

Laura said I think it's a fund that the sheriff uses.

Greg said do you know, Art?

Art Moystner said say that one more time. I apologize.

Laura said that Saratoga equipment fund?

Art Moystner said yes, that is a fund that I use.

Laura said it's equipment for the sheriff.

Greg said okay.

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

Part-time- \$25,000.00

Greg said part-time, \$25,000.00.

Laura said I have several, at least two, that are going to retire at the end of the year, and then obviously, I will be moving out of that office at the end of the year. We would like to hire at least one, maybe two, if we get one trained, but to start training with some of them that are leaving. We just need funding in that part-time line to be able to pay them out of. And then they would be able to step in and go full time beginning in the beginning of the year when everybody leaves. So, I know at least two have told me they're retiring at the end of the year and then obviously, I'll be leaving at the end of the year from that office.

Todd said so, it's a temporary expansion to allow for training?

Laura said yes. That's the reason I'm asking for it.

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

Citizen Comments (3 minutes)

Greg said okay, are there any comments from the citizenry? Hearing nothing, we'll go around the room. Meeks, do you have anything to add?

Meeks said Laura told me I do not.

Greg said and Dave, do you have anything?

Dave said I do.

Greg said I thought maybe you might.

Dave said just real quick. It's for review this month, and our next month, I would like to discuss it's a financial thing I put together every year. It's quite informative of what your position entails. And since I won't be here next year, somebody will have to take this over if they want to continue.

Todd said send me a spreadsheet, I'll try to keep it going.

Dave said okay, I can do, I'll send you the Excel spread sheet. Just to note number 2 there, is the Wind and Solar projects, there're two of them I didn't put down because we don't have agreements yet. And that's where the TBD is located. But I think that's approximately another close to 20 million dollars in those 2 projects. The ones I did want to highlight today real quick

is number 5, is the townships for Randolph County. Franklin and Stoney Creek have not reported yet for 2025. All this information I gathered comes from the Gateway out of Indianapolis. That's the reporting of you know, the county reports also. But, they have quite a bit of money. And the other one was the number 8, is cities and towns. And I'd like you to review their ending cash balances in all those. Why I am concerned going forward is Senate Bill 1, we don't know exactly, I think that's been delayed a year for finalization. They're trying to get, because what they found out, one size didn't fit all, and when I get concerned is that Randolph County currently has almost 500 million dollars in assets you guys got to control. And that's monies that are going to come up shortly, mostly roads, bridges and drainage, that we're going to have to stay pretty close to it to make sure that there's money available for those items. And there may not be as much money being able to go out of the county to other projects. And like I say, I don't know what they're going to do yet. I know right now we're at 3% on income tax. Their proposal is for 2.9%, so, that'll be a reduction for the county. The property tax, I'm not quite sure what happened there this year. I know some got decreases. A lot of us got increases in our property tax. I don't know if you guys have checked yours yet. Mine went up 15%, and I'm a little concerned about because we were told all along that they would be reduced. And I think there's somebody needs to answer questions why that didn't happen this year. So, please review it for next month, bring it back with you. I'd like to discuss it a little further, and hopefully, we can figure out the direction the county needs to go for the next, whoever is in here the next 4 years, because a couple of us won't be here. So, right, Laura?

Laura said right.

Dave said but that's all I have Greg. Thanks.

Greg said thank you. Very much appreciated.

Todd said I have a question on the report.

Dave said yep, go right ahead.

Todd said just looking at the township balances, Stoney Creek, for example, they had \$640,000. It's like 10 times their annual expenses in receipts

Dave said yeah. And that's been going on for years.

Scott said Dave, that's in the process of being changed. It's my understanding these townships have to spend it or pay it back. And I mean, it starts this year because Union Township is having to spend 2 or 300 thousand dollars or they've got to give it back this year.

Dave said I haven't heard that one.

Greg said yeah.

Scott said yeah.

Dave said who's.

Greg said that's what I heard from the township trustee.

Scott said yeah. He's in the process of building a building, a new office building for the township and to store some fire trucks at Modoc. But he's doing it because if he does not, he has Maze Design working on it.

Dave said I know at one time the townships had the ability to not charge that tax, do away with the tax until they need that money again.

Scott said they have to allocate or specify what that money is going to be used for, then if they don't spend it, they have to give it back.

Dave said okay.

Scott said so, you're going to see those large sums disappear from the townships. And I think you're going to see it starting this year.

Dave said okay, well that's news to me because I know that the townships were discussed at length about especially fire and rescue, if a township didn't have a fire and rescue department, they had to join adjacent township.

Laura said I thought that did pass where they were having to combine and it as going to be on a point system. That was one of the points is the fire.

Dave said I believe that's right, and that part did.

Laura said I think that did pass

Scott said for certain townships, yes.

Laura said it's going to be a point system and the commissioners are involved in it on the decisions.

Todd said well if township government changes in a major way, as was proposed, it's not going to make sense to spend down township money on township buildings that won't be used.

Dave said potentially not be used, yeah.

Scott said well, right now you know, we've got Union Township, you've got trustees working out of their house and bringing people into their house 3 or 4 times a week for meetings.

Dave said I think a lot of the trustees do that.

Scott said but I know that Modoc had been in need of some additional bays.

Todd said yeah, I don't know of the problem with their fire part of it, and hopefully, the office is just a small part of that project.

Greg said it's not.

Scott said I do know this, if they don't spend it this year, they have to give it back. I do know that.

Greg said I don't know where it goes. Does it come to the county or does it go back to the state?

Scott said I can't say for sure, but I know the trustee's been told he loses it, he's got to pay it back.

Laura said see, I hadn't heard that.

Greg said that's the impression I got from Greg too, but I.

Todd said it's hard to make decisions. I'm not faulting anyone, but if you don't know what's going to happen with township government, you know, it's kind of iffy on building a township building for that government that might not exist. And giving it back, you'd want it to go back to the people who put it in. But that's almost impossible because it's been collected over years and yeah, you can't give it back directly. So, you've got to give it back in the form of some sort of service or building or something.

Dave said well even the cities and towns have done well in the last few years, so they have balances.

Todd said yeah.

Dave said that's why I want to review I now and.

Todd said it would be a very pertinent topic here in a little while if that township government changes because, then that money has got to flow through the you know, here, basically.

Dave said somehow.

Todd said okay, sorry.

Greg said no, nothing to be sorry about. I don't have anything to add. Mike, do you have anything?

Mike said nope.

Todd said I have one thing. The Area Planning Commission a meeting ago, maybe just the last meeting we had a large representation, the commissions did from citizens that wanted to talk

about solar projects, and we had had in 25, a committee that met to make a potential presentation on changes to the county ordinance on the notification and setbacks and so on. And that all occurred in 2025. They agreed that the Area Planning Commission to reopen that for another committee to be formed to look at it again. And that committee is comprised of several county citizens and a county commissioner and a county councilman. I was on it the last time. I was going to bring that here and see if anyone was interested in being on that. But they already started having the meeting. Scott expressed an interest, so I went ahead and asked Scott if he would, he wanted to do it and I said I was happy for him to do it. So, Scott is our representative on that committee with the solar farms at the Area Planning Commission.

Greg said okay.

Todd said he can say more about it if he wants to. I'm just telling you.

Greg said yeah.

Scott said I did express some interest. I reached out to Dave and I reached out to Greg about it. They're planning on meeting twice a week. They actually held their first meeting last week. And otherwise, we would have waited until this meeting to talk about it, but I did want the council to go unrepresentative at that meeting. It consists of a couple new residents. I'm not sure how it got reconvened or how the new residents got appointed to the board. But, there are a lot of concerned citizens out there about the future of the solar, more so, down in Union Township versus the other townships. And that is mainly because there's quite a bit of acreage down there now in solar. I felt I wanted to make sure the council was represented as well as the county in this deal because it's been very, it's been very vital to the county. Some of the residents down in Union Township are kind of fed up with it. They've been a little bit overwhelmed and consumed with it. But, I did attend the first meeting last week. There were discussions on several things, but there were a half a dozen items that those new members were concerned about. Those items consisted on you know, what, what's the county's intention and should we be putting caps on acreage for township and for county-wide. They discussed you know, the zoning and whether it should be zoned commercial or how it's getting through being approved for agricultural. They discussed better landscaping in the future, maybe a little better trees, and a little staggering it, so the screening does a little bit better job in the future. There was also some discussion about homeowners and whether they should have to live with them on all 4 sides of their homes or whether it should be cut back to 3 sides or maybe even 2 sides or more larger setbacks? Then there was a little discussion on how much, how much acreage does the actual, does the county need? And then there was discussion about you know, zone areas with no commissioner's approval on it. There were basically not actions taken. It was just items that were floated out there for thought and future discussions. There is another meeting scheduled for the 15th. I will be happy to attend that and represent the council if everybody is okay with that. If somebody else would like to have that seat, I'd be open to stepping aside. If not, I'll be happy to represent the council on that.

Greg said I certainly have no issue with Scott representing the council.

Dave said I don't either.

Bev said I have no objection.

Dave said pretty good choice, I think, personally.

Scott said this has been a very valuable asset to Randolph County, and I think, I personally feel that there are plenty more places for solar projects here in Randolph County. The people in Union Township, they don't quite feel that way. But, most of those people and some of those new people on this committee don't have any idea how valuable it has been to the county, and to some of the businesses. Part of that reason, I believe, is the homeowners have been left out or the landowners have been compensated pretty well, the county has been compensated pretty well, the businesses have made some money. Homeowners, not so much. So, I think in the future, these renewable companies are going to have to do a little better job compensating some of the homeowners.

Bev said that's between the company and the homeowners.

Scott said that's correct.

Bev said it's between them and.

Scott said I mean the county can't do anything about that. What it boils down to is if these renewable companies want to do this, they're going to have to do some things to make it more enticing for the homeowners to be on board. They don't really have a problem getting landowners on board. They've made it so lucrative most, a lot of the landowners jump at the opportunity.

Bev said there was one comment made with regards to the zoning. As far as the zoning, are you talking about the way they're assessed for tax value, because the only part that's commercial is the concrete pad, whatever is that concrete pad?

Scott said yeah, there were questions about how is this not commercial, you know?

Bev said and that is, that part is. But it's only the pad. The rest of it could be farmed.

Scott said right. Well, there're some residents that kind of disagree with that or wanted to kind of argue that point. Like I said, there was no, there were no action taken at all.

Bev said they're assessed like that it is a state, that's a state, that the state tells.

Scott said right. But it was a 2 ½ hour discussion and finally, after about 2 ½ hours, I just point blank, asked the new members, you know, what are your concerns, what are you wanting to see changed, and so, you know, we wrote a half a dozen items down for everybody to think about until the next meeting. Uh, because there are concerns, most of this was brought out on this last project was proposed a little bit too close to too many houses. And for those of you that weren't at the last commissioner meeting, I mean, there were a hundred people here. And 30 some

people spoke against the project. The commissioners, I don't think they had any choice but to vote it down. There was nobody in support of the project and a hundred people against it. But, I do feel, you know, there is a place for solar here in Randolph County still, providing they get situated in the right locations. I do not know whether they'll be any changes made and I did bring it to their attention that basically, this committee can make suggestions, and that's it. The commissioners have the final say in it. But there are concerned citizens out there that want to see a few changes made to the ordinance.

Greg said is that everything, Scott?

Scott said that's about all I've got to share.

Next meeting date: Wednesday May 6, 2026 at 9:00 am

Greg said having heard from everyone that had anything to say, the next meeting is Wednesday next month, because election day is on Tuesday, our normal meeting date. Wanted to point that out.

Todd said is there a joint meeting on the books? I know we discussed having one of those.

Laura said there is not.

Greg said no, there's not been anything done yet, has there, Laura?

Laura said huh uh.

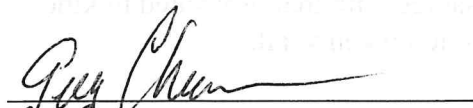
Greg said okay.

Adjournment

Greg said with that, a motion to adjourn.

Dave made a motion to adjourn. Todd seconded the motion. All aye votes. Meeting adjourned.

Reviewed and accepted this 6 day of May, 2026


Greg Cheesman


Larry Preston


Beverly Fields

David Lenkensdofe

David Lenkensdofe

Mike Stine

Mike Stine

Todd Holaday

Todd Holaday

Scott Fisher

Scott Fisher

ATTESTED:

Laura J. Martin

Laura J. Martin, Auditor

